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OPERATION SINDOOR

INDIA SMASHED NINE TERROR TARGETS, MISSED NONE: DOVAL

Dares foreign media to show damages to Indian structure

AGENCIES
CHENNAI

India smashed nine terror targets with precision, crisscrossing Pakistan, under Operation Sindoor, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said here on Friday and dared the foreign media to show “even one image” of damage to any Indian structure, even a “glass pane having been broken”.

Speaking at the 62nd Convocation of IIT Madras, Doval also asserted that not a single intended target in Pakistan was missed during the May 7 military offensive, which was in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons dead.

“Mention of Sindoor was made here. We are really proud of how much indigenous content there was. We decided to have nine terrorist targets in the crisscross of Pakistan, it was not in the border areas. We missed none. We hit nowhere else except that. It was precise to



“We decided to have nine terrorist targets in the crisscross of Pakistan.... It was precise to the point, we knew who was where. The entire operation that started at 1.05 am took just 23 minutes

- Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor



A view of a damaged Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah, the operational headquarters of JeM, caused by India's precision missile strikes, carried out under 'Operation Sindoor', in Bahawalpur. File photo ANI

the point, we knew who was where. The entire operation that started at 1.05 am took 23 minutes,” he said amid loud cheers from the gathering.

Criticising the foreign media, Doval, who specifically named the New York Times, said: “They (international media) wrote these things and put out things. The images only showed 13 air bases in Pakistan before and after May 10, whether it was in Sargodha, Rahim Yar Khan, Chaklala or Rawalpindi,” but images only showed damage done by the Indian Air Force on Pakistan's bases.

“You tell me one image or

photograph which shows any damage to any Indian structure, even a glass pane having been broken,” he said.

Addressing the students, Doval also emphasised the link between technology and warfare and said the country should develop indigenous technology to meet its requirements.

Referring to the earlier speaker, Padma Vibhushan awardee and legendary danseuse Padma Subrahmanyam, who congratulated Doval for the success of Operation Sindoor, the NSA said, “I am really proud of it (Operation Sindoor). Much of it was driven by indig-

enous content.”

“We are proud of it—that some of our best systems worked, whether it was BrahMos (missiles), the integrated air control and command system...or battlefield surveillance. We decided on nine terrorist targets, not in the border areas but in the crisscross of Pakistan, and we missed none,” he added.

Earlier, speaking at the convocation, Subrahmanyam said the historic victory of Operation Sindoor was a manifestation of adherence to the valour that the Bhagavad Gita preaches.

“As a proud Indian, I have always offered my saluta-

tions to our jawans, who are our national guardian angels,” she said, congratulating Doval for his role in the operation.

At the event, Doval said the country could not afford to lose the technology battle and remain behind or fall decades behind others.

He acknowledged the role of IIT, Madras, and the private sector in developing 5G in two-and-a-half years' time, whereas the Chinese took over 12 years and spent 300 billion dollars to develop 5G technology.

“Even a screw that deals with anything related to data or security protection

■ P3

ECI says 3 out of every 4 voters have submitted enumeration forms

MANOHAR KESARI
NEW DELHI

After the Supreme Court refused to stop Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the Central Election Commission has claimed that remuneration forms of 3 out of every 4 voters of Bihar have been submitted. That means, a total of 74.39% enumeration forms have been submitted.

Two weeks before the last date of submission of these forms, more than 74% of the 7,89,69,844 voters of Bihar have already submitted their forms. The Election Commission hopes that the figures will reach 100% before the stipulated date.

Besides, in the second phase of SIR, BLOs (booth-



level officers) are going door-to-door to assist voters and collect their filled counting forms. Thirty eight District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and area officers including 963 AEROs covering all 243 assembly seats are the monitors. Also, digitisation and uploading of counting forms is going on smoothly.

While, as per Para 3(H) of SIR guidelines, BLOs have successfully converted and

uploaded 3.73 crore counting forms out of the total counting forms collected by them so far into digital form through BLO App/ECINET.

Not only this, a new module has been implemented on Friday for verification of the forms uploaded by AROs/EROs. “Till 6 pm today, 5,87,49,463 counting forms, which is 74.39% of the total forms, have been collected in the last 17 days since the issuance of SIR instructions on June 24, 2025. The counting forms can be submitted before July 25, 2025. 77,895 BLOs along with 20,603 newly appointed BLOs and other election officials are working day and night to complete the process on time,” the Election Commission of India said in a statement.

Delhi minister Sirsa demands apology from Punjab minister Arora

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

Senior BJP leader and Delhi Cabinet Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has issued a legal notice to Punjab Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Aman Arora demanding an unconditional apology, accusing him of making defamatory and malicious statements.

Sirsa has demanded an immediate apology within 24 hours and retraction of the alleged remarks made on social media and other public platforms.

The controversy sparked



Aman Arora

from a recent social media post by Aman Arora on X where he accused Sirsa of having ties with gangsters and protecting them through central jails.

The post written in Punjabi labelled the situation as “very embarrassing” and claimed that the BJP is



Manjinder Singh Sirsa

involved in shielding criminals. Arora's remarks were made in the context of the murder of prominent social worker and businessman Sanjay Verma, suggesting that Sirsa's stance supports such activities.

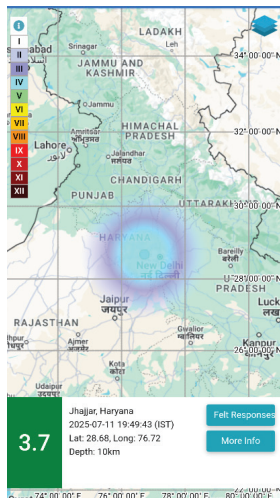
“He must immediately

■ P3

Two quakes in two days in Jhajjar trigger concerns

Tremors felt across Delhi-NCR as 3.7-magnitude earthquake struck Jhajjar district in Haryana on Friday

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH



For the second consecutive day, tremors were felt across Delhi-NCR as a 3.7-magnitude earthquake struck Jhajjar district in Haryana on Friday evening at 7:57 PM.

According to the National

■ P3



Indian Coast Guard carries out a rescue operation for sailing vessel 'Sea Angel' stranded about 52 nautical miles south-east of Indira Point, at Andaman and Nicobar Islands. ANI

Tesla all set to debut in India next week

To open first experience centre at Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Global EV giant Tesla is all set to formally debut in the Indian market next week with the opening of its first



experience centre at Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex.

The Elon Musk-led firm has sent out select invites presenting the inaugu-

ral event on July 15 as the “launch of Tesla in India”.

Tesla could not be reached for comments.

As per industry experts, the Austin-headquartered

company has already shipped in first set of cars, apparently Model Y rear-wheel drive SUVs, from its China plant.

Last month, Tesla India took on lease 24,565 square feet warehousing space in Lodha Logistics Park in Mumbai for a period of five years.

In June, Union Heavy Industries Minister H D Kumaraswamy stated that the electric carmaker is not in

■ P3

Shah chairs meet on Yamuna clean-up, lists a slew of steps for Delhi to act upon

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting on the rejuvenation of the Yamuna River, directing all stakeholders to increase the capacity of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in Delhi to 1,500 million gallons per day (MGD) by 2028.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Manohar Lal (Housing and Urban Affairs), CR Patil (Jal Shakti), Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, senior officials from the Delhi gov-



Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a high-level review meeting on Yamuna rejuvenation, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

ernment, the Union Home Secretary, and secretaries from relevant ministries.

In a strong push for interstate collaboration, Shah called upon Delhi, Hary-

ana, and Uttar Pradesh to work together in cleaning the river. He emphasised regularity and transparency in water quality testing at Sewage Treatment

Plants (STPs) and insisted on third-party verification of the treated water being discharged.

“Efforts from all three states are essential for the Yamuna's rejuvenation. Chemicals and untreated waste flowing into the river from outside Delhi must also be addressed collectively,” Shah stated.

Highlighting key measures to combat water pollution, Shah instructed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to adopt an “action mode” approach. He also urged

■ P3

Kanwar Yatra begins, traffic police issues advisory in Delhi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

As the Kanwar Yatra began on Friday, Delhi Traffic Police issued a detailed advisory alerting commuters about possible congestion and diversions on several major roads in the city over the next two weeks.

The yatra during which lakhs of devotees carry holy Ganga water to the temples



of Lord Shiva will continue till July 23 (Chaturdashi Tithi) and is expected to see a footfall of 15 to 20 lakh pilgrims in the national capital.

The movement of kan-

wariyas and the setting up of Kanwar camps are likely to disrupt traffic flow on key roads, including Najafgarh Firni, Rohtak Road, Pankha Road, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Nangloi-Najafgarh Road, Outer Ring Road, Rani Jhansi Road (Baraf Khana Chowk to Fire Station), Boulevard Road, Azad Market Chowk, Gokulpuri Flyover, 66 Foota Road,

■ P3

KHARGE, RAHUL SLAM BJP IN ODISHA OVER CONSTITUTION, POLL THEFT, CRONYISM

Rahul claimed Odisha has become a model of crony capitalism, with natural resources handed to large corporations like Adani

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi shared the stage at the ‘Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh’ rally in Bhubaneswar on Friday, delivering a coordinated and forceful attack against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Election Commission of India (ECI), and industrialist Gautam Adani. Speaking at the rally, both leaders accused the ruling BJP of attacking India’s Constitution, favouring a handful of billionaires, and manipulating democratic institutions for electoral gain.

Rahul Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, alleged that the BJP was making attempts to “steal” the upcoming Bihar assembly elections, just as it allegedly did during the Maharashtra assembly polls in 2024. He claimed that more than one crore new voters were added to the electoral rolls



in Maharashtra without explanation, and that repeated demands for the voter list and related videography were ignored by the Election Commission. Gandhi accused the ECI of acting as a “BJP wing” and not as an impartial constitutional authority. “Like Maharashtra, attempts are being made to steal the elections in Bihar. The BJP is attacking our Constitution across the country. The INDIA alliance has resolved to prevent the BJP and ECI from stealing the Bihar elections,” he said.

He also claimed that Odisha had become a “model” for crony capitalism, alleg-

ing that the state’s natural resources were being handed over to five or six large corporate houses while tribals, farmers, labourers, and the poor were being systematically dispossessed. Referring to the Rath Yatra in Puri, he claimed that the chariots carrying Lord Jagannath were halted for Adani and his family, a move he said symbolised the complete control of corporate interests over the Odisha government. Gandhi added that Odisha’s BJP government has failed to implement the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), which is crucial for

protecting tribal land rights. He said forest rights pattas were not being distributed, and the poor were being displaced without fair compensation.

“The Jal, Jangal, and Jamin belong to the tribals, and the Congress will ensure they remain with them,” he said. “The government here takes your wealth, your forests, and your land from you 24 hours a day. It displaces you, threatens you, and offers no compensation. But the Congress party and I will always stand by you.”

He further voiced concerns over women’s safety in Odisha, alleging that over 40,000 women have gone missing from the state and that around 15 women are raped every day while the government remains silent. Gandhi called for a caste-based census in Odisha, similar to the one recently conducted by the Congress-led government in Telangana, to ensure fair representation and welfare delivery.

Referring to the drivers’ strike in Odisha, which co-

incided with the day of the Congress rally, Gandhi accused the BJP of pressuring unions to obstruct the event. He said the protest was part of a conspiracy to derail the Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh. “BJP put pressure on the drivers’ union to hinder our rally. However, we prevailed as the union agreed to pause their strike for a day. The state government must now take responsibility and listen to the legitimate demands of the protestors,” he said.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge echoed Gandhi’s constitutional concerns. He urged the youth of the country to “wake up, rise and protect the Constitution” if they want to secure their own future. Kharge accused the BJP and RSS of trying to divide the country along religious and caste lines. He alleged that the BJP was attempting to remove the words “secular” and “socialist” from the Constitution, despite these very terms being included in their own party constitution in 1980.

Bhagwat’s ‘retire at 75’ remark fuels speculation over Modi’s future

TDG NETWORK
NAGPUR

A remark by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat suggesting that leaders should step aside at the age of 75 has triggered intense political speculation, particularly as Prime Minister Narendra Modi approaches that age this September. Speaking at a book launch event in Nagpur in honour of late RSS ideologue Moropant Pingle, Bhagwat said, “When you turn 75, it means you should stop now and make way for others.” He recalled that Pingle had a humorous way of expressing the idea of graceful retirement, once saying that being honoured with a shawl after 75 was a signal to step aside and allow others to take over. Bhagwat noted that although Pingle was deeply committed to national service, he also knew when it was time to withdraw.

Bhagwat’s comment has been widely interpreted as a subtle message directed at Modi, who was born just six days after Bhagwat in September 1950. The remark has reignited debate over the BJP’s unwritten rule of retiring leaders once they

Congress’ ‘one arrow, two targets’ jibe at PM Modi over Bhagwat statement

ANAND SINGH
NAGPUR

The Congress on Friday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat’s remarks on stepping aside at 75 years of age, saying what kind of a homecoming is this for the Prime Minister that upon returning from abroad he was reminded by the Sarsanghchalak that he will turn 75 this year and added one arrow, two targets.

In a post on X, Jairam Ramesh, who is Congress General Secretary and

communications incharge said, “Poor award-winning Prime Minister! What a homecoming - reminded by the RSS chief upon return that he will turn 75 on September 17, 2025.”

“But the Prime Minister could also tell the RSS chief that - he too will turn 75 on September 11, 2025! One arrow, two targets,” he added.

His remarks came after Bhagwat during an event in Nagpur on Wednesday, mentioned Sangh ideologue late Moropant Pingle’s statement about stepping aside after 75 years of age.

cross 75—an age cap that had been applied in the past to senior figures like LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, and Jaswant Singh.

Reacting swiftly, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut pointed out the double standard, saying, “PM Modi forced leaders like LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, and Jaswant Singh to retire after they turned 75. Let’s see if he applies the

same rule to himself now.” Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi also criticised the inconsistency, stating, “Preaching without practice is always dangerous. It is unprincipled that the Margdarshak Mandal was given compulsory retirement applying the 75 years age limit but indications are clear that current dispensation will be exempted from this rule.”

Oppn didn’t demand SIR stay: Cong slams ECI for headline management

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday clarified that the opposition parties never demanded stay on Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls and took a veiled dig at the Election Commission of India (ECI) alleging deliberately misleading headline management and it does not befit a Constitutional authority.

Ramesh, who is also the Congress General Secretary and communication incharge, remarks came a day after the Supreme Court ordered the poll panel to include Aadhar, EPIC card or the ration cards in the Special

Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter rolls.

In a post on X, Ramesh, a Rajya Sabha MP said, “Following the Honble Supreme Court’s order that has just come out officially, the Election Commission now has to include the EPIC, Aadhar cards, and Ration Cards in the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar. This will save a vast majority of voters from being disenfranchised.”

“Moreover the EC’s spin on the no stay being given has been clearly exposed. Page 7 of the order makes it clear that no stay was asked for by any of the petitioners yesterday,” he clarified.

“Such deliberately mislead-

ing headline management does not befit a Constitutional authority,” he said sharing the order of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court order, passed on Thursday stated that since these cases will come up before the appropriate Court prior to August 1, 2025 which is the scheduled date for notification of Draft Electoral Rolls there is no occasion presently to pass any order on the ad interim stay applications, and the petitioners in any case do not press for a stay at this stage. Depending on the reply of the Election Commission the petitioners would always be at liberty to press their plea for stay on the next date of listing, the order read.

Civil nuclear cooperation agreement between US, Thailand enters into force

TDG NETWORK
NASHIK

The civil nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and Thailand has come into force. This 123-agreement which has come into force would provide a framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the two countries based on a mutual commitment to nuclear non-proliferation.

Civil nuclear cooperation agreement between the two nations would facilitate the transfer of nuclear material, equipment (including reactors), components, and information for nuclear research and civil nuclear

energy production. The Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement of 1974 between US and Thailand expired in June 2014, 40 years after entering into force. Hence, this agreement was signed between the two countries in January this year to renew the civil nuclear partnership.

America in the past has advocated the fact that countries seeking to trade nuclear power goods and services must sign formal cooperation agreements. Such section 123 agreements relate to the relevant paragraph of the US 1954 Atomic Energy Act which requires them.

Namo Bharat train frequency increased amid Kanwar Yatra rush

ARZU SETH
NEW DELHI

National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have prepared and made several arrangements to ensure the convenience of travellers and devotees during Kanwar Yatra in Holy month Sawan. This month is specifically dedicated to Lord Shiva begins from July 11 and concludes on August 9.

The sacred month of Sawan holds immense significance for Hindus. As devotees performs various rituals and traditions to seek Lord Shiva’s blessings.

Every year, thousand of devotees joins the Kaware

Yatra, a divine pilgrimage to Haridwar, where they collect holy water from the River Ganga. Pilgrims from Delhi, Meerut, and near by regions throng to Haridwar during the Kanwar Yatra. This sacred journey is a significant ritual to seek spiritual fulfilment and divine blessings.

In anticipation of the large number of devotees to enable smooth travel, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has announced a boost in train services on the Namo Bharat route. NCRTC to increase the frequency of Namo Bharat trains between New Ashok Nagar and Meerut South.

Beginning from July 11 Trains will run every 10 minutes, down from 15 minutes during peak hours (8 AM to 11 AM and 5 PM to 8 PM). Change in timings has been done to provide convenient travel options for devotees.

The Namo Bharat train currently operates on the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor. The Namo Bharat train service, operates over a 55 km section across 11 stations and has already achieved a milestone with over 1.25 crore rides.

During the Kanwar Yatra, road traffic from Delhi to Haridwar increases significantly.

Haryana CM orders crackdown on crime, drugs, extortion

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday night chaired a high-level, four-hour-long closed-door meeting with top police officials at the Civil Secretariat, issuing strict instructions to launch an aggressive and technology-driven crackdown on criminals, gangsters, and drug networks across the state.

The emergency meeting lasted for around four hours-came in the wake of



a shocking attack on a bus carrying wedding guests in Karnal. The bus was ambushed near the Karnal sugar mill on Meerut Road, where armed assailants allegedly smashed windows, looted valuables, and left at least seven people injured.

Preliminary police investigations indicated the violence stemmed from a scuffle near a local liquor vend, with public outrage spilling over on social media and questioning the local police’s effectiveness.

Sources told The Daily Guardian that the CM was angry by the incident and the subsequent public outcry. A direct complaint from affected citizens prompted Saini to urgently summon the Home Secretary Sumita Misra, Director General of Police Shatruijeet Kapur,

Commissioners of Police, SPs, and other senior officers to review the state’s deteriorating law and order.

“The police must act without hesitation. The name of Haryana Police should instill fear in the minds of criminals,” the Chief Minister reportedly told the officers. He made it abundantly clear that no form of negligence in crime control would be tolerated.

Saini directed that every police station must ensure regular surveillance, fast-track investigations.

Chhattisgarh CM suspends 22 officials in Rs 3,200 crore liquor scam case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In one of the most decisive crackdowns on corruption in recent times, the Chhattisgarh government has suspended 22 officials from the State Excise Department in a single day. The action, which is in connection with the Rs 3,200 crore liquor scam that occurred during the previous Congress-led government (2019-2023), has drawn na-



tionwide attention to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai’s zero-tolerance stance on corruption and his strong commitment to clean governance and accountability at all levels

of administration.

According to an investigation by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), several officials allegedly allowed liquor to be sold without valid licenses and without depositing mandatory fees. This not only caused significant losses to the state exchequer but reportedly enabled the accused officers to earn illegal commissions ranging from Rs 80 to Rs 88 crore.

So far, charge sheets have

been filed against 29 officials, including 7 who are now retired. Chief Minister Sai has made it clear: regardless of rank or retirement status, those who have betrayed public trust will face consequences. The scale of this crackdown signals that ‘clean governance’ in Chhattisgarh is no longer just a slogan—it’s becoming a reality. Unlike many instances where “zero tolerance” remains confined to policy documents.

Mizoram: BJP justifies Governor’s rule in Chakma autonomous council

NIBIR DEKA
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Mizoram Pradesh, has come out in support of the imposition of Governor’s Rule in the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC), calling it a constitutional and administrative necessity amid long-standing political instability and alleged corruption within the Council.

The decision followed prolonged instability within the CADC, which, according to the BJP, had become a “play-

ground of political defection and backdoor manipulation.”

The BJP dismissed as “baseless and misleading” a statement made by Mizoram Home Minister Pu K. Sapdanga, who alleged the Governor’s move undermined democratic principles. The BJP argued that the Governor was acting within his discretionary powers as provided in the Sixth Schedule and Article 163(2) of the Constitution, which permits gubernatorial intervention when autonomous councils fail to

function according to constitutional provisions.

Earlier, the Mizoram government on Monday, July 7 placed the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) under Governor’s Rule, suspending its regular functioning under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The decision, taken after months of infighting and defections within the council, was confirmed through an official notification issued by the Department of District Council and Minority Affairs.

Adhikari cites Pahalgam, tells tourists to avoid Muslim areas

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

A day after Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah invited tourists and his Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee to his home State and she accepted it, Suwendu Adhikari, BJP’s leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, on Friday said tourists should avoid Muslim-dominated places like Kashmir, citing the Pahalgam terror attack.

“Don’t go to places which are Muslim-dominated habitats. If you want to go to Jammu and Kashmir, go

to Jammu. Avoid Muslim-dominated destinations. (In Pahalgam) Tourists were identified on the basis of their religion and murdered. I am telling the Bengalis. Don’t go to places where Muslims are in majority. Your life is your first priority. Save your life,” Adhikari said.

Adhikari added: “Go to Himachal Pradesh. There is Devbhoomi. Visit Uttarakhand and Odisha. People should visit every place in India.”

The remarks triggered sharp reactions from the Trinamool Congress, which said that the BJP leader was speaking like the terrorists



who attacked Pahalgam.

In a statement, the Trinamool Congress described Adhikari’s remarks as a “disgraceful, calculated act of communal provocation.”

“The LoP is speaking like a terrorist. The terrorists wanted to cripple the tourism industry in Jammu and Kashmir which forms the

Union Territory’s backbone. The LoP is speaking in the same lines. We were shocked to hear this statement of the BJP legislator,” Shashi Panja, State Women and Child Development Minister, told the media in a hastily-organised press conference on Friday.

The Trinamool Congress, in a social media post, also raised questions whether the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and the External Affairs Minister endorsed Adhikari’s remarks.

Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir had taken a hit after terrorists opened fire and killed 26 people, 25 of them Hindu tourists, in Pahalgam

in Kashmir on April 22.

Abdullah on Thursday said that tourism in the Union Territory was bouncing back.

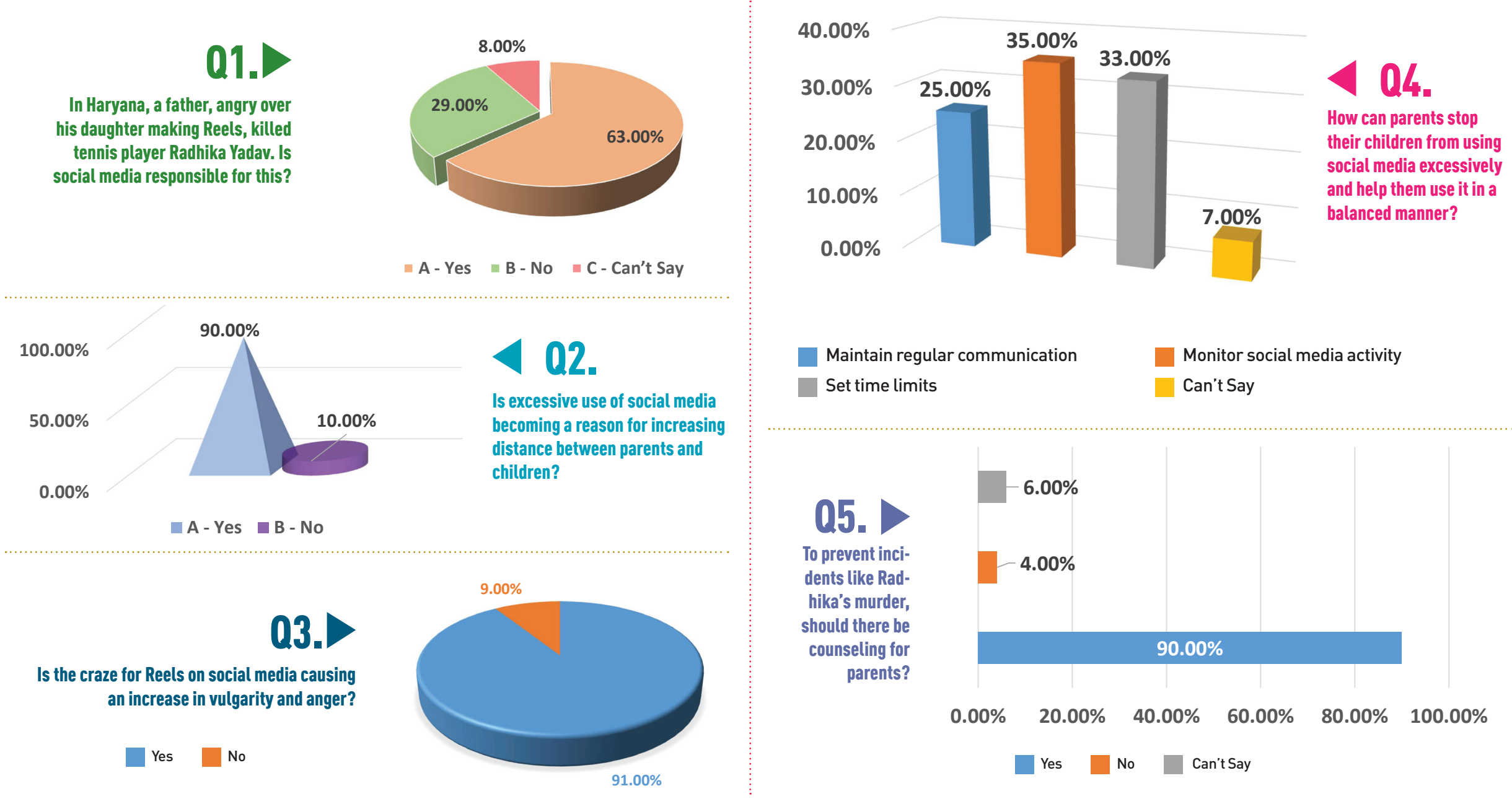
After the Pahalgam attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the intent was to incite riots in India and to disrupt the livelihood of the hardworking people of Kashmir.

“By discouraging the people of Bengal from visiting Jammu & Kashmir and warning them against travelling to certain tourist areas, @SuwenduWB has shamelessly echoed the terrorists’ agenda. This is exactly the fear they wanted to spread and Suwendu handed them that victory.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON TENNIS PLAYER MURDERED IN GURUGRAM

91% believe that the craze for Reels on social media is leading to a rise in vulgarity and anger.

A recent survey on the murder of tennis player Radhika Yadav in Gurugram reveals that 63% hold social media responsible. Most respondents believe excessive social media use causes family rifts, vulgarity, and anger. To prevent such incidents, 90% support parental counseling. Many also suggest monitoring children’s online activity and setting limits to ensure balanced social media use.



India smashed nine terror targets

CONTINUED FROM P1

must come from a trusted source. It is either made in India or by somebody who is very close to India,” he added, emphasising the

need to totally insulate our system from the enemy.

A total of 3,227 students graduated. As many as 3,661 Degrees (including Joint and Dual Degrees) were awarded to the stu-

dents on the occasion. A total of 529 PhDs were also awarded, which included PhDs, Joint Degree Ph.Ds with foreign institutions, and Dual Degree PhDs, the institute said.

CONTINUED FROM P1

withdraw his baseless and defamatory statement and issue a clear public apology on social media platforms,” Sirsa said in a post on X.

In the legal notice, Sirsa’s counsel asserted that the public and media have been misled by Arora’s statements, leading to significant

reputational damage. The notice highlights that Sirsa has received numerous calls from concerned individuals and that his hard-earned reputation among friends, family, and professional associates has been tarnished. It further alleged that Arora’s comments were made with malicious intent to harm Sirsa’s character and

public standing.

The notice demands that Arora cease making any further defamatory statements and issue an unconditional apology in writing across all social media platforms within 24 hours. It also called for the withdrawal of the offending statements from all public mediums where they were

published. “The failure to comply the notice will result in legal proceedings against Arora at his own risk, cost, and consequences”, reads the notice.

Sirsa on Wednesday accused the AAP government in Punjab of playing politics over the issue of sacrilege, much like the Congress did during its regime.

Sources close to Sirsa suggest that Sirsa plans to pursue the matter vigorously, potentially escalating it to the courts if his demands are not met.

Meanwhile, Arora has yet to respond officially, though his supporters have defended the post as a legitimate critique of political affiliations.

Shah on Yamuna clean-up

CONTINUED FROM P1

the Delhi government to take stringent and continuous steps to curb pollution from industrial units, especially those operating illegally. Focusing on the critical role of the Najafgarh and Shahdara drains, the Home Minister recommended conducting drone surveys to better assess pollution levels. He also stressed the need to improve the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels in these major drains.

Shah suggested that the Delhi government increase its efforts under the National

Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), including a budget enhancement to boost ongoing initiatives. He also proposed the development of city reservoirs to collect rainwater, which he said would not only improve water availability but also promote tourism.

Addressing the issue of waste management, Shah recommended that the Delhi government collaborate with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to manage waste from dairies and cow shelters, and to regulate unauthorised dairy units across the capital.

Delhi minister Sirsa demands apology

CONTINUED FROM P1

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Two quakes in two days

CONTINUED FROM P1

Centre for Seismology, the quake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometers. No report of casualties or damage has been received so far.

The latest tremor follows a 4.4-magnitude earthquake that hit the same region on Thursday morning at 9:04 AM. Both earthquakes had their epicentre in Jhajjar, triggering concern among residents

in Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad, many of whom said they felt the ground shaking and household items moving.

Following Thursday’s tremor, precautionary measures were briefly activated, including a temporary halt of Delhi Metro train services for 2 to 3 minutes. Many residents evacuated buildings, especially in high-rise areas, due to

the shallow depth of the quake that increased the intensity of ground motion.

Delhi falls under Seismic Zone IV, which makes it vulnerable to moderate-to-severe seismic activity. Its location near the Himalayan collision zone and fault lines such as the Delhi-Hardwar Ridge and Mahendragarh-Dehradun Fault contributes to its seismic sensitivity.

Kanwar Yatra begins, traffic advisory issued

CONTINUED FROM P1

Maujpur Chowk, Badarpur T Point and Mathura Road, said the advisory.

The traffic is also expected to remain heavy on NH-8, particularly between Dhaura Kuan Metro Station and Rajokri Border.

On NH-24, the diversions by Uttar Pradesh Police at Apsara and Maharajpur Borders are likely to impact traffic entering Delhi.

One of the main routes for kanwariyas starts at Apsara Border and goes through Shahdara Flyover, Seelampur T Point, ISBT Flyover, Boulevard Road, Rani Jhansi Road, Faiz Road, Upper Ridge Road, Dhaura Kuan and NH-8. From there, devo-

tees will leave Delhi from the Rajokri Border and head towards Haryana.

Another route begins at Bhopura Border and goes through Wazirabad Road, Loni Flyover, Gokulpuri T Point, 66 Foota Road and Seelampur T Point before heading towards NH-1 and the new ISBT bridge.

A separate route from Bhopura Border passes through Wazirabad Road, Wazirabad Bridge, Outer Ring Road and Mukarba Chowk to NH-1. From there, devotees will either move out of Delhi through the Singhu Border or Mukarba Chowk, or travel further via Auchandi Border, Madhuban Chowk, Bawana Road and Peeragarhi to exit from Tikri Border.

terested in manufacturing cars in India but keen on establishing showrooms in the country.

US President Donald Trump has said that if Tesla were to build a factory in India to circumvent that country’s tariffs, it would be “unfair” to the US.

Tesla CEO billionaire Elon Musk had said in April last year that his visit to India had been delayed due to the company’s heavy obligations.

The electric car maker was seeking an initial tariff concession that would allow it to offset 70 per cent of customs duty for cars priced less than USD 40,000, and 100 per cent for cars of higher value.

However, earlier this year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated that India will not tailor its policies to suit Tesla, and its laws and tariff rules will be formulated to attract all-electric vehicle manufacturers from across the globe to set up a base in the world’s fastest-growing economy.

The government recognises the need for a vibrant EV ecosystem as greater use of battery-run vehicles will cut carbon emissions as well as the staggering oil import bill, he stated.

But for this, it will not tailor policies that suit any one

Tesla to debut in India next week

CONTINUED FROM P1

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Days ahead of its debut in the country, EV giant Tesla on Friday received a go-ahead from the Regional Transport Office (RTO) here to display vehicles, allow test drives and sell its cars.

The Andheri RTO formally issued a ‘trade certificate’ to the global EV giant, officials said.

Ending months of speculation over its entry into the Indian market, Tesla is set to inaugurate its showroom in Mumbai’s Bandra Kurla Complex business district on July 15. A senior RTO official told PTI that they issued trade certificate to Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited, an Indian arm of the Elon Musk-headed firm, as per the procedure prescribed by the Motor Vehicles Act. Before issuing the certificate, Motor Vehicle Inspectors inspected the showroom, parking and godown facilities mentioned in the company’s application. Another official from Andheri RTO said the application for dealership registration was received earlier this week. The trade certificate is issued under section 35 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules and it authorises unregistered vehicles to be legally operated on public roads under specific conditions. The certificate is valid for five years, and also allows car display and exhibition, delivery runs and workshop usage. Vivek Bhimanwar, transport commissioner of Maharashtra, told PTI that the company had applied for the trade certificate at Andheri RTO. Trade certificates are mandatory under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules for vehicle dealers or manufacturers who wish to move unregistered vehicles for trials or promotional activities.

“This is a procedural requirement for all auto dealerships. With the trade certificate in place, Tesla can now bring in demo vehicles, conduct road tests and begin the registration process for sales in India,” a retired RTO official said.

Despite MEA’s criticism, Mann continues tirade against PM Modi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Unfazed by the backlash over his earlier remarks, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has once again questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent five-nation foreign tour, asserting that he will “continue to ask” about the concrete outcomes of such visits.

His comments have reignited a political row, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and BJP leaders

accusing him of undermining India’s diplomatic efforts.

Responding to the MEA’s sharp criticism of his earlier statements, Mann retorted, “Don’t I have the right to ask questions about foreign policy? Wherever he (PM Modi) goes, why does Adani’s business start there? I will keep raising this question. He says he’ll stop the Russia-Ukraine war, but he can’t even solve the Punjab-Haryana water dispute. The Prime Minister should speak to the 140 crore peo-

ple of this country and address their concerns.”

Mann first stirred controversy during a press conference on July 10, where he ridiculed Modi’s visits to countries like Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia, describing them as “obscure” with relatively small populations. He repeated similar jibes in the Punjab Assembly on July 11, despite the MEA’s strong rebuke.

In a statement, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal condemned Mann’s

remarks, calling them “irresponsible and regrettable.” The ministry said such comments do not reflect the dignity expected from a constitutional authority and risk damaging India’s relations with friendly nations. Mann’s use of fictitious names like “Magnesia,” “Galveaisa,” and “Tarvesia” to mock the tour was seen as dismissive of India’s outreach to the Global South.

Prime Minister Modi’s July 2-9 foreign tour — the longest of his tenure in the last

ten years — was diplomatically significant. He was conferred with several high civilian honors, including Ghana’s Order of the Star, the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil’s Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross, and Namibia’s Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis. He also received the Key to the City of Buenos Aires in Argentina and participated in the BRICS summit in Brazil, highlighting India’s role as a global player.

company and would rather frame ones that will encourage all-electric vehicle manufacturers from across the world to set up shop in In-

dia, the minister had noted. Tesla is entering the Indian market at a time when it is facing reduced sales in Europe and China.

GOVT MISLEADING: BJP ON 42% QUOTA FOR OBC IN LOCAL BODY POLLS IN TELANGANA

Congress govt in state says taking concrete steps to fulfil its commitment.

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Terming the Telangana Government decision to approve 42 per cent reservation for OBCs in local body polls “duping”, Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao said on Friday that the state government is misleading the backwards classes of the state.

Rao said that although the BJP supported the reservation bill in the state Assembly, the Congress government has failed to follow through.

“They are duping and misleading the backwards classes of Telangana. The 42% reservation for backwards classes in local bodies has been passed in the assembly, with the BJP supporting it. Now it is the state government’s responsibility to implement this reservation.

‘MUST IMPLEMENT IT’

■ “BJP believes the government is trying to deceive the Telangana people... They are now attempting to throw the ball into the centre court, a political move by Congress. They promised, introduced the bill, the BJP supported it, and now Congress must implement it,” Rao said.

■ Earlier on Thursday, Telangana Transport Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar announced that the cabinet has advanced efforts to implement the 42% OBC quota in local body elections



The government announced that the ordinance will include a 50% cap, but under the Panchayat Raj Act, there is a legal embargo,” Rao said.

The BJP leader also pointed to the government’s claim of respecting the 50% reservation ceiling, noting that the legal framework under the Panchayat Raj Act presents a challenge.

“BJP believes the government is trying to deceive the

Telangana people... They are now attempting to throw the ball into the centre court, a political move by Congress. They promised, introduced the bill, the BJP supported it, and now Congress must implement it,” Rao said.

Meanwhile, the Congress government maintains that it is taking concrete steps to fulfil its commitment.

Earlier on Thursday, Telangana Transport Min-

ister Ponnamm Prabhakar announced that the cabinet has advanced efforts to implement the 42% OBC quota in local body elections. The decision was taken during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who directed officials to initiate all necessary measures to ensure implementation ahead of the upcoming polls.

Minister Prabhakar cred-

ited Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for the promise made during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which led to this step for OBC reservation.

The government has directed officials to take all necessary steps at the ground level to ensure the implementation of the 42% reservation for OBCs in the local body elections, which will begin immediately across the state.

The minister emphasised that the government is committed to fulfilling its promise, made by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on February 4, 2024, within the promised timeframe of one year. “As promised in Revanth Reddy’s declaration on February 4, 2024, this promise, from decision to implementation, is being fulfilled within one year.

Delhi visit fruitful: DKS on meeting Union Jal Min

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU



Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday described his visit to the national capital as “fruitful” on irrigation issues.

Shivakumar, responding to the media queries at Kempegowda International Airport, said, “During the Delhi trip, I met Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and discussed the notification regarding the Krishna Tribunal verdict and the appraisal report of the Mekedatu project. I met Forest Minister Bhupendra Yadav and discussed the Kalasa Banduri issue. I also spoke to Prahlad Joshi on this issue. He has suggested a compromise between the two states. We have approached the Supreme Court, and there are some technicalities in this matter. The Goans said that it is not right for us to have a show cause notice, and we have discussed it with legal

experts.”

Shivakumar said that the Karnataka government has submitted request for new projects. “In addition, we have submitted a request for new projects. During the Parliament session, we will go to Delhi again, discuss it with the state MPs and request them to impose pressure together.”

When asked about the opposition to the construction of a dam in Lakkenahalli in connection with the Yettinahole project, he said, “No

matter what project you do, including roads and dams, there will be opposition. Drinking water must be supplied. This water must be stored everywhere. We had thought that not only Lakkenahalli, but also some areas in the Koratagere area should be used. It is impossible to say how the water will flow. This issue will be discussed with Parameshwar and discussed in the next cabinet.”

DK Shivakumar denied that the too and fro with the party high command in Delhi had anything to do with a possible change in the state leadership.

“What political discussions took place? There was a discussion about giving some status to our workers. All the MLAs have submitted their opinions. Those who have worked hard in the party organization at the taluk and district levels and some others should be given status as per the promise we made.

Andhra SIT summons former YSRCP MP Reddy in liquor scam case

TDG NETWORK
VIJAYAWADA

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Andhra Pradesh Government yesterday issued a formal notice to YSR Congress Party former Rajya Sabha MP Vemubaka Vijayasai Reddy, summoning him to appear as a witness on July 12 in connection with the ongoing probe into a major corruption case.

The notice, dated 10th July 2025, was served under Section 179 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023--previously Section 160 of the CrPC--citing his possible acquaintance with crucial facts and circumstances of Criminal Case No. 21/2024. The case involves multiple charges, including criminal breach of trust (Section 409 IPC), cheating (Section 420 IPC), criminal conspiracy



(Section 120-B IPC), and violations under the Prevention of Corruption Act (POCA), 1988.

In a separate matter, on March 11, the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (APCID) issued notices to former YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy, ordering him to appear for questioning in connection with the Kakinada port case. Reddy was asked to appear at the Vijayawada CID office on March

12 at 11 am. The notices included Sections 506, 384, 420, 109, 467, 120(B), and 34 of the BNS, along with others. The case involved allegations of coercion and threats to forcibly take over shares in Kakinada Port and Kakinada SEZ, worth around Rs 3,600 crore.

While speaking to mediapersons, Reddy had stated that he had told the truth and presented the facts to the state CID investigating the Kakinada seaport case. Dismissing his role in this case, he claimed the involvement of Vikrant Reddy, son of YSRCP MP YV Subba Reddy.

Reddy had announced his retirement from politics on January 24, stating that he would resign from his Rajya Sabha membership on January 25. He resigned as a member of the Rajya Sabha voluntarily, citing personal reasons and expressing his intention to focus on agriculture in the future.

Bill to curb Left-wing extremism gets Maha Legislative Council nod

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Amid walkout by the opposition, the Maharashtra Legislative Council on Friday passed a bill which seeks to curb unlawful activities of Left-wing extremist outfits and make offences under it cognizable and non-bailable, a day after it received approval in the assembly.

The Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill was tabled in the upper house by Yogesh Kadam, Minister of State for Home (Urban).

The bill was passed by the assembly on Thursday.

The passage of the bill in both houses of the state legislature paves the way for it to become a



law after the Governor’s assent.

The bill stated that public order is being jeopardised by unlawful activities of Left-wing extremist organizations or similar organizations and such activities interfere with the administration of law and maintenance of public order.

“It is expedient to enact a new law to provide for effective prevention of certain unlawful

activities of Left-wing extremist organizations or similar organizations and for matters connected therewith,” it said.

The bill defined unlawful activity as any action taken by an individual or organization whether by committing an act or by words either spoken or written or by sign or by visible representation or otherwise which constitute a danger or menace to public order, peace and tranquillity.

All offences under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable. Offences under the law shall only be registered under the written permission by an officer not below the rank of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, who will specify the investigating officer, it said.

Stalin accuses AIADMK of backing ‘unfair’ delimitation

AGENCIES
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday accused the opposition AIADMK of backing the Centre’s proposed delimitation exercise, which, he said “punishes our progress.” On the occasion of World Population Day, he took to ‘X’ to give a ‘reminder’ to the union government that “Tamil Nadu leads in population control, empowers women with dignity, delivers healthcare and education for all, champions sustainable development.” “And yet, what do we get in return? Fewer seats.

26-year-old man arrested for secretly filming women on Bengaluru roads

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police, on Thursday, arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly recording videos of women in public places and uploading them on social media without

The accused has been identified as Gurudeep Singh. The Banashankari police arrested him after registering a suo motu case. The action was initiated after one of the women featured in a video tagged the Bengaluru Police Department on Instagram and sought action.

DCP (South) Lokesh Jagalaras stated that a person who used to shoot voyeuristic pictures and videos of women and post them online on Instagram has been arrested, based on a suo motu FIR registered at the Banashankari police station.

The FIR was registered a couple of weeks ago. Police

“By doing so, the accused has violated the privacy of women and harmed their dignity,” the FIR says. Further investigation is on.

are currently in the process of taking down the accused’s Instagram account, he said.

According to police, the accused had been uploading videos of women recorded in public areas like Church Street in Bengaluru, without their consent.

A young woman, who claims to be one of the victims, took to Instagram to share her experience, sparking widespread outrage.

The Instagram account, which claimed to showcase “street scenes,” contains videos of women taken without their knowledge, often zooming in on their bodies.

One woman who reported the incident said she began receiving vulgar messages

after a video featuring her was uploaded. She emphasized that having a public Instagram profile or simply being in a public space does not amount to giving consent to be filmed.

The accused has been booked under Section 78 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act.

The FIR states that the accused used to film women from the front and back in public places and uploaded 45 such videos on Instagram.

“By doing so, the accused has violated the privacy of women and harmed their dignity,” the FIR says. Further investigation is on.

15 arrested in Rs 53-crore bank heist in Karnataka

TDG NETWORK
VIJAYAPURA

Twelve more people have been arrested in connection with the alleged robbery of gold and cash worth over Rs 53.26 crore from Canara Bank’s Managuli branch in Vijayapura district, police said on Friday.

The arrests were made following the interrogation of three accused—including former branch manager Vijayakumar Miriyala—who were taken into custody last month.

With the total number of arrests rising to 15, police have so far recovered assets worth over Rs 39.26 crore, including 39 kg of melted gold, Rs 1.16 crore in cash, and five cars, said Vijayapura Superintendent of Police Lakshman Nimbargi.

The heist took place on May 25 at the bank’s Managuli branch in Basavanabagewadi taluk, where Miriyala had

previously served as branch manager. To avoid identification, the accused also stole the bank’s CCTV Network Video Recorder (NVR).

According to Nimbargi, valuables worth Rs 53.26 crore—including gold ornaments and Rs 5.2 lakh in cash—were looted from the bank locker.

Police recovered 39 kg of melted gold bars and jewellery from the accused. Additionally, Rs 1.16 crore in cash—allegedly earned by selling a portion of the stolen gold and deposited at Goa’s Majestic Pride Casino—was also seized.

“Fifteen accused have been arrested, and assets worth over Rs 39.26 crore recovered. Initially, Canara Bank officials reported that 58.97 kg (gross weight) of gold jewellery was stolen. Upon verification by bank authorities, the net weight was confirmed to be 40.7 kg,” the SP said.

Chhattisgarh cabinet nod to draft Bill to set up State Capital Region

AGENCIES
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh cabinet on Friday approved the draft bill for establishment of an authority for the development of the Chhattisgarh Capital Region on the lines of the National Capital Region (NCR), Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said.

The state government also decided to set up a joint venture firm in with collaboration Pan IIT Alumni Reach For India Foundation (PARFI) for the institutional development of tribal groups, poor youth, women and third gender people from other deprived sections in the state, he said.

“The cabinet approved the draft bill for the establishment of the relevant authority for the development of the Chhattisgarh Capital Region (State Capital Region) on the lines of the National Capital Region,” Sao said.

In view of the rapidly in-



creasing population and urbanisation in Raipur, Durg, Bilai and Naya Raipur Atal Nagar, this authority will work for the systematic and planned development of this area. This authority will work to plan for the capital region, promote investment, coordinate between various government and private organisations and properly control the expansion of the city, he said.

“By 2031, about 50 lakh people are expected to live in this area, so it is important to ensure urban development while effectively using the land and protecting the environment. In this way, the Capital Region De-

velopment Authority will help in making the urban areas of Chhattisgarh better, sustainable and well-organised,” he added.

According to Sao, the formation of a non-profit joint venture company between the Chhattisgarh government and Pan IIT foundation was approved by the cabinet during its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan here.

Through this joint venture company, scheduled tribes and poor youth, women and third gender people of other deprived communities will be empowered through institutional vocational education, skill development and rural entrepreneurship, he said.

The firm will also work for the livelihood and socio-economic change by converging the unused funds of Tribal Sub-Plan, Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan etc. for the development of deprived communities, he said.

Telangana implementing investment strategy of Rs1 lakh crore in state: IT Min

RAJ KIRAN BATHULA
HYDERABAD

Telangana is moving ahead with a well-defined strategy to transform the state into a global life sciences hub, said Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT and Industries. Speaking at the inauguration of the second edition of the ET Pharma Tech Innovation Conclave. “In just a year and a half,

Telangana govt have attracted investments exceeding Rs50,000 crore, resulting in the creation of over 60,000 new jobs.” He noted that Telangana is projected to export life sciences products worth Rs66,000 crore in FY 2024–25. Hyderabad, has earned global recognition as the “Vaccine Capital of the World,” supplying one-third of the world’s

vaccines. From India’s largest Medical Devices Park, “Made in Telangana” stents and catheters are now being exported to 89 countries, including the US and Japan. The minister added. “Our government is committed to creating employment for five lakh individuals in rural and semi-urban regions through the life sciences sector. To achieve this, we are implementing



a long-term investment strategy worth Rs1 lakh crore.” Minister Sridhar

Babu revealed that plans are underway to establish Pharma Villages in Vikarabad, Nalgonda, and Medak districts, after extensive consultations with stakeholders.

He also said Additionally, the government is preparing to set up a Life Sciences University, built to international standards, to cultivate a highly skilled workforce tailored to in-

dustry needs. The university will offer both short- and long-term programs in partnership with global life sciences organizations.

Minister also mentioned ongoing collaborations Through Young India Skills University, youth are already receiving industry-aligned training in partnership with companies like Dr. Reddy’s and Aurobindo. With the Centre for the

Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), science graduates are being groomed to become specialists in life sciences.

“We are in the final stages of launching a dedicated ‘Telangana Comprehensive Life Sciences Policy’ to enhance the global visibility of the Telangana brand in this sector.” He emphasized that the government’s approach goes

beyond industry and R&D, focusing on public benefit through technology integration. Telangana has already initiated AI-based pilot screening programs for oral, breast, and cervical cancers in three districts. Encouraged by the positive outcomes, preparations are underway to extend this initiative across all government hospitals and medical colleges in the state

CREMATED AFTER MURDER

OFTEN MOCKED FOR LIVING OFF HER INCOME: FATHER TO POLICE

Police continue probe to find motives behind killing of tennis player Radhika by her father

TDG NETWORK
GURUGRAM

Former state-level tennis player Radhika Yadav was cremated on Friday evening, a day after her father allegedly shot her dead at point blank range, bringing the curtains down on a life cut short cruelly and leaving behind questions aplenty.

Deepak Yadav, 49, who confessed to the crime and told police he was taunted for living off her income from a tennis academy, was produced in court on Friday and remanded to one-day police custody.

The 25-year-old received four bullets, three in the back and one in the shoulder, according to the post-mortem report by a board of three doctors, said police. That done, her body was handed over to the family and taken for last rites to the family's village in Wazi-

RADHIKA RAN TENNIS ACADEMY

- Cremation held in Wazirabad, attended by 150 mourners
- Father confessed to killing over income-related disputes
- Victim ran a tennis academy, played in national events
- Four bullets fired while she was cooking at home
- Police probing possible family, financial, and personal triggers



radab close by.

There was stunned silence and many tears too as the young woman was cremated, said a villager. About 150 people, including her grieving family, attended the funeral with her brother Dheeraj lighting the pyre.

"There were many questions about the murder. Everyone was surprised how Deepak could have killed his daughter, the one he loved the most," said one of

the mourners.

What could have led the father to pump bullets into his daughter's back while she was cooking in their home in upscale Sushant Lok in Gurugram? Was it the tennis academy she ran? Was it a music video she made last year? Was it wounded pride? Or was it something else entirely?

The speculation swirled as people took in the scant details of the shock murder

of the clearly successful woman set to go places.

Deepak Yadav confessed he shot Radhika because he was often mocked for living off her income, police sources said. Police also issued a statement claiming the tennis academy Radhika ran was the bone of contention between father and daughter. "Her father was not happy with it," Gurugram police spokesperson Sandeep Singh said. "On many

occasions, he had told her to shut it, but she did not agree. Angered, he shot her," the spokesperson added. The accused, who police said was depressed for the last 15 days, also felt he was financially well off and had good rental income so there was no need for his daughter to run an academy.

Radhika had appeared in a romantic music video in 2024 alongside an independent artist. According to sources, this too could have triggered tensions at home.

Police officials said they were investigating all possible angles in the murder, including what her mother was doing when the incident occurred.

According to an FIR based on the complaint of her uncle Kuldeep Yadav, Radhika's mother Manju Yadav was present on the first floor of the house when the shooting took place.

Court sends accused father to police custody for a day

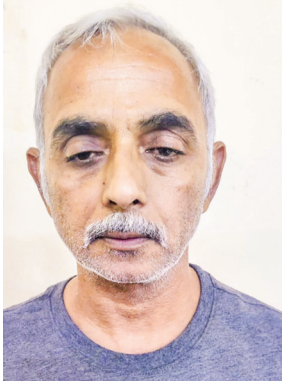
TDG NETWORK
GURUGRAM

A court here on Friday sent Deepak Yadav, arrested for killing his daughter and tennis player Radhika Yadav, to police custody for a day.

Outside the court, a police official told reporters that they had sought a two-day remand of the accused. "We have to recover the ammunition of his licensed revolver (used in the crime). We have to verify how much ammunition he had procured," he said.

Asked from where the recovery has to be made, the official said, "The accused owns land in Kasam village near Rewari. We have to get the ammunition from there."

The 49-year-old accused,



wearing a T-shirt and trousers, had his head covered with a towel as he stepped out of the vehicle near the court complex under police escort for a court appearance.

He faced a volley of questions from a battery of mediapersons, wanting to know why he killed his daughter. However, he was quickly

taken inside the court premises. When he came out of court after the hearing, the towel was off. He faced the same question, and again, he was quickly escorted by the police to the vehicle.

Deepak Yadav allegedly shot dead his 25-year-old daughter at the family's double-storey home in the upscale Sushant Lok area on Thursday. He has confessed to the crime.

Police said they were investigating all possible angles in the murder, including what the player's mother was doing when the incident occurred.

They claimed that the tennis academy Radhika ran was the bone of contention between the father and the daughter.

LG asks city Government to make Aadhaar registrations 'foolproof'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Lt Governor VK Saxena has asked the Delhi government to make Aadhaar registrations in the national capital "foolproof", saying illegal migrants obtaining the document has wider national security ramifications, officials said on Friday.

It has come to the attention of the Lt Governor that in several instances, illegal immigrants have managed to secure an Aadhaar card on the basis of "false documentation or misrepresentation", Ashish Kundra, principal secretary to LG, said in a letter to the Delhi chief secretary.

This has a "cascading" effect as some individuals secure other documents



(passport and voter identity cards) which establish nationality and avail benefits under various government schemes and impact employment opportunities meant for locals, noted the letter.

"This also has wider ramifications for national security," the letter from the LG office said. A fresh look at the responsibilities assigned to Registrars under the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regu-

Divisional commissioner should also supervise a monthly audit exercise to make sure there are no loopholes, it added further.

lations, 2016, in the Delhi government, is required with respect to field-level implementation, monitoring and verification procedures, the letter said.

"The Lt Governor has directed that clear instructions be issued to all Registrars to strictly comply with the provisions of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016

and switch to an in-house model of Aadhaar enrolment within two months," it said.

Divisional commissioner should also supervise a monthly audit exercise to make sure there are no loopholes, it added further. Details of all the enrolment centres set up by the state government including municipal bodies, may be put up alongwith the current mode of functioning by July 15, the LG directed further.

Aadhaar Enrolment is an "extremely sensitive exercise" and it's vital to fix the responsibility of the person gathering data before issuing Aadhaar, so that accountability can be fixed in case of lapses, the letter noted.

Kanwar Yatra: AAP slams Govt for redirecting funds to BJP-affiliated community camps

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

AAP Delhi State President Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday criticised the BJP-led Delhi administration for politicising the sacred Kanwar Yatra by defunding long-standing community-run camps and redirecting funds to BJP-backed and affiliated organisations.

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader and Delhi State President Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "Every year, we supported all Kanwar camps--irrespective of their political affiliations--by arranging tents, lights, sound systems, furniture, fans, coolers, music systems, and stages. The Kanwar committees only had to focus on 'seva' and managing the prasad distribution. This model ran smoothly for years. I can say with full responsibility that it never mattered whether a Kanwar committee was aligned with Congress, BJP, or AAP--our government helped everyone equally."



Claiming to have exposed the policy shift, he stated, "The BJP government has first declared that they will no longer provide tents, lights, or sound directly. Instead, they claimed they'll give money. This created confusion and anxiety among Kanwar committees--how much will be given? When will it be given? Even during a meeting held at the Secretariat, ministers used derogatory words about the Kanwar committees and the camps themselves. It was said that money would be transferred to their accounts, but now when the time has come to set up the camps, no one has received anything.

The committees don't know how much will come or when."

Calling out the BJP for targeting non-affiliated camps, the AAP Delhi State President revealed, "Now, BJP leaders are being asked to form new committees, register societies, open bank accounts, and only then they'll be funded by the government. Delhi's taxpayer money, government funds, are being withheld from those Kanwar committees that have served for 10, 15, 20 years. Instead, the money is being directed to newly formed committees run by BJP leaders." Saurabh Bharadwaj cited a specific instance, "Our MLA Kuldeep Kumar has been running a Kanwar camp at Kondli Pul, near Sankhwar Hospital, for the last six years. Every year, the government provided tents, lights, and sound. This was likely Delhi's biggest Kanwar camp, as it is located right at the entry point to the city and serves thousands of pilgrims. But this year, due to this political vendetta, their tents were removed by police this morning (July 9).

DUSIB panel to explore Dharavi style slum redevelopment in city

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) has formed a nine-member committee to examine the feasibility of adopting the Dharavi model of in-situ rehabilitation for slum redevelopment in the national capital.

According to an official order, the committee will be headed by the DUSIB chairman and will include senior officials including the chief engineer, director, superintending engineer, executive engineer and two junior engineers.

"A committee is constituted of the following officers



to examine the feasibility of implementing the Dharavi model of in-situ rehabilitation in the context of Delhi," the order stated.

The panel will carry out a detailed study of the Dharavi model and assess whether it can be suitably adapted and implemented in Delhi, the order stated.

The order further men-

tioned that if the implementation was found feasible, the committee will also suggest possible modalities, institutional frameworks and implementation mechanisms. It may also make other relevant observations and recommendations.

The committee has been asked to submit its report preferably within 15 days.

One dead as Azad Market three-storey shop collapses

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A man died after a three-storey shop building collapsed near Pul Mithai in North Delhi's Lohia Chowk area early on early hours of Friday.

The collapsed building, located at Tokri Walan in Pul Mithai near Bara Hindu Rao, had three shops on the ground floor and godowns on the first floor. The shops were part of the Azad Market area and dealt in bags and canvas cloth.

The deceased has been identified as Manoj Sharma, also known as Pappu, aged 45. He was an employee at shop number 7A, owned by Gulshan Maha-



jan, and had been working there for the past 30 years.

Bara Hindu Rao Police Station received information about the building collapse through PCR calls at around 1:55 AM.

The Delhi Fire Services sent three fire tenders to the site. Teams from the Fire Brigade, NDRF, CATS Ambulance, DDMA, and

the Crime Team also arrived for rescue operations.

Manoj Sharma was pulled out of the debris and taken to Bara Hindu Rao Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

No other injuries have been reported so far. A truck parked in front of the building was also badly damaged in the collapse.

DMRC announces Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia for victim of building collapse

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the family of a man who died after a building collapsed near Pul Mithai in North Delhi's Lohia Chowk area around the early hours of Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Manoj Sharma, also known as Pappu, aged 45. He was an employee at shop number 7A, owned by Gulshan Mahajan, and



had been working there for the past 30 years. The collapsed building, located at Tokri Walan in Pul Mithai near Bara Hindu Rao, had three shops on the ground floor and godowns on the first floor. The shops were part of the Azad Market area and dealt in bags and canvas cloth.

MCD invites tenders for waste-to-energy plant at Ghazipur dump site

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

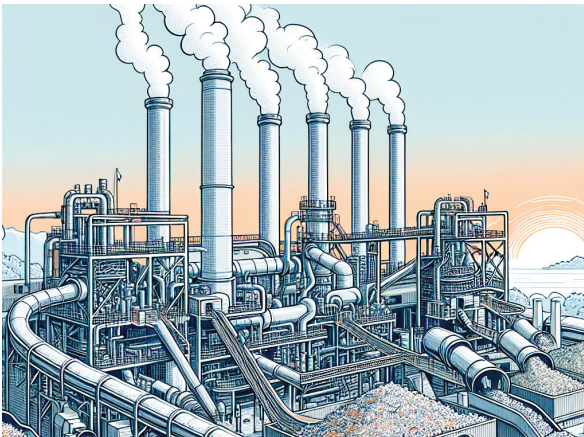
The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has invited tenders for setting up a Waste-to-Energy facility at the Ghazipur dumpsite, one of the three major landfills in the national capital.

In a push towards scientific waste processing and clean energy generation, the civic body's project is to be implemented under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model

on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

According to the Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) dated July 9, the initiative is aligned with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and seeks the participation of private developers through a transparent, tariff-based competitive bidding process.

The civic body, through its Office of the Executive Engineer (WtE), DEMS, has officially begun the process to select a suitable



developer for the project via a transparent, tariff-

based bidding system.

Under this initiative,

The selected firm will be expected to develop the facility in strict compliance with the waste management rules, as amended from time to time.

private developers will be responsible for the end-to-end execution of the project -- from design and financing to construction, operation, and eventual transfer back to the MCD.

The selected firm will be expected to develop the facility in strict compliance

with the waste management rules, as amended from time to time.

The proposed plant is part of a wider push to reduce the environmental burden posed by the Ghazipur dumpsite, which has been a persistent source of concern due

to the massive volume of untreated waste accumulating at the location.

The use of waste-to-energy technology aims to convert a portion of the city's solid waste into usable energy, thereby reducing the dependence on landfills while also generating power from waste.

According to the tender, to facilitate better understanding and address queries, the MCD has scheduled a pre-bid meeting on July 29, inviting all interested parties to participate

and raise questions regarding the project scope and expectations.

Interested parties must pay a non-refundable document cost of rupees one lakh and submit the requisite bid security amount along with their bids. Any bids not accompanied by the document cost will be summarily rejected, the notice states.

The last date for submission of bids is August 18, 2025, and the bids will be opened on the same day, the notice adds.

VADODARA BRIDGE COLLAPSE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 20; ONE PERSON STILL MISSING

A preliminary probe suggests the bridge collapsed due to the crushing of pedestal and articulation joints.

TDG NETWORK
VADODARA

The death toll in the Mahisagar river bridge collapse in Gujarat's Vadodara district rose to 20 on Friday after an injured man died in hospital and the body of a missing person was found in the river, officials said.

One more person was still missing, and efforts to find him will be resumed on Saturday as the search and rescue operation concluded in the evening, they said.

Citing a preliminary probe



report, a state minister said the collapse was caused by the "crushing of pedestal and articulation joints".

Several vehicles plunged into the river after a segment of the four-decade-old bridge near Gambhira village, connecting Anand and Vadodara districts, collapsed on Wednesday morning.

"On the first day we managed to recover 12 bodies and six on the second day. Today, one victim died unfortunately at the hospital and we managed to retrieve another body," Vadodara collector Anil Dhamaliya said.

Narendrasinh Parmar (45), resident of resident of Dahevan village, died dur-

ing treatment at Vadodara's SSG Hospital.

The main focus of the next stage of the operation on Saturday will be removing a large chunk of slab that has fallen into the river, the collector said.

"We will try to remove the main slab with the help of the technical team. Along with that, we will also try to retrieve a person in the missing list. Efforts will also be made to safely remove a tanker carrying sulfuric acid which is still stuck in the water," he said.

On Thursday, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel suspended four engineers of the state's Roads and Buildings Department in connection with the

bridge collapse.

Minister Rushikesh Patel visited the site of the tragedy and informed the media that action has been taken on the basis of a preliminary report submitted by a committee set up by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

A high-level probe committee of the state's roads and buildings department will submit a detailed report in 30 days, he said.

Out of the 7,000 bridges in the state that have been surveyed, the government has identified those that need repairs or require construction of a new one. Action is taken on them accordingly, he said after the visit.

"As per the preliminary report of this investigation committee, it has been recorded that the bridge collapsed due to pedestal and articulation crushing. A detailed report will be given by this committee within 30 days," he said.

"The state government placed four roads and buildings department officials under suspension,"

said Patel who also later visited the injured persons at the SSG Hospital and enquired about their health.

Collector Dhamaliya, meanwhile, noted that the rescuers faced several challenges such as 3.5-metre deep mud, release of soda ash in water, a tanker of sulfuric acid, a truck placed precariously overhead. "But the team managed to face all these challenges to carry out the operation," he added.

He also acknowledged the role played by the local community in the rescue operation, noting that they were the first responders.

The search and rescue operation is being carried out by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and other agencies.

At least six major incidents of bridge collapse have taken place in Gujarat since 2021.

In December 2021, a slab collapsed during the construction of the Mumatpura flyover on the outskirts of Ahmedabad city.

Security forces hunt 40-50 terrorists in Jammu region

TDG NETWORK
NAGROTA

The security situation in both the hinterland and border areas of the Jammu region remains stable and under control, with security forces maintaining a strong presence and conducting intensive operations in key high-altitude zones to track down 40 to 50 active terrorists, according to official sources.

Multi-tier measures, including an anti-drone strategy, additional deployments and a focus on intensified night operations, have been put in place to keep the terrorists on their toes, they said.

According to the sources, around 40 to 50 terrorists operating in multiple groups are currently active south of the Pir Panjal range. "Nearly 80 per cent of them are Pakistani nationals," a source said, citing earlier intelligence assessments and ongoing ground reports.

A series of counter-terror operations is underway in districts including Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Doda and Udhampur, they said. "We are acting on specific



inputs regarding terrorist movements. They are being tracked and are on the run," said the sources familiar with the ongoing operations.

The operations are focused on the hinterlands of Kishtwar, Basantgarh, Rajouri and Poonch, with ground-level intelligence playing a critical role in directing troop movements.

Security has been significantly stepped up, with reinforcements deployed across high-sensitivity areas and higher reaches in the region. "Higher reaches in the region have been brought under the effective control of forces and are being fully dominated.

Night surveillance has been intensified using night vision devices and other modern equipment," a source said.

Routes previously exploited by terrorists to enter the Kashmir valley have been plugged and preventive measures are in place to block infiltration attempts. "Cross-border activity continues and reports suggest that terrorists are being staged along the border. However, our troops are fully alert to foil any such design," the source added.

The anti-terror strategy has been revised with increased emphasis on night operations and tactics aimed at denying terrorists the opportunity to regroup or seek shelter and carry out night movement in the hill ranges.

However, the sources maintained that there are no credible reports suggesting that Pakistani regulars are operating alongside terrorist ranks as of now.

Centre extends Union Home Secy Mohan's tenure till Aug 22, 2026

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday extended the tenure of Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan till August 22 next year, according to an official order.

The extension comes at a time when the country is preparing for the mega census with caste enumeration and amid the Union Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA's) resolve to end Naxalism by March next year.

India's 16th Census with caste enumeration will be carried out in 2027, with the reference date of October 1, 2026, in snow-bound areas like Ladakh and March 1, 2027, in the rest of the country.

Mohan, a 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Sikkim cadre, was named the Union Home Secretary in August 2024. He took over the charge from Ajay Kumar Bhalla on completion of his tenure on August 22 last year.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabi-



net (ACC) has approved Mohan's extension in services as Home Secretary beyond the date of his superannuation on September 30 up to August 22, 2026 or until further orders, in terms of the provisions of Fundamental Rules or FR 56 (d) and Rule 16 (IA) of the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, said the order issued by the Ministry of Personnel.

The rules have provisions to extend the services of such officers.

With this extension, Mohan will have two years' tenure on the crucial post mandated with mainly ensuring internal security matters among others.

Arunachal highway through Namdapha tiger reserve gets nod from wildlife board

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife has cleared a proposal to divert 310 hectares of forest land from the core area of Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh for the construction of the Arunachal Frontier Highway (NH-913).

The decision comes even as some members flagged serious concerns over inadequate wildlife mitigation measures and the planned felling of over 1.5 lakh trees.

The project in the Changlang district, connects NH-215 near Kharsang



to the Miao-Gandhigram-Vijaynagar road, a stretch of the strategic NH-913 corridor close to the India-Myanmar border, according to government records.

The Public Works Department (PWD), Arunachal Pradesh, had sought 248.79 hectares (ha) of forest land

for intermediate laning and 61.21 ha for muck disposal.

On June 26, member secretary of the committee said a meeting regarding the project proposal had been held with committee members H S Singh and R Sukumar, along with the state's chief wildlife warden (CWW).

It was observed that "the mitigation measures proposed, including underpasses, are quite rudimentary when compared to earlier proposals".

The member secretary added that the animal passage plan lacked adequate site specific research and several proposed structures follow "standard PWD culvert or causeway designs rather than designs tailored for effective wildlife movement."

"There was consensus that a comprehensive, research-based animal passage plan is necessary, one that clearly specifies the appropriate design, location, height and length of under-

passes and overpasses based on actual animal movement patterns," he said.

Sukumar, while raising two key concerns, acknowledged the strategic importance of the road, which had already been approved two years ago as an all-weather corridor.

"First, the plan would result in the felling of approximately 1,55,000 trees and the justification for such extensive widening is unclear; second, the animal passage plan must be aligned with actual ground realities regarding wildlife presence and crossing points and the current plan is weak in this respect," he said.

Punjab passes resolution against CISF deployment at Bhakra dam

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

On Friday, the Punjab Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Centre's proposal to deploy CISF personnel at the Bhakra-Nangal dam project managed by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

The resolution said that if the BBMB deploys CISF personnel, the Punjab government will not bear any financial burden arising from such deployment.

The resolution against the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was moved by Cabinet Minister Barinder Goyal during the second day of the special session of the Punjab Assembly here on Friday.



As per the resolution, Punjab has re-examined the issue of deployment of CISF and had already conveyed to the BBMB on May 27 and July 4, expressing its strong reservations against the deployment of CISF.

In May, the Centre had sanctioned a contingent of 296 armed CISF personnel for providing a counter-terrorist security cover to the Nangal dam in Punjab amid

the standoff between Punjab and Haryana over the sharing of water from the dam.

But the AAP government in Punjab opposed any move to deploy the CISF at the dams in the state.

Participating in the discussion on the resolution on Friday, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said that Punjab Police is capable of protecting the dams in the state.

Delhi social worker Malik flags off relief vehicle for Himachal

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Cloudburst and sudden floods in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh have caused massive destruction. So far, 72 people have lost their lives in the disaster, while many others are still missing. Over 200 roads have been closed, and 285 electricity transformers have been affected in the district. The Siraj and Karsog subdivisions have been hit the hardest, with 225 houses and 14 bridges damaged. Around 250 personnel from the NDRF and SDRF are engaged in ongoing relief and rescue operations.

In a humanitarian ges-

ture, Delhi-based social worker Rahul Malik flagged off a vehicle carrying 250 kits of food and essential items from his residence in Rajendra Nagar for the disaster-affected people of Siraj and Karsog assemblies in Mandi district. Speaking on the occasion, Malik said, "Natural disasters come without warning and often snatch away everything. In such times, it is our moral duty to help those in need. Fulfilling my social responsibility is my greatest calling." He also acknowledged the efforts of the Himachal government and emphasized the importance of collective social support in times of crisis.



'Kanwariyas', Lord Shiva devotees, carry holy water during 'Kanwar Yatra' in the holy month of 'Shravan', at Har Ki Pauri, in Haridwar. Agencies

Nadda accepts Telangana MLA Raja Singh's resignation over 'irrelevant' remarks

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

BJP National President JP Nadda, on Friday accepted the resignation of Telangana MLA T Raja Singh from the party with immediate effect.

According to a letter by Arun Singh, the BJP's national general secretary, Singh's resignation was accepted as per the direction of party president JP Nadda. The letter stated that the con-

tents of Singh's resignation letter were "irrelevant" and did not align with the party's functioning, ideology, and principles.

"The contents mentioned by you are irrelevant and do not match the functioning, ideology and principles of the party", the letter stated.

Earlier, after resigning from the BJP over reports that Ramchander Rao is set to be appointed as the new BJP state president for

Telangana, MLA T Raja Singh refused Rao's elevation and said that the party leaders and booth-level workers need a state chief who is aggressive and talks about Hindutva.

Speaking to ANI, Raja Singh said, "I always keep telling the party that the BJP can form a government in Telangana. Today, the party workers, booth-level workers, are working for the party. However, when it



comes to the declaration of the state BJP president, the party should consider what kind of person should be appointed as the state president."

"I have been consistently advocating for a discussion within the party, from booth-level to party leaders, on the selection of the state party president. We need a state unit president who is aggressive. The people of Telangana, in particular, like

those who talk about Hindutva," Singh added.

Furthermore, T Raja Singh stated that he feels suffocated in the party and can no longer tolerate injustice. However, he emphasised that even after resigning from the party, he would remain a supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "For how long can I

tolerate this injustice?... Humara bhi dum ghut raha hai party mein...Whether or not I stay in the BJP, I will remain a supporter of Modi ji. Amit Shah ji and Yogi ji.... The party workers have been demanding a state party president who talks about Hindutva," he said. "This is my personal decision. I cannot continue to tolerate injustice. Some people, by misusing their powers, are ruining the party in the

state, and I cannot stand witness to this happening," Raja Singh added.

In his resignation letter addressed to G. Kishan Reddy, President of the BJP Telangana unit, Raja Singh stated that at a time when the BJP stands on the threshold of forming its first government in Telangana, the choice of Ramchander Rao as the State President raises serious doubts about the direction the party is heading.

MARKETS EXTEND LOSSES FOR 3RD DAY, SENSEX TANKS 690 PTS ON IT, AUTO SELLING

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the third session in a row on Friday, dropping nearly 1 per cent, dragged by heavy selling in IT, auto and energy stocks amid a muted start of the earnings season.

Tariff-related uncertainties and mixed global market trends also added to the pressure, analysts said.

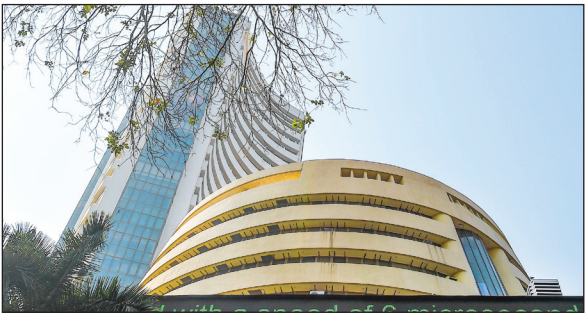
The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 689.81 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 82,500.47. During the day, it fell 748.03 points or 0.89 per cent to 82,442.25.

As many as 2,450 stocks declined while 1,557 advanced and 158 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Similarly, the 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 205.40 points or 0.81 per cent to 25,149.85.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark dropped 932.42 points or 1.11 per cent, and the Nifty tanked 311.15 points or 1.22 per cent.

“While weak European market cues and negative US Dow Futures weighed on sentiment, the disappointing start to earnings season by software major TCS cautioned investors about the sluggish global demand scenario that led to



heavy selling in IT, telecom, auto, realty and oil & gas stocks,” Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

From the Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services declined 3.46 per cent after reporting its June quarter earnings.

The country’s largest IT services company on Thursday reported a 6 per cent growth in June quarter net profit at Rs 12,760 crore, helped by a jump in non-core income even as revenues grew at a tepid pace.

The rupee revenue grew 1.3 per cent to Rs 63,437 crore during the quarter. Still, it was down by over 3 per cent on a constant currency basis, as the company faced headwinds in its major markets amid a winding down of the BSNL deal, which helped it in recent quarters.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors,

Titan, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Trent, Infosys and HDFC Bank were among the other major laggards from the pack.

“Markets traded under pressure on Friday and lost over half a per cent, dragged down by weak cues. The session began on a negative note following disappointing results from IT major TCS, which further worsened due to profit-taking in heavyweight stocks across other sectors. Sentiment remained subdued due to ongoing uncertainty around tariff-related issues and a weak start to the earnings season,” Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Meanwhile, shares of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) surged 4.61 per cent following the announcement that Priya Nair will become the first woman CEO and MD of the firm, effective August 1, 2025.

BSE, NSE URGE INVESTORS TO VERIFY BEFORE BUYING BONDS ONLINE

MUMBAI: Stock exchanges BSE and NSE have jointly urged market participants to take into account several important factors while investing in bonds through various online platforms.

In a joint statement Friday, the stock exchanges have advised investors to check the bond’s credit rating, the issuer’s track record in timely repayments, the liquidity of the instrument, settlement timelines, and the tax

implications of the investment.

Additionally, the joint statement suggested it is crucial to verify whether the platform is a SEBI-registered Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP).

In addition, the stock exchanges suggested investors carefully read platform disclaimers, understand the terms and conditions, and ensure that transactions are carried out through properly regulated and secure systems.

Axis Bank, NTPC, Eternal and State Bank of India were also among the gainers.

“The domestic market experienced a negative close due to a sober start to Q1 earnings season and a ramp-up in the tariff threat by the US to impose a 35 per cent tariff on Canada. Investors may continue to be focused on quarterly earnings for a buy-on-dips strategy. However, in the near term, the current premium valuation and the global headwinds like low spending and tariff uncertainties may restrain new inflows.

“The IT index underperformed due to deferment

in orders and new investments, which may impact FY26 earnings estimates,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.70 per cent, and the midcap index dropped 0.65 per cent.

On BSE sectoral indicators, tech tumbled 1.85 per cent, BSE Focused IT tanked 1.77 per cent, IT (1.65 per cent), auto (1.72 per cent), oil & gas (1.28 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.23 per cent), and telecommunication (1.22 per cent).

In contrast, healthcare and FMCG were the gainers.

RBI imposes penalty on HDFC Bank, Shriram Finance

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it has imposed a Rs 4.88 lakh penalty on HDFC Bank for contravention of certain norms relating to foreign investment in India while granting a term loan to its client.

The central bank also imposed a penalty of Rs 2.70 lakh on Shriram Finance Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions of the “Reserve Bank of India (Digital Lending) Directions, 2025”.

Regarding the penalty on authorised dealer bank - HDFC Bank, the RBI said it had issued a show cause notice to the bank, in response to which the bank had submitted a written reply and had also made oral submissions thereon.

“After considering the facts of the case and the response given by HDFC Bank Ltd in the matter, the Reserve Bank of India came to the conclusion that the contraventions were established and warranted imposition of penalty,” RBI said.

The statutory inspection of Shriram Finance was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2024. Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance



The company routed the loan repayments through the account of a third-party, instead of the borrowers directly crediting the loan repayments to the company’s account, the RBI said.

with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the company advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions.

After considering the company’s reply to the notice, additional submissions made by it and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI said it found, inter alia, that the following charge against the company was sustained, warranting im-

position of monetary penalty.

The company routed the loan repayments through the account of a third-party, instead of the borrowers directly crediting the loan repayments to the company’s account, the RBI said.

In both cases, the central bank said the penalties are based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.

Adani Group to build ‘Healthcare Temples’, first in Mumbai, Ahmedabad

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, on Friday announced that the conglomerate will build Artificial Intelligence-first Healthcare Temples initiated from Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

Speaking at the 5th Annual Conference of the Society for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery - Asia Pacific (SMISS-AP) in Mumbai today, Adani said, “We will be delivering on this promise through the Adani Healthcare Temples -1,000-bed integrated campuses that we will initiate from Ahmedabad and Mumbai.”

These healthcare infrastructures are designed to be world-class, affordable, AI-first healthcare ecosystems -- and we are proud to have the Mayo Clinic guiding us on the design, implementation, and global standards in medical infrastructure and research, Adani said.

Chairman of the Adani



Group further stated the group is preparing for a capital expenditure investment of nearly 100 billion US dollars over the next five years, adding that these investments are the manifestation of the future of India.

Adani Group Chairman said that the scale and pace of this investment and its commitment are unprecedented in India’s private sector history.

In a stirring address tracing his entrepreneurial journey, Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, reflected on the formative experiences and bold decisions that helped build one of India’s largest infrastructure conglomerates.

Competition heats up as Amazon challenges Zepto, Blinkit with 10-min dash

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Amazon’s launch of 10-minute delivery service, Amazon Now, in Delhi following its debut in Bengaluru, has heated up the quick commerce space, which is already marked by fierce competition among Blinkit, Zepto, and Swiggy Instamart, making India one of the few markets globally where ultra-fast delivery is thriving.

A report by ICICI Securities in April this year, in fact, had talked about how quick commerce platforms are building deep-habit loops, are no longer confined to speed and snack-led occasions, and structurally reshaping retail behaviour through high-frequency engagement and curated category expansion.

Amazon has begun its ultra-fast delivery service ‘Amazon Now’ in select pin-codes in Delhi with “curated selection of everyday essentials”, the 10-minute deliv-



ery service was launched in Bengaluru in December last year.

‘Amazon Now’ tab now appears within the app in select pin-codes it is available in, and the company intends to launch the offering in other cities soon.

Amazon 10-minute delivery service covers daily essentials including groceries, fruits and vegetables, personal care and beauty products, wireless accessories, small appliances. Orders with minimum value of Rs 99 for Prime users, and Rs 199 for non-Prime users are delivered free of charge.

Market watchers be-

lieve that app-based quick commerce platforms have cracked the code when it comes to recreating the convenience and familiarity of shopping at local kirana stores. Amid fast paced lifestyles and busy work schedules, they offer customers online stacks of a diverse choice of products and, of course, the ease of doorstep delivery.

Moreover, quick commerce boom is riding on the India’s smartphone penetration, low data costs, and predominantly young demographics.

According to a report earlier this year by Flipkart and

Bain and Company, more than two-thirds of all e-grocery orders and one-tenth of e-retail spends happened on quick commerce platforms in 2024, underlining how QCom is revolutionising the way consumers buy in India.

Jefferies, in a recent report, had noted that the quick commerce has indeed become mainstream and entry of horizontal platforms like Flipkart and Amazon is more out of force as the users and their share of wallet have been rapidly moving to quick commerce platforms.

“The market in some pockets may get cluttered, as in certain places, there may be as many as six different quick commerce platforms, with some trying to woo users via aggressive discounts. Specifically, on Amazon, we think these are early days and the offering needs to have enough scale in terms of coverage to be a meaningful player in the overall Q/C (quick commerce) market.

Tariff war is due to economic imbalances between countries: SBI

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The recent surge in the trade wars impacting global economy is due to the trade imbalances between the countries, according to a report by SBI Funds Management.

The report noted that tensions between the United States and China are because of deeper rooted problems of global economic imbalances. China invests much more than it consumes, while the US consumes far more than it invests, leading to a sharp imbalance in global trade flows.

It stated “The tariff issue highlights the deeper economic imbalance between the U.S. and China”.

As per the data quoted in the report, China’s investment stands at 42 per cent of its GDP, while household consumption is only 40 per

cent. In contrast, the US invests only 22 per cent of its GDP but has a very high household consumption rate of 68 per cent.

India falls somewhere in between, with investment at 33 per cent of GDP and household consumption at 62 per cent.

This imbalance has created a massive trade gap between the two countries which in turn has supported the trade wars between countries to reduce their trade deficits.

The US runs an annual goods trade deficit of around USD 1,202 billion, while China enjoys almost equal surplus of USD 992 billion. India runs a trade deficit of USD 275 billion.

The US also has a negative current account balance of -3.2 per cent of GDP, while China maintains a surplus of 1.4 per cent.

In terms of savings, the US

saves 18 per cent of its GDP, compared to 43 per cent in China and 33 per cent in India. This pattern shows that the US underinvests and overspends, while China over saves and over invests.

Due to this imbalance, the US has become the world’s largest absorber of surplus goods, resulting in rising levels of external debt, which now stands at USD 27.6 trillion. In comparison, China’s external debt is only USD 2.4 trillion and India’s is USD 0.7 trillion.

The SBI Funds Management report highlighted that the US administration is looking to fix this imbalance impacting their economy. Measures such as tariffs are being used, and though any increase in tariffs is expected to be gradual through 2025, the report says the US could still use other legal tools to enforce trade measures.

TARIFF DEADLINE MAY BE EXTENDED AS US-CHINA TALK’S DRAG: REPORT

NEW DELHI: Trade negotiations between the United States and China are moving slowly, raising the chances that the current tariff deadlines may be extended, according to a report by SBI Funds Management.

The report highlighted that the ongoing talks have once again hit a familiar deadlock, with both sides showing limited progress. A major concern in these discussions is China’s dominance in rare earth processing, an area where it controls 90 per cent of the global capacity.

These rare earth materials are crucial for various industries, especially in electric vehicles, electronics, and clean energy.

China has already started placing curbs on the export of rare earths. The report mentioned that this move is beginning to affect the global automobile sector, particularly electric vehicle production in the US, Europe, and India.

The Trump administration has also pushed for reducing America’s dependence on China for manufactured goods

The situation adds more complexity to the ongoing trade talks.

The current deadline for tariff decisions was July 9, 2025. While US President Donald Trump recently announced that the tariffs announced in April will be implemented from August 1, against countries who failed to sign a deal, the report expresses doubt and suggests that there could be a further extension of the deadline due to the slow pace of the negotiations.

The SBI report also pointed out that many countries are still focused on maintaining stable trade relations with China, which is making it difficult for the US to push forward its tariff plans.

Despite US efforts, China remains a key player in global trade and is largely not part of new trade agreements being formed.

Among the US’s trade partners, India, Vietnam, and Japan are in a better position to finalize trade deals.

and has raised serious concerns about the long-term sustainability of its debt levels.

On the other hand, China

is taking steps to reduce its reliance on the US, including reforms in cross-border payment systems and commodity exchanges.

‘Recall of Chinese engineers from Foxconn India an opportunity’

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The recall of Chinese employees from the Foxconn India factory, which manufactures Apple iPhones, won’t impact mobile production in India, said a senior government official. The official added that it is, in fact, an opportunity for India.

“I would look at it more as an opportunity. If the workers want to go back, it’s between the company and the workers. They will have to make arrangements to ensure the work continues -- production won’t be impacted. We facilitated their visas,” said the senior official from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity).



“As far as Apple is concerned, they have alternatives. The primary responsibility lies with Apple to ensure that the manufacturer doesn’t impact production,” the official added.

According to reports last week, more than 300 Chinese workers have departed from Foxconn’s southern India plants.

Although the exact reasons behind the recall were unclear, it appears it was linked to Beijing’s broader strategy to limit technology transfers and equipment exports to India and Southeast Asia.

INDIA'S INVISIBLE WAR: HOW TECHNOLOGY, ESPIONAGE AND APATHY THREATEN NATIONAL SECURITY

OPINION

DR. NISHAKANT OJHA



India today stands at the forefront of a modern battle—a war not waged with tanks or missiles, but with smartphones, seductive messages, and silent spyware. In the evolving domain of hybrid warfare, the lines between external attack and internal compromise have blurred. Cyber intrusions, social engineering, and digital espionage have become the new arsenals of state and non-state actors targeting the Republic.

The threat to national integrity is no longer limited to soldiers crossing borders; it now lurks within mobile applications, false online identities, and pre-installed foreign software. From defense establishments to digital banking systems, India is navigating a labyrinth of silent attacks designed to exploit trust, technology, and institutional vulnerabilities.

THE RISE OF THE INSIDER THREAT: SIM CARDS, HONEY TRAPS AND COVERT NETWORKS

The arrest of cleric Mohamad Kasim from Bharatpur has brought to light a disturbing pattern. He had been in contact with Paki-

stan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), allegedly transporting Indian SIM cards across the border. These were used by Pakistani handlers to impersonate senior Indian officials and manipulate defense personnel into disclosing sensitive information.

Kasim had visited Pakistan multiple times, undergoing training in covert communication techniques. He is not an isolated case. Several other individuals from Punjab and Haryana, often from underprivileged backgrounds, were enticed by promises of visa support and financial compensation. These SIM cards served as critical enablers for psychological and digital warfare against India—fuelling everything from misinformation to attempted honey traps. These operations are more than isolated incidents; they represent a calibrated ISI playbook of exploiting digital connectivity and personal weaknesses to undermine India's defense ecosystem.

NAVAL LEAKS AND EMOTIONAL EXPLOITATION: WHEN LOVE BECOMES A WEAPON

In a separate incident, a young naval technician, Ravindra Verma, was detained by Maharashtra ATS for leaking classified data on Indian naval vessels. His downfall began with Facebook friend requests from fake accounts posing as Indian researchers. Over time, the exchange turned intimate, drawing Verma into an emotional dependency that was weaponized

against the nation. Despite stringent protocols barring the use of personal phones within restricted zones, Verma memorized ship positions and recreated them in notes, sketches, and audio messages—all of which he shared over encrypted platforms. At least five of the ship locations were later verified as authentic and classified. What occurred was not merely espionage—it was a systemic breach driven by psychological manipulation. When an individual with access to strategic assets is turned, the damage can ripple far beyond what's immediately visible.

THE SMARTPHONE MENACE INSIDE HIGH-SECURITY CORRIDORS

Smartphones have transformed communication and productivity—but in government buildings and military installations, they have become a double-edged sword. Despite the known risks, phones are often permitted into high-level meetings and sensitive areas. These devices, when infected, can transmit live audio, record video, and access encrypted communications like WhatsApp, Signal, or Telegram. Spyware has demonstrated the terrifying capability to activate microphones or cameras remotely—without any user interaction. Allowing such devices into national security environments is akin to leaving a backdoor open for foreign surveillance.

Yet, security protocols remain inconsistent. In many establishments, personal devices are not audited, and there is no centralized Mobile Device Management (MDM) policy enforced. The consequence is stark: confidential decisions on defense, diplomacy, and national strategy risk being leaked without a single physical intrusion.



INDIA'S DIGITAL WEAK SPOT: A NATION UNDER CYBER SIEGE

Globally Security experts, including those at Safr.me, have raised the alarm about smartphones being the most compromised personal devices today. Through phishing, zero-day exploits, SIM swapping, and app vulnerabilities, cybercriminals and hostile states can access everything from banking credentials to biometric data. Unfortunately, most Indian users—including public servants—still grant excessive app permissions, reuse passwords, and connect to unsecured networks. One infected phone can become a surveillance hub capable of undermining national operations.

The era of cyber warfare has arrived—and India's mobile infrastructure, despite advancements, remains porous.

BANKING ON CYBER FRAGILITY: SEBI'S WARNING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

India's financial infrastructure is not immune to these threats. Recognizing the systemic risk, the Securities and Exchange Board

of India (SEBI) introduced the Cybersecurity and Cyber Resilience Framework (CSCRF), urging banks to fortify their defenses. Yet, multiple institutions missed compliance deadlines, citing operational difficulties and internal audits.

In a financial system as vast as India's, even minor breaches can be exploited for destabilizing the economy. Cyber attacks on banking systems could lead to widespread disruption—from manipulated stock markets to compromised investor data. This is not just a digital risk; it is a national security risk with economic consequences.

FOREIGN FIRMWARE: THE SILENT INVASION INSIDE INDIAN DEVICES

In West Asia and North Africa, a growing scandal involves Samsung smartphones carrying unremovable apps like "AppCloud," allegedly developed by Iron Source—a firm with a controversial record in ad tech and data surveillance. These pre-installed apps harvest data silently, with no option for removal and minimal visibility to users. While India was not directly

named in the investigation, the implications are serious. Among the top mobile brands in India, similar firmware vulnerabilities could already be in circulation. If hostile firms control access to critical device functions, they also control how, when, and where data is shared.

India must audit all imported devices and enforce localization of firmware and app permissions. Blind trust in foreign OEMs could turn national infrastructure into a surveillance playground.

THE REAL THREAT: COMPLACENCY AND INSTITUTIONAL DISCONNECT

Despite these revelations, India's greatest vulnerability may not lie in malware or foreign agents—it lies in bureaucratic inertia. Ministries operate in silos. Cybersecurity remains underfunded. Public awareness is limited. Training modules on digital risks are absent from most government curricula. Policies exist, but enforcement is patchy. What's more alarming is the casual approach to data privacy in the very offices responsible for national security. This apathy enables threats to

fester and grow. India is engaged in a war without visible enemies. But the consequences are very real—loss of strategic advantage, compromised defense operations, and erosion of sovereign control over digital ecosystems.

SECURING INDIA'S FRONTLESS WAR: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

To counter this multifaceted threat, India must move from reaction to anticipation:

Policy & Governance

- Mandate strict Mobile Device Management systems for all officials handling classified data.
- Ban personal phones in secure zones; introduce secure, custom-built government devices.
- Enforce criminal penalties for unauthorized communication within restricted environments.

Technological Preparedness

- Deploy AI-driven anomaly detection tools in sensitive cyber ecosystems like smart IMSI Catcher (International Mobile Subscrib-

er Identity catcher) is a surveillance tool used to intercept mobile communications by mimicking a legitimate cell tower.

- Audit all pre-installed apps and firmware on imported devices.
- Set up a national digital command centre for cross-ministerial surveillance oversight.

Human Factor & Awareness

- Launch nationwide digital literacy campaigns on phishing, password protection, and social engineering.
- Train defense and public sector employees on cyber hygiene and counter-honey-trap awareness.
- Encourage regular third-party audits of mobile devices used in public offices.

VICTORY LIES IN VIGILANCE

India's security is no longer safeguarded by borders alone. The battlefield has expanded into chat rooms, mobile devices, and encrypted networks. Enemies exploit human weaknesses, unpatched software, and institutional inertia to wage a war without flags or uniforms.

We are not approaching this threat—we are already in the crosshairs.

Protecting sovereignty in this digital era requires more than weapons; it demands a transformation in mindset, behaviour, and policy. From the smartphones in our hands to the servers in our ministries, every vulnerability must be sealed. In this invisible war, India's strength will lie not just in military might, but in strategic foresight and uncompromising vigilance.

Dr. Nishakant Ojha, International Security Strategist & Hybrid Warfare Expert

The enduring shadow of 'Enemy Property': A question of inheritance and identity

OPINION

DR. DEEVANSHU SHRIVASTAVA



The recent setback for actor Saif Ali Khan in the long-standing dispute over his ancestral properties in Bhopal has once again cast a harsh spotlight on the complex and often unforgiving jurisprudence of 'enemy property' in India. The case, winding its way through the courts for decades, serves as a poignant illustration of how a law, born out of the crucible of war, continues

to cast a long and contentious shadow over the lives of Indian citizens, raising fundamental questions about inheritance, identity, and the very nature of justice. At the heart of this legal quagmire is the Enemy Property Act, 1968. Enacted in the aftermath of the 1965 Indo-Pak war, the legislation empowered the government to take control of properties belonging to individuals who had migrated to Pakistan and China. The underlying principle was to prevent assets from being used by or benefiting a nation at war with India. A Custodian of Enemy Property was appointed to manage these assets, which were to be held in trust.

However, the journey of this law has been far from straightforward. The most

significant and controversial turn came with the 2017 amendment to the Act. This amendment, introduced with retrospective effect, fundamentally altered the landscape of enemy property jurisprudence. It expanded the definition of an "enemy" to include the legal heirs of those who had migrated, even if those heirs were Indian citizens by birth and had never held any allegiance to the 'enemy' nation. Furthermore, it extinguished the right of succession to such properties, effectively nullifying the claims of Indian citizens to their ancestral inheritance. The Saif Ali Khan case is a direct consequence of this stringent legal framework. The dispute revolves around the vast estates of the erstwhile Bhopal princely state. The classification of these properties as 'enemy property' stems from the migration of Saif Ali Khan's great-grandmother, the Begum of Bhopal, to Pakistan after the Partition. While his grandmother was recognized as the sole successor by the Indian government, the 2017 amendment has



The dispute revolves around the vast estates of the erstwhile Bhopal princely state. The classification of these properties as 'enemy property' stems from the migration of Saif Ali Khan's great-grandmother, the Begum of Bhopal, to Pakistan after the Partition.

provided the legal ammunition for the state to challenge the inheritance rights of her descendants, including Saif Ali Khan. The recent Madhya Pradesh High Court

ruling, which has allowed the government to re-notify these properties as enemy property, underscores the far-reaching implications of the amended Act. Critics

of the Enemy Property Act, particularly its 2017 iteration, argue that it creates a class of Indian citizens who are perpetually disenfranchised from their heritage based on the actions of a forebear. They contend that it violates the fundamental right to property and the principles of natural justice. The retrospective application of the law is seen as particularly draconian, unsettling settled matters and creating a climate of uncertainty and legal jeopardy for families across the

country. Proponents of the law, on the other hand, maintain that it is a necessary tool to safeguard national interests and prevent the assets of former enemies from falling into the wrong hands. They argue that the properties in question were left behind by those who chose to sever their ties with India and that their descendants cannot lay claim to them. The government's stance has been that these properties, once vested in the Custodian, belong to the state and can be disposed of as it deems fit. The Saif Ali Khan dispute, therefore, is more than just a high-profile celebrity legal battle. It is a mirror reflecting the inherent tensions within the Enemy Property Act – the clash between national security concerns and individual rights, between the ghosts of the past and the realities of the present. It forces us to confront uncomfortable questions: Can the concept of 'enemy' be passed down through generations, branding Indian citizens with a label that denies them their inheritance? Should the sins

of the father, or in this case, the great-grandmother, be visited upon the sons and daughters who are citizens of India?

As this case and others like it continue to navigate the labyrinthine corridors of the Indian judicial system, there is a pressing need for a nuanced and humane re-examination of the Enemy Property Act. While the state's interest in managing properties left behind by those who became citizens of enemy nations is understandable, the law in its current form appears to be a blunt instrument with devastating consequences for Indian citizens. A just resolution would require balancing the historical context of the law with the present-day realities of citizenship and inheritance. The enduring shadow of 'enemy property' must not be allowed to eclipse the fundamental rights of the citizens of a democratic republic.

Prof. (Dr.) Deevanshu Shrivastava, Founding Dean and Professor, GL Bajaj Institute of Law, Greater Noida.

WORLD POPULATION DAY 2025

THE NEXT BIG STEP FOR INDIA: CENSUS 2027

World Population Day 2025 marks a pivotal moment for India as preparations for Census 2027 begin. With a focus on digital transformation and comprehensive caste enumeration, this upcoming census promises to be the most ambitious and inclusive yet—redefining how India collects, understands, and uses population data for future planning.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

INTRODUCTION

World Population Day is celebrated every year on July 11. The theme for this year is “Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world.” In India, the young population is set to form tomorrow’s workforce, with 65% of people under the age of 35. On June 16, 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs officially issued the notification for Census 2027. The Indian Census is the largest single source of various statistical information on various characteristics of the people of India. With a history of more than 150 years, this reliable, time-tested exercise is bringing in a real insight into population data every 10 years.

Beginning in the year 1872, the first census was conducted at different times in different parts of India. The Indian Census has been a useful source of data for scholars and researchers in demography, economics, anthropology, sociology, statistics and many other disciplines. The rich diversity of India’s people is indeed revealed by the decadal census, which has become a tool for understanding and studying India.

ANCIENT FOUNDATIONS AND EARLY MODERN CENSUS

India has a long and rich tradition of conducting censuses. The earliest references of conducting census in the country can be found in Kautilya’s ‘Arthashastra’ (321-296 BC) and later in the writings of Abdul Fazl’s in ‘Ain-e-Akbari’ during the days of Emperor Akbar.

The first modern population census in India was conducted between 1865 and 1872, though it didn’t happen simultaneously across all regions. India conducted its first coordinated census in 1881.

POST-INDEPENDENCE EVOLUTION (1951-2011)

Census is the biggest source of primary data at village, town and ward level providing micro level data on various parameters including Housing Condition; Amenities & Assets, Demography, Religion, SC & ST, Language, Literacy & Education, Economic Activity, Migration and Fertility. The Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990 provide the legal framework for con-

duct of Census.

CENSUS 2011: MAJOR FINDINGS AND INNOVATIONS

The Census 2011 was the 15th Census as reckoned from 1872 and the seventh since independence. The Complexity and Scale of Census 2011 operations are as follows:

Multilingual Operations: The Census Schedules were surveyed in 16 different languages to accommodate India’s linguistic diversity.

Massive Printing Requirements: The exercise required printing of approximately 5.4 million instruction manuals and 340 million Census Schedules to support the nationwide operation.

Extensive Human Resources: A workforce of 2.7 million enumerators and supervisors was engaged to carry out the census taking activities across the country.

Geographic Coverage: The census operations spanned across:

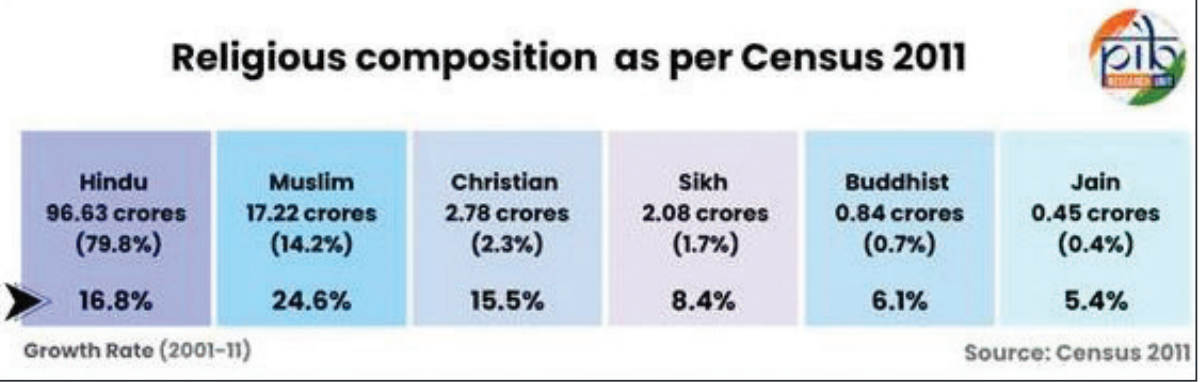
- 35 States and Union Territories
- 640 districts
- 5,924 sub-districts
- 7,933 towns
- 6.41 lakh villages

Unique Integration: Census 2011 featured a distinctive approach where Schedules for preparation of the National Population Register



SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CASTE CENSUS (SECC) 2011

and ranking of households based on predefined parameters. The Census in rural areas was conducted by Dept. of Rural Development, in urban areas by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs provided technical support



Technology used and time taken for data processing, 1961-2011

Item/Census Year	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Population (in Million)	439	548	683	846	1028	1210
% of field Data Collection	100	100	100	100	100	100
% of Data Digitized	5	15	25	45	100	100
Data capture & Digitization Method	Hand Punch	Key Punch	Offline Data Entry	PC Based Data Entry	Scanning ICR	Scanning ICR
Time Taken for Digitization/Processing	5-10 Years	5-10 Years	5-10 Years	5-10 Years	3-7 Years	2-8 Years

ICR: Intelligent Character Recognition is used to extract handwritten text from images. CAPS: Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing refers to survey data collection by an in-person interviewer. Source: A Treatise on Indian Censuses Since 1961, Census of India

The importance of accurate, timely, and inclusive data cannot be overstated. With India expected to surpass 1.45 billion people by 2027, population management is not just a governance challenge—it’s a national priority.

From urban planning to infrastructure development, education to employment, and health to housing, virtually every aspect of policy relies on reliable demographic information. The upcoming census is seen as a transformative step towards understanding ground realities, improving delivery mechanisms, and empowering underrepresented communities through targeted interventions.

THE DEMAND FOR CASTE DATA

One of the most debated inclusions in Census 2027 is the full caste enumeration. The demand for updated caste data has intensified over the past decade, particularly from political parties, social organizations, and state governments. These groups argue that accurate caste data is essential for equitable distribution of resources, updating reservation policies, and tracking the socio-economic progress of backward classes.

Inclusion of caste in the national census is a move aimed at transparency and national integration. For decades, the lack of credible caste data beyond SCs and STs hindered meaningful socio-political discourse. Census 2027 will fill that vacuum, allowing policymakers to back affirmative action and welfare programs with hard data rather than outdated estimates.

However, the process also carries risks. There are concerns that public caste data could deepen social divides or become a political weapon during elections. To mitigate this, the government has promised strict data protection protocols and non-disclosure of sensitive information to the public domain unless essential for academic or administrative use.

OVERCOMING COVID-ERA DELAYS

Census 2021 was originally scheduled to begin in early 2021 but was delayed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This break in the decadal rhythm of India’s census operations disrupted several planning processes that rely on fresh demographic insights. Census 2027, therefore, will have to bridge this 16-year gap between two full national counts.

In the meantime, govern-

ment departments relied on smaller-scale surveys like the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), but none of these offer the comprehensive, bottom-up data that a full census provides. With the upcoming enumeration, policymakers hope to recalibrate development programs using real, updated population trends.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE AND DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

As the world’s most populous democracy, India’s census is globally significant. Multilateral agencies, researchers, and private companies often rely on Indian census data for economic forecasting, market analysis, and developmental collaboration. The digital-first approach of Census 2027 will not only speed up data collection and processing but also set a precedent for digital sovereignty in demographic governance.

By training over 3.5 million functionaries in digital tools and equipping them with multilingual support systems, India is sending a strong message about its intent to lead in civic tech and digital public infrastructure.

LOOKING AHEAD

Census 2027 is not merely a bureaucratic exercise—it is the soul of India’s democratic and developmental framework. Every individual counted is a voice recognized, a need documented, and a right acknowledged. On this World Population Day, India takes a bold leap toward that vision, with the world watching.

CONCLUSION

As India prepares for Census 2027, the nation stands at a historic juncture where years of unbroken census tradition meets revolutionary digital transformation. This groundbreaking exercise introduces comprehensive caste enumeration for the first time since independence, mobile app-based data collection, and online self-enumeration facilities, representing the most ambitious demographic undertaking in India’s history. Census 2027 will not only establish new global benchmarks for large-scale population exercises but also serve as a cornerstone for inclusive governance and evidence-based policy formulation, ensuring that India’s diverse population is accurately represented in the digital age.

Population Characteristics in India 1981-2011

Census Year	Households (in million)	Population (in million)	Literacy Rate (in %)	Sex Ratio (No. of females per 1000 Males)	Urban Population as share of Total Population (in %)
1981	118	683	43.1	934	23.1
1991	157	846	51.6	926	25.5
2001	194	1028	64.8	933	27.8
2011	250	1210	73.0	943	31.1

Source: A Treatise on Indian Censuses Since 1961, Census of India

(NPR) were canvassed simultaneously with the Household Schedules, making it a comprehensive demographic exercise.

Logistical Achievement: The scale and complexity of coordinating such a massive operation across India’s diverse geographical and linguistic landscape demonstrated the organizational capabilities of the census machinery.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CASTE CENSUS (SECC) 2011

Conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development, SECC-2011 was a study of the socio-economic status of rural and urban households

for SECC. The purpose of SECC-2011 was to enable evidence-based policy making, targeted delivery of welfare schemes, and efficient identification of beneficiaries for various government programmes. It included caste enumeration, but names of caste/tribe/religion were not shared publicly.

The SECC 2011 was a unique paperless Census utilizing over 6.4 lakh electronic handheld devices for enumeration. This groundbreaking exercise demonstrated robust grievance redressal mechanisms, processing 1.24 crore claims and objections with 99.7% resolution rate.

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unique paperless Census utilizing over 6.4 lakh electronic handheld devices for enumeration. This groundbreaking exercise demonstrated robust grievance redressal mechanisms, processing 1.24 crore claims and objections with 99.7% resolution rate.

REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN CENSUS 2027 Caste Enumeration

For the first time since independence, Census 2027 will include caste enumeration for all individuals. Caste except Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) has been excluded from all census operations conducted since independence. Some states have conducted caste surveys with varying transparency and intent, raising concerns of politicization. To protect social harmony, it has been decided to include caste enumeration in the main census rather than as a separate survey.

Digital Transformation

Census 2027 represents a paradigmatic shift as India’s first digital census. The government has announced several technological innovations-

- First-time use of Mobile Apps for data collection.
- Census Monitoring & Management Portal with multilingual support.

- Online self-enumeration for the public for both phases of Census.
- Code Directory to streamline data processing.
- Training of more than 35 lakh field functionaries.
- In-built validation check mechanism
- Operational Framework

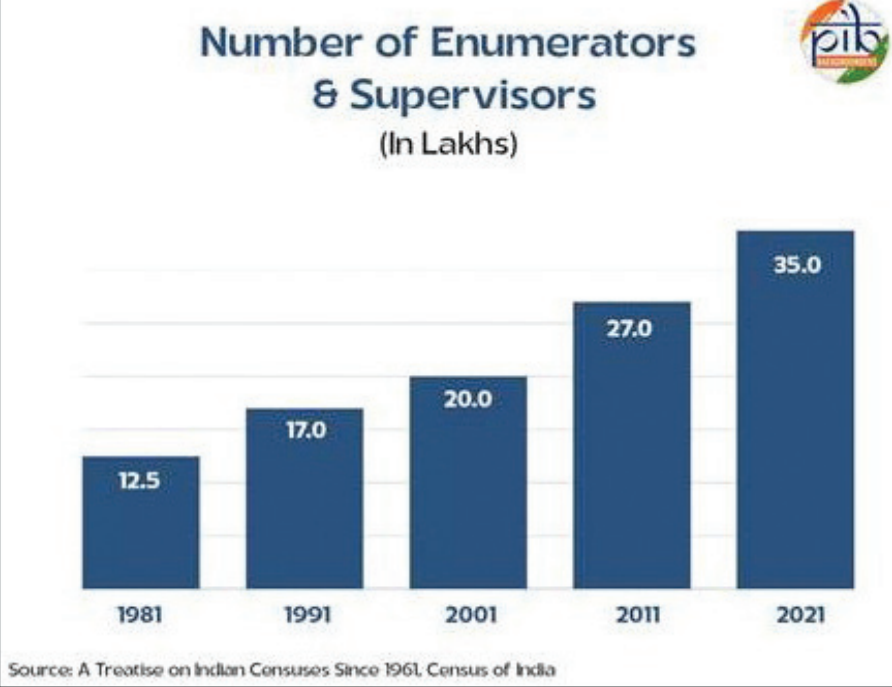
THE CENSUS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN TWO DISTINCT PHASES:

The reference date for the census shall be 00:00 hours (12 AM midnight) of the 1st day of March, 2027 except for the Union Territory of Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Union Territory of J&K, and the states of Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

For the Union Territory of Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Union Territory of J&K, and the states of Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be 00:00 hours (12 AM midnight) of the 1st day of October, 2026.

WHY CENSUS 2027 MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

The 2027 Census arrives at a time when India is grappling with rapid urbanization, youth unemployment, rising demand for digital services, and persistent socio-economic inequalities.



Did you know?
1951 Census - First Quality Check: Pioneered field re-checking to assess census accuracy - the first-ever attempt to verify how correct the count actually was.
1961 Census - Cultural Repository: Conducted extensive studies on rural crafts, fairs, festivals, and ethnographic surveys, transforming the Census Organisation into India’s largest sociological information bank.
Mechanical Revolution: First census to use mechanical tabulation equipment including key punches, verifiers, sorters, and tabulators, marking India’s early step toward automated data processing.
1971 Census - Migration Mapping: First census to systematically track internal migration by collecting data on people’s last place of residence, providing crucial insights into India’s population movement patterns.
1971 Census - Local Choice Research: Allowed each state’s Director of Census Operations to conduct one special study of their choice, making the census more responsive to regional research needs.
Until 1991, only 45% of data could be digitised. However, in Census 2001 and 2011, the use of ICR technology made it possible to digitise all data that were collected from the field.

CYBERSECURITY IN THE AGE OF SMART CITIES: ARE OUR LAWS PREPARED?



RITIKA GOSWAMI

India's Smart Cities Mission, initiated in 2015, had envisioned making urban governance smarter through data, automation, and connectivity. After a decade, more than 100 cities are embedding Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices, smart transport systems, e-governance platforms, and surveillance networks into day-to-day infrastructure. The digital revolution promises efficiency and citizen-centric administration — but it also sets a new horizon of cyber vulnerabilities that India's legal apparatus is not entirely prepared to tackle.

THE DIGITAL BACKBONE OF URBAN INDIA

Smart cities are built on a

complex network of technology: CCTV surveillance systems with face detection, smart energy grids with automation, intelligent water meters, AI-driven traffic management, and cloud-based data centers with real-time processing. Every level of this infrastructure, as it enhances operational efficiency, is a vulnerability for cyber attacks.

In 2024, for example, several Indian municipal corporations were hit by ransomware attacks that crippled property tax websites and e-payments in Pune and Bhopal. While the digital dependence of city systems increases, so does the attack surface — which poses grave issues of public safety, national security, and data privacy.

LEGAL GAPS AND OUTDATED FRAMEWORKS

India's first core cybersecurity law — the Information Technology Act, 2000 — was crafted in an era long before smart cities or AI-based surveillance. While it does have provisions under Sections 66 and 72 of cyber

offenses and data leakages, it is not specific to address issues particular to smart infrastructure, i.e.,

- Safety of critical information infrastructure (CII), such as smart grids, transportation control systems, and emergency services.
- IoT security norms, for devices that may not even have primary encryption or firmware patches.
- Compulsory breach disclosure protocols, particularly to civic governments and private smart city providers.
- Liason of liability, particularly when private tech

contractors operate over public data or city systems.

Though CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) released fresh cybersecurity guidelines in 2022 requiring reporting of incidents within six hours, its implementation is inconsistent, particularly at the municipal level where digital capacity is limited.

The Privacy Conundrum Smart cities collect massive volumes of personal data: location, facial images, utility consumption, mobility patterns, and even behavioral data through



predictive analytics. This raises critical questions: Where is the data stored? Who owns it? Is there meaningful consent?

Though the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, established paradigms for consent, purpose limitation, and redressal of grievances, its extension to public sector bodies — particularly municipal authorities — is still nascent.

GLOBAL LESSONS AND THE PATH AHEAD

Across the globe, nations such as Estonia, Singa-

pore, and South Korea are incorporating cybersecurity-by-design into their smart city initiatives. These involve pre-deployment risk evaluation, encryption guidelines, real-time monitoring of threats, and most critically, sound legislative structures.

India must take a similar approach by urgently enacting a comprehensive Digital India Act — currently under draft — to replace the IT Act. This Bill has been crafted to deal with the legal and regulatory implications of an increasingly dynamic digital



environment, and it seeks to create a holistic framework for emerging tech, online safety, data governance, intermediary liability, and cybersecurity.

In contrast to its predecessor, the DIA is expected to cover advanced digital areas including artificial intelligence, blockchain, deepfakes, digital platforms, and smart infrastructure. It will likely establish graded regulation of intermediaries, support open internet values, and enhance protections against misinformation, cybercrime, and algorithmic

harms. The Act is one aspect of the larger vision of the Digital India initiative, seeking to make sure that India's digital expansion is both innovative and rights-friendly, with a legal framework adapted to the 21st century.

India's path to smart urbanism is both inevitable and desirable. But technology without strong legal protections is a risky bet. A hack into a city's surveillance or traffic grid is not just an ICT glitch — it's a public-order, safety, and liberty-threatening phenomenon.

From struggles to stardom: The real-to-reel journey of Jaipur's Amit Talwar

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

"I wanted to serve the nation, but now I serve it through acting," says Jaipur-based actor Amit Talwar. Originally from Punjab, Amit dreamed of becoming a soldier but found his calling in acting. Starting on the ramp, he moved to TV and films, using his roles to inspire and deliver meaningful messages. For Amit, acting is not just a career, but a responsibility to impact society.

FROM THE RAMP TO THE CAMERA

Amit Talwar began his professional journey in the world of modeling. His confidence and charm on the ramp quickly made him a noticeable figure, leading to several acting offers in a short time. In 2009, he won the title of Mr. Rajwada in a prestigious modeling competition held in Delhi. He also impressed audiences and judges at the 'Mr. Face of the Year 2009' fashion event organized by Hindustan Times.

His first significant break as an actor came with the television series 'Shri Ramanandacharya', produced by Sagar Arts



and shot in Baroda. It was during this project that veteran actor Browney Parashar noticed Amit's potential and advised him to move to Mumbai. This suggestion proved to be a major turning point in his career.

STRUGGLES IN MUMBAI AND FIRST BIG OPPORTUNITY

Amit's journey in Mumbai was far from easy. He had no godfather, no recommendations, and no influential connections. But he never gave up. Through sheer hard work and determination, he landed his first major television

project — 'Rabba Ishq Na Hove' (produced by Balaji Telefilms), in which he played a supporting lead role. The show aired on Zee Punjabi. Although Amit wasn't in the lead role, he portrayed the character of an NRI who returns from the UK. Even though the role was supporting, his compelling performance caught the audience's attention. Renowned comedian Jaspal Bhatti was the first to recognize his talent, and he played a pivotal role in introducing Amit to the Punjabi entertainment industry through light and sound shows and Punjabi

serials. This show became a turning point in Amit's career. From that moment on, he made up his mind — there was no looking back, only moving forward towards his dreams.

BECOMING A HOUSEHOLD NAME WITH 'CRIME PATROL'

Amit's true nationwide recognition came when he began appearing in Sony TV's Crime Patrol, one of India's most-watched crime shows. Portraying various lead characters across multiple episodes, he impressed audiences with his intense performances — whether as a police inspector, a victim, or a central character. His compelling screen presence earned him the tag of a "reel-life hero" and firmly established his place in the television industry. Following this success, Amit showcased his versatility across a wide range of popular television shows, leaving a mark with each performance. His notable appearances include Halla Bol (UTV Bindass), Tum Bin (Star Plus), Hoshiyar (AND TV), Police Files (Big Magic Ganga), Aparajita (DD National), Aahat 4 (Sony TV), Tum Bin Jiya Jaye Na (DD1), and Crime Files (ABZY Cool), among many other serials. With every role, Amit proved his ability to adapt to diverse characters and genres, earning him recognition and appreciation in the television industry.

BIG SCREEN DEBUT: 'CHHO LE AASMAAN'

Amit has recently stepped into the world of cinema with his Hindi film 'Chhoo Le Aasmaan', which was specially made for the film festival circuit. The film won accolades at the Goa Film Festival and tells the uplifting story of a rural girl who uses education as a means to uplift her family and move to the city.

In the film, Amit plays

the role of a wealthy and arrogant college trustee's son, a negative character that contrasts with his earlier roles. His performance in the film received praise from both critics and audiences alike, proving his range and maturity as an actor.

NEXT BIG PROJECT: PUNJABI MULTISTAR-FILM ON FOREIGN LOCATIONS

Amit is now all set to take another major leap in his career with an upcoming Punjabi multistarrer film, scheduled to begin shooting at foreign locations in April next year. In this film, he will portray a young man caught in the dilemma between arranged marriage and love marriage—a relatable theme that blends humor with drama. The film boasts a stellar ensemble cast including Gurpreet Ghuggi, Kavita Kaushik, B.N. Sharma, and Upasana Singh. Sharing the screen with such prominent Punjabi actors is a clear testament to Amit's rising stature and credibility in the film industry.

A PERFORMER WITH A PURPOSE

Despite all the fame and success, Amit remains humble and purpose-driven. "For me, acting is a way to make a difference," he says. "If even one person feels inspired by my work or starts thinking differently after watching my performance, then I feel I've done my job."

From dreaming of donning an army uniform to becoming a known face on the screen, Amit Talwar's journey is a testament to hard work, patience, and the power of staying true to one's passion. He is a shining example of how dreams can come true—without shortcuts—just with belief, talent, and perseverance.

Think about the growing population, make the future safe



Prakash Chandra Sharma

Every year 11 July is celebrated as World Population Day. The main objective of this day is to make people aware of the need for population control and its social, economic and environmental effects. The ever-increasing population has affected the pace of development and problems like unemployment, hunger, illiteracy are increasing. In view of these challenges, population control has now become not just an option but an imperative.

How did World Population Day start?

On 11 July 1987, when the global population crossed the 5 billion mark, the United Nations expressed concern about the increasing population. Two years later, on 11 July 1989, this day was celebrated for the first time as 'World Population Day'. In December 1990, it was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly. Since then, this day is celebrated every year with special programs, discussions and awareness campaigns.

Population Awareness and India's Growing Numbers

Awareness programs worldwide focus on population control by discussing family planning, gender equality, poverty, education, adolescent health, and contraceptive methods. India has become the most populous country, surpassing China, with the global population exceeding 8.2 billion and expected to reach 9 billion by 2037. India's high growth rate, along with neighboring Pakistan and Bangladesh, significantly impacts the region's population challenges.

Status of Census and Delay

Census is conducted every 10



years in India, but the 2021 census could not be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This census is extremely important for policy making and resource management. Without updated data, policy making becomes challenging.

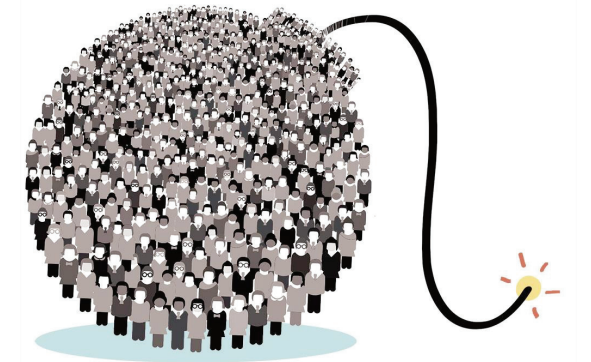
Population Growth: A Serious Challenge

The growing population has created problems like traffic jams, congestion, unemployment and excessive pressure on resources in cities. Experts believe that if this

serious challenges to sustainable development.

Ten most populous countries in 2024

The ten most populous countries in 2024 are led by India, followed closely by China. The United States ranks third, with Indonesia and Pakistan holding the fourth and fifth positions, respectively. Brazil is sixth, while Nigeria comes in seventh. Bangladesh and Russia occupy the eighth and ninth spots, and Mexico rounds out the list at tenth place.



pace continues, then by 2050 there may be a huge shortage of resources and life on earth may become extremely difficult.

Major Causes and Effects of Population Growth

Population growth is driven by factors such as high birth rates combined with decreasing death rates, widespread ignorance and illiteracy, child marriage, superstitions, the desire to have a son, and inadequate health and family planning services. This rapid growth has several adverse effects, including indiscriminate cutting of forests, climate change, rising unemployment, poverty and hunger, increased pressure on health services, and the degradation of natural resources, all of which pose

These countries collectively represent a significant portion of the world's population.

Time for resolution: For a better tomorrow

On this day in the year 2025, let us take a resolution that we will not only be alert for population control ourselves, but will also make the society aware. It is important that we imagine a world where everyone gets equal opportunities, health services and a clean environment.

"If we do not wake up now, the future and the lives of the next generation will be in danger."

On this World Population Day, let us all move together towards a strong, balanced and prosperous future.

The author is a senior journalist



BRITAIN'S €283 MN AID TO KIEVE: MESSAGE TO MOSCOW

Unpacking the post-election push, strategic timing, and what it means for the war and beyond



Damaged buildings in the southern Ukrainian port city of Mariupol. Credit: Reuters

WHAT'S IN THE DEAL?

The United Kingdom's newly announced €283 million assistance package for Ukraine, signed on July 10, 2025, reflects a multidimensional effort combining military, humanitarian, and infrastructure aid. British officials have confirmed that a significant portion will bolster Ukraine's depleted air defense capabilities, including procurement of anti-drone and surface-to-air missile systems to counter intensifying Russian strikes on civilian and energy infrastructure.

are also included—targeting war-damaged schools, railways, and energy grids, in collaboration with Ukrainian local governments and international partners like the World Bank.

Crucially, this marks the first major UK-Ukraine agreement signed under Britain's new government—a symbolic and strategic gesture that reiterates continuity in foreign policy despite political change at home.

The timing of the deal is as important as its content. The UK's general election in early July resulted in a Labour government led by Keir Starmer, replacing the Conservative administration of Rishi Sunak. While both parties have largely supported Ukraine, Starmer's government sought to signal early international commitment to global allies—especially NATO—just ahead of the 2025 NATO summit in



Angela Rayner Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Credit: X post

Washington D.C. next week.

This comes amid increasing war fatigue in parts of Europe and the United States, where funding debates have grown polarized. For the UK, this deal allows the Starmer administration to reassert Britain's global security posture, especially post-Brexit, at a time when European unity

over Ukraine remains vital but fragile.

It also reflects growing concern over Russia's summer offensive. Ukrainian positions in the Donbas and Kharkiv regions have come under renewed assault, and British intelligence has warned of an uptick in long-range drone and missile attacks designed

The aid reflects UK concern over Russia's summer offensive, with intensified attacks on Donbas and Kharkiv. It's both a tactical boost and a symbolic signal to Moscow and Kyiv.



UK PM Keir Starmer announced fresh package of military aid for Ukraine. Credit: X post

symbolic—a message to Moscow and reassurance to Kyiv.

The bigger picture The UK's €283 million package doesn't stand in isolation. It aligns with recent G7 and EU pledges to channel frozen Russian assets into Ukrainian reconstruction, and echoes moves by the United States, which passed

London is also keen to reassert its post-Brexit foreign policy independence, while still coordinating tightly with EU and NATO frameworks. The UK remains one of Ukraine's most reliable backers in Europe, even outside the EU bloc. Continued support strengthens Britain's soft power and rebuilds dip-

lomatic capital lost after its

departure from the European Union. Longer-term, this package fits into broader Western plans for postwar Ukrainian integration into European security and economic systems. As discussions around eventual EU accession and NATO guarantees for Ukraine accelerate, Britain's role as a bridge between the US and continental Europe remains critical.

In a conflict now well into its third year, and with no diplomatic end in sight, Britain's fresh aid package is not just a financial transfer—it is a strategic bet on Ukraine's survival and Europe's long-term security order.

TDG NETWORK

TDG EXPLAINER

to erode civilian morale. UK aid is thus both tactical and

a \$60 billion aid package for Ukraine earlier this year.

lomatic capital lost after its

Silent exodus in Iran

Over the past two weeks, tens of thousands of Afghan migrants have fled or been forcibly deported from Iran, as authorities accelerate a sweeping crackdown on undocumented foreigners. Tehran claims the move is essential to preserve national security and alleviate economic burdens, but human rights observers call it a politically charged purge with dangerous humanitarian consequences.



Afghan refugees arrive from Iran at the Islam Qala border crossing between Afghanistan and Iran on July 5, 2025. AFP

Taliban regime remains diplomatically isolated, the economy is in collapse, and humanitarian agencies are stretched thin. Food insecurity affects half the population, and female-headed households face acute risks due to Taliban restrictions on women's movement and work.

"Going back to Afghanistan is not a return—it's an exile into a void," said Mariam Atayi, an Afghan women's rights activist now based in Islamabad. "They're being expelled from one country and abandoned by another."

While Afghanistan's de facto authorities have announced "reception plans" for returnees, these are often poorly funded and logistically inadequate. Many refugees end up in overcrowded camps or return to conflict-scarred villages with no livelihoods.

As the exodus continues, rights groups warn of a regional crisis in slow motion. The deportations not only strain Afghanistan's fragile recovery but also destabilize border provinces, increase trafficking risks, and worsen tensions between ethnic groups and local administrations.

TDG NETWORK

targeted to deflect public anger away from Tehran's internal failings.

GROUND REALITY

On the ground, reports paint a harrowing picture. Migrants describe arbitrary arrests, police raids, and widespread harassment in cities like Mashhad, Zahedan, and Tehran. Social media videos show migrants being rounded up en masse, while some employers and landlords have reportedly been warned against sheltering undocumented Afghans.

"We were living peacefully for years. Suddenly, we are being hunted," said Rahmatullah, a 32-year-old construction worker who fled Iran with his wife and infant son. Speaking from Herat, he added, "I left everything behind. They didn't even let us col-

lect our wages."

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has urged Iran to halt mass deportations, citing concerns over "collective expulsions" and "refoulement"—the forcible return of refugees to a country where they face danger. Iran, however, insists it has shouldered a disproportionate burden for years. With over 4 million Afghans (documented and undocumented) residing in the country, Iranian officials argue that international support has been insufficient, despite Iran not being a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

BACK TO NOWHERE?

For many returnees, Afghanistan offers little more than fear and hunger. The

Sun Valley: The billionaire summit that shapes big tech, media, power negotiations

WHAT IS SUN VALLEY?

Every summer, the small town of Sun Valley, Idaho, transforms into the epicenter of elite power networking. Since 1983, the Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference has brought together the most powerful figures in technology, media, and finance for an off-the-record retreat that looks deceptively casual—billionaires in vests and sneakers strolling past wildflower meadows. But beneath the summer-camp aesthetics lies something more serious: a Davos-style gathering where industry-shaping deals are seeded, softened, or sealed.

"It's the one place where CEOs drop their guards—and pitch over Pinot Noir," said a former media ex-



The Sun Valley Lodge is seen ahead of the Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference. Getty Images

THE GUEST LIST

This year's conference, held from July 9–13, 2025, includes an all-star cast: Jeff Bezos, Tim Cook, Bob Iger, Sheryl Sandberg, Elon Musk, and OpenAI's Sam Altman. Also attending are Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos, JPMorgan Chase's Jamie Dimon, and YouTube CEO Neal Mohan.



Barry Diller, Chairperson of IAC, and fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg. Reuters

ecutive who has attended multiple times.

Run by the secretive investment bank Allen & Co., Sun Valley has become a proving ground for industry alignment, where strategic marriages—media mergers, tech buy-outs, and even leadership successions—are quietly nudged forward through socializing rather than spreadsheets.

Notably absent is Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who reportedly declined this year due to ongoing regulatory pressure and scrutiny over his company's role in generative AI misinformation. His absence has sparked chatter over Meta's increasingly isolated posture in tech's geopolitical chessboard.

Sun Valley's guest list isn't just about status—it's



Tim Cook, CEO of Apple. Reuters

about signal. As one tech journalist noted, "If you're not invited, you're not in the room where the next five years are mapped out."

The closed-door panels and fireside chats are strictly off-record. But photo ops outside the Sun Valley Lodge—where executives in hiking gear casually chat by the golf course—offer subtle clues about shifting alliances and negotiation trails.

Deals in the mountains Sun Valley has a history of shaping major corporate maneuvers, some of which began as informal discussions in Idaho's cool summer air. In 1995, Disney's then-CEO Michael Eisner launched merger talks with Capital Cities/ABC at the conference, culminating in a \$19 billion deal. More recently, Jeff Bezos reportedly initiated Ama-

Behind closed doors in Idaho's mountains, titans of industry shape tomorrow's headlines

zon's acquisition of MGM Studios during the 2019 edition.

This year, speculation swirls around a possible Disney-Apple streaming alliance, murmurs of consolidation among mid-tier AI startups, and renewed interest from private equity in distressed media assets.

"There's always one night when the deal gets real," said a veteran banker who has attended for over a decade. "It might be on a gondola ride or during fly-fishing, but it's never in a boardroom."

While most details remain under wraps, the Sun Valley effect is real: companies return to Wall Street with fresh direction, surprising partnerships, or newly groomed successors.

TDG NETWORK



44.7% PAKISTANIS UNDER POVERTY LINE, WORLD BANK REVEALS ALARMING DATA

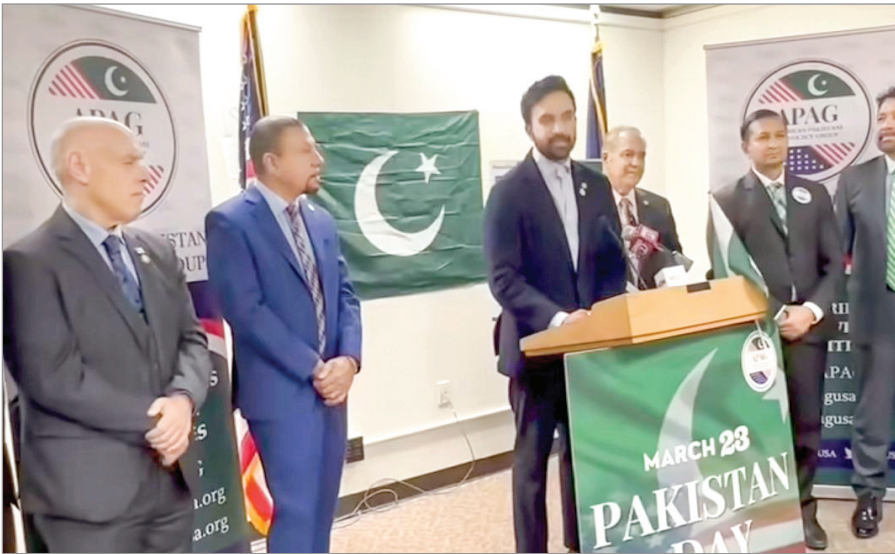
Extreme poverty in Pakistan triples, exposing systemic policy and data failure.

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's poverty crisis continues to spiral out of control, with the World Bank's 2025 assessment revealing a shocking 44.7 per cent of the population living below the \$4.20/day poverty line, according to Geo News.

This alarming figure exposes the failure of successive Pakistani governments to effectively address the rampant poverty afflicting nearly half of the nation's citizens.

The report further highlights that extreme poverty, defined by the World Bank's \$3.00/day threshold, has surged to 16.5 per cent from a previously reported 4.9 per cent, demonstrating that millions more Pakistanis are sinking deeper into destitution. Meanwhile, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) indicates that over 30 per cent of Pakistan's population suffers



Credit: X post

from severe deprivation in health, education, and living standards.

In stark contrast, neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh, and Nepal have managed to make meaningful progress in poverty alleviation through targeted strategies, industrial growth, and social reforms.

China has slashed its extreme poverty rate below 1

per cent, and Bangladesh's microfinance and garment sectors have propelled millions out of poverty despite recent setbacks. Even Nepal boasts a poverty rate below 2.2 per cent. Pakistan's struggle is compounded by bloated social welfare programs like the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), which, despite increased funding, remain

patchwork solutions unable to break the cycle of poverty. Overreliance on these handouts without integrating effective poverty graduation methods leaves millions trapped in dependency. While the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has made some strides, empowering women entrepreneurs and disbursing millions in interest-free loans,

its achievements remain isolated successes amid a vast sea of deprivation. The lack of a comprehensive, updated poverty database cripples targeted policymaking, leaving millions invisible to the state's welfare mechanisms.

Experts argue that without political will and institutional reform, Pakistan will continue to lag behind regional neighbours. Fragmented data systems, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and limited coordination among aid agencies undermine any meaningful progress. Geo News further reported that to reverse these devastating trends, Pakistan must adopt data-driven policies inspired by global best practices, strengthen public-private partnerships, and scale up community-driven poverty graduation models. Without bold reforms, the nation risks remaining a poverty hotspot in South Asia, perpetually failing its most vulnerable citizens.

US, Japan, Philippines unite against China's maritime bullying

AGENCIES
TOKYO

In a rebuke of Beijing's increasingly aggressive maritime posture, the foreign ministers of Japan, the United States, and the Philippines reaffirmed their commitment to freedom of navigation during a trilateral meeting on July 10.

The gathering, held on the sidelines of ASEAN-related meetings in Kuala Lumpur, marks the first such high-level ministerial dialogue since US President Donald Trump returned to office in January, The Straits Times reported. Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Maria Theresa Lazaro voiced firm opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo "by force or coercion," a pointed message directed at China's belligerent actions in the East and South China seas. According to the



On July 10, FM IWAYA, who is visiting Malaysia, held a Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the Honorable Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State and the Honorable Maria Theresa Lazaro, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Philippines.

Japanese Foreign Ministry, the ministers emphasised strengthening trilateral co-operation to deter further Chinese aggression in the region. The backdrop to this renewed alliance is China's long-standing pattern of illegal and provocative actions in the South China Sea, where it has militarised artificial islands, harassed foreign vessels, and ignored international rulings against its territorial claims. The Philippines, in particular, has faced repeated incur-

sions by Chinese vessels into its exclusive economic zone. At the same time, Japan has been forced to respond to Chinese ships encroaching near the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. As The Straits Times reported, the trilateral also highlighted recent progress in maritime cooperation, including joint coast guard exercises held in June off Japan's Kagoshima Prefecture, a signal of growing preparedness to counter Chinese maritime assertiveness.

US, Russia top diplomats meet again over Ukraine at ASEAN summit

AGENCIES
KUALA LUMPUR

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio met again on the sidelines of the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Kuala Lumpur, with the war in Ukraine at the centre of discussions, according to Al Jazeera citing Russia's state-run TASS agency.

The talks followed a 50-minute meeting between the two top diplomats a day earlier. While no details have emerged from Friday's exchange, Rubio told reporters after Thursday's talks that both sides had dis-



cussed a possible "new and different approach" to reviving peace efforts in Ukraine, Al Jazeera reported.

"I wouldn't characterise it as something that guarantees peace," Rubio said, "but it's a concept that I'll take back to the president." Lavrov said on Friday

that he conveyed Moscow's stance on the conflict. "We discussed Ukraine. We confirmed the position that President [Vladimir] Putin had outlined, including in his July 3 conversation with President [Donald] Trump," Lavrov told Russian media.

GOP senators alarmed by Hegseth's Ukraine aid freeze, seek probe

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Republican senators have voiced serious concerns following reports that US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth froze weapons shipments to Ukraine without prior approval from US President Donald Trump, raising questions about coordination between the Pentagon and the White House, The Hill reported.

Senate Republicans say the freeze may have resulted from "miscommunication" between Trump and Hegseth. A senior Senate Republican aide called it "a clear goof-up on a lot of levels,"



according to The Hill.

Some GOP sources on Capitol Hill warned that if Hegseth or his senior team acted to deliberately bypass the president, it would present a significant issue. Senate Republicans are "alarmed" by reports that Hegseth may have paused shipments multiple times without inform-

ing lawmakers and are now demanding to know who at the Pentagon was involved. "That's a problem," said one GOP senator who requested anonymity. "To hear there may have been other pauses or this pause went on longer than any of us know, to me that's alarming," the senator added.

'Afghan migrants face surge in diseases': WHO

AGENCIES
KABUL

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a warning regarding the rising spread of infectious diseases among Afghan migrants deported from neighbouring nations amid poor sanitary conditions, Khaama Press reported. The WHO emphasised the need to enhance medical resources and staff capacity to address the in-

creasing health risks.

WHO has reported a rise in respiratory infections, skin conditions like scabies, diarrhoea and suspected COVID-19 cases among those deported from neighbouring nations. The ground assessments carried out at key border points, especially Islam Qala in Herat Province, reveal that upper respiratory infections are the most common diseases spread.

UN warns Taliban's new media policy fuels fear

AGENCIES
KABUL

The United Nations has raised serious concerns over a new media directive issued by the Taliban, warning that the policy will intensify fear and self-censorship among Afghan journalists. In a statement issued on Thursday, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said the move will tighten control over press free-



dom and formalise previous restrictive actions, Khaama Press reported. The directive mandates that all political programs and participants must

receive prior approval from the Taliban's Ministry of Information and Culture before broadcast. According to Khaama Press, the four-page docu-

ment titled "Policy for Holding Political Programs (Roundtables) in Afghanistan" requires media outlets to submit content to the ministry ahead of time and mandates ID cards for all program participants. UNAMA stated that the new rules "increase fear and self-censorship among Afghanistan media outlets" and warned that the directive "further erodes press freedom in the country," Khaama Press reported.

INDIA REGISTERS HUGE DIPLOMATIC VICTORY AT BRICS; TRUCE TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL, HAMAS FAIL

This week, Indian PM's five-nation tour significantly enhanced India's relationships within the Global South, yielding important advancements in the areas of critical minerals, defence, digital payments, trade and investment; and people-to-people connect. This visit resulted in substantial bilateral agreements with the five nations and marked the first international adoption of UPI. It also included the awarding of four prestigious civilian honors to Indian PM. Notably, this was his longest trip since assuming office in 2014, encompassing Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia, and featured participation in the 17th BRICS Summit held in Rio de Janeiro. India secured vital bilateral agreements, strengthened its development partnerships,

and broadened its digital public infrastructure presence internationally. India also clearly called for the essential reforms in international organizations from the BRICS platform, garnering significant backing from the member countries.

PM Modi participated in the BRICS summit hosted by Brazil, which was the key purpose of this visit. BRICS added Indonesia as the new member extending its reach to southeast Asia. It should be noted that India is going to host the next BRICS summit. At the BRICS Summit in Brazil, India focused on reforms in global governance, responsible AI, food and energy security and counter-terror cooperation. India successfully lobbied for the inclusion of the Pahalgam terror attack condemnation in the final declaration, which is consid-

WORLD RECAP

ANSHU JOSHI

ered as a diplomatic win of India. It was relieving to see Lula condemning the brutal Pahalgam terror attack and also echoed PM Modi's message of not sparing terrorism at any cost. PM Modi also went to Brasilia where he received an overwhelming welcome and had bilateral talks with the Brazilian President. Bilateral talks with Lula da Silva included agreements on renewable energy, agriculture research, digital solutions, intellectual property and cross-border security. India and Brazil also agreed to set up a ministerial mechanism to monitor trade and investment, reaffirming

the strategic partnership. In an era where partnerships and international organizations such as the UN appear to be struggling in their contributions to global objectives, India has forged a path for a novel form of diplomacy. Unlike China, which entices developing and underdeveloped nations with promises of aid only to later seize their strategic locations, or the US, which is accused by many of intimidating Global South nations, India advocates for a developmental politics that fosters win-win partnerships. Furthermore, India instils hope during these times marked

by two ongoing wars, demonstrating that conflicts can be resolved through diplomatic dialogue. Nations can also exchange their success stories regarding the achievement of targets related to climate change mitigation, digitalization, sustainable development, infrastructure development, and more. For instance, India has effectively utilized its digitalization narrative as a form of digital diplomacy, which has gained global traction through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Additionally, India has fostered people-to-people connections and explored new markets for its pharmaceutical, fintech, defence, and agricultural technology companies and services. Moreover, India has significantly bolstered its support in the fight against terrorism, and the civilian honors received

by the Indian PM have enhanced India's brand image. In summary, it can be concluded that this visit by the Indian Prime Minister has added significant value to Indian foreign policy across multiple dimensions.

While India celebrated remarkable diplomatic successes at the BRICS summit and during the visits to five nations by the Indian PM, it was disheartening to witness the failure of truce negotiations in Doha between Israel and Hamas aimed at pausing the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict.

Despite the recent discussions between Trump and Netanyahu, along with Trump's assertion that the war would soon come to an end, the initial talks between Hamas and Israel in Doha did not yield a favorable result. Earlier this week,

Trump had expressed optimism that an agreement could be reached shortly, explaining the reporters about how negotiation talks are going well and that Hamas is eager for a ceasefire. However, the discussions between the two parties concluded without any announcement of a truce. Communications and clarifications were exchanged through Qatari and Egyptian mediators, yet no significant progress was made. Hamas indicated that it had responded positively to the latest ceasefire proposal; Israel also issued a similar statement, but it is evident that substantial gaps remain between the two sides that must be addressed for any agreement to be finalized. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu expressed his desire for a deal, "but not at any price." On the other hand, Hamas

described the ongoing negotiations as hard due to Israel's stubbornness. Essentially, both parties hold differing perspectives on issues such as UN aid distribution, military de-escalation, and the release of war prisoners.

On one hand, when the multilateral initiatives led by Western-dominated organizations fail to resolve conflicts, India has demonstrated to the world how these platforms can be enhanced by incorporating new members and implementing essential reforms.

However, at this moment, there appears to be a state of flux in global politics. We can only hope that the conflicts do not escalate further if they cannot be halted at this time. It may seem idealistic, but the wars of today will ultimately conclude only at the diplomatic table.

DHANUSH BEGINS 'D54' SHOOTING

AGENCIES
CHENNAI

Actor Dhanush has started the shooting of his movie tentatively titled 'D54' on Friday. It is helmed by 'Por Thionzhil' director Vignesh Raja. The makers of 'D54' shared pictures from the pooja ceremony of the film, which was attended by the lead cast, director, and the movie's crew. The 'Asuran' director Vetrimaaran also attended the event.

Taking to their Instagram handle, Vels Film International (official production banner of film) shared a series of snaps from the pooja ceremony, which also included a clapboard with 'Pooja' inscribed on it.

Dhanush, producer Dr Ishari K Ganesh, and director Vignesh Raja posed with the D54 poster for the



pictures at the pooja ceremony. While sharing the photos, the makers wrote, "The much-awaited journey starts off. #D54 starring @dhanushk Raja - Shoot begins today with a pooja. Produced by @dr.isharik. ganesh @VelsFilmIntl. A film by @vignesh_raja."

The music of the film will be composed by GV Prakash Kumar. Dhanush has recently wrapped up the shooting of 'Raanjhanaa's spiritual sequel 'Tere Isk Mein', which is directed by Aanand L Rai and stars Kriti Sanon in the lead role along with

'Asuran' actor. The film is written by long-time collaborator Himanshu Sharma and features music by AR Rahman with lyrics by Irshad Kamil. 'Tere Ishk Mein' is produced under the banners of Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, and Colour Yellow Productions.

Siddhant, Triptii Shine as lovers in 'Dhadak 2' trailer

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

The trailer of Siddhant Chaturvedi and Triptii Dimri-starrer 'Dhadak 2' was unveiled on Friday morning.

Helmed by Shazia Iqbal, 'Dhadak 2' explores love and challenges social norms. The film follows Siddhant's character as he navigates a love story that breaks through societal expectations and class barriers.

In the trailer, Siddhant and Tripti can be seen fighting for their love and life in a promising film, which tackle cast discrimination. It also highlights



the themes of identity, power dynamics, and the painful emotional cost of love.

Siddhant and Triptii's intense performances as lovers caught eyeballs. Fans have been raving about

their chemistry ever since the trailer was launched.

"They look good together," a social media user commented.

"Wow...can't wait for the movie," another one wrote.

Elated to be a part of the script, Triptii shared, "When I started my acting career, I had wished to be a part of certain kinds of films, and I have been a part of those films. Dhadak 2 is not a usual story, in fact, it is special beyond measure. It was quite challenging to play the part. I have always desired to play such kind of characters that could challenge me as an actor, so the thrill of acting continues. And I feel that was justified in Dhadak 2. We are quite proud of this film, and the audiences will realize this once they watch it in theatres."

Ajay Devgn cons gangster in 'Son of Sardaar 2' trailer

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Ajay Devgn's highly anticipated film 'Son Of Sardaar 2' trailer is finally out, offering viewers a nostalgic experience with comedy similar to its blockbuster prequel in 2012.

Directed by Vijay Kumar Arora, the 'Son of Sardaar 2' also stars Ravi Kishan, Sanjay Mishra, Mrunal Thakur, Neeru Bajwa, Chunky Panday, Kubbra Sait, Deepak Dobriyal, Vindu Dara Singh, Roshni Walia, Sharat Saxena, Sahil Mehta and the late Mukul Dev. The two-minute and fifty-second trailer begins with some popular scenes from its prequels, showcasing the troubles Ajay Devgn went through in a Punjabi village due to bad relations between his ancestors.

This time, Ajay Devgn has gone to Scotland and lands in another trouble when he, along with his love partner Mrunal Thakur, decides to help Roshni Walia by becoming her Sikh parents to tie her wedding knot with the love



of her life.

However, the problems arose after Ajay-Mrunal met the boy's father, who is a Sardaar with uncountable guns at his disposal, accompanied by dozens of bodyguards, as per the trailer.

The trailer features hilarious conversations between Ravi Kishan (Boy's father) and Ajay Devgn. Mrunal has mastered the accent of a Punjabi girl in the movie as she portrays herself as a Desi Girl of India in Scotland.

Vindu Dara Singh packs good one-liners in the trailer, while the late actor Mukul Dev's character in the film becomes a nostalgic one when Ravi Kishan taunts him for speaking good English. The

actor's character hilarious comedy punches in the prequel was majorly due to his lack of understanding the English language.

While sharing the trailer, Ajay wrote, "Action! Emotions! Confusion ka bhaandar. JASSI is back, aur iss baar sab kuch double hai!"

'Son of Sardar 2' is produced by Ajay Devgn and Jyoti Deshpande. It will be released on July 25, 2025.

The first instalment of 'Son of Sardaar' was directed by Ashwani Dhir. It featured Devgn alongside Sonakshi Sinha and tells the story of Jassi, a man who returns to his ancestral village in Punjab and becomes embroiled in a family feud.

BRAIN PICKING



It is important to move on from the laurels of the past. I can't let success go to my head.

—MANOJ BAJPAYEE
(Indian Actor)

Anupam, Boman attend 'Tanvi The Great' screening with President

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Legendary actor Anupam Kher and Boman Irani arrived at Rastrapati Bhavan in Delhi to attend the special screening of 'Tanvi The Great' with President Droupadi Murmu on Friday.

The screening is organised for President Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre ahead of the film's official release. Kher and Irani looked stunning as they arrived for the screening. "Tanvi The Great"

actor opted for a black suit while Boman chose to wear a brown suit.

Shubhangi, who plays the title role of Tanvi, and Karan Tacker also arrived in style for the special occasion.

The screening is a significant moment for the film's team, especially actor and producer Anupam Kher, who has described the film as being close to his heart.

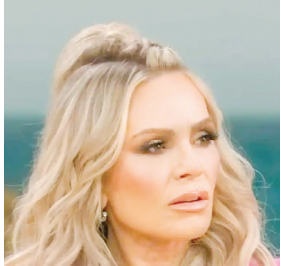


'I shouldn't have said anything': Tamra breaks down over backlash

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

'The Real Housewives of Orange County' fame Tamra Judge discussed her mental health-related issues and also opened up about the controversy over her past claims that she had Autism, reported People.

On the season 19 premiere of The Real Housewives of Orange County, Tamra had a conversation with her



therapist about the emotional challenges she was facing. She shared that she had "been crying since last week's session."

"I realized that you have to dig up those things that are buried deep inside of you, because those are the things that come out when you get angry," she said, noting she has spent her past four months in therapy "just talking about stuff that I don't want to talk about," reported People.

Tamra also noted that she was struggling to deal with her trauma.

REVIEW: JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH *****
JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH



PRAVEEN NAGDA

Dinosaurs have always intrigued us in many ways, and the cinematic legacy that's been created by the Jurassic Park franchise is certainly unforgettable. Having said this, I have always maintained that

the quality of movie experience with the original edition of any franchise far exceeds its sequels. In the sequels, while the story is explored with new angles, ideas, visuals, characters, and myriad ways, they often lack the same punch, the same awe, the same impact, and the cinematic experience when compared to the original one.

Jurassic World: Rebirth also falls in the same category, and those who have followed this franchise over the past three decades would agree without a doubt after watching the film. While the latest sequel introduces a few fresh

angles, it builds upon excellent graphics and captivating natural environments, but it is laced with many scenes that are strikingly similar to the prior editions.

A dinosaur in its most monstrous form chasing the boat instead of car, grabbing a character and chewing it up atrociously this time from some other location and not the toilet seat, scary visual of the hand chopped up this time holding up a cryo-box preserving the blood samples, and the beast chasing the humans inside the lab, people hiding behind the shelf, and the distracting the monster with red light etc., everything reminds you of the earlier editions.

Scarlett Johansson as Zora

Bennett, Jonathan Bailey as Dr. Henry Loomis, Luna Blaise as Teresa Delgado, Mahershala Ali as Duncan Kincaid, and Rupert Friend as Martin

Krebs are on a mission to procure the blood samples of select species of the living dinosaurs, in a secluded equatorial tropical environment, which is legally banned for humans to visit. All this to create a drug to address cardiovascular disease in human beings. They end up meeting a family stranded on high seas on an overturned sailing boat, hearing the Mayday call. Ed Skrein as Bobby Atwater, David Iacono as Xavier

Dobbs, Philippine Velge as Nina, and Audrina Miranda as Isabella Delgado make up

this family that also lands on the same island after being separated from an aquatic dinosaur attack.

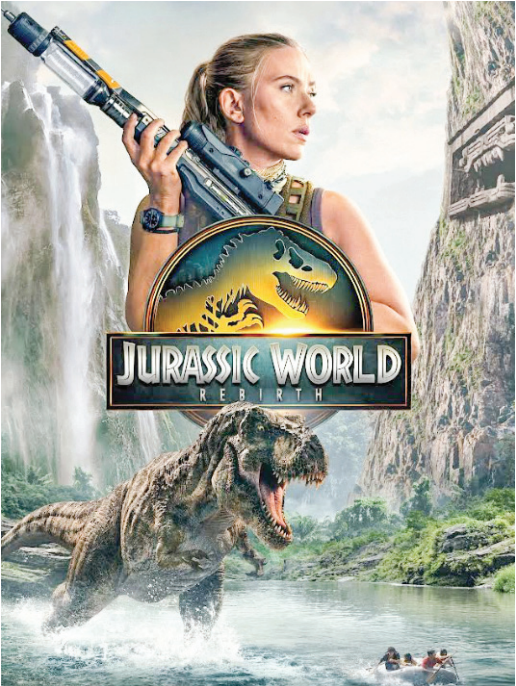
While there is a lot of action and thrill, adrenaline-pumping sequences in the fast-moving second half of the film, the first half of the film is pretty dull, slow-moving, and a lot of blue sea to watch, Johansson as Zora remains energetic and active throughout the film, and Audrina as little child Isabella makes a cute little grass-eating dinosaur her friend. There are genetically mutated, deadly dinosaurs, a lot of jungles, deep gorges, lofty cliffs, and tall trees, along with encounters with the dinosaurs of different kind instilling fear and awe,

but most of the times in a very predictable manner.

Based on characters created by Michael Crichton, written by David Koepp, and directed by Michael Crichton, Jurassic World: Rebirth will hold you in your seat in the second half of the film, where the music and sound connect well with the scenes and remind you of the previous editions.

The storyline is very basic and lacks novelty, but visuals and graphics are outstanding, and almost all actors deliver highly relevant performances, making the film a good watch, especially for franchise fans and children.

Praveen Nagda is Festival Director of KidzCINEMA and CultureCinema Film Festivals



DEALING WITH MOOD SWINGS AND ANXIETY DURING PREGNANCY

DR. YUVAKSHI JUNEJA

Pregnancy is a profound journey that brings with it a wide range of physical, emotional, and psychological changes. While it can be a time of great joy and anticipation, many women also experience mood swings and anxiety that can feel overwhelming. These emotional fluctuations are largely driven by hormonal changes, such as the rise and fall of estrogen and progesterone, which influence neurotransmitters in the brain responsible for regulating mood. At the same time, external stressors like concerns about labor, changes in body image, relationship dynamics, or financial stability can compound these emotional shifts. Understanding how to cope with these mood swings and anxiety is crucial not only for the well-being of the mother but also for the healthy development of the baby.

First and foremost, it's important for pregnant women to recognize that mood swings and anxiety are common and not a sign of weakness or inadequacy. Accepting these feelings as a normal part of pregnancy

can reduce self-judgment and encourage a more compassionate internal dialogue. Talking openly with a partner, friend, or healthcare provider about one's feelings can also help to process and alleviate emotional stress. Emotional support is a powerful buffer against anxiety, and even a short conversation can sometimes ease a heavy mental load.

One of the most effective tools for managing mood swings and anxiety during pregnancy is establishing a consistent self-care routine. Regular physical activity, such as walking, prenatal yoga, or swimming, can boost endorphins, natural mood enhancers and improve sleep, which often becomes disrupted during pregnancy. Balanced nutrition is equally important; fluctuating blood sugar levels can affect mood, so eating small, frequent meals rich in complex carbohydrates, protein, and healthy fats can help maintain emotional equilibrium. Adequate hydration and sleep hygiene are also critical factors in emotional regulation.

Mindfulness practices like meditation, deep-breathing exercises, and guided visualization can be especially



Balanced nutrition is equally important; fluctuating blood sugar levels can affect mood, so eating small, frequent meals rich in complex carbohydrates, protein, and healthy fats can help maintain emotional equilibrium.

helpful for calming anxious thoughts. Even spending a few minutes a day practicing mindfulness can re-center the mind and reduce the intensity of mood swings. Journaling is another powerful technique, allowing pregnant women to express and examine their feelings in a

safe, nonjudgmental space. Writing about fears, hopes, or daily experiences can provide clarity and a sense of control amidst the uncertainty that often accompanies pregnancy.

In some cases, anxiety during pregnancy may escalate to the point where profes-

sional intervention is necessary. Persistent sadness, panic attacks, inability to concentrate, or withdrawal from social interactions may be signs of prenatal depression or an anxiety disorder. These are medical conditions, not character flaws, and can be effectively treated

with therapy, medication, or a combination of both under the guidance of a healthcare provider. Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), in particular, has shown great promise in helping expectant mothers reframe negative thought patterns and develop healthier cop-

ing mechanisms.

Support groups, either in-person or online, can also play a critical role. Connecting with other expectant mothers who are experiencing similar challenges can provide comfort, validation, and practical advice. These groups can become a source of strength, helping women feel less isolated and more empowered. Partners and family members should be educated about the emotional changes that occur during pregnancy so they can offer informed support and recognize when professional help might be needed.

Ultimately, dealing with mood swings and anxiety during pregnancy requires a multifaceted approach that includes physical self-care, emotional expression, mental wellness practices, and when needed, professional help. By cultivating awareness and seeking support, pregnant women can better navigate the emotional turbulence of this life-changing period. Doing so not only enhances their own well-being but also lays a strong foundation for a healthy and nurturing environment for their baby.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, mood swings and anxiety during pregnancy are common experiences that stem from a combination of hormonal changes, emotional challenges, and life transitions. While these feelings can be unsettling, they are a natural part of the journey to motherhood. By adopting healthy coping strategies such as regular physical activity, balanced nutrition, mindfulness practices, and emotional support, expectant mothers can significantly improve their mental well-being. Open communication with loved ones and healthcare providers also plays a crucial role in identifying when additional help is needed. Most importantly, recognizing that seeking support is a sign of strength not weakness can empower women to take charge of their mental health during pregnancy. Prioritizing emotional care not only supports a healthier pregnancy but also fosters a more positive transition into motherhood, benefiting both mother and child in the long team.

Dr. Yuvakshi Juneja (Senior Consultant Obstetrics & Gynecology) Apollo Cradle & Children's Hospital, Chirag Enclave, Delhi

Emotional intelligence in the boardroom: The hidden strength behind executive presence

TDG NETWORK

How do women executives leverage emotional intelligence to establish relationships, drive decisions, and foster collaboration?

Solid self-knowledge, empathy, and social sensitivity, emotional intelligence's pillars are often shown by women leaders. They are able to form genuine, trusting relationships with constituencies, teams, and colleagues due to them. Emotional intelligence makes individuals adept at reading people, adjusting their communication style, and remaining alert to underlying dynamics in high-pressure environments such as boardrooms.

This allows them to facilitate open, inclusive communication, heal rifts between opposing positions, and diffuse tensions. Emotionally intelligent women leaders can balance emotional awareness with rational analysis in strategic decision-making, producing solutions that are both technically solid and respectful of others. Their empathetic listening and subtle response style creates collaborative climates in which diverse perspectives are respected and heard.

Given the long-documented advantages of emotional intelligence for leadership, why is it underutilized in corporate boardrooms?

Emotional intelligence (EI) is under-valued in conventional commercial organisations, even after decades of study and practical outcome. This is partly because of old beliefs which link good leadership with qualities that are more easy to measure and reward, like being assertive, competitive, and commanding-and-controlling behaviour.



Samira Gupta, Founder, Coach SamiraGupta.com

Emotional intelligence (EI) is undervalued in conventional commercial organisations, even after decades of study and practical outcome.

Conversely, emotional intelligence, though crucial, is more difficult to quantify and, therefore, appears to be subjective. Consequently, characteristics such as empathy, vulnerability, and reflective consideration have not always been actively encouraged or developed, particularly within industries traditionally linked with men. Fortunately, this is now shifting, especially as globalized corporations come to understand the long-term payoff of emotionally intelligent leadership in the areas of creativ-

ity, culture, and employee retention.

Which of the competencies of emotional intelligence are most valuable for distinguishing highly successful female leaders from others?

Out of the numerous skills in EI, empathy and self-regulation are most effective. Empathic leaders are more capable of comprehending multiple viewpoints, building inclusion, and developing emotionally secure spaces. Self-regulation allows leaders to stay calm while under pressure, navigate conflict elegantly, and make

value-driven decisions instead of impulsive ones.

These abilities combined with social sensitivity and genuine communication, enable women to approach and resolve intricate leadership issues with strength as well as feeling. These are some similar themes that surface in my upcoming book where I've talked about Leading with Heart: Women, Emotion & Executive Power, which explores how emotionally aware women are reframing leadership throughout India's corporate suites.

How do firms intentionally develop emotionally intelligent leadership and nurture and advance women executives to these positions?

Visionary companies are incorporating emotional intelligence into leadership development initiatives through executive coaching, feedback instruments, immersive workshops, and formal mentorship. Organizations also use EI testing as part of succession planning and leadership assessment models.

Above all, they are building cultures where emotional literacy is not merely tolerated—but honored. By recognizing the emotional nature of leadership, these firms are opening the way for more inclusive, sustainable decision-making at the top.

As discussions about emotional intelligence continue to expand—urged on by studies, practical application, and intriguing observations such as those in my coming book—companies can rethink leadership for the positive. And women leaders are leading the charge.

The responses are given by Samira Gupta, Founder, Coach SamiraGupta.com

Designing jewellery with purpose and power

TDG NETWORK

Blending timeless design with conscious craftsmanship, Amalfa redefines jewellery as a medium of identity and empowerment. Founded by Neha and Ishita, the brand reflects a modern, mindful aesthetic that speaks to women who lead with strength, style, and intention.

1. How have your different backgrounds shaped Amalfa's design and vision?

• At Amalfa, our design and vision are shaped by the unique strengths that each of us brings to the brand. I, Neha, have a deep passion for design and aesthetic sensibilities, honed through my education in fashion design and years of professional experience in creative direction and craftsmanship. This foundation allows us to create jewellery that is timeless, elegant, and thoughtfully crafted.

• Ishita complements this with her expertise in technology and digital marketing, bringing fresh and innovative ways to connect with our customers. She ensures that our jewellery isn't just a passing fashion trend but is as powerful a form of personal identity and self-expression. Together, we blend design excellence with meaningful storytelling, crafting pieces that celebrate individuality and empower women to wear their strength and style proudly.

• At Amalfa, jewellery should be more than just an adornment. It is a statement of who you are.

2. What does "conscious adornment" mean to you at Amalfa?

• To us at Amalfa, "conscious adornment" is about more than just wearing jewellery. It is about choosing pieces with intention. Something that empowers you and reflects who you truly are. We believe jewellery should be skin-safe



Ishita Ajmani, Co-founder Amalfa



Neha Sethi Walia, Co-founder, Amalfa

and thoughtfully designed so they're not only beautiful but also responsible choices for your well-being.

• Conscious adornment means wearing jewellery that holds meaning, celebrates boldness, and complements your authentic self. Each Amalfa piece is created to resonate with the alpha spirit in every wearer, blending timeless elegance with modern innovation. Sustainability is another important aspect of this philosophy. Our focus on durable, allergy-safe metals and timeless designs reduces waste and encourages mindful consumption. More and more buyers today want jewellery that not only looks good but also aligns with their values of ethical craftsmanship and environmental responsibility. According to a McKinsey report, 66% of jewellery

consumers now prioritise sustainability, seeking out brands that use recycled metals and responsibly sourced gemstones.

• At Amalfa, conscious adornment is a celebration of identity, a statement of purpose, and a commitment to craftsmanship that honours both the wearer and the world around her.

3. What challenges have you faced as women founders in this space?

• We're very aware that women entrepreneurs often face unique challenges in business, and we deeply respect the journeys many have navigated. We haven't encountered significant obstacles that have held us back. As empowered women ourselves, we are confidently charting our path and building a brand that genuinely represents modern, alpha women - strong,

independent, and unapologetically bold.

• Amalfa reflects who we are and the community we serve. Our vision is to create jewellery for women who lead with confidence and purpose, and we're proud to embody those values every day. While challenges exist in the broader landscape, we choose to focus on empowerment, innovation, and creating opportunities rather than limitations.

4. How do you balance storytelling and strategy while building the brand?

• We don't see storytelling and strategy as opposing forces. Infact, we believe they're two sides of the same coin, both essential to building a brand that truly resonates. For us, effective, authentic storytelling is our strategy.

• We create for the modern Indian alpha woman: bold, empowered, and confident. Our jewellery embodies sustainability, durability, and a fearless spirit. This philosophy is more than just a narrative; it's the foundation of everything we do, guiding our outreach, marketing, and product design. By staying true to this story, we build meaningful connections that drive our brand forward with purpose and impact.



SPIRITUAL ANCHORS FOR STABILITY IN A CHANGING WORLD



CHARLIE HOGG

In this increasingly challenging world of social upheaval, economic transitions, and an ever-faster pace of life, is it possible to remain stable? I think it is. As I look around, I come to three conclusions. Firstly, there is no turning back, no matter how often we wish there was a way to go back to 'the good old days' – that is not going to happen; we have to navigate our way through the here and now. Secondly, we need a new approach to the world. Unless I have a new approach, then all of the things that are happening globally, locally, and within my own family circle, are going to impact on my well-being. The most important realisation we can have, is to understand that despite

the fact that we are all trying to mentally control what is happening in the world, we cannot. We may be able to influence things in a small way, but the only thing I do have control over is my reaction to what is happening. Spirituality is when I start to take responsibility for myself, my thoughts, reactions, and behaviour.

The third conclusion is – we need a new wisdom. Intellectual wisdom is needed to understand the world, to develop a career, to provide for my family, but when I feel anxious and the darkness seeps into my being, intellectual capacity does not help very much. Emotional wisdom may be the foundation of building rich, loving, sustainable relationships, but what happens when I am rejected or someone does not like or value me – do I have resources to deal with that?

What we really need to explore is spiritual wisdom; the wisdom that is innate in every single one of us. If emotional intelligence helps us build rich, loving, sustainable relationships with others, then spiritual intelligence helps me to build a

rich, loving, sustainable relationship with myself. The first relationship in life is with me. If this relationship is dysfunctional, it pollutes each and every part of my life.

If we take a look at our world, just a snapshot of the whole planet, there is absolute chaos. In almost every corner of the world there is chaos in institutions, workplaces, chaos in countries, chaos in families – where does it all begin? It begins with this first and most intimate relationship of life – with the self. If this relationship is not healthy, it seeps into every part of my life. This is why, in Rajyoga meditation, we go deeper and deeper into the aspect of knowing the self, realising the self, experiencing the self, and this is the life-long internal journey of this spiritual path.

All the signs in the world we see today are telling me one thing – look within and learn about yourself and internally stabilise the self. There are three anchors I can use to stabilise myself as the world swirls around me. The anchor of the loving relationship with myself as



To navigate successfully through a chaotic world, I have to take responsibility for myself, my thoughts and behaviour.

a soul. It is absolutely fundamental to learn about myself, experience and understand myself. Research shows that 80 per cent of us believe that we are more than bodies, that we have a soul. We may believe that, but it is in meditation that we convert what 'I believe'

into what 'I feel' and what 'I experience'; turning the theory of 'yes, I am a soul' into experiencing that reality. The spark of eternal light, in the middle of the forehead, experiences life on the physical plane, through the body. Realisation of this reality, of being an eternal

point of spiritual energy, means that fear has less and less power over me.

The second anchor is developing a loving relationship with the Supreme, the Divine – God. When the connection with that soul is strong, the opinions of others, their behaviour, and

all the myriad challenging situations have less and less effect on me. The meditation process develops the art of being detached from the awareness of my body, which is the first step to making a true connection with the Divine. This is important because it gives me

an extraordinary power to deal with life, tolerate situations, to have patience, to be benevolent, to have goodwill for people. The more I am able to step back and withdraw from the awareness of the body, the more I am able to make this connection and develop a living relationship with the Supreme Soul.

The third anchor is regular practice. The way things are in the world leads me to the conclusion that ultimately only I can help myself. The way to do that is by putting down these anchors of knowing the self and connecting with the Divine. The more I do that, the more I reconnect to an inner peace and inner stability and an extraordinary power. But it needs regular practice.

This is a pure act of love for the self. It is in regular practice that I will find the way to a pristine point of stillness, and then the absolute source of the kind of love I will find nowhere else – the connection with the Divine. And the more I practise, the more stable I become.

Charlie Hogg, based in Sydney, is the National Coordinator, Brahma Kumaris, Australia.

Being alone need not be lonely



CHIRYA RISELY

Loneliness is considered to be one of the largest public health challenges we face. In 2022, a study in the UK showed that almost half the adult population (49.63 per cent) reported feeling lonely from time to time. How fortunate are those who do not fear solitude; who are not afraid of their own company, who are not always desperately looking for something to do, something to amuse themselves with, something to judge.

Loneliness is not just a feeling; it can actually affect our health. When feeling lonely, people often adopt behaviours that detrimentally impact their health. Lonely people are more likely

to start, or increase, a smoking habit, and often loneliness can have symptoms similar to mild depression, which makes people less likely to engage in any physical activity. Long-term loneliness can lead to a gradual decline in mental health, due to having more time to ruminate on worries and negative thoughts. The more time is spent in this way, the more likely the person is to lose their confidence, self-esteem, and ability to socialise.

Long-term loneliness can decrease life expectancy by 25 per cent, increase coronary heart disease by 29 per cent, increase the risk of stroke and high blood pressure, and reduce immunity against infection.

Living alone, spending long hours alone, does not mean that you necessarily feel lonely. It depends on how much of a healthy relationship one has with one's own mind. In fact, to know the self well, so that all the strengths can be appreciated and the weaknesses minimised through a healthy and honest assessment, literally requires time spent alone. It is a necessity.

When I am alone in the silence



When I am alone, it is a time to refresh the mind, to check and change my thoughts from negative to positive.

of inner quietness, my mind also quiets down, and my ability to think clearly and make decisions, increases. It is a time for refreshing the mind. 'Listen-

ing in' to check and change our thoughts from negative to positive, from worry and anxiety to hopefulness and courage, helps to create constant pure feelings

for the self and others. Spending time alone helps us not to attach to or be dependent on others, but to grow a deeper sense of self-reliance, self-trust, and

Living alone, spending long hours alone, does not mean that you necessarily feel lonely. It depends on how much of a healthy relationship one has with one's own mind.

In fact, to know the self well, so that all the strengths can be appreciated and the weaknesses minimised through a healthy and honest assessment, literally requires time spent alone. It is a necessity.

self-esteem.

"Learn to like yourself since you must spend so much time with yourself, you might as well get some satisfaction out of the relationship." - Norman Vincent Peale.

Loneliness is possible even in a crowd, because it is based on the feeling of not being heard, and of a perceived sense of isolation. Even if social contact is suddenly limited for one reason or another, if we are able to enjoy the company of our own mind, then we do not feel lonely. Being alone helps us to ex-

plore our true identity; an eternal spiritual being, radiating light. Contemplating this truth opens the lines of communication with the Supreme Being, God. It is impossible to feel lonely when in connection with that Being.

Meditation is a powerful way to keep our mind healthy and positive, and a mind linked with the Supreme Mind never feels alone.

Chirya Risely is a Rajyoga meditation teacher based at the Brahma Kumaris Peace Village Retreat Center, USA.

Disinfecting the soul



B.K. ATAM PRAKASH

Sunlight is the best disinfectant, they say. While the sun's rays can kill germs, this is a metaphorical statement which suggests that transparency and openness prevent corruption and wrongdoing. When decisions, policies, and actions are exposed to public view, those who wield power are less likely to behave unethically, and the people are more likely to hold them accountable. It reflects the idea that secrecy allows abuse, while openness promotes honesty and responsibility. This holds true not only in government, politics, and business, but also in our

personal lives.

Just as sunlight exposes what is hidden in the dark, when we engage in honest self-reflection and shine the light of our awareness into the deep recesses of the mind, our unconscious thought patterns, fears, and flaws come into view. Spiritual growth begins when we courageously see ourselves clearly – the good, the bad, and the painful. In the absence of self-examination, we may superficially assess ourselves as doing fine, overlooking the weaknesses that may be visible to others, and which unconsciously influence our thinking and behaviour.

Once self-examination has revealed problem areas, remedial action must follow. Sometimes, introspection may uncover unpalatable truths about the self, which may lead to shame and guilt, which are fertile grounds for inner suffering. But when we bring our struggles into the light – through trusted conversations, meditation, or keeping a diary – they begin to subside. Emotional



When we allow God's light into the soul, it gradually eliminates the weaknesses that had brought suffering.

wounds that had festered in silence begin to heal when we address them head-on.

Openness in our personal lives also invites feedback and guidance. By allowing others to see us as we are, we create the conditions for

growth. A mentor, spiritual guide, or even a supportive friend can only help us if we are honest with them – and ourselves. Sunlight not only makes things clearly visible, it also nourishes; similarly, honest accountability helps

us develop strength and maturity by encouraging us to take the steps needed for personal growth, and make responsible choices in life. Living in truth – internally and externally – leads to trust in the self, and when

we align more fully with our values, it brings peace and integrity.

But the greatest transformation takes place when we allow the most powerful light into our lives – the light of God, who is also called

the Sun of Knowledge. As souls, we are children of the Supreme Soul. When we remember this and connect to Him with faith and love, this mental link becomes the channel through which God's power and virtues flow into the soul. Regular communion with the Almighty, the ocean of peace, love, and mercy, gradually makes us more and more like Him. Just as sunlight kills germs, God's light of truth and power eliminates weaknesses in the soul that had brought suffering. When we are freed from the influence of selfish desires, anger, and ego, peace and contentment follow. This gain is not limited to the self. A spiritually fulfilled soul radiates and reflects God's light to others, helping them connect to the Supreme Father and bask in the warmth of His love, to be healed and become whole again.

B.K. Atam Prakash is a Rajyoga teacher at the Brahma Kumaris headquarters in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Optimism is the lens through which I look at the world. Like a kaleidoscope that arranges bits of coloured glass into a pleasing view, I can choose to organise the bits of my life into a view that pleases. The energy of optimism is the organizing principle of positivity. Today let me apply the lens of optimism to arrange the bits of my life into a pleasing view.

KATERINA SINIAKOVA AND SEM VERBEEK WIN WIMBLEDON MIXED-DOUBLES TITLE

AGENCIES
LONDON

Katerina Siniakova added to her collection of major titles by winning the mixed doubles at Wimbledon with Sem Verbeek in a 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3) victory over Luisa Stefani and Joe Salisbury on Thursday.

Siniakova, a 10-time Grand Slam women's doubles champion from the Czech Republic, hit a smash on the first match point at a half-full but lively Centre Court. It's a first major title for Verbeek, and the Dutchman celebrated by having the crowd join him in singing "Happy Birthday To You" to his father.

Siniakova is also a two-time Olympic champion. She won gold in mixed doubles with Tomas Machac at the Paris Games last year. She teamed with Barbora Krejickova to win the women's doubles gold at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

Of Siniakova's 10 major women's doubles titles, seven were with Krejickova, two with Taylor Townsend, and one with Coco Gauff at last year's French Open.

"It's very special, I mean it means a lot -- we had a lot



Alcaraz vs. Fritz Djokovic vs. Sinner in Wimbledon's men's semifinals

LONDON : Carlos Alcaraz takes on Taylor Fritz, and Jannik Sinner faces Novak Djokovic in the men's semifinals at Wimbledon.

Both matchups are scheduled to be played Friday at Centre Court, with No. 2 seed Alcaraz vs. No. 5 Fritz leading things off at about 1:30 p.m. local time, followed by No. 1 Sinner vs. No. 6 Djokovic.

The two winners will meet Sunday to decide the

champion. Alcaraz has won the last two trophies at the All England Club, beating Djokovic in the final each time. Alcaraz is on a career-best 23-match winning streak that includes the championship at the French Open a month ago, defeating Sinner in an epic five-set final after saving three match points.

In all, Spain's Alcaraz owns five Grand Slam titles at age

22. Italy's Sinner, who won the Australian Open in January, has three at age 23. They have combined to collect the last half-dozen majors.

That's nothing compared to what Djokovic has accomplished, of course. The 38-year-old from Serbia already has 24 Slam trophies, the most for a man, and is bidding for a 25th that would give him more than anyone in the history of tennis.

Amanda or Iga? Who will be Wimbledon's 8th first-time women's champion in a row

AGENCIES
LONDON

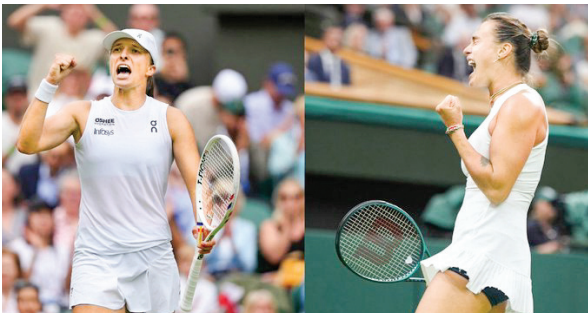
Either Amanda Anisimova or Iga Swiatek will leave the All England Club's grass courts as Wimbledon's eighth consecutive first-time women's champion.

Why has there been such a revolving door? Chris Evert has some thoughts about various elements that, as she put it ahead of Saturday's final, "make it difficult to feel completely secure and confident on this elusive surface."

For one, there's the amount of talent in the game -- "deeper now than ever," said Evert, a Hall of Famer who won three of her 18 Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon in the 1970s and 1980s and was the runner-up six times during an era when Martina Navratilova won a record nine singles championships there.

Plus, Evert noted, there's a short turnaround after the red clay of the French Open, leaving only two to three weeks to practice and prepare for what she called a "polar opposite" surface. Another contributing factor are the uneven bounces and other adjustments required on grass.

And with no completely dominant figure since Serena Williams retired after the 2022 U.S. Open, there is more room for new faces such as the 13th-seeded Anisimova, a 23-year-old Ameri-



can who will be participating in her first major final against Swiatek, a former No. 1 who won four trophies at Roland-Garros and one at the U.S. Open but hadn't been past the quarterfinals at Wimbledon until now.

"I never even dreamt that it's going to be possible for me to play in the final," said Swiatek, a 24-year-old from Poland who hadn't been in a title match as a professional at any grass-court tournament until three weeks ago, when she was the runner-up at Bad Homburg, Germany. "I thought I experienced everything on the court," Swiatek said. "But I didn't experience playing well on grass."

Sure did Thursday during her 6-2, 6-0 win against Belinda Bencic in the semifinals.

"Maybe I would have had to play my absolutely best tennis of my life and risk every shot to beat her today, the way she played," Bencic said.

Like Swiatek, Anisimova also was a recent runner-up on the surface, reaching the final at Queen's Club last month.

Her powerful, flat strokes are a natural fit for the turf, and she showed just how good she can be on the stuff during a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 victory against No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka on Thursday.

"I have to say," Sabalenka said, "that she was more brave."

A sign of Anisimova's skill on grass came three years ago, when she reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

But she hadn't played at the event again until now, because she sat out the tournament during a mental health break to deal with burnout in 2023, then was ranked too low to get in automatically a year ago and lost during the qualifying rounds.

"A lot of people told me that you would never make it to the top again if you take so much time away from the game. That was a little hard to digest, because I did want to come back and still achieve a lot and win a Grand Slam one day," Anisimova said, adding that she is pleased to be "able to prove that you can get back to the top if you prioritize yourself."

I have identified a problem area and working on it: Neeraj

AGENCIES
GURUGRAM

India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Friday said he has identified a problem in his game and is looking to address it at the earliest, as he seeks to win a second world championship gold medal later this year.

Chopra, who is the strongest Indian medal hope in the September 13-21 showpiece in Tokyo, will be training in Prague and Nymburk in the Czech Republic for 57 days.

He will be heading out with his physio Ishan Marwah tonight and be based in the European country till September 5 at a total cost of Rs 19 lakh. "I have already identified the areas I need to work on. While throwing the spear I tend to fall too much on my left side. We need to work on that. In training I don't do that, but in competition, it happens because of the extra effort I put in," Chopra said. The double Olympic medallist said he also needs

It's a first major title for Verbeek, and the Dutchman celebrated by having the crowd join him in singing "Happy Birthday To You" to his father.

of fun on the court and I really enjoyed it, it was a really amazing time here," Siniakova said after lifting the trophy.

"Katerina, thank you so much, it's been an honour to compete next to such a great doubles legend, one of the best to ever do it and thank you for making this a Thursday I will remember for the rest of my life," the 31-year-old Verbeek said.

Salisbury, who faced the disappointment of home fans hoping to see a British champion, said margins did not fall in his and Stefani's favour. "It's always tough to lose a final but they played amazing so congratulations. They were too good in the tie-breaks today," Salisbury said.

Bumrah fifer, Rahul's unbeaten fifty keeps India steady at Lord's

AGENCIES
LONDON

Jasprit Bumrah's five-wicket haul and Joe Root's sublime century set up an absorbing contest before KL Rahul's composed unbeaten 53 guided India to 145 for three at stumps on day two of the third Test against England at Lord's on Friday.

At stumps, India trailed by 242 runs with Rahul and Rishabh Pant (19 batting) at the crease.

Bumrah (5/74) dismantled England's middle and lower order to claim his second successive five-wicket haul and 15th overall, as the hosts were bowled out for 387 after resuming the day on 251/4.

Root anchored the innings with a composed 104 off 199 balls -- his 37th Test century -- while No 9 Brydon Carse (56) and keeper-batter Jamie Smith (51) staged a crucial lower-order fightback as the last three England partnership was worth 84 runs.

In reply, India started brightly but lost Yashasvi Jaiswal (13) early with Jofra Archer's dismissing him in the third ball of his Test comeback after nearly four years.

Rahul held firm with a patient unbeaten 53 (113 balls) adding 61 runs with Karun



India's batter KL Rahul celebrates his half century during the second day of the third Test match between India and England, at the Lord's Cricket Ground, in London

BRIEF SCORES

England 1st Innings: 387 (Root 104, Carse 56, Smith 51; Bumrah 5/74).
India 1st Innings: 145/3 in 43 overs (KL Rahul 53 batting, Karun Nair 40).

Nair, who made 40 before falling to a spectacular diving catch by Root at slip -- his record 211th in Tests, surpassing Rahul Dravid's 210 for the most catches by a fielder in men's Tests.

Captain Shubman Gill (16) fell just two runs short of overtaking Dravid's record

for most runs by an India batter (602) in a Test series in England.

A defensive push off Chris Woakes found the edge, with Smith standing close taking a sharp catch behind the stumps in a key moment of the match.

The five-match series is tied one-all after India bounced back to win the second Test at Edgbaston by 336 runs.

Brief Scores: England 1st Innings: 387 (Root 104, Carse 56, Smith 51; Bumrah 5/74). India 1st Innings: 145/3 in 43 overs (KL Rahul 53 batting, Karun Nair 40).

Bumrah surpasses Kapil for most five-fors in away Tests for India

AGENCIES
LONDON

World best Jasprit Bumrah breezed past the legendary Kapil Dev to break the record for most five-wicket hauls in away Tests for India following his sizzling spell under London's scorching heat on the second day of the third Test against England on Friday.

After sitting out in the second contest, Bumrah returned at the 'Home of Cricket', Lord's, with his mojo. He left England's top-class batters gobsmacked with his precise lines and troubling lengths. Bumrah blazed his way to his maiden five-wicket haul at Lord's to take his tally to 13 in away Tests, achieving the feat in 35 games.

Bumrah topped Kapil's record of 12 five-wicket hauls in 66 away Tests for India and moved to the top. Former spinner Anil Kumble slipped to the third spot with 10 five-fers in 69 Tests far from home.

In 47 Tests, Bumrah boasts 215 scalps at a stellar average of 19.49, with best figures of 6/27 and 15



five-wicket hauls. Across all formats, in 206 appearances, Bumrah crossed the 450-wicket mark. He has 453 scalps under his belt at an average of 20.48, with best figures of 6/19 and 17 five-wicket hauls.

With a spell to remember, the 31-year-old went level with the 'Sultan of Swing' Wasim Akram for an elusive feat. With a tally of 11, Bumrah has the joint-highest five-wicket hauls by an Asian in SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia).

He opened his wicket account on the first day by navigating the ball past Harry Brook's inside edge straight into the stumps. On the second day, the crafty

quick continued to put his rich vein of form on exhibition.

On the second day, he ended England Test captain Ben Stokes' (44) hunt to regain form by rattling the timber with a sublime delivery. With the ball nibbling around, Root lunged forward, but the ball nipped in slightly, brushed off the inside edge and crashed into the stumps. Root got his record-shattering Test ton but failed to add many as he walked back to the dressing room with 104 (199).

On the next delivery, Bumrah made a bleated appeal for a caught behind. However, the slip squadron had more faith that Chris Woakes had edged it to wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel.

Sumit Antil, Preeti Pal win gold on day 1 of Indian Open Para Athletics C'ship

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

Two-time Paralympic champion Sumit Antil reaffirmed his dominance by clinching the men's javelin throw (F12 & F64) gold on day 1 of the 7th Indian Open Para Athletics Championship here on Friday.

Haryana's Antil sent the spear to an outstanding 72.25m to be on the top step of the podium. His compatriot Manjeet secured silver with a commendable effort of 54.56 m, while Pradeep Kumar of SSCB earned bronze with a 45.17m throw.

This edition of the championship holds critical importance as it serves as the final selection trial for the Indian contingent heading to the prestigious New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Cham-



pionships later this year.

In the F40 & F41 javelin category, Haryana's golden streak continued with Paris Paralympics champion Navdeep Singh throwing 42.63m to secure top honours.

Prince, also from Haryana, bagged the silver medal with a 31.90-meter effort, and Delhi's Ritender completed the podium with a 30.85-m throw.

CYCLING RACE



XRG team's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar sprints to the finish line ahead of Team Visma - Lease a bike team's Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard (2nd L) placing second during the 7th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 197 km between Saint-Malo and Mur-de-Bretagne Guerledan, in Brittany, western France. Agencies