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Ceasefire, says Trump even as he flays Iran, Israel

JERUSALEM: US President Donald Trump claimed a ceasefire between Iran and Israel was "in effect" on Tuesday, after expressing deep frustration with both sides and accusing them of violating the agreement he brokered.

Israel earlier accused Iran of launching missiles into its airspace after the truce was supposed to take effect. The Iranian military denied firing on Israel, state media reported.



Trump expressed anger and frustration as he told reporters at the White House that both Israel, a close ally, and Iran had violated the ceasefire plan. But later he said the deal was saved, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he held off on tougher strike against Iran after speaking to Trump.

DGCA SURVEILLANCE OF AIRPORTS FINDS MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS IN ECOSYSTEM

■ The regulator has initiated a focused assessment of the ecosystem to strengthen safety measures

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Aviation watchdog DGCA has detected multiple violations related to airlines, airports, aircraft maintenance works and repeated defects in multiple cases during its surveillance at major airports, an exercise carried out in less than two weeks after the Air India plane crash.

Without disclosing names of the airlines, airports and other entities in relation to the defects, the regulator on Tuesday said surveillance covered multiple critical areas such as flight operations, airworthiness, ramp safety, Air Traffic Control (ATC),

communication, navigation and surveillance (CNS) systems, and pre-flight medical evaluations.

From a faded centre line marking of a runway at an airport to non-updation of obstruction limitation data for three years to a scheduled carrier's domestic flight being held up due to worn tyres, the watchdog came across multiple defects in the aviation ecosystem.

Noting that the comprehensive surveillance will continue in future to detect hazards in the aviation ecosystem, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the findings have been communicated

■ P3

DEFECTS ALL AROUND

- Reported defects reappeared many times on the aircraft
- Ground handling equipment such as baggage trollies... were found unserviceable
- During maintenance of aircraft, the work order was not followed
- Safety precautions were not found have been taken by aircraft maintenance engineer as per manual
- Several life vests were not properly secured beneath their designated seats in aircraft
- At an airport, centre line marking of a runway was observed faded and rapid exit taxiway, green centre light were not unidirectional.
- A number of vehicles in the ramp area were found without speed governors.
- A simulator was found not matching with the aircraft configuration .
- A domestic flight of a scheduled carrier was held up due to worn tyres.

Audit of Air India HQ put off

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has postponed the plan to conduct the audit at Air India headquarters for a week in the wake of the Middle-East crisis, according to sources in the know of the development.

A 10-member DGCA team was all set to begin the audit at the Air India headquarters from June 24 to 26. It would cover operations, flight planning, scheduling, rostering, Integrated Operations Control Centre (IOCC).

The tension between Iran and Israel escalated on Mon-

■ P3

'No hideout is safe for terrorists who spill blood of Indians': PM

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Asserting that Operation Sindoor has made clear to the world India's stringent policy against terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that his government takes whatever steps are appropriate in national interest.

Weapons manufactured in India showed their impact during the conflict with Pakistan, he said, without naming the country, at an event to mark the centenary celebration of the conversation between spiritual figure and social reformer Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi.

"We have shown that no hideout is safe for terrorists who spill the blood of Indians," he said, adding that



his government has worked on the ideals of the revered spiritual figure who wanted a strong India that was free of any discrimination.

PM Modi said his government has, in the past 11 years, worked to make India strong in social, economic and defence sectors.

He said India's reliance on foreign countries to meet its defence needs is declining and it is becoming "aatmanirbhar" in the defence

sector.

Indian military brought the enemy to its knees with made-in-India weapons in 22 minutes, he said of the precision attacks on terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir following the horrific killing of 26 civilians by terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22.

The Prime Minister said he was confident that made-in-India weapons will be feted across the world in future.

PM Modi cited his government's welfare schemes in housing, drinking water and health insurance among other fields to assert that these have empowered the deprived and backward sections of society. More number of IITs, IIMs and AIIMS have been opened

■ P3

Maha polls: ECI invites Rahul to discuss charges

NEW DELHI : Terming the elections strictly as per electoral laws passed by the Parliament, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has invited the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for an interaction to discuss the issues related to his allegation on the Maharashtra Assembly Election held last year,



sources said on Tuesday. According to the sources, the letter was sent via email on June 12 and was also received at his residence.

DETAILS ■ P2

IAF to get at least six Tejas jets by March: HAL

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force will get at least half-a-dozen Tejas Light Combat Aircraft by March 2026, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd CMD D K Sunil has said, weeks after the IAF chief flagged serious concerns over delays in the delivery of the jets.

Sunil, chairperson and managing director of the aviation behemoth, attributed the delivery delays to US defence major GE Aerospace missing the deadline for supply of its engines to power the fighter jets.

DETAILS ■ P4

Railway ticket fares likely to go up from July 1

MANOHAR KESARI
NEW DELHI

Train passengers may have to soon cough up more money as the Railway Ministry is likely to announce a fare hike, effective July 1. According to ministry sources, discussions are underway to increase train fares and an official circular from the Railway Board is expected shortly.

As per the proposed new fare structure, there will be no change in the fares of suburban trains or monthly season tickets, offering relief to daily commuters.



Similarly, passengers traveling in ordinary second-class coaches for distances up to 500 kilometres will not see any fare change. However, for journeys exceeding 500 kilometres, passengers may have to pay more. In Mail and Express trains (non-AC), the fare is expected to rise by one

paise per kilometre, while passengers traveling in air-conditioned (AC) coaches may have to shell out two paise more per kilometre.

If implemented, this hike will particularly affect long-distance travellers. This would be the third instance of a fare increase during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 11-year tenure. The last fare revision took place in January 2020, and prior to that, in 2014. With more than 25 million people traveling by train every day in India, the proposed fare hike is likely to have a widespread impact.

Pak don tries to extort money from NRI restaurateur

Two men fire at Jalandhar home

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

Panic gripped Aman Nagar in Jalandhar on Monday night when two unidentified assailants fired over a dozen rounds at the residence of an NRI family. The attack, which occurred shortly after a threatening phone call is now being linked to Pakistan-based criminal Shehzad Bhatti, who later released a video of the firing and an audio clip of a heated exchange with the NRI.

According to the family, the incident unfolded just five minutes after the NRI's mother Charanjit

Kaur received a call from an unknown number. The caller hurled abuses and demanded to know the whereabouts of someone named Kaka Sandhu.

Incident raises concerns about reach of overseas gangsters and vulnerability of families back home

When she denied knowing anyone by that name, the caller threatened ominously, "Now see what happens."

Minutes later, 13-14

■ P3

Wanted man shot dead in police encounter in Delhi-Haryana border

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

Acting on Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's directive to eradicate organised crime, the Haryana Police, in a joint operation with the Delhi Police Special Cell, has gunned down notorious gangster Romil Vohra in an encounter near the Delhi-Haryana border on Tuesday morning.

The operation, which left two police officers injured, underscores the state's aggressive stance against gangsters following CM Saini's orders to give law enforcement a free hand to tackle criminal networks.

Romil Vohra, a 22-year-old resident of Yamunanagar and a key member of the infamous Kala Rana-Noni Rana gang, was a wanted

■ P3

Crackdown on mafia after threats to liquor barons in Haryana

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government has taken a firm stance against criminal interference in the state's liquor vend auctions, vowing stringent action against gangsters issuing threats to contractors. The move comes amid growing concerns over the safety of liquor traders, with recent incidents of violence and extortion calls deterring bidders, resulting in 260 retail liquor zones remaining unallocated after five rounds of bidding.

The state's excise and taxation department is



grappling with a shortfall in its ambitious Rs 14,064 crore revenue target for the 2025-26 fiscal year, as fear of criminal reprisals has led to a significant drop in participation. The auctions, conducted under the new excise policy effective from June 12, 2025, to March 31, 2027, have been marred by incidents such as the June 13 murder of liquor contractor Shantanu

■ P3

Spirit of cooperation: Haryana, Rajasthan CMs resolve to sort out Yamuna water dispute

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

In a significant step towards resolving the long-standing inter-state water disputes, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini and his Rajasthan counterpart Bhajan Lal Sharma held a detailed telephonic conversation on Tuesday, focusing on the critical issues of water drainage in Bhiwadi and the historic Yamuna water-sharing agreement.

According to officials privy to the information, the dialogue, marked by a spirit of cooperation, has raised hopes for a permanent solution to problems that have plagued industrial and residential areas in both states, particularly during the monsoon season.

The discussion centered on the persistent waterlogging problem in Bhiwadi, a major industrial hub in Rajasthan, where the natural



topography channels rainwater towards Haryana, causing a severe flooding in both industrial and residential zones. The leaders agreed to collaborate on technical and administrative measures to address this issue, with a commitment to ensuring the drainage of only treated industrial water, which will be strictly monitored.

A key outcome of the talks was the decision to prepare a joint Detailed Project Report (DPR) to formalise solutions for both the Bhiwadi drainage issue and the Yamuna water-sharing



dispute. The DPR, to be developed collaboratively by both states, will lay the groundwork for actionable steps to resolve these challenges. Additionally, a ground alignment survey for a proposed pipeline to facilitate water drainage is set to commence by the end of June 2025, marking a concrete move toward ensuring water security for both states, revealed the officials.

This initiative is expected to mitigate the severe waterlogging that has long troubled Bhiwadi's industries

■ P3

SP, DMK NOW SITTING WITH PARTY THAT ‘MURDERED DEMOCRACY’ THROUGH EMERGENCY: AMIT SHAH

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday hit out at DMK, socialist leaders and others who have joined hands with the Congress, saying they were sitting with a party that had “murdered democracy” by imposing Emergency. Addressing an event “50 Years Since Emergency”, Shah also said that June 25 -- the day Emergency was imposed -- reminds everyone how far the Congress can go for power.

He said it may be 50 years since the Emergency of 1975, but the memories of “injustice, tyranny and dictatorship” of the Congress were still fresh in everyone’s mind.

The home minister said after the imposition of Emergency, 1.1 lakh people -- opposition leaders, student activists, journalists, and editors -- were arrested across the country.

Subsequently, non-Congress governments in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu



were dismissed by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he said.

“Unfortunately, many of those who faced the wrath of the Emergency, are now aligned with the Congress party.

“I want to ask these parties DMK, samajwadi (socialists) and others, rather than the Congress, what right do you have to ask questions about democracy since you have joined hands with the party which murdered democracy in the country,” he said.

Shah said India can’t accept dictatorship as this

country is the birthplace of democracy.

“No one except a small coterie surrounding the tyrant liked Emergency. That is why when Emergency was lifted, the people of India elected the country’s first non-Congress government (at the Centre),” he said.

Sharing his personal experience, the home minister said he was just 11 years old when the Emergency was imposed and 184 people from his village in Gujarat were arrested and lodged at the Sabarmati jail.

Shah chairs Central Zonal Council meet in Varanasi

Varanasi : A meeting of the Central Zonal Council, chaired by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, discussed regional law and order, border security, disaster response and environmental protection with chief ministers and senior officials of four states on Tuesday. The CMs of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand attended the 25th edition of the high-level meeting held in Varanasi.

The aim of the meeting, held at Hotel Taj, was to strengthen inter-state coordination and cooperative federalism, as per a statement. A resolution lauding the “strong will of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the valour of the Indian Armed Forces” was unanimously passed at the meeting, the statement said. The last meeting of the council was held on

October 7, 2023, in Uttarakhand. Zonal councils provide a structured mechanism for dialogue and discussion on issues affecting two or more states or the Centre and states and serve as an important platform to enable cooperation. Shah, who arrived in Varanasi on Monday for a two-day visit, led discussions with the chief ministers of the four states and other senior officials.

The discussions centred around social development, transportation and border issues, law and order, environmental concerns, and matters related to minorities. During his address, Shah said the Central Zonal Council is the only one among India’s five zonal councils where there is no dispute between any of the member states -- calling it a significant achievement.

India brings back over 3,150 citizens under 'Op Sindhu' from conflict-hit Iran, Israel

ARZU SETH
NEW DELHI

India’s Operation Sindhu has successfully airlifted more than 3,150 people from Iran and Israel amid growing tensions following the U.S. bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites.

India continues its evacuation efforts from conflict-hit countries Iran and Israel under operation Sindhu with The latest batches of 292 and 282 Indians arrived in New Delhi from Mashhad on special flights landing at 3:30 am and 3:00 pm on June 24, respectively.

The evacuees from Iran have shared their experiences of the tense situation in Iran and expressed deep gratitude to the Indian government and embassy officials.

An evacuee, Fayaz Haider, said, “The way the situation is unfolding in Iran, it’s a great feeling to be back in India. My heart is filled with joy, and I’m feeling re-



ally good.

The government has been very supportive, and the embassy has been fantastic. Our diplomacy is top-notch, and our Prime Minister’s efforts are commendable.

The situation in Iran was like a war, but we were told to stay in the hotel provided by the embassy and not to venture out because the situation was unpredictable”.

Other Evacuees Thanked the government, saying, “We are very thankful, very happy. It feels so good to be back in our country. Long live India! We love India. We got a lot of help from here (India). We also got support there (in Iran). We had no

trouble.”

In a separate development, the IAF C-17 flight that brought back 161 Indian nationals who were stranded in Israel has safely returned to India as part of Operation Sindhu. The group arrived in New Delhi from Amman, Jordan, on a special flight that landed at 8:20 am.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, welcomed the returning nationals at the airport. The safety and security of Indian nationals abroad remain the highest priority for the Government, said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs.

Rahul, Priyanka abroad amid Cong's leadership crisis in HP

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has once again gone on a foreign tour. Sources indicate he has travelled to Bahrain and may visit another country from there. His sister, Priyanka Gandhi, is already on a visit to London. Their absence is not only expected to affect decision-making within the Congress party but has also impacted the long-awaited unveiling of the statue of former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh.

Virbhadra Singh’s wife, State Congress President Pratibha Singh, and their son, Minister Vikramaditya Singh, have been seeking time from the Gandhi family to unveil the statue. June 23 marked the birth anniversary of the six-time

Chief Minister, and the family had hoped that a member of the Gandhi family would come to Shimla to unveil the statue installed on Mall Road. However, no time was granted.

In 2023, during a crisis in the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government, PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh had even threatened



to resign. The high command intervened, heard their grievances, and assured them of action. One of the key demands was to

install a statue of former CM Virbhadra Singh at a prominent location. The Sukhu government fulfilled this demand and installed the statue at the agreed site. Since then, Pratibha Singh and her son have repeatedly sought time from the Gandhi family to perform the unveiling.

The Virbhadra Singh

HAU becomes political flashpoint as Oppn, farmers back student protest

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The campus of Haryana’s Chaudhary Charan Singh Agricultural University (CC-SHAU) has transformed into a political battlefield, with opposition leaders, student unions and even farmer unions seizing the opportunity to amplify weeks long student protests demanding the removal of Vice-Chancellor Dr. Baldev Raj Kamboj.

With the four members ministerial panel formed by the chief minister Nayab Singh Saini failed to resolve the issue after several rounds of talks the protesting students on Tuesday held a Student Justice Mahapanchayat and decided to continue their protest until the demand of removal of the vice chancellor BR Kamboj is met besides arrest of seven other officials booked alleg-

edly attacking the students are met. Even, the students have threatened to intensify their agitation on June 27 by locking the gates of the University.

The students got the support from political parties and farmer unions including Rakesh Tikait, Gurnam Singh Charuni reached to extend support the students. The unrest erupted on June 10, when students staged a peaceful sit-in outside the Vice-Chancellor’s office to protest amendments to the university’s stipend structure, which restricted scholarships to the top 25% of postgraduate students and raised merit eligibility from 70% to 75%. The protest turned violent when security guards, allegedly acting on orders from university officials, resorted to a lathi charge, injuring over 20 students, some requiring stitches for severe wounds.

Estimates Committees must ensure funds serve people’s welfare: Birla

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The two-day National Conference of Chairpersons of Estimates Committees of Parliament and State / UT Legislatures, which was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, on Monday at Maharashtra Vidhan Bhawan, Mumbai, concluded today.

Addressing the Valedictory Session, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla underscored the importance of fostering institutional synergy, enhancing financial accountability, and embracing technology-driven governance to strengthen democratic processes. He highlighted that seamless coordination among various arms of governance is crucial for efficient policy implementation and citizen-centric administration. Emphasizing transparency and fiscal responsibility, the Speaker called for robust mechanisms to ensure prudent use of public funds. Furthermore, he advocated for the integration of advanced digital technologies to improve administrative efficiency, promote real-



time public service delivery, and uphold the values of good governance in the digital age.

reinforcing the committees’ role as pillars of parliamentary democracy. He also called for coordination between Estimate Committees of Parliament and the states/UTs legislatures.

Advocating for a robust Committee oversight and technology integration in public spending, Shri Birla noted that by leveraging modern technological tools such as AI and data analytics, oversight mechanisms can become more precise and impactful. He called for empowering Committees with necessary resources and digital capabilities to monitor expenditures closely, thereby reinforcing fiscal discipline and promoting good governance.

UP focuses on tribal communities amid caste census

MALENDRA KUMAR SINGH
LUCKNOW

Alongside the ongoing caste census, the BJP-led government in Uttar Pradesh has launched a new initiative focused on tribal communities. The state government has identified 26 districts where a special campaign, Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh, is being conducted to empower tribal communities and make them self-reliant.

Ahead of the caste census, the Yogi Adityanath government is placing special emphasis on tribal groups,



targeting specific castes with this focused campaign. In line with the government’s policy to uplift the most marginalized sections, the initiative aims to deliver basic amenities and welfare schemes directly to

the beneficiaries. The government is pushing departments to focus on ground-level implementation and ensure benefits reach the grassroots.

The Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Vishesh Abhi-

yan will be run in 517 gram sabhas across the 26 identified districts. Through this campaign, tribal communities will be encouraged to participate in governance at the village level. The government’s core objective is to ensure that benefits reach the last person in the line.

The state has directed 18 departments to speed up data validation and benefit distribution. This campaign was initially launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 2, 2024, in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. Following this, the Yogi gov-

ernment has taken steps to implement it effectively across Uttar Pradesh. Under this campaign, all departments have been assigned the target of delivering 25 welfare schemes to the 517 selected gram sabhas by November 15, 2025. The program will cover 26 districts and 47 development blocks across the state. Schemes under the Yogi government include PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar card, Ayushman Bharat health card, social security programs, and scholarships. The adminis-

tration is working in mission mode to ensure these reach the most disadvantaged populations.

The Department of Social Welfare has named the following districts for the initiative: Sonbhadra, Pilibhit, Ambedkar Nagar, Barabanki, Chandauli, Gorakhpur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Balrampur, Bahraich, Bijnor, Ghazipur, Kushinagar, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Mirzapur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Sitapur, Basti, Bhadohi, Ballia, Deoria, Jaunpur, Maharajganj, Prayagraj, Shravasti, and Siddharthnagar.

Govt to mark 50th Emergency anniv with pan-India events

TDG NETOWRK
NEW DELHI

Commemorative events will be held across the country to mark the 50th anniversary of the imposition of the Emergency, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah slated to attend a function in the national capital on Wednesday and flag off a ‘Long Live Democracy Yatra’.

The Yatra will travel the length and breadth of the country to spread awareness about constitutional values, democratic rights, and the lessons learnt from the Emer-

gency, the Culture Ministry said on Tuesday.

The ministry, in collaboration with the Delhi government, will commemorate ‘Samvidhan Hatya Diwas’ on Wednesday at Thyagaraj Stadium here, marking 50 years since the imposition of Emergency in India on June 25, 1975.

“The solemn occasion will serve as a reminder of the importance of safeguarding democratic values and constitutional rights,” it said in a statement.

Underlining that the Emergency remains “one of the

darkest chapters” in India’s post-independence history, the ministry said, “Fundamental rights were suspended, press freedoms curtailed, and democratic institutions were silenced.”

“In 2024, the Government of India officially notified June 25 as ‘Samvidhan Hatya Diwas’ to ensure that this critical period is not forgotten and the sanctity of democracy is consistently upheld,” it said.

Union Home Minister Shah will attend the function at Thyagaraj Stadium as a chief guest and will also flag off the

‘Long Live Democracy Yatra’. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Lt Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena, and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta are also scheduled to attend the event here.

In addition to the main event in Delhi, states and Union Territories will host commemorative programmes led by respective chief ministers, governors, and lieutenant governors, it said.

These events will honour individuals who resisted the

Emergency and defended democracy with exhibitions, public discussions, and film screenings and facilitate inter-generational dialogue on the fragility and strength of democratic institutions.

Key highlights of the event in Delhi include a special exhibition on Indian democracy, a play to be staged by the National School of Drama, and the screening of a short film on the Emergency.

The Ministry of Culture is also coordinating the launch of the ‘Long Live Democracy’ exhibition at 50 key locations in each state and UT, which

will remain open to the public in the coming weeks, the statement said.

The exhibition will be divided into three curated sections -- ‘Bharat – Mother of Democracy’, showcasing India’s ancient and participative democratic traditions; ‘Dark Days of Democracy’, chronicling the events and consequences of the 1975 Emergency; and ‘Strengthening Democracy in India’, featuring recent democratic reforms like electoral transparency, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, Direct Benefit Transfer, and digital public grievance platforms.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON DILJIT DOSANJH CONTROVERSY

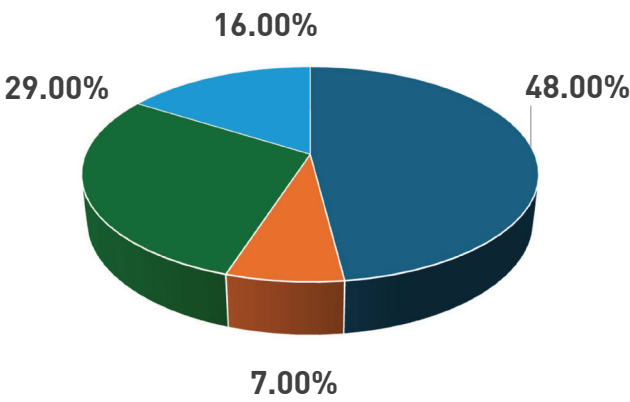
36% believe art and artists should be beyond borders, religion and politics

Amid rising Indo-Pak tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack, Diljit Dosanjh's upcoming Punjabi film 'Sardaar Ji 3', featuring Pakistani actor Hania Aamir, has sparked intense backlash. Key industry bodies, including the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) and the All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA), have condemned Dosanjh's decision. FWICE President B.N. Tiwari called the move disrespectful to Indian sentiments and soldiers' sacrifices, questioning Dosanjh's loyalty for choosing Pakistani talent over Indian artists. Tiwari stated that a formal ban on Dosanjh's future films and songs is likely, escalating tensions within the entertainment industry over cross-border collaborations.

Q1.▶

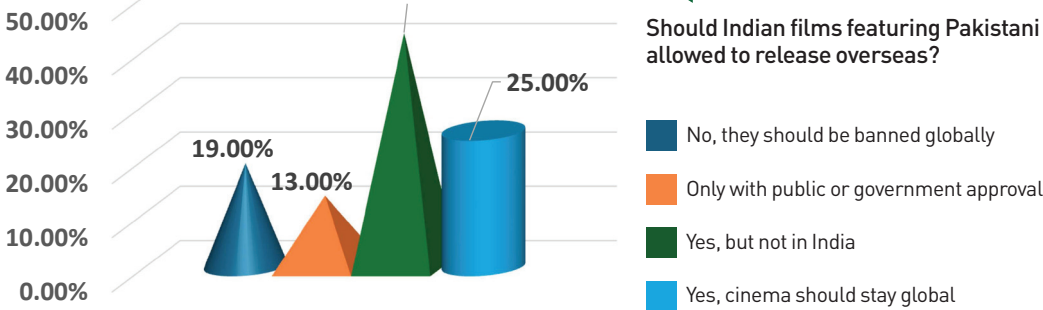
Do you think the outrage over Diljit Dosanjh working with a Pakistani actress is valid?

- Yes, completely justified
- Somewhat understandable
- No, it's exaggerated
- Not at all, art should not be politicised



◀Q4.

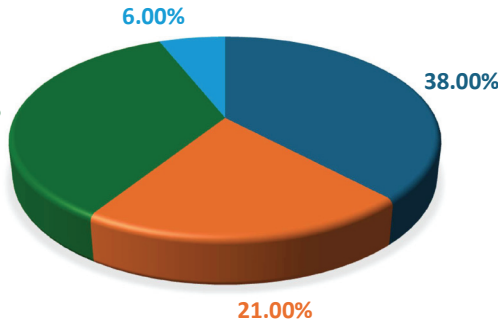
Should Indian films featuring Pakistani actors be allowed to release overseas?



Q5.▶

Do you feel creative choices should be influenced by social media sentiment?

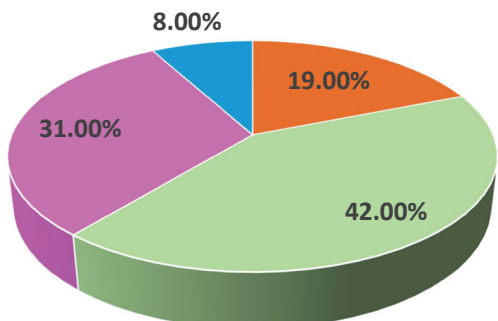
- Yes, public opinion matters
- Sometimes, depending on the issue
- No, creators need artistic freedom
- Not sure



Q3.▶

Has this controversy changed your opinion of Diljit Dosanjh?

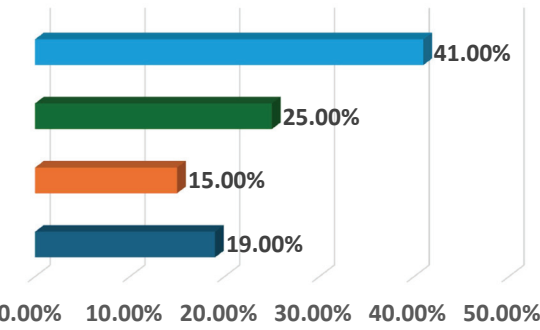
- Yes, I now view him negatively
- Somewhat disappointed
- No change at all
- I respect him more now



◀Q6.

Will this controversy affect your decision to watch Sardaarji 3?

- Yes, I will skip it
- Maybe, still thinking
- No, I will watch it
- I wasn't planning to watch it anyway



Audit of Air India HQ put off

CONTINUED FROM P1

day night after latter targeted the US camp in Qatar.

Following the tensions escalating in the Middle-East, Air India has cancelled several of its flights.

Sources said the decision was taken by the DGCA as many of the airline officials were busy in handling the situation. The Air India in a statement said it has cancelled several of its international flights in wake of the escalating tension in Middle

East region.

Source said that the DGCA will soon commence the audit when the situation returns to normal.

The Air India has been facing scrutiny from the DGCA following a tragic aircraft involving its AI171 Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner on June 12 in Gujarat's Ahmedabad killing more than 270 people, including 241 out of 242 people on board.

On June 19, the DGCA ordered the immediate removal of three senior Air

India officials, including a divisional vice president, from all responsibilities related to flight crew scheduling and rostering

The Air India has been assisting the DGCA, AAIB, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in their probe to ascertain the cause of crash of its London Gatwick flight.

The government had already ordered a probe and the AAIB, DGCA and MoCA are investigating the reasons for the crash.

DGCA surveillance of airports finds violations

CONTINUED FROM P1

to the entities concerned for taking corrective actions within seven days.

Two teams led by the Joint Director General carried out the surveillance during night and early morning hours at major airports, including Delhi and Mumbai airports.

In a detailed statement about the surveillance findings, DGCA listed multiple cases wherein the reported defects reappeared many times on the aircraft indicating ineffective monitoring and inadequate rectification.

"Ground handling equipment such as baggage trolleys... were found unserviceable; Line maintenance

stores, tool control procedures were not followed," it said.

During maintenance of aircraft, the work order was not followed, DGCA said and added that the unserviceable thrust reverser system and flap slat lever were not locked.

"During maintenance, safety precautions found not (to have been) taken by AME (Aircraft Maintenance Engineer) as per AMM (Aircraft Maintenance Manual); at places, AME was not attending to the snag rectification; defect reports generated by the aircraft system, were not found recorded in the technical logbook," the statement said.

Also, DGCA found that

several life vests were not properly secured beneath their designated seats in aircraft and the corrosion-resistant tape on the right-hand side winglet's lower blade was found to be damaged.

At an airport, centre line marking of a runway was observed faded and the rapid exit taxiway, green centre light were not unidirectional. The obstruction limitation data was found to have not been updated for last three years and no survey has been performed despite many new construction around the vicinity of aerodrome, DGCA said.

However, names of the airports were not disclosed. "A number of vehicles in

the ramp area were found without speed governors. These vehicles were withdrawn by cancelling there AVP and drivers ADP were suspended," the statement said.

Further, the regulator said a simulator was found not matching with the aircraft configuration and that the software was not updated to the current version.

Besides, a domestic flight of a scheduled carrier was held up due to worn tyres and it was released only after the required rectification was done, it added.

DGCA emphasised that it has initiated a focused assessment of the aviation ecosystem to strengthen safety measures across the sector.

Air India flights to Middle East resume

CONTINUED FROM P1

Tata Group-owned carriers -- Air India and Air India Express -- have restarted flights to cities in the Middle East.

Officials said Air India is operating Delhi-Dubai flight and Air India Express is operating Delhi-Muscat service.

On Tuesday, Air India said it will progressively resume flights to the Middle East as airspaces are gradually reopening in the region and most of the operations will resume from June 25.

Spirit of cooperation

CONTINUED FROM P1

and residents, as well as address Haryana's concerns about managing excess water flow.

The Yamuna water-sharing agreement, a decades-old point of contention, was also a focal point of the conversation. Both Chief Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress made toward a mutually agree-

able framework, with plans to finalize the DPR to ensure equitable water distribution. This development builds on earlier efforts, such as the February 2024 agreement facilitated by the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, which aimed to address water distribution to Rajasthan's Shekhawati region, including Sikar, Churu, and Jhunjhunu.

Crackdown on mafia

CONTINUED FROM P1

in Kurukshetra, who defied gangster threats to bid for a vend, and the killing of another contractor, Virender Singh, in Jind on June 20. These high-profile cases, coupled with reported firing incidents in Rohtak and Yamunanagar have created a climate of fear among contractors.

Chief Minister Nayab

Singh Saini's, responding to the crisis, has directed the Haryana Police to adopt a zero-tolerance policy toward offenders. "Anyone exploiting the public, issuing threats, or engaging in illegal extortion must face stringent legal consequences," stated a senior police official. The government's resolve was further underscored by the transfer

of several police officers to ensure impartial action and bolster security for liquor traders. A high-level meeting chaired by Director General of Police Shatrughat Kapoor and attended by Excise and Taxation Commissioner Ashima Brar emphasized enhanced vigilance in four districts particularly affected by gangster activity.

Wanted man shot dead

CONTINUED FROM P1

criminal linked to multiple high-profile cases, including murders and extortion in Haryana and arms-related offenses in Delhi. Vohra was allegedly involved in the killing of liquor traders Pankaj Malik, Virender Rana, and Arjun Rana outside a gym in Haryana's Khari Lakha Singh village on December 26, 2024, as well as the murder of contractor Shantanu in Kurukshetra on June 15, 2025.

With a reward of Rs 2 lakh on his head, Vohra had become a significant target for law enforcement in the region.

As per the police, the encounter took place in the early hours of Tuesday near Dera Mandi, following a tip-off from the Haryana Police Special Task Force (STF) about Vohra's movements in south Delhi. Acting on precise intelligence, a joint team of Haryana STF and Delhi Police laid a trap near the Kishangarh area of the Delhi-Haryana

border. When confronted, Vohra opened fire on the police, leading to a retaliatory shootout. Vohra was critically injured and later declared dead at a nearby hospital. Two sub-inspectors—one from Haryana Police and one from Delhi Police—sustained bullet injuries and are undergoing treatment at a south Delhi hospital.

The chief minister's recent directive to "uproot gangsters and mafias" has galvanized the state's police force, with the Haryana STF intensifying its operations against organized crime.

Vohra's criminal record paints a picture of a hardened criminal deeply entrenched in the Kala Rana-Noni Rana gang's operations. Known for orchestrating violent crimes across Haryana, Punjab, and Delhi, he was a prime suspect in the murder of liquor businessman Shantanu in Shahabad, a case that had drawn significant attention due to its brazen nature.

Pak don tries to extort money

CONTINUED FROM P1

rounds were fired outside their home by two men on a motorcycle, as captured on CCTV footage.

Jatinder, the NRI targeted in the threats, has been living in Portugal for the last 15 years with his two brothers, with whom he runs a restaurant business. Their families are based there, while their parents and grandmother continue to live in Jalandhar. At the time of the incident, only the elderly members of the family—his parents and grandmother—were at home. Thankfully, no one was injured in the attack.

Charanjit Kaur told police she recognized the caller's photo as Shehzad Bhatti's, which appeared on her phone screen. She added that the same family had received a similar threat a year ago and had filed a police complaint at the time, but no significant action had followed.

Further tension came to light as a chilling au-

dio conversation between Bhatti and Jatinder surfaced on Tuesday. In the recording, Bhatti is heard demanding extortion money and threatening to orchestrate attacks in both Jalandhar and Portugal. When Jatinder refused, Bhatti declared, "First, I will kill your father," to which Jatinder retorted defiantly, "If you come, come prepared." The call quickly spiralled into an abusive argument before being disconnected.

Bhatti also released a video on social media showing the gunmen firing outside Jatinder's Jalandhar home, reinforcing fears of transnational criminal targeting.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Manpreet Singh confirmed the recovery of four spent bullet casings from the scene. "The firing occurred outside the home of an NRI who had received an extortion threat from a man identifying himself as Pakistani don Shehzad Bhatti," he said.

"We are now examining the viral audio and video evidence as part of the investigation."

The DCP added that the family's Portugal-based restaurant had also been mentioned as a potential target by Bhatti. While the attackers remain at large, Jalandhar Police say they are actively pursuing leads and taking the case very seriously, given the international dimension and possible gangland connections.

The police have registered an FIR, and senior officers from the Police Commissionerate have visited the crime scene for further assessment. However, no arrests have been made so far.

The attack has raised fresh concerns about the reach of overseas gangsters and the vulnerability of NRI families back home. Authorities are now looking into whether this is part of a larger pattern of organized cross-border intimidation.

ECI DEFENDS MAHA POLLS, INVITES RAHUL TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Terming the elections strictly as per electoral laws passed by the Parliament, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has invited the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for an interaction to discuss the issues related to his allegation on the Maharashtra Assembly Election held last year, sources said on Tuesday.

According to the sources, the letter was sent via email on June 12 and was also received at his residence.

As per the sources, it said in its letter that all elections are conducted by the Election Commission of India strictly as per Electoral Laws passed by the Parliament, Rules made therein, and instructions issued by the Election Commission of India from time to time.

ECI further mentioned that the entire election process is



According to the sources, the letter was sent via email on June 12 and was also received at his residence.

conducted in a decentralised manner at the Assembly Constituency level, which involved more than 100,186 Booth Level Officers (BLOs), 288 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 139 General Observers, 41 Police Observers, 71 Expenditure Observers and 288 Returning Officers (ROs) appointed by the Commission and 108,026

Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by National and State Political Parties, including 28,421 of INC, across the state of Maharashtra.

"All elections are conducted by the Election Commission of India strictly as per Electoral Laws passed by the Parliament, Rules made therein, and instructions issued by the Election Com-

mission of India from time to time. As you are aware, the entire election process is conducted in a decentralised manner at the Assembly Constituency level, which involved more than 100,186 Booth Level Officers (BLOs), 288 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 139 General Observers, 41 Police Observers, 71 Expenditure Observers and 288 Returning Officers (ROs) appointed by the Commission and 108,026 Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by national and State Political Parties, including 28,421 of the INC, across the state of Maharashtra.

We presume that any issue regarding the conduct of elections would have already been raised through election petitions filed in the competent court of law by the INC candidates," the letter reads.

The former Congress President had recently raised allegations against the poll body of "election rigging" in

the Maharashtra assembly polls. However, ECI has rejected the allegations.

Gandhi further raised concerns about the integrity of the electoral process, citing the destruction of evidence as a potential indicator of election rigging against the backdrop of the Election Commission's (EC) revised guidelines on preserving video footage and photographs of elections, reducing the retention period to 45 days.

Earlier, amid a demand for making available video or CCTV footage of the web-casting of the polling stations during the poll day, EC sources said that it is "entirely contrary to the privacy and security concerns of the voters" and sharing of the footage would leave both the elector, who has voted, as well as the elector, who has not voted, vulnerable to "pressure, discrimination and intimidation by anti-social elements".

'Vote theft': Rahul claims Fadnavis' seat voter list grew by 8% in just 5 months

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday, claimed that the voter list grew by eight per cent in just five months in Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's constituency, labelling it as "vote theft".

In a post on X, Gandhi shared a news article, demanding the immediate release of machine-readable digital voter rolls and CCTV footage.

The former Congress President claimed that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) reported unknown individuals casting votes in Nagpur South West, where Fadnavis won last year by over 38,000 votes. He also pointed out that the media have also uncovered thousands of voters with no verified address

"In Maharashtra CM's constituency, the voter



Rahul demands machine-readable digital voter rolls

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Flagging alleged irregularities in the Maharashtra assembly polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday claimed that there weren't isolated glitches but "vote theft" and demanded the immediate release of machine-readable digital voter rolls as well as CCTV footage.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha shared on X a media report which claimed that in just six months between the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the Maharashtra assembly polls, Nagpur South West — the seat held by BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis — added 29,219 new voters.

list grew by 8% in just 5 months. Some booths saw a 20-50% surge," Gandhi said on X.

"BLOs reported unknown individuals casting votes. Media uncovered thousands of voters with no verified address," the Rae Bareilly MP added.

"And the EC? Silent - or complicit. These aren't isolated glitches. This is vote theft. The cover-up is the confession," he alleged.

"That's why we demand the immediate release of machine-readable digital voter rolls and CCTV footage," Gandhi said in the

BJP ruled states branding Bengali speaking migrant labourers as Bangladeshi: Mamata

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today alleged that BJP-ruled States were targeting Bengali-speaking migrant labourers, branding them "Bangladeshi" and pushing them into Bangladesh.

"It is happening in all BJP-ruled States every day," the West Bengal CM alleged while speaking to mediapersons in the State Assembly. "It is happening in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and other States. Even today, we have the news that 300 to 400 migrant labourers are being harassed in Rajasthan," she said. "I have asked the Chief Secretary to look into it," she added.

"Is the Union Home Ministry under Amit Shah unaware of this witch-hunt



against Bengali-speaking migrants?" she questioned. "Prime Minister Modi must pay heed," she added.

"Only for speaking Bengali, people are pushed to Bangladesh. Tamil is spoken by people in Tamil Nadu. So, will someone be sent to Sri Lanka because they speak Tamil? Nepali is the language spoken by the Gorkhas, the people of Darjeeling. Will they be sent to Nepal?" she said. Accusing the BJP

of "playing politics over language", Mamata Banerjee said many such cases had come to her notice and that her Government had brought back the workers wrongly pushed back into Bangladesh. "People from every section live in our country. This is India's secular tradition... but the BJP is doing politics based on language... The migrant workers from Bengal are taken to other States for work because of their skills, but when they speak in the Bengali language among themselves, they are labelled as Bangladeshis and sent to Bangladesh. Many such cases have come to us, and we have brought them back (from Bangladesh)," the West Bengal CM said.

"Is it a crime to speak in Bangla, the language of Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda among other luminaries.

TN CM Stalin writes to Jaishankar for evacuation of 651 fishermen from Iran

ANAND SINGH
CHENNAI

Even as India is carrying out Operation Sindhu to bring the stranded students in Iran and Israel, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has written to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the evacuation of 651 Indian fishermen stranded in Iran amid the ongoing conflict between the two countries

In his letter to Jaishankar, Stalin said, "I wish to urgently draw your attention to the plight of Indian fishermen, who are stranded in Iran due to the ongoing tensions and operational challenges in West Asia."

He said that it is ascertained that 651 fishermen from Tamil Nadu belonging to the districts of Kanniyakumari



(498), Tirunelveli (78), Thoothukudi (72), and Ramanathapuram (3) are currently in Iran (list enclosed).

The Chief Minister said that they (fishermen) are facing considerable hardship due to the escalation of conflict in the region, and they are not able to return to Tamil Nadu.

"Their families back home are in deep distress, lacking information about their safety and awaiting any

news of their return. Due to the precarious situation prevailing in the region, the fishermen and their distressed families are seeking support to facilitate their repatriation to India," Stalin, who is also the DMK chief said.

Henured for the swift intervention of the Ministry of External Affairs in this humanitarian matter and said that it would bring immense relief to the affected individuals and their families.

"I therefore urge you to take immediate diplomatic measures to establish contact with the stranded fishermen, to ascertain their well-being and to facilitate their safe return to India," Stalin added. India has safely evacuated several stranded students and pilgrims from Iran and Israel as part of Operation Sindhu.

RS verifies 45 signs for HC Judge Yadav removal; Sibal, 8 others yet to verify

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha secretariat has verified the signatures of 45 of the 55 MPs who had signed a notice to bring a motion for the removal of Allahabad High Court Judge Shekhar Yadav over his "hate speech" even as Kapil Sibal and eight others were yet to verify their signatures.

Sibal, who has been vocal for early action on the notice, has claimed that he has not received any email from the Rajya Sabha secretariat, which confirmed having sent the same to his official email thrice during the past six months.

He has questioned the need for the verification of signatures and the delay in initiating the process in March when the notice was submitted on December 13, 2024.

While 55 MPs have signed



the notice for the removal of Justice Yadav, the signature of one of the MPs, Sarfaraz Ahmed, appears twice on the notice. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is verifying how his signature appeared twice on the notice and whether they are forged.

Ahmed, a JMM MP from Jharkhand, has already met Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar on the issue and confirmed having signed only once and not twice, sources said.

Rajya Sabha sources said the possibility of a criminal investigation by the Ethics

Committee and the Privileges Committee into the notice seeking the removal of Justice Shekhar Yadav in the House cannot be ruled out as the document bears "forged" signatures of an MP.

They also said the notice for removal of Justice Yadav, which was submitted by 55 opposition MPs, is undated and not addressed to anyone.

The Constitution states that a judge can only be removed from service after both Houses of Parliament approve a motion with a two-thirds majority of the present members. Thereafter, the President has to grant approval to the same.

Such a motion can be moved in the Rajya Sabha only after 50 MPs sign the same. For Lok Sabha, signatures of 100 MPs are needed.

According to sources, Sibal, a former Union minis-

ter and now an Independent MP, is yet to verify his signature with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat even after three reminders on his official email in the last six months.

"I have met Chairman Dhankar several times but he has never raised the issue of verification of my signatures on the notice for the removal of Justice Yadav as I am the presenter and initiator of the entire process," Sibal said.

He also mentioned that the need for signature verification arises only when someone questions the signatures on the notice. He also questioned the delay and said the House chairman should accept or reject the notice and not delay the process.

Sibal has been extremely vocal on the issue and has questioned the delay in the acceptance of the notice by the Rajya Sabha chairman for the removal of Justice Yadav.

'Women not safe in Odisha even in CM's home district'

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

A fact-finding team of AICC on Tuesday alleged that women are not safe in Odisha, including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's home district Keonjhar.

Several incidents of crime against women were reported in the state in recent times.

The five-member all-women team of the All India Congress Congress (AICC) led by general secretary Deepa Dasmuni visited four districts of Odisha where rape, gang rape and murder of women were reported recently.

They visited Kandhamal, Ganjam, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts in the past four days. After holding discussions with different stakeholders, including families of the victims, villagers and local police, the

team members on Tuesday expressed shock over the rising crime against women in the state.

Briefing media persons here, the team member and MP Praniti Shinde said, "After meeting the families of each victim, I can only say that women are not safe in the culturally rich state of Odisha. A girl belonging to a poor family was killed when the state was celebrating a women's festival."

"Only three words came to my mind to describe Odisha. Those are lawlessness, corruption and rape. Except for these three things, nothing more is happening in the state," she alleged.

There is an absolute collapse of the administrative system and society because there is no fear for the law in Odisha, Shinde said, while alleging, "Rape or murder is being reported in every fifth family in the state."

Karnataka Lokayukta conducts raids on eight govt officials

BELLIE THOMAS
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta Police, on Tuesday, conducted search operations across the state in connection with complaints regarding disproportionate asset cases registered against 8 Government Officers in Lokayukta Police Stations of Bengaluru City, Bengaluru Rural, Kalaburagi, Dharwad, Hassan, Gadag, and Shivamogga. Simultaneous searches were carried out at the residences, offices and residences of the relatives of the concerned accused Government Officers at more than 45 places.

DA cases were registered at the Karnataka Lokayukta Police stations against - Prakash K. S, an Executive Engineer with BBMP in Bengaluru; KG Amaranath, Chief Officer, Municipality at Anekal, Bengaluru Rural.



DA cases were registered at the Lokayukta police stations in Kalaburagi against Mallikarjuna Allipur, an Executive Engineer with the RDPR department; Ramachandra Masarakal, a PDO at Kalaburagi;

Cases were registered against Ashok Lakshmappa Vasanad, Chief Engineer in Dharwad; Lathamani DB, an Account Superintendent at Chikkamagaluru; D B Patil, a Police Inspector attached to the Gadag Town Police Station in Gadag; and Dr. Pradeep, Prof. Co-ordinator, a government official in Shivamogga.

Further investigations are underway.

IAF to get at least 6 Tejas jets by March, delays due to engine unavailability: HAL chief

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force will get at least half-a-dozen Tejas Light Combat Aircraft by March 2026, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd CMD D K Sunil has said, weeks after the IAF chief flagged serious concerns over delays in the delivery of the jets.

Sunil, chairperson and managing director of the

aviation behemoth, attributed the delivery delays to US defence major GE Aerospace missing the deadline for supply of its engines to power the fighter jets.

The slippage in the delivery schedule for the LCA Mk-1A variant of the jet had become a major issue with Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh raising the matter publicly.

Sunil said the delay was



caused only due to the US firm's inability to supply the F404 engines on time.

In an exclusive interview

with PTI Videos, the HAL chief said GE Aerospace is expected to supply 12 engines in the current fiscal.

This will facilitate delivery of the jets to the IAF.

"Every company goes through its fair share of criticisms. It does happen. Unfortunately, in the case of LCA Mark 1A, we have built the aircraft. As of today, we have six aircraft lined up," he said.

"But the engine deliveries have not happened from GE Aerospace. They were to deliver the engines in 2023.

Till date, we have got only one engine," he added.

The delay from GE side was initially due to production timelines falling behind during the Covid pandemic, and the subsequent departure of many senior engineers from the company, causing cascading supply chain bottlenecks.

According to Sunil, the technical issues with GE Aerospace have been sort-

ed out and HAL is set to receive 12 jet engines by March 2026. "I can assure you that as of today, six aircraft are ready. There is no let up from our side. We are building those aircraft and getting them ready and we will be in a position to deliver (by this fiscal)," he said.

HAL plans to produce 16 jets in the coming year provided there is steady flow of engine supplies by GE

Aerospace.

In February 2021, the defence ministry sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with HAL for the procurement of 83 Tejas Mk-1A jets for the IAF.

The ministry is also in the process of procuring 97 more LCA Mk-1As at a cost around Rs 67,000 crore.

The single-engine Mk-1A will be a replacement for the IAF's MiG-21 fighters.

KANWAR COMMITTEES TO GET FUNDS THROUGH DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER: CM REKHA

The Kanwar Yatra, marked by devotees (Kanwariyas) carrying holy water for Lord Shiva, will run until Sawan Shivratri with enhanced facilities promised across Delhi.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As the national capital gears up for the upcoming Kanwar yatra, the Delhi cabinet has decided that Kanwar committees will be getting funds directly from the Delhi government through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Tuesday.

CM Gupta also slammed the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for alleged corruption in giving funds for the yatra, claiming that there had been numerous complaints from the committees about facilities not being ready for them. "In the name of giving services to all the Kanwar Yatrīs, the previous government has made this work the spot of corruption. Only 2-3 people used to take the

ALLEGES CORRUPTION UNDER AAP

■ DBT for Committees: Delhi government to directly transfer funds to Kanwar committees to avoid misuse and delays.

■ Corruption Allegations: CM Gupta alleged irregularities under the previous AAP regime, citing poor on-ground facilities and rigged tendering.

■ High-Level Review Meeting: Held on June 17 to review preparations for the yatra, focusing on infrastructure, respect, and security for devotees.



tender for the whole of Delhi. Committees of Kanwar Yatrīs told us that till the last day, tents were not put up... We have decided that all the Kanwar committees will get funds through direct benefit transfer from the Delhi government," CM Gupta said during

a press conference here. Earlier, on June 17, the Chief Minister had convened a high-level review meeting to discuss the preparations for the upcoming Kanwar Yatra 2025, focusing on planning, arrangements, and facilities for the devotees during the yatra.

In a post on X, the Delhi Chief Minister's Office (CMO) stated that the meeting was held with the focus to ensure a seamless and respectful experience for the lakhs of Shiv bhakts expected to participate. Gupta directed that every devotee should receive re-

spect, facilities, and security, emphasising that the event is not only a festival of faith but also an opportunity for service and dedication.

"The Chief Minister directed that it should be ensured that every Shiv devotee gets respect, facilities and security. She said that Kanwar Yatra is not only a festival of faith but also an opportunity for service and dedication.

The Delhi government will ensure its organisation with devotion, arrangements and sensitivity," the CMO's statement read. Following the meeting, the Delhi CM detailed the setup of Kanwar camps across Delhi, with a focus on improving the infrastructure and services compared to previous years under the AAP government. She noted that the camps are scheduled to operate from July until Sawan Shivratri.

Delhi won't come to standstill this monsoon: Minister Sirsa

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has set its focus on cleaning and desilting the city's storm-water drains as part of its intensive drive to mitigate monsoon hardship caused by flooding and be prepared for any exigencies.

Since the monsoon is expected to cover Delhi by Tuesday, Environment and Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa reviewed the desilting work in the Wazirpur Industrial Area and directed officials to ensure the area is not flooded by rains.

Sirsa, who was accompanied by local MLA Poonam Sharma and senior officials of the Industries Department and DSIIDC, said drains in the area were being carried out on a war footing and expressed satisfaction over the quality and pace of the work.

"Delhi will not come to a standstill this monsoon. We have mobilised the entire governance



"The results we are seeing on the ground are due to continuous follow-ups and coordinated fieldwork by our elected representatives and officials," the minister added.

machinery -- from local representatives to officers -- to ensure every drain is cleaned and every street remains functional," he said. The minister also issued

strictly instructed officials to avoid manual drain cleaning and stressed that mechanised systems such as super sucker machines improve efficiency and safety.

Open drains were being covered and potholes filled to minimise public inconvenience during rains, Sirsa pointed out and appreciated the efforts of the local MLA to this end.

"The results we are seeing on the ground are due to continuous follow-ups and coordinated fieldwork by our elected representatives and officials," the minister added.

The Delhi government has also reinstated the concessionaire model for the redevelopment of industrial areas under the public-private partnership framework for the long-term improvement of infrastructure. Sirsa said this decision was in response to long-pending demands of industrialists and follows successful implementation in the Narela and Bawana areas.

Delhi air improves as AQI falls to 'satisfactory' level amid citywide govt action

TDG NETWORK
MEHANDI GARG DELHI

Delhi's air quality has shown marked improvement, with the city recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 95, falling in the 'Satisfactory' category.

The shift comes as a result of ongoing, large-scale efforts aimed at reducing pollution and enhancing urban sanitation, according to government officials. Environment and Forest Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa attributed the improvement to sustained civic enforcement and co-ordinated ground-level action across departments. He stated that a proactive approach, rather than reactive firefighting, is driving the change. "We are solving

problems before they occur. Whether it's removing waste, clearing drains, or controlling vehicular emissions, every team is on the ground with a clear mandate," said the minister.

In the past 24 hours, multiple actions were undertaken as part of this city-wide campaign.

Civic agencies impounded a significant number of ageing vehicles contributing to air pollution, while thousands of challans were issued for non-compliance with pollution norms. Simultaneously, a major cleanliness drive saw several thousand tonnes of garbage removed, roads swept, and water sprayed to settle dust -- all key contributors to particulate matter in the air.

Monsoon alert: Light rainfall likely in parts of Delhi-NCR

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Several parts of the national capital and adjoining NCR areas are set to witness light rainfall and cloudy skies on Tuesday, bringing much-needed relief from the intense summer heat.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), "Light rainfall is very likely to occur at Delhi (Narela, Bawana, Alipur, Kanjhawala, Rohini, Badli, Pitampura, Mundaka, Pashchim Vihar, Rajauri Garden, Jafarpur, Nazafgarh, Dwarka, Palam, IGI Airport), NCR (Bahadurgarh, Gurugram), Safidon, Jind, Panipat."

Rain is also expected in nearby areas such as Bahadurgarh and Gurugram in the National Capital Region, as well as Safidon, Jind,



and Panipat in Haryana. Meanwhile, the Southwest Monsoon had advanced further into most parts of Bihar and some more regions of eastern Uttar Pradesh as of June 19, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

According to the weather department, the deepening monsoon activity is set to bring very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall to isolated places across Guja-

rat, north Konkan, Madhya Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Odisha on Wednesday.

Jharkhand is bracing for similar weather on June 19 and 20. In East and Central India, extremely heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places over Jharkhand on June 19. In West India, extremely heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places over Konkan, ghat areas of Madhya Maharashtra, and the Gujarat Region on June 19.

Minister Parvesh attacks AAP over 'poor quality' roads in city

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma slammed the Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday, saying that the party had constructed "poor quality roads," while in power, and highlighted that an initiative has been started to fill 3,400 potholes in a day and construct at least 500 kilometres of road in a year.

Verma made these comments while inspecting the work of filling the potholes on the road Press Enclave area in Saket. "Our commitment is to give good roads to the people of Delhi... We have taken the initiative of filling 3,400 potholes in a day, and by 11 AM, we have filled 50% of them. We will fill them all by evening.



It takes 20 minutes to fill a pothole," the minister told the media.

On the plan to construct 500 Km of road, he has said that till now 150 km has already been laid out and that there will be recarpeting done of all the roads while making efforts to stop waterlogging in areas. "Construction of roads is in progress - we have constructed 150 Km long roads and have a target of 500 km for this year... The previous government

constructed poor-quality roads... We will recarpet all the roads... Wherever waterlogging took place, our teams of PWD, NHAI, and DDA worked on it... We are analysing why waterlogging takes place," he said. Earlier, Verma had addressed recent concerns about waterlogging in the city and claimed that the Minto Bridge, often infamous for flooding during monsoons, remained unaffected in the recent rains due to timely government action.

Delhi Airport sees 48 flight cancellations amid tensions in Middle East

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Flight operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport have been severely affected since last night, with 48 cancellations reported across both arrivals and departures, according to airport sources.

Among the affected services, 28 were incoming flights and 20 were outbound, with national carrier Air India and low-cost operator IndiGo bearing the brunt of the disruptions.

Air India had 17 arrival and 10 departure cancellations, totalling 27 flights. IndiGo followed with 8 arrival and 7 departure



cancellations, amounting to 15 flights. Other airlines, including global carriers, saw 3 arrivals and 3 departures cancelled. Meanwhile, flight operations to and from several airports in the country were disrupted on Monday due to

airspace closures in Qatar and parts of the Gulf region. This included -- (SVPIA) in Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, and Mangaluru International Airport. In addition, Chaudhary Charan Singh Interna-

tional Airport in Lucknow and Cochin International Airport in Kerala also issued advisories cautioning passengers of possible delays and cancellations. In a statement, Cochin International Airport confirmed operational disruptions to several flights due to operational reasons.

The affected flights include A1953 (Cochin to Doha), SGO18 (Cochin to Dubai), 6E1403 (Cochin to Abu Dhabi), 6E1493 (Cochin to Riyadh), 6E1271 (Cochin to Muscat), 6E1272 (Muscat to Cochin), 6E1206/055 (Bahrain to Cochin to Dammam), SGO17 (Dubai to Cochin), and 6E1404 (Abu Dhabi to Cochin), it said.

Delhi Govt to hire consultant for Najafgarh riverfront project

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government's Irrigation and Flood Control department (I&FC) has decided to hire a consultant to prepare a layout for the Najafgarh riverfront project.

Earlier in April, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, while inspecting projects to clean the Yamuna River and the Najafgarh drain, had directed officials to come up with the project to transform a piece of land into a recreational space.

Now the department has identified a 21 acre space located along Najafgarh drain near Vipin Garden in Dwarka and plans to



transform it into a community recreational and social space.

There are 22 large drains, including Najafgarh and Shahdara, where desilting work is currently ongoing. The 57-km Najafgarh drain which was once the Sahibi River is the biggest

polluter of Yamuna river.

According to the plan, a clean park, walking track, landscaping work, Chhat Ghat, vehicle parking lot and more facilities will be installed. "The consultant will be required to carry out soil investigation, prepare architectural design, survey

the area, and come up with a layout plan showing all the aspects of the project," an official said.

The Najafgarh riverfront project will also have an outdoor gymnasium, play area for children, and cricket playing area.

"As part of beautification work, fountains will be installed, proper illumination work will be done, and extensive tree and shrub plantation work will be carried out," the tender issued stated.

According to officials, the consultant will present a detailed project report in three months to the government, based on which further decisions will be taken.

HC seeks status report in woman's NDPS bail plea

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has called for a complete status report in a plea of a woman seeking anticipatory bail in an NDPS case. Her earlier plea was dismissed by the trial court.

She has sought anticipatory bail in a case registered in 2022 by the Crime Branch of the Delhi police. She has been called twice by police to join the investigation, though she has not appeared.



Justice Rajneesh Kumar Gupta issued notice on the plea of Shilpi Dawar to Delhi Police and sought a complete status report. "Let a complete status report be filed before the

next date of hearing," Justice Gupta said on June 23. The matter has been fixed for hearing on June 25. Her anticipatory bail application was dismissed by the Rohini

Court on May 24, 2025. During the hearing on Monday, the Investigating Officer (IO) submitted that the charge sheet has already been filed.

First notice to the Petitioner has been given to join the investigation on May 1, 2025 and thereafter on May 8, 2025.

However, the Petitioner has not joined the investigation, the IO submitted. Senior counsel for the petitioner submitted that the Petitioner is ready to join the investigation if the interim

protection is granted to him. While opposing the bail plea, Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) submitted that the Petitioner has received an amount of around Rs 14 lakh in her bank account, which was the proceeds of the illicit drugs sold by the co-accused persons, namely Vineet Pal and Lakshay Jaggi and a custodial interrogation is required.

It was further submitted that a proclamation under Section 84 BNSS, 2023 has already been issued against the Petitioner.

CRPF jawan accused of kidnapping man for ransom gets protection from arrest

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted protection from arrest to a CRPF Jawan who is an accused of kidnapping a man. He has been granted relief in view of his willingness to join and cooperate in the investigation.

Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora granted relief to Bhabani Chib and ordered that he not be arrested till the next date of hearing. He will join the investigation on June 24.

"The Petitioner is directed to appear before the IO on 24.06.2025 at 5:00 pm and as and when further summoned by the IO," Justice Arora ordered on June 23.

An FIR was registered at the Saket police station on the Complaint of the victim's wife. The High Court has directed Delhi police to file a status report two days before the next hearing, which is scheduled for July 3, 2025. Senior advocate Nandita Rao appeared for the accused and submitted that he and the victim had been on friendly terms for the last one and a half years, and on June 4, 2025, the victim himself accompanied him to Kashmir. It was further submitted that on June 7, the victim himself categorically stated before the investigation officer (IO) at Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir, in writing that the petitioner did not kidnap him and there was no demand for ransom. There has been a clear misunderstanding.

OMAR ABDULLAH SAYS READY TO SACRIFICE CM POST FOR J&K STATEHOOD

J&K CM Omar Abdullah expressed willingness to step down if dissolving the assembly is needed to restore full statehood.

TDG NETWORK
GULMARG

In a strong and direct message on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah clarified that he is ready to step aside if that's what it takes to restore full statehood to the Union Territory.

His comments come amid reports suggesting that granting statehood would require the dissolution of the existing assembly.

Speaking to the reporters after attending an event in Gulmarg, Omar Abdullah said, "... I read in a newspaper that if the statehood is to be granted, then the state assembly has to be dissolved. Then let it happen. I am not worried about my chair..."

Abdullah alleged that the 'misinformation' in being spread order to create fear among Members of the Leg-

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Statehood push: Reports suggest assembly dissolution may be required to grant J&K full statehood.
- Omar's stand: Said he's ready to "sacrifice" his chair in the larger interest of the people.
- Political backdrop: Demand for restoration of statehood has grown since Article 370's abrogation in 2019.
- Next steps: Awaiting Centre's decision on potential legislative and constitutional processes.



islative Assembly (MLAs).

"These reports have been planted in the newspapers to scare our MLAs so that they will wait for another five years. The statehood is not for any MLA or our government, it is for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The MLAs will not become an ob-

stacle to it. The day when the statehood would be given, I will go to the Governor and dissolve the assembly..." said Abdullah.

Meanwhile, reacting to his previous statement, that "statehood has been taken from J&K because we are Muslims", JKNC President

Farooq Abdullah said, "What other reason can be there? Are we enemies of India? We joined India when Pakistan was in front of us."

On Saturday, Farooq Abdullah cautioned that his party may be left with no choice but to approach the Supreme Court if the restora-

tion of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir continues to be delayed.

Speaking to reporters, Abdullah said, "It's been eight months (since the J&K government was formed). I am hopeful that when statehood is restored here, we will also get (administrative) powers... Our stand is that we are waiting (for J&K statehood). But if there are delays, we will have no option but to go to the Supreme Court."

His remarks come at a time when the NC continues to push for the restoration of both statehood and the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was revoked by the Centre in August 2019 through the abrogation of Article 370.

The move had also led to the bifurcation of the former state into two Union Territories—Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Emergency was 'murder of democracy', says UP Dy CM

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Ahead of the 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' to be observed on June 25, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday stated that he imposition of emergency in the country was the murder of democracy and a disrespect of the Constitution.

"The imposition of emergency in this country, in a way, is the murder of democracy, disrespect of the constitution... This was the beginning of such atrocities, due to which there was an atmosphere of terror in the whole country, sending innocent people to jail, harassing political and social activists, and the work of bringing many such ordinances was done, which cannot be justified in any way. But the whole country got agitated, and as a result of the movement, the government had to bow down, and the country got rid of the emergency..." Maurya told ANI.



He further stated that it was important to remind the country that those who carried fake books of the Constitution were the biggest traitors.

"On the completion of 50 years of emergency, it is important to remind the country that those who carry fake constitution books and ask for votes are such big traitors of the constitution," he added.

Lashing out at the Congress party, UP Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak stated that the whole world had seen the 'misdeeds' of Congress and also the efforts of the BJP, which was against those trying to kill the country's constitution.

"In 1975, an emergency was imposed in the country. The whole world sees the misdeeds of the Congress party, and the BJP is constantly against those who kill the country's constitution. Tomorrow is the 25th of June; all our workers and people from across the country will celebrate this as Samvidhan Hatya Diwas, and Congress has always been working against the constitution," Pathak told ANI.

Meanwhile, on June 19, Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari stated that June 25 was a black day and every "nationalist citizen" would observe the "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas."

"It is a black day. We observe this every year. Not only the BJP but also every nationalist citizen observes it. In West Bengal, many people were jailed during the emergency">emergency due to politics and ideology. Every year, we give them a reception. It will happen this year too," Suwendu Adhikari said.

ECI to conduct special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday issued instructions for holding a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, in accordance with the schedule and guidelines prescribed by the Commission.

In an official statement, the poll body said that the objective of an intensified revision is to ensure that the names of all eligible citizens are included in the Electoral Roll (ER) to enable them to exercise their franchise, no ineligible voter is included in the electoral rolls and also to introduce complete transparency in the process of ad-



dition or deletion of electors in the electoral rolls. The last intensive revision for Bihar was conducted by the Commission in 2003.

Various reasons, such as rapid urbanisation, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants, have necessitated the conduct of an intensive

revision so as to ensure integrity and preparation of error-free electoral rolls. The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) shall be conducting a house-to-house survey for verification during the process of this intensive revision, the statement said.

While conducting the special revision, the ECI shall be scrupulously adhering to the Constitutional and legal provisions regarding eligibility to be registered as a voter and disqualifications for registration in an electoral roll which are clearly laid down in Article 326 of the Constitution of India and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 respectively, it added.

We should learn from Iran: Raut hails country's 'courage'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) faction leader Sanjay Raut on Tuesday expressed his admiration for Iran, saying that the nation has shown "what self-respect and courage" are and that India should "learn" from it. The remarks come after the United States launched strikes on the country's nuclear facilities, and Iran responded by striking US military installations in the Middle East.

He also stated that Iran has always stood by India, be it the Kashmir issue or conflict with Pakistan.

"Iran has shown what self-respect and courage of a nation are. Iran is a country



that has always stood with India when we faced any trouble. Be it the Kashmir or Pakistan issue, Iran has stood by India. We should learn from Iran. The country has not bowed down before anyone," Raut said during a press conference.

The UBT leader's comments come a couple of days after the US launched precision strikes on three key

Iran retaliated by launching multiple missiles at US military installations in Qatar and Iraq, including the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military base in the region, CNN reported.

Iranian nuclear facilities. The conflict began on June 13 when Israel launched a massive airstrike on Iranian military and nuclear sites, code-named "Operation Rising Lion". In retaliation, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) initiated a large-scale drone and missile campaign called 'Operation True Promise 3', targeting Israeli fighter jet

fuel production facilities and energy supply centres.

Tensions escalated further after the US conducted precision airstrikes early Sunday morning on three key Iranian nuclear facilities under "Operation Midnight Hammer".

Iran retaliated by launching multiple missiles at US military installations in Qatar and Iraq, including the

Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military base in the region, CNN reported.

Meanwhile, a total of 292 Indian nationals were evacuated from Iran under 'Operation Sindhu' on a special flight that arrived in New Delhi from Mashhad on Tuesday.

In a post on X, the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, said, "292 Indian nationals were evacuated from Iran on a special flight that arrived in New Delhi from Mashhad at 0330 hrs on 24th June."

A total of 2295 Indian nationals have now been brought home from Iran till now.

Assam government evicts 7,000 'encroachers' from Hasila Bill area: CM Sarma



TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday informed that the state government has managed to "reclaim" six square kilometres of land by "freeing" the Hasila Beel area in the Goalpara district from 7,000 encroachers.

Staying firm on the government's resolve to "recover every illegally occupied land" in Assam, the Chief Minister said that public welfare works would now be initiated in the cleared area.

"The Assam government has reclaimed 6 sq km of land by freeing the Hasila Bill area from 7,000 encroachers. Now, public welfare works will be initiated in this area. The government will ensure the recovery of every illegally occupied land in the state," Sarma posted on X.

In a video posted on his X account, the Assam CM said that even people who

were evicted facilitated his visit to the Hasila Beel area because they understood the government intended to keep the state before anyone else.

"The encroachers who were removed from Assam's Hasila Beel area, today, their family members welcomed me. Because they too believe that our government has only one priority: 'Assam First'," Sarma said.

"I have been in politics for over 25 years. Nobody has spoken ill of me. In fact, I visited Hasila Beel. The ones who have been evicted clicked pictures with me. Because they know my intentions are pure. I always work for the people. That's why even the evicted people felicitated me with a Gamusa and offered their support. What more do I need?" he added.

The Assam government has planned to organise health camps in each constituency from October to screen people and provide timely medical help.

RJD cannot think beyond nepotism, party is made for corruption: Nityanand Rai

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Reacting to former Chief Minister of Bihar Lalu Prasad Yadav filing his nomination for the post of RJD national president, Union Minister Nityanand Rai criticised the move and said that the party cannot think beyond dynastic politics and is made for corruption.

Nityanand Rai said, "Lalu Yadav has performed the last rites of RJD by becoming the National President of the party for the 13th time. They have proved that the party cannot go beyond nepotism and has been made for corruption. Dynastic politics in a democ-



racy is a form of monarchy. Even the people in RJD are criticising this. People have rejected RJD. People believe in democracy."

He further alleged that the family of the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav are the biggest examples of dynastic politics in the world.

Earlier, Rashtriya Janata

Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday called his father Lalu Prasad Yadav "Messiah of poor" after he filed his nomination for the post of national president, marking his 13th term in the position.

Tejashwi Yadav said that all party workers and leaders are delighted and hope that the party will taste success under the leadership of

his father in the future.

"Messiah of the poor, Lalu ji filed his nomination for the post of national president of RJD today. There is immense joy among people. Workers of the party, leaders, and others are expressing their happiness over the nomination of Lalu Ji. He has completed 12 terms as the party's national president. This will be his 13th term. We are all delighted. We believe that we will taste success under the leadership of Lalu ji in the time to come," Bihar's former Deputy CM said.

RJD is holding party polls of its national council and state executive. Polling will be on July 5.

Operation Sindhu: IAF evacuates 268 Indians from Egypt amid Israel-Iran conflict

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A total of 268 Indian nationals were evacuated by the Indian Air Force under Operation Sindhu from Egypt in an effort to get citizens back home safe amid the Israel-Iran conflict. The IAF's C-17 aircraft landed in Delhi this morning, and the passengers were welcomed by Minister of State L. Murugan.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, informed about the flight in a post on X, adding, "268



Indian nationals who returned in the third flight from Israel were received by MoS Dr L Murugan. The IAF C-17 flight from Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, landed in Delhi at 1100 hrs on 24th

June."

He informed that a total of 594 Indians have returned so far from Israel as part of Operation Sindhu.

Earlier, a total of 165 Indian nationals were evacuated

by the Indian Air Force under Operation Sindhu from Jordan in an effort to get citizens back home safely amid the Israel-Iran conflict. The IAF's C-17 aircraft landed in Delhi this morning, and the passengers were welcomed by Minister of State L. Murugan.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, informed about the flight in a post on X, adding, "An IAF C-17 flight evacuated 165 Indian nationals from Israel under Operation Sindhu.

Several areas in Surat flooded after incessant rainfall, no casualties



TDG NETWORK
SURAT

Various parts of Surat got flooded after incessant rainfall in the region. Over 100 mm of rain has blocked roads and led to waterlogging in several low-lying areas.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the rainfall is likely to continue on Wednesday as well.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Jigna Parmar informed about the waterlogging and expressed relief that no life has been lost: "Due to over 100 mm of rainfall, two state roads are waterlogged. Four to five societies in the low-lying area are waterlogged, but no loss has been reported till now."

She asked for cooperation from the citizens and assured them that the water level would decrease once the rain stopped. "I appeal to people to cooperate with the authorities during rescue. The water level will likely decrease as the rain stops gradually," she added.

According to the IMD weather forecast, several parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan are expected to experience rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms until June 27.

The Meteorological Center in Jaipur issued an orange alert on June 23 for heavy rainfall in several districts of eastern Rajasthan, warning residents to prepare for intense weather over the next 24 hours. In the Baran region, a flood-like situation arose after continuous rainfall last night.

The Kota division--specifically the Baran, Kota, Bundi, and Jhalawar districts--has been placed under an orange alert, signalling the possibility of more than 200 mm of rain within 24 hours. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast to continue in the Jaipur, Udaipur, and Bharatpur divisions. Residents in the affected districts are advised to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions as the heavy rain is expected to last through June 24 and 25.

SENSEX MAKES MODEST GAIN AFTER INITIAL RALLY, NIFTY ABOVE 25,000 MARK

Indian indices ended with modest gains Tuesday despite profit booking and Middle East tensions affecting intraday sentiment.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian stock market ended higher on Tuesday, with the BSE SENSEX rising about 158 points and the Nifty 50 at National Stock Exchange (NSE) closing above the 25,000 mark.

Indian equity benchmarks on Tuesday witnessed profit booking, possibly due to the uncertainties still left in the Middle East as Israel accused Iran of violating the agreed ceasefire between the two countries.

At the end of the trading session on June 24, the BSE SENSEX ended at 82,055.11, up 158 points, or 0.19 per cent, while the Nifty 50 settled at 25,044.35, up 72 points, or 0.29 per cent.

On Tuesday, the benchmark Nifty index opened with a strong gap-up after US President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire agreement between Iran and Israel, momentarily

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- SENSEX rose 158 pts, Nifty closed at 25,044 after touching 25,317 intraday.
- Geopolitical tensions trimmed early gains after fresh Iran-Israel conflict reports.
- Top movers: Jio Financial, Adani Ports led gains; ONGC, Power Grid lagged.
- Strong DII inflows of Rs 55,000 crore supported market resilience.



calming geopolitical tensions and reigniting global risk appetite.

Riding on this sentiment, the index broke out of its month-long consolidation range of 25222-24462 and touched an intraday high of 25317.

However, the rally lost steam as news emerged of fresh ceasefire violations. The Israeli Defence Minister claimed Iran had launched fresh missile attacks, prompting retaliatory strikes on Tehran.

“This escalation dampened the initial optimism and weighed on market sentiment, raising fresh concerns over regional stability despite earlier diplomatic efforts,” said Sudeep Shah, Head of Technical Research and Derivatives at SBI Securities, observing the markets.

From the day’s high, the benchmark Nifty index lost steam and slipped over 270 points, finally settling just below the 25100 mark with a modest gain of 0.29 per

cent.

Among the Nifty constituents, Jio Financial, Adani Ports, and Shriram Finance emerged as the top performers. On the flip side, ONGC, Power Grid, and IndusInd Bank led the losers’ list.

Sector-wise, the Nifty PSU Bank and Nifty Metal indices outperformed, while the Nifty Media index was the worst hit. The broader markets also saw a steady session—Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 traded in a narrow band

post gap-up and closed with gains of over 0.70 per cent.

The SBI Securities, in its market commentary note, added that despite the sharp pullback from intraday highs, the market breadth remained positive with the advance/decline ratio tilted in favour of the bulls.

VLA Ambala, Co-Founder of Stock Market Today, added, “Despite weak global cues, Indian markets remain resilient, and positive developments continue to act as a booster for us. We are currently in an uptrend, and pullbacks present opportunities for savvy risk-takers.” “On the currency front, the INR is currently depreciating against the USD even as the dollar is weakening. It shows that the issue lies with the decline of the INR rather than the value of the dollar. That’s why we haven’t seen a dip in the dollar’s strength,” added Ambala.

‘Indian exporters shine despite global turmoil’

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday lauded the resilience of Indian exporters, highlighting that the country’s export growth of 6.3 per cent has significantly outpaced the global average of 4 per cent despite an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

Speaking at the India Exim Bank Trade Conclave, Sitharaman emphasised that Indian exporters have demonstrated remarkable adaptability and innovation in navigating multiple global crises that have disrupted international trade flows.

“Despite the complex geopolitical situation, Indian exporters are doing well,” the Finance Minister said, noting that India’s export performance has been particularly impressive given the challenging global environment.

The Finance Minister acknowledged that global challenges have only intensified in recent years, with external pressures mounting on international trade. She pointed to a series of geopolitical



conflicts that have severely disrupted global commerce, including the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Gaza conflict.

“In the last few years, global growth and trade have all suffered. There was the Russia-Ukraine war, then it was Israel-Gaza. Every year we’ve had one or the other serious challenge to do with trade,” Sitharaman observed.

These successive crises have created an environment where “the world seems not favourable for export,” making India’s export performance all the more remarkable. Despite these headwinds, Sitharaman identified three standout qualities that have enabled Indian exporters to thrive in difficult circumstances. First, she noted that Indian exports are “growing and growing

significantly,” demonstrating consistent expansion even as global trade faces headwinds.

Second, Indian exporters have evolved beyond traditional commodity exports, increasingly focusing on “technology-infused high-end products” across diverse sectors, including pharmaceuticals, IT-related services, and automobiles.

“India is not just about exporting raw foods or commodities. It is exporting today well-engineered products which meet high standards,” the Finance Minister emphasised.

The third quality involves the strategic diversification of export destinations, with Indian companies actively seeking new markets and opportunities rather than relying on traditional trading partners.

Rural, semi-urban credit demand shows resilience

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Credit demand in rural and semi-urban areas has remained relatively strong as compared to metro and urban areas, even as overall credit enquiries witnessed moderation in the country.

According to the TransUnion CIBIL data for the three months ending March 2025, rural and semi-urban regions have weathered the slowdown in demand better than metro and urban areas.

It said, “Credit demand in rural and semi-urban areas seemed to have weathered the demand moderation better”.

As per the data, credit enquiries in rural areas accounted for 22 per cent of the total credit enquiries during the quarter ended March 2025, which is an improve-

ment from 20 per cent in both March 2023 and March 2024.

Semi-urban areas, on the other hand, held the highest share of enquiries at 30 per cent in March 2025, up from 29 per cent in the previous year and 28 per cent in March 2023. In comparison, metro areas saw a slight decline in credit enquiries, dropping



from 32 per cent in March 2023 to 29 per cent in March 2025. Urban areas maintained a stable share of 19 to 20 per cent across the three years.

This trend highlighted a noticeable shift in credit demand resilience towards less urbanised regions. The data also revealed that the overall credit demand has moderated, particularly among younger consumers.

In the age group of 26-35 years, which traditionally forms a large segment of bor-

EPFO hikes auto settlement limit to Rs 5 lakh for advance claims

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Labour & Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said that EPFO has increased the auto-settlement limit for advance claims from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakhs to facilitate faster fund access for EPFO members, especially in times of urgent needs.

Mandaviya said that this major service enhancement is expected to benefit lakhs of members. EPFO had first introduced auto-settlement of advance claims during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide quick financial assistance to members. Since then, the facility has been extended to cover advanced claims for illness, education, marriage, and housing purposes. “These claims are processed automatically by the system without any



human involvement, ensuring quick turnaround and transparency,” he added. The Union Minister further added that EPFO in recent times has taken a series of reforms designed to make EPFO services faster, transparent and user-friendly for all its stakeholders including simplification of KYC or member details correction, removal of dependency on employer and EPFO for member profile correction. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that in FY 2024-25, EPFO processed a record 2.34 crore advance claims through auto-settlement, a 161 per cent increase compared to 89.52 lakh claims in FY 2023-24.

S&P Global ups India’s GDP growth forecasts for 2025 and 2026

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

S&P Global has revised its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecasts for India upwards for both 2025 and 2026, citing resilient domestic demand as a key driver.

In its latest research note, the company now anticipates India’s GDP to grow by 6.5 per cent year-on-year in 2025 and 6.7 per cent in 2026, up 0.2 percentage points from its previous projections for both years.

However, the note emphasises that forecast assumes a normal monsoon, lower crude oil prices, income-tax concessions and monetary easing.

The report also shows that inflation has generally receded even as sequential core inflation has risen in India in recent months,

along with other South-Asian nations like Indonesia and Malaysia.

Additionally, “In India, falling food inflation also helps contain headline inflation. Across the region, redirection of exports away from the U.S. will weigh on price increases,” the report said. The report noted that resilient domestic demand limits the slowdown in the

cent in 2025 and 4.0 per cent in 2026, and the resilient domestic demand should contain the economic slowdown due to U.S. tariffs hitting China’s exports.

In the other Asia-Pacific region, South Korea’s GDP shrank sequentially in the first quarter to a level lower than a year ago amid struggling domestic demand and political uncertainty.



Asia-Pacific region. S&P Global sees China’s GDP growth to be 4.3 per

In Japan the economy also contracted a bit and Australia’s growth remained low.

PSBs trail private banks due to deposit dependence

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Public sector banks (PSBs) in the country rely more on deposits as compared to private banks whereas private sector banks, on the other hand, actively use borrowings to manage their funding needs, according to a report by HDFC Securities.

The report highlighted that this difference in funding sources has led to a funding cost disadvantage of 20-30 basis points (bps) for PSBs in recent times.

The report stated “On the liabilities side of the balance sheet, PSBs are relatively more dependent (compared to private banks) on deposits (nearly 10 percentage points higher) - on the con-



trary, private banks capitalize on borrowings more actively”.

It also added that this 10-percentage point swing accounts for a 20-30 bps funding cost disadvantage for PSBs currently. Earlier, before FY19, this gap was much wider at 50-70 bps, indicating a significant narrowing of the cost difference after recapitalization efforts. But the report also

mentioned that the public sector banking (PSB) sector, once seen as structurally broken, is now showing early signs of a secular turnaround. This improvement is supported by governance reforms, balance sheet repair, recapitalization, and a more modern digital infrastructure. Additionally, there has been a gradual improvement in the quality and sustainabil-

ity of earnings. This turnaround is also reflected in PSBs stabilizing their loan market share, with a 52 bps gain in FY25. They have also improved the quality of their customer franchise, enhanced service standards, and strengthened return ratios.

Despite profitability improving, with return on assets (RoAs) nearing 1 per cent in FY25, investors still remain cautious about the sustainability of these gains.

The report suggested that PSBs are entering a phase of structural improvement in core profitability. Select mid-tier PSBs with scalable operations, clean balance sheets, and recapitalization triggers present favourable investment opportunities.

NBFCs loan growth to rise 19% in Q1 FY26 (YoY): Morgan Stanley

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Loan growth for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) is expected to remain steady in the first quarter of FY26, rising by 19 per cent compared to the same period last year, and 4 per cent over the previous quarter, according to a recent report by Morgan Stanley.

This pace is similar to the 19 per cent annual growth reported in the fourth quarter of FY25.

The report stated “On NBFCs, we expect aggregate loan growth to remain stable at +19 per cent YoY, +4 per cent QoQ (+19 per cent in 4Q) in 1QFY26”. The report also expects net



profit for these lenders to grow by 15 per cent year-on-year in the June quarter, up from 5 per cent in the March quarter.

The growth is partly due to gains from capital raising activities and a turnaround in profits of a few players who had posted losses in the previous quarter.

Even after adjusting for one-time gains, underlying

profit growth is likely to be around 18 per cent year-on-year, higher than 11 per cent growth seen in the previous quarter. This improvement is largely because the base of the June 2024 quarter was weak due to higher credit costs and lower margins.

In the life insurance space, the report noted that some companies are better placed than others due to stronger

growth in annual premium equivalent (APE) in April and May 2025.

The forecast includes around 9 per cent and 6.5 per cent growth in APE in June for the stronger performers.

Meanwhile, another key player would need at least 9.5 per cent APE growth in June just to meet its flat quarterly estimate, following weak trends in the first two months of the quarter. Growth in value of new business (VNB) is also expected to vary. Some insurers are likely to see double-digit growth, supported by rising demand for non-participating guaranteed products after recent interest rate cuts.

Tesla only keen on selling their cars in India, no further plans: Union Minister

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said that US vehicle major Tesla has so far shown interest only in opening a showroom in India, referring to the speculations of the company’s intent to setup a manufacturing unit in India.

“Tesla is only interested in opening a showroom till now. They want to sell their car in India. There is no further development about Tesla,” the Union Minister said, speaking on the sidelines of the launch of a portal that will enable foreign electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers to submit their applications to manufacture EVs in India.

Launched by the Ministry of

Heavy Industries (MHI), the scheme is expected to attract investments from global EV manufacturers and promote India as a manufacturing destination for e-vehicles.

The Scheme will also help put India on the global map for manufacturing of EVs, generate employment and achieve the goal of “Make in India.”

The approved applicants



will be allowed to import Completely Built-in Units (CBUs) of e-4W with a minimum CIF value of USD 35,000 at reduced customs duty of 15 per cent for a period of 5 years from the Application Approval Date to encourage the global manufacturers to invest under the Scheme.

Approved applicants would be required to make a minimum investment of Rs 4,150

crores in line with the provisions of the scheme.

The scheme is strategically crafted to position India as a global hub for electric vehicle manufacturing.

With a minimum investment threshold of Rs 4,150 crore, it provides an enabling policy environment for leading global and domestic players to establish long-term manufacturing footprints

in the country. According to the Ministry, the application portal would be open for applications from 24th June 2025, 10.30 a.m. and will remain open until 21st October 2025 till 6:00 p.m. The Ministry said that it has approved a forward-looking scheme to promote the domestic manufacture of passenger cars, with a special focus on electric vehicles (EVs).

IS THERE A CHINA THREAT IN CHAGOS ISLANDS?

OPINION

UPAMANYU BASU

In October, 2024 the United Kingdom and Mauritius had announced the restoration of sovereignty of Chagos Islands to Mauritius. The deal had been severely criticized over potential security concerns for the British as well as Western countries, given the strategic location of the islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Last month, in May 2025, The British Government finalized the deal of transfer of sovereignty, which was announced by Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Starmer, while talking about the strategically important US base of Diego Garcia stated, “The strategic location of this base is of utmost significance to Britain”. This being said, under the terms of agreement, while sovereignty is transferred, the United Kingdom will continue to retain the military base of Diego Garcia, with a 99-year lease. The lease will be for more than \$100 million annually, which is justified by citing Britain's defence and national security priorities. This arrangement aims to balance the long standing issue of decolonization claims in the Global South, while ensuring that the strategic position of the islands remains operational for the United Kingdom vis-a-vis the United States.

ABOUT THE DEAL BETWEEN UK AND MAURITIUS

The Chagos Islands stretches over 60 remote islands, situated in the heart of the Indian Ocean. These islands have been under British sovereignty since 1814, where the British formally took possession

from France. Later, in 1965, the Chagos Islands were incorporated under the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) where the United Kingdom agreed with the United States to create a military base on one of the islands i.e Diego Garcia. In 1968, Mauritius gained independence but the United Kingdom had retained control over the BIOT. This was followed by a horrific episode of forced displacement of thousands of Chagossians, who were forced to leave the island and shift to the mainland of Mauritius or Seychelles. It was late in 2019, when the International Court of Justice cited that the continued British occupation of the archipelago was illegal and ordered the United Kingdom to hand it back. Substantial negotiations began when the United Kingdom started its open talks with Mauritius as recently as 2022, to finally agree to sign the historical agreement last month.

From a strategic point of view, Diego Garcia remains central to the Western security architecture and any form of change in the regional dynamics challenges the overall securitization of the Indian Ocean Region. The access to the Chagos Islands, allows key players like the United States to provide a security blanket in IOR against an ever rising China.

Though details remain classified, the presence of B-2 nuclear capable bombers and other strategic assets in the region, suggests the likelihood of nuclear infrastructure further reinforcing the geopolitical relevance of this island.



The key Diego Garcia base is in the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean.

WHY IS CHINA INTERESTED?

The real concern in this Indo pacific roulette, is an assertive China waiting for an opportunity to extend its influence. The Indian Ocean remains a critical transit route for China in order to engage with Africa, Middle East or any littoral states across this ocean. Although China is new in this region, it has established diplomatic relations with major island nations including Maldives, Seychelles, Madagascar as well as Mauritius. Beyond diplomatic presence, China remains a consistent player in the region's military architecture. In 2014, China first deployed submarines in the region under the pretext of anti piracy missions. However, these missions opened additional capacity for Beijing to engage with these island states in a range of verticals from infrastructural to logistical support, thereby enhancing its strategic depth.

China views the Indian Ocean as a “continuous zone” and remains determined in increasing the number of military facilities in the region apart from Djibouti. Any diplomatic opening in the region is likely to be met

with swift Chinese outreach, with its financial clout to secure strategic assets in the region. The 2022 China-Solomon Islands Security Agreement showcases the growing influence and ambition China has in the larger Oceania. For this reason, regional powers must stay alert to the shifting of balances and what Beijing is capable of in the IOR.

WHAT IS INDIA'S POSITION?

India's historical stance with respect to Chagos Island Was rooted in its larger opposition to militarizing the entire Indian Ocean. This posture had to change considering the evolving geopolitical conditions in the region, where the Indian Ocean Region became a backyard of great power rivalry. New Delhi remains aware that in order to counter China, the United States' presence in Diego Garcia is a necessity.

India has consistently supported Mauritius' sovereignty claim over Chagos, while citing the need for states to defend their territorial integrity. New Delhi acknowledges the geostrategic importance of the islands and the need for pragmatic

balancing between principles and strategic interest. While India positions itself as the net security provider in the region, an assertive China cozying up with Mauritius is problematic. China has already capitalized on the shifting landscapes in the neighborhood by extending support to the newly formed and politically fragile governments of Bangladesh and Maldives, both of which have considerable alignment towards Beijing at this point. The China factor in the larger Indian Ocean Region hence needs to be acknowledged. New Delhi has been particularly resolute in balancing diplomacy and strategic interest with Mauritius, but in order to counter Chinese investments, it needs more friends in the region. Mauritius plays an important role in India's Neighbourhood First Policy. Its strategic investments like the inauguration of the Agalega Island Airstrip and Saint James Jetty, in the strategic island in Mauritius showcases India's commitment to acting as a reliable regional net security provider. In this situation, China's rising footprint in the region is problematic with

its closeness to states like Maldives with projects like Male-Beijing defense pact, which poses strategic concerns that New Delhi must closely monitor. Maldives is positioned geographically between Lakshadweep and Diego Garcia, which makes it an uncomfortable strategic gap for India and the western partners. While India continues to have closer ties with Island states like Madagascar and Seychelles, it should keep extending its security and humanitarian outreach in the island states of IOR to continue reinforcing its leadership in the region.

While Diego Garcia still remains under the UK-US tenantry, China will continue to engage with Mauritius bilaterally through platforms like Forum on China-Africa Cooperation or the Mauritius-China Free Trade Agreement. Thus, the strategic opportunity that Mauritius provides right now needs to be facilitated by New Delhi, while avoiding any unnecessary provocation with China.

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PERSPECTIVE

THE MESSAGE FROM THE BYPOLLS

There is an unofficial rule of thumb, as far as bypolls are concerned. These usually go in the favour of the ruling party - hence in the case of assembly elections then the polls usually favour the party that is in power in the state, and if we are talking about Lok Sabha bypolls then it favours the central government. Of course as with all rules there are exceptions such as legacy seats or sympathy factors for a particular candidate but by and large this seems to be the case.

This is what makes the current set of bypolls whose results were announced on 23rd June so interesting. Of the five assembly seats that went in for bypolls, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Admi Party (AAP) won two of these seats—one in Gujarat and another in Punjab. The TMC won the seat in West Bengal, while the Congress bagged the seat in Kerala. The BJP also won one seat in Gujarat. Now let us take a look at who is in power in these states - in Punjab where the Aam Admi Party won the Ludhiana West seat it is the party in power. However in Gujarat where it scored a sizable win over its nearest rival the BJP, it is the latter which is in power. The Aap candidate, Gopal Italia won the Visavadar seat by a margin of 17,581 votes against BJP's Kirit Patel. This win is important also because the bypoll was necessitated by the fact that the earlier MLA from Visavadar had quit the party and gone over to the BJP during the Lok Sabha polls. Hence with this win, the Aam Admi Party has managed to reclaim its stronghold.

This is remarkable, both in terms of margin and in the messaging. The message here is both for the Congress and the BJP. The Congress should be careful before it loses another foothold to the Aam Admi Party while the BJP should not take the home state of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister for granted. The message from Punjab is also equally clear - all those who thought that the Punjab elections (slated in 2027) were going to be a walk-over should think again. As a side note one must add that even Gujarat goes to polls in 2027.

A by-result of the Punjab bypoll is that the AAP candidate Sanjeev Arora would be giving up his Rajya Sabha seat. It is expected that this would now be taken up by Arvind Kejriwal ensuring his entry into national politics. Those who were missing Kejriwal post the Delhi assembly loss earlier this year will see him back in action pretty soon.

The other wins are somewhat predictable but an indicator of the political winds. The Congress-led UDF candidate Aryadan Shoukath has won the Nilambur assembly by-poll in Kerala defeating the CPM candidate. Since it is the CPM that is in power in the state, this win buffers the Congress party's expectations of being able to wrest the state away in the assembly polls, slated next year. As this seat falls in Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's constituency it was doubly important for the Congress to win this one. The fifth bypoll was in West Bengal where the TMC candidate emerged victorious. Mamata Banerjee's magic still holds strong. No surprise there.

All in all, while these elections do not change very much on the ground these bypolls are an interesting indicator of which direction the political winds are blowing.

PRIYA SAHGAL

Manipur: Between armed forces, Special Powers Act and President's rule

OPINION

DR. SHADAB AHMED



When the Austro-Asiatic settlers, Tibeto-Burman migrants and Indo-Aryan émigrés settled at various periods of history in India's north-eastern state of Manipur, they could never have predicted that this diverse assimilation of tribal clans will ethnically engender an inter-tribal conflict in 21st century India. Nor could the mighty British Empire and British Raj in all their insight and foresight predicted that the once mighty Manipur

Kingdom will descend into primitive and primal chaos for a resurgent ethnic identity. But this inter-tribal conflict is what keeps the state of Manipur simmering and seething, like a dormant volcano that threatens to erupt in mindless mayhem and cause protracted anarchy.

Manipur to this day remains deeply polarised, between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. This polarisation has not only matured among the civilian populace of Manipur, but also spiralled into the aristocracy, bureaucracy and judiciary of the state. To put in context, Manipur is broadly and ethnically divided into a predominant Hindu Meitei and a minority Christian Kuki-Zo population, and there exists deep mistrust between the two communities which keeps them perennially divided.

Impassive violence erupted in 2023 during a march organised by the state's tribal communities. Led by representatives of the Kuki-Zo, the participants were protesting against a court decision that had ruled in favour of the majority Meitei community's demand to be recognised as a Scheduled Tribe, a status which confers both income and outcome in government jobs, quotas and protection of land. The Kuki-Zo, who are mostly Christian and have long been recognised as a tribal group, opposed this move all and sundry, arguing that the Meitei, who are mostly Hindu, already hold most of the political and economic power in the state.

With both misinformation and disinformation rife along with unattested propaganda and unsubstantiated rumours, the barred gates of ethnic hostility opened, leading to large-scale communal, inter-personal and sexual violence. Hundreds were killed and thousands were displaced. Unable to quell the clashes, and with defunct militant organizations joining in to feast in the mayhem like rabid and



People gather at the Wall of Remembrance to mark two years of the crisis in the state, in Churachandpur on 03 May, 2025. ANI

diaboliical hyenas, New Delhi spatially segregated the Meiteis and Kukis, partitioning the state between them into two exclusive ethnic zones, with the Meiteis gaining the valley areas where the capital city of Imphal sits, and the Kukis ascending the surrounding hills. The state was pumped with CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) to maintain a central buffer zone between the valley and hills, which is patrolled thoroughly. In true tribal

fashion, the buffer zone failed to keep the violence buffered in, with both communities regularly breaching the buffer zone to attack the other side.

Not willing to trust the state or central governments, both communities have formed “village defence forces” to protect themselves and, even more concerning, militant groups from both sides, which had been dormant for years, have resurfaced. The state government has

traditionally blamed these spiralling militants to the Chin refugees from Myanmar, who conventionally share the tribal kinship with the Kukis, and are reported to be ambassadors of narco-militancy and narco-terrorism in the North-Eastern valley, hills and NEFA regions.

Unable to find out a remedial and mutually-according solution for the festering situation, the statutory resolution for confirming the February imposition of

President's Rule in Manipur was adopted by both the Rajya Sabha and by the Lok Sabha in the first week of April 2025, hoping to keep Manipur stabilised enough. In the same month, assessing the law and order situation and aiming to contain both the insurgent & resurgent violence, and to facilitate coordinated military & paramilitary operations in Disturbed Areas, the Central government imposed the controversial provisions of The Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA), extended to the entire state of Manipur, with the exception of 13 police station areas across 5 districts, for a period of six months starting from April 2025. AFSPA's controversial provisions include granting the central armed paramilitary forces the power to fire on individuals, arrest without warrants and search premises without authorization. Prosecution of security forces involved in such operations requires prior approval from the central government, sparking debates on human rights and accountability.

The Narendra Modi

led Central Government should make full use of both the imposed protections and interloped precautions to resolve the putrid and necrotic decline of the blood-scarred state of Manipur. A welcome ineptive step would be to constitute a “peace committee” involving both the ethnic communities and an equal representation from each clan and gender. The government must decisively recover stolen arms & ammunitions in conjunction with disarming both belligerent parties, marauding militant outfits and buttressing militias. The underlying issue fragmenting the Manipur state is the issue of the land and land-holding. The government must tactically work to promptly resolve the actual and perceived grievances of both the Meitis and Kukis, including their desire of autonomous jurisdictions, provincial administration and tribal delegatory governance.

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June 25 marks the day in 1975 when then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared Emergency in India, suspending democratic rights. It stands as a stark reminder of authoritarian rule and the resilience of India's democratic spirit.



Indira Gandhi declared an emergency on June 25, 1975, after her election was invalidated.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

On the night of June 25, 1975, India changed forever. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in a dramatic and unprecedented move, declared a nationwide Emergency under Article 352 of the Indian Constitution. It marked the beginning of the darkest period in the country's democratic history. For 21 months, from June 1975 to March 1977, India was in the grip of an authoritarian regime that suspended civil liberties, curtailed freedom of the press, jailed thousands of opposition leaders, and stifled dissent. But what led to this drastic measure?

At the heart of it was a single judicial verdict—a landmark judgment by the Allahabad High Court that declared Indira Gandhi guilty of electoral malpractices and disqualified her from Parliament. This ruling not only shook the foundations of her political career but also plunged India into a political crisis, culminating in the declaration of Emergency.

1971 GENERAL ELECTIONS

The seeds of the 1975 Emergency were sown in the aftermath of the 1971 general elections. Riding high on her popularity following India's decisive victory in the Bangladesh Liberation War, Indira Gandhi led the Congress party to a resounding victory. One of her major opponents, socialist leader Raj Narain, lost the Rae Bareilly seat by over 100,000 votes.

However, Narain challenged the election results, alleging misuse of government machinery and unethical campaign practices.

The petition was filed in the Allahabad High Court, marking the beginning of a legal battle that would take nearly four years to reach a verdict. While initially considered a symbolic challenge, the case gradually gained traction due to mounting evidence and the growing popularity of anti-Congress movements across India.

THE VERDICT THAT SHOOK THE NATION

On June 12, 1975, Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha of the Allahabad High Court delivered a stunning verdict. He found Indira Gandhi guilty on two counts of electoral malpractice: using government personnel, specifically her aide Yashpal Kapur, who had not formally resigned from his government post before campaigning for her, and misusing state resources, including the use of loudspeakers, stages, and the police.

Though the court dismissed other charges—including bribery, misuse of the Indian Air Force, and distribution of liquor and blankets due to lack of evidence—the two confirmed violations were serious enough to invalidate Gandhi's 1971 election. The judgment not only disqualified her from Parliament for six years but also threatened her position as Prime Minister.

This was the first time in independent India's history that a sitting Prime Minister

had been found guilty of electoral misconduct and barred from holding office. The ruling sent shockwaves across the political spectrum. Opposition parties celebrated it as a triumph of democracy, while the Congress party was left stunned and scrambling for damage control.

SUPREME COURT'S INTERIM RELIEF

Indira Gandhi immediately appealed the High Court's decision to the Supreme Court. On June 24, 1975, the apex court granted her a conditional stay. She was allowed to remain Prime Minister until the full appeal was heard, but with significant limitations—she could not vote in Parliament or draw a salary as an MP.

This partial relief did little to contain the growing unrest. Political rallies erupted across the country, and a coordinated opposition front began demanding her resignation. One of the loudest voices against her was that of Jayaprakash Narayan (JP), a veteran Gandhian and social activist who had already launched a popular movement against corruption and authoritarianism, especially in Bihar and Gujarat.

THE EMERGENCY IS DECLARED

Just a day after the Supreme Court ruling, on the night of June 25, Indira Gandhi took the most decisive and controversial step of her political career: Acting under Article 352 of the Constitution, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed signed the proclamation of

NEARLY TWO YEARS OF DARKNESS: THE EMERGENCY INDIA CAN'T FORGET



Emergency, citing internal disturbances and threats to national security.

Later that night, Indira Gandhi addressed the nation via All India Radio. In a carefully crafted speech, she claimed that a "deep and widespread conspiracy" was threatening national stability. "The President has proclaimed the Emergency. This is nothing to panic about... I am sure you are all aware of the deep and widespread conspiracy which has been brewing ever since I began to introduce certain progressive measures," she declared.

With that proclamation, the democratic rights of over 600 million Indians were suspended.

LIFE DURING THE EMERGENCY

Over the next 21 months, the country witnessed an unparalleled clampdown on civil liberties. Article 19 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom of

speech and expression, was suspended. Opposition leaders were arrested en masse under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). Jayaprakash Narayan, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L.K. Advani, Morarji Desai, and George Fernandes were among the thousands jailed without trial.

Press freedom was extinguished overnight. Newspapers were required to submit all material for government approval before publication. Editorials were blacked out, and several journalists were imprisoned. Prominent publications like The Indian Express and The Statesman ran blank editorials in protest.

Perhaps the most draconian measures came under the leadership of Sanjay Gandhi, Indira Gandhi's younger son. Though he held no official position, Sanjay exercised enormous power behind the scenes. He spearheaded controversial programs such as mass sterilization drives targeting poor and rural populations, especially in northern India. These programs were executed coercively, often with the help of local officials and police.

Another major policy was the aggressive slum clearance drive in Delhi, which left thousands homeless and displaced. These forced evic-

tions were carried out with bulldozers and batons in the name of urban beautification and public order.

UNDERGROUND MOVEMENTS

Despite the oppressive climate, resistance never truly died. Student-led protests and underground publications kept the flame of dissent alive. One of the most significant acts of defiance came in the form of a nationwide railway strike in 1974, led by George Fernandes. Though crushed, it became a symbol of resistance.

Movements such as the Navnirman Andolan in Guja-

rat and JP's Bihar Movement had already laid the groundwork for mass mobilization. Even during the Emergency, these movements inspired citizens to quietly organize, inform, and prepare for change.

The Janata Party—an alliance of socialists, Bharatiya Jana Sangh (the precursor to BJP), and breakaway Congress factions—began to form as a unified alternative to Indira's increasingly autocratic rule.

FALL OF THE EMERGENCY REGIME

By the beginning of 1977, Indira Gandhi, perhaps believ-

ing she still enjoyed popular support, announced general elections. Many historians speculate that she underestimated the public resentment against her and the government's excesses.

The elections held in March 1977 delivered a crushing blow to the Congress. The Janata Party won a sweeping majority, and for the first time in independent India's history, a non-Congress government was formed at the Centre. Morarji Desai became Prime Minister, and Indira Gandhi herself lost her seat in Rae Bareilly. On March 23, 1977, the Emergency was officially lifted.

CONSTITUTION MURDER DAY

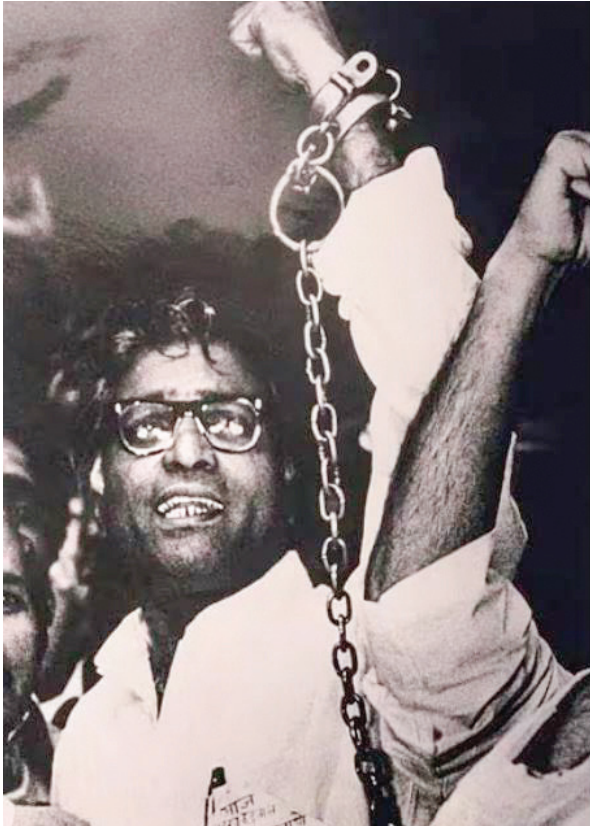
As India marks the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, the debate over its legacy remains as relevant as ever. The BJP-led gov-



In 1977, the Congress party was ousted and the Janata Party led by Morarji Desai gained absolute majority. Morarji Desai became the first non-Congress PM of India.



Sanjay Gandhi being escorted by the police during the Emergency. He attained a great deal of notoriety for forced sterilizations.



George Fernandes



L.K. Advani

| During the Emergency (1975–77), millions were affected: |
|--|
| Over 100,000 political opponents were jailed without trial. |
| Civil liberties were suspended nationwide. |
| The press was heavily censored. |
| Forced sterilization campaigns, led by Sanjay Gandhi, targeted over 8 million people, especially the poor. |
| Slum demolitions displaced thousands in urban areas. |
| Students, activists, and union leaders were arrested or silenced. |

| Timeline of Key Events |
|---|
| June 12, 1975: Allahabad High Court declares Indira Gandhi's election invalid. |
| June 24, 1975: Supreme Court allows her to stay as PM but with curtailed powers. |
| June 25, 1975: Emergency declared; civil rights suspended. |
| June 26, 1975: Indira Gandhi addresses the nation. |
| September 1976: Sanjay Gandhi initiates forced sterilization campaign. |
| January 18, 1977: General elections announced. |
| March 23, 1977: Emergency officially ends. |

THE AFTERMATH AND LEGACY

The 1975–77 Emergency left an indelible mark on Indian democracy. While it demonstrated the fragility of constitutional safeguards, it also underscored the resilience of

ernment has declared June 25 as "Constitution Murder Day" or Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas, commemorating what it views as the day democracy was temporarily buried under authoritarianism.

For many, the Emergency is not just a history lesson but a constant reminder that democracy is both precious and vulnerable. It must be defended—not just by institutions, but by the people who uphold it.

Indira Gandhi's conviction on June 12, 1975, set off a chain of events that altered the course of Indian democracy. The Emergency may have begun as a political defense mechanism, but it evolved into a full-scale authoritarian experiment. Today, it stands as a somber reminder that democracy, while enshrined in the Constitution, ultimately relies on the vigilance of its citizens and leaders alike.

MONSOON WELLNESS: TRADITIONAL RAJASTHANI FOODS THAT BOOST IMMUNITY NATURALLY

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

As the monsoon sweeps across Rajasthan, it brings welcome relief from the scorching summer heat. However, the damp weather, sudden temperature changes, and increased humidity can lead to a spike in seasonal illnesses like colds, flu, throat infections, and digestive issues. The body's immune system often becomes vulnerable during this time, making it essential to consume food that boosts immunity and aids digestion.

Rajasthan, known for its rich culinary traditions, offers a treasure trove of seasonal, immunity-boosting foods made from locally available ingredients and age-old wisdom. Let's explore some of the best Rajasthani dishes and ingredients that not only warm the body but also protect it during the rainy season.

1. BAJRA KHICHDI: A GUT-FRIENDLY POWERHOUSE

Bajra (pearl millet) is a staple in Rajasthan, especially during the monsoon and winter months. Bajra khichdi, made from crushed pearl millet and moong dal, is a nutritious one-pot meal that's light on the stomach yet rich in fiber, iron, and essential minerals.

Why it boosts immunity: Bajra is gluten-free and improves gut health. It provides sustained energy and keeps the body warm.

Moong dal is rich in protein and easy to digest.

Pro tip: Add a teaspoon of ghee and freshly ground pepper to enhance its medicinal value.

2. LAHSUN KI CHUTNEY: A NATURAL ANTIBIOTIC

Garlic (lahsun) is a natural antibacterial and antiviral food that plays a major role in boosting immunity. Rajasthani Lahsun Ki Chutney is a spicy paste made with garlic, dry red chilies, cumin, and sometimes a dash of lemon juice.

Why it boosts immunity: Garlic has compounds like allicin that fight infections. The spiciness helps clear sinuses and enhances appetite.

Best paired with: Bajra roti, moong dal, or steamed rice.

3. HALDI DOODH (TURMERIC MILK): THE GOLDEN ELIXIR

A simple yet powerful immunity booster, Haldi Doodh (turmeric milk) is a must-have during monsoon nights in Rajasthan. Turmeric has long been used in Ayurveda for its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.

Why it boosts immunity: Curcumin in turmeric improves immune response. Warm milk soothes the throat and aids restful sleep. Optional Add-ons: A pinch of black pepper (to increase absorption), ghee, and jaggery for flavor.

4. BESAN KA SHEERA: COMFORTING AND MEDICINAL

This traditional Rajasthani sweet dish is more than just a dessert. Made from gram



flour (besan), ghee, milk, and jaggery, it's often used as a home remedy for colds and coughs.

Why it boosts immunity: Ghee nourishes body tissues and improves digestion.

Besan warms the body and is rich in protein. Jaggery helps cleanse the respiratory tract.

When to eat: Best consumed warm at night or during rainy evenings.

5. KER SANGRI WITH GHEE AND SPICES

Ker and Sangri are dried desert berries and beans unique to Rajasthan. This

tangy-spicy dish is not only delicious but also highly nutritious.

Why it boosts immunity: Packed with antioxidants and fibers.

Traditionally cooked with mustard oil and spices like asafoetida (hing), which support digestion and gut health.

Serving tip: Pair with bajra roti or missi roti and a spoon of ghee.

6. KACHRI CHUTNEY: TANGY, SPICY AND RICH IN VITAMIN C

Kachri is a wild cucumber found in Rajasthan. Kachri

chutney is a popular monsoon-side dish, offering a mix of sour, spicy, and tangy flavors.

Why it boosts immunity: Rich in Vitamin C, aiding immune function.

Natural digestive stimulant. This chutney helps improve appetite and is often served with dal-baati or simple roti meals.

7. GUD (JAGGERY) AND SAUNTH (DRY GINGER) LADOO

During monsoons, energy often dips, and digestion becomes sluggish. Traditional laddoos made from jaggery,



and indigestion caused by humidity.

Why it boosts immunity: Has antimicrobial properties. Boosts metabolism and aids respiratory health.

Preparation: Boil 1 tsp of ajwain in a cup of water, strain, and drink warm. You may add honey and lemon.

9. MISSI ROTI WITH METHI AND SPICES

Missi roti is made using a mix of gram flour and wheat flour, often flavored with methi (fenugreek leaves), ajwain, and turmeric.

Why it boosts immunity: Methi helps regulate digestion and reduces inflammation.

Turmeric and ajwain add additional immunity-boosting benefits.

Pair this roti with curd or sabzi for a balanced, monsoon-friendly meal.

10. RAW MANGO (AMCHUR) BASED

DISHES

Though mango season ends with summer, dried mango powder (amchur) is widely used in Rajasthani food to add tang and health benefits.

Why it boosts immunity: A good source of Vitamin A and C.

Enhances digestion and adds flavor without harmful additives.

Amchur is commonly used in chutneys, curries, and even lentils.

Final Tips for Monsoon Eating in Rajasthan:

Avoid uncooked street food and raw vegetables as they may carry waterborne bacteria.

Use ghee in moderation – it acts as a digestive and keeps joints lubricated.

Stay hydrated with warm water, herbal teas, and natural concoctions.

Include spices like ginger, black pepper, cinnamon, and hing in daily meals—they are natural immune boosters and aid in keeping the body warm and disease-free.

The monsoon season may bring health challenges, but Rajasthani cuisine offers plenty of time-tested, immunity-boosting options made from simple, seasonal ingredients. By incorporating these dishes into your daily diet, not only can you enjoy the rich flavors of Rajasthani culture, but also ensure better protection against common ailments.

Embrace the wisdom of traditional food, and let this monsoon be healthy, hearty, and wholesome.

Oats beverages- the new nutritious option

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Oats are considered one of the healthiest foods in the world. Eating oats daily not only improves your health, but it also has many amazing effects on the body. It improves heart health, helps in weight loss, improves digestion. Increases energy levels and naturally brightens the skin. The fiber, antioxidants and nutrients present in oats also strengthen the body's immunity. If you are not yet

better. Given the growing demand for plant-based drinks, this oats beverage is made from Australian oats with its taste, high-quality ingredients and nutritional benefits. It has no chemicals, no preservatives and no added sugar. It naturally contains fiber, vitamins and minerals, making it ideal for fitness enthusiasts, health-conscious people and consumers suffering from allergies.

These oats contain a



including oats in your diet, then this is the right time to adopt it and experience its benefits.

Recently, popular kitchen brand Country Delight launched its new oats beverage. With this launch, the company has entered the rapidly growing plant-based drink segment. This new drink has been prepared for those who are health conscious and are looking for a nutritious and affordable option without compromising on taste. In fact, a large number of people are unable to digest lactose. This oats drink can be a convenient option for them. It is completely lactose-free and low-calorie and tastes even

soluble fiber called beta-glucan, which helps control cholesterol. It keeps your heart healthy and reduces the risk of heart disease. Oats are rich in fiber, which makes the stomach feel full for a long time. This reduces the desire to eat frequently, which helps in weight loss. Eating oats daily strengthens your digestive system. The fiber present in them helps relieve constipation and increases intestinal efficiency. Oats are an excellent carbohydrate source, which maintains energy levels throughout the day. Apart from this, the vitamin B and antioxidants present in them improve brain function and reduce mental fatigue.

Fritters in rains: A crispy monsoon tradition

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

As the first drops of monsoon rain hit the parched earth, the aroma of wet soil rises, awakening not just nature but our deeply rooted food cravings. And in Indian homes—especially in states like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Gujarat—there's one time-less, almost instinctive response to cloudy skies and cool breezes: frying up a hot batch of crispy fritters. Be it onion bhajiyas, mirchi vadas, or paneer pakoras, the joy of monsoon seems incomplete without them.

Rains and fritters are more than just a combination—they're a cultural experience. A warm cup of chai in one hand and a plate of golden, crunchy pakoras in the other—this isn't just comfort food; it's nostalgia served hot.

THE CULTURAL CONNECTION

The love for fritters in the monsoon is steeped in tradition and emotion. In Indian households, the arrival of rain often sparks spontaneous kitchen activity. Grandmothers call out for besan (gram flour), someone fetches green chilies and onions, and within minutes, a frying pan starts sizzling.

Across India, each region offers its own delicious take on fritters, adding a local flair to this beloved monsoon snack. Rajasthan tempts with spicy mirchi bada, crispy pyaaz ki kachori, and hearty moong dal pakoras. In Maharashtra, you'll find flavorful favorites like kanda bhaji, batata bhaji, and seasonal bhutte ke pakode (corn frit-

ters). South India brings variety with crisp medu vadas, sweet-salty banana bajjis, and fluffy Mangalore bhajis. Meanwhile, Bengal delights with the melt-in-the-mouth beguni (batter-fried eggplant) and the savory mochar chop (banana flower cutlets). Despite the diversity, the essence remains the same—hot, crunchy fritters that perfectly complement the cool, rainy atmosphere.



WHY WE CRAVE FRITTERS DURING RAIN

Monsoon brings a drop in temperature, making us reach for warm, spicy, and fried food. But there's more science behind this craving:

Mood Enhancement: Rain often affects serotonin levels, and hot, deep-fried food can stimulate the brain's reward system.

Digestive Boost: Spices and warmth from fritters help counter the monsoon's dampness, which can slow down digestion.

Nostalgia and Comfort: The smell of pakoras takes many back to childhood afternoons at home, huddled with family, watching rain through windowpanes.

CLASSIC FRITTERS TO TRY THIS MONSOON

Here are some irresistible fritter options that can

transform any rainy day into a feast:

1. PYAAZ KE PAKODE (ONION FRITTERS)

Origin: North India, especially Rajasthan and Punjab
Ingredients: Sliced onions, besan, green chili, coriander, carom seeds, salt

Why it's loved: The natural sweetness of onion combines with the crispness of gram flour. Best enjoyed with green chutney and



masala chai.

2. MIRCHI VADA (CHILI FRITTERS)

Origin: Rajasthan
Ingredients: Large green chilies stuffed with spicy mashed potato, dipped in besan batter and deep-fried

Tip: Despite their appearance, most of these chilies are not too spicy. A drizzle of imli (tamarind) chutney takes them to another level.

3. PANEER PAKORA

Origin: Pan-India
Ingredients: Paneer cubes dipped in seasoned besan batter
Great for: Protein lovers. Add a mint chutney or ketchup for extra taste.

4. PALAK BHAJIYA (SPINACH FRITTERS)

Origin: Maharashtra & Gujarat

Ingredients: Whole spinach leaves or chopped spin-

ach mixed with besan, carom seeds, chili powder

Why it's healthy-ish: Slightly more nutritious, packed with iron, and a great way to sneak greens into snack time.

5. BHUTTE KE PAKODE (CORN FRITTERS)

Origin: Central and Western India

Ingredients: Crushed corn kernels, chopped onions, green chilies, besan

Why it's special: Monsoon

While fritters are a beloved monsoon treat, indulging doesn't have to come at the cost of health. There are several ways to enjoy them guilt-free without compromising on taste. Opt for air fryers to create lighter, less oily versions of your favorite pakoras. When deep frying, use cold-pressed oils like mustard or groundnut oil, which are more stable and nutritious. Enhance the fiber and nutrient content by



is corn season, and this dish celebrates it deliciously.

6. ALOO BHAJIYA (POTATO FRITTERS)

Origin: Widely popular
Ingredients: Thinly sliced potatoes, dipped in spicy besan batter

Perfect with: Tamarind chutney and a pinch of chaat masala.

The Essential Pairing: Chai
No article about monsoon fritters is complete without mentioning chai. Whether it's masala chai, adrak chai, or elaichi chai, a steaming cup of tea balances out the richness of the fritters and completes the rainy-day experience. Chai doesn't just complement the fritters—it enhances the conversation, invites connection, and extends the snack into an emotional moment.

HEALTHIER WAYS TO ENJOY FRITTERS

adding vegetables such as methi, spinach, or cabbage to the batter. Always avoid reusing frying oil and maintain the temperature between 160–180°C to ensure proper cooking and minimal oil absorption. For dipping, swap out high-sugar sauces with fresh mint or coriander chutneys for a refreshing and healthier complement.

CREATING THE PERFECT FRITTER PLATTER

To turn a rainy evening into a memorable culinary experience, assemble a mixed fritter platter that combines taste, texture, and tradition. Include crispy onion pakoras, delicate spinach leaf bhajiyas, soft and spicy paneer pakoras, flavorful stuffed mirchi vadas, and seasonal corn and methi fritters. This vibrant assortment caters to every palate and pairs beautifully with a variety

of accompaniments. Serve the platter piping hot with mint chutney, tamarind chutney, a few fried green chilies, and lemon wedges on the side. Together, they add a burst of freshness, spice, and tang—perfectly complementing the crunch of the fritters and enhancing the monsoon indulgence.

FRITTERS AS FESTIVE FOOD

In many parts of India, the monsoon overlaps with festivals like Teej, Raksha Bandhan, and Janmashtami—occasions when families come together. Fritters become festive food during such times, especially in Rajasthan where mirchi vadas and dal ke pakode are shared as part of celebration platters.

STREET CORNERS AND RAINY BITES

If you're out during the rains, the sight of a small tea stall with a vendor frying pakoras on an open flame is irresistibly charming. The sizzle of oil, the whiff of spices, and the warmth of a freshly made fritter in hand—these are not just culinary moments, but soul-filling experiences that define India's relationship with rain.

The beauty of Indian monsoon lies not just in the grey skies and petrichor but also in the golden crispness of pakoras that grace our plates. Whether made at home or enjoyed at a roadside stall, fritters offer warmth, flavor, and connection during rainy days. They are timeless comfort food—passed down through generations, adapted to every region's taste, and always welcome when skies turn grey.

TRUMP’S THREAT TO ABANDON UKRAINE CREATES TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR KYIV

Trump’s threats to end U.S. aid to Ukraine raise fears in Kyiv, where American support remains vital for air defenses, ammunition, intelligence, and battlefield resilience.

TDG NETWORK

Trump’s recent comments about potentially pulling US assistance to Ukraine have intensified concerns in Kyiv, where American assistance and intelligence are crucial. While Europe may help fill the gap, Ukraine’s defence, especially its air defence and ammunition supply—depends heavily on US aid, reports suggest. Experts say Ukraine could survive a pause, but losing US support would make the fight much harder and cost more civilian lives. This explainer looks at how potential US disengagement could reshape the battlefield and the challenge of finding alternatives.

Three years into the war in Ukraine, doubts about American support are causing serious concerns for military and political leaders in Kyiv. The recent remarks of President Donald Trump that the US could scale back from the fighting have raised alarm on both sides of the Atlantic regarding what this might entail on the battlefield, according to a recent report published by ABC News.

During a June interview, Trump likened the war in Ukraine to two children fighting in a park, reportedly saying, “Sometimes you see two young children fighting in the park. Sometimes you’re better off letting them fight more before you pull them apart.” His com-



Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelensky, in the Oval Office of the White House, Washington, February 28, 2025. File Photo

TDG EXPLAINER

ments came after months of criticising America under the Biden administration for continuing to support Ukraine in its war against Russia.

While Trump’s remarks were seen as provocative by some, others perceived them as his frustration over the challenge of achieving a diplomatic breakthrough in the now long-drawn war.

CRUCIAL US AID TO UKRAINE

Although US support to Ukraine has been enormous — approximately \$74 billion since 2022 — reports suggest that the aid is slowing.

The US administration had in April cleared a \$50 million military sale to Ukraine, but only after Kyiv agreed to a contentious minerals agreement, as reported by ABC News. Meanwhile, approximately \$3.9 billion set aside for priority military aid remains untapped, the report said. According to the report, the US assistance provides roughly 30% of Ukraine’s weaponry.

UKRAINE’S RESILIENCE

In 2024, a nine-month suspension of US aid due to a gridlocked Congress left Kyiv scrambling through a

world without the US help. Then in March this year, Trump placed a week-long hold on all military assistance and intelligence sharing. And while the US aid to Ukraine subsequently resumed, uncertainty over its subsequent allocation and future prospects lingered.

Oleksandr V. Danylyuk, a UK-based associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, told ABC News that while American aid is “significant,” it’s “not crucial.” He added that a rough estimate of around half the US-provided guns and ammunition could be replaced by substitutes, though the problem is finding them in time.

CAN EUROPE FILL THE GAP

Reflecting on the changing dynamics, Tufts University

Political fallout

Trump’s recent comments about potentially withdrawing U.S. support for Ukraine have raised serious concerns in Kyiv and among Western allies.

Since 2022, the U.S. has provided roughly \$74 billion in aid, supplying about 30% of Ukraine’s weaponry and critical intelligence support.

Aid shipments have slowed due to political gridlock in the U.S., including a nine-month suspension in 2024 and a week-long intelligence hold earlier this year. Europe has the financial capacity to step up and fill some gaps in military aid but coordination and long-term funding remain uncertain. Ukraine relies heavily on Patriot missile systems supplied by the U.S. and NATO, which are key to defending against Russian missile attacks.

Without U.S.-provided air defenses, cities like Kyiv could face missile barrages similar to those in Odesa or Zaporizhzhia, increasing civilian casualties. U.S. intelligence sharing, including satellite imagery and weapons tracking, helps Ukraine anticipate and counter Russian attacks effectively. The U.S. has supplied millions of artillery rounds; any disruption in ammunition supply would severely impact frontline Ukrainian troops. Losing U.S. aid would affect access to advanced weapons like HIMARS rockets, ATACMS missiles, and F-16 fighter jets, limiting Ukraine’s military options. Experts believe Ukraine could endure a pause in American aid but warn it would make the conflict more difficult and increase the human cost.

analyst Pavel Luzin recently told the network, “The last (Biden) administration made a decision that the American taxpayers would pay for it. The current administration now wishes to share this burden”.

Europe, also with financial muscle, could step up assistance. “Europe can pay for the American weapons for Ukraine and it has sufficient funds for this,” Luzin reportedly said.

He also proposed that Ukraine finance weapons

through long-term loans from Europe or the US, potentially drawing on frozen Russian assets, as reported by ABC News.

Geopolitical strategist Tina Fordham told the publication, “Europe is initially slow to act, but then it can act decisively,” as she referenced past examples like the COVID-19 pandemic response.

AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS

Among US military hard-

ware, the Patriot missile system stands out as one of Ukraine’s most valuable assets. Since arriving in 2023, Patriots have been reported to intercept drones, ballistic missiles, even Russian hypersonic missiles.

Ukraine has at least six Patriot systems in operation now — two supplied by the US and others from NATO allies, the report said. Zelenskyy, who has time and again stressed on the urgency and necessity of boosting his country’s air defenses to defend Kyiv against what he says is increasing Russian missile fire, has reportedly said, “We need positive signals from the United States — solid signals about air defense systems. We still wait for an answer to our appeal.”

Weighing in on the existing situation, Danylyuk further told ABC News, “Without American defenses, Kyiv would be hit in the same way as Odesa or Zaporizhzhia. There will be more civilians dying; that’s the only difference.”

Lifelines on the Battlefield

The US also has reportedly offered key intelligence assistance, such as satellite imagery and weapons-tracking flights, that provided Ukraine with advance warning of Russian missile strikes. The Center for Strategic and International Studies, cited by the publication, pointed to this assistance as “extensive” in assisting Ukraine in responding to missile barrages and interfering with

Russian operations.

When intelligence sharing temporarily halted in March, Ukrainian politicians voiced grave concerns, suggesting it would cost lives.

Additionally, stocks of ammunition are another worry. The US shipped more than three million 155mm rounds of ammo during Biden’s presidency, the report said, adding that any interruption of this supply could turn fatal for front-line soldiers.

SIGNS OF AN AMERICAN RETREAT

A halt to US support would be a significant loss for Ukraine, with its potential impact expected to extend far beyond ammunition. Ukraine depends on American equipment for important weapons systems such as HIMARS rocket artillery, ATACMS missiles with a range of hundreds of miles, and parts in British-French cruise missiles, howitzers, and F-16 fighter aircraft, which effectively provides Washington with leverage over what Ukraine can obtain, the report suggests.

Danylyuk further told ABC News, “An end to American aid would cause some difficulties, although it would not be a total disaster if Ukraine finds quick substitutes.”

“Ukraine is not going to fall apart. We could endure those horrible nine months without the US aid. So, it’s not that Ukrainians are going to give up.”

US to foreign students: Make your social media public, or risk visa rejection

TDG NETWORK

In a move that has sparked widespread concern among international students, the U.S. Embassy in India has issued a directive mandating that all applicants for F, M, and J category visas make their social media accounts public—effective immediately. These non-immigrant visas are designated for academic, vocational, and cultural exchange visitors. The announcement marks the latest development in a broader trend of heightened digital surveillance and vetting of foreign nationals under the Trump administration.

MANDATORY PUBLIC PROFILES

The requirement applies to major social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and TikTok. According to the embassy, any applicant who fails to comply or keeps their accounts private could face outright visa refusal. The statement, posted on the official embassy social media accounts, underscores that “every visa adjudication is a national security decision.”

This new policy is causing anxiety among students preparing for the U.S. autumn academic intake (September–November), who now find themselves having to choose between digital privacy and their educational ambitions.

VISA CATEGORIES UNDER SCRUTINY

The F and M visas are commonly used by international students pursuing academic



and vocational studies, while the J visa is reserved for cultural exchange programs, including internships, fellowships, and research collaborations. All three are non-immigrant visas, meaning they are meant for temporary stays, as opposed to immigrant visas which are for permanent settlement.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection defines non-immigrant visas as “temporary authorizations” that allow the holder to enter and remain in the U.S. for a specific period and purpose.

A SECURITY JUSTIFICATION

This push for digital transparency stems from a wider effort by U.S. immigration authorities to root out applicants who may pose a national security threat. Following the wave of pro-Palestine protests on American campuses last year—in which some international students were reported to have participated—the Trump administration has increased its scrutiny of student visa holders and sponsoring universities.

The U.S. State Department has clarified that visa officers will review applicants’ social media for any signs of “hostility toward the U.S.,” includ-

ing affiliations with banned organizations or expressions of anti-American sentiment. Posts, likes, messages, or comments that raise red flags could potentially lead to a visa denial.

CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Civil rights groups and privacy advocates have raised alarms about the chilling effect this policy could have on free expression. While the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, that protection does not extend to visa applicants outside the U.S., leaving them vulnerable to subjective interpretations of online content.

“What counts as ‘anti-American’ is dangerously vague,” said a representative from a digital rights organization. “Are critiques of U.S. foreign policy, for example, going to be flagged? This risks turning social media into a litmus test for political loyalty.”

Some students and commentators also expressed concerns about whether having no social media presence at all would be treated with suspicion. Others questioned how long their accounts would need to remain

public and whether content from years ago could be held against them.

PROCESSING DELAYS AND UNCERTAINTY

Beyond the civil liberties concerns, this directive is expected to increase delays in visa processing. Consular staff now face the added burden of manually reviewing social media accounts, further stretching already-limited resources. This could prolong wait times for thousands of students, potentially affecting travel and enrollment timelines. Despite backlash, a few voices online welcomed the move, calling it a “reasonable national security measure” given current global tensions. However, for many international students—especially those from politically active regions—the new requirement presents yet another obstacle in an already complex visa process.

AN UNEASY FUTURE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

Foreign students make up over 15% of the student population at nearly 200 U.S. universities, according to federal education data analyzed by the Associated Press. For many, studying in the U.S. represents not just an academic opportunity, but a gateway to future career prospects and global exposure.

With this latest digital gatekeeping policy, that gateway may now come with a significant compromise: their privacy and freedom of expression.

Starmer’s growth agenda face a familiar transatlantic challenge

TDG NETWORK

Westminster’s fascination with American politics is nothing new. From the Clinton-Blair “third way” to current parallels between Joe Biden’s Democrats and Keir Starmer’s Labour Party, political strategies often cross the Atlantic. Today, Labour is drawing inspiration from Biden’s ambitious economic reforms. But as Starmer’s government rolls out its own 10-year industrial strategy, important lessons must be learned from what went wrong in Washington.

Biden’s administration invested heavily in long-term economic transformation. Through landmark legislation like the Chips and Science Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. poured billions into reshaping its economy. These reforms triggered more than \$1 trillion in private investment, boosted wages—especially for the lowest earners—and delivered impressive post-pandemic growth.

Labour’s newly launched industrial strategy, dubbed “securonomics,” echoes Biden’s approach. It aims to rebuild British manufacturing, drive clean energy investment, and ensure economic security. But there’s a catch: while Biden’s policies succeeded economically, they didn’t win votes. In 2024, Democrats lost the election, and many critics turned on the very strategy that had driven America’s recovery.



Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves at an engineering company in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, 23 June 2025. Photograph: Agencies

The main issue was timing. Long-term reforms don’t deliver instant political rewards. A new battery plant might break ground today but won’t create jobs or lower prices for years. Meanwhile, voters face immediate concerns—like rising energy bills, rent, and food prices. For Biden, this disconnect proved politically costly. Though investments went to Republican districts and helped revive American industry, many voters felt ignored. The broader narrative never quite landed.

Labour must not repeat that mistake. It has been clear that its growth strategy is built to last a decade, but it must also show short-term results that directly affect people’s lives. Britain’s economy, like America’s, has suffered from years of underinvestment, rising inequality, and wage stagnation. A long-term vision is essential—but without

near-term relief, it risks losing public support.

Polling in the UK consistently shows that energy bills are the top economic concern. Nearly half of those surveyed say they would prefer government action to lower living costs, even at the expense of wage growth. People are tired of stagnant wages and unaffordable essentials. If Labour is serious about maintaining support for its industrial strategy, it must address these concerns quickly and visibly.

Other countries offer important examples. In Spain, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez paired a €163 billion green transition program with rent controls to help citizens deal with housing costs. Australia’s Labor government also balanced long-term investment with immediate support, offering energy bill relief and cheaper medicines alongside AUS\$22.7 billion for clean energy manufacturing.

These leaders understood that long-term reform needs short-term wins to survive politically.

Beyond affordability, Labour must also focus on capacity. Delivering industrial policy—especially in emerging sectors like clean hydrogen—requires deep technical knowledge. In the U.S., new tax credits for green technology took years to develop and implement. For Britain to succeed, it must rebuild expertise within government, streamline planning processes, and tackle urgent issues like workforce shortages.

Planning reform, speeding up infrastructure approval, and addressing skills gaps are all essential to accelerate benefits and maintain credibility.

A 10-year vision must be paired with the institutional ability to deliver it—and the political will to keep it on track even when early results seem invisible.

TRUMP SAYS ISRAEL-IRAN CEASEFIRE ‘IN EFFECT’, BLAMES BOTH SIDES FOR VIOLATIONS

Trump voiced strong frustration with both Iran and Israel, accusing them of jeopardising the delicate truce he had helped mediate.

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

US President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that a ceasefire between Israel and Iran was officially “in effect,” despite early violations by both nations. Speaking from the White House, Trump voiced strong frustration with both Iran and Israel, accusing them of jeopardising the delicate truce he had helped mediate.

Earlier in the day, Israel had accused Iran of firing missiles into its airspace just as the ceasefire was due to begin. Iran’s military, however, denied launching any attacks after the designated start time, with state media calling the accusations baseless. In a series of public statements, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi insisted that Israel initiated the conflict and reiterated that Tehran’s military

TRUCE TENSIONS

Iran Denies Missile Attacks: Iran rejected Israeli claims of launching missiles after the truce deadline, insisting it would halt operations only if Israeli aggression ceased.


Netanyahu Holds Back: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly paused a broader strike on Iran following a direct appeal from Trump.

Casualty Figures Released: Israeli emergency services reported 1,347 affected, including 28 deaths and over 400 treated for anxiety during 12 days of fighting.

Turkey Welcomes Truce: Ankara called for full adherence to the ceasefire and stressed the importance of resolving the Palestinian issue for lasting peace in the region.

Macron’s Nuclear Warning: French President Emmanuel Macron raised alarms over Iran potentially resuming covert uranium enrichment amid the conflict.

Uranium Smuggling Suspected: Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid told UK lawmakers that some of Iran’s enriched uranium may have been smuggled out of bombed facilities.



operations would cease only if Israeli attacks stopped by 4 am Tehran time.

“As of now, there is no agreement on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations,” Araghchi said in a post on X. “However, provided that the Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression... we have no intention to continue our response.”

Despite these denials and mutual accusations, Trump said the ceasefire had ultimately held, crediting his intervention with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for preventing further escalation.

Netanyahu’s office later confirmed that Israel had conducted a limited strike on an Iranian radar facility but refrained from broader military action following a direct conversation with the US President. “Following President Trump’s conversation with Prime Minister Netanyahu, Israel refrained from additional attacks,” said a statement from Netanyahu’s office.

Israel’s emergency services released final casualty figures from the 12-day conflict: 1,347 people were affected, including 28 fatalities. Seventeen people were seriously injured, 29 sustained moderate injuries, 872 were lightly wounded, and 401 individuals were treated for anxiety-related symptoms.

Blasts shake Tehran after truce deal

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Israel bombed a target near Tehran on Tuesday despite a furious rebuke from U.S. President Donald Trump for launching airstrikes hours after agreeing to a ceasefire deal with Iran.

Trump scolded both Iran and Israel for early violations of the truce that he had announced at around 0500 GMT, but directed particularly stinging criticism at Washington’s close ally over the scale of its strikes, telling it to “calm down now”.

He said Israel called off further attacks at his command to preserve the deal to end a 12-day air war with Iran, the biggest ever military confrontation between the Middle East arch-foes that had raised fears of global repercussions.

Following those remarks, however, two witnesses reached by telephone in the Iranian capital said they heard two loud blasts.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office acknowledged that Israel had bombed a radar site near Tehran in what it said was



Plc: Representative Image

Iran’s president says it will not violate ceasefire unless Israel does so, and is prepared to return to negotiations

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said later Tehran would not violate the ceasefire unless Israel did so, and that it was prepared to return to the negotiating table, without elaborating, according to state-run Nournews.

Whether the truce can hold is a major question. Signaling a difficult path ahead, it took hours for Israel and Iran to even acknowledge that they had accepted the ceasefire that Trump said he had brokered.

retaliation for Iranian missiles fired three-and-a-half hours after the ceasefire had been due to begin.

It said Israel had decided to refrain from further attacks following a call between Netanyahu and Trump, but did not explicitly say whether the strike on the radar site took place before or after they spoke.

The Islamic Republic denied launching any missiles and said Israel’s attacks had continued for an hour-and-a-half beyond the time the truce was meant to start.

Iraq: Drone attack targets Taji military base

AGENCIES
BAGHDAD

A drone attack targeted Iraq’s Taji military base, north of Baghdad, Anadolu Agency reported, citing authorities.

Speaking to Iraq’s official news agency INA, Lieutenant General Walid al-Tamimi said that an unidentified drone hit a location in the base. He confirmed that there were no casualties in the attack and stated that further details would be announced later, as Anadolu Agency reported.

Some local media reports claimed the drone targeted a French-made radar system stationed at the base. The base, previously used by the US-led international coalition forces, was handed over to the Iraqi army in 2020, Anadolu Agency reported.

The drone attack at a military base in Iraq comes after Iran launched multiple missiles targeting US military installations in Qatar and Iraq, including Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar--the largest US military installation in the region, according to a CNN report.



the Situation Room, closely monitoring the unfolding events.

Earlier, Iran’s state TV reported that Iran had begun an operation against a US base in Qatar. This operation against US bases in the

Qatar Airways reinstates flights as airspace reopens

The Airways said it deployed extra ground staff at Hamad International Airport to support as it resumes operations.

AGENCIES
DOHA

Qatar Airways has announced the reinstatement of its flights following the reopening of Qatari airspace after a brief suspension on Monday.

The Airways said it deployed extra ground staff at Hamad International Airport to support as it resumes operations.

In an official statement on X on Tuesday, Qatar Airways said, “Qatar Airways confirms the reinstatement of flights as airspace reopens in the State of Qatar. Our focus at this time is to help our passengers return home or reach their onwards journey safely and smoothly.”

“Our focus at this time is to help our passengers return home or reach their onwards journey safely and smoothly. We’ve deployed extra ground staff at Hamad International Airport to support you as we resume operations,” the statement added.

Earlier, Qatar Airways had temporarily



Suspended its flights due to the closure of air traffic movement in the West Asian Country.

“Temporary Suspension of Qatar Airways Flights. As a result of the closure of air traffic movement in the State of Qatar, we can confirm the temporary suspension of Qatar Airways flights,” the statement said.

“We are working closely with government stakeholders and the relevant authorities to support any passengers that have been impacted and will resume operations when the airspace reopens. The safety of our passengers and crew remains our highest priority,” it added.

The conflict began on June 13 when Israel launched a massive airstrike on Iranian military and nuclear sites, code-named “Operation Rising Lion”. In retaliation, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) initiated a large-scale drone and missile campaign called ‘Operation True Promise 3’, targeting Israeli fighter jet fuel production facilities and energy supply centres.

Pak court rejects Imran Khan’s bail plea in May 9 cases

AGENCIES
LAHORE

A Pakistani court on Tuesday rejected former prime minister Imran Khan’s petitions seeking post-arrest bail in eight terrorism cases related to the May 9 riots.

Khan, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, is booked in several cases in Lahore in connection with the May 9, 2023, violence, including for allegedly inciting his supporters to attack government



and military buildings, which erupted after his arrest by paramilitary Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises.

“The Lahore High Court (LHC) has rejected all bail petitions filed by the founder of PTI in connection with eight cases related to the May 9, 2023 cases, including Jinnah House/Lahore Corps Commander House attack and arson incidents,” a court official said.

A two-member bench of the LHC headed by Justice Shehbaz Rizvi announced the verdict on the bail petitions filed by Khan in eight cases.

The bench reserved its judgment on Monday after concluding the hearing. The eight cases include the Jinnah House attack, the Askari Tower attack, the burning of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PTI-N) office, the setting of Shadman police station on fire, the burning of police vehicles near Jinnah House, and arson at Sherpao Bridge.

The Anti-Terrorism Court Lahore had earlier rejected Khan’s bail pleas in these cases, after which he challenged its decision in the LHC.

Russian attacks kill 13 civilians in Ukraine



Civilians help emergency personnel to carry a wounded person at the site of a Russian strike in the city of Zaporizhzhia. Agencies

AGENCIES
KYIV

Russian drones, missiles and artillery killed at least 16 civilians and injured almost 100 others in Ukraine, officials said on Tuesday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sought guarantees of further Western military aid for his country’s efforts to repel Russia’s invasion.

Russian forces have relentlessly blasted civilian areas of Ukraine throughout the war, which is now

in its fourth year. More than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed, according to the United Nations. Ukraine has also launched long-range drones against Russia, hitting residential areas. Zelenskyy was set to meet on Tuesday with Western leaders attending a NATO summit in The Hague, Netherlands. He is keen to lock in additional military support for Ukraine’s fight against Russia’s bigger army, as recent direct peace talks have delivered no progress

on a possible settlement.

Key US military commitments to Ukraine left over from the Biden administration are expected to run out within months, according to analysts, and there is uncertainty over whether US President Donald Trump is willing to provide more.

A Russian ballistic missile attack on Dnipro hit multiple civilian sites in the central Ukrainian city around midday on Tuesday, killing seven people and injuring 70, local officials said.

in the region, a government statement said here.

Prime Minister Sharif committed to support Iran at all forums as a ceasefire was announced by President Donald Trump to end its war with Israel. During a telephone conversation with Iranian leader Masoud Pezeshkian, Sharif said Pakistan is closely following the rapidly evolving situation in West Asia, as he emphasised



the importance of restoring peace through dialogue and diplomacy, according to the official statement. He reiterated “Pakistan’s support for Iran at all diplomatic forums, including at the UN Security Council and the Organisation

of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), while calling for adherence to international law and the UN Charter principles, by all sides.” President Pezeshkian thanked the Prime Minister for the telephone call and appreciated Pakistan’s consistent and principled support to Iran, throughout the crisis, the statement said, adding, he also acknowledged Pakistan’s constructive role in promoting a peaceful reso-

lution to the conflict.

It was the second time that the two leaders talked during the recent conflict. In a telephonic conversation with President Pezeshkian on June 14, Sharif had strongly condemned Israeli attacks against Iran that violated its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and were in complete defiance of the UN Charter and international law.

FWICE CALLS FOR 'IMMEDIATE ACTION' AGAINST MAKERS OF 'SARDAARJI 3'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has strongly condemned actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh, producers Gunbir Singh Sidhu and Mammod Sidhu, and director Amar Hundal for casting Pakistani actress Hania Aamir in their upcoming film 'Sardaarji 3'. In an official statement and letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior ministers, FWICE called the decision a blatant insult to India's sovereignty, citing Aamir's alleged anti-India statements and connection to cross-border terrorism. Describing Aamir as a "vocal propagandist" who has "mocked our armed



forces" and "shamelessly justified Pakistan's terror acts," FWICE demanded immediate government action. The federation urged the authorities to revoke the passports of those involved and strip them of all national privileges. They also requested that the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) withhold certification for 'Sardaarji 3', effectively banning its release in India. FWICE claimed success, stating that authorities have already refused certification.



Sara Ali Khan snapped in a strapless, all-red pinstripe jumpsuit with a deep neckline. (Instagram)

Aamir Khan meets President Droupadi Murmu

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor and filmmaker Aamir Khan met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday. The official social media handle of the President shared a photograph from the meeting, captioned, "Acclaimed filmmaker and actor Aamir Khan called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan." The meeting came shortly after the theatrical release of Khan's much-anticipated film 'Sitaare Zameen Par', which hit cinemas on June 20. A



spiritual sequel to the widely acclaimed 'Taare Zameen Par', the new film highlights the journey of intellectually disabled individuals striving to make their mark in a national basketball championship.

'I love to do challenging roles now': Darsheel on starring in Gamerlog

KAUSHAL VERMA
NEW DELHI

Aamir Khan's movie "Taare Zameen Par" fame child actor Darsheel Safary, now 28, is all set to begin a new journey in the world of acting with more 'challenging roles' to shine not only at the silver screen but also on the OTT. "I have been also into the theaters for around 8-9 years where I had learned all the nitty-gritty of the acting," Darsheel said in conversation with The Daily Guardian newspaper, adding that "I learned the craft to that level that I can easily now crawl into the skin of any role like I did in the Gamerlog's protagonist Raghu. At this juncture, I love to do challenging roles." He did not overrule the possibility of opting the 'method acting' if role demands. On how being typecast in the industry for his image on the 'Taare Zameen Par' movie, he said "I want to blur out that image of mine. Being typecast is not good for any actor."



Gamerlog dives deep into the high-stakes, emotionally-charged world of competitive E-sports — a universe that has never been explored in a fiction web series or film. Bollywood superstar Salman Khan praises the Gamerlog—Amazon MX Player's latest webseries. Featuring Darsheel Safary and Anjali Sivaraman in the lead, the series is produced by Abhinay Deo, Neeta Shah, Bharatkumar Shah, and Yug Deo under their banner RDP Pulp Fiction Entertainment and directed by Arya Deo. This marks the first time that a mainstream Indian series tackles the world of gaming in such a grounded, dramatic, and relatable way. Gamerlog also marks the OTT debut of Darsheel Safary, making it an even more anticipated launch. The recently released series has already been met with enthusiastic responses, with viewers praising its fresh take, compelling characters, and emotional depth.

Ricky Kej collaborates with Kailash Satyarthi for 'GANDHI--Mantras of Compassion'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej has joined forces with fellow Grammy winner Masa Takumi, BRIT-nominated cellist Tina Guo, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi to create 'GANDHI - Mantras of Compassion', a powerful musical tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's enduring legacy. Set to release on July 14, the album assembles over 200 musicians from 40+ countries, blending global sounds to reflect Gandhi's



values of non-violence, peace, tolerance, and environmental consciousness. In a press note, Kej explained, "Mahatma Gandhi inspired generations of

changemakers, from Martin Luther King Jr. to Nelson Mandela. This album is our humble offering to keep that flame alive. Music has the power to transcend boundaries, just as Gandhi's message did." The project was born from a 2024 collaboration between Kej and Satyarthi during a four-city concert tour across India to support the 'Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion'. This initiative promotes compassion as a means to achieve justice, equality, peace, and sustainability.

Jessie J shares health update after undergoing surgery for cancer treatment

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON D.C.

Singer-songwriter Jessie J underwent surgery nearly three weeks after revealing her early breast cancer diagnosis, reports E! News. The 37-year-old, who shares son Sky Safir, 2, with boyfriend Channan Safir Colman, posted heartfelt Instagram updates showing both the emotional lows and highs of her journey. One video shows her explaining the procedure—draining blood and fluid from her breasts—to her toddler. Jessie expressed gratitude toward her medical team, family, and friends for their support.

"I will always show the good and hard bits of any journey I go through," she wrote. Earlier this month, she had announced her diagnosis with a blend of honesty and humour, calling cancer "a very dramatic way to get a boob job."

She promised to be open about her experience to help others, saying, "It breaks my heart that so many people are going through so much similar and worse." Jessie also reassured fans she would return with new music after recovery.



Rahul Bose calls on-set improvisation 'risky' and 'unprofessional'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

In a candid discussion about the intricacies of filmmaking, veteran actor and filmmaker Rahul Bose shared a revealing behind-the-scenes moment, underlining his strong disapproval of improvisation during shoots. Despite a career spanning over 55 films, Bose emphasised that while



spontaneity might work in theatre rehearsals, it has no place on a film set once the cameras roll. Recalling a particularly jarring incident, Bose described a moment on set when one of India's most acclaimed actors deviated dramatically from the script. "I got onto the set and found this guy was taking the scene somewhere else. So, I also went along with it," he said. However, the deviation sent the director into a panic. "He was like, 'Where is this going?' I said, 'What? He's taking it there. You tell him. Don't tell me.'" The off-script experiment ultimately led to the scene being cut from the final edit. "It was axed," Bose revealed.

riages. Arjona's character, Ashley, tells her husband Carey (Kyle Marvin) that she wants a divorce and admits to cheating on him. In response, Carey seeks advice from his friends Julie (Johnson) and Paul (writer-director Covino), who are in an open marriage.

'Splitville' trailer: Chaos ensues in open marriage comedy

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON D.C.

The makers of the Dakota Johnson-starrer 'Splitville' have recently unveiled the trailer for the comedy film, directed by Michael Angelo Covino. The trailer reveals the story of two couples navigating the complexities of non-monogamy and the fallout following a potential divorce. Dakota Johnson and Adria Arjona play friends at opposite ends of collapsing mar-



GREEN, HEALTHY & SOULFUL: A WAY OF LIFE AT IKIGAI

SANJANA CHAWLA
NEW DELHI

Ikigai is a Japanese concept that represents your “reason for being”.

It is at the intersection of what you love, what you are good at, what the world needs, and what you can be paid for. It contributes to healthy living by fostering a sense of purpose and fulfillment, which can reduce stress and promote mental well-being, indirectly encouraging mindful eating and a balanced relationship with food as part of a life lived with intention. To live this soulful life, I stepped into Ikigai in Defence Colony for an evening dinner that promised more than just a meal; but an experience – one that beautifully marries the concepts of health and soulfulness on a plate. The restaurant truly embodies its name by providing an avenue to achieve your Ikigai through mindful eating and a balanced relationship with food.

Wholesome Beginnings: Our culinary journey commenced with soups that set a high bar for healthy indulgence. The Silky Smooth Edamame Soup was a vibrant green delight, remarkably fresh and comforting. Its smooth texture and natural sweetness, free from heavy creams or oils, made for a light yet incredibly flavorful start. This dish perfectly exemplified how natural ingredients can shine without compromising on taste or health. The Non-Veg Minestrone Soup offered a heartier alternative, packed with a generous medley of vegetables and lean protein, delivering warmth and substance without excess. The appetizers continued this theme of mindful enjoyment. The Jackfruit Skewer was a standout, proving that plant-based options



can be both satisfying and incredibly flavorful. The jackfruit's impressive texture, akin to pulled meat, expertly absorbed its marinade, offering a genuinely healthy and guilt-free pleasure. Complementing this, the Chicken Tacos presented a lighter take on a beloved classic. Featuring tender chicken nestled in fresh tortillas with crisp accompaniments, they showcased a balance of lean protein and fresh produce, moving away from heavier, greasier versions

often found elsewhere. **Mindful Main Courses:** The main courses further reinforced Ikigai's commitment to thoughtful preparation.

The Asparagus Tempura Roll was a masterclass in delicate frying. The asparagus maintained its crispness within a remarkably light, non-greasy tempura batter. This dish was a clear example of how even a seemingly indulgent item can be prepared with a light hand, making it feel less like an extravagance



Ikigai by Cafe Delhi Heights is more than just a restaurant; it is a destination where you can align your desire for good food with your pursuit of well-being. Each dish we savored was not only delicious but also genuinely nourishing, leaving us with a sense of wholesome contentment.

and more like a conscious, healthy choice. Finally, the Al Fungi Fettuccini was a comforting and deeply satisfying dish. The perfectly al dente pasta combined with earthy mushrooms in a rich yet never overly heavy sauce. This dish truly satisfied the soul with its classic appeal, demonstrating that comfort food can indeed be prepared with an emphasis on high-quality, balanced ingredients.

Ikigai by Cafe Delhi Heights is more than just

a restaurant; it is a destination where you can align your desire for good food with your pursuit of well-being. Each dish we savored was not only delicious but also genuinely nourishing, leaving us with a sense of wholesome contentment. If you're seeking a dining experience that prioritizes fresh ingredients, thoughtful preparation, and a menu that caters to both healthy choices and soulful satisfaction, Ikigai is undoubtedly a place to explore.

INDULGENT PISTACHIO RECIPES BY SHIVESH BHATIA & CHEF NEHA SHAH

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indulge in the delicious versatility of pistachios with two delightful recipes crafted by Shivesh Bhatia and Chef Neha Deepak Shah, on behalf of American Pistachio Growers.

On Behalf of American Pistachio Growers by Shivesh Bhatia

CHOCOLATE PISTACHIO COOKIES

Ingredients
1/2 cup (112g) butter, melted
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup castor sugar
2 tbsp milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup all purpose flour
1 tbsp cornflour
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/3 cup chocolate chunks
1/2 cup pistachio, chopped
PISTACHIO PASTE
1 cup pistachios
1/2 cup white chocolate
1/4 cup condensed milk

Process-
In a bowl, add melted butter, brown sugar and castor sugar. Whisk everything until well combined.

Add milk and vanilla extract in it and mix again. Now add in the dry ingredients flour, cornflour and baking soda and combine to form a dough.

Fold in the chopped dark chocolate and pistachios in the dough.

For the pistachio paste, in a blender jar add pistachios, white chocolate and condensed milk. Blend everything together until you achieve a smooth pistachio paste. Measure 1 tbsp and freeze them for about 10-15 minutes or until set.

Scoop out even sized portions of cookie dough and place a pistachio paste ball inside the cookie dough.

Add more dark chocolate chips and pistachios on top. Refrigerate the cookies for at least 10-12 minutes.

Bake them at 180 for 12-15 minutes or until the edges



are brown.

On behalf of American Pistachio Growers, Chef Neha Deepak Shah

PISTACHIO SAMOSA

Ingredients

1/2 cup Shelled Pistachio
1/4 cup Grated Mawa
Cardamom Powder
A little Powdered Sugar
Samosa Sheets
All purpose Flour
Rose Petal

Process-

Boil water and dunk pistachios for 2 minutes. Peel off the loosened skin and chop finely.

Mix blanched pistachios,

grated mawa, cardamom powder, and powdered sugar.

Mix all-purpose flour with a little water to make a sticky paste.

Take a samosa sheet, add a small spoon of filling. Fold into a triangle and seal edges with the flour paste.

Deep fry or air fry until golden brown. Garnish with powdered sugar, chopped pistachio and rose petals.

Additional tips:

Do not over stuff the filling else it will come out

You can store these samosa at room temperature for 2 days

These can be frozen & air fry them when needed

WATERMELON BRUSCHETTA RECIPE - THE SALT CAFE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Servings: 6-8 | Prep Time: 15 minutes | Cook Time: 5 minutes (optional for toasting bread)

Ingredients:

1 small baguette, sliced into 1/2-inch rounds
2 cups seedless watermelon, diced small
1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped
1/4 cup feta cheese, crumbled (or goat cheese for a creamier version)
1-2 tablespoons balsamic glaze
1 tablespoon olive oil (optional, for brushing bread)
Salt & pepper, to taste

Instructions:

Toast the Bread (Optional but Recommended)

Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C). Lightly brush baguette slices with olive oil and toast for 5-7 minutes until golden and crisp.

Prepare the Watermelon Mixture

In a bowl, combine diced watermelon, chopped basil, and a pinch of salt and pepper. Stir gently to mix.

Assemble the Bruschetta

Spoon the watermelon mixture onto each toasted bread slice. Top with crumbled feta.

Finish with Balsamic Glaze

Drizzle balsamic glaze over the top of each bruschetta for a tangy-sweet finish.

Serve Immediately

Best served fresh to avoid sogginess.



Ghevar and health: A sweet treat with considerations

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ghevar, the iconic Rajasthani dessert, is especially popular during festivals like Teej and Raksha Bandhan. Made from refined flour (maida), ghee, and sugar syrup, this deep-fried, disc-shaped sweet is often topped with malai, dry fruits, or rabri. While it is a festive favourite and a symbol of tradition, it's important to understand its nutritional impact on health.

NUTRITIONAL PROFILE

Ghevar is high in calories, primarily due to its ingredients—refined flour, ghee, and sugar. A single piece can contain anywhere from 300 to 500 calories, depending on its size and toppings. It is rich in carbohydrates and fats but offers minimal protein or fibre. Traditional ghevar is deep-fried, which increases its saturated fat content, making it a food to enjoy in moderation, especially for those watching their weight or managing lifestyle-related conditions like diabetes or high cholesterol.

IMPACT ON HEALTH



Weight Gain and Blood Sugar Spikes: The high sugar content can lead to spikes in blood glucose levels, particularly risky for diabetics. Regular consumption can also contribute to weight gain due to its calorie density.

Cholesterol and Heart Health: Deep frying in ghee or oil increases bad cholesterol (LDL) levels. Excessive consumption may pose a risk to cardiovascular health, especially for those with existing heart conditions.

Weight Gain and Blood Sugar Spikes: The high sugar content can lead to spikes in blood glucose levels, particularly risky for diabetics. Regular consumption can also contribute to weight gain due to its calorie density.

Low Nutritional Value: Ghevar does not offer much in terms of micronutrients, vitamins, or minerals. It is best seen as a festive indulgence rather than a daily treat.

HEALTHIER ALTERNATIVES AND TIPS

Mini Ghevar or Baked Versions: Opt for smaller servings or modern recipes using baking or air-frying techniques to reduce fat.

Use of Jaggery or Natural Sweeteners: Some newer recipes replace sugar syrup with jaggery, stevia, or honey to make the dessert less harmful.

Add Protein-Rich Toppings: Toppings like nuts, seeds, or low-fat paneer can boost nutritional value.

Balance Your Plate: If you're indulging in ghevar, try to eat light meals throughout the day to balance your calorie intake.

Ghevar is undeniably delicious and deeply rooted in Indian tradition. While it's fine to enjoy it during festivals like Teej, mindful consumption and portion control are key to maintaining health without missing out on cultural celebrations.

BRIDGING THE EDUCATION GAP: HOW STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

MONICA MALHOTRA

Imagine a future where classrooms are beyond four walls, learning has no geographical constraints, and students of all backgrounds enjoy equal opportunity for quality education. For India, this dream is becoming a reality through the growth of education technology, or EdTech.

From virtual labs to learning apps, AI-based tests, and local language content, India's EdTech industry is revolutionizing education delivery at lightning speed. But for this revolution to touch all students, strategic investments—both government and private—are crucial.

EDTECH'S GROWTH STORY IN INDIA

As of 2024, India's EdTech sector was valued at \$7.5 billion, and estimates indicate that it may rise to \$29 billion by the year 2030. This astronomical rise is fueled by a 100-million-strong paid subscriber base, which reflects the industry's mass adoption.

One of the largest contributors to this boom is the K-12 segment, which includes school-level education. Worth \$48.9 billion in 2023, it is predicted to grow to \$125.8 billion by 2032. With 1.55 million K-12 schools and 218 million

students, the need for technology-based learning solutions is through the roof.

WHAT'S FUELING EDTECH'S SUCCESS?

Following factors are fueling this shift:

Interactive Learning: Online platforms are making it possible for students to perform real-time science experiments remotely. Hands-on learning increases retention and comprehension, making complex subject matter easier to understand.

Access to Remote Learners: With the rapid growth of internet penetration in India and a significant percentage of users consuming content in local languages, EdTech solutions are extending quality education to students in both urban and remote regions—overcoming traditional barriers.

Gamification of Learning: Learning platforms are revolutionizing traditional classroom lessons into game-based learning experiences. This maintains students' focus, interest, and enthusiasm towards learning.

Spontaneous Upskilling: Beyond traditional education, online learning is helping professionals and job seekers acquire new skills. Short, self-paced courses allow learners to gain relevant industry knowledge without disrupting their



ongoing commitments.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

India's EdTech space continues to be a sought-after investment prospect. The transition to digital has taken education value chains—admissions, curriculum, testing, and certifications—online, presenting profitable prospects for investors.

As AI and machine learning propel customized learning, EdTech startups are creating intelligent tutoring systems, adaptive learning solutions, and AI-based assessments, making learning more efficient and customized to the needs of individual students.

The impact isn't just domestic. India is today the

One of the largest contributors to this boom is the K-12 segment, which includes school-level education. Worth \$48.9 billion in 2023, it is predicted to grow to \$125.8 billion by 2032. With 1.55 million K-12 schools and 218 million students, the need for technology-based learning solutions is through the roof.

second-largest online education market after the U.S., according to KPMG, highlighting its international relevance. With the number of B2C EdTech startups increasing from a little over 3,000 in FY21 to more than 8,000 in FY24, as per Tracxn, the momentum is obvious—driven by robust government support through the NEP 2020 and a countrywide drive

towards digitalization, India's education revolution has just begun.

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN BRIDGING THE GAP

The Indian government has been instrumental in favoring EdTech, making digital learning go mainstream.

Burgeoning Budget Allocations: Union Budget 2025 allocated Rs 1.28 lakh crore to education, an increase

of 6.5% from the last year's allocation of Rs 1.20 lakh crore.

Investment in Digital Learning: Rs 681 crore has been particularly allocated towards Digital India e-learning, stressing the importance of digital infrastructure for education.

AI-Driven Education: A specific Rs 500 crore has been allocated to create a Center of Excellence in AI

for Education, with the aim of incorporating AI-based tools for adaptive learning, smart assessments, and effective school management.

By incorporating AI, VR, and cloud-based learning solutions, the government is making sure that rural and underprivileged region students also receive high-quality education.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The rapid adoption of EdTech in India is reshaping education, but challenges remain—infrastructure gaps, digital literacy issues, and the affordability of premium learning tools.

However, collaborative efforts, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) among the government,

private sector, and the educator community can play a crucial role in overcoming these barriers and promoting educational equity.

The transition to personalized, interactive, and accessible education is an inevitable process. With continued investment by the sector in EdTech innovation, India is well on its way to creating an inclusive learning ecosystem and preparing students for an inclusive education system not solely for tomorrow, but for decades into the future.

With the right strategic investment and continued innovation, the dream of closing the education gap is no longer a stretch—it's slowly but surely, coming to life. *The author is the Managing Director of MBD Group*

Decoding your career through Saturn in the D-10 chart: A vedic perspective



TAROT POOJA VERMA

In a world of ever-evolving professional choices and career anxiety, many are turning to ancient sciences for clarity. Vedic astrology, rooted in thousands of years of cosmic wisdom, offers profound insights into one's life path. Among its many tools, the D-10 chart (Dashamsa) stands out as a precise map of one's career destiny. And at the heart of this karmic journey sits Saturn (Shani) — the planet of effort, discipline, and delayed but lasting rewards.

WHAT IS THE D-10 CHART?

The D-10 chart is a divisional chart used in Vedic astrology, created by dividing each zodiac sign into 10 equal parts. Unlike the main birth chart (D-1) which shows your general life blueprint, the D-10 focuses exclusively on your career, public image, and professional dharma.

It reveals: - Your true professional identity - The quality of your work life - Karmic lessons and patterns in career - Hidden potentials that are not obvious in your D-1 chart

If you're wondering why your work life doesn't align with your Sun sign or even your D-1 chart, the answer often lies in your D-10.

WHY SATURN HOLDS THE KEY TO CAREER KARMA

In Vedic astrology, Saturn is the ultimate taskmaster. It

represents hard work, perseverance, karma, patience, and structure. While other planets may bring flair or fame, it is Saturn that ensures sustainability, growth, and long-term respect in any profession. When placed in the D-10 chart, Saturn tells us: - Where you must be most disciplined - The type of career field that aligns with your karmic journey - Whether your career will evolve slowly or rise through struggle - The industries or work cultures best suited for your evolution

Saturn doesn't give quick success, but when it blesses, the results are unshakable.

SATURN IN THE D-10 CHART: HOUSE-WISE MEANINGS WITH ZODIAC EXAMPLES

1st House - The Profes-

2nd House - Speech, Wealth, and Values

- Traits: Finance, family businesses, wealth accumulation
- Zodiac Impact: In Taurus — wealth builders; In Pisces — intuitive financial strategists

3rd House - Communication and Media

- Traits: Writing, media, courage-driven careers
- Zodiac Impact: Gemini — digital careers; Sagittarius — travel-based professions

4th House - Foundations, Real Estate, Public Good

- Traits: Real estate, homeland service, educational impact
- Zodiac Impact: Cancer — nurturing careers; Cap-

logic-based educators; Scorpio — speculative depth

- Celebrity: Ratan Tata — strategic visionary and industrialist

6th House - Service, Law, Health

- Traits: Legal battles, medical fields, social work
- Zodiac Impact: Aries — aggressive problem-solvers; Pisces — empathetic healers

7th House - Partnerships and Business

- Traits: Business, diplomacy, client-based work
- Zodiac Impact: Libra — negotiation experts; Aries — self-driven entrepreneurs

8th House - Research, Mysticism, Hidden Power

- Traits: Investigation, occult, deep transformation

spirituality, law

- Zodiac Impact: Sagittarius — teachers and travelers; Cancer — nurturing advisors
- Celebrity: Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam — teacher and visionary leader

10th House - Power, Authority, Leadership

- Traits: Public image, corporate/government roles
- Zodiac Impact: Capricorn — administrative icons; Leo — authoritative leaders

11th House - Networks, Social Gains, Big Dreams

- Traits: NGOs, political careers, mass outreach
- Zodiac Impact: Gemini — social media experts; Aquarius — visionaries

12th House - Isolation, Spiritual Karma, Foreign Lands

- Traits: NGO, spiritual service, foreign jobs
- Zodiac Impact: Pisces — spiritual teachers; Virgo — behind-the-scenes workers

• Celebrity: Sadhguru — modern mystic with global spiritual reach

LET SATURN GUIDE YOUR LEGACY

The D-10 chart is not about your day job; it's about your life's work. Saturn, though feared for its delays and challenges, is actually your greatest ally in career-building. It doesn't promise overnight fame, but it promises permanent foundations. So the next time you doubt your path or question your progress, check your D-10 chart and ask: Where is Saturn? What karma am I here to master? Because in the end, your job is temporary. But your karma is eternal.

Galgotias University among the world's leading universities in QS rankings 2026



DR. DHRUV GALGOTIA

National, 20 June 2025: Galgotias University proudly ascends in the QS World University Rankings 2026 by Quacquarelli Symonds, securing a coveted position in the 1201-1400 global band. Ranked 15th among top private universities and 43rd among all Indian universities—public and private combined—this achievement marks a powerful endorsement of Galgotias' unwavering commitment to academic excellence, global relevance, and innovation in higher education.

This remarkable recognition comes with additional distinctions that underscore Galgotias' international outlook and academic reputation. The university is ranked 6th in India for international students and

international diversity, 9th for international faculty, 13th for faculty-student ratio, and 20th for academic reputation—a reflection of its global standards and student-first approach.

Dr. Dhruv Galgotia, CEO of Galgotias University stated, "This is a proud moment for Galgotias University. Breaking into the QS Rankings is a reflection of our commitment to world-class education, cutting-edge research, and holistic development of our students. We dedicate this achievement to our outstanding faculty, students, and partners who continue to push the boundaries of excellence."

At the heart of Galgotias' rapid ascent is its transformative educational model—the Galgotias Student-Centric Active Learning Ecosystem (G-SCALE)—which replaces rote learning with collaborative, hands-on, and industry-aligned education. From real-world projects to cutting-edge innovation labs like the iOS Development Center powered by Apple and Infosys, Galgotias prepares students for global careers and real-world challenges.

Dr. Dhruv Galgotia has been a passionate advocate for moving beyond outdated teaching methods and embracing active learning, international collaboration, and innovation. His vision is clear—not just to build one of India's best universities, but to create a university the world can learn from.

Mr. Suneel Galgotia, Hon'ble Chancellor, laid the foundation for Galgotias University with a strong focus on holistic development, ethical values, and world-class education. His dedication to inclusive and character-driven learning continues to guide the university's ethos.

Galgotias University, with its eyes set firmly on the horizon, remains committed to rewriting the rules of higher education by bringing active learning to India through consultancy support and mentorship by Inspire at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.

In just 14 years, Galgotias has transformed into one of India's fastest-rising academic institutions—powered by its dedication to impactful research, global



JAMIE SMITH’S HEROICS POWER ENGLAND TO 5-WICKET WIN OVER INDIA

AGENCIES
LEEDS

Jamie Smith showcased nerves of steel as he powered England to a thrilling 5-wicket win over India on the final day of the first Test. With just a few runs needed, Smith sealed the chase in style, hitting a six and a four off Ravindra Jadeja to guide England home in the 82nd over of the innings.

In pursuit of a daunting 371-run target, opener Ben Duckett produced a scintillating knock of 149 off 170 balls to lay a solid foundation for England. He shared a commanding 188-run stand with fellow opener Zak Crawley, who chipped in with a composed 65. The pair blunted the Indian attack and helped England reach 117 without loss at lunch, and 269 for 4 at tea, leaving only 102 runs to get in the final session.

Crawley and Duckett’s partnership was historic—England’s highest-ever opening stand in the fourth innings of a home Test, sur-



Ben Duckett’s sixth Test hundred, and second against India. (X)

passing the 154-run effort by Geoffrey Boycott and Mike Brearley in 1977. Crawley played the anchor, while Duckett dominated with his strokeplay, despite surviving a testing spell from Jasprit Bumrah and a dropped catch by Yashasvi Jaiswal on

97. India looked listless for most of the day. Bumrah was economical but wicketless, while Siraj and Jadeja failed to create significant pressure. Prasidh Krishna and Shardul Thakur, however, brought India back

into the contest after rain breaks, removing Crawley, Pope, Duckett, and Brook in a brief flurry.

Shardul dismissed Duckett for 149 with a deceptive delivery that found a substitute fielder, Nitish Reddy, while Brook departed for a golden

BRIEF SCORES

India: 471 & 364 (KL Rahul 137, Rishabh Pant 118; Josh Tongue 3/72) vs Englan d 269/4 (Ben Duckett 149, Zak Crawley 65; Shardul Thakur 2/28)

duck, caught behind by Pant on the very next ball.

Joe Root (14*) and Ben Stokes (13*) saw off a tense spell before Jamie Smith took charge in the final stretch. With England needing 19 runs to win, Smith launched a four and a six in consecutive deliveries before sealing the match with two final runs.

Earlier, India had posted 471 in the first innings and 364 in the second, powered by centuries from KL Rahul (137) and Rishabh Pant (118). Despite holding a substantial lead, the Indian bowling unit couldn’t capitalise on the advantage.

With this win, England take a 1-0 lead in the five-match Test series.

India thrash Mongolia 13-0 in Women’s Asian Cup qualification

AGENCIES
CHIANG MA

India began their AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers with a 13-0 victory against Mongolia at the 700th Anniversary of Chiang Mai Stadium on Monday, June 23, 2025. The Blue Tigresses led 4-0 at half-time.

This was India’s biggest ever win in an AFC Women’s Asian Cup (final round and qualifiers). Previously, the Blue Tigresses’ 10-0 victories against Guam in 1997 and 2005 held the record.

Pyari Xaxa (29’, 45’, 46’, 52’, 55’) netted five goals in the match, while Soumya Guguloth (20’, 59’) and Priyadharshini Selladurai (73’, 86’) scored two each. Sangita Basfore (8’), Rimpa Haldar (67’), Malavika (71’), and Grace Dangmei (75’ p) scored one each.

India imposed their iron grip on the match early on in the game, with Basfore opening the scoring, when she nodded in a Soumya cross from close range.

The latter doubled India’s lead in an emphatic man-



ner when she produced a powerful volley off a Rimpa cross. Her volley pinged off the upright and went in.

Pyari scored two more before half-time, first scoring off a cut-back from Soumya, before producing a powerful long-range effort that rifled into the top corner.

If the Blue Tigresses seemed to have gotten quickly off the blocks in the first half, they were even faster to do so in the second. Pyari volleyed in a Grace cross to complete her hat-trick.

The Indian striker added two more within the 55th minute, taking her tally to five goals in the match.

After Soumya capitalised

on a goalkeeping error to score India’s eighth, Blue Tigresses coach Crispin Chettri decided to make a few changes, introducing centre-back Purnima Kumari, Priyadharshini, and Malavika into the fray. Later, Ranjana Chanu and goalkeeper Monalisha Devi were also given opportunities to get some game time.

Rimpa, Malavika, and Priyadharshini added a goal each in close succession, as India went over the double digits, before a Grace Dangmei penalty took India to 12. With the clock ticking down, Priyadharshini scored her second and India’s 13th to round off a big win for the Blue Tigresses.

National Selection trials 3, 4 begin; India’s top shooters to be in action

AGENCIES
DEHRADUN

India’s top shooters will be seen in action as the National Selection Trials 3 and 4 for Group ‘A’ athletes commenced on Tuesday at the Trishul Shooting Range, Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur, Dehradun. These trials will help shape the Indian shooting team for the 16th Asian Shooting Championships 2025 in Kazakhstan in August and the ISSF World Cup in Ningbo, China in September.

The first day of the trials will see the Stage 1 qualifying round of Rapid Fire Pistol Men, which has been divided into three relays. On the second day of competitions, three finals of T3, 10m Air Rifle Men, 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men and 50m 3 Positions Women are scheduled.

The shooters enter this selection phase following an encouraging run in the double-legged South American ISSF World Cup tour, which marked the beginning of the



new international calendar and the recently concluded Munich leg of the World Cup. Across all three legs in Argentina, Peru, and Munich, Indian shooters reached 39 finals, including mixed-team medal rounds, and brought home 19 gold medals.

Suruchi Inder Singh, who created history by becoming the first Indian to win gold in three consecutive world cups, Munich gold medalists Arya Borse and Arjun Babuta, Olympic medalists Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale, current World Cup medalists Saurabh Chaudhary, Rudranksh Patil, Elavenil Valarivan, Sift Kaur Samra, Vijayveer Sidhu and Chain

Singh along with prominent names like Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Sandeep Singh, Varun Tomar and Kiran Ankush Yadav will be present for the trials.

As per the selection Criteria, only eligible shooters in Group ‘A’ will be allowed to participate. The Selection Trials 3 and 4 will cover all Olympic Rifle and Pistol events and will be limited to a select group of top-ranked shooters. This includes 50 slots each for 10m Air Rifle (Men & Women) and 10m Air Pistol (Men & Women), 30 slots each for 50m Rifle 3 Positions (Men and Women), 20 slots for 25m Rapid Fire Pistol (Men), and 30 slots for 25m Sport Pistol (Women).

India’s Lalit Babu, Neelotpal in joint lead in Mumbai International Grandmaster

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

India’s Lalit Babu and Neelotpal Das scored impressive victories to join Gharibyan Mamikon of Armenia in joint lead after the eighth round at the Mumbai International Grandmaster Chess Tournament here on Tuesday. While Babu defeated GM Alexei Fedorov of Belarus with white pieces in 39 moves, Das got the better of IM Arsen Davtyan of Armenia. Mamikon, meanwhile, produced a major upset, defeating



tournament leader GM Aleksey Aleksandrov of Belarus with the black pieces to accumulate seven

points from eight matches. Nine players -- including GM Aleksandrov, GM Levan Pantsulaia, GM Manuel Petrosyan, GM Deepan Chakkravarthy and GM Nguyen Duc Hoa -- are right behind with 6.5 points from eight matches. In the junior section, FM Aansh Nerurkar bounced back with a win over CM Madhvendra Sharma, while CM Madhesh Kumar was held to a draw by Advik Agrawal. Nerurkar and Kumar were in joint lead with seven points from eight matches. Hot on

their heels were CM Vyom Malhotra, Advik Agrawal and Shaunak Badole, all tied on 6.5 points.

Former India spinner Dilip Doshi passes away at 77

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Former India left-arm spinner Dilip Doshi passed away on Monday in London, aged 77.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Doshi passed away due to heart issues in London, where he had lived for several decades. With a classical left-armers’ action, Doshi scalped 114 Test wickets in 33 appearances, including six five-wicket hauls.

In a post on X, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) condoled Doshi’s demise, stating, “The BCCI mourns the sad demise of former India spinner, Dilip Doshi, who has unfortunately passed away in London. May his soul rest in peace.”

He also left his mark in the ODIs and finished with 22 wickets in 15 ODIs while maintaining an economy of 3.96. Doshi represented Saurashtra, Bengal, Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire in first-class cricket



and picked up 898 wickets in 238 appearances at 26.58.

Doshi followed in the footsteps of the famous spin quartet of the 1970s and made his debut at the age of 32. At Nottinghamshire, the West Indies legend Garfield Sobers heavily influenced the left-arm spinner. He made a silent exit from international cricket in the 1980s and gave a compelling account of his cricketing days in his autobiography Spin Punch.

Former India cricketer and coach Ravi Shastri wrote on X, “Really sad to hear about the passing of

Dilip Doshi. Always immaculate, a gentleman to the core and a fine, fine bowler. Heartfelt condolences to his family. May his soul rest in peace.” “Heartbreaking to hear about Dilip bhai’s passing. May God give strength to his family and friends to bear this loss. Nayan, thinking of you buddy,” former India captain and spinner Anil Kumble wrote on X.

Among his accomplished feats, Doshi played an immaculate role with his five-wicket haul in the Melbourne Test of 1981, which helped India orchestrate a memorable victory.



Boston Celtics’ Jrue Holiday plays against the Washington Wizards during the first half of an NBA basketball game on April 6, 2025, in Boston. (Agency)

French Open semifinalist Lois Boisson out of Wimbledon qualifying

AGENCIES
LONDON

French Open surprise semifinalist Lois Boisson has lost in the first round of qualifying for Wimbledon.

The 22-year-old Boisson was beaten 6-2, 6-7 (1), 6-4 on Tuesday against No. 197-ranked Carson Branstine

of Canada in a rare match for the French player on grass at the Roehampton qualifying venue.

Boisson soared from No. 361 to No. 65 after her deep run at Roland-Garros in her Grand Slam main draw singles debut, and was top-seeded in the Wimbledon qualifying

draw. Being denied a wild card into the Wimbledon main draw provoked criticism in France of tournament organizers in London. Boisson beat top-10 players Jessica Pegula and Mirra Andreeva at the French Open before losing to eventual champion Coco Gauff.

SA20: At least 72 player slots up for grabs in anticipated Season 4 auction

AGENCIES
JOHANNESBURG

All the big names and rising stars set to headline Season 4 of SA20 will be confirmed at the fourth annual player auction taking place in Johannesburg on Tuesday, 9 September, as per a release from SA20.

The year’s event promises to bring a few changes amongst the squads, and high-stakes bidding with a minimum of 72 player slots available for auction. The squad composition of the teams remains the same, with the League continuing to prioritise opportunity for local talent on a global platform. Of the 18 players in the regular squad, teams can secure a maximum of 7 overseas players and a minimum of 11 South African players.

Season 4 will again allow teams to sign one Wildcard player to each squad. The Wildcard player can be a South African or overseas player, and their League fee



falls outside of the salary cap. Prior to the auction, the franchises are permitted no more than 6 retentions or pre-signed players, comprising a maximum of 3 overseas players and 3 South African players. This year features the largest salary cap in the history of the competition, a sizeable R41-million in the purse for each of the six franchises to make up their squads. The salary cap has steadily increased over the years from R34

million in season 1, making it the highest franchise T20 League salary cap outside of India.

In a SA20 first, a significant strategic innovation has been added to the Season 4 auction with the introduction of the Right to Match (RTM) Cards. A Right to Match Card allows a Franchise the opportunity to match a winning auction bid on a player who played for that team in Season 3 and retain his services for

Season 4. Each team will have a limited number of RTM cards to use, depending on the number of South African pre-auction player retentions they use.

Stephan Cook, Head of Cricket Operations, SA20 added, “The Betway SA20 Season 4 Player Auction is setting up to be the most exciting yet, with about 60% of player slots available for Franchises to fill. Mechanisms such as RTM cards, Wildcard players and an

increased salary cap are sure to create interesting situations for teams and will allow them to strategically select their squads. We have seen some life-changing transactions already in the past few years and the upcoming auction should see plenty more,” as quoted from a release by SA20.

The League’s commitment to the development of young talent in South Africa remains steadfast. There will no longer be a Rookie Draft, instead, teams must sign a minimum of two Under-23 players in their final 19-player squads.

The ever-popular Richard Madley, who has fast become synonymous with the SA20 auction, will once again wield his gavel to control proceedings.

The auction marks the first major milestone ahead of the anticipated fourth season, which, this year, will be played in a ‘festive season’ slot starting on December 26.