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CITIZENS MUST REGISTER
WHERE THEY RESIDE FOR
FAIR POLLS: CEC



11
MUSK THREATENS
TO LAUNCH
'AMERICA PARTY'



16
NO. 1 SINNER OFF TO WINNING
START AT WIMBLEDON WITH A
ROUT OF NARDI

CABINET CLEARS RS 1 LAKH CR
JOBS-LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME

Tribunal holds RCB
responsible for
June 4 stampede

- Aims at generating 3.5 cr jobs between August 1 2025 and July 31 2027
- Central feature of the scheme is emphasis on workforce formalisation

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Monday approved the rollout of the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme, with an outlay of Rs 99,446 crore, aimed at generating 3.5 crore formal jobs between August 1 2025 and July 31 2027.

The ELI scheme is a flagship component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third-term employment agenda, which prioritises large-scale job creation, workforce formalisation and economic inclusion. Senior officials had earlier indicated that the Prime Minister had directed key ministries to align fiscal incentives with measurable employment outcomes. With Monday's Cabinet approval, the scheme moves from budgetary promise to full-scale policy execution.

The scheme was first announced in the Union Budget 2024-25, presented in July 2024 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of a Rs 2 lakh crore employment and skilling package for youth.

The scheme is structured in two parts. Under Part A, first-time employees enter-


CREATING EMPLOYMENT

■ The scheme is structured in two parts

■ Under Part A, first-time employees will receive a one-time incentive equal to one month of their EPF, capped at Rs 15,000.

■ Under Part B, employers hiring additional workers on their EPF rolls will receive wage subsidies for up to two years.

■ Firms with fewer than 50 employees must hire at least two new workers



■ Inclusion of a financial literacy requirement is intended to instil savings discipline among first-time jobholders.

■ The scheme's scale and design make it one of India's most ambitious job-linked initiatives

SUBSIDY VARIES BY SALARY BAND

₹1,000
per month for salaries up to Rs 10,000

₹2,000
for salaries between Rs 10,001 and Rs 20,000

₹3,000
for salaries between Rs 20,001 and Rs 1,00,000

No incentive is available for salaries above Rs1 lakh per month.

ing the formal workforce will receive a one-time incentive equal to one month of their EPF (Employees' Provident Fund) contribution, capped at Rs 15,000. This amount will be paid in two tranches—after six months of continuous employment and again after twelve months, contingent on completion of a financial literacy course.

Payments will be made

through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the employee's Aadhaar-linked EPF account. The government estimates that 1.92 crore youth will benefit under this component.

Under Part B, employers hiring additional workers on their EPF rolls will receive wage subsidies for up to two years. Firms with fewer than 50 employees must hire at least two new

workers, while those with 50 or more must add a minimum of five to qualify. The subsidy varies by salary band: Rs 1,000 per month for salaries up to Rs 10,000; Rs 2,000 for salaries between Rs 10,001 and Rs 20,000; and Rs 3,000 for salaries between Rs 20,001 and Rs 1,00,000. No incentive is available for salaries above Rs1 lakh per month.

This ensures inclusion of

both low-income and mid-income jobs, though the fixed nature of the upper-tier subsidy may reduce proportional benefit for higher-wage hiring.

For manufacturing sector employers, the incentive period is extended to four years. The government expects this component to support 2.6 crore new jobs. Subsidy payments will be credited directly to employers' PAN-linked bank accounts.

A central feature of the scheme is its emphasis on workforce formalization. By making EPF registration mandatory for eligibility, and requiring Aadhaar-linked identity verification and digital compliance, the scheme seeks to transition a large number of informal sector workers into the organized economy. The inclusion of a financial literacy requirement is intended to instill savings discipline among first-time jobholders.

The scheme's scale and design make it one of India's most ambitious job-linked initiatives and its end result will depend on how strictly its implementation is overseen by the respective ministry.

BELLIE THOMAS
BENGALURU

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has held the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) is responsible for the stampede that occurred outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4th that killed 11 people and injured many.

The CAT's order stated that prima facie it appears that the RCB is responsible for the gathering of about three to five lakh people.

It added that the RCB did not take the appropriate permission or consent from the police. And all of a sudden, they posted on social media platforms and as a result large numbers of people had gathered.

Because of shortage of



A number of shoes and slippers lying outside Chinnaswamy Stadium after a stampede during Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)'s victory celebrations, in Bengaluru. File photo

time on June 4, the police was unable to do the appropriate arrangements. Sufficient time was not given to the police.

The tribunal also quashed the Karnataka government's suspension order against senior IPS officer Vikash Kumar Vikash, who faced the action in the wake of a fatal

stampede here last month.

The tribunal's order also stated that the public was available on the whole intervening night of the June 3rd and June 4th on the streets of Bengaluru and police was doing the management of clearing those crowds.

Another function was also

■ P3

Power tussle in Karnataka Cong
out in open despite clarifications

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Even as Congress is fire-fighting the possible leadership change and asserting it is not discussing any changes in Karnataka, the current situation has once again opened the old wound of power tussle in the grand old party in the southern



state.

Amid the reports of a leadership change in the state, the Congress on Tuesday asserted it was not discuss-

ing any possible leadership changes in Karnataka, and also warned its legislators against making statements on the issue in the.

And even as the grand old party projected a united face saying all is well, a video surfaced online in which an MLA is heard saying Siddaramaiah hit the

■ P3

Delhi gets DGCA nod for
cloud-seeding trials

MEHANDI GARG
NEW DELHI

In a significant development, the Delhi government has secured final DGCA clearance for conducting cloud-seeding trials over the National Capital. The approval marks the beginning of Delhi's first-ever airborne experiment to mitigate pollution through induced precipitation. Delhi's Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa stated: "Cloud-seeding has been spoken about for years but never implemented."

DETAILS ■ P5



Representative picture. CREDIT SCIENCEPHOTO.COM

Delhi becomes the first state to receive DGCA's nod for pollution-mitigation-based cloud-seeding. Sorties to fly over Alipur, Robini, Burari, Bawana, Kundli Border



A teacher applies a tilak on the forehead of students as she welcomes them on their first day of school after the Summer Vacation, in Bikaner on Tuesday. ANI

Cloudbursts, flash floods, landslide — All
in a day as Himachal faces nature's fury

VIPIN PARMAR & AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH

Cloudbursts and flash floods triggered by heavy overnight rains battered Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district, leaving five people dead, five injured and 16 missing, officials said on Tuesday.

The state witnessed 11 cloudburst incidents, four flash floods and a major landslide, most of them in Mandi district, disrupting normal life.

Mandi received extensively high rainfall of 253.8 mm since Monday evening.

A total of 287 people including 233 in Mandi, 51 in Hamirpur and three in Chamba have been rescued



Damaged houses in debris following cloudburst, in Mandi on Tuesday. ANI

safely, according to the state emergency operation centre.

Two teams each of Na-

tional Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force

■ P3

Pak, China mull new
bloc to replace SAARC

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Allies Pakistan and China are currently in talks to establish a new regional bloc that could replace the defunct South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), officials said on Monday.

Diplomatic discussions are said to have reached an advanced stage as both Islamabad and Beijing are

convinced that a new organisation was needed to bolster regional integration and connectivity, an Express Tribune report said, citing sources in the know.

The sources added that other SAARC nations would be invited to join the new grouping.

A recent trilateral meeting on June 19 between Pakistan, China and Bangladesh at Kunming, China, was said

■ P3

Mystery shrouds theft of burial
shrouds of women in Jaipur

MOHAMMAD RAZA ULLAH
JAIPUR

A disturbing and an unusual case of theft has come to light in Jaipur's Shastri Nagar area. Miscrants have targeted burial shrouds (kafan), leaving the society shocked. At the Nahari Ka Naka cemetery, several graves — specifically those of elderly women — have been tampered with and



There is speculation that thefts may be linked to black magic or exorcism rituals

■ P3

CITIZENS MUST REGISTER WHERE THEY RESIDE FOR FAIR POLLS: CEC

'Holding multiple voter IDs from different constituencies a criminal offence'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Tuesday asserted that eligible citizens should register themselves as voters only in constituencies of which they are ordinary residents and not the place where they own a house.

His remarks come as the poll machinery in Bihar undertakes a special intensive review (SIR) of the voters list of the state, which is going to the polls later this year.

One of the key objectives of the drive is to identify “many persons” who have, knowingly or unknowingly, managed to retain multiple voter cards of different constituencies.

Addressing a group of booth-level officers here, the CEC said, “As per the Representation of the People Act, you are entitled to vote only in the assembly constitu-



ency where you are an ordinary resident. For example, if you ordinarily reside in Delhi but own a house in Patna, your vote should be registered in Delhi, not in Patna.”

Many persons are ordinary residents of one place and have got their voter card from that location while retaining their earlier card from before migration, which, officials pointed out, is a criminal offence.

The opposition parties have claimed that the exercise could deprive genuine voters of their right and benefit the ruling dispensation in Bihar.

The electoral rolls were prepared afresh through various intensive revisions, either across the country or in parts, nine times in the 52-year period from 1952 to 2004 -- once nearly every six years on average.

But this time the exercise is taking place after 22 years.

The Election Commission will carry out an intensive review of electoral rolls this year in six states, beginning with Bihar, to weed out foreign illegal migrants by checking their place of birth. Bihar is going to the polls later this year, while assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil

EC defers today's Oppn meet as parties fail to confirm presence

New Delhi: The Election Commission has “deferred” a meeting with a multi-party opposition delegation sought by the Congress over the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, as none of the parties have so far confirmed their presence, sources said on Tuesday.

They said on June 30, a legal counsel of the Congress, in an e-mail, sought an urgent meeting with the

EC on July 2 regarding the revision exercise on behalf of several political parties.

He claimed to be representing a multi-party delegation and named almost all the INDIA bloc parties in the e-mail. The sources said that the commission sought confirmation from these parties for the meeting, however, it has not received it so far. Therefore, the meeting has been “deferred”, they said.

Nadu and West Bengal are scheduled in 2026.

The move, which would be later expanded to other states, assumes significance in the wake of a crackdown in various states on illegal foreign migrants, including from Bangladesh and Myanmar. The Election Commission officials said although the poll authority

has addressed the issue of duplicate voter card numbers -- same card numbers erroneously issued to two different persons -- the issue of many persons enrolling in different places by giving different unmatching details to procure more than one electoral photo identity card can only be resolved through SIR.

Cong: ‘Frequent flier PM’ running away from issues

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday taunted Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the ‘super premium Frequent Flier PM is off on a five-nation, eight-day jaunt and running away from four issues including Manipur situation and also US President Donald Trump claiming brokering ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary and communication incharge Jairam Ramesh said, “When the going gets tough, the self-styled toughs get going. The Super Premium Frequent Flier PM is off on a 5-nation, 8-day jaunt.”

Ramesh, who is also the Rajya Sabha MP said that the Prime Minister is running away from at least four issues that are agitating the nation.

Ramesh alleged that the PM is running away from Manipur, targeting the Prime Minister, he said, “Manipur, which he has not visited ever since the double engine in the state got derailed and ever since



normal life in the state has got totally destroyed.”

The Congress leader claimed that Prime Minister Modi is also running away from revelations by defence officials that India suffered reverses in the first two days of Operation Sindoor “because of the PM’s decisions”.

His remarks were an apparent reference to the reported comments of India’s defence attache to Indone-

sia. However, the Indian embassy in Indonesia, in a post on X on Sunday (June 29, 2025), had said that the defence attache’s remarks have been “quoted out of context and the media re-

ports are a misrepresentation of the intention and thrust of the presentation made by the speaker”.

He also claimed that the Prime Minister is running away from continued claims by President Trump that he effected a ceasefire between India and Pakistan using the trade deal as a carrot and stick.

The Congress leader also said, “The continued failure to bring the Pahalgam terrorists to justice even after 70 days. The failure is all the more glaring given they may have been earlier involved in terror attacks in Poonch (Dec 2023) and Gagangir & Gulmarg (Oct 2024).” “The failure is all the more glaring given they may have been earlier involved in terror attacks in Poonch (Dec 2023) and Gagangir & Gulmarg (Oct 2024),” Mr. Ramesh said.

His remarks came ahead of Prime Minister Modi’s visit to five nations starting from July 2 to attend the BRICS summit.

The Prime Minister is on a five-nation tour and his journey is scheduled to begin on July 2.

Widespread raids target illegal beef sale in Assam; 133 held

NIBIR DEKA
NEW DELHI

A massive drive against the illegal sale of beef has been conducted across the state. As per sources, 112 hotels have been raided, with 133 apprehended and over 1084 KGS of beef has been seized by authorities, including the Assam police. Raids have been conducted across the state leading to massive seizures.

In a joint operation, Sivasagar Police, District Administration, and the District Veterinary Department carried out raids in the heart of Sivasagar town in search of suspected banned meat.

The raids were conducted at two hotels — Aminia and PickMe — located on Khiznur Ali Road in the central part of the town.

During the operation, of-

ficials seized approximately 8.6 kg of suspected banned meat from Hotel Aminia and around 7 kg from Hotel PickMe. Both quantities have been sent for further examination.

Authorities have detained Aminul Haque, the owner of Hotel Aminia, and Zahid Shabir Ahmed, proprietor of Hotel PickMe, for ques-



tioning. Reports suggest that despite a government ban on the sale of certain types of meat, these hotels were allegedly continuing to serve

it, prompting the crackdown.

Meanwhile, in Dibrugarh, police conducted raids at several hotels in Dibrugarh, including Shama Hotel in Kalibari, Kaiynaat Hotel and Afreen Hotel at Panch Ali, following allegations that these establishments had been openly selling beef for an extended period.

The raids were led by the Additional Superintendent of Police, Dibrugarh, accompanied by a police team. CRPF personnel were also deployed at the sites during

Congress 4-member panel to decide on BMC polls in Maha

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

A day after Congress leaders from Maharashtra held a crucial meeting in the national capital, the grand old party has formed a four member core committee to discuss the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) poll on July 7 and decide if it wants to go solo in the local body elections, sources said on Tuesday.

A top party source revealed that the Congress has decided to form a core committee, which includes senior leaders like former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, Mumbai Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad, former Maharashtra unit chief Balasaheb Thorat and Manikrao Thakre.

The source said that the

task of this committee is to hold discussions with the members of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc members in Mumbai to chalk put strategy for the BMC polls and also sort out the alliance trouble.

The spruce revealed that the committee members will have their first meeting on July 7 in Mumbai and they will meet the alliance partners.

The Congress is part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra with Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP-SP as its other alliance partners.

The source said that the final decision on BMC polls, whether the party decides to go solo in BMC polls or in alliance will be decided by the committee after its meeting.

NHAI holds meeting to review preparedness for Amarnath Yatra

MANOHAR KESARI
SRINAGAR

To expedite preparedness and ensure smooth travel experience for the pilgrims of the upcoming ‘Amarnath Yatra’, a review meeting through Video Conferencing was held today by NHAI with the officials from state administration. Detailed reviews were held of all stretches of 228 km long Jammu – Srinagar section of NH-44 that falls on the Yatra route under NHAI jurisdiction.

The initiative was led by NHAI Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav. Alok Deepankar, Member (Technical) NHAI; Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary PWD, Government of J&K, Shokit Mattoo ACR Ramban; Officials from NHAI field offices from Jammu and Kashmir also attended the meeting.

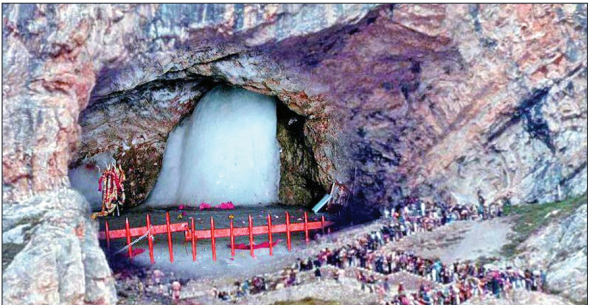
The meeting aimed to

review preparedness related to riding surface, lane markings, installing road safety measures as well as deployment of dedicated Quick Response Teams with sufficient manpower and machines to mitigate situations arising due to adverse weather conditions in the region during yatra.

Addressing the meeting,

close coordination with local administrations and provide prompt support for the yatra preparedness.

Alok Deepankar, Member (Technical), NHAI instructed NHAI field offices to ensure adequate deployment of manpower and machinery to manage any eventuality due to bad weather such as flash floods or landslides.



NHAI Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav emphasized that the comfort and safety of both devotees and commuters should be the utmost priority. He also directed NHAI officials to work in

He also directed officials to expedite work on the under-construction sections and ensure proper road surfaces, lane marking for the safety and security of the pilgrims and other commuters.

Mahadev App case: Nitin Tibrewal gets bail from SC

SAMBHAV SHARMA
NEW DELHI

In a key development in the Mahadev Betting App Case, the Supreme Court on Monday granted conditional bail to Nitin Tibrewal, a resident of Kolkata, who was arrested on charges of money laundering.

The top court bench of Justice MM Sundresh and Justice K Vinod Chandran directed Tibrewal to surrender his passport and cooperate with the probe.

The Court further instructed that Tibrewal must not contact witnesses or tamper with evidence dur-

ing the bail period.

Reports suggest that Tibrewal had invested in a company owned by Vikas Chapparia, one of the promoters of the Mahadev betting app and an accused in the case.

Tibrewal was also an alleged shareholder in that company and owned property in Dubai.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed two chargesheets, naming several accused including the alleged main promoters of the illegal betting and gaming app—Saurabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal.

Chhattisgarh emerges as India's fast growing industrial hub with Rs 6.75L cr investment

SAMBHAV SHARMA
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh is rapidly emerging as one of India’s fastest-growing industrial hubs. Over the past one and a half years, the state has received investment proposals totalling more than Rs 6.75 lakh crore, reflecting a strong and growing confidence among investors. This progress was further reinforced at the ‘Industry Dialogue 2’ held in Raipur today, where new proposals worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore were finalized in the presence of Chhattisgarh Chief

Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

The strong interest from investors highlights the state’s growing importance in India’s industrial landscape. Once known primarily for its forests and mineral resources, the state is now emerging as a hub of opportunity and innovation. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai shared that even place like Bastar, once focused on security, are now turning into hubs of industry, technology, and jobs. This progress is a clear step toward realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s

vision of a ‘Developed India’.

The new investment proposals worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore is no longer limited to traditional mining areas, but is focused on future sectors like IT, semiconductors, healthcare, green energy and logistics.

“Chhattisgarh is no longer just a land of minerals, but a land of potential. We are bringing remote regions like Bastar into the mainstream of development. Investors today are getting stability, security, and swift decision-making,” the Chief Minister

said while addressing the event. This shift in investor confidence is not limited to urban centers; it is also significantly growing in tribal regions like Bastar and Surguja.

The recently implemented Industrial Policy 2025 has played a crucial role in making Chhattisgarh a natural destination for investors. Key features of the policy include the Single Window System 2.0, over 350 reforms, fast-track land allotment, auto-approval mechanisms, and special incentives for women en-

New criminal laws are India’s biggest reform, simplify justice process: Amit Shah

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday termed the enactment of three new criminal laws as the biggest reform in independent India and said they will make the judicial process process not only affordable and accessible but also simpler, time-bound and transparent. Shah stressed that the Narendra Modi government framed the new laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) -- to ensure that all rights of citizens are protected and no criminal goes unpunished.

Addressing an event marking one year of the rolling out of the three criminal laws, the BNS, BNSS and the BSA, Shah said since all processes are online, nothing will be overlooked and justice will be delivered on time.

“These laws are going to transform the criminal jus-

tice system in the country significantly. I assure all the citizens of India that it will take a maximum of three years for the full implementation of the new laws. I can also confidently say that anyone can get justice up to the Supreme Court within three years of filing an FIR,” he said.

The BNS, BNSS and the BSA replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, respectively. The new



laws came into effect on July 1, 2024.

The home minister said the three laws are the biggest re-

form of independent India and asserted that the use of technology will ensure that no criminal can escape punishment after committing a crime. He said justice will definitely be delivered within a stipulated time.

“The Narendra Modi government, your chosen government, has made the laws for you and it will protect all your rights,” he said.

Shah, who piloted the laws, said the new laws would give priority to providing justice, unlike the colonial-era laws

that gave primacy to penal action. He said the biggest challenge before the country’s judicial system was - ‘when will justice be delivered’, referring to the long pendency of cases. “It was an era of ‘tareekh pe tareekhi’ (repeated adjournments). But after the complete implementation of three new laws, if you file an FIR in any corner of the country, you will get justice up to the Supreme Court within three years,” he said.

The home minister ex-

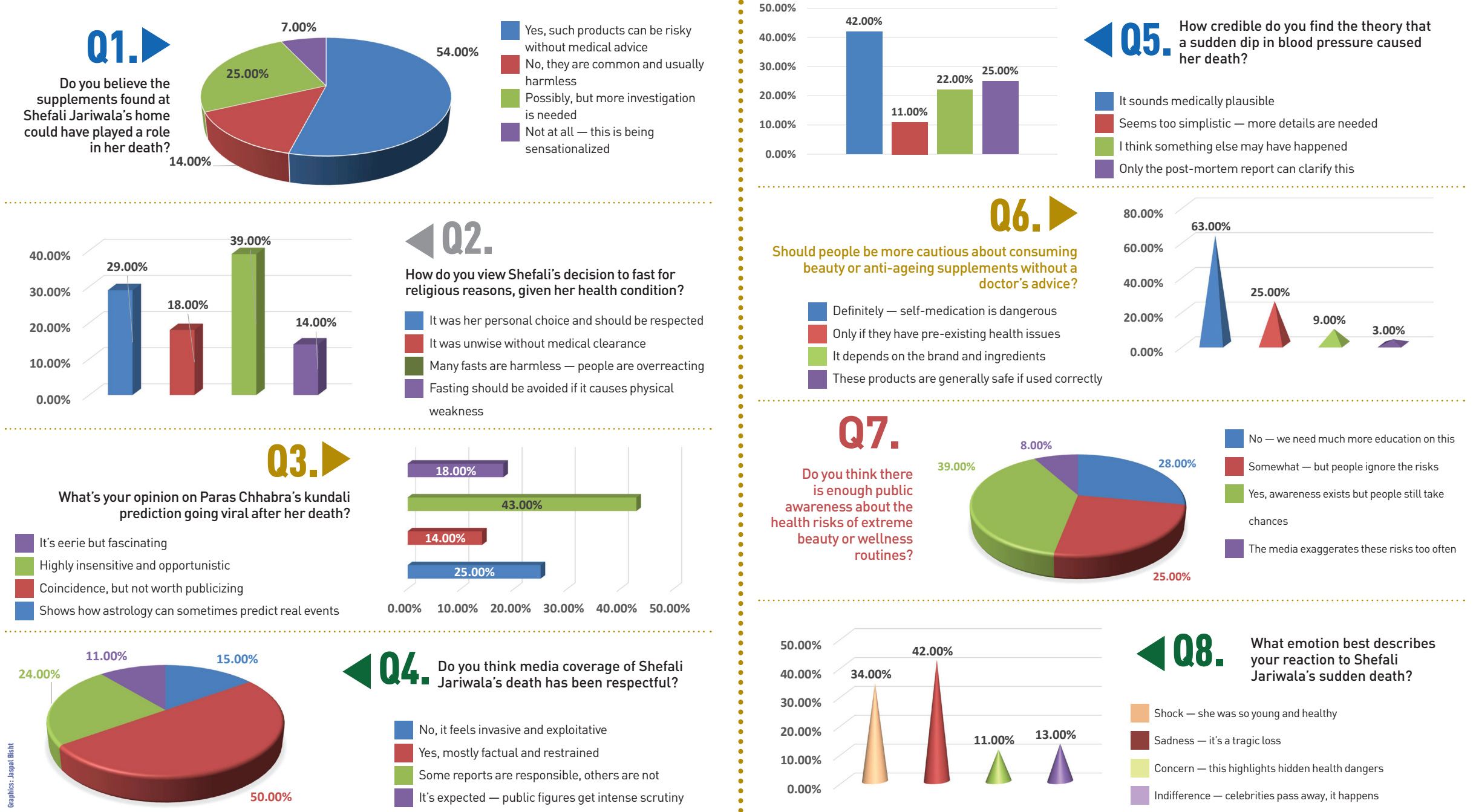
pressed confidence that after the full implementation of the new criminal laws, the conviction rate in the country, which is currently low in comparison to developed nations, will increase.

“I assure you that after the full implementation of the new laws, the conviction rate will be higher than any other country in the world, our judicial system will be the most modern system in the world, the usage of technology will be the highest in India,” he said.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON SHEFALI JARIWALA'S DEATH

54% believe supplements could have caused Shefali Jariwala's death

Shefali Jariwala, 42, collapsed at her Andheri residence on Friday night and was rushed to Bellevue Multispeciality Hospital by her husband, actor Parag Tyagi, where she was declared dead on arrival. Police have ruled out foul play and are awaiting the post-mortem report from R. N. Cooper Hospital, where her body was sent. Doctors suspect a sudden drop in blood pressure as the cause of death, possibly leading to cardiac arrest. Shefali was reportedly fasting for a Satyanarayan pooja performed at home and collapsed after consuming food prepared the previous day, according to her husband's statement to the police.



Rs 1 lakh cr incentive scheme

CONTINUED FROM P1

Globally, wage-linked hiring incentives have been deployed in countries like the United States (WOTC), United Kingdom (Kickstart Scheme), and Australia (JobMaker Hiring Credit). However, most such programmes focus exclusively on employer-side incentives and are limited in scope or duration.

India's ELI scheme is distinctive in combining employee and employer incentives, mandating EPF-based formalisation, and layering benefits with financial literacy and digital compliance frameworks. With a four-year incentive horizon for manufacturing, it is also longer-term than many international counterparts.

The Cabinet's clearance of the ELI scheme is widely seen as reinforcing the Modi government's focus on job-intensive growth in its third term. By embedding incentives within formal employment structures, the scheme seeks to deliver not just immediate hiring outcomes, but lasting structural gains in India's labour market.

Cloudbursts, flash floods and landslide in Himachal

CONTINUED FROM P1

Ke Syanj, nine people were washed away in the water along with two houses. A mountain caved in in village of Syathi in Dharmapur, bringing down two houses and five gaushalas. Twenty-six domesticated sheep, goats horses and cows have lost their lives. More than 20 houses in different areas of Mandi are also reported to be swept away in flash floods and damaged by landslides. The district administration is engaged in rescue and relief operations. Many houses and Mata Kashmere temples were washed away in Kuklah. The administration has

closed schools and colleges in Mandi, Hamirpur and Kangra. Other rivulets, including Mandi's Suketi Khadda, are in a spate. The Chandigarh-Manali Fourlane landed at Dawada between Kullu and Mandi. Traffic has been suspended since night. People spent the night sleeping in the tunnel waiting for the highway to open. The highway was closed for five hours yesterday as well. The Meteorological Centre Shimla has issued a heavy to very heavy rainfall alert at a few places in Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan, Una districts for the

next 3 hours. Heavy rains have caused landslides in the Kotli area of Mandi. Several houses have been damaged and several vehicles parked on the road have been hit by debris. So far, Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses to the tune of Rs 500 crore since the onset of monsoon season on June 20, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu while talking to reporters in Hamirpur. There has been an increase in cloudburst incidents in the last two-three years, which is worrying and the reason behind this is being reviewed, he said and appealed to the people

not to go to the river banks and drains. Meanwhile, 51 people, including 30 labourers, stranded in Ballah village in Hamirpur district were also rescued following a sudden surge in the Beas river inundated low-lying areas of Ballah early in the day after water was released from Pandoh Dam. Reports of losses to 'kutcha' houses, water supply and power schemes are also coming in from Hamirpur district and people are forced to move on foot as the road from Sujampur Tira to Sandhol on the left bank of Beas river is partially submerged and blocked for vehicular traffic.

RCB responsible for stampede

CONTINUED FROM P1

organised by the State Government in the campus of the "Vidhana Soudha". Police was also deputed at that place as well. And all of sudden, the RCB created the aforesaid type of nuisance without any prior. It cannot be expected from the police that within a short period of time of about 12 hours, the police would make all arrangements required in the Police Act or in the

other rules, etc.

The order went on to state that police personnel are also human beings. They are neither "God" (Bhagwan) nor Magician and also not having the magic powers like "Alladin ka Chirag."

And to control the aforesaid type of gathering and for making the proper arrangements sufficient time should have been given to the police, it stated.

IMD predicts very heavy rain over next 6-7 days

CONTINUED FROM P1

adjoining southern peninsula. This includes east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, adjoining areas of Vidarbha and Telangana and parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra. "We should monitor the catchment areas of rivers such as the Godavari, Mahanadi and Krishna. Our models show a high probability of above-normal rainfall in the upper Mahanadi catchment, which includes Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. There are several other rivers in the region. We must closely watch rainfall activity and the water levels in reservoirs," he said. He added that good rainfall is also expected in Uttarakhand and Haryana. "This region includes several cities and towns, including Delhi. Many south-flowing rivers originate in Uttarakhand. We must take precautions for all these river catchments, cities and towns," Mohapatra said.

receive heavy rain in the next seven days. Northeast India is likely to get heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places during this period. Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Karnataka may receive heavy rain on some days of the week, it said. The weather department on Monday predicted above-normal rainfall in the country in July and asked authorities and people in central India, Uttarakhand and Haryana to stay alert due to the risk of flooding. It said rainfall is likely to be below normal in large parts of the northeast, many areas of eastern India and extreme southern peninsula India. IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during an online press briefing that there is a high chance of heavy rainfall in central India and the

mits since 2014. Although there was a SAARC summit to be held at Islamabad in 2016, it was called off after the Uri attack. The India-Pakistan relations, plagued by hostility and suspicion, has always loomed large on SAARC, ensuring that the regional grouping never realises its potential. "Cross-border terrorism,

blocking connectivity and obstructing trade are three key challenges that SAARC must overcome. Only then will we see enduring peace, prosperity and security in our South Asia region," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had said, clarifying India's objectives for the bloc after addressing an informal SAARC foreign ministers' meeting in 2020.

Pak, China mull new bloc

CONTINUED FROM P1

to have the new organisation proposal on its agenda. The SAARC consisted of India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The bloc, which had been suspended for a long time due to India-Pakistan tensions, has not seen any sum-

Local residents filed a complaint at the Shastri Nagar police station, demanding a swift and thorough investigation. Adding to the alarm is speculation that the thefts may be linked to occult practices such as black magic or exorcism rituals. Locals believe that the stolen shrouds may be used in such acts and point to the fact that three of the disturbed graves belonged to women over the age of 85. This has led to sus-

picious that elderly graves of females are being deliberately targeted. Police have not yet confirmed the motive but are exploring all possibilities, including the use of the stolen shrouds in rituals. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Bajrang Singh Shekhawat described the case as highly unusual. He confirmed that the police were alerted immediately and reached the spot for investigation.

Theft of burial shrouds of women

CONTINUED FROM P1

burial shrouds (kafan) have been stolen by unidentified miscreants. Residents allege that the graves were tampered with during the night, with soil dug up and shrouds taken from specific burial sites. The incident has created panic in the locality, prompting people to inspect the graves of their loved ones for signs of disturbance.

power tussle, between the two warring factions which was going on behind the curtain has now come out in open as the tussle between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar has come to the fore and not remained only limited to speculations. "And this is being proved by the number of meetings taking place on organisation level that fight for chair is going on and is getting marker day be day in the state," the source said. Congress returned to power in 2023 assembly polls and since then there was a buzz that there is a two and half year formula settled between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, a claim denied by the party on multiple occasion. But if sources are to be believed, this formula was prepared in the presence of Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal and incharge Surjewala. And as per the formula, Siddaramaiah will complete two and half years as Chief Minister of Karnataka

in November this year. And thus questions are being raised that if he will hand over the state top post to his deputy Shivakumar, who is also the state unit chief. Amid the buzz of power tussle and repeated statements by several party leaders, Surjewala on the other hand has been camping in the state and has been holding one to one talks with the MLAs. However the source disclosed that his meeting with the MLAs is giving many indications, which the party dubbing it as review meeting. But the source said that the meeting is giving an impression that Surjewala is holding meeting to prepare the ground for the power transfer in the state. The source said that the feedback from Karnataka will be shared with the party leadership, especially Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi and then they will decide the position and direction of the party at the exact time.

DKS DENIES LEADERSHIP CHANGE IN K'TAKA, ASKS PARTY LEADERS NOT TO SPEAK TO MEDIA

Says no plans to replace CM, urges focus on strengthening govt

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said there is no discussion on leadership change and stressed on strengthening the hands of CM Siddaramaiah and the party's government in the state.

Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress President, asked party leaders and legislators not to speak to the press on the leadership change issue.

He said a notice will be issued to Ramanagara MLA H A Iqbal Hussain, who has been making statements that Shivakumar should become the CM.

Speculation over leadership change has resurfaced with some party MLAs, including Hussain and H C Balakrishna (Magadi) making claims about Shivakumar becoming the CM later this year. Both



of them are considered close to Shivakumar.

"Statements are being made. We want discipline in the party. Discipline is important. No issue of leadership change. There is no discussion or anything on this. No one is in a hurry, 2028 is important for us," Shivakumar told reporters here.

Responding to a question, he said, "I will issue a notice to Iqbal Hussain. I don't want anyone to say that I will become the CM. Today or tomorrow, I will issue a notice to him. I also don't want Balakrishna to speak in my

favour..."

Hussain has claimed that Shivakumar may get an opportunity to become CM in two to three months.

Asserting that no leader or MLA from the party should speak to the media on such matters, Shivakumar said, "no one should go before the press. I'm saying it, no press. I'm saying it, whether it is Iqbal Hussain or BR Patil or Balakrishna or anyone else, there is no need."

"Siddaramaiah is the chief minister, strengthening his hands and the hands of the government is the only

thing," he added.

There have been speculations within political circles, especially within the ruling Congress, for some time now about the chief minister change later this year, citing power-sharing agreement involving Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. But such talks had taken a backseat for some time, after strong instructions from the party high command.

There was stiff competition between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the chief minister's post after the declaration of Assembly election results in May 2023, and the Congress had managed to convince the latter and made him the Deputy CM.

There were some reports at the time that a compromise had been reached based on a "rotational chief minister formula," according to which Shivakumar will become CM after two-and-half years, but they have not been officially

confirmed by the party.

Earlier, Hussain, speaking to reporters in Ramanagara, claimed that over 100 MLAs are expecting a change in leadership.

"Not only me, a number of legislators. Over a hundred legislators are expecting a change. A good administration and that an opportunity should be given to him (Shivakumar) as he has worked hard and fought for organising the party. What was the situation when he was made the KPCC president? What is the situation now? How it has grown with strength. Who is responsible for it? Everyone knows. So everyone will stand with him," he said.

Despite the KPCC chief's warning, later in the day, after meeting AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Hussain said he stands by his earlier statement that Shivakumar be made the CM.

T'gana plant explosion: CM Reddy says govt, company to ensure Rs 1 cr compensation

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Tuesday said his government will engage with the management of Sigachi Industries Ltd to ensure that a compensation of Rs 1 crore is paid to the kin of those who died in the explosion at the pharma plant in Pashamylaram.

The death toll from the explosion at the Sigachi Industries' pharma plant in Pashamylaram has risen to 35, police said on Tuesday.

District Superintendent of Police Paritosh Pankaj said that the toll rose to 35. He, however, did not provide further details.

"Several bodies have been found under the debris while removing it. As many as 31 bodies have been extricated from the debris while three died in hospital while undergoing treatment. The last leg of the rescue operation is still going on," he said.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accompanied by some of his cabinet colleagues, visited the accident site.

When contacted, a senior official of Pranaam Hospi-



The death toll from the explosion at the Sigachi Industries' pharma plant in Pashamylaram has risen to 35, police said on Tuesday.

tals in Miyapur said they received 21 patients on Monday with burns and head injuries. However, two were declared brought dead and one succumbed this morning.

A senior official of Dhruva Hospitals in Patancheru said that they received 11 patients on Monday out of which two were referred to superspeciality hospitals.

The CM also said those who are seriously injured will receive Rs 10 lakh, while those who are injured but can resume work after

some recovery will be provided Rs 5 lakh.

"The state government will talk to the company management that Rs 1 crore each compensation will be paid to the deceased families. I have issued orders that from both the government side and company side Rs 1 Crore compensation will be paid," the CM said.

Also, the state government will pay Rs 1 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured to meet any immediate and emergency expenses.

Nomination opens for Bengal BJP president's post

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

Nomination for the Bengal BJP president's post will be accepted on Wednesday, followed by scrutiny and withdrawal on the same day. The final list of candidates will be released at 6 pm, according to a notification issued by Deepak Barman, the party's returning officer and MLA amid speculations over who will take over the reins of the State unit ahead of the Assembly polls in April-May next year.

With less than a year to go for Assembly elections, there has been intense lobby-



ing, internal deliberations and factional negotiations within the saffron party's state unit.

"If more than one candidate remains in the fray, voting will take place on Thursday from 12 noon, and the results will be declared by 1.30pm," a senior BJP functionary said.

As many as 415 State council members will vote if an election is required, though most leaders expect the process to be uncontested.

Several party leaders maintained that the process is mostly a formality and a consensus candidate chosen by the central leadership is likely to be named without

a contest.

A section within the party has pitched for a seasoned leader, and one name doing the rounds is that of BJP Rajya Sabha MP and senior leader Samik Bhattacharya. His sudden and formal visit to BJP national president J P Nadda's residence in Delhi on Monday has added to the speculations.

"There are reports that he was invited through official channels and held a meeting with Nadda in the presence of senior leader Ravi Shankar Prasad, who is overseeing the Bengal BJP president election process," a party source said. "It cannot be seen as a coincidence."

When contacted, Bhat-tacharya maintained his meeting with Nadda was to brief him about the recently concluded parliamentary delegation visit post-Operation Sindoor.

Sources hinted that his name may be the sole nomination submitted in a sealed envelope on Tuesday, indicating a possible consensus candidate.

A State BJP leader confirmed that all saffron party members of the all-party parliamentary delegations, which took part in the global outreach exercise for Operation Sindoor, on Monday met the party president.

Cong MLA Patole climbs Speaker's podium, suspended from assembly for a day

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Congress MLA Nana Patole was suspended from the Maharashtra assembly for a day on Tuesday after he climbed the speaker's podium, demanding action against BJP MLA Babanrao Lonikar and Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate for allegedly "insulting" farmers.

The Congress and other opposition members staged a walkout from the assembly after the action against former speaker Patole, announcing a boycott of proceedings for the entire day.

Later, a defiant Patole told reporters that he will not back down from raising the issues concerning farmers, even if it meant facing suspension from the House every day.

Lonkiar recently told a



gathering of farmers in his assembly constituency Partur in Jalna district that "people who criticise his party and government should know they are getting clothes, shoes, mobile, monetary benefits of schemes and money for sowing because of us".

Kokate had claimed farmers spent loan waiver money on weddings. One rupee is something even beggars don't accept but the government is giving crop insurance for that sum, which is being misused by some persons, the agriculture minister had said.

Trinamool urges EC to use 2024 as base year for revision of voter rolls

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

A Trinamool Congress (TMC) delegation on Tuesday met the Election Commission in New Delhi and demanded that 2024 should be used as the base year for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal where Assembly elections are due next year.

The five-member delegation of State Ministers Chandrima Bhattacharya, Firhad Hakim and Aroop Biswas along with MPs Kalyan Banerjee and Prakash Chik Baraik raised the demand during a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

Biswas later said that



the poll panel had met the TMC since it was one of the largest parties in the country. "We stressed issues like inclusion of ghost voters and duplication of EPIC numbers," he said.

Speaking from Delhi, Kalyan Banerjee said: "Regarding the Special Intensive Revision, we pointed out that it is creating confusion. Under the statute, the revision roll should be based on 2024, that is the base level. This means that

voters enrolled till 2024 should remain irrespective of any condition. The EC took note of this and said they would consider it."

He said the EC told them that their motive was to ensure that no voter should be left out but they told them that the approach seems to be eligibility first and inclusion later. Banerjee said one important issue is the birth certificate and the EC said those who are voters will remain so.

Kejriwal to launch 'Gujarat Jodo' campaign

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday embarked on a three-day visit to Gujarat following the party's bypoll victory in the Visavadar Assembly constituency, amid efforts by AAP to expand its organisational footprint in the western state.

According to a statement from AAP, Kejriwal will be in Ahmedabad from July 1 to 3 to attend organisational meetings and galvanise support for the party's newly launched 'Gujarat Jodo' membership campaign, which begins in Ahmed-



abad on July 2 and will be expanded statewide.

"I am going to Gujarat today to meet the workers after the victory in Visavadar," Kejriwal posted on X before leaving for Ahmedabad.

The campaign marks a renewed push by the party to establish a deeper grassroots presence in Gujarat, where the BJP has maintained a dominant political hold for over two decades.

Kejriwal also lauded his party's performance in the recent bypolls held in Gujarat and Punjab, where it retained one seat each.

"There will be a bigger storm of AAP in the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections. In Gujarat, the people have decided to reject both the BJP and the Congress," he said.

The Visavadar seat in Gujarat's Junagadh district was won by AAP's former state president Gopal Italia, who defeated BJP candidate Kirit Patel by a margin of 17,554 votes.

Italia secured 75,942 votes, while Patel garnered 58,388, according to Election Commission data.

TMC's Madan Mitra apologises for controversial remarks over student's rape

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Senior TMC leader Madan Mitra has offered an unconditional apology to the party leadership for his controversial comments about the victim of an alleged gangrape at a law college here, particularly his remark questioning why the student had gone to the institution "alone".

The Kamarhati MLA submitted his reply to the TMC's show-cause notice late on Monday, within the

three-day deadline.

Mitra also provided an explanation of the context in which the remarks were made, party sources said.

His response was brief and structured in two parts, they said.

The first part includes a formal and unconditional apology for his statement, which triggered public outrage. The second part attempts to explain the circumstances and intentions behind his comment.

The TMC is currently reviewing his response and



will decide on any further action after considering its contents, the sources added.

The controversy erupted after a student at South Calcutta Law College in Kasba alleged that she was raped

inside the college premises on June 25.

Subsequently, Mitra made remarks suggesting the incident could have been avoided if the woman had not gone to the campus alone. His comments were widely condemned as insensitive and victim-blaming.

"If the girl hadn't gone there alone, this wouldn't have happened. She should have taken friends, informed her parents, or notified party workers. The accused took advantage of the situation," Mitra had said.

He had also said that the woman knew the college was closed, and alleged that she went there believing she would be made the girls' common room secretary.

The remarks sparked public outrage and criticism from across the political spectrum.

On Saturday night, the TMC issued a statement distancing itself from Mitra's comments, describing those as his "personal opinion" and clarifying that the party does not endorse such views.

SOUTH CALCUTTA LAW COLLEGE EXPELS THREE ACCUSED

KOLKATA: The South Calcutta Law College on Tuesday terminated the services of the prime accused and expelled two other students arrested in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 24-year-old first-year student on the campus, officials said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the college's governing body chaired by TMC MLA Ashok Kumar Deb, amid a growing public outrage over the June 25 incident.

The prime accused, Monojit Mishra, who was working as a temporary staffer since 2024 on a contract extended periodically,

has been sacked with immediate effect. His contract was based on a prior recommendation of the governing body.

Co-accused Zaib Ahmed and Pramit Mukherjee, both current students of the college, have also been expelled.

"It has been decided to terminate the services of Mishra, while the two other students were expelled with immediate effect. The college will maintain no connection with the accused. The security agency, assigned with the security of the college premises, will also be show-caused," Deb told reporters after the meeting.

'IMPRACTICAL': AAP SLAMS GOVT'S STEP TO BAN FUEL ON EOL VEHICLES

AAP's Bharadwaj says BJP doesn't not know how to run govt

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Reacting to Delhi's fuel ban on diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years from today, AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said that this step was impractical and the BJP did not know how to run the government.

Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "Didn't they have any other way of stopping old vehicles? Now that the Monsoon has hit Delhi, will they conduct a pilot project for artificial rain? You've (BJP) filled in small potholes but left

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM FUEL BAN ROW

- Bharadwaj Criticism: AAP leader says BJP doesn't know how to govern effectively.
- Ban Implementation: EoL vehicles identified via ANPR cameras now barred from refueling.
- Wider Rollout: Restrictions to expand across NCR in November and April 2026.
- Enforcement Drive: 100 teams tracking violators; Rs 168 crore in challans issued so far.



the larger ones as they are. Owners of Petrol Pump Associations say that this step is impractical. Will the petrol pump operator fight with the customer to stop giving petrol to them? They (BJP) don't know how to run the government."

He further alleged that for the next 5 years, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta will keep accusing the Aam Aadmi Party.

"After 5 years, CM Rekha Gupta will say that we could not do anything because Ar-

vind Kejriwal did not work accordingly in the past. When there was the Kejriwal government, he never blamed former CM Sheila Dikshit for any work not done," he added.

From today, all End-of-Life (EoL) vehicles identified through Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras installed at fuel stations across Delhi will not be allowed to refuel, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

According to the CAQM,

this enforcement will extend to Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, and Sonapat from November 1, while the rest of the National Capital Region (NCR) will implement the restriction from April 1, 2026.

CAQM's member Dr Virendra Sharma said ANPR cameras have been installed at 500 fuel stations across Delhi, enabling real-time recording and tracking of vehicle data. To date, 3.63 crore vehicles have been screened through this sys-

tem, of which 4.90 lakh vehicles have been identified as End-of-Life (EoL).

He added that 29.52 lakh vehicles have renewed their Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUC), resulting in the generation of challans amounting to Rs 168 crores. To strengthen enforcement, 100 dedicated teams from the Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, are actively monitoring vehicle data to identify fuel stations with the highest number of EoL vehicles and ensure targeted compliance action.

Dr Sharma said, "It is very important to remove old BS standard vehicles to clean the air of Delhi and NCR. These vehicles play a big role in air pollution. Now that a transparent, digital and accountable system is in place, it will also be used at toll centres to make this system more effective. About 100 enforcement teams will work for this."

CM requests Railway Min to rename old Delhi station to Maharaja Agrasen station

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday wrote to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and requested him to rename the Old Delhi Railway Station as Maharaja Agrasen Railway Station.

CM Gupta wrote, "I am writing to respectfully request your kind consideration for renaming the Old Delhi Railway Station in honour of Maharaja Agrasen, a revered historical figure whose legacy has had a profound impact on the socio-economic development of India, particularly in Delhi."

She mentioned that Maharaja Agrasen is regarded as a symbol of social justice and welfare, and has played a pivotal role in shaping Delhi. "Maharaja Agrasen is widely regarded as a symbol of social justice, economic foresight, and community welfare. His countless fol-



lowers and descendants continue to play a pivotal role in shaping Delhi's economic and cultural landscape," she wrote.

Calling it a fitting tribute to the Maharaja Agrasen, she added, "Renaming the Old Delhi Railway Station as Maharaja Agrasen Railway Station would serve as a fitting tribute to his enduring contributions and would deeply resonate with the sentiments of millions of Delhi residents who hold him in the highest esteem. I would be truly grateful for your personal intervention in facilitating favourable and expeditious consider-

ation of this proposal by your esteemed Ministry."

According to the website of the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation, the Old Delhi Railway Station in Delhi, that is, the Delhi Junction Railway Station, was built like a fort, with two opposite sides, namely Kashmere Gate and Chandni Chowk. The two localities are linked by an elevated pedestrian bridge called Kudiya Pul.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Jal Board, under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has rolled out a 45-point action plan aimed at enhancing the capital's water infrastructure, upgrading sewerage networks, increasing transparency in tanker services, and rejuvenating the heavily polluted Yamuna River. The comprehensive plan, backed by a budget of Rs 9,000 crore, is targeted for completion by next year, a senior official confirmed.

DJB forms panel to provide water to Kanwar Yatra camps

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

For the upcoming Kanwar Yatra, scheduled to start from July 11, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has formed a panel of 11 officials to coordinate closely with magistrate offices and Kanwar camp organisers to provide clean drinking water.

Officials have been directed to carry out the preparations with utmost priority and prepare a schedule for providing water tankers, including frequency and volume.

"Sufficient water tankers shall be deployed at all designated Kanwar camps. To ensure the well-being and convenience of these pilgrims, it is imperative that an adequate water supply is



provided in and around the camp areas, especially considering the ongoing monsoon season," an order said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had said that her government would extend full respect and hospitality to the Kanwariyas.

"During the holy month of Sawan, when they enter Delhi, ministers and MLAs of the government will greet them at Delhi's borders," Gupta had said. The chief

minister held a meeting with Kanwar Seva committees earlier to understand the issues faced by them and extend support.

The DJB officials have been given the responsibility and have directed that "regular testing of water supplied to the camps, both through tankers and temporary connections, shall be conducted to ensure it meets potable water standards," the order added.

DU to hold special exams for students affected by Operation Sindoor

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The University of Delhi (DU) has announced a special opportunity for students who missed their semester examinations in May "due to the situation during Operation Sindoor".

In an official statement, Professor Gurpreet Singh Tuteja, Controller of Examinations, said that the university has made provisions for affected undergraduate and postgraduate students of the 2024-25 academic year to reappear for their missed papers on May 13, 14, and 15.

"All concerned students of under graduate and post graduate for academic year 2024-25 are hereby informed



that the last date of submission of Google form on the following link for the Examination is 10.07.2025 (Thursday) till 11.59 pm," the university said in a notification on Tuesday. The notification provides the Google Form link for students to register: <https://forms.gle/CDjijQmxcxm2bB-PR7> Highlighting eligibility, the university clarified that the form is only for students who could not appear on the examination dates.

Delhi police nabs 24-year-old man for KYC fraud

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The South West District Police's Cyber Cell has apprehended a 24-year-old individual, Malya Das, for allegedly duping senior citizens by posing as a representative of a telecom company and asking them to update their KYC details.

"The accused used a unique modus operandi, where he would trick victims into installing the TeamViewer app, gaining access to their mobile phones and siphoning off money. He would then use



the stolen funds to play online games," said a police official.

The police received a complaint in 2021 regarding a financial fraud of Rs 1,51,700. After a thorough investigation, the team traced the

accused's identity and location. Despite initial attempts to evade capture, Malya Das was finally apprehended in a raid conducted in West Medinipur, West Bengal.

Malya Das, a resident of West Medinipur, West Bengal, is a school dropout who had previously been involved in a similar cheating case in Kolkata. The police have revealed that his HDFC account was used to redeem the duped money.

The police are still investigating the case and working to apprehend the accused's associate, Toofan.

53 children among 168 missing reunited by Delhi Police in June

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has traced and reunited 168 missing people, including 53 children and 115 adults, with their families last month under their operation 'Milap', an official said on Tuesday.

Police said that multiple police stations in the south-west district launched a co-ordinated operation.

"Thirteen such operations were carried out from June 1 to June 30, involving teams from police stations like Kapashera, Sagarpur, Palam village, Vasant Kunj South, Kishangarh and oth-



ers," said the police officer.

The teams relied on CCTV footage, local inquiries, verification at transport hubs and consultation with bus drivers, conductors, vendors and local informers for the operation.

Separately, photographs of missing people were circulated, and hospital and

police station records were cross-checked.

"The breakdown of recoveries includes five missing children and 28 adults by Kapashera police; 10 children and 20 adults by Sagarpur police and four children and 20 adults by Palam village police," the officer said.

Similarly, three girls and 10 adults were found by Vasant Kunj South, eight children and three adults by Kishangarh police and one missing boy and 10 adults by Safdarjung Enclave police, according to the information shared by the officer.

NDMC announces plan to transform central Delhi area

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is planning to transform the central Delhi's Mandi House area, which houses notable cultural centres, into a curated sculpture walk and art district along the lines of the existing ones in the US, UK and Japan.

The entire area, which includes Mandi House, the National School of Drama, FICCI Auditorium, Shri Ram Centre, India Gate-NGMA, Hyderabad House, Travancore Bhawan

and Triveni Kala Sangam, may feature some of the creations from India's renowned sculptors before 2025 ends. NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal made this announcement while addressing a press conference here on Tuesday. He said the initiative builds on an earlier resolution to earmark a per cent of NDMC's total budget for the promotion of art, both visual and performing. A dedicated Urban Arts and Culture Forum has also been established to oversee a structured annual cultural calendar.

Delhi gets DGCA nod for cloud-seeding trials to mitigate air pollution in city

MEHANDI GARG
NEW DELHI

In a significant development, the Delhi government has secured final DGCA clearance for conducting cloud-seeding trials over the National Capital. The approval marks the beginning of Delhi's first-ever airborne experiment to mitigate pollution through induced precipitation.

Delhi's Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa stated: "Cloud-seeding has been spoken about for years but never implemented. For 10 years, it remained on papers. We took this up, coordinated with 13 departments, secured all approvals including from DGCA, and now Delhi will

finally witness cloud seeding between August 30 and September 10. This is a historic achievement."

He also elaborated that while the original DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) clearance allowed operations between July 4 and July 11, 2025, input from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) suggested that monsoon cloud patterns during this window may not support optimal cloud-seeding. As a result, IIT Kanpur, in consultation with the Delhi government, requested an alternate window — from August 30 to September 10 — bet-



ter suited for the operation.

The sorties will focus on areas most likely to support low-altitude cloud formation and high pollution retention. As per the tentative flight plan prepared by the experts, cloud-seeding aircraft will fly over Kundli border zones, Alipur,

Bawana, Rohini, Burari, Pavi Sadakpur and some stretches along the Eastern Peripheral Expressway.

The operations will be led by the Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Kanpur, using aircraft VT-IIT (Cessna 206-H), which has been fully equipped

with cloud-seeding instrumentation. The Hon'ble Minister informed that the crew has prior experience in similar flight missions, and all mandatory DGCA conditions, including licenses and certifications, have been complied with.

"The cloud-seeding method will involve dispersion of hygroscopic particles (like sodium chloride or other aerosols) from below the cloud layer, enhancing precipitation and improving pollutant washout in the lower atmosphere," Minister Sirsa added.

According to DGCA permission letter, the following conditions are to be fulfilled:

- Conducted under Visual Flight Rules (VFR). The aircraft must maintain continuous visibility of terrain and avoid obstacles at all times.
- The use of any aerial photography or videography equipment during the operation is strictly prohibited.
- The flight must remain strictly within the approved airspace/region and must avoid prohibited, restricted, or notified airspaces, unless separate permissions are obtained.
- The operator must obtain ATC clearance from the concerned aerodromes and coordinate closely with aviation traffic units during all flights.
- All operations must be recorded and properly docu-

mented. DGCA should be informed of any incident, accident, or abnormality occurring during the flights.

The operation will adhere to all SOPs as per CAR Section 3, Series N, Part I, and relevant guidelines under Air Transport Circular 1/2019. The minister emphasised that the cloud-seeding trials are part of a larger, data-driven strategy, under the Environment Action Plan 2025 to combat Delhi's AQI during the winter months.

"These trials, scheduled for late August and early September, are scientifically timed to gather data which will be vital to calibrating and scaling up efforts during the October-December

period, when Delhi typically faces increased AQI levels," the Minister explained.

He underscored the fact that Delhi is the only city in India where both the Supreme Court and the NGT had to step in and demand innovation in air quality management, "That pressure existed because previous governments lacked the political will to act. Today, under the able guidance of Chief Minister Smt Rekha Gupta, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Delhi, we are rewriting that narrative. I am proud to be part of a government that doesn't wait for court orders — it delivers results."

RJD AGAINST PM’S EMPOWERMENT PUSH FOR DALITS, BACKWARDS, WOMEN: BJP

BJP’s Gaurav Bhatia accuses RJD of blocking empowerment of marginalized communities.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

BJP National Spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia hit out at the Rashtriya Janata Dal and alleged that RJD and Tejashwi Yadav were destroying Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s idea of empowering backwards classes, Dalits, and women and their thought was against the Constitution and their purpose was to implement Sharia Law.

Gaurav Bhatia said, “Those who call themselves ‘samajwadi’ (socialists) in Bihar, their true face is ‘namazwazi’. These ‘namazwadi’ do not want Babasaheb’s Constitution, nor do they

BJP HITS OUT AT RJD

- Targeting RJD: Gaurav Bhatia says RJD is sabotaging PM Modi’s inclusive agenda.
- Backward Class Impact: Claims RJD is obstructing opportunities for OBCs and Dalits.
- Women’s Welfare: Alleges RJD blocks measures aimed at empowering women economically and socially.
- Political Motive: BJP frames RJD’s stance as anti-development and driven by vote-bank politics.



respect it. They only want Sharia Law... They want to empower only one community. RJD and Tejashwi Yadav are destroying PM Narendra Modi’s idea of empowering backwards

classes, Dalits, and women. You talk about Sharia, while the BJP will continue talking about the Constitution. Tejashwi Yadav said that he will throw the Constitutionally passed Waqf Amend-

ment Bill in the dustbin. The master of appeasement, Maulana Tejashwi Yadav, have you ever read the Constitution?... Can a state government disregard a law that has been passed in the Parliament and signed by the President?” He further alleged that during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress manifesto said that it wanted to implement Sharia Law.

“The Congress manifesto said that it wanted to implement Sharia Law. Personal Laws will be implemented. Reservations will be based on religion, which is against the Constitution. NDA will never allow their plans to succeed. On 2010 May 7,

Lalu Prasad Yadav said that the Waqf board has snatched the land of the government and the common man and strong laws are required to control it. If Tejashwi Yadav gives hate speech against the Waqf Amendment Act, then his purpose is to create a division in society. Our government in Bihar talks about development, and they talk about Sharia Law. In Karnataka, they snatched the rights of the backwards and gave them to Muslims,” he said.

He further said that the Waqf Amendment Bill case is pending in the Supreme Court, and the rights are reserved with it.

Safety of our daughters non-negotiable: WB LoP amid outcry over Kolkata gang rape



TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Amid the outcry over the alleged gangrape of a law student inside the campus of the South Calcutta Law College on June 25, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and West Bengal Assembly Leader of Opposition (LoP) Suwendu Adhikari pledged to “fight until the perpetrators are brought to book”

The senior BJP leader took to his social media after meeting the four-member

fact-finding team set up by the BJP to investigate the “horrific” gangrape incident. The team arrived in Kolkata on Monday.

The members of the team include former Union Ministers Satpal Singh and Meenakshi Lekhi, Rajya Sabha MP Manan Kumar Mishra, and Lok Sabha MP Biplab Kumar Deb.

They met senior police officials and assessed the ongoing investigation.

“Today, I had the privilege of meeting the Fact Finding

Team constituted by the @BJP4India National President; @JPNadda Ji to investigate the horrific gangrape incident at South Calcutta Law College. The team, comprising esteemed members: Satpal Singh Ji, Meenakshi Lekhi Ji, Biplab Kumar Deb Ji, and Shri Manan Kumar Mishra Ji, is committed to uncover the truth and ensuring justice for the victim.”

He further vowed to continue fighting until the perpetrators are brought to justice.

BJP laid red carpet for Bengali Hindus from B'desh: AIUDF

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

AIUDF MLA Rafiqul Islam on Tuesday launched an attack on the Assam government over their decision of issuing Aadhaar cards only from the District Commissioner’s office and alleged that BJP has let Bangladeshi Hindus in Assam.

Rafiqul Islam said to the media, “There is not a single Muslim who is a foreigner in Assam. Muslims have documents in their hands. They have complete records. Their voter list, land records, and father-grandfather’s papers of NRC.”

Attacking the BJP, he added, “For those, the BJP has laid a red carpet, are Bengali Hindus coming from Bangladesh. Those who are still coming, and after 1971, they have come in millions. The same people who obtain their Aadhaar cards illegally will now be caught. Those whom the BJP targets and wants to take to the DC office, they have papers and genuine records.”



The AIUDF MLA further stated that the arrangements at the DC office should be made to prevent people from having to stand in long queues.

“The arrangements should be correct. People should not have to line up after going there, people should not have to travel there for two days, three days, four days.”

On the eviction drive by the Assam government, he stated that the government is not evicting certain individuals, but rather those who are landless.

“The suspected people are not getting evicted.

This is the government’s false claim. Evictions are taking place against landless people. They also have 200-year-old records, 400-year-old records. They are moving bulldozers into the house of the Gwalparia people. They are Gwalaparia; their origin is Rajbanshi. The Rajbanshis are older than Hemant Biswa Sarma.”

To ensure that no illegal immigrant obtains an Aadhaar card, the Assam government has decided to implement a rule where Aadhaar cards for adults will only be issued by the District Commissioners (DCs), Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Friday.

He further said that the decision to tighten Aadhaar issuance rules would aid the state government’s efforts to safeguard its demographic profile.

“Last night, we pushed back 20 more Bangladeshis as part of our ongoing efforts to detect and push back illegal infiltrators.

Govt mulls enhancing MSP for wool in next Budget: Himachal CM



TDG NETWORK
SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that his government is actively considering an increase in compensation for the loss of goats and sheep, and efforts would be made to amend the relief manual to enhance this compensation as much as possible in the near future.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister reiterated the government’s commitment to the welfare of the Gaddi community and said that the next State Budget will include a proposal to enhance the Minimum Support Price (MSP)

for wool, thereby ensuring a dignified livelihood for wool producers.

CM Sukhu said that the Forest Department has been directed not to intervene with the ‘Land Grazing Rights’ of the community, which was their customary privilege on such pastures.

Earlier, Chairman of the State Wool Federation Manoj Kumar honoured the Chief Minister and expressed his gratitude for the government’s proactive approach towards addressing the long-standing issues faced by the Gaddi community. He thanked the Chief Minister for resolving the problems of the Gaddi community on a priority basis.

MP Cabinet approves ‘Mukhyamantri Yojana’ to make villages self-reliant

TDG NETWORK
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at Mantralaya in Bhopal on Tuesday and several key decisions were taken focusing on rural development, infrastructure, education, and others.

The Council of Ministers approved the implementation of ‘Mukhyamantri Vrindavan Gram Yojana’ to make the villages self-reliant in the state. Under this scheme, one village from each district will be selected, having a minimum population of 2000 and at least 500 cattle.

These villages will be



developed as Vrindavan Grams, setting a model of self-sufficiency and holistic rural development of others. Key focus areas under the scheme will include Cow rearing and dairy development, environmental conservation, organic farming, water conservation, solar energy, pasture development, infrastructure development and rural entrepreneurship & livelihood generation

The Cabinet also gave in-principle approval of Rs 4,572 crore for the reconstruction of 1766 damaged bridges under the state head from the financial year 2025-26 to 2029-30. The objective is to ensure year-round connectivity. The Madhya Pradesh Rural Road Development Authority’s empowered committee has been authorized to oversee implementation and monitoring.

NCW takes cognisance of bride’s suicide over dowry harassment in TN

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) took suo motu cognisance of a media report regarding the suicide of a newly-wed woman in Tamil Nadu, allegedly due to dowry harassment. The Commission demanded urgent action and accountability from the authorities.

NCW Chairperson, Vijaya Rahatkar, wrote to the Director General of Police (DGP), Tamil Nadu, asking for a prompt and fair investigation under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita



(BNS) and the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

In an official statement, the Commission said, “Such incidents are a grave violation of women’s rights and demand

urgent, exemplary action.”

The NCW also directed the Tamil Nadu Police to submit a detailed Action Taken Report (ATR) within 72 hours. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

Meanwhile in a separate case, NCW on Saturday took suo moto cognisance regarding the alleged sexual harassment of an intern at IIT Madras campus, urging Tamil Nadu’s Director General of Police for a fair and time-bound investigation and directing the authorities to ensure that psychological support is given to the victim.

Assam sets new record in paddy procurement as 7 lakh MT procured

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Assam has set a new record in paddy procurement by procuring nearly 7 lakh MT of paddy during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2024-25.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said, “We are proud to announce the successful conclusion of Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2022-23, the state



2024-25 with a record paddy procurement of 6.97 lakh MT -- the highest ever.”

In Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2022-23, the state

procured 5.92 lakh MT of paddy, and in 2023-24, the state procured 3.14 lakh MT of paddy.

“This remarkable achieve-

ment reflects our commitment to ensuring that our farmers are connected to markets and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) they rightfully deserve. My sincere gratitude to the entire team involved with the procurement process,” the Assam Chief Minister wrote on X. On the other hand, the farmers from Majuli district of Assam exported 267 MT of Red Rice to the Middle East and EU markets.

Indian Navy’s latest warship INS Tamal commissioned in Russia

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy commissioned its latest stealth frigate, INS Tamal, in Russia on Tuesday. This would be its last warship to have been built outside the country.

In a social media post on X, the INS Tamal shared a video on the journey and specifications of the warship.

The commissioning ceremony was presided over by Western Naval Commander Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, as the Chief Guest, in the presence of many high-ranking Indian and Russian government and defence officials.

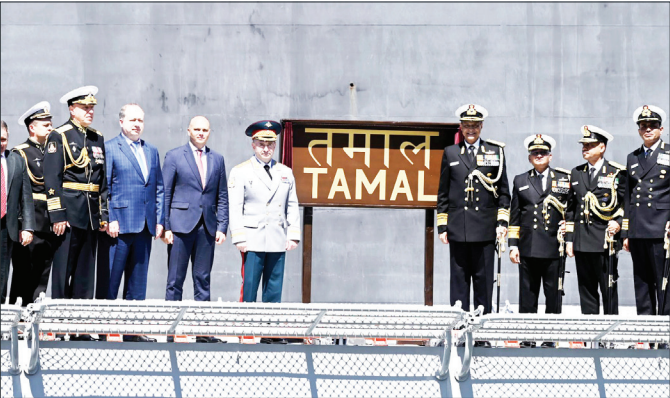
The ship is christened as “Tamal” and is the eighth of the series of Krivak class frigates

inducted from Russia over the past two decades, with Tamal itself being the second ship of the Tushil Class, which are the upgraded versions of their predecessors, Talwar and Teg classes, having three ships each.

“India as part of the broader contract for Tushil class is also building two similar frigates called the Tripud class at Goa Shipyard Limited with transfer of technology and design assistance from the Russian Side,” read an official statement from the Ministry of Defence.

When the series of ships finishes building, the Indian Navy will be operating ten ships with similar capabilities and commonality in equipment, weapon and sensor fit over four different classes.

Tamal’s construction was closely overseen by an Indian



team of specialists from the Warship Overseeing Team stationed at Kaliningrad, under the aegis of the Embassy of India, Moscow.

“At Naval Headquarters, the project was steered by the Directorate of Ship Production under the Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition,” the statement added.

Tamal has been built at Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, and is the last warship to be inducted from a foreign source, while still being in line with the Centre’s impetus on ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ and “Make in India” initiatives.

“The ship has 26 per cent of indigenous components, including the BrahMos long-

range cruise missile for targeting both at sea and land. The ship has significant upgrades in its arsenal in comparison to its predecessors, such as vertical launched surface-to-air missiles, improved 100 MM gun, new age EO/IR system in addition to the standard 30 MM CIWS, heavyweight torpedoes, urgent-attack anti-submarine rockets, and a host of surveillance and fire control radars and systems,” the statement added.

Force multipliers include Air Early Warning and Multi Role helicopters, which can operate from the deck of Tamal. The combat capability of the ship is augmented by a host of Network Centric Warfare capabilities and an advanced Electronic Warfare suite. Tamal punches well above its weight

with a very high tonnage to firepower ratio, extended endurance, and a top speed of over 30 knots.

The frigate’s crew comprises over 250 personnel who have undergone rigorous ashore as well as afloat training in extremely challenging winter conditions of St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad, Russia.

Tamal has successively completed extensive sea trials undertaken over three months to prove its systems, weapons and sensors. The ship’s name symbolises the mythical sword used for combat by Indra, the King of the gods. The ship’s mascot is inspired by the congruence of the ‘Jambavan’, the Immortal Bear King of Indian Mythology, and the Russian National Animal--the Eurasian Brown Bear.

“The ships’ crew collectively takes great pride in calling themselves ‘The Great Bears’. Tamal stands as a testament to the long-standing Indo-Russian cooperation and friendship, which has stood the test of time. The ships’ motto, ‘Sarvada Sarvatra Vijaya’ (Victorious Always Everytime), signifies the Indian Navy’s undying commitment to operational excellence in every mission,” according to the official statement.

The warship weighs around 3,900 tonnes and is 125 meters long, and was made in collaboration with Indian naval specialists and the Severnaya Design Bureau of Russia, enhancing indigenous content of the ship has been enhanced to 26 per cent, and also doubled the made-in-India systems to 33.

INDIA'S TAX REFORMS, DIGITAL PUSH HAVE INCREASED REVENUE, SAYS FM

Addressing meet in Spain, Sitharaman said, “We support international cooperation to modernise tax systems and curb illicit financial flows.”

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Union Finance and Corporate Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that India's tax reforms and digital transformation in tax administration have increased revenue and reduced compliance costs.

Speaking at the Third Plenary Meeting during the #FFD4 in Seville of Spain, the Finance Minister said, “We support international cooperation to modernise tax systems and curb illicit financial flows. India's comprehensive tax reforms and digital transformation in tax administration have increased revenue and reduced compliance costs.”

“We believe that optimal regulation fosters innovation and stability. The Indian financial system promotes inclusivity through easier credit and lower compliance costs, especially for MSMEs. We have developed a dynamic ecosystem for start-ups and PPPs in



infrastructure,” she added.

Finance Minister added that India supports reforms to the international financial architecture to enhance inclusivity and equity, including Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) reforms and fairer credit rating systems.

She added that MDB lending must be aligned with long-term development goals and backed by robust

monitoring frameworks to ensure that funds are used as intended.

Sitharaman in her address added that the country has consistently placed people at the centre of its development strategy.

“Through targeted policy interventions, we have lifted 250 million people out of multidimensional poverty, and empowered communities through inclusive Digi-

tal Public Infrastructure (DPI),” she added.

However, for robust global growth, national efforts must be complemented by an enabling international environment, the Union Finance Minister asserted.

Going further, she said, “We remain committed to South-South and Triangular Cooperation. We support the call for a reversal

in the decline of ODA, and urge developed countries to enhance climate finance that is predictable, accessible, and concessional, particularly for adaptation in vulnerable countries.”

“In the spirit of India's civilizational ethos - ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ or ‘The World is one family’ - we must unite in our efforts to drive meaningful change that benefits all,” FM stated.

“We are meeting here in Seville, a decade after the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, acknowledging the progress made by nations in navigating complex global landscapes, and finding ways to address current challenges that continue to stand in the way of financing global development goals. With many SDG targets off track and a financing gap exceeding USD 4 trillion annually for developing countries, the need for urgent and transformative action is clear,” Finance Minister further added.

GST collection rises 6.2% YoY to over Rs 1.85L crore in June

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in June rose over 6.2 per cent to over 1.85 lakh crore compared to about 1.74 lakh crore in the same period last year, according to official data released on Tuesday.

However, June's GST collection decreased from May's Rs 2.01 lakh crore and after a record collection of Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April 2025.

In the month of June, collections of Central-GST, State-GST, Integrated-GST, and cess all rose year-on-year.

The domestic GST collections for June 2025 present a nuanced picture, while the overall growth appears muted, possibly due to the prevailing geopolitical uncertainties and their discernible impact on consumer sentiment.

The data shows that regions like Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Lakshadweep, and Ladakh have emerged as strong pockets of growth.

“This uplift suggests increased consumer activity and, importantly, a continued thrust on infrastructure spending by the government in these areas,



In the month of June, collections of Central-GST, State-GST, Integrated-GST, and cess all rose year-on-year.

which is a positive indicator for regional development,” said Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner, EY India.

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) system has achieved a major milestone in 2024-25, with a record gross collection of Rs 22.08 lakh crore, showing a 9.4 per cent growth over the previous year.

According to a release by the finance ministry, the average monthly GST collection stood at Rs 1.84 lakh crore, the highest since GST was launched in 2017.

GST collections have steadily increased over the years, rising from Rs 11.37

lakh crore in 2020-21 to Rs 20.18 lakh crore in 2023-24, reflecting stronger economic activity and better compliance.

As of April 30, 2025, there are now over 1.51 crore active GST registrations, showing growing participation in the tax system.

The recent GST collections reflect a positive trajectory for India's economy, underscoring robust domestic consumption and buoyant import activity. The figures bode well for the country's fiscal health and economic recovery efforts, signalling resilience amidst global uncertainties.

Coal Ministry to launch digital exploration module on July 4

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Coal is set to launch a new Exploration Module for digital approval of coal block explorations on its Single Window Clearance System (SWCS) web portal on July 4, 2025.

According to the ministry, the SWCS web portal is developed in collaboration with the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), and this marks a significant step in the complete digitalisation of India's coal exploration process.

“The module covers the entire process of Exploration of coal including approval of Geological Report—from Vetting of Exploration Scheme, Submission of Periodic Progress Updates, Submission & Approval of Geological Reports with all communication of observations, compliance uploads, and final approval—all within a single digital interface,” the ministry said in



a release.

This is expected to drastically reduce the time needed for processing exploration proposals, enhancing both productivity and data transparency.

This initiative aligns with the Ministry's ongoing digital transformation journey, aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a “Viksit Bharat” and a digitally empowered ecosystem.

The SWCS, launched on January 11, 2021, serves as a unified digital platform for obtaining all necessary clearances and approvals for operationalizing coal mines and boosting coal production.

Rupee rises 17 paise to close at 85.41 against US dollar

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The rupee pared its initial losses and settled for the day higher by 17 paise at 85.41 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, as likely intervention by the Reserve Bank of India helped contain excess depreciation of the rupee.

Forex traders said the rupee opened on a weak note on the escalation of hostility between India and Pakistan, however, RBI intervened to prevent major weakness.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.88 and moved between the intra-day high of 85.32 and the low of 85.88 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 85.41 (provisional), registering a gain of 17 paise over its previous closing level.

On Thursday, the rupee saw its steepest single-day fall in more than two-and-a-half years and settled 81 paise lower at 85.58 against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by height-



ened geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan.

“Indian rupee opened weak on Friday amid flaring up of geopolitical tensions across the border. Weak domestic markets and a rise in crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee.

“However, the domestic currency recovered in the latter half of the day on reports of selling of dollars by the Reserve Bank of India as well as a correction in the US dollar index,” said Anuj Choudhary – Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday,

India neutralised the Pakistan military's attempt to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and some other locations with missiles and drones.

Pakistan's armed forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along the entire western border on the intervening night of May 8-9, which were “effectively repulsed”, the Indian Army said on Friday.

Pakistani troops also resorted to “numerous ceasefire violations” along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army said in an early morning post on X.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.26 per cent at 100.38.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.80 per cent to USD 63.97 per barrel in futures trade.

“We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias as the geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan may continue to weigh on the domestic unit. Rising crude oil prices and risk aversion in the domestic markets may further pressurise the rupee.

“However, FII inflows may support the rupee at lower levels. Any de-escalation of tensions over the weekend may also support the rupee at lower levels,” Choudhary added.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 880.34 points, or 1.10 per cent, to close at 79,454.47, while the Nifty fell 265.80 points or 1.10 per cent to settle at 24,008.00.

Gold snaps 7-day losing streak, rallies Rs 1, 200

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Cutting short the seven-day losing streak, gold prices rebounded by Rs 1,200 to Rs 98,670 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday due to fresh buying by stockists in line with strong global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 97,470 per 10 grams on Monday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed by Rs 1,100 to Rs 98,150 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. It had closed at Rs 97,050 per 10 grams in the previous market close.

“A retreat in the US dollar, driven by concerns over the ballooning US fiscal deficit and the market's focus on President Donald Trump's proposed

tax-cutting and spending bill, has made gold more attractive,” Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta said.

President Donald Trump has also threatened new tariffs on Japan ahead of the July 9 deadline for the implementation of reciprocal tariff. These shifts are helping non-yielding assets like gold hold up, especially with inflation expectations still running high, Mehta added. In addition, silver prices rallied by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,04,800 per kilograms (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. The white metal had finished at Rs 1,02,800 per kg on Monday.

On the global front, spot gold rose by USD 44.01 or 1.33 per cent to USD 3,346.92 per ounce.

Sebi holds outreach to boost municipal bond ecosystem

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday said it has conducted a two-day Municipal Bond Outreach Programme in Thiruvananthapuram to deepen market awareness and support urban infrastructure financing through municipal debt instruments.

The initiative was aimed at equipping urban local bodies (ULBs) and other stakeholders with insights into municipal debt securities, pool financing, and innovative market-based financing mechanisms.

“The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) organised a Municipal Bond Outreach Programme on June 30 - July 1, 2025, at Thiruvananthapuram,” the regulator said in a statement.

The event covered a range of subjects, including structuring municipal bond is-



suances, regulatory compliance, credit rating, and continuous disclosures, Sebi said.

Interactions with intermediaries and presentations of case studies were also part of the programme to offer hands-on guidance to participants.

The regulator said the outreach programme is part of Sebi's continued efforts to promote transparency, market readiness and sustainable urban infrastructure financing through the municipal bond ecosystem.

A key highlight of the

programme was the official release of “The Green Book – On Climate Finance & Green Municipal Bonds” by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC), it added.

The publication, launched by VMC's Mayor, Municipal Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, features Asia's first globally certified Green Municipal Bond issued by VMC.

The document has been showcased as a 2025 Global Case Study, aimed at guiding other ULBs in adopting sustainable financing practices.

Cabinet approves Rs 1L crore RDI scheme to scale up innovation

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

In a significant step to bolster India's research and innovation ecosystem, the Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved research development and innovation (RDI) scheme with a corpus of Rs one lakh crore to scale up research, development and innovation in strategic and sunrise domains.

Briefing reporters on the cabinet decisions, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwani Vaishnav said Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme recognises the critical role that the private sector plays in driving innovation and commercialising research.

The RDI Scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector

investment in RDI.

The scheme has been designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding the private sector and seeks to provide growth and risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation, promote technology adoption, and enhance competitiveness.

Key objectives of the Scheme are to encourage the private sector to scale up research, development, and innovation (RDI) in sunrise domains and in other sectors relevant for economic security, strategic purpose, and self-reliance.

The scheme will finance transformative projects at higher levels of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL).

In addition, the project support acquisition of technologies which are critical or of high strategic importance, and facilitate setting up of a Deep-Tech Fund of Funds.

Talks on India-US trade pact at crucial stage as it enter 6th day

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Hectic negotiations between India and the US will enter the sixth day on Tuesday in Washington, with the talks reaching a crucial stage and New Delhi demanding greater market access for its labour-intensive goods, an official said. The Indian team, headed by special secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal, is in Washington for negotiations on an interim trade agreement with the US.

The stay of the Indian officials has been extended. Initially, the delegation was scheduled to stay for two days, with the talks having commenced on June 26.

These talks are also important as the suspension date of Trump's reciprocal tariffs is approaching. It will end on July 9. The two sides are looking at finalising the talks before that, the official said.

India has hardened its po-



sition on giving duty concessions to American farm products. It is seeking duty concessions for its labour-intensive goods such as textiles, engineering, leather, gems and jewellery.

“If the proposed trade talks fail, the 26 per cent tariffs will come into force again,” the official added.

On April 2, the US imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods but suspended it for 90 days. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America remains in place. India is seeking full exemp-

tion from the additional 26 per cent tariff.

The US is demanding duty concessions in both the agriculture and dairy sectors. But these segments are difficult and challenging areas for India to give duty concessions to the US as Indian farmers are into sustenance farming and have small land holdings.

Therefore, these sectors are politically very sensitive.

India has not opened up the dairy sector for any of its trading partners in free trade pacts the country has signed so far.

INDIA'S EVOLVING STAND ON DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY: TIME FOR A RETHINK

OPINION

DR. MANVENDRA SINGH &
SHRABANA CHATTOPADHYAY

Diplomatic and state immunities serve as critical instruments in preserving the functional independence of foreign representatives and the sovereign equality of states, principles deeply embedded in international law. However, in a modern constitutional democracy like India, these immunities must be examined through the prism of constitutional guarantees, particularly fundamental rights. This paper explores the interplay between diplomatic and state immunities and the Indian constitutional framework, highlighting judicial interpretations and emerging trends. It further argues for a rights-sensitive legal regime and legislative reforms that reflect India's evolving global engagement and domestic constitutional ethos.

Diplomatic and state immunities are foundational to the conduct of international relations, safeguarding diplomats and foreign states from legal processes in host jurisdictions. While these immunities are intended to facilitate diplomacy and respect sovereignty, they often pose significant challenges in domestic legal systems, especially those committed to the rule of law and access to justice. India's constitutional architecture—particularly Articles 14, 21, 51, and 253—shapes and occasionally limits

its extent to which these immunities can be granted or upheld. This paper undertakes a critical study of how Indian courts have navigated these legal complexities in light of domestic constitutional mandates and international obligations.

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY: LEGAL BASIS AND INDIAN APPLICATION

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR), 1961, codifies diplomatic immunity and is a near-universally accepted instrument in international law. Article 31 of the VCDR provides for complete criminal immunity and limited civil and administrative immunity for diplomatic agents. India implemented this treaty through the Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act, 1972.

In *X v. Union of India & Ors.*, 2022 SCC OnLine Del 3749, the Delhi High Court reaffirmed these immunities while observing that diplomatic protection does not mean exemption from moral or legal responsibility in the diplomat's home country. In this case, the petitioner, an Indian domestic worker employed in a foreign diplomat's household, alleged severe labor law violations and physical abuse. The court ruled that while proceedings in India could not continue with-

out a waiver of immunity by the sending state, the claims could be pursued in the diplomat's home jurisdiction.

This judgment reflects a cautious but constitutionally aware interpretation of immunity, reinforcing India's commitment to the VCDR while acknowledging the victim's right to legal recourse.

STATE IMMUNITY: FROM ABSOLUTE TO RESTRICTIVE APPROACH

Unlike diplomatic immunity, India has not enacted a comprehensive statute on state immunity. Historically, Indian courts adhered to the doctrine of absolute immunity, but recent jurisprudence indicates a shift toward a restrictive approach, particularly in commercial disputes involving foreign states.

In *Union of India v. V. Padmanabhan*, 2023 SCC OnLine SC 847, the Supreme Court was confronted with a commercial dispute involving a foreign state entity. The Court emphasized that immunity should not be misused to obstruct the legitimate legal claims of private parties. It drew upon international jurisprudence to distinguish between *jure imperii* (sovereign acts) and *jure gestionis* (commercial acts), holding that the latter are not protected by sovereign immunity. The Court also stressed the necessity of balancing international obligations with the constitutional right to judicial remedy.

Another notable case is *Embassy of Sudan v. Sudan Airways Ltd.*, (2010) 1 SCC 574, where the Supreme Court dealt with a commercial lease dispute involving a

foreign airline. Though the Court upheld sovereign immunity, it acknowledged the merits of the restrictive doctrine, reflecting an openness to future doctrinal evolution.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON IMMUNITY

India's Constitution significantly influences the scope and application of immunity doctrines.

Article 253 empowers Parliament to make laws to implement international treaties. The Diplomatic Relations Act is a product of this provision.

Article 51 urges the state to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations. While not enforceable by courts, it has guided judicial interpretation, as seen in *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India*, (2004) 9 SCC 580, where the Supreme Court referred to international human rights norms to strengthen constitutional rights.

Articles 14 and 21—guaranteeing equality before law and the right to life and personal liberty—have frequently come into tension with doctrines of immunity. Indian courts have struggled to balance the sanctity of sovereign immunity with the individual's right to legal remedy.

In *Harbhajan Singh v. Union of India*, AIR 1985 Del 136, a case involving property damage due to actions taken by a foreign military attaché, the Delhi High Court upheld immunity but emphasized that the aggrieved party retained the right to approach the diplomat's home country for redress.

Similarly, in *Jaya Lakshmi v. Union of India* (1996, un-

reported), a woman's claim for compensation following the death of her husband in a collision with a foreign embassy vehicle was dismissed due to diplomatic immunity. The case illustrates the human cost of uncritical application of international doctrines, underscoring the need for reform.

EVOLVING JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION AND EMERGING TRENDS

There is growing judicial awareness about the limitations of blanket immunities. Courts have gradually shifted from mechanical application to a more rights-conscious approach.

In *A.B. v. Ministry of External Affairs & Ors.*, 2024 SCC OnLine Del 186, the Delhi High Court, in obiter dicta, proposed a “balancing test” to harmonize state immunity with fundamental rights. The Court suggested that while international comity remains essential, it cannot override the basic constitutional promise of access to justice. Though not binding, this observation may signal a turning point toward a jurisprudence that is more attuned to human rights.

Earlier, in *Satow v. State of West Bengal*, AIR 1956 Cal 533, the Calcutta High Court acknowledged the customary law basis of diplomatic immunity even before India ratified the VCDR, demonstrating India's early compliance with international norms.

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES AND THE NEED FOR LEGISLATIVE REFORM

India's absence of a codified State Immunity Law places it at odds with several major

jurisdictions:

The United States follows the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA), 1976, which clearly delineates exceptions for commercial acts.

The United Kingdom enacted the State Immunity Act, 1978, adopting a similar restrictive approach.

The European Convention on State Immunity, 1972, though not universally ratified, sets a model framework.

India must adopt a similar law that clarifies the boundaries of sovereign immunity and incorporates constitutional safeguards. A rights-sensitive statute would not only fulfill India's international obligations but also uphold its domestic commitment to equality and justice.

The doctrine of diplomatic and state immunity, while essential for maintaining international order and respect among nations, must evolve in line with constitutional democracies' imperatives. Indian courts have shown increasing sensitivity to the need for balancing immunity with individual rights, but the absence of a legislative framework hampers consistent and fair adjudication.

A robust State Immunity Law, informed by Articles 14 and 21, is imperative to ensure that immunity does not become impunity. Such a framework would strengthen both India's global image and its internal commitment to constitutional justice.

Dr. Manvendra Singh, Assistant Professor, Sharda School of Law, Sharda University, Greater Noida, UP
Shrabana Chattopadhyay, Assistant Professor, Department of Law (IIJS), University of Engineering and Management Kolkata

PERSPECTIVE

THE LEADERSHIP QUESTION

The BJP has for long been dithering over its next party chief, for some reason the announcement has been pending in the in-tray for nearly two years now. The Congress on the other hand has managed to hold elections for the post of the party chief and has a 'democratically elected' president in place. Having said that, it is still the BJP more than the Congress that has some sort of a leadership matrix in place. There are a host of second rung leaders being groomed from Yogi Adityanath to Devendra Fadnavis, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Dharmendra Pradhan. Even in terms of seniority, if one looks beyond the Modi-Shah duo there are Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, ML Khattar and Shivraj Singh Chouhan/

Compare this to the Congress where the leadership buck stops at the Gandhis. There is Mallikarjun Kharge in place but so far one doesn't know his full potential for he has been content to operate within the limited shadow of Rahul Gandhi. True the same could be said of Chouhan, Rajnath and Gadkari but each one of these leaders has proved his mettle in an influential post, either party chief or chief minister-ship, and in a crunch could assume the leadership role.



There are four years left for the next Lok Sabha polls. This is enough time for both the Congress and the BJP to work on their leadership models. It is a given that the fight will be a Modi Vs Rahul one. But what after that? The BJP - and the RSS have begun grooming the next rung leadership which is also one reason why the party is delaying so much in naming the next party chief. The Congress will go with Rahul Gandhi - whether he leads from the front or remains in the background, it is he who will be calling the shots. But given the fact that Rahul hasn't been very successful vote catcher, the Congress needs to promote a ring of grass root leaders to add heft to his candidature. There is enough talent within the party; what these leaders now need is an opportunity to prove themselves.

Moreover the INDIA bloc, if it still exists, needs to get a structure in place. Last Lok Sabha elections the grouse was that they didn't have enough time to work on the seat sharing. They have four years to figure this out. No use waiting till the last minute.

PRIYA SAHGAL

Major powers bleeding attention, China collecting strategic dividends

OPINION

LT. GEN. A B SHIVANE

The global conflict arena—Ukraine's grinding war, Gaza's smouldering ruins, the India-Pakistan limited Conflict and the new Israel-Iran showdown—are stealing every headline. Yet behind the smoke and noise, a quieter dynamic is unfolding: major powers are bleeding attention, while China, almost by default, keeps collecting strategic dividends. It may not be the puppeteer of these fires, yet it has played its cards well enough that each blaze burns to Beijing's advantage—even as the Chinese house itself groans with youth unemployment, political dissension and an extraordinary purge of senior generals.

A MULTIPOLAR WORLD AND US DISTRACTIONS

Washington's long-promised “pivot” to the Indo-Pacific was never meant to be three-front grand strategy, yet that is where the United States now sits:

Europe: two years of shovelling just enough weapons into Kyiv to keep Russia tied down, but never enough to

end the fight.

Middle East: an expanding air/naval campaign against Yemen's Houthis and contingency plans for deeper strikes if Iran miscalculates.

Indo-Pacific: the region Washington says matters most—yet receives the least day-to-day bandwidth.

For Beijing, every extra US destroyer in the Red Sea is one less shadowing the South China Sea. That is opportunism, not orchestration—but opportunity matters more than authorship.

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS: STRATEGIC COST BEYOND BORDERS

Few regions magnetise U.S. attention like the Levant and Gulf. Israel lacks the stealth bombers and 30-ton bunker-busters needed to finish Iran's nuclear sites; only America owns those assets. Pressure is already mounting in Washington to “take the shot”. Meanwhile, the Houthis' missile harassment in the Red Sea guarantees U.S. forces remain on station, escorting tankers and launching reprisal raids.

Russia's total commitment to Ukraine, paradoxically, makes this easier. With Moscow pinned, neither Syria nor Hezbollah can expect decisive Russian back-up, giving Washington and Jerusalem a freer hand to redraw threat lines from Lebanon to Tehran. The more the U.S. digs in here, the less bandwidth it has for Asia. That is the gap in which China quietly grows.

CHINA'S SHADOW STRATEGY AND INTERNAL FRAGILITIES

Beijing may not be a master architect, but its shadow wars and strategic play are more dangerous. China is the beneficiary of fuelling global distraction:

Diplomatic cover. At the UN and via the “Axis of Upheaval” rhetoric, Beijing offers Moscow and Tehran just enough oxygen to resist Western pressure. However, the relationship is more of opportunism than strategic bindings.

Selective logistics. Dual-use electronics for Russia, precision components via third parties for Iran—support just shy of an overt alliance.

Narrative warfare. Beijing presents itself as the “responsible stakeholder” amid Western bombing campaigns, courting the Gulf and Global South.

Israel-Iran War. In the June 2025 Israel-Iran clash, China stayed in the shad-

ows—urging calm while quietly securing its interests. As Iran's key economic partner, Beijing didn't want war disrupting trade or oil routes. But it also used the West's distraction to tighten its grip in Central Asia and the Indo-Pacific. Calm on the surface, calculated underneath.

Notably, even amid tensions and trade decoupling narratives, a trade deal that restored a fragile truce in the U.S.-China trade war, removing Chinese export restrictions on rare earth minerals and allowing Chinese students access to U.S. universities. This is the strength of Chinese dependency as a strategic leverage.

Despite outward assertiveness, Beijing is facing internal turmoil on several fronts. Youth unemployment percentage exceeded 20% before the data disappeared in the Chinese style, indicating a possible domestic social strain that could be politically disastrous. Beyond the economy, the People's Liberation Army (PLA)—seen as the bedrock of party power—has been shaken by unprecedented purges, including the removal of senior commanders in the Rocket Force and even a Vice Chair of the Central Military Commission. These are not routine anti-corruption moves; they indicate deep mistrust within the highest military and political echelons.

President Xi Jinping's pow-

er may appear monolithic, but recent patterns point to a more contested consolidation. From abrupt disappearances of ministers to sudden policy U-turns, the Chinese political machine is showing signs of internal dysfunction. Chinese economy while boosting a narrative of unprecedented growth, actually remains weak with real estate crashes, sluggish consumption, and faltering investor confidence. This internal fragility explains why China avoids overt military involvements and prefers a shadow power play: sustaining global distractions at minimal cost while avoiding exposure that could unravel internal stability.

INDIA AND THE SHIFTING BALANCE IN ASIA

Amid the dust storms, India is the competitor, and China wants it to be sidelined. The method is subtle containment, not open war:

Pakistan as a Pressure Valve. Islamabad's sudden relevance—the only Muslim nuclear state—means Washington, Moscow and Beijing will all court it as the Israel-Iran crisis evolves. A warmer U.S.-Pakistan axis could see renewed pressure on India over Kashmir or even the Indus Waters Treaty. String-of-Ports Economics. Gwadar, Hambantota, Kyaukpadaung—each node restricts India's manoeuvre space in

the maritime domain.

Diplomatic Dilution. Fires in West Asia sap Indian bandwidth just as surely as they sap America's; energy security and diaspora interests pull New Delhi's gaze westward while Beijing works east.

Bangladesh Bonhomie. The new caretaker dispensation in Bangladesh has been increasingly attracted by the Chinese chessboard and now become inimical to India, posing a new threat to the NE region. Thus creating for India a multidirectional pull.

India's celebrated “strategic autonomy” once looked savvy. Today, prolonged fence-sitting risks handing other players the initiative—and initiative is the coin of power in a fluid order.

PAKISTAN'S GEOSTRATEGIC LEVERAGE IN CRISIS

Despite economic near-bankruptcy, Pakistan's utility soars when Middle-East identity politics ignite. The role of UNSC and the bailout by IMF, WB and ADB are suggestive of Pakistan's utility in global positioning. Islamabad has already pitched the Israel-Iran clash as an Islamic cause, talked up OIC activism, and dismissed chatter about nuclear “options.” History suggests it will do nothing that jeopardises U.S. interests in the Gulf, no matter what Beijing whis-

pers. Everyone—the U.S., China, Russia—will woo Islamabad for their ends. That three-way courtship could squeeze India in uncomfortable ways.

ENDURING UNIPOLAR CAPABILITIES, MULTIPOLAR POSTURES

Talk of American decline hides a blunt fact: Washington still decides which fires matter. The U.S. can deploy B-2s over Iran or carrier strike groups off Taiwan—actions few others can match. Even China, with its trending navy counts, cannot yet replicate the combination of logistics, basing and allied trust that Washington wields. India's diplomacy often calibrates not to offend the Americans—tacit proof of lingering unipolar gravity. Yet power is also perception. Repeated global distractions project U.S. exhaustion, embolden adversaries and tempt fence-sitters. That perception—not any battlefield defeat—is what Beijing's shadow strategy tries to nurture.

THE REAL OBJECTIVE: STRETCHING RIVALS, NOT STRIKING FIRST

China's grand design is not to light every fire; it is to let those fires burn long enough that the U.S. never truly pivots, and India never fully ascends. The strategy's genius lies in its economy: Beijing invests in diplomatic cover and limited matériel,

not carrier groups. It moves in shadows, letting others spend blood and treasure.

But shadows lengthen only when light is elsewhere. If Washington and New Delhi regain strategic focus—closing out peripheral wars, investing in collective deterrence, and exposing Beijing's internal fragilities—the quiet beneficiary could find the board less welcoming.

STRATEGIC FOCUS IS THE CURRENCY OF POWER

Great-power contests are won by shaping the board, not winning every square. Beijing is shaping it in silence, accruing leverage while its rivals stamp out fires. It profits by default, even as its economy and military endure crises of confidence.

For India, fence-sitting is no longer a safe perch. For the United States, attention is now its scarcest strategic asset. For China, the danger is that its internal fractures burst into the open before the distractions abroad have finished their work.

The match is not decided. But the clock is ticking—and the player spending the least pieces may yet claim the quietest checkmate.

Lieutenant General A B Shivane, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) is an NDA alumnus and a decorated Armoured Corps officer with over 39 years of distinguished military service.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday shared an article penned by him, on the successful completion of 10 years of the Digital India initiative and its positive impact on India's growth trajectory.



As we mark #10YearsOfDigitalIndia, I shared a few thoughts on LinkedIn, on how this initiative has positively impacted India's growth trajectory.

Ten years ago, we embarked on a bold journey into uncharted territory with great conviction. While decades were spent doubting the ability of Indians to use technology, we changed this approach and trusted the ability of Indians to use technology.

While decades were spent thinking that use of technology will deepen the gap between the haves and the have-nots, we changed this mindset and used technology to eliminate the gap between the haves and the

have-nots. When the intent is right, innovation empowers the less empowered. When the approach is inclusive, technology brings change in the lives of those on the margins.

This belief laid the foundation for Digital India: a mission to democratise access, build inclusive digital infrastructure, and opportunities for all.

In 2014, internet penetration was limited, digital literacy was low, and online access to government services was scarce. Many doubted whether a country as vast and diverse as India could truly go digital.

Today, that question has been answered not just in data and dashboards, but in the lives of 140 crore Indians. From how we govern, to how we learn, transact, and build, Digital India is everywhere.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
In 2014, India had around 25 crore internet connections. Today, that number

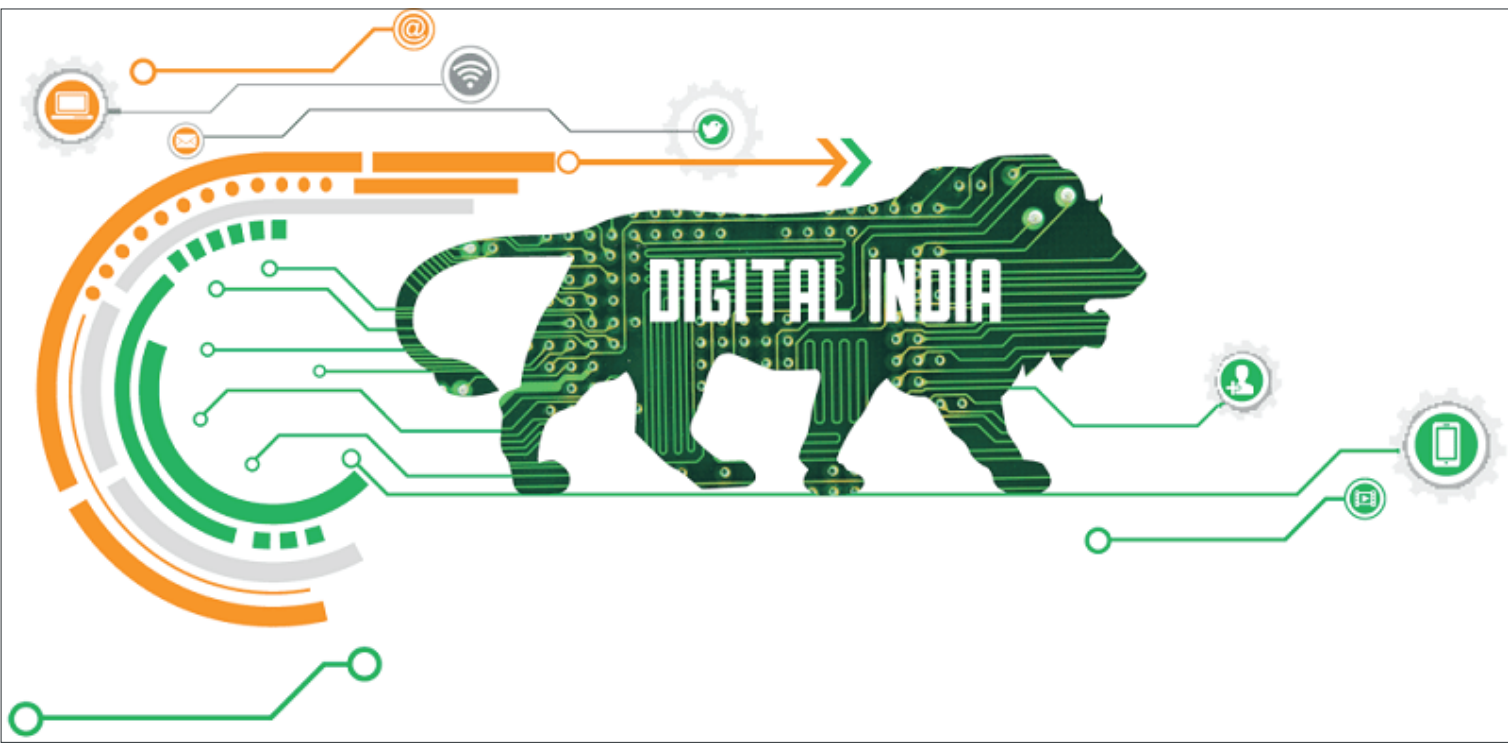
has grown to over 97 crores. Over 42 lakh kilometres of Optical Fibre Cable equivalent to 11 times the distance between Earth and the Moon now connects even the most remote villages.

India's 5G rollout is among the fastest in the world, with 4.81 lakh base stations installed in just two years. High-speed internet now reaches urban hubs and forward military posts alike including Galwan, Siachen, and Ladakh.

India Stack, which is our digital backbone, has enabled platforms like UPI, which now handles 100+ billion transactions a year. Around half of all real time digital transactions happen in India.

Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), over Rs 44 lakh crore has been transferred directly to citizens, cutting out middlemen and saving Rs 3.48 lakh crore in leakages.

Schemes like SVAMITVA have issued 2.4 crore+ property cards and mapped 6.47 lakh villages, ending years of land-relat-



DIGITAL INDIA: A 10-YEAR JOURNEY OF INCLUSION AND INNOVATION



ed uncertainty.

DEMOCRATISING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL
India's digital economy is empowering MSMEs and small entrepreneurs like never before. ONDC (Open Network for

Digital Commerce) is a revolutionary platform which opens a new window of opportunities by providing a seamless connection with huge market of buyers and sellers.

GeM (Government E-Marketplace) enables the common man to sell goods and

services to all arms of the government. This not only empowers the common man with a huge market but also saves money for the Government.

Imagine this: You apply for a Mudra loan online. Your creditworthiness is assessed through an account aggrega-

tor framework. You get your loan and start your venture. You register on GeM, supply to schools and hospitals, and then scale up via ONDC.

ONDC recently crossed 200 million transactions, with the last 100 million in just six months. From Banarasi weavers to bamboo artisans in Nagaland, sellers are now reaching customers nationwide, without middlemen or digital monopolies.

GeM has also crossed Rs 1 lakh crore GMV in 50 days, with 22 lakh sellers including 1.8 lakh+ women-led MSMEs, who have fulfilled orders worth Rs 46,000 crore.

DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
India's Digital Public Infra-

structure (DPI) from Aadhaar, CoWIN, DigiLocker, and FASTag to PM-WANI and One Nation One Subscription is now studied and adopted globally.

CoWIN enabled the world's largest vaccination drive, issuing 220 crore QR-verifiable certificates. DigiLocker, with 54 crore users, hosts 775 crore+ documents, securely and seamlessly.

Through our G20 Presidency, India launched the Global DPI Repository and a \$25 million Social Impact Fund, helping nations across Africa and South Asia adopt inclusive digital ecosystems.

STARTUP POWER MEETS AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

India now ranks among the top 3 startup ecosystems in the world, with over 1.8 lakh startups. But this is more than a startup movement, it is a tech renaissance.

India is doing extremely well when it comes to AI skill penetration and AI talent concentration among our youth.

Through the \$1.2 billion India AI Mission, India has enabled access to 34,000 GPUs at globally unmatched prices at less than \$1/GPU hour making India not just the most affordable internet economy, but also the most affordable compute destination.

India has championed humanity-first AI. The New Delhi Declaration on AI promotes innovation with responsibility. We are establishing AI Centres of Excellence across the country.

THE ROAD AHEAD
The next decade will be even more transformative. We are moving from digital governance to global digital leadership, from India-first to India-for-the-world.

Digital India has not remained a mere government program, it has become a people's movement. It is central to building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and to making India a trusted innovation partner to the world.

To all innovators, entrepreneurs, and dreamers: the world is looking at India for the next digital breakthrough.

Let us build what empowers.

Let us solve what truly matters.

Let us lead with technology that unites, includes, and uplifts.



IN A NUTSHELL
Bold Beginning: Ten years ago, India embarked on the Digital India mission, trusting its people's ability to adopt technology and bridging the digital divide instead of widening it.
Inclusion and Empowerment: The initiative focused on democratizing access, creating inclusive digital infrastructure, and enabling opportunities for all citizens, especially those at the margins.
Internet Growth: Internet connections soared from 25 crore in 2014 to over 97 crore today, supported by over 42 lakh km of optical fiber connecting even remote villages.
5G Rollout: India's 5G network is among the fastest globally, with 4.81 lakh base stations reaching urban centers and strategic locations like Galwan and Ladakh.
Digital Backbone: India Stack supports platforms like UPI, which processes over 100 billion transactions annually, accounting for half of all real-time digital payments in India.
Direct Benefits: Through Direct Benefit Transfer, Rs 44 lakh crore has been sent directly to citizens, saving Rs 3.48 lakh crore by eliminating middlemen.
Empowering MSMEs: ONDC and GeM platforms empower small entrepreneurs and artisans by providing nationwide market access without intermediaries.
Digital Public Infrastructure: Aadhaar, CoWIN, DigiLocker, and FASTag form India's globally recognized digital infrastructure, enabling the world's largest vaccination drive and secure document hosting.
Global Leadership: Through G20, India launched the Global DPI Repository and a \$25 million Social Impact Fund, aiding other nations in adopting inclusive digital ecosystems.
Startup & AI Boom: India is among the top 3 startup ecosystems worldwide, with 1.8 lakh startups and growing AI talent, supported by the \$1.2 billion India AI Mission.
Humanity-First AI: The New Delhi Declaration promotes responsible AI innovation, with AI Centres of Excellence established across the country.
Future Vision: The journey continues from digital governance to global digital leadership, aiming to build an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and become a trusted partner for the world through inclusive technology.



You Become What You Eat

FOOD SHAPES YOUR BODY, BRAIN, AND LIFE

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The age-old saying “You are what you eat” holds far more truth than we often realize. Every bite of food we consume doesn’t just fill our stomachs—it fuels our cells, builds our tissues, shapes our thoughts, and influences our long-term health. The connection between food and well-being is so deep that modern science has repeatedly shown how our diet directly affects our physical appearance, energy levels, mental clarity, mood, immunity, and even lifespan. In essence, you become what you eat—literally and figuratively.

THE BIOLOGICAL REALITY

When we eat, our bodies break down food into nutrients—proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, and minerals. These nutrients are then absorbed into the bloodstream and distributed to various organs and cells. The protein you eat today becomes the building block of your muscles, skin, hair, and hormones. The fats you consume become part of your brain and nervous system. The carbohydrates serve as fuel, powering your daily activities. Even your blood and immune cells are influenced by your nutrient intake.

If your diet is rich in whole, nutrient-dense foods like vegetables, fruits, lean proteins, healthy fats, and whole grains, your body receives everything it needs

to perform optimally. On the other hand, if your diet is filled with processed foods, trans fats, refined sugars, and artificial additives, your body lacks the building blocks for repair, resilience, and health.

FOOD AND YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH

A nutritious diet strengthens the immune system, maintains a healthy weight, reduces the risk of chronic diseases, and supports every bodily function. For instance:

Heart health is deeply affected by what you eat. Diets rich in trans fats, sodium, and added sugars increase the risk of heart disease, while diets high in fiber, omega-3 fatty acids, and antioxidants help protect it.

Bone strength depends on calcium, vitamin D, and magnesium—all derived from the foods we eat.

Weight management is not just about calories in and out. Nutrient quality matters. Junk food often leads to overeating because it lacks the fiber and protein that promote satiety.

Digestive health relies on a diet rich in fiber and fermented foods that support gut bacteria. A balanced gut microbiome can reduce inflammation, support immunity, and even influence mood.

FOOD AND MENTAL HEALTH

What you eat affects not just how your body functions, but how your brain thinks, feels, and responds to life. In recent years, the connection



You are what you eat

between nutrition and mental health has become a key area of research.

Mood and Depression: Diets high in refined carbs and sugar have been linked to increased risk of depression and anxiety. Conversely, foods rich in omega-3s, B vitamins, magnesium, and antioxidants support serotonin production and brain function, improving mood and emotional stability.

Cognitive Function: Brain-friendly nutrients like choline (found in eggs), DHA (from fatty fish), and flavonoids (in berries) enhance memory, focus, and learning ability.

Gut-Brain Connection: The gut produces about 90% of the body’s serotonin, a neurotransmitter responsible for mood regulation. A healthy gut, supported by fiber-rich and fermented foods, has a direct impact on



your emotional well-being.

THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT

Food also defines who we are socially and culturally. Our meals often reflect our traditions, community, and identity. Sharing food is a form of connection, love, and celebration. However,

with globalization and the rise of fast food, we’ve seen a shift in food habits—often towards convenience over quality. This change has contributed to rising levels of obesity, diabetes, and lifestyle-related diseases.

It’s important to reclaim our food identity by valuing local produce, cooking

at home, eating mindfully, and fostering a positive relationship with food.

MINDFUL EATING: KNOWING WHAT YOU BECOME

Mindful eating is a practice rooted in awareness—being conscious of what you’re eating, how it tastes, how



much you’re consuming, and how it makes you feel. It encourages you to listen to your body’s signals and make thoughtful food choices. By slowing down, savoring your meals, and avoiding distractions, you improve digestion, reduce overeating, and cultivate a deeper connection with food.

You begin to recognize that food is not just fuel; it’s nourishment, medicine, and a reflection of self-respect.

Eating is one of the few daily actions that directly shape who we are. Your skin regenerates every 28 days, your blood renews itself every four months, and your entire body is in a constant state of renewal. What it rebuilds with depends entirely on the quality of food you give it.

You can choose to eat processed, nutrient-poor foods that weaken and inflame your system—or you can opt for fresh, vibrant foods that heal, energize, and sustain you. Over time, your body mirrors the choices you make.

THE ROAD AHEAD: SMALL CHANGES, BIG

IMPACT

You don’t have to overhaul your entire lifestyle overnight. Start small:

- Add one more serving of vegetables each day.
- Replace sugary snacks with fruits or nuts.
- Stay hydrated.
- Cook at home more often.
- Read food labels and avoid products with long lists of artificial ingredients.

Gradually, your taste preferences will shift, your energy will rise, and you’ll feel more connected to your body and mind. Your body is your most priceless possession, and food is its most powerful tool. The connection between what we eat and who we become is undeniable. From our physical strength to our mental clarity, from emotional stability to disease prevention—everything begins with what’s on our plate.

So the next time you reach for a snack or sit down for a meal, remember: You become what you eat. Make your choice count—not just for today, but for the body, mind, and life you’re creating every day.

Ayurvedic Green Teas: Sip Your Way to Wellness

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The monsoon season brings relief from the scorching summer heat, but it also invites its own set of health challenges—digestive issues, respiratory troubles, low immunity, and waterborne infections. Ayurveda, the ancient Indian science of life, offers holistic wisdom to support our body during this damp and humid season. One such solution is the use of herbal green teas, which can be easily prepared at home using common kitchen ingredients.

Unlike commercial green teas, homemade Ayurvedic green teas are caffeine-free, sattvic, and tailored to the specific needs of your dosha and the seasonal environment. During the monsoon, the Vata and Pitta doshas tend to get aggravated, while Kapha may accumulate due to increased dampness. These teas aim to balance the doshas, support digestion, boost immunity, and flush out toxins.

Here are some of the best Ayurvedic green tea recipes you can prepare at home this monsoon:

1. TULSI-GINGER GREEN TEA

Benefits: Boosts immunity, improves digestion, reduces inflammation, and prevents respiratory infections.

- Ingredients:**
- 5–6 fresh tulsi (holy basil) leaves
 - 1 inch fresh ginger (grated)
 - 1 tsp fennel seeds (optional)
 - 2 cups water
 - A dash of honey (optional, after cooling slightly)



How to Prepare:

Boil water and add ginger, tulsi, and fennel seeds.

Let it simmer for 5–7 minutes.

Strain and sip warm.

Ayurvedic View: Tulsi pacifies Kapha and Vata, while ginger improves Agni (digestive fire), making this tea perfect for the damp and heavy monsoon weather.

2. CINNAMON-CLOVE DETOX TEA

Benefits: Warms the body,

enhances metabolism, and acts as a mild detoxifier.

Ingredients:

- 1 small stick of cinnamon
- 2 cloves
- 1 cardamom pod (optional)
- 2 cups water
- A slice of lemon (optional)

How to Prepare:

Boil all spices in water for 10 minutes.

Strain and enjoy warm, adding lemon if desired.

Ayurvedic View: This is a classic tridoshic tea but

especially beneficial in the monsoon to fight sluggish digestion and microbial growth in the gut.

3. CORIANDER-CUMIN-FENNEL (CCF) TEA

Benefits: Excellent for bloating, acidity, and water retention.

Ingredients:

- ½ tsp coriander seeds
- ½ tsp cumin seeds
- ½ tsp fennel seeds
- 2 cups water

How to Prepare:

Bring all the seeds to a boil in water.

Simmer for 5 minutes and strain.

Ayurvedic View: This tea is a gentle digestive and diuretic. CCF tea balances Pitta and supports natural detoxification pathways through the liver and kidneys.

4. LEMONGRASS AND MINT TEA

Benefits: Refreshing, antimicrobial, and helps reduce seasonal fatigue.

Ingredients:



- 5–6 fresh mint leaves
- 1 stalk of fresh lemongrass or 1 tsp dried lemongrass
- 1 cup water
- Honey (optional)

How to Prepare:

Boil the herbs in water for 7 minutes.

Strain and serve warm.

Ayurvedic View: Mint balances Pitta, and lemongrass supports lymphatic drainage and digestion. This tea is uplifting and perfect for sluggish mornings.

5. DRY GINGER AND

BLACK PEPPER HERBAL TEA

Benefits: Prevents colds and flu, stimulates appetite, and helps in clearing mucus.

Ingredients:

- ½ tsp dry ginger powder (sonth)
- 2–3 black peppercorns
- 1 cup water
- Jaggery or honey (optional)

How to Prepare:

Boil ginger and pepper in water for 5–7 minutes.

Strain and sweeten if needed.

Ayurvedic View: This

tea is a Kapha pacifier. It strengthens Agni and is a powerful remedy for colds, sore throat, and sluggish metabolism.

6. LICORICE AND CARDAMOM TEA

Benefits: Soothes the throat, calms the nerves, and balances the mood.

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp licorice root (mulethi)
- 2 cardamom pods
- 2 cups water

How to Prepare:

Simmer ingredients in water for 10 minutes.

Strain and enjoy, especially during evening hours.

Ayurvedic View: Mulethi nourishes and rejuvenates. Cardamom aids digestion and uplifts the spirit, making this tea ideal for emotional and physical balance during gloomy weather.

7. AMLA AND CURRY LEAF IMMUNITY TEA

Benefits: Rich in Vitamin C, improves liver function, and supports immunity.

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp dried amla powder or 4–5 amla slices (if fresh)
- 5–6 curry leaves
- 1 cup water

How to Prepare:

Boil the ingredients in water for 7 minutes.

Strain and consume warm.

Ayurvedic View: Amla is tridoshic and a powerful rasayana (rejuvenator). Curry leaves aid digestion and hair health, especially helpful during seasonal hair fall.

AYURVEDIC GUIDELINES FOR TEA CONSUMPTION IN MONSOON

Always drink warm: Avoid cold or iced teas during monsoon as they aggravate Vata and weaken digestion.

Avoid milk-based teas: Dairy can cause Kapha buildup, leading to colds and congestion.

Drink in moderation: 2–3 cups a day are enough. Avoid excess to prevent imbalance.

Time your teas: The best time to have these teas is 30 minutes after meals to aid digestion or mid-morning as a pick-me-up.

Use fresh ingredients: Always prefer freshly crushed herbs and spices over powders for maximum benefit.

Monsoon is a season of transformation—both in nature and in our bodies. By making simple yet powerful Ayurvedic herbal green teas at home, you can align your internal rhythm with the season. These teas are more than beverages; they are therapeutic potions that restore harmony between body, mind, and the environment.

MUSK THREATENS TO LAUNCH ‘AMERICA PARTY’

Billionaire Elon Musk clashing fiercely with US President Trump over massive spending and GOP’s future.

TDG NETWORK

Once united in purpose and power, Elon Musk and Donald Trump now find themselves locked in a remarkably public and highly consequential political clash, one that threatens not only their individual reputations but also the ideological stability of the Republican Party and, arguably, the very future of the two-party system in the United States, as the tech mogul now openly threatens to launch a new political force—the so-called “America Party”—in response to what he sees as a catastrophic betrayal of conservative fiscal principles by Trump and congressional Republicans alike.

What began as a friendly alliance, with Musk briefly serving as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and pouring hundreds of millions into pro-Trump PACs, has rapidly disintegrated into a full-blown war of words and threats, as Musk lambasts Trump’s signature legislative initiative—dubbed the “One Big Beautiful Bill”—as not only fiscally irresponsible but fundamentally dishonest, an orgy of pork-barrel spending that betrays everything conservatives supposedly stand for, including debt control, free markets, and limited government.

BILL THAT BROKE THE BOND

At the heart of this political earthquake lies the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” a sweeping omnibus legislative package that combines aggressive tax cuts with massive increases in defense and infrastructure spending, while simultaneously cutting federal subsidies for

electric vehicles, green energy startups, and public health programs—a bill whose \$4–5 trillion projected debt-ceiling hike is so staggering that even moderate Republicans have begun to voice concern, albeit far more quietly than Musk, who has made his opposition known in no uncertain terms across his platform, X, where his every word reaches more than 220 million followers.

In post after post, Musk has decried what he calls the “pork-stuffed monstrosity” of the bill, mocking Republicans who once ran on cutting deficits but have now thrown in their lot with a president whose spending priorities, he argues, serve legacy industries like fossil fuels and coal at the expense of innovation and sustainability, while simultaneously endangering America’s long-term fiscal health and economic competitiveness on the global stage.

Musk’s fury appears especially focused on a particular clause in the bill that would phase out federal tax incentives for electric vehicles—a move that would directly impact Tesla’s market positioning and possibly gut the EV sector just as it reaches critical mass globally—although Musk insists that his opposition stems not from self-interest but from what he calls “an existential need to prevent the total corruption of American capitalism by political cartels and status-quo protection rackets.”

THE AMERICA PARTY

In what can only be described as a dramatic escalation, Musk has now vowed to form a new political organization—the “America Party”—if the bill is passed into law, stating that the current



Entrepreneur Elon Musk (Left) with US President Donald Trump

binary structure of American politics, dominated by what he calls the “uniparty of Democrats and establishment Republicans,” no longer serves the interests of the average citizen and must be replaced with a viable centrist alternative that represents the “80% in the middle,” a figure he claims is validated by an X poll showing overwhelming support for such a move.

According to Musk’s posts, this new political force would seek to restore what he sees as lost values: financial discipline, entrepreneurial innovation, and transparent governance, all while attacking what he views as the “porky pig populism” of Trump-era Republicanism—a term he used in an especially viral post comparing the current GOP to a bloated, cartoonish version of fiscal conservatism.

Whether this talk translates into concrete political infrastructure remains to be seen, as building a party from the ground up in the

United States is an infamously difficult endeavor, requiring massive financial investments, ballot access in 50 states, and the cultivation of a viable candidate pipeline; still, Musk’s already-established PAC networks, social media dominance, and vast fortune make him uniquely positioned to challenge that norm, even if only indirectly, by supporting primary challengers and shaping public discourse.

Indeed, Musk has already begun threatening incumbent Republicans with electoral consequences, promising to fund challengers in GOP primaries across the country unless they vote against the bill, and even calling out several by name—including Speaker Mike Johnson—while praising fiscal hawks like Rand Paul and Thomas Massie as examples of “what conservative courage actually looks like in Washington.”

TRUMP’S COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

Never one to back down

from a political fight, especially one playing out in the media, Donald Trump responded to Musk’s barrage with characteristic force and flair, posting a series of statements on Truth Social that not only questioned Musk’s motives but also took direct aim at the financial underpinnings of Musk’s empire, particularly the extensive history of federal subsidies that have helped companies like Tesla, SpaceX, and Neuralink scale at breakneck speed.

In a now widely shared post, Trump accused Musk of hypocrisy, writing that “Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa,” before suggesting that perhaps DOGE—ironically the agency Musk once ran—should begin investigating the “mountains of money” his companies have received over the years.

Whether said with legal

intent or just rhetorical flourish, the threat raised alarm bells not only among Musk’s supporters but across civil liberty circles, many of whom warned that Trump was using the machinery of government to target a private citizen and former ally simply for dissenting—a move that, in their eyes, smacked of authoritarianism and the weaponization of the state.

Musk, of course, responded in kind, posting in all caps on X: “I AM LITERALLY SAYING CUT IT ALL. NOW,” doubling down on his earlier promise to eliminate federal corporate welfare entirely, including those that benefit him personally, and positioning himself as the only public figure serious enough to dismantle what he now describes as “the cartel of government handouts and corporate capture.”

RIISING TECHOCRACY

The political implications of this highly public feud are vast and varied, beginning with the potential

TDG EXPLAINER

fragmentation of the Republican Party itself, whose base is already split between Trumpian populists, fiscal conservatives, and a newer generation of libertarian-leaning tech-savvy voters who may now look to Musk as their ideological North Star rather than the former president.

Indeed, some analysts are already speculating that Musk’s aggressive primary threats and ideological insurgency could force the GOP into a more combative internal reckoning ahead of the 2026 midterms, especially in suburban districts where independent voters and moderate Republicans could be swayed by Musk’s calls for financial responsibility and clean innovation rather than Trump’s bombast and cronyism.

At the same time, the Democrats—who have thus far remained mostly silent on the feud—may find themselves inadvertently benefiting from the right-wing schism, particularly if Musk’s criticisms of government inefficiency begin to gain bipartisan traction among centrists and disaffected voters who feel alienated by both major parties’ dysfunction.

But perhaps the most lasting impact of this Musk-Trump rupture is the normalization of tech billionaire activism in the political arena, as Musk, unlike other corporate leaders, is not content to operate in the background with lobbyists and donations but instead prefers to be the protagon-

ist in the political narrative, using his platforms, his fortune, and his reputation to drive conversation, spark action, and, potentially, rewrite the playbook for political influence in the 21st century.

THE ROAD AHEAD

As the Senate prepares to vote on the One Big Beautiful Bill by July 4, the stakes could not be higher—not just for fiscal policy but for the trajectory of Trump’s second term, the future of Republican unity, and the possible birth of a third political force in the United States that, unlike previous attempts, may have the resources and megaphone to pose a genuine threat to the duopoly.

Should the bill pass, Musk’s promise to form the America Party will be put to the test, and while many remain skeptical that such an organization could succeed electorally, few doubt that its formation would send tremors through both parties—especially the GOP, which now must grapple with the very real prospect that their most powerful donor has become their most dangerous dissident.

For now, the political world watches with bated breath as two of its most polarizing titans—one a populist ex-president wielding raw charisma, the other a tech visionary with an empire of capital and code—battle for the soul of a party, the loyalty of the public, and, quite possibly, the control of America’s political future.

The deadly cartel war raging in Mexico’s Sinaloa state

TDG NETWORK

Mexico’s western state of Sinaloa has erupted in brutal cartel violence, leaving 20 people dead in under 24 hours. Four decapitated bodies were found hanging from a bridge in Culiacán, as rival factions of the powerful Sinaloa Cartel battle for control. Authorities say the wave of violence began with a kidnapping linked to the son of jailed drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán.

Sinaloa in Mexico has witnessed a surge in violence leading to the death of 20 people in less than 24 hours. As the violence increases, four decapitated bodies were seen hanging from a bridge in the capital city.

Four decapitated bodies were found hanging from a bridge in the capital of western Mexico’s Sinaloa state on Monday, part of a surge of cartel violence that killed 20 people in less than a day, authorities said.

MEXICO CARTELS’ CONFLICT

Sinaloa state prosecutors on Monday said that four bodies were found hanging from a freeway bridge. The heads of the dead bodies were found nearby in a plastic bag.

The conflict intensified between the two Sinaloa Cartel groups, Los Chapitos and La Mayiza. The factions of the cartel are fighting a bloody war and has en-



Mexico’s Sinaloa state sees deadly cartel violence as 20 killed in 24 hours; decapitated bodies hang from bridge amid feud between rival factions. Photo/X.

gulfed the city of Culiacán.

Everyday dead bodies are seen scattered across Culiacán. The cartel members raid homes. Schools and businesses are forced to shutdown. The masked men from the groups ‘gaurd’ the city over the main avenues.

AUTHORITIES FAIL TO ESTABLISH CONTROL

According to reports, 16 more male victims with gunshots were found on the same road. They were packed into a van. One among the 16 bodies was reported to be decapitated.

A note was left with the bodies by one of the cartels. The content of the note however was not disclosed.

Sinaloa government has condemned the violent killings in the city. The government spokesperson has urged the authorities to examine the strategy for dealing with the cartel crime.

The spokesperson assured that the forces are working together to contain the violence. “Military and police forces are working together to reestablish total peace in Sinaloa,” Castro said.

HEAVY ARMED CARTELS

However, according to the reports, authorities have lost the control and are unable to contain the violence in the western Mexico state.

The war between the two factions started last September pushing the city to high levels of violence. The war to gain control of the territory started with a kidnapping. The leader of one of the groups was kidnapped by the son of notorious capo Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán. The kidnapped cartel leader was the handed to US via a private plane.

Both the factions are

heavily armed. the intense fighting and violence has become normal for the civilians living in the Culiacán. The city was largely calm in past when most parts of Mexico saw violence. The area remained calm mostly because Sinaloa Cartel had a complete control on the city.

LARGEST CARTELS

Mexico’s drug cartels have been evolving over the years with new factions and alliances emerging with time. The two most notorious cartels posing significant drug trafficking threats US are Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco New Generation Cartel.

Sinaloa Cartel was earlier led by Joaquín El Chapo” Guzmán. It is one of the oldest cartel inn the Mexico. The group traffics powerful drugs like fentanyl. They also engage in extortion, smuggling, mineral theft, weapons trade and prostitution. Guzmán was extradited to US in 2017. He is serving a life sentence for multiple drug-related charges in US. The other notorious cartel functioning in Mexico is Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG). CJNG now Mexico’s fastest growing cartel broke away from Sinaloa in 2010. CJNG is also involved in fentanyl trafficking, extortion and migrant smuggling. The group is also involved in the trafficking of cocaine, methamphetamine, and several other drugs.

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Germany is facing a growing contradiction at the heart of its migration policy: it urgently needs foreign workers to keep its economy and public services functioning, yet its government continues to send an unwelcoming, even hostile, message to those who might come.

This contradiction echoes the country’s postwar “guest worker” era, when West Germany invited foreign laborers — mostly from Turkey, Italy, and Yugoslavia — to rebuild the economy without giving much thought to their long-term integration. Today, the stakes are higher: Germany’s economy is shrinking, its population is aging, and basic services are under strain. Above all, the country needs working-age migrants to help support its ballooning pension system.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz is attempting to walk a fine line. He acknowledges Germany’s need for foreign labor — praising skilled immigrants as “drivers of progress” and warning that xenophobic ideologies threaten prosperity and liberal democracy. But at the same time, his government is ramping up border rejections, tightening asylum policies, and dismantling a fast-track naturalization process designed to reward well-integrated migrants.

This hardline stance has



A border crossing between Germany and Austria. Photograph: Philipp Guelland/EPA

continued despite a significant drop in asylum applications and in the face of court rulings that call some border rejections illegal. Ending “turbo naturalization” — which allowed citizenship in as little as three years for well-integrated migrants — seems more symbolic than effective. Last year, just 7% of new citizens used the fast-track process. Yet the message it sends is loud and clear: immigrants may be needed, but they are not necessarily wanted.

That message plays into the hands of the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), now polling second nationally, which openly calls for mass deportations — including of naturalized citizens with migrant

backgrounds. The result is growing anxiety among immigrant communities and a chilling effect on potential skilled migrants abroad who see Germany as unwelcoming.

Polling shows that while migration remains a top issue, concerns over inflation and inequality are just as pressing for German voters. Still, politicians like Merz and Bavaria’s premier Markus Söder fuel the narrative that immigration is a burden — even while conceding, often reluctantly, that it is economically necessary.

The reality is stark: Germany must attract around 400,000 net newcomers per year just to maintain its workforce and sustain

pension obligations. But it’s competing with other nations for talent, and its language, bureaucracy, and cool reception to outsiders make it a less appealing destination.

This is not just policy failure — it’s a failure of national imagination. Germany still struggles to see itself as an immigrant nation. The legacy of the postwar guest-worker model, combined with a cautious national identity shaped by its Nazi past, continues to cast a long shadow. The result? Many immigrants still feel like outsiders. Even national heroes like Mesut Özil, who helped Germany win the 2014 World Cup, said: “When we win, I’m German. When we lose, I’m a foreigner.”

NETANYAHU CONFIRMS US VISIT NEXT WEEK TO MEET TRUMP, TOP OFFICIALS

Netanyahu will discuss security and Gaza issues with Trump in US.

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV


Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday confirmed that he would travel to the United States next week to meet US President Donald Trump and other senior officials, as reported by The Jerusalem Post.

According to The Jerusalem Post, Netanyahu is expected to arrive in Washington next Monday, with Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer scheduled to land Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will visit the US next week to meet President Donald Trump and senior officials to discuss security and trade.

Minister Ron Dermer, already in Washington, is holding talks on regional diplomacy and Gaza, following Israel's recent conflict with Iran, The Jerusalem Post reported. earlier. Netanyahu said he would meet officials to discuss security-related matters and

THE MEETING

- Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer already in Washington.
- Meetings to discuss security, trade, regional diplomacy, and Gaza.
- Cabinet awaits Dermer's updates before new Gaza steps.
- Trump calls Netanyahu's trial a "political witch hunt."
- Netanyahu faces corruption charges, denies all allegations.
- Trump praises Netanyahu as a war hero and key ally.
- Trump warns trial hampers Iran and Hamas negotiations.



trade agreements. "I'm expected to travel to the United States next week for meetings with US President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Marco Rubio, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, the President's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, and the Secretary of Commerce," Netanyahu said during a cabinet meeting. On Monday, the cabinet

held a discussion and will wait to hear about Dermer's meetings in Washington before considering additional significant steps in Gaza. Dermer, a confidant of Netanyahu, is in Washington to meet with White House officials, Trump's spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told reporters at a press briefing on Monday. Dermer would be exploring possibilities of regional diplomatic deals in

the wake of Israel's 12-day war with Iran last month, as well as ending the Gaza war. The Jerusalem Post reported, citing an Israeli official. As diplomatic activity intensifies between the two allies, US President Donald Trump on Saturday (US local time) called the continuation of the trial against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a "political witch hunt". The remarks come as

the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is currently on trial for three separate alleged corruption charges, known as Case 1,000, 2,000, and 4,000, involving allegations of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust, as reported by Anadolu Agency. However, Netanyahu had consistently denied all accusations, dismissing them as "fake".

IDF CAPTURES TERROR CELL
Over the past 24 hours, units of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) operating in the areas north of Jerusalem thwarted a terrorist cell that intended to carry out an attack and located an explosives laboratory in Ramallah. The members of the terror cell were arrested. In addition, IDF forces carried out enforcement operations to take down a compound and several construction sites that were illegally erected in the village of Silwad, located north-east of Ramallah.

Iran says it 'needs more time' before resuming nuclear talks with US

AGENCIES
TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has dismissed the possibility of a quick resumption of nuclear talks with the United States, despite US President Donald Trump's remarks suggesting negotiations could restart as early as this week, Al Jazeera reported.

Araghchi's comments came during an interview on CBS Evening News on Monday, as foreign ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) nations issued a joint statement calling for renewed dialogue to curb Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran and the US were engaged in talks when Israel launched attacks on Iranian nuclear and military infrastructure. The US subsequently joined the offensive, targeting the Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan sites on June 21.

Tehran maintains its nuclear programme is peaceful, while the US and Israel say they aim to prevent Iran from acquiring

Iranian hackers threaten to release stolen mails of Trump's aides

NEW DELHI: An Iranian hacking group that hacked US President Donald Trump's 2024 election campaign has threatened to release a batch of emails stolen from Susie Wiles, White House chief of staff and advisor Roger Stone. The hackers who operated under the pseudonym, 'Robert' did not provide information about the content of the emails or when do they plan to release them. Both Wiles and Stone are Trump's long time aides. "A hostile foreign adversary was threatening to illegally exploit purportedly stolen and unverified material in an effort to distract, discredit and divide. The so-called cyber-attack is nothing more than digital propaganda and the targets are no coincidence. It is designed to damage President Trump and discredit honourable public servants who serve America with distinction," said Marci McCarthy, spokesperson, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) of US.

nuclear weapons. Araghchi said Iran would not reengage in talks unless it received guarantees that no further military attacks would occur during the negotiations. "In order for us to decide to reengage, we would have to first ensure that

America will not revert back to targeting us in a military attack during the negotiations," he said. "I think with all these considerations, we still need more time," he added, while noting that "the doors of diplomacy will never slam shut."

US Prez hits out at Elon Musk, EV mandates

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday (local time) reiterated his opposition to electric vehicle (EV) mandates, criticising government subsidies for Tesla CEO Elon Musk and questioning the broader push for EV adoption in the United States.

Trump said that Musk may receive more subsidies than any human being in history and that cutting these subsidies could save taxpayers billions of dollars.

In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump wrote, "Elon Musk knew, long before he so strongly Endorsed me for President, that I was strongly against the EV Mandate. It is ridiculous, and was always a major part of my campaign. Electric cars are fine, but not everyone should be forced to own one."

He further claimed that

Musk, despite endorsing him, has benefited significantly from federal subsidies. "Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa. No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE."



Trump concluded his post with a pointed remark, suggesting an investigation into the matter. "Perhaps we should have DOGE

take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!!" Notably, despite Trump's stance on EVs, Elon Musk had previously supported Trump for president. However, their relationship has soured over disagreements on subsidies and tax policies. While Trump criticised federal support for electric vehicles, tech billionaire Elon Musk has also voiced strong views on Republican climate policy. Musk recently criticised President Trump's "big, beautiful bill," calling it "political suicide for the Republican Party," The Hill reported. "Polls show that this bill is political suicide for the Republican Party," Musk said in an X post on Saturday. In another message, he branded the Senate draft as "utterly insane and destructive," stating, "It will destroy millions of jobs in America and cause immense strategic harm to our country!"

Tougher UK visa measures for foreign workers tabled in Parliament

AGENCIES
LONDON

The British government on Tuesday tabled the first set of tougher visa norms in the House of Commons to curb the recruitment of foreign skilled workers across different sectors, including the care industry, dubbing it a "complete reset" of the country's immigration system.

The new rules, proposed as part of an 'Immigration White Paper' back in May, will involve the skills and salary thresholds for foreign workers - including Indians - rise, overseas recruitment for care workers end, and more than 100 occupations including chefs and plasterers being taken off the short-age list which allowed certain visa exemptions.

These changes, once approved by Parliament and effective from July 22, are designed to attract graduate level or above workers by making several low-paid jobs ineligible for visas.

"We are delivering a complete reset of our immigration system to restore proper control and order, after the previous government allowed net migration to quadruple in four years," said UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

"These new rules mean stronger controls to bring migration down, to restore order to the immigration system and to ensure we focus on investing in skills and training here in the UK," she said.

The minister said her department's tougher



approach "values skills, tackles exploitation and ensures those who come to the UK make a genuine contribution".

According to a Commons statement tabled by Home Office minister Seema Malhotra, skilled workers already in the UK will be exempt from the increased skill level requirement which stipulate a Bachelor's degree or equivalent for applications from July 22 onwards when these changes come into force. "Salary requirements for work visas are being raised in line with the latest Office for National Statistics data, ahead of an upcoming thorough review of salary requirements (including discounts) by the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)," reads Malhotra's parliamentary statement.

Overseas recruitment for social care worker roles will close on July 22 and while new overseas applications will no longer be accepted, transitional provisions will allow "in-country switching" for care workers already in the UK for another three years until July 2028.

These changes restore order to the points-based system, focusing on higher skills, lower numbers and tighter controls, the UK Home Office said.

Yunus urges B'deshis to resist re-emergence of autocracy in country

AGENCIES
DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday urged his countrymen to resist the re-emergence of autocracy as he launched a month-long programme to mark last year's mass protests that ousted longtime prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We will observe this (July Uprising) every year so that we do not have to wait 16 years for another uprising again. We will do this every year so that we can destroy it immediately if there is any sign of dictatorship," he said.

Yunus said the celebration was not just a matter of emotion or expression of outrage but rather a manifestation of vigilance so the autocracy or dictatorship could be gouged "before it even shows its first leaf".

He said throughout July and August, the celebration would revive every day of

the last year for which the young students, commoners, rickshaw pullers, and workers were martyred and injured.



"We will do this every year so that dictatorship cannot raise its head again in any way," Yunus said.

The movement started in July last year under a platform called Students against Discrimination (SAD), demanding reforms in a controversial quota system for government jobs, but turned violent, resulting in the ouster of the government on August 5, 2024, when Hasina left the country for India on a military aircraft.

Pakistan starts UNSC presidency for July

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Tuesday said that it assumed the Presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of July with a "sense of purpose, humility and conviction" to promote respect of law and multilateralism.

The presidency of the Security Council - the world body's power centre - is part of Pakistan's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the

UNSC, which began in January 2025.

Pakistan was elected as a non-permanent member with overwhelming support of the UN membership, securing 182 votes out of 193. The presidency rotates monthly among its 15 members, in alphabetical order.

"Pakistan undertakes this responsibility with a deep sense of purpose, humility and conviction. Our approach will continue to remain anchored in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respect for international law, and a steadfast commitment to multilateralism," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

"Pakistan's Presidency will be transparent, inclusive and responsive," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad told the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) correspondent at the UN, as he prepared to face the challenges ahead.

Ambassador Iftikhar, who will preside over the Council meetings on key global issues in July, said he was fully aware of the complex geo-political scenario, growing instability and threats to international peace and security, marked by rising conflicts and deepening humanitarian crises.

He has already met with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and briefed him on the Council's programme of work in July.

Pakistan and India on Tuesday exchanged the lists of prisoners in each other's custody, with Islamabad submitting names of 246 Indian or believed-to-be-Indian detainees, including 53 civilians and 193 fishermen.

The Agreement on Consular Access, 2008 requires both sides to share the lists of prisoners in each other's custody on January 1 and July 1, every year, according to a statement by the Foreign Office.

Pakistan handed over a list of 246 Indian or believed-to-be-

Pakistan India exchange lists of prisoners in each other's custody

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Indian prisoners (53 civilian prisoners and 193 fishermen) to a representative of the Indian High Commission, Islamabad, the Foreign Office said.

"Today, Pakistan and India exchanged, through diplomatic channels, the lists of prisoners in each other's custody," the FO said. Simultaneously, India shared a list of 463 Pakistani or believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners (382 civilian prisoners and 81 fishermen) to a diplomat from the High Commission for Pakistan, New Delhi. Pakistan has called for the immediate release and repatriation of all those Pakistani prisoners and fishermen who have com-

pleted their respective sentences and whose national status stands confirmed.

"A request for special consular access has also been made for all believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners, including the physically- and mentally-challenged prisoners for expeditious confirmation of their national status," the FO said.

"The Indian side has also been urged to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of all Pakistani prisoners in Indian custody," the FO said.

Pakistan will continue its endeavours to ensure the early return of all Pakistani prisoners in Indian jails, it added.

Trump's 'big, beautiful Bill' awaits Senate vote

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump is making headlines again as his sweeping domestic policy legislation—dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill"—nears a critical Senate vote. The bill, which includes major funding for immigration enforcement, is under intense scrutiny from both political allies and critics alike.

Before heading back to Washington, Trump visited "Alligator

Alcatraz," a controversial new immigration detention center located deep in the Florida Everglades. The site, built on a remote airstrip and surrounded by dangerous swampland, is being touted by the Trump administration as a cutting-edge security facility. Speaking to reporters, Trump emphasized the symbolic nature of the location, suggesting that the surrounding snakes and alligators served as a natural deterrent. "This is not a nice business," Trump

said. "You know, the snakes are fast, but the alligators... that's security."

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, once a rival and now a key ally, joined Trump on the visit. DeSantis reportedly used emergency powers to fast-track the project, aligning himself fully with Trump's hardline immigration agenda.

The megabill being debated in the Senate reflects this approach. It includes \$46.5 billion for the construction and main-

tenance of border barriers and \$45 billion for immigrant detention facilities over four years. If passed, this would make Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) the most heavily funded federal law enforcement agency in the country. Critics argue that the bill prioritizes punitive immigration measures and raises costs for legal immigration, while civil rights groups have condemned the optics of "Alligator Alcatraz" as cruel and performative.



'HOUSEFULL 5' EARNS OVER RS 300 CRORE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

'Housefull 5', starring Akshay Kumar, Nana Patekar and Jacqueline Fernandez among others, has crossed Rs 300 crore with its worldwide box office collection.

Produced under Sajid Nadiadwala's production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, the film has been directed by Tarun Mansukhani of "Dostana" fame. It released in theatres worldwide on June 6 in two parts "Housefull 5A" and "Housefull 5B".

While both versions have the same beginnings, the last 20 minutes of climax differ. The total domestic box office collection of the film has crossed Rs

200 crore with worldwide gross box office collection reaching over Rs 300 crore,



according to a press note.

"Housefull 5" is the fifth installment of the "Housefull" franchise, which began in 2010. Following,

the films released in 2012,

2016, and 2019 respectively.

The film also stars Nargis Fakhri, Soundarya Sharma, Jackie Shroff, Riteish

Deshmukh, Fardeen Khan, Sanjay Dutt and Punjabi actor Sonam Bajwa, who made her Bollywood debut with it.



Sara Ali Khan poses for her social media.(Instagram)

SRK, Anil heap praise on 'Tanvi the Great'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The trailer of actor Anupam Kher's upcoming directorial 'Tanvi The Great' has received widespread acclaim from fans and celebrities, including Shah Rukh Khan and Anil Kapoor.

The film, which tells the story of a young autistic woman aspiring to join the Indian Army, has sparked anticipation ahead of its theatrical release on July 18.

Taking to his X handle, Shah Rukh Khan commended Kher's vision and courage, writing, "To my



friend @AnupamPKher who has always taken chances... whether it's acting, filmmaking or life!! The trailer of #TanviTheGreat is looking awesome. All the best on this journey!!"

Responding to Khan's post, Kher expressed gratitude, reposting the message with the caption,

"Thank you, my dearest friend, for your love and appreciation."

Anil Kapoor also lauded the film in a social media post, calling it "powerful, heartfelt, and deeply inspiring." Kapoor added, "Some stories stay with you long after the screen fades to black...#TanviTheGreat

is one of them. All my prayers and luck for the success of this labour of love."

'Tanvi The Great' has already made its mark on the international stage. The film had its global premiere at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, where it received a standing ovation.

It has since been screened at the New York Indian Film Festival, Houston, and Austin, drawing attention for both its narrative and performances.

Notably, Oscar winner Robert De Niro was among the attendees at its New York gala screening.

Jacqueline Fernandez features in 'Dum Dum' song

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

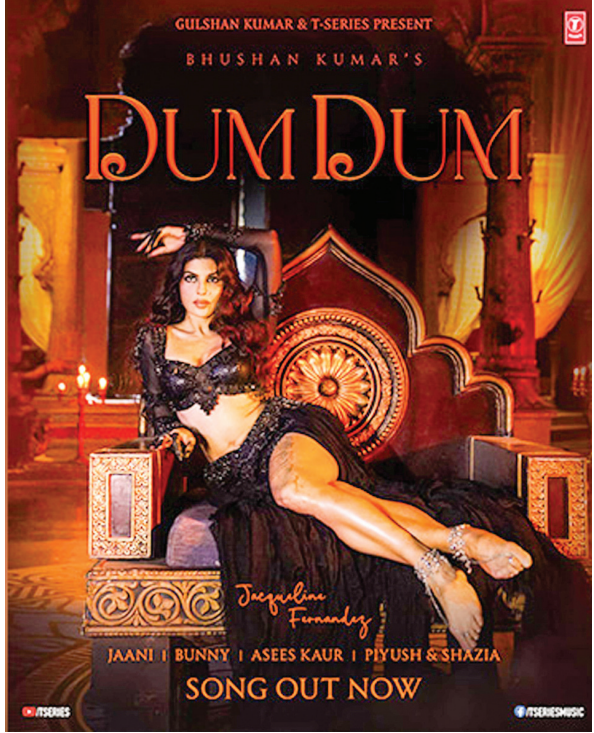
Actor Jacqueline Fernandez has been featured in a new track 'Dum Dum', which is sung by Asees Kaur.

Written by Jaani, with chorus vocals from Bunny, Sagar, Faiz, and Hunny, and mixed by Hanish Taneja, Dum Dum shows Jaqueline grooving to catchy lyrics.

Ahead of the release, Jacqueline took to Instagram to share her excitement: "I really feel like you guys are all gonna love it, we put in a lot of hard work, I got the team, Shazia and Piyush on it, and it's got this amazing magical-mystical vibe. I really am excited and I cannot wait for all of you to hear it, you guys are gonna love this one."

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Jacqueline was recently seen in 'Housefull 5'. It is directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiawala under Nadiawala Grandson Entertainment.

The film also features Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri,



Meanwhile, on the acting front, Jacqueline was recently seen in 'Housefull 5'. It is directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiawala under Nadiawala Grandson Entertainment.

Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Chitrangada Singh, Fardeen Khan, Chunky Pandey, Johnny

Lever, Shreyas Talpade, Dino Morea, Ranjeet, Soundarya Sharma, Nikitin Dheer, and Akashdeep Sabir.

Director Matt Reeves completes 'Batman 2' script

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

Director Matt Reeves and writer Mattson Tomlin have completed their script for "The Batman II", more than three years after the first film starring Robert Pattinson came out in theatres, reported Deadline.

Taking to their Instagram handle, the pair shared a blurred black and white photo of the script with a bat on the cover, under which the fuzzy title seems to say "The Batman: Part II."

Reeves captioned the post,



which is a collab share with co-writer Tomlin, "Partners in Crime (Fighters)." He also tweeted the photo and

tagged Tomlin. The caption cleverly alludes to Robin, who did not appear in the first film.

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The production of "Tere Ishk Mein", directed by Aanand L Rai and featuring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon in lead roles, has officially concluded.

The film, described as a spiritual successor to 'Raanjhanaa', is scheduled to release in theatres on November 28, 2025.



ported Deadline.

Earlier, James Gunn responded to fans' complaints online about the delay of the script, telling them to be patient, in his own style.

"Listen, we're supposed to get a script in June," he told Entertainment Weekly as quoted by Deadline.

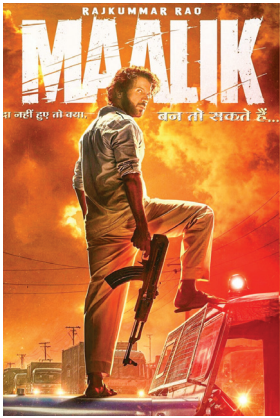
"I hope that happens. We feel really good about it. Matt's excited. I talk to Matt all the time. I'm totally excited about it. So we can't wait to read the scripts, but we haven't read it yet, if that's your question," reported Deadline.

'Maalik' trailer released, unveils a fierce new side of Rajkummar Rao

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Tips Films and Northern Lights Films have dropped the much-awaited trailer of Maalik, a gritty action-packed entertainer that sees Rajkummar Rao in his most intense and menacing role yet. In Maalik, Rajkummar Rao appears in a never-seen-before avatar as a cold-blooded gangster, brimming with menace and terror. With his rugged look and high-octane action moves, Rajkummar commands every frame delivering a performance that's raw, intense, and unforgettable. Also starring Manushi Chhillar in a lead role, along with

Saurabh Shukla and Saurabh Sachdeva in pivotal parts, Maalik is set against the gritty backdrop of 1980s Allahabad. It's a hard-hitting tale of ambition, power, and survival, that explores the price of rising in a world



ruled by guns, greed, and loyalty. Talking about his character, Rajkummar Rao says, "This is the first time I'm doing such a hard-hitting role. It really pushed me as an actor and let me explore a darker, more intense side. Playing a layered, ruthless gangster was both thrilling and challenging and that's what made it so exciting. I can't wait for the audience to experience the gritty, gripping world we've created." Manushi Chhillar also shared, "Maalik is really special to me. It's my first collaboration with such a talented team, Rajkummar and director Pulkit and I couldn't have asked for a better experience.

Filming wraps on Dhanush-Kriti Sanon starrer 'Tere Ishk Mein'

The film's production house confirmed the wrap through an Instagram post, sharing a symbolic image of two bloodied hands clasped together.

The caption read, "And that's a wrap on Tere Ishk Mein." At the IIFA Awards 2025, Kriti Sanon spoke briefly about her role in the film, calling it a "beautiful" and "genre-defying" experience. "It's a beautiful film--some-

thing I haven't done before. Love stories are my favourite genre, and Aanand Sir handles them in such a unique way. Working with Dhanush for the first time is also very exciting," she said.

Director Aanand L Rai first revealed the project on the 10th anniversary of 'Raanjhanaa', his 2013 romantic drama that also starred Dhanush in a leading role.

Vishnu Manchu's 'Kannappa' allegedly under piracy attack

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Actor Vishnu Manchu is currently basking in the success of his recently released film 'Kannappa', which has received a positive reaction at the box office. However, the movie has now allegedly fallen victim to "piracy".

Taking to his X handle, Vishnu Manchu revealed that over 30,000 "illegal links" of the movie 'Kannappa' have already been taken down, calling the situation



"heartbreaking".

Vishnu Manchu urged the viewers to support the "cin-

ema" in the right way by not consuming pirated content. He wrote:

THE SCIENCE OF RESISTANT STARCH: BENEFITS FOR THE GUT AND BEYOND

In recent years, resistant starch (RS) has emerged as a powerful dietary component with profound effects on gut health. Unlike regular starch, which is broken down and absorbed in the small intestine, resistant starch resists digestion and reaches the colon intact. Here, it acts as a substrate for fermentation by the gut microbiota, producing short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) such as butyrate, acetate, and propionate key metabolites with multiple health benefits.

One of the most significant benefits of resistant starch is its role in maintaining intestinal integrity. SCFAs, especially butyrate, are a primary energy source for colonocytes the cells lining the colon. Butyrate strengthens the gut barrier, reduces inflammation, and may even help lower the risk of colorectal cancer. Furthermore, the production of SCFAs lowers the pH in the colon, creating an environment that favors the growth of beneficial bacteria and inhibits pathogenic microbes.

Resistant starch also exhibits prebiotic properties by selectively promoting the growth of beneficial gut bacteria, particularly species within



FOOD IS MEDICINE
DR ANISH DESAI



the Bacteroidetes and Firmicutes phyla. These microbial changes can positively influence not only gut health but also systemic functions, including immune regulation and metabolic balance.

Dietary sources of RS are diverse

and include legumes (lentils, beans, chickpeas), whole grains (barley, oats), and tubers (especially cooked and cooled potatoes).

Additionally, green bananas and certain processed foods like whole grain breads and pastas contain

appreciable amounts of RS. Food preparation methods, such as cooking followed by cooling, can significantly increase RS content through a process called retrogradation.

There are five types of RS, categorized based on their resistance to digestion. RS1 is physically inaccessible starch found in whole or coarsely ground grains. RS2 is present in raw foods like unripe bananas and raw potatoes. RS3 is retrograded starch formed after cooking and cooling. RS4 is chemically modified for industrial use, and RS5 involves amylose-lipid complexes.

Incorporating resistant starch into the diet whether through natural foods like legumes and cooled grains or fortified products presents a valuable strategy to support gut health and microbial balance.

By enhancing the production of beneficial short-chain fatty acids and promoting a healthier gut environment, resistant starch may help reduce the risk of metabolic disorders. As research continues, RS is poised to play a key role in nutrition-based approaches to long-term health and wellness.

Wedding Mithai Boxes: A ritual, a gift, a business



RIDHI BHAGAT

Weddings in India are not just ceremonies—they are cultural festivals, grand celebrations, and deep-rooted traditions rolled into one. Amid the sparkle of rituals and the richness of customs, one sweet tradition has remained timeless: the gifting of wedding mithai boxes. What was once a simple act of hospitality has evolved into an intricate blend of ritual, luxury gifting, and a booming business opportunity.

A RITUAL OF SWEET BEGINNINGS

Indian weddings are a tapestry of rituals, and sweets are woven into every stage. From the “roka” to the “bidaai,” mithai symbolizes auspicious beginnings, blessings, and the sweetness of new bonds. Traditionally, families prepare or source mithai as a sacred offering—distributed to relatives, friends, and even deities. Offering sweets is considered a way of sharing joy and spreading good fortune.

Each region has its own wedding sweets that carry cultural significance—Rasgulla in Bengal, Petha in Agra, Mysore Pak in the South, or Kaju Katli in the North. These are not just desserts; they are carriers of heritage.

A GIFT THAT SPEAKS FROM THE HEART

In modern weddings, mithai boxes are no longer limited to trays of laddoos and barfis. They have become personalized gifts—curated to reflect the couple's taste, the theme of the wedding, or the family's identity. From elegant minimalist packaging to gold-embossed silk boxes, from traditional assortments to fusion delights like chocolate gulab jamun or blueberry peda, the options are endless.

Brides and grooms now treat mithai boxes as an extension of their wedding story. Many boxes include handwritten notes, couple initials, or wedding hashtags. Some go further with eco-friendly packaging, custom flavors, or pairing sweets with teas, candles, and other lifestyle items.

Gifting mithai during weddings today is a statement of taste, culture, and intent. It's not just about sharing sweets—it's about creating a lasting impression.

A BUSINESS WRAPPED IN OPPORTUNITY

Behind every carefully curated mithai box lies a vibrant and growing industry. The wedding mithai market is now an organized sector with artisans, packaging designers, and food technologists working together to deliver products that meet both aesthetic and hygienic standards.

Artisanal sweet makers like Bhagat Halwai, Haldiram's, and several boutique mithai brands are scaling up with made-to-order mithai collections, luxury hampers, and pan-India (and even international) delivery options. With weddings getting larger and more personalized, bulk mithai orders for guest

giveaways, bridal trousseaus, and welcome kits have become a key revenue stream.

Some businesses are going a step further by offering subscription-based wedding tasting services, online customization portals, and ready-to-ship designer boxes for destination weddings. Fusion sweets, vegan options, and health-conscious mithais made with jaggery, dates, and millet are also tapping into the new-age consumer base.

What's more, corporate partnerships are emerging too—many wedding planners now include mithai vendors in their preferred vendor lists, and brands often co-create exclusive ranges to match wedding decor or themes.

A SWEET FUTURE

As Indian weddings continue to evolve, so does the role of sweets. What was once a humble gesture is now a strategic and emotional centerpiece of celebration. Wedding mithai boxes today are a blend of nostalgia, innovation, and commerce—honoring tradition while embracing the future.

For families, they remain a way to say “thank you” and “we're happy you're part of our big day.” For businesses, they represent a lucrative opportunity fueled by creativity and tradition.

In every bite of a well-crafted peda or a delicate piece of barfi lies a story—not just of love and celebration, but of culture, care, and a thriving industry that continues to sweeten the most important day in people's lives.

The author is Strategic Director, Bhagat Halwai and Founder, Binge on Baked

RECIPE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

MANGO BOMB PUCHKA

Ingredients:

PUCHKA BASE:

- * Suji Puchkas – 5
- * Boiled Potato – 40 gm
- * Green Chilli – 1 (optional)
- * Chaat Masala – 15 gm

SWEETENED YOGHURT:

- * Hung Curd – 50 ml
- * Honey – 1 tsp
- * Maple Syrup – 1 tsp
- * Aromats – a few drops (optional)

SAUTH CHUTNEY:

- * Tamarind – 20 gm
- * Dates – 20 gm
- * Jaggery – 15 gm
- * Water – 50 ml



- * Black Pepper – ½ tsp
- * Cumin – 1 tsp
- * Coriander Powder – ½ tsp
- * Saunth – 1 tsp
- * Red Chilli – ½ tsp
- * Salt – to taste

MINT CHUTNEY:

- * Coriander – 1 cup
- * Mint – ½ cup
- * Green Chilies – 1-2
- * Ginger – ½ inch
- * Cumin – ½ tsp

- * Lemon Juice – 1 tbsp
- * Salt – to taste
- * Water – as needed

MANGO CAVIAR:

- * Mango Pulp – 50 ml
- * Agar Agar – ½ tsp
- * Water – 50 ml

GARNISH:

- * Microgreens or Pea Shoots – 5 sprigs

METHOD:

1. Stuffing:

Mash potatoes, mix with chopped green chilli, chaat masala, and salt.

2. Sweetened Yoghurt:

Whisk curd with honey, maple syrup & aromats. Chill.

3. Sauth Chutney:

Boil tamarind, dates &

jaggery in water. Blend, strain, cook with spices till thickened.

4. Mint Chutney:

Blend all ingredients to smooth consistency.

5. Mango Caviar:

Boil mango pulp with agar agar & water. Cool slightly, drop into cold oil/water to form beads. Strain & chill.

ASSEMBLY (PER PUCHKA):

1. Crack puchka top
2. Fill with 8 gm potato mix
3. Add 10 ml sweet curd
4. Drizzle 4 ml sauth + 6 ml mint chutney
5. Add 4 ml mango purée
6. Top with 4-6 gm mango caviar
7. Sprinkle chaat masala
8. Garnish with microgreens

SAWARI India rolls ot Gourmet Signature ThalIs and Bento Box Meals

SHREYA NAIR

SAWARI India, the newest venture by Grameendine Hospitality and already one of Bengaluru's most talked-about culinary destinations, is now delivering its signature hospitality and rich flavors right to your home or office. The restaurant has officially launched its curated Signature Thali Meals and a brand-new Special Bento Box Meal Collection just a phone call away, and the Signature ThalIs are available exclusively for delivery on Zomato and Swiggy. These offerings are designed to meet the evolving needs of modern diners who crave authenticity, convenience, and restaurant-quality food — wherever they are.

Inspired by the timeless appeal of traditional Indian meals and the rising demand for gourmet-style convenience, the Special Bento Box Meal Collection offers an innovative twist on multi-course dining. Each Bento Box is crafted with precision, balancing flavor, variety, and presentation. The Indian Vegetarian Combo features rich Paneer Makhani, creamy Dal Makhani, spiced Kadai Subz, and Punjabi Paneer Tikka, paired with Jeera Rice, Butter Roti or Naan, Raita, Salad, and a sweet

finish of Gulab Jamun. For meat lovers, the Indian Non-Vegetarian Combo includes Butter Chicken, Kadai Chicken, Dal Makhani, and Amritsari Chicken Tikka, along with the same comforting accompaniments. The Chinese-inspired Bento Boxes are equally indulgent — with a Vegetarian version offering Chilli Paneer Gravy, Spring Rolls, Fried Rice, Hakka Noodles, Kimchi Salad, and Gulab Jamun, while the Non-Vegetarian option replaces the paneer with Chilli Chicken and includes Egg Fried Rice and Chicken Hakka Noodles.

Complementing the Bento Boxes is SAWARI's standout Signature Thali Meal collection, a celebration of India's rich culinary heritage. The Non-Vegetarian Thali (Rs 445) brings together a satisfying trio of Butter Chicken, Kadai Chicken, and Dal Makhani, served with Jeera Rice, Butter Roti or Naan, Raita, Salad, and Gulab Jamun. The Vegetarian Thali (Rs 395) features Paneer Makhani, Dal Makhani, and Kadai Subz, accompanied by the same delicious sides. Each Thali is a complete, balanced meal that transforms everyday dining into a memorable experience.

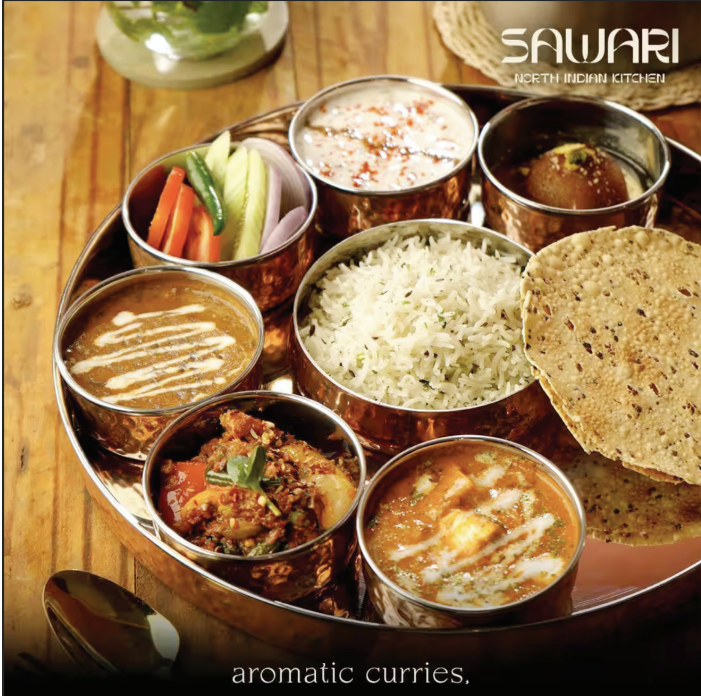
SAWARI India has made a name for itself through its bold 80:20 approach —



blending authentic North Indian traditions with beloved desi-Chinese flavors. At its flagship restaurant, diners are treated to an elevated experience that combines traditional recipes, expertly handcrafted cocktails, and soulful live music. With the launch of its delivery-focused Bento and Thali offerings, SAWARI now extends that same care, attention to detail, and culinary passion beyond its physical space. These meals are not only ideal for a satisfying lunch or comforting dinner, but also make for impressive team meals, corporate catering options, and family-style celebrations at home.



Available exclusively on Zomato and Swiggy,



the Signature ThalIs are already generating buzz

for their quality, presentation, and convenience. For

corporate or bulk orders, SAWARI also invites customers to call +91 70573 35152 to arrange custom delivery options for both Special Bento Box & Signature ThalIs.

As Bengaluru continues to evolve as one of India's most dynamic food cities, SAWARI India stands at the forefront — offering rich flavors, thoughtful innovation, and now, delivery that doesn't compromise on quality. Whether you're at work, at home, or hosting guests, SAWARI delivers a gourmet experience to remember — one thali or bento box at a time.

EDUCATORS LAB 2025 EQUIPS DELHI TEACHERS TO BRING SUSTAINABILITY INTO CLASSROOMS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Educators Lab 2025 Equips Delhi Teachers to Bring Sustainability into Classrooms

Two-day workshop advances Phase 2 of the Blue Curriculum with hands-on activities, systems thinking, and global cooperation

New Delhi – The Centre for Civil Society (CCS), in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) hosted the Educators Lab 2025 at Indian School of Public Policy, New Delhi. The workshop brought together 28 teachers from six Delhi schools to explore the second phase of CCS's Blue Curriculum, a sustainability-focused framework that brings real-world, systems-based learning into class-

rooms.

Phase 1 of the Blue Curriculum, introduced in 2024, laid the foundation for sustainability thinking by helping teachers and students understand the interconnectedness of nature, the value of sustainable choices, and the possibility of change at individual and community levels. Phase 2, implemented this year, focused on applying these concepts at both personal and systemic levels. The sessions encouraged teachers to critically examine existing education and environmental systems, explore the management of common property resources, and promote regional and global cooperation. The Lab also emphasized developing skills and mindsets needed to nurture Blue Planet stewards, entrepre-



neurs, and sustainability practitioners.

The Blue Curriculum is not only gaining momentum in India – it is also being implemented in 13 schools across Nepal, demonstrating its grow-

ing regional relevance and cross-border educational potential.

Six Delhi-based schools participated in this year's Educator Lab: Oxford Angel Public School, Hari Vidya Bhawan, KPS Con-

vent, Sainath Public School, Surya Model School and SR Capital Senior Secondary School.

Educators engaged in seven interactive sessions that brought sustainability and systems thinking into focus.

They designed eco-friendly towns in Build Your Blue Town, solved environmental mysteries in Bay-Gram Breakout, and explored regional cooperation through the BIMSTEC Reality Race. From Straw to Startup en-

couraged innovation by turning waste into business ideas, while Common Good City and Blue Planet Heroes sparked conversations on civic ethics and future-ready careers. Each session offered practical tools to embed sustainability and critical thinking into everyday teaching.

"The Blue Curriculum gives educators a chance to step beyond traditional teaching methods and engage students in shaping the world around them. Teachers are not just transmitters of knowledge – they are builders of futures," said Dr. Amit Chandra, CEO, Centre for Civil Society.

"Phase 2 is about going deeper – from awareness to action, from theory to design. The Lab equips teachers to be co-creators of solu-

tions with their students," added Mr. Nitesh Anand, Senior Fellow at CCS and lead facilitator of the Lab.

The success of Educators Lab 2025 was made possible through the dedication and hard work of the CCS team. Special thanks goes to Nitesh Anand, Snehal Thakre, Krupa Thakkar, Bhupender Singh, Gaurav Gautam, Mahika Malik, Kunal Parashar, Ravi Yadav and Varsha Chaturvedi along with educators and school leaders who supported in every step. The Lab concluded with reflection, certificate distribution, and strong commitment from participants to integrate the Blue Curriculum into their teaching. Many expressed eagerness to collaborate and innovate further in their schools.

The AI teacher in the AI classroom



P.V. LAXMIPRASAD

In recent times, AI (Artificial Intelligence) has made rapid strides in the life of a man. It has affected every sector. In this scenario, education is witnessing a few changes because of the influence of AI. The role of a teacher has changed drastically ever since AI made its way in all the sectors. Education is no exception in the changing scenario. A teacher irrespective of his level of teaching has to inevitably acquire skills that make him or her teach with AI tools and applications. We have different streams like Medicine, Engineering, Pharmacy and Agriculture. All these disciplines come under professional courses. In recent times, one could see a surgeon undertaking a surgery to a patient from Rome in Italy to Beijing in China with the help of a Robotic technology. Technology has indeed innovated life. All the sectors are making use of recent innovations in technology. The rapid increase in the scientific advancement has doubled the sphere of knowledge.

One such innovation is AI

that is Artificial Knowledge. It is a buzzword now in the global market. It is ruling the world now. Teaching from traditional times to modern times has witnessed enormous changes from 1950s to 2025. Of late, AI is the new supporting tool and application of a transformative shift from general to a more focused approach in teaching and learning. 'Change with changing times' is the new perception in modern century. As change is the new innovation tool, teachers have to update their skills from time to time.

AI in teaching refers to the use of artificial intelligence technologies to enhance the learning experience,

interactive content.

In the era of AI which is virtually changing the education landscape, the relevant tools and applications have to be learnt and implemented. Even AI can design the classroom now. All that AI replaces is the innovative teaching designs but not the teacher. The shifting role of the teacher is emphasized in this context.

AI tools for teachers can significantly streamline classroom management, save time, and enhance student learning experiences. These tools offer various functionalities, including automating tasks, generating content, and providing personalized feedback. All

content creation, and assessment. Examples include ChatGPT, Canva, Gradescope, and Quizizz.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly transformed from a futuristic concept to an integral part of our daily lives, and education is no exception. In 2024, AI technologies are revolutionizing the academic landscape, offering unprecedented opportunities for personalized learning, administrative efficiency and improved educational outcomes. From intelligent tutoring systems to AI-driven classroom management, the impact of AI is profound and far-reaching.

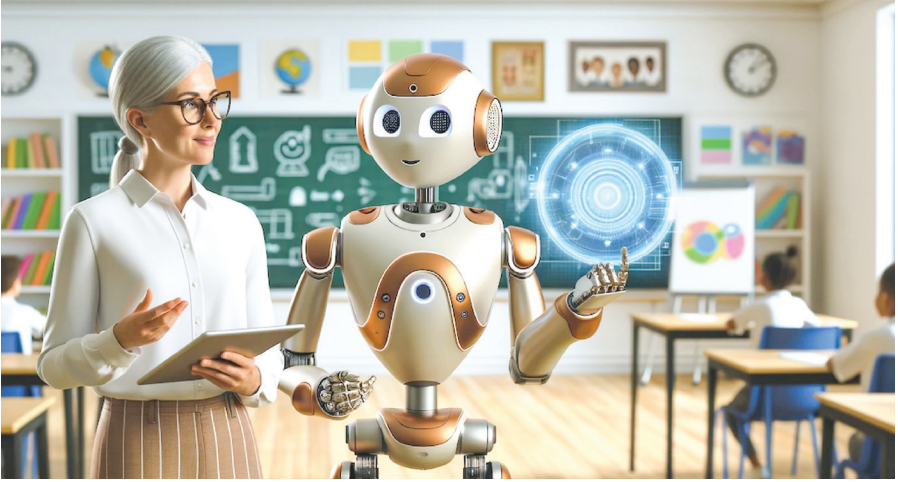
Educators and administrators can now leverage AI

styles. As AI evolves, its potential to transform education grows, setting the stage for a future where learning is more personalized and effective.

Artificial intelligence is revolutionizing education with cutting-edge tools that enhance teaching and learning. From personalizing experiences to optimizing administrative tasks, here are examples of how AI is transforming modern education: Adaptive Learning, Assistive Technology, Data and Learning Analytics Classroom Management, Intelligent Tutoring Systems, Automated Grading, Assessment Tools, Chatbots and Virtual Assistants, Virtual 3D Classrooms, Edutainment and Gamification, Digital Learning, Learning Management Systems, Parent-Teacher Communication Curriculum Planning, Interactive and Learning Games, Personalized Learning, Language Learning and etc make AI teaching and learning effective in the changing scenario.

Thus AI can improvise teaching – learning landscape in an innovative way. Teacher training programs shall be planned to update the AI teaching methods, tools and applications. Mastering of AI tools by teachers is compulsory at all levels.

The author is the author and editor of 44 books in English Literature.



personalize education, automate administrative tasks, and provide support for educators. AI can be leveraged in various ways, including automating grading, generating personalized learning paths, and creating

lesson plans, AI Multiple Choice Quiz Maker,

Scheme of Work Generator, Class Question Generator, AI Rubrics Generator, and Glossary. Several free AI tools can assist teachers with lesson planning,

to analyse vast amounts of data, providing insights that drive informed decisions and strategies. Additionally, AI is breaking down educational barriers thanks to tools that support students with different needs and learning

THE SHIFT FROM INDUSTRIAL AGE TO INTELLIGENCE AGE: HOW EDUCATION 5.0 IS REDEFINING LEARNING



PROF. SUPRIYA PATTANAYAK

The world today is rapidly shifting from the Industrial Age – where repetition, conformity, and uniformity were the objectives – to the Intelligence Age, where innovation, flexibility, and complex problem-solving are the new imperatives. This transition is revolutionizing all industries, particularly education, and marking the rise of a more mature paradigm - Education 5.0.

Education 5.0 is not merely incorporating digital tools or technological expertise; it is all about transforming learning into a more human, experiential, and values-based experience. It places equal emphasis on cognitive, emotional, and practical skills to prepare students to thrive in environments where AI, automation, and multidisciplinary collaboration are the new

standards.

Those institutions adopting this creed are creating learning spaces that mimic the real world. Some universities can indeed be called leaders in this evolution. With an assortment of manufacturing labs that simulate various industry conditions – from robotics and mechatronics to materials – such institutions guarantee that students get opportunities to tackle the actual problems of the world. The labs are not an afterthought but an intrinsic part of the curriculum, allowing students to experiment, construct, and create as part of normal learning.

Additionally, the on-campus Action Learning Labs and Production Centers further this practice. With such programmes, students engage in live projects, operate machinery, and address industrial issues in real-time. This experiential model fosters critical thinking, teamwork, and confidence – all essential qualities of the Intelligence Age work environment.

The other distinguishing characteristic of progressive education models is the provision for lateral entry in different programs. Apart from providing flexibility,

this opens access to quality education and makes it possible for students from different academic or professional backgrounds to re-skill or change over with ease into areas of interest as well as market needs.

Such innovations are wholly in keeping with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which envisions a multidisciplinary, skill-driven model of education based on flexibility and experiential learning. The NEP espouses early vocational training, industry ties, and shifting focus from rote learning to comprehension at the conceptual level – goals already being enthusiastically implemented at forward-thinking educational institutions.

As the Intelligence Age is already rewriting the rules of business, education also needs a transformation. That template is Education 5.0 – fusion of technology and empathy, skills and values, learning and doing.

By leading this revolution, educational institutions will not just build effective professionals but conscious, agile minds the future demands.

The author is Vice Chancellor, Centurion University, Odisha

From campus to shopfloor: Why work-integrated degrees deserve national attention



KULDIP SARMA

India doesn't have a jobs crisis, it has a skills crisis. Year by year, millions of students graduate with degrees, but too many sit on the sidelines of the labor market. The issue isn't a lack of ambition or intellect, it is a misalignment between what's being taught in classrooms and what's required in the outside world.

The figures make the disconnect painfully evident.

As of May 2025, the overall unemployment rate is 5.6%, but in young urban Indians, it's close to 18%. More dramatically, only 42.6% of graduates are considered employable by the latest Mercer-Mettl Graduate Skill Index. A degree, it seems, is no longer a guarantee of direction.

Why Practical Skills Can't Be An Afterthought

Nearly 80% of rural youth in India have never received any kind of formal vocational training. This leaves them doubly disadvantaged—not only are opportunities scarce, but the preparation for those opportunities is even scarcer.

In today's dynamic economy, book learning is not sufficient. Students must learn

to do, not merely know. Whether it's operating industrial equipment, interpreting business statistics, or isolating real-time technical problems, learning how to perform confidently in a work environment is essential.

Degree programs that involve work-integrated learning, where classroom study is supplemented by training within industry, offer a highly effective mechanism for closing the gap. Instead of simply reading about it, students learn through doing, and frequently are situated within the very industries they wish to enter. As technology disrupts sectors faster than curricula can keep up, only those higher education in-



stitutions that work closely with industry will remain relevant.

Take the IT sector, for example. According to EY India, generative AI could

boost productivity in this field by as much as 45% over the next five years. That's a seismic change. But what it also indicates is that employees need to show up

ready with not only book learning but also the flexibility and practical know-how to deal with new tools and workflows from day one.

The most effective way to do that is through initiatives where industry veterans help design curriculum, provide apprenticeships, and directly influence the future workforce.

Learning by Doing: The 70-20-10 Rule in Action

There is a much-used model of learning that contends workers build 70% of their expertise in the workplace, 20% through feedback and teamwork, and only 10% from classroom instruction. That in itself is a strong case for incorporating hands-on experience from day one into teaching.

Work-integrated degrees don't only instruct students what to think—they instruct them how to work. They build confidence, hone

skills, and enable young professionals to contribute from day one, not year three.

A National Priority, Not a Niche Idea

This isn't just an education problem, it's an economic one. A generation of students who are unemployable put social systems under strain, hold back economic growth, and increase inequality. If India is to realize the true potential of its young workforce, skill-based, work-integrated degrees need to shift from the fringe to the mainstream.

For in the end, a degree should do more than pad a résumé—it should propel a career.

The author is Co-Founder and Pro-Chancellor, Medhavi Skills University

NO. 1 SINNER OFF TO WINNING START AT WIMBLEDON WITH A ROUT OF NARDI

AGENCIES
LONDON

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner got his Wimbledon campaign off to an ideal start by beating Luca Nardi 6-4, 6-3, 6-0 in an all-Italian matchup on Tuesday.

The three-time Grand Slam champion, who lost a five-set French Open final to Carlos Alcaraz, is in search of his first Wimbledon title. He was a semifinalist at the All England Club in 2023.

"First matches are never easy so I'm very happy about my performance," he said in his on-court interview. "It's a new tournament, new chances, new challenges. You have one opponent at a time."

Sinner will play Aleksandar Vukic of Australia in the second round.

There were times Monday when Alcaraz appeared to be something less than his best, far from the form he displayed during his epic five-set, 5 1/2-hour comeback victory over No. 1 Jan-



nik Sinner for the championship at Roland-Garros.

Alcaraz double-faulted nine times. He faced a hard-to-believe 21 break points. He made more unforced errors, 62, than winners, 52.

He chalked some of that up to jitters.

"It doesn't matter the winning streak that I have right now, that I've been playing great on grass, that I've been preparing really well," said Alcaraz, who beat Novak Djokovic in the 2023 and 2024 finals. "Wimbledon is

different. I could feel today that I was really nervous at the beginning."

Next for Alcaraz will be a match Wednesday against Oliver Tarvet, a 21-year-old British qualifier who plays college tennis at the University of San Diego and is ranked 733rd.

Still, Alcaraz said: "I have to improve in the next round."

Fognini — whose wife, 2015 U.S. Open champion Flavia Pennetta, held one of their children in the stands

— is a self-described hot-head and is known for mid-match flareups, including at Wimbledon, where he was fined \$3,000 in 2019 for saying during a match that he wished "a bomb would explode at the club" and a then-record \$27,500 in 2014 for a series of outbursts. He was put on a two-year probation by the Grand Slam Board in 2017 after insulting a female chair umpire at the U.S. Open and getting kicked out of that tournament. Such behavior

wasn't displayed Monday. And when Alcaraz pushed a forehand long to cede the fourth set, Fognini nodded toward his guest box, where a member of his entourage stood to snap a photo with a cellphone. Things were picture-perfect for Fognini at that moment.

But at the outset of the fifth — the first time the previous year's male champ was pushed that far in the first round since Roger Federer in 2010 — Alcaraz recalibrated. When the Spaniard broke to lead 2-0 in that set with a backhand volley winner, he pointed toward the stands, threw an uppercut and screamed, "Vamos!" In the next game, he saved a pair of break points, before the match was paused for more than 10 minutes because a spectator felt ill amid record-breaking high temperatures for Day 1 of Wimbledon.

When they resumed, Alcaraz outplayed Fognini the rest of the way. Fognini said he cried in the locker room afterward.

Anderson Peters ruled out of Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Former world champion and Olympic bronze medalist javelin thrower Anderson Peters of Grenada was announced to be ruled out of the Neeraj Chopra Classic competition on Tuesday. Poland's Cyprian Mrzygłod has been roped in as a replacement in the line-up.

In a statement, NC Classic took to X and posted, "'Official Update' Anderson Peters has been ruled out of the Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 due to an ankle injury sustained during his last competition. Poland's Cyprian Mrzygłod has been named as his replacement in the final lineup."

https://x.com/nc_classic/status/1940002732510765213 Notably, India's javelin star Kishore Jena has also been ruled out of the inaugural edition of the competition due to an ankle



injury, with Yashvir Singh coming in as his replacement in the final line-up. "Kishore Jena has been ruled out of the Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 due to an ankle injury. Yashvir Singh has been named as his replacement in the final lineup," Neeraj Chopra Classic said in a statement. Yashvir and Kishore were in action Indian Open Athletics 2025 meet in Chennai in April earlier this year. Competing at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, Yashvir Singh produced his best effort of 77.49m on his fifth attempt, while Kishore's 75.99m throw

came on his fourth attempt.

The upcoming NC Classic is set to take place on July 5, at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. Initially the tournament was scheduled for May 24th; however, the event was deferred, due to cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan.

This landmark event, India's first-ever International Javelin competition, is spearheaded by India's most decorated Olympian, Neeraj, in collaboration with JSW Sports and sanctioned by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Mandhana moves to third spot in ICC T20I batter rankings

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India star opening batter Smriti Mandhana has reaped a reward for her recent century against England and has reached a new career-high rating in the latest ICC Women's T20I batter rankings.

Mandhana, who is the No.1 ranked ODI batter, took England to the sword with a superb innings of 112 in Nottingham recently. That helped the left-hander gain one place and move to third on the latest rankings for T20I batters.

Mandhana has also reached a new career-best rating of 771 points and has 23 points gap from No.1 ranked player Beth Mooney among T20I batters.

Fellow Indian opener Shafali Verma has gained

one place to move to 13th in the T20I rankings following her innings of 20 in the match against England. Teammate Harleen Deol has re-entered the batter rankings in joint 86th after a quickfire knock of 43.

England pacer Lauren Bell claimed three wickets in Nottingham clash, and the tall right-arm bowler has risen two spots to career-best fourth in the latest rankings for T20I bowlers.

Pakistan spinner Sadia Iqbal remains at the top of the list for T20I bowlers, but it's tight at the top with just 44 rating points separating the top 10 players.

The final match of the T20I series between the West Indies and South Africa also saw their players gaining in the latest rankings.

Tanvi crowned world No. 1 junior women's singles shuttler

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Sixteen-year-old badminton star Tanvi Sharma has done India proud, as she was announced as the new world number one junior women's singles player on Tuesday.

The official X handle of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) posted, "At just 16, Teen Titan Tanvi Sharma is the new World No.1 Junior Women's Single Player. What a fantastic few weeks it has been for Tanvi! #Badminton #TanviSharma #TeenTitan #IndiaRising #IndianSports."

In the women's singles at the recently concluded US Open, 16-year-old Tanvi surprised everyone with a strong performance throughout the tournament. She defeated players ranked World No. 23, 40, 50, and 58 to reach the final.

She lost to top seed Beibei Zhang of the USA in a hard-fought match (21-11, 16-21, 21-10), Tanvi made history by becoming the youngest Indian to reach a Badminton

World Federation (BWF) World Tour final.

Earlier, speaking to ANI about her performance in the US Open, Tanvi said, "It was a good tournament for me. I didn't expect to play in the finals. Because my starting round was 32, the first round itself was a tough match. I just expected to give my best. Whatever I was doing, I wanted to play well. I managed to win."

She also talked about her earlier matches, where she beat Vietnam's T L Nguyen (21-19, 21-9) in the Round of 32, Thailand's Opatniputh Pitchamon (21-18, 21-16) in the Round of 16, and Malaysia's L. Karupathevan (21-13, 21-16) in the quarterfinals.

"First round with the Vietnam girl. She was very experienced. In the second round, I played with Opatniputh Pitchamon. She was a former world junior champion. She was also very experienced. I managed to win. In the quarterfinals, I played with a Malaysian girl. She was also very good.

I played my best and I won," she said.

Tanvi said her toughest matches were the first two rounds. "I think the toughest match was the first (Round of 32) and second round (Round of 16). I thought both were tough because both were top-class players. I got a good experience by playing here. I just want to gain this experience. I want to play like this in the next tournaments," she added.

Looking ahead, Tanvi said she is preparing for the Asian Junior Championships and the World Junior Championships, both of which will be held in India. She also hopes to take part in higher-level tournaments in the future. "I am playing the Asian Junior Championships next month. After that, there is the World Junior Championships. Both of these tournaments are in India. I will try to do well in that. I want to play well in the Super 300 and 500," she concluded.

Stokes reflects on England's fitness ahead of second test against India

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM

Heading into the second test against India at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England skipper Ben Stokes spoke about his and the rest of the team's fitness after bowling so much in the first test at Leeds.

After suffering a 5-wicket loss in the opening Test, despite setting a target of 371, Team India will be looking to level the series in the second Test of the five-match series. The crucial match will be played from July 2 to July.

"I feel better now than I did on Thursday and Friday. I think everyone was, sort of, very tired from that week. It was a big week, we were in the field and bowled four out of the five days," Ben Stokes said in the pre-match press



conference.

"Used the three days after that game to offer absolutely nothing to the world. I was a shadow of my normal self, but yeah, that just goes to show how much, you know, a five-day test match takes out of you. But yeah, I was pretty tired, but all over that now and ready to go tomorrow," he added.

Stokes emphasised the importance of the team starting "at zero" this week, despite their 1-0 lead. He acknowl-

edged the first test victory over India and the need to refocus on achieving another win.

"Obviously going 1-0 up, good start, but one of the important things for us heading into this week is starting at zero again. We know last week was a very tough fourth victory for us, obviously. Long five days, so just about, as I say, getting back to zero and going again and obviously focusing on trying to get the win here."

Hockey India announces India A men's squad for Europe tour

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Tuesday announced the India A Men's Hockey Team squad for its upcoming tour of Europe, scheduled to take place from July 8 to July 20. The tour will feature a total of eight matches against some of the top European sides and is aimed at providing valuable interna-



tional exposure to a mix of emerging and experienced players.

The India A team will play

two matches each against Ireland, France and the Netherlands, along with one match each against England and Belgium. These high-intensity games are expected to test the depth and readiness of India's talent pool as the national setup looks to build a strong pipeline for the senior team.

The 20-member squad comprises a blend of seasoned performers and

promising youngsters who have impressed in domestic and international circuits. The team will be captained by Sanjay, while Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh will be his deputy.

The squad includes goalkeepers Pawan and Mohit Honnenahalli Shashikumar and defenders Pratap Lakra, Varun Kumar, Amandeep Lakra, Parmod, and Sanjay.

In the midfield department, Poovanna Chandura Bobby, Mohammed Raheel Mouseen, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Vishnukant Singh, Pardeep Singh, and Rajinder Singh are present, while the forward line-up includes Angadbir Singh, Bobby Singh Dhami, Maninder Singh, Venkatesh Kenche, Aditya Arjun Lalge, Selvam Karthi, and Uttam Singh.

National selection trials: Suruchi, Saurabh win 10m Pistol T4 event

AGENCIES
DEHRADUN

Suruchi Inder Singh continued remarkable form this season, finishing on top of T4 10m Pistol Women event while Olympian Saurabh Chaudhary took the top spot in the men's event in the final day of the National Selection Trials 3 & 4 (Rifle & Pistol) for Group 'A' athletes being held here at the Trishul Shooting Range, Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur. Both athletes also topped their respective qualification rounds with high scores of 588 and 587, respectively. Suruchi dominated the finals

once again from the start and finished with a score of 244.3, which was 3.1 more than Anjali Shekhawat, who finished in second. The experienced Rahi Samrat secured another podium finish with a score of 221.6. Olympians Manu Bhaker and Esha Singh finished in fourth and fifth places, respectively, with scores of 202.5 and 179.6. Sainyam, K.M Priyanka Patel and D. Padma completed the final lineup.

Suruchi shot a brilliant 588-20x in qualification to finish on top ahead of Anjali and Rahi who shot 584-25x and 579-23x to finish in the top three.

Cabinet approves Khelo Bharat Niti to bring India into top-5 in sports

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Calling it a "strategic roadmap" for India's elevation into the top five of world sports, the Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Khelo Bharat Niti to create "world-class systems" of coaching and athlete support along with a robust administrative set-up to make the country a strong contender for the 2036 Olympics.

Previously called the National Sports Policy and introduced for the first time in 1984, the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 will supersede the 2001 policy. It is a "guiding document" to formulate plans and schemes for bet-

terment of the country's sporting ecosystem.

"We have used the experience of the last 10 years and the new policy will work towards improvement of sports. Major objective is to make India a top-five sporting nation by 2047. That's the overall objective," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav told reporters while unveiling the policy and other cabinet decisions.

"The PM has given a different kind of emphasis to sports, especially in rural areas," he said.

"It's a well thought through policy which addresses all matters related to sports. It also includes



the framework for sports governance," he added.

India is bidding to host the 2036 Olympic Games for which there has been a massive push to create infrastructure and bring events of international stature to the country.

A statement from the Press Information Bureau described the new policy as an outcome of "extensive

ism and economic development," Vaishnav said.

The document also seeks to align with the National Education Policy by making sports an integral part of school curriculum. It states that the objective is to equip educators and physical education teachers with specialised training to promote sports education.

Among the listed goals is to establish a robust regulatory framework for sports governance and development of innovative financing mechanisms, including private sector participation through PPPs and CSR. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya called it a transformative step towards

reshaping India's sporting ecosystem.

"This landmark policy outlines a strategic roadmap to promote sports culture at the grassroots, enhance infrastructure, support athlete development, and establish India as a formidable force in global sports," he posted on X.

The changes it makes to the previous policy includes calling for greater participation of private companies, something that Mandaviya has already spoken about.

The minister had recently stated that he has held consultations with over 40 companies, who are keen on adopting individual Olympic sports.