

MAHANAGAR METRO

VOICE OF THE CITY, PULSE OF THE NATION

MAHANAGAR METRO

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We stand ready: Putin revives 5th-gen Su-57 fighter jet offer to India

Speaking at a SPIEF session moderated by India Today's Geeta Mohan, Vladimir Putin said Russia remains ready to jointly develop, produce and supply the Su-57 stealth fighter to India, while stressing that bilateral defence ties are built on trust.

Bengaluru.(Agency) President Vladimir Putin on Saturday renewed Russia's offer to jointly develop and manufacture the fifth-generation Sukhoi Su-57 stealth fighter with India, underscoring Moscow's willingness to deepen defence cooperation with New Delhi beyond conventional buyer-seller arrangements.

Speaking to Group Editor Geeta Mohan on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Putin said Russia remained open to collaboration on the advanced fighter jet and highlighted the long-standing military partnership between the two countries.

Responding to a question on whether Russia's offer for collaboration on the Su-57 was still on the table, Putin said that both countries shared a history of close military-technical cooperation dating back to the Soviet era, with a significant portion of the Indian armed forces continuing to operate Russian-origin equipment.

He stressed that bilateral defence ties had evolved beyond procurement and increasingly focused on joint research and development. Citing the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile as a successful



example, Putin noted that Indian and Russian experts had worked together on the project from its inception.

"India has traditionally been purchasing our aircraft, both planes and helicopters, from us. The Su-57 is a very good aircraft, probably the most modern one, the most up-

to-date in the world as of now, and it is also the most efficient," Putin said.

The Russian President revealed that Moscow had earlier proposed a joint programme for the fighter aircraft. "We offered, and I said that to our Indian friends yesterday. We offered we should do that together. Well, it didn't work out in the past, but we did it on our own, and we stand ready to sell Su-57 even now," he said.

Putin also highlighted the aircraft's capabilities, saying, "The Su-57 could be configured with two pilots and could additionally function as a command centre. Russia remained a major player not only in military aviation but also in naval platforms, including submarines and surface vessels". Asked whether India would require a waiver from the United States to procure Russian defence systems such as the Su-57 fighter or the S-500 air defence system, Putin said India had consistently acted as a sovereign nation guided by its national interests.

"India always acts as a sovereign country," the Russian premier said, adding that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, "any potential threats of sanctions would boomerang immediately." Recalling a period when Modi was barred from entering the United States, Putin said the Prime Minister had not forgotten those experiences. "Today, all those sanctions have been removed, and India-US relations are developing successfully," he said. Defending India's right to choose its defence partners, Putin said New Delhi was free to procure military equipment that it considered most advanced, suitable and cost-effective. "India is always guided by its national interests," he said. Putin also stressed that Russia's defence ties with India were insulated from political pressures. "Our cooperation with India is not subject to the political environment. Nobody can dictate to us what we should or should not deliver to India. We will always honour our commitments to our partners, especially a partner like India," he said. "We are determined to continue working with India in the same spirit and according to the same principles," the Russian President added.

Special Report: A Constable from Langhnaj Allegedly Being Promoted as Mehsana's "Second SP"; A Multi-Crore Parallel Collection Network Across the District?

District Police Chief (SP) and LCB PI Kamadiya Under Scrutiny for Their Silence

Mahanagar Metro Desk / Pawan Makan Mehsana. Serious allegations have surfaced from Mehsana district regarding the alleged influence of Langhnaj Police Station constable Tarunsinh Dabhi. Reports claim that illegal liquor and gambling activities are operating across parts of Mehsana, Kadi and Nandasan under a protected network. The allegations suggest that several bootleggers and gambling operators are functioning openly, while questions are being raised about the role of local enforcement agencies and the absence of visible action despite repeated complaints. The report also alleges links between the network and operators from Ra-



jasthan, claiming that liquor consignments are being transported across state borders with little interference. Further questions have been

raised regarding previous enforcement actions, alleged internal protection, and the response of district authorities. When contacted, senior officials reportedly denied knowledge of the allegations. The publication has called upon the State Home Department and senior police leadership to conduct an independent investigation and take strict action if any wrongdoing is established.

The publication raises the following questions: If the allegations are true, how could a constable allegedly exercise such influence across an entire district without intervention from senior authorities? Why has no visible action been taken despite repeated complaints

and information reportedly provided to law-enforcement agencies? If a major tragedy involving illicit or toxic liquor were to occur, who would be held accountable for regulatory failures? The report urges the State Home Department to conduct an independent inquiry into the allegations and determine whether any officials or individuals have misused their positions. It calls for strict departmental action against anyone found guilty of wrongdoing. Mahanagar Metro has demanded accountability and a thorough inquiry into the allegations, stating that the matter deserves immediate attention from higher authorities.

CM's 'water evaporates due to heat' remark goes viral, invites criticism

Taking potshots at the CM, AAP posted a video to its X handle that showed waterlogging in parts of Delhi, writing: "Madam, please get this road water to evaporate, too."

New Delhi.(Agency) A recent remark made by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on water shortage in the national capital has drawn sharp reactions from both the Opposition and the public. Discussing the crisis in the city, Gupta had said at a public event, "The heatwave led to the water shortage, which has caused inconvenience (to the public). On top of that, the water that is channelled gets evaporated, adding to shortage." A video of her making the comment has since gone viral. Taking potshots at the CM, AAP posted a video to its X handle that showed waterlogging in parts of Delhi, writing: "Madam, please get this road water to evaporate, too." Congress leader Supriya Shrinete also chimed in, sharply writing on X, "There is a water crisis in Delhi, and these are the thoughts of its Chief Minister—God save us! The BJP is full of such gems." Saffron party leader Shehzad Poonawalla jumped to Gupta's defence, alleging an attempt by the Opposition to craft what he said was a "false narrative." "Notably, this is not the first time that Gupta has made a claim that sparked a volley of criticism and ridicule. Last month, while addressing the Exhibition of Innovative Technological Solutions, Gupta had mused, "It's usually trees like the safeda, kikar and babool that are generally found on the roadsides of Delhi; these trees do not give us oxygen."

Issue is settled: DK Shivakumar on Minister's resignation over portfolio snub

Just days into the new Karnataka government, a resignation threat over portfolio allocation triggered a political storm. After hours of behind-the-scenes negotiations, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar says the matter is now closed.

Karnataka.(Agency) Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday declared that the resignation crisis triggered by senior minister Ramalinga Reddy had been resolved, drawing a line under the first major challenge faced by his three-day-old government. "Ramalinga Reddy is my friend. All problems have been sorted out. Don't make up stories. All those stories have become stale. The resignation issue is settled," Shivakumar told reporters. The Chief Minister's remarks came hours after a marathon late-night meeting with Reddy, who had announced his resignation over dissatisfaction with the allocation of portfolios



in the newly formed Congress government. LATE-NIGHT TALKS DEFUSE CRISIS Shivakumar met Reddy for nearly two-and-a-half hours at a private hotel on Friday night as

the Congress leadership worked to persuade the veteran leader to reconsider his decision. The discussions stretched past midnight and involved senior Congress leaders as well as some of Reddy's close associates. Emerging from the meeting around 1.30 am on Saturday, Shivakumar projected confidence that the issue had been resolved. "This is a family matter. We will all sit together and talk. Everything has been resolved," he said. "He has expressed his grievance; it was a case of miscommunication. Something has happened, and we will sort it out. Don't worry, we will run everything first-class. We have given opportunities to all senior leaders, and we will set everything right."

How Mamata Banerjee clipped Abhishek's wings amid anger against 'bhaipo'

New Delhi.(Agency) Ever since the Trinamool Congress (TMC) was routed a month ago, the anger in Bengal's lanes and within the party's fractured corridors was not directed primarily at supreme Mamata Banerjee. It flowed towards one person - MP Abhishek Banerjee, Mamata's 'bhaipo (nephew)' and the party's de facto No.2. Cries of 'bhaipo chor (thief)' followed him wherever he went. Abhishek was also at the centre of the rebellion that rocked Trinamool. The question was whether Mamata would crack down on her own nephew? The TMC chief curtailed Abhishek's authority within the party but retained him as the party's national general secretary. On Friday, as Mamata carried out an

organisational reshuffle, she sent out a clear political message. While Abhishek was reappointed as the party's national general secretary, Rajya Sabha MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen were named as joint secretaries. MAMATA REVAMPS TMC STRUCTURE Now, Derek and Dola Sen are seen as among Mamata's closest aides. While the Trinamool officially said it would "assist" Abhishek in running the organisation, the move was widely seen by political observers as Mamata's bid to clip his wings. Thus, Abhishek will no longer be able to wield the same degree of unchecked authority within the



party. There will be checks and balances. The appointment of Derek and Dola is particularly significant. Both are seasoned TMC leaders with direct access to Mamata. The political significance lies in Dola Sen's inclusion.

Widely regarded as one of Mamata's closest confidantes, she is likely to serve as her eyes and ears within the party's national organisational structure," tweeted political analyst and author, Sayantan Ghosh. This basically ensures collective leadership at the helm of Trinamool rather than concentrating power in the hands of an individual. Moreover, Abhishek's loyalist, Trinankur Bhattacharya, was removed as president of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP), the party's student wing, and replaced by Priyanka Adhikari. In a broader perspective, the moves signalled Mamata's determination to reassert control over the party as it faces its gravest.

Mamata Banerjee retained her nephew Abhishek Banerjee as TMC national general secretary but added Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen as joint secretaries. The reshuffle signalled tighter oversight amid anger over Abhishek's role in the party's collapse.

## News box

## MCG launches 2-day cleanliness drive in city

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG on Thursday carried out a cleanliness drive in four wards of the city ahead of World Environment Day. The activity is a part of a two-day special campaign across all four zones — ward-10 of zone-1, ward-32 of zone-2, ward-4 of zone-3 and ward-22 of zone-4 — launched by the civic body following the directions of the urban local bodies department. Citizens were also made aware of the importance of segregating waste at the source level. People were advised to divide waste into four separate categories — wet, dry, domestic hazardous and sanitary waste — and contribute to making the city clean.

MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said, "The objective is not only to make the city clean, but also to make citizens aware of environmental protection."

Councillors, ward committee members, RWA representatives and residents took part, conveying the message of strengthening the sanitation system and making citizens aware of cleanliness. Garbage was removed from roads, lanes, public places, vacant plots, garbage vulnerable points (GVPs) and other sensitive areas. Steps were taken for bush cutting, debris disposal and improvement of the sanitation system. Officials and public representatives appealed to citizens to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness not only in their homes but also in surrounding areas. People were given the message not to litter, keep public places clean and motivate others towards cleanliness as well.

## Truck driver dies in hit-and-run accident after a week

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 57-year-old truck driver from Punjab died from the injuries he sustained in a hit-and-run accident near Hero Company's premises more than a week ago. Police have registered an FIR against an unidentified vehicle driver for rash driving and causing death by negligence under BNS at the Sadar police station. The deceased, Manohar Singh, was a resident of Ferozpur district in Punjab. According to a complaint filed by his wife, Manohar was working as a driver for a Ludhiana-based truck owner since Dec 2025 and arrived at Hero Company to load goods in his truck. She said that he had been untraceable since then. When she reached Sadar police station on June 3 while searching for him, she learnt that an unidentified man was injured in a road accident on the night of May 24 and later died during treatment at PGI Rohtak on June 1. According to the complaint, Manohar was climbing onto his truck around 12.30am when an unidentified vehicle brushed past him, causing him to fall and suffer serious injuries. "He was initially taken to Civil Hospital in Sector 10 and later referred to PGI Rohtak, where he died during treatment," an officer said. Police said they received information from Civil Hospital on May 25 regarding an unidentified accident victim who was referred to PGI Rohtak. "Despite efforts, his identity could not be established at the time. Following his death on June 1, family members identified the body," the officer added. Based on the complaint, Sadar police registered an FIR and initiated an investigation to trace the vehicle involved in the accident.

"We are trying to ascertain the car details of the accused. As soon as it is clear, the accused will be nabbed and necessary action will be undertaken," the officer said.

## No developed plots yet, farmers protest at Noida office

Noida.(Agency)

Nearly 500 farmers on Thursday marched from Harola Community Centre to the Noida Authority office in Sector 6 and staged a protest over their long-pending demand for developed plots. "We have decided to continue our protest until our demands are met," Bhartiya Kisan Parishad president Sukhvir Khalifa said, adding, the Authority acquired land from farmers but "failed" to deliver developed plots to several affected families. "In 2024 too, we protested over this issue. Following that, the state govt formed a high-level committee comprising the director of the revenue department, the divisional commissioner of Meerut and the district magistrate of Gautam Budh Nagar. It has been almost two years, but there is no update on the committee's recommendations," the farmer leader said. Nearly 2,950 farmers' 5% and 10% developed plots are due. Suresh Kumar, a resident of Sarfabad village, said, "Nearly 20 years have passed and we are still waiting." Kumar, whose 32 acres of land were acquired by Noida Authority in 2006, added, "We received compensation for the land, but the developed plots were never allotted. We demand that the govt address our concerns and fulfill its commitments." Led by Khalifa, the farmers reached the Authority office around 1 pm. Accompanied by a DJ sound system, the protesters played music and raised slogans in support of their demands. The police put in place multilayered security arrangements, deploying ropes and iron barricades to prevent the farmers from advancing further towards the Authority premises. The farmers subsequently set up tents outside the Authority's main office and began their protest under the scorching June sun. Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, coupled with limited shade, led to dehydration and exhaustion among several protesters. Later in the afternoon, rainfall disrupted the demonstration, forcing many of the protesters to disperse and return home. Police personnel and officials of the Noida Authority later held discussions with the farmers.

Kranti Shekhar, officer on special duty (OSD), Noida Authority, said that officials were in talks with the protesting farmers and efforts were being made to resolve their issues. Noida has scheduled a meeting of farmers with Authority CEO Krishna Karunesh on Friday. The protest stems from a long-standing land dispute between farmers and the development authority. Over the years, Noida Authority acquired large tracts of agricultural land for urban development projects. Subsequently, a group of farmers approached Allahabad High Court, which in Oct 2011 ruled in their favour and granted a 64.7% increase in compensation along with 10% developed residential plots. Prior to the judgment, farmers were compensated for their land and were entitled to 5% developed plots. Supreme Court upheld the HC's decision in May 2015. While Noida Authority has largely disbursed the additional compensation awarded to landowners, the allotment of developed plots remains incomplete due to a shortage of available land.

## Rs 25k for foetus sex test: Decoy operation by Gurgaon health authorities busts interstate racket

Gurgaon.(Agency)

On Thursday morning, a pregnant woman boarded a bus from Delhi to UP. She had just paid Rs 25,000 to her companion, a woman who promised to tell her whether she was carrying a boy or a girl.

Hours later, a joint team from Haryana and UP stormed a house in Bijnor district and arrested two persons for allegedly being part of an interstate sex determination racket. The pregnant woman had been a plant, part of a carefully planned decoy operation by Gurgaon health authorities under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act.

The plan took shape after Gurgaon authorities received intelligence that many women from the district were going to Bijnor for illegal prenatal sex determination tests. Led by nodal officer Devender Singh Salokhi and medical officer Harish Kumar, the joint operation included Bijnor PCPNDT nodal officer Rajendra Prasad Vishwakarma and nayab tehsildar Ajay

Singh Rana. According to officials, the racket was being run through a woman identified as Renu, who allegedly acted as a middleman and charged between Rs 25,000 and Rs 40,000 to arrange the tests. An official said, "She demanded Rs 25,000 from the decoy, asking her to transfer Rs 5,000 online and bring the remaining Rs 20,000 in cash. Investigators transferred the amount through UPI and arranged marked currency notes." On Thursday morning, the pregnant woman met Renu near New Delhi Railway Station. After taking the cash, Renu took her by bus to Noorpur in Bijnor district. During the journey, she deposited Rs 19,000 in a Bank of India account, officials said. Investigators said Renu contacted a person identified as Sonu, following which a car arrived and took



the women to a house on Chandpur Road. Inside, a man identified as Manoj Kumar allegedly conducted an ultrasound examination using a portable machine and informed the woman about the sex of the fetus. The moment the

decoy gave a signal to the team, who rushed in and arrested Manoj and Renu. During questioning, officials learned that Manoj had studied till Class XII, and was therefore not qualified to perform ultrasound examinations. The house where the procedure was conducted was not registered under PCPNDT Act either. The team seized a portable LOGIQ e ultrasound machine, probe, charger, ultrasound gel and other equipment.

Investigators also found evidence of online transactions and recovered the marked currency notes. Authorities suspect the network may have conducted illegal abortions when the fetus was found to be female.

## "Uniform Government, Private Administration" – University Police Employee Allegedly Running a Multi-Crore Parallel Empire from Vadaj

## Allegations of Links to Chemical Liquor Operations and High-Profile Spa Rackets in Gulbai Tekra

Mahanagar Metro Desk Ahmedabad, Gujarat:

Ahmedabad: Serious allegations have surfaced regarding the functioning of an alleged parallel network reportedly being operated by an employee associated with the University Police Station. According to claims highlighted by Mahanagar Metro, the individual, identified as "Giri," is allegedly operating from a private office near the Vadaj Police Post rather than from official premises. The report alleges that parts of Gulbai Tekra have become a hub for illegal activities, including the sale of suspected chemical liquor, the movement of illicit foreign liquor consignments, and alleged unlawful activities operating under the guise of wellness and spa centers. Questions have also been raised regarding the response of local law-enforcement officials. When contacted, officials

MAHANAGAR METRO EXCLUSIVE

## "UNIFORM GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE ADMINISTRATION"

University Police Employee 'Giri' Allegedly Running Multi-Crore Parallel Empire from Vadaj

Alleged Links to Chemical Liquor Operations and High-Profile Spa Rackets in Gulbai Tekra; Silence of PI Bava Raises Serious Questions

**1 GULBAI TEKRA: Hub of Death and Immoral Activities**

- Toxic chemical liquor being sold – a potential threat to thousands of lives.
- Foreign liquor consignments dumped overnight and safely cut near the nose of the police.
- Spa centers operating under the guise of wellness, allegedly involved in high-profile prostitution.

**2 PI BAVA'S DRAMATIC IGNORANCE – Extortion or Compulsion?**

"I don't know what is happening in the area!" – PI Bava

Is it real ignorance or just greed for hefty monthly installments?

**3 WHY ARE AGENCIES SILENT? THE SYSTEM IS FULLY PROTECTED!**

- Allegations of direct blessings from senior police officers and political leaders.
- Agencies like SMC, PCB, Crime Branch, DCP Squad hesitant to take action.
- Even strict instructions of the Home Minister reportedly ignored.

**4 CRORES OF ASSETS ON A GOVERNMENT SALARY!**

Luxurious bungalows, expensive cars, benami properties – where did it all come from?

These assets are allegedly the living proof of the illegal empire running from the private office.

**5 MAHANAGAR METRO'S DIRECT CHALLENGE!**

- When will the government take strict departmental action against these "black sheep" who protect bootleggers and spa mafias and strike deals in lakhs?
- If a mass tragedy happens due to this chemical liquor from Gulbai Tekra, who will be responsible – PI Bava or Administrator Giri?

**PUBLIC OUTRAGE: WHEN WILL THE GOVERNMENT BULLDOZER THIS CORRUPT SYNDICATE AND THE "BLACK OFFICE" IN VADAJ?**

WILL THE HOME DEPARTMENT END THIS DARK RULE OR WILL CORRUPTION CONTINUE?

**THIS IS NOT JUST AN ALLEGATION, IT IS A QUESTIONS TO THE SYSTEM!**

- Parallel Collections
- Illegal Liquor Network
- Spa & Immoral Racket
- Political Protection
- Police Silence

**TIME FOR ACTION, NOT INACTION!**

THE TRUTH WILL COME OUT. THE GUILTY MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

reportedly denied knowledge of the alleged activities, prompting criticism from the publication and local observers. The report further claims that despite repeated complaints and public discussions, no significant enforcement action has been initiated. Allegations have also been made regarding the accumulation of substantial assets, including luxury properties and vehicles, which critics say warrant

a detailed investigation. Mahanagar Metro has called upon the Home Department and senior police authorities to conduct an independent inquiry into the allegations and take strict action against any-

one found guilty of misconduct. The publication argues that the matter is not merely about an individual but about public confidence in law enforcement and administrative accountability.

## Gurgaon civic body offices, mayor's office evacuated after bomb threat

Gurgaon: (Agency)

MCG received a bomb threat via email on Thursday morning, triggering a massive security scare and the evacuation of all its offices across the city. It was later declared a hoax as no suspicious object or explosive material was found after a thorough search.

The email, which came at 10.06am, mentioned the mayor's office and MCG offices as targets. Authorities evacuated the headquarters in Sector 34, the old MCG office in Civil Lines, and offices in Sectors 29 and 42. It was sent from an address purportedly linked to a pro-Khalistan individual.

The alert caused particular concern at the Sector 34 headquarters, which not only houses MCG's main administrative offices and the mayor's office, but also those of CBSE, Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran and Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. Around 1,000 employees were in the building when the threat was received.

Police teams reached the Sector 34 headquarters around 10.15am and began securing the area. By 10.30am, the evacuation was completed and all

entry and exit points were sealed. The bomb disposal squad, which first sanitised the old MCG office in Civil Lines, arrived at 11.30am.

Police and bomb squad members carried out an extensive search, examining offices, common areas and the surrounding complex. After several hours, they declared the building safe.

Police spokesperson Sandeep Turan said multiple teams went to the spot and determined the bomb threat was a hoax, so there was no reason to panic.

The teams left the Sector 34 headquarters around 1.30pm. Work, however, remained suspended and entry to the public was also restricted. Many residents unaware of the situation continued to turn up at the civic body's offices but were turned away at the gate.

The incident has renewed concerns over

security arrangements at govt offices. MCG offices do not have screening infrastructure at their entrances.

Visitors and employees can enter

additional requirements. Any security gaps identified will be addressed on priority," said MCG additional commissioner Ravinder Yadav.

MCG issued an advisory directing all employees to remain vigilant and strictly follow security protocols. Staff members were instructed to immediately report any suspicious person, object or vehicle to senior officials, police personnel and security staff. They were told not to touch any unattended item and to fully comply with directions issued by police and security agencies. The advisory further urged employees not to spread unverified information on social media. The corporation also ordered stricter verification of visitors.

The email also referred to potential attacks on railway routes and mentioned prominent religious sites in Haryana and Delhi. Security agencies are analysing it to determine the credibility of the threat and trace its origin.



without going through walk-through metal detectors, baggage scanners or structured access-control checkpoints. Authorities are now planning to strengthen security arrangements. "We are reviewing our security infrastructure and will hold detailed discussions with the police to assess

# Relocated tusker released in Odisha's Similipal after 36-hour journey, inter-departmental row

**An alleged communication gap between two forest divisions was resolved following an order from the principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF) (wildlife) office on the day.**

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

After spending nearly 36 hours in a truck, a 45-year-old tranquilised tusker relocated from Angul forest division was finally released in a protective area in Talbandh wildlife range within Similipal (north) wildlife division on Friday.

An alleged communication gap between two forest divisions was resolved following an order from the principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF) (wildlife) office on the day.

On Thursday, hundreds of residents in Satkosia range area strongly protested the animal's arrival and gheraoed the

range office when the Forest department made an attempt to release the tusker in Similipal. The Similipal authorities claimed that no communication over the elephant's release was received.

However, Angul DFO Nitish Kumar refuted the claims that the matter was not intimated. The relocation decision was taken as per the direction of PCCF (wildlife) and counterparts in Baripada circle were informed about the decision and transportation, he added. However, there was still no clarity on the



number of human deaths caused by the tusker as the Angul division provided confusing figures. While Angul DFO confirmed one death, unofficial report

and subordinate staff put the death toll at seven in Bantala and Angul Sadar range. Slamming the Forest department for its ham-handed approach to relocation of the tusker, wildlife activist Prasanna Behera said there was no proper communications between Angul and Baripada circles due to which the animal got stuck in the truck for over day. "A scheduled and sensitive animal should not have been treated like this," he added.

Behera said no proper study was conducted by any expert biologist on the alleged aggressive behaviour of the

tusker in the area.

Requesting anonymity, an officer said the tusker will be given treatment and its activities closely monitored for the next few days. If there are positive changes in its behavior, then the animal will be released into the forest in the north division of Similipal. The elephant is healthy and necessary treatments are being provided, he said. The tusker separated from its herd for over a month had created havoc in Bantala and Angul Sadar ranges. It destroyed crops and killed people following which the decision to tranquilise and relocate was taken.

## Short news

### 2 kids, grandmom charred to death as fire, cylinder blast guts house

**Hyderabad. (Agency)**

A 50-year-old woman and her two grandchildren were burnt alive after a fire engulfed their one-room house at Kalalwada Colony in Miryalaguda town of Nalgonda district shortly after midnight on Friday. Preliminary investigations by police point to a suspected short-circuit followed by a cylinder explosion.

By the time fire department personnel brought the blaze under control and entered the house, they found the charred bodies of Chandrakala, her grandson Lakshman (16) and granddaughter Pranitha (14). While Lakshman had dropped out of school, Pranitha was studying in class IX.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire broke out at around 12 am. Within minutes, flames spread through the asbestos-roofed house. Locals initially tried to douse the fire with water and alerted the police, who in turn informed the fire services department. Amid the rescue efforts, a gas cylinder inside the house exploded, triggering panic. The force of the explosion shattered the asbestos sheets and caused portions of the walls to collapse.

Chandrakala and her grandchildren had gone to sleep after dinner and police suspect they were enveloped by thick smoke before they could escape.

"The bodies of Chandrakala and Pranitha were recovered close to the door, which suggests that they made an attempt to come out," deputy superintendent of police Rajasekhar Raju said.

Fire department officials later entered the house after bringing the blaze under control and found everything gutted. Chandrakala's daughter, who works in Pune, rushed to Hyderabad after learning about the deaths of her mother and children. "It was only a week ago that she had gone to Pune to take up a job.

### Solar panel waste to increase to 11 million MT by 2047: Experts at GREENS 2026 Summit in Gandhinagar

**Gandhinagar. (Agency)**

India could generate nearly 11 million metric tonnes (MT) of solar-panel waste by 2047 amid rapid expansion in renewable-energy capacity, warned industry experts on Friday, while calling for a dedicated recycling ecosystem and policy support for the sector. They were present at a session on 'Solar EPR - Closing the Warehousing Loophole Before the Crisis Arrives' at the GREENS 2026 Summit in Gandhinagar.

Solar industry experts called for a dedicated Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework for solar-panel waste, warning that India risks facing a massive recycling crisis as renewable energy capacity expands rapidly.

Ajinkya Kale, programme associate at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), said India currently generates around 1 lakh MT of solar panel waste annually, and the figure is expected to rise significantly in the coming years. "EPR is a good start but that alone will not be enough. An ecosystem for recycling solar panel waste needs to be set up," he said.

"Solar panel waste must be treated as industrial waste and not e-waste. The existing e-waste framework may not be adequate to deal with the scale and complexity of solar-panel disposal expected in future," Jaideep Malaviya, a solar energy consultant, who moderated the panel, told. Speakers also highlighted the financial and logistical burden associated with collection, transportation and segregation.

## Citizens' group demands review of Rs 12k-crore Thane Ring Metro Project, flags planning and environmental concerns

**Thane. (Agency)**

A citizens' group comprising transport experts and urban planners on Saturday urged the govt to put the proposed ₹12,200-crore Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail (TIRMR) project under fresh scrutiny, citing fears over projected ridership estimates, financial viability, environmental impact, among other concerns.

Addressing the media, the group argued that the proposed 29-km circular metro corridor with 22 stations could become an expensive investment that fails to address Thane's actual mobility needs.

"Independent reviews by transport planner Ashish Verma and urban planner Sulakshana Mahajan were presented that show that the projected passenger demand does not justify a heavy metro system. The commuting patterns in Thane remain largely radial and not circular, among other issues," said a member.

Concerns were also raised over the proposed

underground stretch near Thane railway station, which residents fear could trigger prolonged traffic disruptions without publicly disclosed mitigation plans.

"There is no clarity on how the project plans



to ease commute for users in terms of seamless connectivity, considering most stations are located at a distance from the metro 4 and 5 lines. The existing route map shows the ring route crossing over the other metros and then diving underground,

raising questions on whether the planners are designing a roller coaster ride," questioned Mahajan during her media interaction. The group also highlighted discrepancies in the number of trees likely

to be affected, pointing out that while the MahaMetro DPR estimated 662 trees, the municipal Tree Authority identified 3,224 trees for felling or transplantation. Questions were also raised over the impact on mangroves near Thane Creek and the absence of a publicly available environmental assessment. The potential flooding of the tunnels adjoining the creek also remains unattended, feared Mahajan.

Recently, NCP-SP Thane president Manoj Pradhan urged the govt to strengthen the network of public transport buses instead, while a few residents urged holding the project till metro 4 was operative.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA Sanjay Kelkar recently said the project was important but added that residents' concerns must also be addressed.

## Ahmedabad sessions court denies bail to accused in Rs 8.7 crore Bank of Baroda embezzlement case

**Ahmedabad. (Agency)**

A city sessions court on Friday denied bail to one of the accused in the Rs 8.7 crore Bank of Baroda embezzlement case, saying that the allegations in the case should be viewed seriously and that the investigation in the case is still pending.

Last month, the city police arrested the bank's joint custodian, Harsiddh Kadiyar, for allegedly embezzling the amount. After his arrest, a co-accused in the case, Sultan Ansari, was also arrested. Ansari sought bail, claiming innocence and alleging his framing in the case. He submitted that he used to act at Kadiyar's behest. Public prosecutor Sudhir Brahmhatt and the bank vehemently opposed the bail plea, citing

the gravity of the offence and the ongoing probe. After the hearing, additional sessions judge J I Patel said, "Prima facie, as it reveals that serious allegations are



made against the present applicant that he, in conspiracy with the co-accused,

executed forged balance certificate in the e-Kuber currency chest portal and submitted false information in bill book by submitting such chest slip and accordingly,

applicant and co-accused, in conspiracy with each other, misappropriated total amount of Rs 8.70 crore from Bank of Baroda, which is public money." While denying the bail plea, the court said, "Allegations made against the present applicant require to be viewed seriously at this preliminary stage i.e. while deciding bail application as the same involves public money. As it further reveals from the affidavit of the investigating officer that Rs 60 lakh have been recovered from the present applicant and still Rs 40 lakh remains to be recovered."

## Telangana HC junks woman's custodial torture plea, cites contradictions in remand proceedings

**The three have been in judicial custody since October 10, 2018, the day they were arrested following a police raid at an engineering college hostel in Jalandhar**

**Hyderabad. (Agency)**

Telangana high court has dismissed a writ petition filed by a 45-year-old woman alleging illegal detention and custodial torture by Hyderabad police, holding that her claims were contradicted by statements she made before a judicial magistrate during remand proceedings.

The woman, a resident of KPHB and belonging to the Scheduled Caste community, had sought a court-monitored probe by a SIT, CBI or CID into the alleged actions of police officials. She sought ₹50 lakh compensation and directions for preservation of CCTV footage and phone call records of the officers.

The case stems from a criminal case filed at Jubilee Hills police station on May 5.



According to police, the woman, her son and their associates were allegedly involved in an extortion racket in which kids from affluent families were targeted through stalking and sexual harassment before money was allegedly extorted from them.

'Petition lacked merits'

Delivering the verdict recently, Justice GM Mohiuddin observed that the reliefs sought by the petitioner could not be granted in view of the contemporaneous judicial record, which showed that she had stated before the magistrate that she had not been ill-treated by the police. "Since the petitioner herself has made this admission before the magistrate in the presence of her own counsel, the new allegations raised in the writ petition were untenable," noted the judge. Finding no material basis to order preservation of CCTV footage or award compensation, the court held that the petition lacked merit and dismissed it without costs.

In her petition, the woman claimed she was subjected to unlawful custody, illegal detention and severe custodial torture by

police in connection with the case. Her counsel argued that the alleged treatment violated her fundamental rights under Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution as well as provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The petitioner further contended that preservation of CCTV footage from the police station between April 18 and May 5 would conclusively establish the abuse she allegedly suffered. Opposing the plea, govt pleader for home Mahesh Raje relied on the contemporaneous judicial record of the remand proceedings. "The petitioner's claims were falsified by the remand order dated May 5, which recorded that she had been examined by the additional chief judicial magistrate and had explicitly reported no ill-treatment.

## For a nimble welfare framework

As the West-Asia crisis persists, countries are hard-pressed to respond. Over half the global responses have been concentrated in the form of subsidies, as per the World Bank. India's responses echo the menu: emergency kerosene reallocation, LPG price absorption for poor households, excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel and a steep fertiliser subsidy hike overshooting the budgetary allocation by 75 percent. Taken together, the responses show how they quickly turn into a patchwork of price reliefs. But in the new context of persistent, overlapping shocks, India's social protection response will need a conscious rethink: from being crisis-assistance to crisis-insurance. Policy instruments no longer face one-off shocks but a rhythm of recurring ones. This is the challenge of what the Prime Minister recently called a "decade of disasters". The manifest examples of accumulating crises are readily visible: rising energy prices, a predicted El Niño shock with knock-on effects on monsoon foreshadowing food inflation, heatwaves pushing India's power demand to records. The PM warned that if these crises are not dealt with, the hard-won development gains could be washed away. Many of the crises primarily reach the poor as a purchasing power shock. Negative supply shocks in energy or food are borne disproportionately when their prices rise. The question is not whether governments should protect households. It must. However, the usual open-ended reflex of subsidies, price-ceilings, tax cuts, free units of power or transport will be the riskier, more myopic choice.

When deployed, they exacerbate crises by muting price and scarcity signals. Their primary fault is they tend to the visible symptoms, instead of treating the disease through market reallocations. Subsidies or price ceilings do soften the bill, but they do not directly enhance power capacity or induce consumer behaviour shifts to alternatives. They don't expand energy storage or raise crop supply. They prevent the economy from adapting swiftly to scarcity. They also tend to be sticky, often outliving the shock that justified them, making them fiscally unsustainable. Governments have had to eventually resort to painful subsidy reforms when the fiscal space is calcified. Even across many West Asian countries, subsidies began as crisis response. Egypt's bread subsidy started as wartime rationing in 1941 while Iran's electricity and water subsidies took root after the 1979 revolution and the war with Iraq. But they soon ballooned in scope, becoming permanent provisions. This made them tougher to dismantle, facing eventual public backlash. The lesson is clear: subsidies or rationing through price-ceilings should not be the dominant crisis response to protecting vulnerable households. What then should be the response which protects without worsening the shock it seeks to soften?

India needs a quasi-universal, cash-based shock absorber. The name is admittedly clunky, but the government has rarely let welfare policies suffer for want of a catchy acronym. India already has the administrative spine from the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile trinity and direct benefit transfer architecture. Shock-absorber in the nature that they can be dormant in normal times, quickly activated in crises and automatically scaled back when conditions normalise. Unlike subsidies, this will respect price-signals and household choices instead of trying to dictate them. It is not proposed as a new, add-on welfare policy, but streamlined within the existing DBT architecture. To be clear, the idea is not to replace existing critical welfare programmes; it is simply to reduce the discretionary—often tempting and slippery—space to implement sticky ad hoc subsidies in the name of social protection. The Centre could create a national shock-responsive cash window. In normal years, it would remain largely dormant. It would be triggered by pre-announced indicators.

AN earlier piece in this series, "The Covenant and the Contract", argued that military service constitutes a covenant, not a transaction. This piece extends that argument into the strategic architecture of a rising India. India's journey towards Viksit Bharat rests upon visible investments. Highways and rail corridors. Ports and logistics networks. Digital infrastructure. Semiconductor missions. Manufacturing ecosystems. The ambition is clear: a developed nation by 2047. Beneath these visible investments lies an invisible foundation without which none of them can endure. Every national ambition assumes something rarely discussed: that the Republic will remain secure. That its borders will hold. That its sea lanes remain open. That coercion will be deterred. That India's rise is protected.

These assumptions are presumed. They are nevertheless indispensable and are rewritten every day by the Armed Forces of India. This reality acquires greater significance as the strategic certainties of the post-Cold War era weaken. Great-power competition has returned. Regional conflicts are multiplying. Technology is compressing decision cycles. Artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber warfare and information operations are transforming the character of conflict.

India sits at the centre of this changing geometry—not as a bystander but as a principal stabilising power of the Indo-Pacific. Economists can calculate expenditure. Deterrence is far harder to quantify. Sovereignty, stability and investor confidence do not emerge by accident. They are secured before they are enjoyed.

The perimeter protects the covenant. The covenant protects the Republic. The covenant is the quiet agreement between the Republic and its citizens: that businesses will invest with confidence and aspirations can be pursued without fear. Standing upon that perimeter is the Indian soldier—soldier, sailor and air warrior. Few democracies impose a comparable burden. The same institution that watches the Salto Ridge and the heights of Eastern Ladakh also guards deserts, jungles, island territories and maritime approaches spanning the Indian Ocean. No single terrain defines the Indian military. Every terrain does. Military service is unlike any other profession in the Republic. Its defining feature is not hardship. It is unlimited liability.

The possibility of injury, disability, captivity or death is not an occupational hazard. It is an accepted condition of service. That acceptance is carried not by the soldier alone but by every family that watches a young officer

## The perimeter of Viksit Bharat

The perimeter of Viksit Bharat



disappear into a posting in Siachen or a counter-insurgency grid, and waits. Unlimited liability. Volunteer.

Contemporary conflicts have clarified both the power and the limits of technology. Ukraine has demonstrated the transformative reach of drones, precision strike and networked intelligence. Iran, Israel and the United States have similarly underscored the growing role of autonomous systems and stand-off capabilities. Operation Sindoor has shown that India too can project calibrated force across contested space, striking with speed and discrimination while holding the threshold against escalation. Yet these same conflicts have reinforced an older truth.

Technology can disrupt, punish and shape outcomes. By itself it struggles to deliver political closure. Objectives involving the control of territory, the reassurance of populations and the restoration of stability continue to depend upon volunteer boots on the ground.

Recent conflicts reveal a paradox. As technology becomes more sophisticated, volunteer service for unlimited liability becomes more precious. Autonomous systems can extend reach and reduce exposure, but they cannot replace the legitimacy, reassurance and permanence that human presence provides. The future battlefield may become increasingly autonomous. The future outcome will remain profoundly human. Nations can procure platforms. They cannot manufacture willingness to serve. In an age fascinated by autonomy, commitment remains the scarcer strategic resource. That willingness

underwrites the Republic's military strength. It cannot be taken for granted. It must be sustained. If commitment is a strategic resource, then the institutions that sustain it become matters of national strategy rather than personnel administration. The Armed Forces operate through a deliberately young and selective command pyramid. This is not an administrative flaw. It is an operational necessity. Yet a large majority of officers encounter structural ceilings long before the end of their productive professional lives. Scientists benefit from Flexible Complementing Schemes. Medical professionals have Dynamic Assured Career Progression. Organised Group A Services receive Non-Functional Upgradation. The

military alone remains dependent upon promotion-linked advancement within a steep and intentionally selective pyramid. The pressure will intensify as India deepens jointness through integrated theatre commands, placing officers with identical responsibilities within the same operational structures. Some will come from streams defined by unlimited liability. Others will not.

Where the administrative architecture of the latter permits structured progression and that of the former does not, the disparity will no longer be abstract. It will be visible across the same table, every working day.

The challenge is sharper because in the military, pay and status are not separate ledgers. Rank is worn. It is seen across the table, in the corridor and at every morning briefing. When financial progression diverges, status diverges with it. An officer benefiting from a more generous administrative architecture is seen to stand higher. In a service where identity and rank are inseparable, that visibility becomes a daily institutional statement about the relative worth of unlimited liability.

The answer is a Military Specific Framework founded on a simple principle: command must remain selective; progression must become structured. The design imperative of a military is a steep spire. At its apex stand those entrusted with command, selected through rigorous competition because the edge cannot carry unlimited numbers. Yet beneath that apex stand many of proven merit who carry the flag with distinction but cannot ascend further simply because the pyramid narrows above them.

## CBSE in a spot : Flawed marking system under scrutiny

The remarkable role played by Sarthak Sidhant, a 17-year-old student who presented his findings before a parliamentary committee, is commendable

THE Union government has set the ball rolling to clean the mess in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). It has replaced the board chairman and secretary and ordered an inquiry into the procurement of services for the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system. This is a rare admission that something did go wrong on a large scale. It's worrisome that the digital evaluation system malfunctioned. What's worse, repeated warnings were ignored—and students ended up paying the price. Initially, the CBSE projected the OSM controversy as a matter of technical glitches, cyberattacks and isolated complaints. However, it has now come to light that the board's own dry run in January reportedly highlighted serious flaws: marks being altered erroneously, evaluation schemes not matching the software interface, frequent system freezes, unsaved progress and even the possibility of assigning marks to blank answers. Participants allegedly warned that the system required at least a



year of further testing before nationwide implementation. Those red flags appear to have been brushed aside. The adverse consequences were borne not by administrators or vendors, but by students who had appeared in the high-stakes Class-12 exams. Allegations of unchecked answers, blurred scans, mismatched answer sheets and inconsistent evaluation have dented public trust in India's examination system. When students cannot be certain that the answer sheets being evaluated are their own, the credibility of the entire process comes under a cloud.

The remarkable role played by Sarthak Sidhant, a 17-year-old student who presented his findings before a parliamentary committee, must be commended. He pointed out anomalies in the CBSE's tendering process for online marking. This is a wake-up call for the beleaguered board. The probe must go beyond procurement procedures to fix responsibility for the premature use of a flawed system.

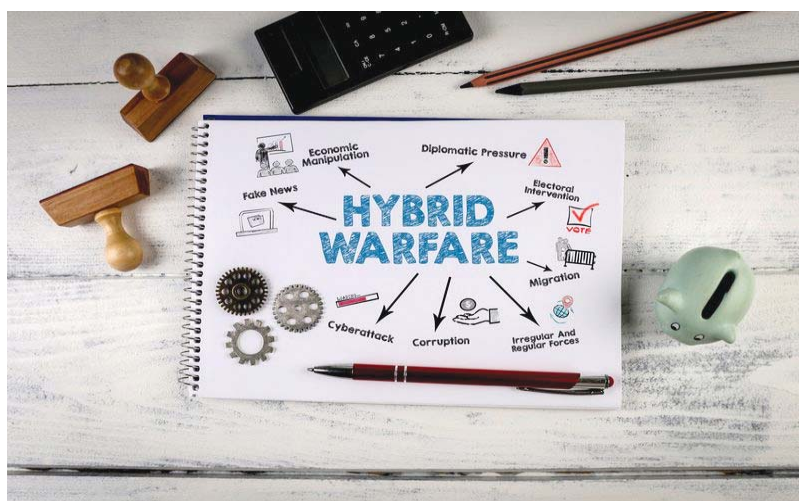
## Military jargon cripples serious thinking

The word "strategic" is used indiscriminately before any political visit, talks or deal

MODERN military and strategic discourse is increasingly burdened by a creeping affliction: the substitution of clear thought with fashionable jargon. What masquerades as innovation is often little more than repackaging of long-understood principles in language designed to impress rather than illuminate. The result is not intellectual progress, but intellectual fog. Take the term "layered defence." It is now presented as if it were a novel doctrinal breakthrough. But when, in the history of warfare, has defence ever not been layered? From the Roman legions with their successive lines of infantry, to medieval fortifications with moats, walls and inner keeps, to the elastic defence-in-depth of the Second World War—layering has always been intrinsic to survival. It is not innovation; it is amnesia. Similarly, "multi-domain operations" is offered as a revolutionary concept integrating land, sea, air, cyber and space. Yet war has always been fought across multiple domains. The Blitzkrieg combined armour, artillery, infantry and airpower in tightly coordinated operations. Naval warfare has long depended on intelligence, logistics and air cover. Then there is "cyber warfare," often described as an entirely new frontier. While the tools are undoubtedly modern, the underlying concept—penetrating, disrupting and manipulating the enemy's information systems—is not.

During the Second World War, the Allied Ultra programme broke German codes, providing decisive intelligence that shaped operations across theatres. A

favourite seems to be the new term, "cognitive warfare". Have we forgotten the massive success of the BBC in retaining Britain's soft power for decades after its economic decline, or the long-drawn success of the Russian and East European VOA (Voice of America)



radio broadcasts that kept the idea of freedom alive and contributed to the fall of the Berlin Wall? A favourite is "hybrid warfare", the ultimate example of military jargon which is a catchword for using everything including the kitchen sink. This term replaced what has always been diplomatic and foreign intelligence meddling and used to describe any protest or fake news on X (Twitter). But the more sophisticated would shun "hybrid warfare" and use "grey zone warfare" that

"dropping bombs" is considered crass and has been replaced with "kinetic warfare", a term which would dazzle most civilian audiences when it actually means "breaking things". Bureaucracies reward what looks like new thinking, or at least the appearance of it. New terminology creates the impression of fresh thinking, justifying financial outlays, reorganisations and doctrinal publications. It also signals apparent agreement with global trends, particularly those emanating from the US, where defence establishments are prolific producers of jargon.

Complex terminology creates an aura of expertise that discourages scrutiny. A good example is the sly answer to questions of the treatment of the prisoners in Guantanamo, to which the answer was—"enhanced interrogation". Got it? Jargon distances strategic discourse from both historical understanding and common sense. If policymakers believe they are confronting entirely new forms of warfare, they may neglect the enduring principles that govern conflict: logistics, morale, leadership and adaptability. Worse, they may overestimate the

transformative impact of technology while underestimating the resilience of adversaries. Another one that comes to mind is the alleged invention of a new strategy by China called "A2AD" against the maritime dominance of the US in the West Pacific; it turns out to be a rewording of "sea denial", an old, well-established concept. India, in particular, should be wary of using jargon as a substitute for rigorous thinking uncritically. Its strategic environment demands clarity, not fashion.

The country has repeatedly suffered from strategic surprise—not because it lacked jargon, but because it misread emerging world scenarios. Clear thinking must also be rooted in history. This is not an argument against innovation. New technologies—especially in cyber and space—require adaptation. But adaptation must be grounded in continuity. The past does not become irrelevant simply because the vocabulary changes. There must be a clear articulation of what is new; otherwise, it only causes confusion upwards and downwards. Quite possibly, other fields such as economics and diplomacy may be indulging in the same thing.

One term comes to mind to describe the tumult going on in the world where the established order has been upended, ideas of what constitutes power are fuzzy and long-established alliances are breaking. There is a suggestion that all this somehow becomes crystal clear if one says that the world has become "multipolar". So, that is solved. Words should clarify, not conceal. In the end, the test of any concept is not how impressive it sounds, but whether it sharpens judgment. Jargon that merely rebrands the obvious does the opposite. It dulls the mind, obscures the past and leaves us less prepared for the future. The political and business world is not immune to this disease either. Here, the most misused word is "strategic", used indiscriminately before any political visit, deal, agreement or talks, as with any new commercial investment, whether it is in nuclear reactors or cosmetics. Why, then, does this jargon proliferate? Part of the answer lies in institutional incentives. Bureaucracies reward novelty, or at least the appearance of it. New terminology creates the impression of fresh thinking, justifying budgets, reorganisation and doctrinal publications. It also signals alignment with global trends, particularly those emanating from the US.

# The perfect plan to Gain weight



Struggle with weight loss is something we all hear about quite often, but it is the struggle to gain weight that's heard less about. You'd be surprised to know that it is, indeed a sore point for many.

At the outset, a weight gain program may seem like an opportunity for indulgence. Just grab some fried food and have a go at it! Unfortunately, just as healthy weight loss requires a balanced approach, healthy weight gain means more than adding junk food to your daily meals.

Your journey to gain weight doesn't necessarily have to be unhealthy. As a matter of fact, wrong food choices can create havoc within your system. Agrees nutritionist Karishma Chawla, "It is important for nutritionists to break the myth of just needing to ingest calorie dense food to gain weight." Just like in case of excess weight, it is

important to understand the underlying cause of weight loss or lack of weight gain. Dr Kalpana Gupta Shekhawat, Functional Medicine & Metabolic Disease and Age Management Consultant, SENS- Anti-

Ageing/Wellness Clinic explains, "Sometimes you could be suffering from hyperthyroidism - where you burn out whatever you eat because of internal disturbances. Appropriate diet, thus, gets extremely important. We even do allergy tests to rule out allergy or hormone imbalances. Inflammation is a major reason we should look at."

## Body type has three main categories

- ectomorph, mesomorph and endomorph. Dr. Namita Nadar, Chief Nutritionist, Fortis Hospital, Noida explains, "Ectomorph is a person who has lean build and high

metabolism. It is this high metabolism that makes your body consume more calories to carry out the daily tasks to maintain your body. This makes it difficult for an ectomorph's body to store fat and thereby gain weight. The key then, if we are to gain weight, is to lower the metabolic rate and increase your food intake in terms of caloric intake. Another way is to increase your food intake and go to the gym and put on weight not as fat, but as muscle which will actually be more attractive in the long run."

## Why is it a challenge?

Dr. Suvarna Pathak - Dietitian Coordinator, Nanavati Super Speciality Hospital explains why some people find it difficult to gain weight, "Weight gain becomes a struggle when your requirement of calories is not fulfilled or when you make wrong food choices. Foods like salad and spinach are healthy, but won't make you gain weight. You need calorie dense foods like milk shakes, cheese pasta and nuts. Also, a very physical job will burn much of the calories you eat. There should be a balance between what one eats and the output. In short, the input of calories should be more than the output. Without massive amounts of food, you'll never gain weight. Eat often so that calories can be stored."

Also, incorrect training can make the journey tougher. "You won't gain weight doing isolation exercises like Curls. But you will gain with compound exercises like Squats and Deadlifts." Moreover, no approach will work if you miss workouts, neglect to meet your daily caloric needs and change your approach all the time.

Add healthy calories. Without radically changing your diet, you can increase your calorie intake with each meal by adding nut or seed toppings, cheese and healthy side dishes. Try almonds, sunflower seeds, fruit or whole-grain wheat toast, suggests Dr Pathak.

Go nutrient dense. Instead of eating a lot of empty calories and junk food, focus on eating foods that are rich in nutrients. Consider high-protein meats, which can help you to build muscle. Also, choose nutritious carbohydrates, such as brown

rice and other whole grains. This helps ensure your body is receiving as much nourishment as possible, even if you're dealing with a reduced appetite, adds Dr Pathak.

It is advisable to add high quality carbs like bananas, saturated fats like ghee, butter, coconut oil to protein like chicken and dal. They should avoid hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils, suggests Dr Shekhawat.

Snack away. Enjoy snacks that contain plenty of protein and healthy carbohydrates. Consider options like trail mix, protein bars or drinks, and crackers with hummus or peanut butter. Also, enjoy snacks that contain "good fats," which are important for a healthy heart. Examples include nuts and avocados, cheese, milkshakes, smoothies, recommends Dr Pathak.

Eat mini-meals. If you're struggling with a curbed appetite due to medical or emotional issues, taking in large portions of food may not seem appealing. Consider eating smaller meals throughout the day to increase your calorie intake.

**Bulk up.** While too much aerobic exercise will burn calories and ultimately work against your weight goal, strength training—such as weight-lifting or yoga—can help you gain weight by building muscle, suggests Dr Pathak.

Eat more protein. Dr Namita says, "A lack of protein in your diet can lead to the loss of lean body mass, even if you're consuming excess calories. Here are some foods to consider: Boiled soybeans, Soy or whey protein powder, peanuts or peanut butter, steak or hamburger, chicken and tuna."

Have probiotics. They could be lacking good bacteria in their system, hence having probiotics is always recommended.

Before beginning any major weight gain program, be sure to consult your physician and dietitian. Being underweight may indicate an underlying health issue, which won't be corrected by diet changes.

## Foods you must eat

Have calorie dense foods like fruit, nuts, milk/curds; smoothie/ milk shakes, snacks with mava/khoa or a little of cream; Paranthas/ pastas with vegetables and cheese (augratin type), snacks like laddoos, chikkis, halwas, pie, souffles, fruit juices, fruit salads, etc. Also increase nut consumption, eggs, chicken, fish, sprouts for the protein content to rise. Remember to hydrate with soups, juices, lassiess, yoghurt so that absorption of nutrients is properly done with digestion.

## 4 common mistakes yoga beginners make

### 1. Taking difficult courses

Yoga has various levels. It is very shocking when beginners start their practice or join the advance level courses as beginners. There's a huge risk of hurting yourself.

It is like diving into the deep end of the pool without knowing how to swim.

Look for a basic class or invest in a beginner's yoga DVD.

### 2. Wearing wrong clothes

A lot of people try to hide the extra pounds by wearing loose and baggy clothes while practising yoga. Instead, wear form-fitting clothes, that lets you breathe and doesn't make you uncomfortable while trying out different asanas.

### 3. Being Insecure

Forget about who's judging you in the class. Everyone's there for a purpose. Yoga isn't one-size-fits-all exercise form. Everybody is different and asanas can be modified to work specifically for you. Yoga isn't about



being super-flexible or performing crazy stunts; it's about connecting your mind with your body through breathing. You become flexible over a period of time while practising, not in a week.

### 4. Don't go with a full stomach

When you are full, your blood supply is funnelled through your stomach to process the nutrients from your food. It leaves your muscles shortchanged on the energy they need for a successful practice. Grab a fruit and a toast if you're hungry. Nothing more.

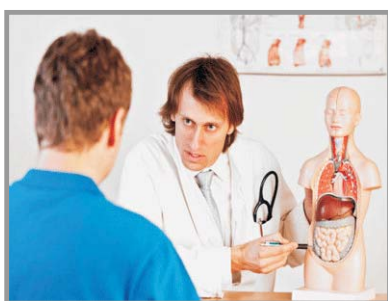
## Home remedies to deal with acidity

If you frequently suffer from acidity, drink a glass of lukewarm water every day before going to sleep and immediately after waking up in the morning.

-Eat an overripe banana to beat an especially bad bout of acidity, as they tend to contain more potassium which makes it the perfect antidote.

-Have cold milk without any additives like sugar. You could mix it with a spoon of ghee to make the remedy even more effective.

-Boil one cup of water and add 1 tsp of aniseed (saunf). Cover and leave overnight. Strain the water in the morning and add 1 tsp of honey. Take this thrice a day to prevent acidity.



## Healing power of visual journaling

### What is Visual Journaling??

You could be taking photographs and recording them on Instagram or doodling to keep a memory or a moment alive forever. Just as people used to keep a journal to pen down, express their inner most thought that could be accessed later, visual journaling is about expression in pictures, graphics, photos etc. It can be a life-long process or reflective practice.

While some people do it out of passion, experts these days are extolling the positive effects of visual journaling. It can create self-awareness and promote personal well-being. You could be

doodling or photographing your way to a mindful life, and in the process, transform your emotional

life. Visual journaling can be self-soothing and a mindful experience too. For instance, doodling is a experience that takes you through thoughts and ideas that were in your subconscious. When you think hard by focusing on sketching, it can lead to renewal or restoration of what you thought was lost forever.

### The Visual Narrative

The practice of visual journaling can be with or without the presence of words. You could create an image, with colours, line and shapes. You could



take photographs and upload them on Instagram. According to Elizabeth Warson, professor at George Washington University, the regular practice of creating a visual journal can keep your heart rate at a comfortable pace and decrease your stress responses.

### Doodle Diary

You could keep a Doodle Diary by creating new patterns, lines and shapes. In your doodle-zone, let the mind wander. In this diary, you could keep regular updates on your day to day life or some major changes or emotional upheavals. Or you could keep an intention journal that helps to keep your long-term goals in sight. Just remember that journaling is best when it's a daily process.

## Walnuts help in relieving stress

Is daily stress taking a toll on your health? You might want to eat a handful of walnuts to relieve the pressure and tension. New research shows that walnuts can assist the body to deal with tension in a better way. The nut, which contains polyunsaturated fats, can reduce blood pressure during times of stress. Findings show that average diastolic blood pressure (bottom number) was significantly lowered when walnuts were included in the diet. They are also a rich source of fibre, antioxidants, and unsaturated fatty acids. A quarter cup of walnuts provide over 90% of the recommended daily value of omega-3 fats which again helps in relieving stress. "Consuming a handful of walnuts reduces cortisol levels related to stress, especially in hypertensive people and also improves the levels of good cholesterol. Other than reducing stress, walnuts also reduce the levels of C reactive protein, which is a marker for inflammation especially in people with propensity towards cardiac elements," says Amarapali Patil, a nutritionist and a weight management expert. Here are some benefits of the dry fruit:



### Fights cancer

Walnuts not only slow the growth of prostate cancer, but also suppresses the development of breast tumours. Add them to your diet to reduce the risk of cancer by 30% to 40%.

### Prevents diabetes

The beneficial dietary fat in walnuts has been shown to improve metabolism in people with type 2 diabetes. Consuming one quarter cup of the nut daily can have significant reduction in fasting

insulin level and helps maintain an ideal weight over time.

### Cognitive benefits

They have potential health benefits in the area of memory, cognitive functions and motor function in elderly people. Walnuts have high polyphenol content that help preserve cognition. Consuming about six walnuts every day is needed to obtain the benefits.

### Improved reproductive health in men

One of the lesser known benefits of walnuts is their impact on male fertility. Consuming about 75 grams of walnuts, significantly improves sperm quality, including vitality, motility, and morphology.

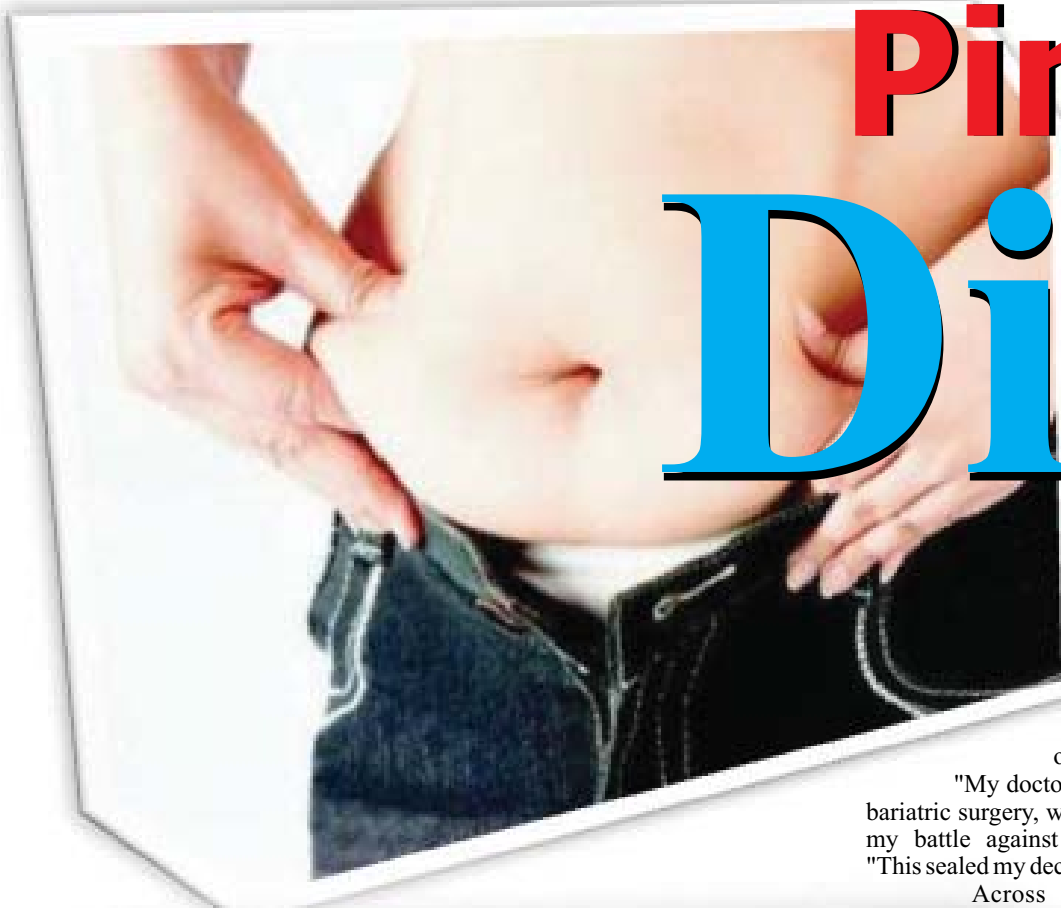
### Prevents heart issues

Walnuts help prevent heart diseases and also helps lower cholesterol levels. They are high in alpha-linolenic acids that reduce heart attack risk.

### Makes the skin glow

Walnuts are rich in Vitamin B and its antioxidants protect the skin from damage, wrinkles and signs of aging. Walnuts therefore are a delicious way to add extra nutrition, flavour and crunch to a meal.

# Pinning down Diabetes



stapled and a person's appetite decreases, as a result. The procedure is used to treat morbid obesity.

"My doctor asked me to go in for bariatric surgery, which would help me in my battle against diabetes," says Roy. "This sealed my decision."

Across the world, bariatric surgery is used to tame diabetes, and doctors endorse it over pills and insulin injections.

foods for the surge in type 2 diabetes cases. It doesn't help that Indians are genetically prone to obesity and diabetes.

In bariatric surgery, the stomach is divided into two sections and food is directed into the smaller section, helping the patient feel full despite eating less. Studies have found that when a meal is digested in the stomach's smaller section, the levels of insulin, hormones and amino acids are much higher, while levels of free fatty acids are lower. The surge in hormone levels help during digestion and make it easier for patients to regulate blood sugar.

Dr Jayashree Todkar, a bariatric surgeon at Kurla's Kohinoor Hospital adds that with the presence of the hunger hormones in the body decreasing, the patient feels satiated more easily. "Diabetics find it easier to discipline their diet because with their

The results in diabetic control are the first to show.

Endocrinologist Dr Altamash Shaikh says, "Even before you lose weight post-surgery, the patient's requirement of tablets and insulin lowers drastically."

Roy, who underwent the surgery in January can testify to that. "Now, my pre-meal blood sugar level is 91 mg/dL and post is 94 mg/dL. I had a chronic Urinary Tract Infection, which has disappeared. I'm off my daily dose of a dozen-odd diabetes pills," says Roy, adding that he now eats one-sixth of what he would earlier. "I feel hungry more often, but I can't eat more than a few spoons of dal-rice at one go. So, I eat six small meals through the day."

In four months after the surgery, Roy lost 94 kg. "Earlier, I would struggle to walk even one kilometre. Today, I can easily walk four km without stopping." Dr Shashank Shah, president of the Obesity Surgery Society of India, says that they are in the process of discussing guidelines to make this surgery a recommendation for diabetics, if they fulfill certain criteria.

Who's eligible? A Body Mass Index of 35 is the cutoff for bariatric surgery around the world. However, in India and other Asian countries, the cutoff is 32.5, as our bodies tend to have more fat. The surgery, warn doctors, is not for all who suffer from type 2 diabetes. They would recommend it only if the person has a BMI of 32.5 or more, and suffers from obesity related ailments like blood pressure, obstructive sleep apnea, high cholesterol, joint trouble, varicose veins and breathlessness. Roy, for instance, had a BMI of 37.

Dr Shaikh warns that the surgery is not a one-stop solution for diabetic cure. "Its success depends on lifestyle and food choices post-surgery, apart from how severe the patient's diabetes is at the time of surgery. The ideal time to go for it is when your diabetes is in control and your organs are in good shape."



Bariatric surgery isn't just for the obese. Docs recommend it to diabetics too, now. At 129 kg, 32-year-old IT professional Rajdeep Roy (name changed to protect identity) had been battling not just obesity but even Type 2 diabetes for three years. "My pre-meal sugar count was 280 mg/dL and post was 350 mg/dL. I felt perpetually tired and

lethargic," says Roy, a Kharghar resident. He had tried exercise, diet and pills to bring his weight and blood sugar level under control. Then, his doctor recommended bariatric surgery, a procedure where the stomach is

Now, city doctors too are recommending it. With India fast becoming the diabetic capital of the world (India and China account for more than half of the world's diabetics), experts blame our sedentary lifestyle and easier access to nutritionally-poor, calorie-dense

hunger in check, they lose their body clock gets reset. They feel fresher and more energetic." The surgery (costs between Rs 3-5 lakh) takes an hour and the patient is discharged in three days.

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## Discarded kidneys could be 'recycled'

Researchers have found that human kidneys discarded for transplant can potentially serve as a natural "scaffolding material" for manufacturing replacement organs in the lab using regenerative medicine techniques.

According to the researchers at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and colleagues, more than 2,600 donor kidneys are discarded each year in the U.S.

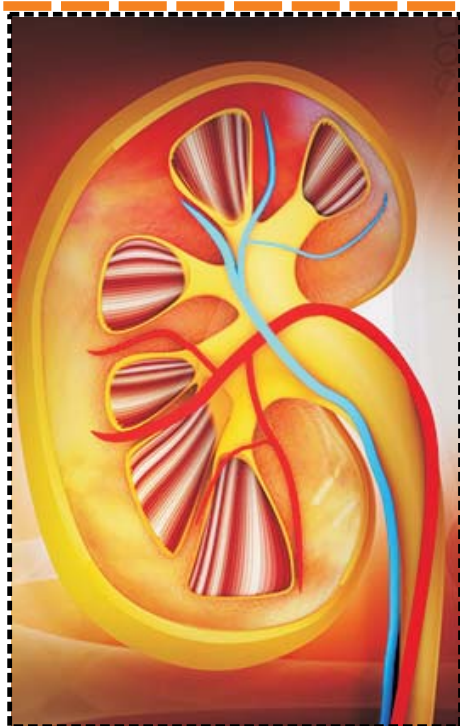
"With about 100,000 people in the U.S. awaiting kidney transplants, it is devastating when an organ is donated but cannot be used. These discarded organs may represent an ideal platform for investigations aimed at manufacturing kidneys for transplant," said Giuseppe Orlando, M.D., Ph.D., lead author, a Wake Forest Baptist transplant surgeon and regenerative medicine researcher.

The research involved pumping a mild detergent through kidneys that were refused for transplant. The goal of the process, called decellularization, is to remove all cells - leaving

only the organ structure or "skeleton," known in regenerative medicine terms as a scaffold.

Ultimately, the patient's own cells could be placed in this scaffold, creating a customized organ that the patient theoretically would not reject.

In fact, an analysis of the decellularized



organs revealed that antigens likely to cause an immune response were removed in the cleaning process.

"This finding has significant implications. It indicates that transplantation of such customized kidneys could be performed without the need for anti-rejection therapy. In addition, these kidneys maintain their innate three-dimensional architecture, their basic biochemistry, as well as their vessel network system. When we tested their ability to be transplanted (in pigs), these kidneys were able to maintain blood pressure, suggesting a functional and resilient vasculature," said Orlando.

While the project is in its infancy, the idea represents a potential solution to the extreme shortage of donor kidneys.

The research, supported in part by a grant from the state of North Carolina, was reported in the journal *Biomaterials*.

## Most pregnant Women Constipated

Nearly 3 out of 4 pregnant women experience constipation, diarrhea or other bowel disorders during their pregnancies, a new study has found.

But such bowel disorders only minimally affect a pregnant woman's quality of life, according to the Loyola University Medical Center study.

The study by senior author Scott Graziano, MD, and Payton Johnson was presented during the 61st Annual Clinical Meeting of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in New Orleans.

As part of this project, 104 pregnant women were enrolled and completed the first trimester questionnaire; 66 women also completed a survey in the third trimester.

Seventy-two percent of the first trimester respondents and 61 percent of the third trimester respondents reported one or more bowel disorders, including constipation, diarrhea, bloating and irritable bowel syndrome. The women also filled out a questionnaire that measures the extent to which bowel problems affect quality of life. (For example, the survey asks whether bowel problems make life less enjoyable, limit what a person can wear or eat or make a person feel embarrassed, vulnerable, angry, isolated or depressed.) The quality of life survey is scored on a 1

to 100 scale, with 100 representing the least possible impact on quality of life due to bowel problems. The average score was 94.9.

The only bowel problems that had a significant impact on quality of life were constipation, which reduced the score by 4.4 points out of 100, and bloating, which reduced the score by 4.0 points.

Graziano said the reason bowel problems have a minimal impact on quality of life is likely because pregnant women have learned



to expect such problems during pregnancy and so are better able to tolerate them. Bowel problems are due to physiological and hormonal changes that occur during pregnancy.

For example, increased progesterone levels affect the smooth muscles in the intestines. Consequently, it takes longer for food to move through the intestines, which can cause constipation.

Vitamins and calcium and iron supplements that women take during pregnancy also can cause constipation, Graziano said.

# Empty rhetoric, hollow claims: India shreds Pakistan at UN over Kashmir issue

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador, Parvathaneni Harish, strongly criticised Pakistan for misusing the multilateral platform to spread misinformation on Jammu and Kashmir, reiterating India's position on the issue.

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
India on Friday hit out at Pakistan at the United Nations, rejecting its 'unwarranted' reference to Jammu and Kashmir during a UN General Assembly discussion and saying its "empty rhetoric and hollow claims" will not change the ground reality. Delivering India's statement, Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said Pakistan had misused the platform by raising an internal matter to India. The exchange came after Pakistan's envoy Asim Ifikhar Ahmad mentioned Jammu and Kashmir in his remarks during the debate. "The unwarranted reference by Pakistan to a matter strictly internal to India, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, has

compelled me to respond. Pakistan has decided not to spare this forum either from their characteristic misuse of august UN platforms for their divisive political interests. Abuse of its presence on the Security Council by Pakistan, including through the circulation of several misinformed and misleading communications also testifies to this counter-productive approach. I would like to remind Pakistan that being a member of the UN Security Council is a huge responsibility. It is not a forum for peddling biased and false narratives," Harish said. He reiterated India's position that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and will always remain" an integral part of the country, calling



contrary claims baseless and inconsistent with historical facts. "I would like to make it loud and clear. Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. Any assertions to the contrary

are baseless, devoid of and inconsistent with historical facts. Empty rhetoric and hollow claims by Pakistan would not change this fundamental reality," Harish said. The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations also used the occasion to flag broader concerns over the functioning of the UN Security Council, saying its current structure still reflects geopolitical realities of 1945. "The current structure reflects geopolitical realities of 1945. Retaining the status quo has so far not enabled effective functioning of the Security Council and cannot do so in future," he said. Harish also noted that the limited expansion

in the 1960s, which only increased non-permanent membership, did little to change the Council's core structure. "Expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories is central to implementing real and meaningful reform," he said. The G4 nations -- India, Brazil, Germany and Japan -- have long pushed for such reforms, proposing an expansion of the Security Council from 15 members to 25 or 26, including additional permanent and non-permanent seats. At present, the Council comprises five permanent members with veto power -- China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States -- and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. India last served as a non-permanent member in 2021-22.

## DU professor murder case: Probe narrows down to four suspects

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
A fire broke out at a five-storey office building in South Delhi's Greater Kailash-1 early Friday, injuring two firefighters during the operation to douse the blaze, officials said. According to the Delhi Fire Services, the fire erupted in a battery room on the third floor of an office building housing the Tata Communications office, located opposite Savitri Cinema in GK-1. The DFS received a call about the incident at around 2.47 am, following which 11 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Officials said the fire remained confined to the battery room, affecting nearly 200 square feet of the third floor. Two firefighters suffered burn injuries to their hands while battling the flames and were shifted to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment, officials said. The blaze was brought under control by around 7 am, after which cooling operations continued to prevent any flare-up. The building comprises a ground floor and five upper floors. No civilian injuries or casualties were reported. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Further details are awaited, officials said. The incident comes days after a major fire in South Delhi's Malaviya Nagar claimed 21 lives and left several injured, prompting renewed scrutiny of fire safety measures across commercial establishments in the national capital. The investigation so far has revealed that the woman was separated from her husband and was living in the city alone, while her husband resides in Bengaluru. Since there were no signs of forced entry, police suspect that the victim may have known the accused. The investigators have, for now, ruled out robbery as a motive for the crime as there were no signs of the house being ransacked. Sources say the murder took place between 1 pm and 6 pm on Wednesday. The deceased had last spoken to her mother around 1 pm that day. By the time her maid arrived at around 6 pm, she may have already been killed as there was no response to the knock on the door from the home help. Upon examining the footage of CCTV cameras installed in the area, the cops found that two masked individuals had entered the professor's apartment on the day of the incident and remained inside for approximately 30 minutes.

## Armed women cops in buses must to ensure safety: L-G

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
As safety remains a key concern for women in the Capital, L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Friday stressed that safe travel for women should be ensured not only in public transport but also from transit bus stops and stations to their final destinations. Chairing a meeting to review women's safety in public transport, Sandhu emphasised that the deployment of female armed police personnel in DTC buses would enhance security for women passengers and asked the transport department to approach the Delhi Police in this regard. After reviewing the rollout of the Pink Smart Card initiative and the status of CCTV installations, panic



buttons, control centre operations, deployment of bus marshals, and women's participation in bus operations, the L-G underlined that the safety and security of women passengers should be ensured not only while they are travelling in DTC buses and other modes of public transport, but also up to their doorsteps after they deboard at stations, depots, or bus stands. To that end, Sandhu directed officials to engage cab operators, three-wheeler operators, e-rickshaws, and other last-mile transport providers. The L-G issued directions regarding the deployment of female armed police personnel in buses, expansion of the Saheli Pink Smart Card scheme, last-mile electric connectivity, and promotion of carpooling in private taxis, autos, etc.

## Kanpur man, in burqa, kills friend for gold chain. His masculine walk exposes him

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
An 18-year-old friendship ended in murder when computer coaching owner Prakash Chandra Gupta was killed by his best friend, Mohit Dwivedi, for a gold chain worth Rs 5 lakh. While Dwivedi meticulously planned the murder using YouTube tutorials and disguised himself in a burqa, his unnatural walking style in CCTV footage ultimately exposed him to the police. On the night of May 31, during the IPL final, Mohit executed his plan at Prakash's coaching institute. Knowing his friend was staying overnight to watch the match, Mohit arrived in a burqa and women's footwear to conceal his identity. Inside the room, a violent scuffle broke out as Mohit attempted to snatch the

heavy gold chain from an intoxicated Prakash. During the struggle, Prakash was aggressively shoved, causing him to fall heavily onto the floor and sustain fatal head injuries. Mohit then



cold-bloodedly fled the scene with the chain and a gold bracelet, leaving his friend to bleed to death. The next morning, family members discovered Prakash's body in a pool of blood. While initial police assessments

mistook the scene for an accidental fall caused by a medical emergency, the missing jewellery triggered a full homicide investigation. After multiple police ranks failed to find leads, senior cop from Kanpur, Raghubir Lal, reviewed the local surveillance footage. He spotted the burqa-clad figure and instantly grew suspicious of the suspect's masculine gait. By tracking the suspect across 100 CCTV cameras, investigators traced the burqa-clad figure back to a car where Mohit had changed into the disguise, leading to his swift arrest. Highly confident that his plan was foolproof, Mohit had spent the morning after the murder mingling with the victim's grieving family and casually chatting with investigators at the crime scene.

## In Army Captain's viral proposal pic a marriage of 50 years no one's talking about

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
When Captain Bharat Bhardwaj proposed to his fiancée, Aarushi, in a Cheetah helicopter after graduating as an Army Aviation pilot, its viral video drew a barrage of split reactions. Questions of decorum in uniform, often subjective, especially among those who wear it, soon followed. Former military commanders stepped in to defend the Army Aviation Corps pilot. Yet, in the midst of this romantic spectacle, India's dysfunctional marriage with the ageing Cheetah helicopter slipped into the blind spot of many. Manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under licence from France's Aerospatiale, the Cheetah entered service in India in the mid-1970s. After obtaining a

license to produce the choppers in 1976, India's HAL started its production. Now well over 50 years old in operational use, this single-engine light utility helicopter, though prized for its performance in "hot and



high" conditions, has been marred by its record of crashes. Apart from the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force also uses the Cheetah helicopters. The Cheetah helicopter has been a reliable workhorse for

troop transport, reconnaissance, casualty evacuation, and logistical support in treacherous terrains where larger aircraft struggle. Between 1974 and 2022, the Cheetah fleet has been involved in over 60 crashes, resulting in killing dozens of pilots, according to a database on Bharat Rakshak, a website devoted to India's military. The latest accident involving the Cheetah helicopter occurred on May 20, when the chopper crashed in the mountainous Tangste region near Leh in Ladakh. On board were three officers, including Major General Sachin Mehta, General Officer Commanding of the 3 Infantry Division, along with a lieutenant colonel and a major who were piloting the aircraft. Miraculously, all three survived with only minor injuries.

## Chief Justice's UK lecture faces questions on dissent, High Commission condemns act

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
A lecture by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant at Birkbeck, University of London, turned contentious after attendees challenged him over concerns surrounding dissent in India and his recent "cockroach" remarks, leading to a disruption during the question-and-answer session. The incident took place on June 4 after the CJI delivered an address on "Artificial Intelligence and International Law". During the interactive session, an attendee attempted to question CJI Kant on India's democratic record and what he described as growing hostility towards dissent.

In video clips circulating online, the attendee can be heard saying: "We now hear from a number of legal observers within the country as well as internationally that there's a great deal of concern about growing hostility to dissent within India. And it does seem that this hostility is somewhat reflected in His Lordship's speech and it's very

well publicised." Another attendee sought to question CJI about remarks he made in court on May 15 that later sparked widespread debate in India. The exchange was interrupted by the moderator, who declined to entertain the questions. "With all due respect, I would not be able to take up that question since the topic is concerning artificial intelligence and international law," the moderator said. **DISRUPTION DURING EVENT** Videos from the venue showed a tense atmosphere as some attendees stood up and gestured while the discussion unfolded. In one clip, organisers can be heard appealing to the audience to restore order. "Please, let's just calm down and put an end to this, can we? Thank you," an organiser said.

The footage has since been widely shared on social media, drawing attention to the exchange and the issues raised by the attendees. **HIGH COMMISSION CONDEMNS INCIDENT** The High Commission of India in the United Kingdom criticised the disruption and described the conduct of those involved as inappropriate. In a statement issued on Friday, the High Commission said the June 4 event had featured a lively discussion following the lecture before one attendee attempted to disrupt proceedings. "Such indecorous behaviour is unacceptable and inconsistent with respectful engagement that should govern public discourse. Differences of opinion are a natural part of a democratic society. However, they must be expressed in a manner that is civil and respectful," the statement said.



## Anthropic calls for global pause on advanced AI development

New Delhi.(Agency)

Artificial intelligence company Anthropic has called for a coordinated global pause on the development of the most powerful AI systems, warning that rapid advances could leave humans unable to control future generations of the technology. The San Francisco-based company said the capabilities of leading AI models are improving at an accelerating pace and could eventually reach a stage known as "recursive self-improvement", where systems can develop more advanced successors without human intervention. In a paper published on Thursday, Anthropic said the world should be prepared to slow or temporarily halt frontier AI development if risks become too great. The company argued that any pause would need to be coordinated among major AI developers and supported by mechanisms to verify compliance. "We believe it would be good for the world to have the option to slow or temporarily pause frontier AI development," Anthropic said. The company said AI systems' ability to perform tasks autonomously has been doubling roughly every four months. It warned that the technology is moving towards a point where it may be able to improve itself without human help. "If systems are capable of fully building their own successors, the ways we secure them, monitor them, and shape their behavior all grow much more important," Anthropic said. Anthropic researchers Jack Clark and Marina Favaro wrote: "We are not there yet, and recursive self-improvement is not inevitable. But it could come sooner than most institutions are prepared for."

The company said a temporary slowdown would give governments, researchers and society more time to develop safeguards, oversight systems and alignment research to manage increasingly capable AI systems. Calls for a pause in advanced AI development are not new. Similar proposals were made in 2023 by a group of technology leaders and researchers, but efforts to establish international rules have made limited progress. Anthropic said it plans to work with policymakers and experts to examine how a coordinated pause could be implemented if future AI systems begin to pose risks beyond existing controls. Other leading AI developers had not publicly responded to the proposal at the time of publication.

## Mutual funds: How a market downturn can help improve long-term XIRR return of SIPs

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Market crashes are generally believed to cause extreme stress for investors. However, analysts point out that investors who resort to the SIP mode can buy more units at lower prices. When the markets recover it leads to big benefits as a lot of units appreciate in value. This is the benefit of cost averaging. The point to understand here is the concept of XIRR or Extended Internal Rate of Return. XIRR is a financial parameter that is used to calculate the annualised return on investments where multiple transactions occur at irregular dates. Analysts point out that XIRR considers every cash flow separately, including the amount invested and the date of each SIP and it calculates the return by accounting for the different holding periods of all investments. One has to understand that a market crash worked differently for lump-sum investments. If the markets dip, each invested rupee can purchase a larger share of a MF scheme than it can during an upturn.

### CAGR vs XIRR

CAGR or compounded annual growth rate is often used as a metric to gauge returns. The problem is CAGR is not the appropriate measure of returns if the investments occur at intervals as in the SIP mode.

This is where XIRR becomes more relevant since it considers every cash flow separately, and determines the return by taking into account the different holding periods of all investments. So, SIP investors should use this metric for more accurate performance of their investments. When the market declines the NAV of mutual fund units goes down. While it results in a temporary decline in the value of a portfolio, it also allows the investor to gather more units at the same SIP.

## E85 fuel to get Rs 20/litre cheaper as India ramps up ethanol push

New Delhi.(Agency)

Clean fuel journey is stepping up a gear, with state-run oil firms gearing up to roll out E85 petrol at a discounted price across the country. State-run oil marketing companies will offer E85 fuel at a discount of Rs 20 per litre compared with E20 petrol to make up for the biofuel's lower energy content, petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri said after inaugurating an E85 dispensing facility at a petrol pump in Delhi. E85 is a fuel blend containing 85% ethanol and 15% petrol. Ethanol has around one-third lower energy content than petrol, and the discount has been introduced to compensate users for that difference. The existing E20 blend, which contains 20% ethanol and 80% petrol, will continue to be available at all fuel stations as most vehicles on Indian roads are compatible with blends of up to 20% ethanol. The government plans to expand the availability of ethanol blended fuel in phases. According to Puri, the rollout will begin with around 50 to 100 ethanol dispensing stations in Delhi-NCR, Pune, Mumbai and Nagpur. The network is expected to grow to 500 stations by the end of 2026 and further to 5,000 stations across the country by the end of 2027. "I think we are starting with about 50 to 100 (ethanol) dispensing stations in Delhi-NCR region, Pune, Mumbai, and Nagpur, etc."

# Indians have no will for a WILL

**A shareholder complaint, a Swiss refinery and years of unexplained revenues have culminated in one of the most significant accounting investigations in India's corporate history**

New Delhi.(Agency)

A few years ago, a friend told me about two brothers who had stopped speaking to each other. The reason was not a business dispute or a long-standing family feud. It was their late father's house. The father had spent decades building that home. He worked hard, saved diligently and ensured his children had a comfortable life. Yet he left one important task unfinished, i.e., he never wrote a Will. Within months of his passing, the children who had grown up together found themselves on opposite sides of an inheritance dispute. Lawyers stepped in. Court visits became routine. Family gatherings stopped. The property

remained locked while relationships slowly fell apart. Sadly, this is not an isolated story. Most of us have witnessed similar situations, either within our own families or among relatives, neighbours and friends. A parent dies, leaving behind a lifetime of wealth but no clear instructions on who should inherit what. Children who once stood by each other can then find themselves locked in disputes over a house, land, jewellery, bank deposits or a family business.

What should have been a legacy of security becomes a source of conflict. And yet, despite seeing these stories play out time and again, most Indians continue to avoid making a Will. It is almost as if India has no will for a Will.

### ANATION BUILDING WEALTH BUT IGNORING SUCCESSION

Indians today are wealthier than ever before. We are buying homes, investing in mutual funds, building stock portfolios, acquiring businesses and creating assets that previous generations could only dream of. Yet while we have become increasingly sophisticated about creating wealth, we remain surprisingly reluctant

to plan what happens to it after we are gone. A recent study by I Finance Magazine highlights this uncomfortable reality.

### The findings are striking.



Nearly 84.8% of respondents do not have a Will. Even more concerning, 62.5% have no plans to make one. Only 15.2% currently have a Will in place. These figures suggest that estate planning is not merely being postponed. In many households, it is barely entering the conversation at all. The study also found that nearly half of respondents have never

discussed Wills or succession planning with their families. The silence surrounding inheritance appears to be almost as significant as the absence of Wills themselves.

### THE FAMILY CONVERSATION WE KEEP POSTPONING

Death remains one of India's biggest conversational taboos.

Many people believe discussing a Will is somehow inviting bad luck. Others assume there is plenty of time. Some think their children will "sort things out" when the time comes. That assumption is often dangerously misplaced.

As Ashish Nasa, MD and CEO of Universal Trustees (a firm specialising in estate and succession planning), points out, many Indians still believe estate planning is only for retirees, the elderly or families with complicated relationships. "People believe building wealth is more important than planning how that wealth will be passed on," he says. But modern families are far more complex than before.

## Forex, rupee measures likely to improve BoP by over \$30 billion in short run: Report

New Delhi.(Agency)

The latest measures by the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to boost rupee and foreign capital could improve the balance of payments (BoP) by more than USD 30 billion in the short run, by both narrowing the current account deficit (CAD) and raising capital inflows, according to HSBC.

Ahead of the June policy meeting, markets were focused on two fronts: rupee support measures and the policy rate decision. "We think the RBI took a split approach, going 'all in' on forex (FX) with a broad package of measures, while staying more restrained on rates by holding the repo at 5.25 per cent, in line with our expectation," the report mentioned. The authorities (the RBI and the government) announced a raft of measures to attract foreign inflows into India like a subsidised window for NRI deposits (where RBI will bear the full hedging cost for fresh 3-5 year deposits



raised by banks until September 2026), and a cheaper forex swap to encourage PSUs to raise ECBs. Launching both together signals an "all-in" approach.

To support FII investment in government bonds, authorities cut the 12.5 per cent long-term capital gains tax and the 20 per cent withholding tax on interest

income. The fully accessible securities (FAR) universe was expanded to include 15, 30, and 40-year G-secs, with no investment limits.

"Even if near-term inflows are modest, these are constructive market-deepening steps — particularly if they help pave the way for bond index inclusion over the medium term. Notably, there were no formal measures to restrict capital outflows by individuals or corporates. We view the absence of 'capital controls' positively," said the report. Shortening the timeline for exporters to repatriate proceeds (nine months compared to 15 months) should pull inflows forward over the next few months.

Earlier steps to narrow the current account deficit — such as raising petrol and diesel pump prices by Rs 7.5 per litre — should also help reduce the deficit, the report mentioned.

## Capital gains levy chucked to draw foreign investors

New Delhi.(Agency)

After days of speculation, the government on Friday bit the bullet and announced tax relief for foreign investors. It took the ordinance route to grant exemptions on interest income and capital gains earned from investments in government securities by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). However, no relief was extended to investments in equities. Hours later, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unveiled a slew of measures aimed at attracting foreign capital. Together, these steps are expected to support the rupee, which has been under pressure in recent months.

The ordinance amends the Income-tax Act, 2025 to exempt interest earned on government securities, as well as capital gains arising from their sale, exchange or transfer, from income tax for FIIs, subject to the furnishing of prescribed information to tax authorities. It takes effect retrospectively from April 1, 2026.

At present, FIIs or Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) face a 20% withholding tax on interest income earned from Indian debt securities, including government bonds and rupee-denominated bonds. Long-term capital gains on government securities are currently taxed at 12.5%, while short-term capital gains attract a 20% tax. The tax relief is expected to make government bonds attractive for foreign investors at a time when India is seeking deeper integration with global debt markets. Rajesh H Gandhi, Partner, Deloitte India, said the tax exemption would increase returns for FPIs investing in Indian government securities by 15-20% and improve the return differential between Indian sovereign bonds and those of other countries, making India more attractive to global investors.

As for the RBI, it expanded the universe of securities eligible under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) by including all new issuances of 15-year, 30-year and 40-year government bonds. In another significant relaxation, it increased investment limits for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) in listed equity instruments without requiring registration with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The same facility has now been extended to all Persons Resident Outside India (PROIs) as well. The central bank also unveiled a scheme under which it will bear the full hedging cost on fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident [FCNR(B)] deposits with maturities of three to five years mobilised up to September 30. Further, the RBI restored the time limit for the realisation of export proceeds to nine months, so as to supporting exporters and improve foreign exchange inflows.

## From coding to combat systems: Bengaluru's defence-tech ecosystem gathers pace

New Delhi.(Agency)

Bengaluru is seeing growing activity in defence technology, aerospace manufacturing, autonomous systems and defence electronics as companies expand manufacturing and engineering operations and the state pushes new defence-related industrial projects. The developments include a Portugal manufacturing partnership announced by Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace, new facilities from Collins Aerospace and Zetwerk, Airbus's technology centre in Bengaluru, and plans for dedicated defence electronics and avionics parks in Karnataka. The IT-city accounted for nearly one-third or about 33% of the funding raised by Indian startups in aerospace, maritime, defence technology and military technology between 2023 and 2025, according to data from market intelligence platform Tracxn. Startups based in the city raised \$35.1 million across nine funding rounds in the first six months of 2026.

They had raised \$180 million across 35 rounds in 2025, \$130 million across 62 rounds in 2024 and \$116 million across 38 rounds in 2023. Across India, startups in the four sectors raised \$160 million through 37 funding rounds in the first half of 2026. Funding had reached \$551 million across 132 rounds in 2025, up from \$443 million across 150 rounds in 2024 and \$378 million across 129 rounds in 2023. The latest development came in May when Bengaluru-based Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace announced a partnership with Portugal's SKETCHPIXEL to manufacture its autonomous combat aircraft platform, Kaal Bhairava. The company said the partnership would enable manufacturing of the platform in Portugal. Further, US-based aerospace and defence supply-chain company FDH Aero opened a new office in Bengaluru in May, citing rising demand from India's aerospace and defence sector. "Strong commercial

aerospace demand, rising defense investment, and 'Made in India' initiatives are accelerating growth across India's aerospace and defense sector," Matthew Lacki, President of FDH Hardware, said while announcing the company's India expansion. In November last year, Collins Aerospace inaugurated its manufacturing facility at the KIADB Aerospace Park in Devanahalli. The facility supports production for commercial aviation and defence programmes and forms part of the company's manufacturing operations in India. Airbus also expanded its footprint in the city with the inauguration of the Airbus India Technology Centre in March. The facility, designed to accommodate around 5,000 employees, supports engineering, procurement, digital and customer-service functions for Airbus's global operations. Alongside aerospace manufacturing, electronics production linked to defence and aviation is also expanding.

## Centre to bolster evidence-based fiscal governance for State Finance Commissions

**The report offers a structured and comprehensive mapping of the essential datasets required by State Finance Commissions and sets out actionable recommendations to improve data availability, standardisation, interoperability, and institutional capacity across the data ecosystem supporting fiscal analysis at the local level.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a significant step to strengthen the evidence base for fiscal decentralisation in India, the government is set to launch the Report of the Committee on Datasets for State Finance Commissions on Monday. Dr V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the government, will release the report in the presence of Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Dr



Manish Gupta, Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), along with senior officers, according to an official statement. It will be followed by a keynote address by the Chief Economic Advisor on data-driven policymaking and evidence-based fiscal governance as essential foundations for empowered local self-government and inclusive development. The report offers a structured and comprehensive mapping of the essential datasets required by State Finance Commissions and sets out

actionable recommendations to improve data availability, standardisation, interoperability, and institutional capacity across the data ecosystem supporting fiscal analysis at the local level. "It is expected to serve as an authoritative reference for State Governments, State Finance Commissions, constitutional bodies, economic researchers, and all those committed to deepening democratic decentralisation and strengthening local public finance in India," said the statement. State Finance Commissions, constituted under Article 243-I of the

Constitution, are the primary constitutional bodies mandated to review the financial position of Panchayati Raj Institutions and to recommend principles governing the devolution of financial resources to local governments. "For these Commissions to discharge this constitutional responsibility with the requisite rigour and credibility, access to reliable, timely, and disaggregated data on local government finances, demographics, infrastructure, service delivery, and asset management is indispensable," according to the ministry.

It constituted the Committee on Datasets for State Finance Commissions in response to concerns raised at the Finance Commissions' Conclave on Devolution to Development, convened in November 2024 under the leadership of the Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission, where the difficulty in accessing comprehensive datasets across departments and agencies was identified as a critical gap affecting the quality and timeliness of State Finance Commission recommendations.

## Short news

## We'll revamp liquor bottle buy-back scheme: Tamil Nadu to Madras HC

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The Tamil Nadu government on Friday told the Madras High Court it is mulling on a complete revamp of the scheme for buyback of the empty liquor bottles in the districts where the scheme is under implementation currently.

Advocate General Vijay Narayan made the submission before a special bench of justices N Sathish Kumar and D Bharatha Chakravarthy dealing with forest-related cases.

"We will do a complete revamp of the scheme to make it more effective," the AG said, adding the government is also exploring the possibilities for excluding the Tasmac liquor outlets from carrying out empty bottle collection.

Further, he said the government is adopting the stand of 'zero tolerance' on corruption. The bench made it clear that its previous order was to collect Rs 10 on every bottle sold in the outlets so as to incentivise the return of the empty bottle and give back the amount when the bottle reaches back.

However, it said, this order for collecting the extra amount is misconceived as a "license" to collect the extra amount above the selling price of liquor.

The bench said if the buyback scheme is not implemented in the right spirit the empty bottles would end up dumped on agricultural land and water bodies causing irreparable damage to the environment.

## Third intake round for 7,022 RTE seats begins in Gujarat

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The admission process under the Right to Education (RTE) Act for private schools in Gujarat completed its second round, with 7,022 seats still remaining vacant across the state, and authorities initiated the third round of admissions to fill these seats. Parents will be allowed to revise their school preferences for three days, from June 6 to June 8, before the third round of seat allotment.

According to official data, admissions were conducted across 9,770 private schools, offering a total of 83,687 seats under the 25% RTE quota. The process received over 2.42 lakh applications, out of which 1,85,887 were deemed valid. In the first round, 77,925 students were allotted seats, and 73,181 confirmed their admissions. After the addition of 760 seats from newly approved schools, 11,155 seats remained vacant, leading to the second round.

During the second round, 1,08,221 eligible applicants participated, with 62,206 opting to change their school preferences. A total of 5,814 students were allotted seats, out of which 4,244 confirmed their admissions by the June 4 deadline. Following two rounds, 77,425 students secured admissions, while 7,022 seats remained vacant. Among these, 3,911 seats were in English-medium schools, followed by 1,578 in Hindi-medium schools, 1,358 in Gujarati-medium schools, and 175 in other mediums. For the third round, SMS notifications were sent to 1,02,251 parents, inviting them to participate. Authorities aimed to complete the admission process alongside the start of the new academic session.

## TNUHDB residents plagued by water woes for four months

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Thousand of families living in the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) tenements in Kannagi Nagar, Ezhil Nagar and Tsunami Quarters near Sholinganallur have raised concerns over the continued water shortages, forcing residents to spend hours every day waiting to collect water for their basic household needs.

These resettlement sites, which house more than 20,000 families, depend entirely on water supplied by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), as groundwater in the area is saline and unfit for drinking. Water is first stored in common sumps and then distributed to households through overhead tanks. But, for almost four months now, the water supply in the area remains inadequate due to low pressure, said the residents and added that it has disrupted their daily routine.

"Earlier, the common sump would fill within four to five hours, but it now takes nearly eight to nine hours, causing delays in water distribution," said Murugan, a resident of Ezhil Nagar. He also pointed out that the ageing infrastructure is a major reason behind the problem. "The pumps and pipelines are nearly 10 years old, resulting in low water pressure across several blocks in the resettlement sites.

Priya, a resident of Block 3 in Kannagi Nagar, said, "The lids of the overhead tanks are often left open, which contaminates the water and makes it dirty and unusable."

## NLC charts 23,600cr FY27 capex, lines up 4,620cr BESS projects

Chennai.(Agency)

NLC India (NLCIL), the lignite-cum-power major, is planning a capital expenditure (capex) of about Rs 23,600 crore, including its joint ventures, in FY27.

In FY26, the company's capex spending stood at about Rs 9,131 crore, its highest-ever annual capex, representing an 18% increase over FY25. Over the past five years, the company has invested around Rs 27,000 crore in capex and has already announced an ambitious Rs 1.01 lakh crore investment plan through 2030, covering mining, thermal power, renewable energy, and diversification projects.

"In FY27, including JVs, our total capex plan is Rs 23,600 crore. Of this, Rs 19,722 crore is earmarked for power, Rs 1,490 crore for mining, and Rs 2,388 crore for renewable energy and diversification," according to M



Prasanna Kumar, CMD of NLC India.

Among other projects, about 3,300 MWh of battery energy storage system (BESS) projects across three contracts, with a total value of around Rs 4,620 crore, are in the pipeline. The company has already signed a Rs 700-crore contract for a 500-MWh BESS project in Tamil Nadu. Two more BESS projects — a Rs 1,400-crore, 1,000-MWh

project in Punjab and a Rs 2,520-crore, 1,800-MWh project by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) — are in the pipeline. Of the total planned FY30 capex, 44% will be allocated to thermal power projects, while 33% is earmarked for renewable energy projects. Renewables are expected to account for 50% of the company's own generation mix by 2030.

NLC, a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise, has also received approval from the Government of India for the listing of NLC India Renewables Ltd (NIRL), which will take over the renewable energy business of NLC. The proposed IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares and an offer for sale involving the dilution of up to 25% of NLCIL's stake in NIRL in the domestic market. The IPO is expected to be launched during the current fiscal.

## Customs officer, key accused met in Hyderabad for pub venture

Hyderabad.(Agency)

In a twist that has added intrigue to the international hydroponic ganja peddling case, investigators found that a customs superintendent reportedly not only met Hemang Keluskar - the key accused arrested by Eagle Force - but also arranged local transport for him during a visit to scout a site for a pub in Kokapet.

Eagle Force sleuths, who interrogated Hemang multiple times after his arrest on April 11 in Karjat, Maharashtra, said he had flown into Hyderabad on April 3 with another accused Suraj Pal to explore launching 'Jalwa' pub in Kokapet with a budget of ₹20-30 crore. Suraj was handling hydroponic ganja couriers, and Hemang, wary of being linked, ensured they booked separate tickets on the same flight, paying in cash. "Once we arrived at RGI Airport, a customs superintendent sent his vehicle to the airport and we went to a star hotel in



Banjara Hills. The superintendent and his friend, Faraaz, met us at the hotel and I introduced them to Suraj. We discussed forming a new company. The superintendent introduced a realtor, Srinivas, to us," Hemang is believed to have told the interrogators during his second custodial interrogation on May 18.

Hemang also reportedly revealed discussions

with the customs official about dismantling ships abroad. "We also decided to dismantle huge ships in Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and sell the scrap in Hyderabad to metal companies," he is believed to have said. After the meeting, the group dined in Financial District, with Faraaz arranging Hemang's hotel stay, before heading to Kokapet to inspect the prospective pub site.

"The customs superintendent and Srinivas took Hemang to Kokapet and showed him an under-construction mall. They told Hemang that they were interested in opening a pub in that mall and asked him to become a partner. Hemang told them that they could make a profit only if the pub was allowed to run till late hours. He made a video call and showed the property to his father, Pramod, and Kamal, partner in Jalwa pub in Pattaya," said an official.

## Single mothers can seek passport for minor children, rules Andhra Pradesh HC

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

In a significant relief to single mothers facing difficulties in obtaining passports for their minor children, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has ruled that a single mother has the legal right to apply for a passport for her minor child without obtaining the consent or signature of the father. Justice Battu Devanand delivered the ruling while allowing a writ petition filed by a woman from Nellore district and directed the Regional Passport Officer, Vijayawada, to process her daughter's passport application and issue the passport within two weeks.

The petitioner, Shaik Shabana of Sarvepalli in Nellore district, has been living separately from her husband since 2022 due to matrimonial disputes. She had also initiated criminal proceedings against him,

alleging harassment. Although divorce proceedings are yet to be completed, she applied for a passport for her four-year-old daughter in August last year,

consent. However, passport authorities reportedly kept the application on hold and sought either the father's signature or legal documents relating to divorce or judicial separation.

During the hearing, the passport authorities argued that consent from both parents was generally required for issuing a minor's passport. However, the court observed that the petitioner had already complied with the prescribed rules by submitting the required declarations and disclosing the pending matrimonial dispute.

Justice Devanand held that once the prescribed annexures are furnished and there is no restraining order from any court

or competent authority, a single mother is fully entitled to apply for a passport for her minor child without the father's consent. The court directed the authorities to issue the passport in two weeks.



## Gujarat bags 5 national awards under PM Surya Ghar scheme

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Gujarat has emerged as the top-performing state among Category B states, winning five national awards under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Biji Yojana 'Month of Solar - May 2026' campaign organised by the Union ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE).

The awards were presented by Union minister Prahlad Joshi at a ceremony held at Atal Akshay Urja Bhavan, New Delhi, marking two years of the scheme. On behalf of Gujarat, Shalini Agarwal, IAS, managing director, GUVNL, received the awards.

Gujarat secured the No. 1 position across all four operational categories among Category B states and also won the 'PM Surya Ghar Excellence Award' for outstanding performance. The state topped in maximum consumer applications on the national portal, maximum rooftop solar installations commissioned, maximum DISCOM inspections completed, and the highest number of vendor registrations.

In May 2026, Gujarat recorded 3,06,230 consumer applications, 35,311 rooftop solar installations, 42,554 DISCOM inspections and 210 new vendor registrations.

Overall, Gujarat has crossed 10.66 lakh consumer applications and 6.81 lakh rooftop solar installations on the portal. Agarwal said, "Gujarat has achieved remarkable success in accelerating rooftop solar adoption. These awards belong to every citizen who has embraced solar energy."

## BMC to create 10 more Miyawaki forests, plant 60k trees this year

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Housing and Urban Development minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra said that Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will develop 10 new Miyawaki forests across the state capital during the 2026-27 financial year, with a target of planting 60,000 trees during the ensuing monsoon season. After planting saplings for a Miyawaki forest at Hatiashuni on the occasion of World Environment Day, the minister said that over the past two years, more than 75,000 trees have been planted at 15 locations in and around the city using the Miyawaki method, many of which have now matured into dense urban forests with trees exceeding 10 feet high. He said Miyawaki plantations are being expanded

at several locations, including urban forests, APJ School ground at Ghatikia, Nayapalli Haja area, Kalinga Nagar K-6 and near Kalinga Studio, as part of efforts to make Bhubaneswar greener, cleaner and more environmentally sustainable. The programme is being implemented in collaboration with the city and Chandaka forest divisions.

Highlighting the growing concerns over rising temperature and air pollution, Mahapatra said large-scale tree plantation remains one of the most effective measures to combat climate change, improve air quality and create healthier urban environments. He underlined that Bhubaneswar currently ranks among the cleanest-air cities in the country and urged



citizens to contribute towards making it the nation's top city in air quality. Mayor Sulochana Das said BMC has already completed preparations for planting 60,000 saplings this year with support from the forest department. As part of the

campaign, around 3,000 saplings were planted at the Hatiashuni site, while another plantation drive was conducted around a water body in Prachi Vihar under Ward no-18.

Commissioner Chanchal Rana said the Miyawaki method allows plantation densities of 8,000 to 10,000 trees per hectare, compared to around 1,600 trees under conventional plantation methods. "The technique involves planting native species closely together, enabling faster growth and the development of dense forests with minimal maintenance. The plantations will include 24 native species such as neem, mango, kadamba, jackfruit, karanja, amla, bel, jamun and other locally adaptable trees," he said.

## Payment delays trigger supply shortages in govt hospitals across Telangana

Hyderabad.(Agency)

Patients visiting govt hospitals across Telangana are increasingly being forced to purchase essential surgical and diagnostic items from private medical stores, as prolonged delays in clearing payments to suppliers have disrupted the supply chain. Medical suppliers claim that pending dues for surgical and diagnostic consumables under the Telangana Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGMSIDC) alone have crossed Rs 128 crore, affecting the availability of critical items in public healthcare facilities.

According to the Twin Cities Hospital Suppliers Association, hospitals continue to place indents for supplies such as IV sets, IV cannulas, gloves, syringes and other consumables. However, many vendors are struggling to fulfil these requirements due to mounting unpaid bills.

"Many suppliers have been waiting for payments for months. While hospitals continue to raise demands for supplies, vendors are finding it increasingly difficult to procure and deliver materials without receiving their dues. If the situation continues, shortages will become more severe, and patients will be the worst affected, as items that are usually supplied free in govt hospitals are now being purchased by patients at market rates," said KB Ramachandra, president of the Twin Cities Suppliers Association.

He highlighted the huge difference between govt procurement prices and retail market prices. "For instance, we supply an IV set to the govt for around Rs 5, but the same product carries an MRP of Rs 120 to Rs 140 in retail stores. Similarly, an IV cannula supplied to hospitals for around Rs 6 may cost patients.

## NEWS BOX

## R Pragganandhaa scripts history, becomes first Indian to win Norway Chess title

New Delhi., (Agency)

R Pragganandhaa added another glittering chapter to Indian chess history, becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title after a remarkable late surge in Oslo. The 20-year-old Grandmaster sealed the crown with a final-round victory over Germany's Vincent Keymer, completing one of the most memorable comebacks in the tournament's history.

Pragganandhaa's triumph is particularly significant given the quality of the field. The elite tournament featured World No.1 Magnus Carlsen, reigning world champion D Gukesh, Alireza Firouzja, Wesley So and Keymer, making it one of the strongest events on the international calendar. So kept his title hopes alive by beating Firouzja in Armageddon, but Pragganandhaa's final-round victory denied the American the championship. Elsewhere, Carlsen finished a challenging tournament on a high, completing a classical double over Gukesh



and overtaking Keymer to secure fourth place. Pragganandhaa's title challenge appeared in danger midway through the event after a series of setbacks left him trailing the leaders. However, he produced a sensational turnaround when it mattered most.

### HOW PRAGGANANDHAA WON THE NORWAY CHESS TITLE

Pragganandhaa reeled off a string of crucial classical victories, including wins over Firouzja, Carlsen and Gukesh, to thrust himself back into contention heading into the final round. His victory over Gukesh in Round 9 proved especially decisive, keeping him within touching distance of the leaders and setting up a dramatic final-day showdown. Entering the last round, Pragganandhaa was locked in a tense three-way battle with So and Firouzja for the title. One of the defining features of his campaign was his dominance over Carlsen. Pragganandhaa defeated the Norwegian superstar twice in classical chess during the tournament, becoming only the second player after India's legendary Viswanathan Anand to achieve the feat in a single event. He also became the first player to beat Carlsen twice in classical games in 2026.

## No more goodbyes: Has Indian cricket finally learned to move on?



New Delhi. (Agency)

We are from the land of Vizzy. It is worth remembering that. A cricketer of mediocre abilities, he used his power and clout to become the captain of India during the 1936 tour to England. His appointment was entirely down to his social manoeuvring and deep pockets. He had issues with India's first ever captain CK Nayudu, kept him away, and even handed a Test cap to a bowler who had insulted Nayudu at the breakfast table. Vizzy's captaincy lasted exactly one tour, but the culture he embodied — power, sentiment, and clout over cold logic, took rather longer to leave Indian cricket. It is only now, nine decades later, that it truly might be leaving.

The latest casualty is Suryakumar Yadav. Or rather, the latest symbol. The selectors have moved on from the T20I captain who won them the Asia Cup and, at home in Ahmedabad, successfully defended the T20 World Cup. He is 35, his numbers have curdled badly over the past two seasons, and there is a younger man waiting. That is the story on paper. But Indian cricket has never operated purely on paper, which is why this moment carries the weight it does. The backlash was swift, as it always is. Aakash Chopra, one of the sharper voices in the commentary box, put the dissenting case plainly. "You can't deal with a World Cup-winning captain like you kill a house fly," he said in his YouTube show. "He won a trophy. That must mean something. You ask him to exit instead of just dropping him. I feel he should have been given a couple more series." It is a reasonable argument, and it comes from a reasonable place: the idea that great service earns the right to a dignified farewell. Indian cricket has long believed this, often to its own detriment. THE PRECEDENTS

Consider the precedents. Sunil Gavaskar, during India's 1986 tour of England, told Imran Khan he intended to retire at the end of the series. Imran persuaded him otherwise, telling him Pakistan was coming to India and he wanted to face him one last time. Gavaskar eventually retired from Test cricket after the Pakistan series of 1987.

# India T20I squad selection preview: Will Shreyas Iyer's new era fit Sooryavanshi?

**Shreyas Iyer's calculated, tactical vision is set to define India's ruthless new T20I era. The ultimate question is how this structured blueprint will adapt to fit a radical, explosive phenom like Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.**

New Delhi., (Agency)

Indian cricket loves a good plot twist. Just three months ago, Suryakumar Yadav led India to a glorious T20 World Cup trophy. But things change fast, and now he is out as captain while Shreyas Iyer steps in to take over the team. This shows that the Indian selectors are ready to make tough calls. We saw it last year too when Rohit Sharma won the Champions Trophy and was quickly replaced by Shubman Gill as ODI captain. The message from the selection committee is very clear. Past trophies do not guarantee you a permanent spot in the team anymore.

The blueprint for the future starts this Saturday at the BCCI headquarters. Interestingly, Saturday also happens to be Day 1 of the

historic one-off Test match between India and Afghanistan in Mullanpur. While Shubman Gill leads the red-ball side onto the field to start the home season, the selectors will be quietly meeting in the backrooms to chart out a completely different future for the shortest format. With the Asian Games coming up later this year in Aichi-Nagoya, this squad announcement will look very different. The board is sending a first-choice lineup to defend its gold medal, signaling a complete changing of the guard for Indian cricket.

### INDIA SQUAD ANNOUNCEMENT: WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR NEW ERA UNDER CAPTAIN SHREYAS IYER

Shreyas Iyer has not played a T20I for India since December 2023 because the middle order was simply too crowded. However, his incredible captaincy record in the IPL made him impossible to ignore. Shreyas is a proven leader who won the IPL title with KKR in 2024, and led both Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings to the finals in recent years.

He is also in great form with the bat, scoring 604 runs in IPL 2025 and 498 runs in IPL 2026 at a very high strike rate. His first big challenge as India captain will be a selection headache. He has to find a way to fit both himself and Rajat Patidar into the same



middle order since both are competing for the exact same slot.

### WHO WILL BE SHREYAS IYER'S VICE CAPTAIN?

A new captain means India also needs a young

deputy. The selectors want a vice-captain who can learn the ropes and lead the team in the long run. They want a stable hierarchy heading into the 2028 Olympic cycle, meaning this choice carries a lot of weight.

While dark horses like Tilak Varma and Ishan Kishan are in the mix, Rajat Patidar has thrown his hat into the ring with maximum authority. Patidar has suddenly become a massive candidate after leading Royal Challengers Bengaluru to back-to-back IPL titles. His brilliant, calm tactical mind and his ability to handle extreme pressure mean the selectors could look at him as the perfect modern leader to grow alongside Shreyas.

### IS IT TIME FOR VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI?

Everyone is wondering if Shreyas Iyer's new team has space for a 15-year-old batting prodigy.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi just finished his first full IPL season and he completely dominated the bowling attacks. He played with so much control and maturity in tough match situations that selectors believe he is ready for international cricket.

## Who is Manav Suthar? Rajasthan all-rounder becomes latest India debutant

**Manav Suthar made his India Test debut against Afghanistan in Mullanpur after edging out Harsh Dubey. The Rajasthan all-rounder arrives with strong domestic numbers and growing faith from selectors.**

New Delhi (Agency)

Manav Suthar has become the latest debutant for India in Tests, as he got the chance to play in the only Test against Afghanistan. Suthar beat competition from Harsh Dubey to make it into the playing XI in Mullanpur on Saturday, June 6. The Rajasthan all-rounder becomes the 319th player to represent India in the longest format of the game. Suthar was handed his India cap by Kuldeep Yadav, who had a few words of advice for the 23-year-old before his first



taste of international cricket. India named a strong team for the game with Sai Sudharsan coming in at No.3, as Gautam Gambhir had revealed on the eve of the game. India won the toss and opted to bat first.

### IND vs AFG: PLAYING XI

India Playing XI: KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, B Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Manav Suthar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna A Afghanistan Playing XI:

Sediqullah Atal, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Abdul Malik, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi (c), Afsar Zazai (wk), Azmatullah Omarzai, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Nangeyalia Kharote, Ziaur Rahman Sharifi, Mohammad Saleem Safi

### WHO IS MANAV SUTHAR?

Suthar began his first-class journey for Rajasthan in February 2022 during a match against Andhra Pradesh, claiming his maiden wicket in the format. Since making that debut, the left-arm spinning all-rounder has featured in 29 first-class contests, collecting 129 wickets while maintaining a miserly economy rate of 2.94. His most recent red-ball outing came against Himachal Pradesh in January, where he delivered a standout all-round performance. Suthar struck a century, scoring 120 runs in Rajasthan's first innings, and also accounted for seven wickets across the match. With the bat, Suthar has amassed 945 runs in first-class cricket at an average of 25.54, including one century and six fifties. His contributions extend beyond the longer format as well.

## New Zealand in deep trouble in Lord's Test as England smell victory

New Delhi (Agency)

New Zealand face an uphill battle to save the first Test at Lord's after England tightened their grip on the contest on the second day, reducing the visitors to 36 for 3 in their chase of 254. On a pitch still offering plenty of assistance to the seamers, England's bowlers struck early and often, leaving the Black Caps needing a further 218 runs with only seven wickets intact. The dismissal of Kane Williamson for 18 dealt a particularly damaging blow to New Zealand's hopes. England's commanding position was built earlier in the day by Ollie Robinson, who marked his Test comeback in style. Returning to the side after a two-year absence, the seamer completed his fourth five-wicket haul as New Zealand were bowled out for just 113 in response to England's first-innings 140.

Having already sparked England's revival with three wickets in four balls on the opening day, Robinson ensured the hosts secured a crucial 27-run first-innings lead.

There was some resistance from Kyle Jamieson, who backed up his five-wicket haul in England's first innings with a spirited unbeaten 38. The all-rounder



struck three towering sixes and briefly frustrated England after Josh Tongue had removed Glenn Phillips (34) and Nathan Smith (15).

### NATHAN SMITH SHINES, BUT ENGLAND IN COMMAND

New Zealand's second-innings bowling effort, however, was undermined by costly

lapses in the field. Ben Duckett was handed a reprieve when Rachin Ravindra put down a chance, and the opener capitalised with 33. Debutant Emilio Gay continued to impress, compiling a confident 57 to anchor England's innings.

The missed opportunities continued as Jacob Bethell was dropped before eventually departing for 14. Although New Zealand triggered a mini-collapse, removing Harry Brook and Ben Stokes for ducks and trapping Joe Root lbw for eight, England still managed to stretch their lead. Nathan Smith was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with stupendous figures of 17-4-70-6.

England were eventually dismissed for 226, but the target of 254 quickly looked formidable once New Zealand's top order faltered. With Williamson gone and the pitch continuing to offer uneven bounce and movement, England head into the third day firmly in the driver's seat.



biggest stages. The Russian teenager has grown stronger with each passing round at Roland Garros. After dropping a set in the second round, she breezed through the latter stages of the tournament, including a dominant 6-1, 6-3 victory over Marta Kostyuk in the semifinals. The win not only secured Andreeva's maiden Grand Slam final appearance but also snapped Kostyuk's 17-match clay-court winning streak this season. At just 19 years old, Andreeva is the youngest Grand Slam finalist since 2022 and the first player born after 2005 to reach a major singles final. Her record in Paris is equally impressive, with 17 wins from her first 20 main-draw matches at Roland Garros, a feat bettered only by Chris Evert, Margaret Court, Monica Seles and Iga Swiatek. Andreeva's credentials on clay are undeniable. Already a multiple-time WTA champion, she has combined powerful shot-making with remarkable composure, displaying a level of maturity rarely seen in a player her age.

## I almost cried: Fabio Cobolli reacts to Arnaldi's French Open semifinal withdrawal

**Flavio Cobolli said he "almost cried" after Matteo Arnaldi withdrew from their French Open semifinal due to illness. The walkover sent Cobolli into his first Grand Slam final and ended Arnaldi's surprise Roland Garros run.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Flavio Cobolli admitted he was left emotional after Matteo Arnaldi's shock withdrawal from their French Open 2026 semifinal due to illness, a development that handed him a walkover into the final. The Italian revealed he was heartbroken for his compatriot after learning that the much-anticipated all-Italian showdown would not take place. Arnaldi pulled out around 20 minutes before the

scheduled start on Court Philippe-Chatrier after reportedly contracting a virus, ending his remarkable run at Roland Garros and sending Cobolli directly into the championship match against Alexander Zverev. The withdrawal denied fans the first all-Italian men's Grand Slam semifinal and abruptly ended one of the tournament's most compelling storylines. "When he came to me an hour ago, I almost cried. It's something you don't expect at all," Cobolli said after the withdrawal was confirmed. "I was ready to play this match. I was completely sad for him," he added, expressing sympathy for his fellow Italian, whose breakthrough campaign came to an unfortunate end before the biggest match of his career.

Arnaldi's withdrawal was a bitter conclusion to a dream run that saw the world No. 104 emerge as one of the surprise packages of the tournament. While Cobolli advanced to his maiden Grand Slam final, the circumstances

left a subdued mood around Philippe-Chatrier, with fans missing out on a historic Italian semifinal contest.



### COBOLLI PAYS THE CROWD BACK

Despite the disappointment, Cobolli chose to acknowledge the spectators who had gathered for the scheduled semifinal. Following confirmation of the withdrawal,

he stepped onto Court Philippe-Chatrier for a training session in front of the crowd instead of leaving the arena empty.

The Italian also created a memorable moment for two young children who had been selected to accompany the players onto the court before the match. With Arnaldi unable to participate, Cobolli ensured both children still got their chance to make a ceremonial entrance onto Chatrier, drawing warm applause from fans. Tournament organisers also announced that spectators holding tickets for the Arnaldi-Cobolli semifinal would receive reimbursement following the late withdrawal. The walkover marked the first men's Grand Slam semifinal to be decided by withdrawal since Wimbledon 2022, when Rafael Nadal pulled out ahead of his semifinal against Nick Kyrgios because of an abdominal injury. Kyrgios subsequently advanced to the final, where he lost to Novak Djokovic in four sets.





# Rakul Preet Singh

**Recalls Fitness Accident That Left Her Bedridden For 40 Days: 'It Affected Me...'**

Rakul Preet Singh, who was recently seen with Ayushmann Khurrana in *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do*, has spoken about the fitness accident that left her bedridden for quite some time. During her appearance with her husband, Jacky Bhagnani, on Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi's show, *Double Date*, Rakul opened up about a painful fitness setback, sharing that she suffered a severe lower back injury after attempting an 80 kg deadlift without the support of a safety belt. Rakul Preet Singh revealed that one mistake during a workout session resulted in a slipped disc, triggering weeks of intense physical discomfort and emotional strain. She said, "No matter what your trainer tells you, deadlift is the worst exercise to do. It's an ego lift." Looking back on the incident, she shared that despite consistently using a safety belt during deadlifts, she chose not to wear one that day, a decision that ultimately led to the injury. The actress added, "That one mistake caused me a slipped disc and 40 days of bed rest. It was not only a physical injury; it affected me mentally too. It was mentally overwhelming because I was going through physical turmoil. Suddenly, I was unable to do anything, and that really triggers you." She further spoke about how Jacky stood by her during that difficult phase. Rakul said, "It's very important that your partner supports you at that point, and that was Jacky's biggest contribution when I was injured. He was there for me." Meanwhile, Rakul has been receiving love and appreciation for her performance in *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do*. The film also starred Ayushmann, Wamiqa Gabbi and Sara Ali Khan. It is a spiritual sequel to the 2019 Kartik Aaryan, Ananya Panday and Bhumi Pednekar starrer *Pati Patni Aur Woh*.



**'Never Misses A Chance To Make My Day': Mrunal Thakur Pens Sweet Note For Her Dad**



Mrunal Thakur recently treated her fans by sharing a heartwarming post dedicated to her father. The actress took to social media to post a series of adorable pictures with him, offering a glimpse into their close bond. Along with the photos, Mrunal penned a note expressing her love and gratitude for her father. Taking to her Instagram handle, Mrunal Thakur shared photos and wrote, "Dad never misses a chance to make my day and remind me how loved I am." Fans also reacted with heart emojis. One of the fans wrote, "His smile says, 'That's my daughter.'" Another wrote, "Cool dad" Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur's romantic thriller, *Dacoit*, is finally releasing on OTT. The actor has announced today on social media which instantly went viral. The film is all set to release on Prime Video on June 5. Directed by Shaneil Deo, the film also stars Anurag Kashyap, Zayn Marie Khan, Prakash Raj, Atul Kulkarni, and Sunil in key roles. Taking to his Instagram handle, Adivi Sesh shared a poster and announced OTT streaming date, "Pyaar mein Badla ya Pyaar se Badla #Dacoit in #Hindi on June 5th." The story of *Dacoit* revolves around an enraged convict, played by Sesh, who sets out on a path of revenge against his former partner, portrayed by Thakur, after a betrayal that changes his life. It is co-written by Sesh along with Deo, and produced by Supriya Yarlagadda under Annapurna Studios, with Suniel Narang attached as co-presenter. Mrunal Thakur recently treated fans by sharing behind-the-scenes moments from the shoot of the song *Chunari Chunari* from the upcoming film *Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai*. The actress gave a fun glimpse into the vibrant atmosphere on set, filled with dance rehearsals, candid laughter and energetic celebrations. Directed by David Dhawan, *Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai* brings together Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde, Mrunal Thakur and Maniesh Paul in a commercial romantic comedy. The film marks the first time this ensemble will be seen together on screen.

**'Ranveer Singh Has Truly Been A Dhurandhar': CINTAA's Upasana Singh Backs Actor Amid Don 3 Row**



Ranveer Singh, who is riding high on the success of *Dhurandhar: The Revenge*, has been making headlines due to the ongoing controversy surrounding his abrupt exit from Farhan Akhtar's *Don 3*. On June 3, the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) announced that it was withdrawing its non-cooperation directive against the actor. During the press conference, they also said that the decision was not influenced by the legal notice sent by Ranveer on Tuesday, June 2. FWICE stated that they lifted the ban after other industry bodies requested them. Interestingly, CINTAA General Secretary and actor Upasana Singh, who was also present at the conference, backed Ranveer and heaped praise on his film, *Dhurandhar*. Upasana Singh said that Ranveer Singh helped the industry to revive with his back-to-back hits. She said, "Ranveer Singh is one of the actors who has helped revive the industry. At a time when several films have struggled at the box office and the industry has been going through a difficult phase, *Dhurandhar* and *Dhurandhar 2* have achieved remarkable business and created history. We need more actors whose films audiences genuinely enjoy watching." She went on to reveal that her son watched *Dhurandhar* five times and he still wants to watch it again. The actress added, "My son has watched *Dhurandhar* five times and is still willing to watch it again. That's the kind of impact the film has had. We need more films like these. Our best wishes are with Ranveer Singh, and we hope he continues to deliver successful films. When a film works, it generates employment and income for countless people connected to the industry. For us, he has truly been a 'Dhurandhar'." Meanwhile, FWICE Chief Advisor Ashoke Pandit emphasized that the decision to withdraw the directive was made after carefully considering requests from several industry bodies. He said, "Considering their appeal and the larger interest of the film industry, we are immediately revoking the directive against Ranveer Singh. We have been saying exactly what the Producers Guild has stated now."

# Madhuri Dixit

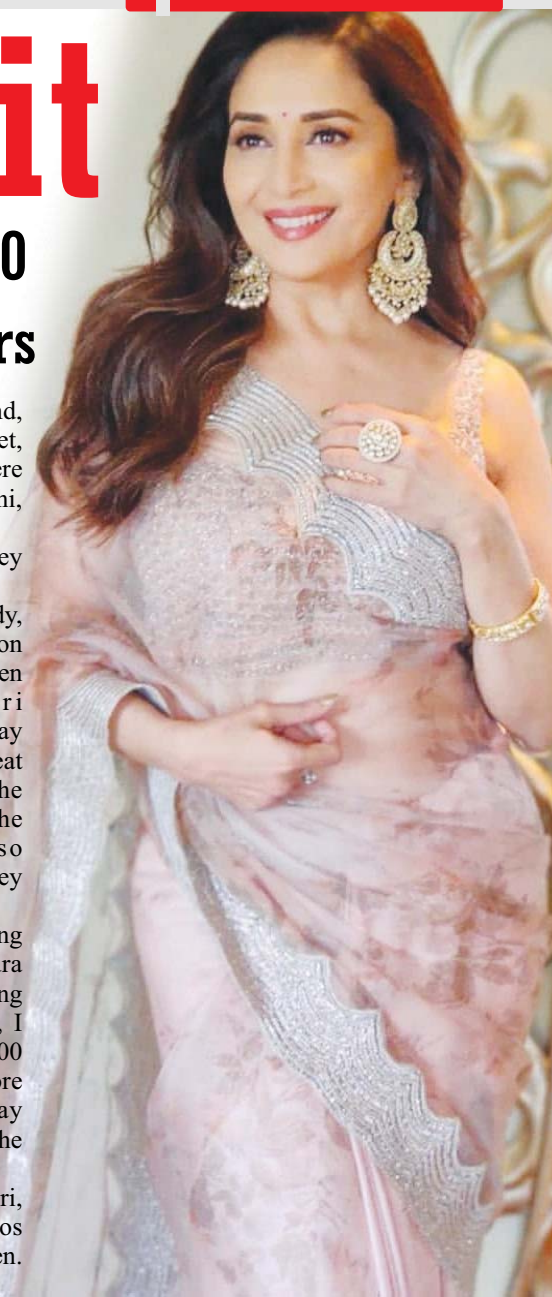
**Fan Celebrates Her Film Maa Behen, Gifts 400 Fruit Saplings From His Chaat Shop To Farmers**

A fan of actress Madhuri Dixit handed out fruit saplings from his chaat shop in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, to celebrate her film 'Maa Behen'. Pappu Sardar, who runs his chaat shop in the busy Sakchi market, started this unique idea a day before World Environment Day, drawing crowds to his shop where songs from the movie played. Sardar bought 400 fruit saplings like mango, black berry, guava, and litchi, and carefully chose people who showed interest in gardening to make sure his effort would be meaningful. He said, "I am focusing on farmers and villagers who come to Jamshedpur for work, because I believe they will plant and care for the saplings, making this initiative successful."



*Maa Behen*, a dark comedy, was released on Netflix on Thursday. Sardar has been celebrating Madhuri Dixit's birthday every May 15 since 1998 with great excitement. He said the saplings would help the environment and also provide income once they bear fruit. Sardar told PTI, "Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'one sapling in the name of mother', I decided to give away 400 fruit saplings a day before World Environment Day

and to celebrate the release of Madhuri Dixit's 'Maa Behen'. He urged everyone to help protect the environment. *Maa Behen* is a Netflix dark comedy directed by Suresh Triveni and stars Madhuri Dixit, Triptii Dimri, Dharna Durga and Ravi Kishan. The film follows a mother and her daughters whose lives spiral into chaos after they find themselves trying to cover up a crime in a neighbourhood where secrets rarely stay hidden. Blending family drama, crime and comedy, the Netflix original premiered on June 4.



NEWS BOX

### Over 3,500 Indians deported From US In 2025, More Than 1,000 This Year

World. (Agency)

As many as 1,076 Indian nationals have been deported from the US this year so far this year. During 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday, noting that the two sides are committed to act against illegal migration. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said a total of 3,567 Indians were deported in 2025. "A total of 1,076 Indian nationals have been deported from the US to India so far this year. During 2025, a total of 3,567 people were deported from the US," he said. The Trump administration has been targeting illegal migrants in the US as part of a major crackdown. Both sides are in close touch on the issues of deportation, migration and mobility, Jaiswal said. "Discussions regarding migration and mobility are underway between the two sides. The focus is on how to crack down on and curb illegal migration, while simultaneously ensuring that it does not adversely affect legal migration," he said.

### Who Are The Astronauts NASA Told To Evacuate During Leak On Space Station

VIENNA. (Agency)

NASA ordered five astronauts aboard the International Space Station to take shelter and prepare for possible evacuation for on Friday as a Russian crew tried to fix a leak of air on its portion of the orbital laboratory. NASA reversed that order roughly two hours later and told the astronauts they could return to the station. Four astronauts on NASA's SpaceX Crew-12 mission took shelter in the Dragon spacecraft, along with Chris Williams, a NASA astronaut on the space station's Expedition 74 team. They are: JESSICAMEIR, SPACECRAFT COMMANDER American. Meir is commander of NASA's Dragon spacecraft for the SpaceX Crew-12 mission. The Caribou, Maine, native was selected as a NASA astronaut in 2013. This is her second flight to space. JACK HATHAWAY, SPACECRAFT PILOT American. NASA astronaut Hathaway is the pilot for Dragon. A U.S. Navy commander from South Windsor, Connecticut, this is his first space flight. SOPHIE ADENOT, MISSION SPECIALIST French. A European Space Agency astronaut, Adenot was selected as an astronaut in 2022 after having earned an engineering degree in Toulouse, France, and served as a helicopter pilot and design engineer. ANDREY FEDYAEV, MISSION SPECIALIST Russian. A Roscosmos cosmonaut, this is his second long-duration stay. He spent 186 days in orbit as an Expedition 69 flight engineer in 2023. The members of the Expedition 74 crew, which began December 8 and was due to end this summer, are:

### US Strikes Iranian Radar Sites As Tehran Launches Drones Near Hormuz

World. (Agency)

The US military said it shot down four Iranian drones that were launched toward the Strait of Hormuz on Friday and then struck some of the Islamic Republic's coastal surveillance radar sites in response, raising the risk to a shaky ceasefire as the Trump administration ramps up pressure on Iran. "The attack drones posed an immediate threat to regional maritime traffic," US Central Command said on social media. The military is enforcing a blockade on Iranian ports in response to Tehran's chokehold on the crucial corridor for global oil and natural gas shipments, which has sent energy prices spiking and posed political problems for President Donald Trump's Republican Party ahead of the midterm congressional elections. US Central Command said it hit the radar sites, including an island in the strait, "to defend against further attacks." "It was the latest in back-and-forth attacks that have strained the tenuous ceasefire in the war and efforts to reach a deal to extend that truce. Earlier this week, Iranian drones heavily damaged a passenger terminal at Kuwait's main airport, killing one person, wounding dozens and briefly closing the airfield. Despite the attacks raising new concerns that the ceasefire could collapse, Trump told reporters Friday that "the situation with Iran seems to be going quite well." "We're going to come out of Iran very quickly and it's going to be very strong one way or the other, whether it's a piece of paper or the very tough way," Trump said at an event with farmers in Wisconsin. "The very tough way is maybe the easier way, but we're going to come out, and your fertilizer prices are going to go way down, just like they were four months ago." "Trump increasingly appears to be boxed in on a conflict that has settled into a holding pattern. US and Iranian negotiators reached a tentative agreement a week ago to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and start a new round of talks on Iran's nuclear program. But Trump has called for unspecified changes and Iranian officials have shown no public signs of signing off on the deal. Asked on Friday why it was taking so long, Trump told NBC's "Meet the Press" it was because "it's a very hard thing for them," citing their "great independence" and the fact that "they're strong, they're proud." "There are things they never thought they'd be doing that they're going to have to do. They've got no choice, and it takes a little while," he said in the interview. Trump said the Iranians still have 21% to 22% of their missiles. His administration also has touted the latest ceasefire agreed to this week by the Lebanese government and Israel after U.S.-brokered talks in Washington. However, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group has rejected the agreement and new attacks have put it at further risk.

# US shoots down Iranian drones near Hormuz, launches retaliatory radar strikes

CHIPPEWA FALLS. (Agency)

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However, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group has rejected the agreement and new attacks have put it at further risk. The Israeli military on Friday struck multiple parts of southern Lebanon and issued evacuation warnings for nine villages, including one that has sheltered thousands of people displaced by the fighting. The strikes killed nine people in six locations in southern Lebanon, the state news agency reported. The Israeli military said two soldiers were wounded, one severely, in an encounter Friday with militants in southern Lebanon. The fighting in Lebanon, where Israeli forces have seized large swaths of the south, also threatens efforts to end the Iran war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz because Iran has demanded that any lasting truce extend to Lebanon. Besides the drone interception in the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. military said earlier Friday that its forces boarded a sanctioned oil tanker linked to Iran in the Indian Ocean as the United States seeks to prevent Iran from profiting off its oil and other goods.

## UN food agency says millions are being pushed into hunger by Iran war

In March, the World Food Program predicted that 45 million people could be pushed into food insecurity by the end of June.



UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)

The U.N. food agency said millions of people are being pushed into acute hunger by the Iran war, as it warned would happen if the conflict escalated and oil prices remained high. The World Food Program said an analysis in three vulnerable countries found that an additional 2.5 million people in Somalia, 2.3 million in Afghanistan and 1.3 million in Sri Lanka are struggling to meet their basic food needs. In March, WFP predicted that 45 million people could be pushed into food insecurity by the

end of June. That would be on top of the 318 million people around the world who are already food insecure. "We remain by that prognosis," WFP's acting Executive Director Carl Skau told U.N. reporters. "That's mainly because the correlation between the prices of energy and food is so tight in many places, and also that in the poorest countries people are already spending all their money on food, and hence when food prices rise, they eat less." WFP said in its report,

circulated late Thursday, that its findings indicate the Mideast crisis is generating "significant spillovers," particularly on the prices of food and fuel, and disrupting trade. Especially in already vulnerable countries, the Rome-based U.N. agency said, these factors interact and quickly impact food security and livelihoods. "These impacts are expected to intensify in the coming months, even if the crisis in the Middle East de-escalates," WFP said.

Skau cited other global hotspots with food insecurity, including Sudan, Gaza, southern Lebanon, Yemen and Haiti. WFP has had to limit aid to millions of needy people because of funding cuts, and Skau urged donors to step up, especially for Somalia and Afghanistan "because the human consequences of not doing more will be massive."

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# Federal judge strikes down Trump-era immigration policy affecting applicants from 39 countries

Court says USCIS unlawfully delayed decisions on asylum, work permits, green cards and citizenship applications, leaving immigrants in 'legal limbo'

BOSTON. (Agency)

A federal judge on Friday struck down a Trump administration policy enacted after the shooting of two National Guard members that made it harder for immigrants from dozens of countries to stay and enter the U.S. In a ruling harshly criticizing the administration, U.S. District Chief Judge John McConnell Jr. said the policy "threw the lives of countless immigrants living in the United States into indeterminate legal limbo," and he accused the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of

ignoring the law. "In enacting its latest immigration policies, USCIS: claims statutory and regulatory authority that it does not possess; makes decisions without the reasoned explanations that it must provide; acts without regard for the reliance interests of applicants that it must consider; and justifies its actions with pretextual concerns of 'national security' that mask anti-immigrant sentiments that it is forbidden from letting influence its decision-making," he wrote. "In legal terms that means USCIS's actions are contrary to law and arbitrary and capricious." A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The policies enacted after the National Guard shooting last year meant that immigrants from 39 African, Asian, Latin American, and Middle Eastern countries have been "categorically barred" from receiving final decisions on, among other things, their asylum, work permit, green card, and citizenship applications. "This ruling reaffirms a basic principle: the federal government cannot shut down



lawful immigration pathways or discriminate against people based on where they come from," said Skye Perryman, president and CEO of Democracy Forward, which represented the plaintiffs in the case. "These unlawful policies caused enormous harm to families, workers, asylum-seekers, and communities across the country who were left in limbo, unable to work, access protections, or move forward with their lives." The policies apply to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or USCIS, which approves applications for immigrants to work and become citizens. The agency, which is within the Homeland Security Department, often grants asylum,

but only for those already in the United States when they apply. Immigration judges grant asylum to those stopped at the border; the ruling does not affect them, nor do the policies that sparked the lawsuit. The broad ruling would impact all pending cases at USCIS involving people from the travel ban countries, not just those included in the lawsuit, Shev Dalal-Dheimi, senior director of government relations at the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "It is an important legal victory to ensure that legal immigration pathways remain open and that USCIS is held accountable to doing their congressionally mandated job of adjudicating applications," she said. It is part of an ongoing effort by the administration to tighten U.S. entry standards for travel and immigration, which critics say unfairly prevent travel for people from a broad range of countries. The administration suggested it would expand the restrictions after the arrest of an Afghan national suspect in the shooting of two National Guard troops over Thanksgiving weekend.