

12th International Yoga Day: Top quotes by PM Modi as India unites 'from Himalayas to Indian Ocean'

PM Modi called Yoga as a force which connects not just our nation but all of the world.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The whole of India celebrated International Yoga Day on June 21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday led the celebrations at Kolkata's iconic Red Road, highlighting yoga's power to promote physical health, mental well-being, active ageing, and national unity. He noted that June 21, the longest day of the year, has transformed into the world's largest community celebration thanks to yoga. PM Modi addressed thousands gathered for the event, emphasising that yoga transcends physical exercise and serves as an expression of the human spirit accessible to all ages. A look at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's top quotes from his Yoga Day 2026 speech:

►"In India, from the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean, from the Northeast and Bengal in the east to Saurashtra in the west, the entire country seems to be filled with the energy of yoga."

►"Yoga is not just physical exercise. It is not restricted to any age group. It is an expression of the human spirit."

►"The entire nation, the world, seems connected. This is the power of yoga. Yoga connects everyone, brings everyone together. On this occasion, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the entire world, to the

►"Yoga also has a bigger role to play in building a beautiful future. So do not confine yoga to a special day or a special occasion. Let it be a part of your daily life."

►"June 21, which marks the longest day on Earth, has now become the largest community celebration day because of yoga. Yoga brings people together. I congratulate the people of the world on this occasion."

►"It is very special to be in Bengal today on the occasion of Yoga Day. The sacred land of Bengal, where saints like Ramakrishna Paramahansa descended, Swami Vivekananda... where great yogis like Lahiri Mahasaya took the yoga tradition to new heights, today the experience of collective yoga on the same land is giving a unique spiritual experience."

►"When we speak of yoga for healthy ageing, it means that we can work to ensure that age doesn't reduce human potential. Yoga can help human life aspire for constant growth." The Prime Minister's address underscored yoga's role in uniting India and the world, turning the ancient practice into a global movement for holistic wellness.



entire human community on International Yoga Day."

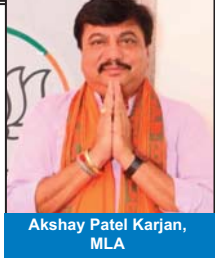
►"Our target must be to be more flexible at 40 than we were at 20. Our target must be more energetic at 50 than we were at 30. Our target must be to be more resistant to lifestyle diseases at 70 than we were at 50. This is where yoga can help us."

Karjan Mineral Mega-Scam: Reign of Terror by MLA Akshay Patel and Councillor 'Ghughu'!

Multi-billion sand mining racket exposed in Vadodara

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Pawan Makan

Karjan/Vadodara: A massive natural resource plunder in Pingalwada village of Karjan taluka, Vadodara, has shaken Gujarat's administrative and political corridors. Mineral mafias have seized complete control of the region stretching from Sasrod Wada Road to Nareshwar Road. Investigative evidence obtained by 'Mahanagar Metro' links this mega-scam directly to local BJP MLA Akshay Patel and Karjan Taluka Panchayat member Gokul Bharwad, alias 'Ghughu'. On the ground, law and order have completely collapsed in the riverine areas. Over fifteen heavy-duty Poclain and Hitachi machines excavate sand and soil day and night. The mafia's henchmen deploy more than a hundred dumpers daily to transport these minerals without royalty passes, evading taxes and plundering billions from the state exchequer. Local villagers allege that MLA Akshay Patel directly protects this illegal empire, amassing vast benami assets and immovable properties worth billions. Meanwhile, his loyal aide, Ghughu, uses political clout and money power to keep the entire district administration compromised and in his pocket. Pingalwada's conscious citizens courageously filed mul-



multiple complaints with Mines Officer Chavda in Gandhinagar, the Vadodara Mining Department, Tehsildar C. R. Padhiyar, and SDM Shivam Baria. However, the administration merely whitewashed the issue. Sources reveal a massive monthly 'hafta' (extortion) network operating from the air-conditioned rooms of Gandhinagar down to local offices, keeping authorities blind and deaf to the crime while black

money changes hands. Ghughu, who commands this operation, carries a dark criminal past. Previously arrested with illegal weapons, he once boldly abducted Karjan police constable Laxman Ahir and made a horrifying attempt on his life. Yet, due to political pressure, the law proved helpless, allowing him to escape jail every time. Now, the furious public demands an immediate Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) probe into the benami assets of the MLA and Ghughu, alongside strict bulldozer action against their illegal properties. 'Mahanagar Metro' pledges to take this fight straight to the Gandhinagar Secretariat, and our pen will not stop until these plunderers are sent behind bars.

Uddhav Sena in firefighting mode, Sanjay Raut claims 2 rebel MPs in touch

Sanjay Raut said some dissident Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs remain in touch and talks are on with two. He also accused Amit Shah of insulting Bal Thackeray as the rebellion sharpened Maharashtra's political battle.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday claimed that some dissident MPs are in touch with the party and that talks are underway with at least two of them. He said these MPs were worried about anger among people in their constituencies and added that discussions could be held if they felt they had made a mistake.

Raut also attacked Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remark that there was now only one Shiv Sena and that it was headed by Eknath Shinde. Raut said the statement insulted Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray and Maharashtra, and maintained that there was only one Shiv Sena, headed by Uddhav Thackeray.



Talking to reporters, the Rajya Sabha MP said, "Some MPs are still in touch. They are scared because of the anger in their constituency." He also said that if the MPs believed they had erred, talks could be held with them, and claimed that discussions with two MPs were currently on. Referring to Shah's statement, Raut said, "The more you insult the Shiv Sena (UBT), people of the state will stand again. Explaining the situation, Raut said all the rebel MPs were technically still with Shiv Sena (UBT). He noted that there were no orders from Speaker Om Birla in the matter and said the Shinde-led Shiv Sena had also made no official statement that it was joining the party. He said the six MPs had not said they had quit Shiv Sena (UBT), though they did not attend the party meeting and had therefore violated the whip. st you."

Op Tiger faces key test: Will Omraje Nimbalkar ditch Uddhav Sena or save it?

Pune.(Agency)

The intensifying political contest between the two Shiv Sena factions has reached a decisive stage, with Dharashiv MP Omraje Nimbalkar emerging as a pivotal figure in the ongoing "Operation Tiger." His next move is being closely watched by both the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, amid reports that multiple MPs from the UBT camp are being targeted for possible defection.

The development has gained further political weight following the verdict in the 2006 murder case of Nimbalkar's father, former Congress leader Pavanraje Nimbalkar, in which a Mumbai special court acquitted all accused. The timing of the acquittal has added a sensitive layer to the political churn around Omraje Nimbalkar. Two days before the verdict, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut had alleged that MLAs and MPs were being pressured under "Operation Tiger" and had also referred to the pending judgment in the Pavanraje Nimbalkar case while questioning the pressure being exerted on the MP. Following the court's decision, Omraje returned to his Pune residence from Mumbai and told mediapersons that he had not made any statements against Uddhav Thackeray or Aaditya Thackeray, adding that his future political stand would be taken after consulting supporters and constituents. "I have never spoken against Uddhavji and Aadityaji, and I will not speak against them in the future. My stand will be decided after discussions with my people," he said.



SHINDE CAMP RESPONSE AND LEGAL MOVE

The verdict also triggered a response from the Shinde camp. The Deputy Chief Minister's office stated that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) would challenge the acquittal in a higher court. According to information shared within the government, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde discussed the matter with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, following which directions were issued for filing an appeal.

The involvement of the Shinde faction in a case linked to Omraje's father has added political sensitivity at a time when his allegiance is under intense scrutiny.

To discredit Nicobar project: Kiren Rijiju on Rahul Gandhi's scuba diving video

Kiren Rijiju accused Rahul Gandhi of spreading propaganda against the Great Nicobar project during an interaction in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He said the government's development push in the islands would proceed with environmental safeguards and legal clearances.

Port Blair/Andaman.(Agency)

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday mounted a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his criticism of the Great Nicobar Island development project, accusing him of spreading "propaganda" to obstruct a project of strategic and national importance.

Speaking to India Today Editor Gaurav Sawant in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Rijiju defended the Centre's flagship project and rejected allegations that it would harm the environment, saying India's environmental laws and regulatory safeguards were strong enough to prevent ecological damage.

"The environment is an excuse," Rijiju said. "The propaganda that Rahul Gandhi ji has spread is aimed at stopping the strategic leverage India is going to get in the future." He also alleged that Gandhi's scuba-diving visit to the islands was amplified by an "ecosystem" seeking to build opposition to the project.



"Rahul Gandhi ji spent 26 crore rupees on scuba diving in Andaman. The entire ecosystem spread the news. By connecting scuba diving with marine life and environmental concerns, they tried to create propaganda against the project," he claimed.

'ENVIRONMENT LAW VERY STRONG'

Responding to criticism that the project would damage forests and marine ecosystems, Rijiju said no government could arbitrarily destroy the environment. "Our environment law is very

strong and our government policy towards climate, environment and the ecosystem is very clear. No one can destroy anything by their will," he said. The minister also rejected concerns that the project would adversely affect indigenous communities living in the islands. Referring to tribes such as the Shompen, Nicobarese, Great Andamanese, Jarawa and Sentinelese, Rijiju said successive governments had protected their interests and claimed that no community had been disturbed by state-led development initiatives.

He argued that environmental conservation, tribal welfare and economic development were not mutually exclusive.

"We have to do everything. We have to do environment protection, development projects, protect indigenous natives and bring industry. The world's most beautiful tourism centre should also be built here," he said.

RAHUL GANDHI A 'PAWN' OF LARGER ECOSYSTEM

The minister accused Rahul Gandhi and his supporters of attempting to block India's

progress by raising environmental concerns around major infrastructure projects. "Rahul Gandhi ji is just a pawn. Such a huge ecosystem of power is working in this country today," he said. According to Rijiju, the same groups oppose dams, highways, mines and other infrastructure projects by invoking environmental concerns. "Anywhere a good project is built, they reach there in the name of environment. They file PILs, start protests and try to stop it," he alleged.

DON'T STOP INDIA'S PROGRESS

Rijiju said political opposition was legitimate in a democracy but questioned why projects that, in his view, served national interests should be resisted.

"If people do not vote for you, and you do not come to power, why do you want to stop the country's progress?" he asked. "If there is a project in the national interest, then it should not be opposed." He dismissed claims that the project would devastate the island's ecology, saying critics were making allegations "without logic" and without presenting detailed evidence.

News box

Man jumps into Ghaziabad canal, companion thwarted by locals from jumping too

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 23-year-old man was feared drowned after he allegedly jumped into the Ganga canal from a bridge near Nahal Jhal water treatment plant in Masuri on Saturday. Police said passersby stopped a woman accompanying the youth from jumping into the canal. She was later taken into custody.

According to police, around 9.30 am, Shadab, a resident of Dasna, and the woman were spotted on the bridge by some local residents. As he jumped from the bridge, some people rushed in to stop the woman and later alerted cops.

Shadab's elder brother Shah Rukh said he was a goods carrier driver and had got married on Feb 13. He alleged that Shadab had been under severe mental stress due to harassment by the woman with whom he had previously been in a relationship. They claimed she had repeatedly demanded money from him over the preceding days, which they said drove him to take the extreme step.

The woman, the family claimed, had filed a rape case against Shadab last year, which was subsequently settled before the high court.

ACP (Masuri) Ajay Singh said efforts were underway to locate Shadab till late Saturday evening. Local divers and a National Disaster Response Force team were deployed in the search operation. Further action, police said, would be taken based on the findings of the investigation. Cops are trying to ascertain if Shadab had jumped on his own or he had been pushed off the bridge.

Girl falls from first-floor balcony trying to fight off molester; minor detained

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 15-year-old girl suffered severe injuries after falling from the first-floor balcony of a building while attempting to escape an alleged sexual assault by a neighbour in Khoda. Police have detained a minor in the case.

The girl, who studies in Class IX, lives with her family on the first floor of a three-storey building, while the minor lives on the floor above hers with his parents. Police said both attend the same school in Delhi but the boy is a year senior to the girl.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 1.30am on Friday when the girl was asleep in her room. The accused allegedly managed to sneak into her flat and tried forcing himself on her. Startled, she bolted out of bed and ran toward the balcony. The boy caught her and allegedly covered her mouth to prevent her from raising an alarm. In her desperate attempt to break free, the girl fell from the balcony to the ground with a loud thud.

The sound woke up the girl's elder sister, who lives with her marital family on the ground floor of the same building. She rushed outside, only to find her sister lying injured. Her screams alerted the neighbours, who quickly gathered at the spot. The girl then narrated the entire ordeal to her sister, after which the police were informed, and she was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Assistant commissioner of police (ACP) Indrapuram Abhishek Shrivastava said a police team reached the spot after receiving the information and detained the minor. A case has been registered based on the complaint filed by the girl's family, and further legal action is underway. The accused, however, did not attempt to flee. Instead, he quietly returned to his second-floor flat and went to bed. The commotion grew, and the girl's family knocked on his door. His parents were initially shocked and unaware of the situation until the girl's sister explained what had happened.

Noida workers unrest: NHRC takes cognisance of TOI report on juvenile kept in Kasna jail for two months

Noida.(Agency)

The National Human Rights Commission on Friday took suo motu cognisance of media reports that a 16-year-old arrested during the April 13 industrial workers' agitation in the city spent nearly two months in Kasna jail alongside adult prisoners before a court-ordered ossification test confirmed his minority. The commission also noted that it took prison authorities six days after the test report was submitted on June 6 before he was transferred to a juvenile home in Noida.

On June 12, a TOI report, "Test shows he is 16, but juvie held for city unrest in jail for 2 months", highlighted how the teenager spent nearly two months in Kasna prison alongside adult prisoners despite securing bail, because his family could not furnish Rs 1.5 lakh for his release.

The NHRC observed that the contents of the report, if true, raised a serious issue of human rights violation. It issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh director general of prisons (administration and reform services) and the director general of police, seeking a detailed report within two weeks, and directed its Director General (Investigation) to depute a team for a spot inquiry within a week.

The minor was picked up from his residence on April 14 by a UP Police team and charged under BNS Sections 109(1) (attempt to murder), 190 (unlawful assembly), 191(1), (2), (3) (rioting with deadly weapons), 121(2) (grievous hurt to a public servant), 132 (assaulting a public servant), 133 (assault with intent to dishonour), 125 (acts endangering life), 127(2) (wrongful confinement), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult to provoke), 351(3) (criminal intimidation), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 324(4)(5)(6) (mischief causing minor to major damage and harm), 326(1) (mischief by fire or explosives to destroy), 326(G) (mischief to public infrastructure), as well as the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

The juvenile walked free on May 18, nearly three weeks after securing bail on May 29, after the family arranged the required bond. Advocate Manik Gupta, representing the minor, told that the court, while still treating the accused as an adult, set bail at a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties.

DLF Phase-3 drive enters third day: 181 PG rooms, 29 commercial units sealed

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The large-scale enforcement drive to seal illegal constructions and restore right of way entered its third day in DLF Phase-3 on Saturday, with teams sealing 181 rooms in four paying guest (PG) buildings and locking 29 commercial establishments operating illegally from residential premises.

The action was carried out by the district town planning (enforcement) department in compliance with directions issued by the Punjab and Haryana high court. Police personnel and district administration were present throughout the operation in S Block and adjoining areas of DLF Phase 3. The campaign focused on restoring residential buildings to their sanctioned



plans and removing commercial activity in violation of zoning norms, including structures raised in stilt parking areas such as offices, kitchens, restaurants, servant quarters and rooms.

At S-27/3, a stilt-plus-five-storey PG facility operating as 'Hello World Co-Living' was sealed entirely — all 38 rooms locked and an office, three rooms and a servant quarter in the stilt area demolished. At S-28/4, a stilt-plus-five-

storey building had 54 rooms sealed across the basement, ground floor and upper floors; enforcement teams also removed sheds from setback areas and dismantled gates and encroachments beyond the plot line.

On Siris Road, 44 rooms were sealed at plot number 74, including six in the basement and 38 across five floors. At Siris Road 72, 45 rooms were sealed, including five constructed in the stilt area. At Siris Road 70, another 44 rooms were sealed, and a kitchen, restaurant and office operating from the stilt floor were demolished.

Along the S-30 lane, 29 commercial units functioning from residential properties were sealed, including salons, workshops, departmental stores, property dealer offices, pan shops, eateries and juice outlets.

Encroachments in S-54 lane were also cleared — ramps, staircases and unauthorised structures removed. Illegal ramps, lawns, DG sets, extended boundary walls and oversized gates at S-28/2, S-28/3 and S-28/4 were similarly cleared. More than 25 buildings have faced enforcement action in the first three days of the campaign. On Thursday alone, 262 rooms in eight large PG buildings were sealed, including a controversial 128-room PG operating from a 1,000-square-yard plot.

Final restoration orders were issued on June 12 and 13 for properties not covered by any stay or status quo directions, and owners were directed to voluntarily remove deviations from sanctioned building plans. The department has since launched the drive in DLF phases 1 to 5, beginning with Phase 3.

Palghar Gambling Shock: 'Gopal Dada' Runs Open Den Next to Panchayat; Police Mute!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Palghar: The Palghar district of Maharashtra is once again in the spotlight over an alleged unholy nexus between law enforcement and criminals. A sensational reality has emerged from the jurisdiction of the Dahanu Police Station, tearing law and order to shreds and raising serious questions about the integrity of the police department. Right next to a responsible government institution like the Kankaradi Gram Panchayat, and directly under the nose of the protectors of law, a notorious bootlegger identified as 'Gopal Dada' is brazenly running a massive illegal gambling den. According to highly reliable information obtained from local sources, the dark business of illegal gambling, specifically disguised as 'Rummy,' is flourishing rapidly at this secret location. A massive crowd of gamblers gathers here from morning until late at night, resulting in illegal transactions worth millions of rupees every single day. While numerous families are being financially ruined by falling into this trap, the illegal syndicate operated by gambling mafia Gopal Dada continues to function twenty-four-seven without an ounce of



fear. The most shameful and alarming aspect of this entire case is the role of the local Dahanu Police. Tormented citizens of the area have repeatedly provided pinpoint information and complaints regarding this illegal hub to the Dahanu Police, but the response has been completely negligible. The mysterious silence and total inaction of the Police Inspector (PI) of the Dahanu Police Station clearly indicate that there is something deeply sinister brewing behind the scenes. Conscious citizens of Palghar and 'Mahanagar Metro' are now raising sharp, direct questions to the administration. Is this inaction by the Dahanu Police merely negligence, or is it the direct result of a hefty monthly 'hafta' (extortion) reaching under

the table? Has the bootlegger Gopal Dada used the power of his black money to completely shut the mouths of officers from the bottom to the top? When will the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Palghar crack the whip on this hellhole operating right under the nose of the Kankaradi Gram Panchayat? If the Palghar SP does not take suo motu cognizance of this matter and initiate strict action against the nexus between the Dahanu PI and this gambling mafia, the public's faith in the khaki uniform will be completely shattered. 'Mahanagar Metro' is keeping a close watch on this entire syndicate, and our voice will remain loud and clear until this dark trade is completely eradicated.

Hot and humid weather persists, rain likely

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city witnessed yet another hot and humid day on Saturday, even as the India Meteorological Department forecast increasing chances of isolated thunderstorms and rainfall across parts of Haryana over the next three-four days.

The maximum temperature in Gurgaon was recorded at 38 degrees Celsius, up from 37.1 degrees Celsius a day earlier. At Gurgaon AWS, the mercury touched 38.1 degrees Celsius compared to 37.4 degrees Celsius on Friday, while NorthCap University recorded a maximum temperature of 39 degrees Celsius, higher than the previous day's 38.5 degrees Celsius.

Night temperatures also climbed marginally across the city. The minimum temperature at Gurgaon KVK was settled at 26.7 degrees Celsius, slightly higher than 26.6 degrees Celsius recorded on Friday. At NorthCap University, the minimum temperature rose sharply to 27.8 degrees Celsius from 26.7 degrees Celsius, while it remained unchanged at 25.9 degrees Celsius at Gurgaon AWS.

The high humidity further added to residents' discomfort. Relative humidity oscillated between 49 per cent and 75 per cent during the day, resulting in muggy conditions despite maximum temperatures remaining below the 40-degree mark.

According to meteorologists, a western disturbance persists as a cyclonic circulation over north Punjab and adjoining areas, while an upper-air cyclonic circulation lies over East Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring regions. These weather systems are expected to influence atmospheric conditions over Haryana during the coming days.

IMD has forecast isolated to scattered rainfall across Haryana over the next three to four days. Light to moderate rainfall is likely at isolated places in the state till June 24. Officials said it is unlikely to be any significant change in maximum temperatures during the next 48 hours. Thereafter, daytime temperatures are expected to fall by 2-3 degrees Celsius over the following two days before rising again.

'Didn't give way, so they attacked me': BBA students chase Delhi man's car, beat him up, smash windows

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A Delhi resident was injured after two men allegedly chased his car from Sohna Road to Rajiv Chowk, surrounded his vehicle at a traffic signal and smashed its windscreen and side windows following a dispute over overtaking on Saturday. The victim had come to Sohna Road for a meeting and was returning home when the incident took place.

According to the complaint, another car driver, who was travelling behind him, repeatedly attempted to overtake his MG Windsor (DL 3EV 7707) and cut him off while they were heading towards Delhi. Abhishek told police that he continued driving according to traffic rules and did not give way to the vehicle.

The complainant alleged that the other driver then tried to stop him by positioning his SUV in front of his car. Abhishek managed to move ahead and continued driving, but the occupants of the SUV allegedly kept following him. The chase continued until Rajiv Chowk, one of the city's busiest intersections.

According to the complaint, as soon as Abhishek's vehicle stopped at the traffic signal due to a red light, the occupants of the SUV surrounded his car. The accused allegedly got out of their vehicle and



attacked the car with a stick. Police said the front windscreen and side windows of the vehicle were damaged in the incident.

The complainant also alleged that the accused attempted to assault him during the attack.

The incident took place in the middle of the road during daytime and drew the attention of commuters and people in the vicinity. As passers-by and other members

of the public began gathering near the spot, and the victim started recording them, the accused fled in their vehicle before they could be apprehended, leaving the victim with blood on his face. Abhishek sustained injuries during the incident and later underwent a medical examination. Police said his medico-legal case (MLC) was conducted.

Before the accused fled, the victim managed to note down the registration

number of their vehicle — HR 98 U 0077 — and shared the details with police. Abhishek also posted the video on social media, seeking strict action against the "goons". In the video, the victim said that he did not give them way, which triggered them, and they attacked him.

He also sought help from onlookers and asked them to catch the SUV occupants.

After being informed, a police team from Police Post Naharpur Rupa and Police Station Sadar arrested two suspects within a few hours of the incident. The accused were identified as Parth and Paras, both residents of Vipul World, Sector-48, Gurgaon. Both accused are 22 years old and BBA graduates.

"During police interrogation, it was revealed that an argument broke out between the complainant and the accused after the complainant allegedly did not give way to their vehicle. Following the altercation, the accused attacked the victim. The Scorpio vehicle used in the commission of the crime has been recovered from the possession of the accused," Sandeep Turan, police spokesperson, said.

Surat SBI branch heist: 2 more arrested from hideout on Karnataka-TN border

Police sources said that a total of five cases (four in Bihar and one in Mehsana, Gujarat) were earlier registered against Vikaskumar while Sanjit Rajbhar has one case against him in Mehsana.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)
THE SURAT Police have arrested two more persons for their alleged involvement in the armed robbery of Rs 50 lakh from State Bank of India's (SBI) Varachha branch in Surat in April. The arrests were made from an area on the border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, police said.
They identified the accused Vikaskumar alias Chandan Kushwaha (27), a resident of Surat city area who hails from Bihar and Sanjit Rajbhar (25), who is from Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh.
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 1) Alok Kumar said, "After the arrest of the gang leader Kundan Bhagat, we worked on the inputs and through human and technical surveillance, we found two other accused are hiding at a location on the



border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Our teams reached there and after a couple of days of surveillance nabbed the two accused on Friday. Police also recovered Rs. 2.70 lakh in cash from their possession." Police sources said that a total of five cases (four in Bihar and one in Mehsana,

Gujarat) were earlier registered against Vikaskumar while Sanjit Rajbhar has one case against him in Mehsana.

The robbery took place on April 27, when five to six armed persons entered the SBI Varachha branch, held the office staff and customers hostage and escaped on two-wheelers after looting around Rs 52 lakh in cash.

The Surat police then arrested three accused involved in the robbery: Shubham Thakur (24) and Vikramjeet Rajput (30), both from Uttar Pradesh, on May 7, and Miteshkumar Rai, from the North Champaran area in Bihar, on May 30.

Kundan Bhagat's name cropped up during interrogation of the accused. The Surat police found that he was lodged in a hail in Bihar in connection with another case and secured his custody.

Short news

HC rejects 1964 will, says claimant failed to prove authenticity

Hyderabad. (Agency)
Telangana high court has ruled that the burden of proving a will's authenticity lies squarely on its propounder (executor who presents a will to a court), who must dispel all legitimate doubts to satisfy the court's conscience.

A division bench of Justice K Lakshman and Justice BR Madhusudhan Rao dismissed an appeal over a disputed will allegedly executed in 1964, rejecting its validity and the claim of exclusive ownership over a G+1 house built on 275 square yards in Feelkhana area.

The case stemmed from a family dispute between Dr Prabhuj Patange, a city-based medical practitioner, and his sisters, Dr Amrutha and Dr Asha, regarding a will said to have been executed by their late father, Krishnarao Patange, a cloth merchant and moneylender.

Dr Patange argued that his father left behind an unregistered will granting their mother a restricted life interest in the property, with absolute ownership passing to him after her death.

He claimed to have discovered the sealed document in an almirah only after his mother's demise in 1999. When his sisters refused to vacate the first floor, he filed a title suit, which was dismissed by a city civil court in 2006.

His sisters branded the will a forgery, stressing that their father was healthy in 1964 with no reason to draft such a document, and pointing out that Dr Patange initiated litigation nearly 23 years after their father's death in 1979.

Delivering judgment recently, the high court noted several suspicious circumstances: One daughter's name was omitted entirely; properties mentioned in the will were later sold by the father himself; and the document remained undiscovered for two decades after his death.

DA case: ACB finds Rs 1.5cr cash, gold biscuits in survey official's bank lockers

Hyderabad. (Agency)
Five days after the deputy director of survey and land records (multi zone-II), Sunkari Narahari, was booked by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in a disproportionate assets case, officials on Saturday opened two of his bank lockers and found ₹1.5 crore in alleged unaccounted cash.

Following searches conducted at multiple properties on Tuesday, ACB officials had estimated the value of Narahari's assets at around ₹13 crore, while their market value is believed to exceed ₹30 crore. In addition to the assets already identified, officials have now uncovered further cash and valuables.

On Tuesday, Narahari's family members claimed that they did not possess the keys to the bank lockers. After obtaining search warrants from the ACB court, officials, with the assistance of bank authorities, opened the lockers on Saturday.

According to the ACB, the lockers contained ₹1.5 crore in cash, 12 gold biscuits weighing 100 grams each, and nearly two kilograms of gold and diamond ornaments. Narahari had worked for a long period in the real estate in Ranga Reddy district. He is currently in judicial remand. ACB officials are in the process of seeking his custody to investigate further, unearth additional assets, and determine.

Three missing links: Can Metro Line 6 still meet its 2027 deadline?

Mumbai. (Agency)
Mumbai's Metro Line 6 corridor may be nearing completion, but three unresolved land acquisition disputes continue to cast a shadow over its planned 2027 opening.

The 15.3-km east-west metro line connecting Swami Samarth Nagar in Jogeshwari to Vikhroli has achieved 88 per cent physical progress. Yet critical work remains stalled at three locations the proposed Shyam Nagar station in Jogeshwari, a missing viaduct section at the Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road (JVLRL)-Eastern Express Highway (EEH) junction in Kanjurmarg, and the Metro Line 6 depot at Kanjurmarg.

According to officials from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), land acquisition efforts at all three locations have been ongoing for at least three years.

At Shyam Nagar, the viaduct and platform structures are already in place, but construction of the station itself has not begun because land acquisition approvals

are still pending with the state government. "Three years ago, when we began the process of land acquisition, we learnt the land falls under a no-development zone (NDZ). As the two owners of the plot were



agreeable to the land acquisition at the time, we sent a proposal to the state government to dereserve around 5,000 sqm of the plot," an MMRDA official said. The proposal was rejected, with the government directing the authority to acquire and dereserve only the minimum area required for the station around 1,350

sqm. While about 1,000 sqm is required for the station building, another 350 sqm is needed across the road for an entry-exit point. However, when the authority approached the landowners again with a revised proposal, it received no response.

The MMRDA subsequently initiated compulsory acquisition proceedings under Section 32 of the MMRDA Act, 1974.

"The proposal was sent to the state government in late April and is in the final stages of approval. We are awaiting the Urban Development Department's notification," the official said.

The 350-sqm parcel earmarked for the station access point is also encroached upon by slums, which will have to be cleared before construction can begin.

A second bottleneck lies at the busy JVLRL-EEH junction in Kanjurmarg, where a section of the viaduct remains conspicuously incomplete.

Physiotherapists turn to modified asanas for benefit of senior citizens

Ahmedabad. (Agency)
Physiotherapy experts in Gujarat are highlighting a growing trend of integrating yoga principles into modern rehabilitation and preventive healthcare, particularly for older adults. Dr Nilima Patel, former principal of the Government Physiotherapy College in Vadodara, has been championing what she calls "physio-yoga" for over two decades.

"While the first International Day of Yoga was observed in 2015, I have been practising physio-yoga since 2002. The approach combines the scientific foundations of physiotherapy with the cultural and spiritual essence of yogic practices," she said.

"Its applications have shown encouraging results in both rehabilitation and



preventive wellness. The need today is to interpret traditional yogic teachings from a scientific perspective. Every asana is more than a physical posture. It carries a philosophy that can enrich the healing process."

With this year's International Day of Yoga

theme focusing on 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing', experts say efforts are underway to make yoga more accessible and adaptable for people of all ages and physical abilities. Dr Nehal Shah, principal of SBB College of Physiotherapy in Ahmedabad, said the institution has a yoga expert who guides patients through specific asanas and breathing techniques.

"Such practices are especially useful for individuals who may not have the flexibility or the strength to perform conventional exercises. However, these exercises should always be performed under expert supervision to ensure safety and effectiveness," she said. The trend was also highlighted at a national physiotherapy conference.

Three decades on, plans afoot in MP to reintroduce great Indian bustard

The state is preparing a multi-stage conservation programme as fewer than 150 birds remain in the wild across India.

BHOPAL. (Agency)

Plans are afoot to reintroduce the critically endangered great Indian bustard (GIB) in Madhya Pradesh more than three decades after it disappeared from the central Indian state due to unchecked agricultural expansion and poaching.

The bird with the horizontal body and long bare legs is also the state bird of neighbouring Rajasthan and is counted among the heaviest of flying birds.

The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has identified two sites—the Ghatigaon Sanctuary in the Gwalior-Chambal



region and the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in western MP's Mandla-Saundhar districts—which hold promise for the bird's reintroduction.

L Krishnamoorthy, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF-

Wildlife), MP Forest Department, said, "The reintroduction of GIBs in MP is going to be a long and organised multi-stage process. The first phase will begin with habitat management, particularly through protection of grasslands in the Ghatigaon Sanctuary.

Only once the ideal and protected habitat is ready, we'll go ahead with the next step in reintroducing the GIB."

The project was discussed prominently at the recent review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. It may be recalled that Gwalior's Ghatigaon Sanctuary was established in 1981, particularly for conserving the critically endangered bird.

However, the bird's crucial habitats within the Ghatigaon and Karera sanctuaries were gradually converted into intensive agricultural farmlands and subjected to mechanised farming, depriving the bird of its natural nesting and foraging grounds. There are fewer than 150 great Indian bustards surviving in the wild in India, with most individuals concentrated in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, with fragmented populations in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra.

Fewer than 150 in India

Reportedly, there are fewer than 150 great Indian bustards surviving in the wild in India, with most individuals concentrated in Rajasthan's Thar Desert, with only tiny populations in Gujarat.



Light rain brings relief to Mumbai; IMD sees favourable conditions for monsoon advance

Mumbai. (Agency)
After days of waiting, parts of Mumbai finally received light to moderate rainfall on Sunday morning, bringing much-needed relief from the heat and humidity that had gripped the city.

The showers come as the southwest monsoon, whose advance has been slower than usual this year, shows signs of picking up pace over Maharashtra. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said conditions remain favourable for the monsoon's further advance across parts of the state.

Although the monsoon reached South Konkan earlier this month, its progress subsequently stalled due to unfavourable weather conditions. The delayed advance has been reflected across the country. While the southwest monsoon arrived over Kerala on June 4 and advanced steadily for the next four days, reaching parts of the west coast, including Karnataka and Goa, ahead of schedule, its onset remained delayed across most of northeast India.

According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Ramabai Municipal School in Ghatkopar recorded the highest rainfall between 6 am and 7 am at 24 mm. Chembur Fire Station recorded 20 mm, while Mankhurd Fire Station recorded 16 mm during the same period.

Rainfall intensified in some pockets during the following hour. Between 7 am and 8 am, Worli Seaface Municipal School and Savitribai Phule Municipal School recorded 25 mm of rain each, the highest in the city. The G-South ward office in Lower Parel received 21 mm, while Worli Fire Station recorded 17 mm. Despite the showers, officials said no major waterlogging or rain-related incidents were reported from any part of the city.

No need to reinvent wheels of modern tech

Anshuman Tripathi

The US government's recent directive restricting Anthropic from allowing its foreign customers to use Claude's most advanced models reset a pecking order. Where India stood in that order could be gleaned even earlier from the now-rescinded Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule that the US Bureau of Industry and Security had issued in January 2025. It placed India on the second tier of access, clubbing it with third-tier China for validation of end use. Hence, it has been clear for a while that India needs to seriously re-evaluate its strategies for accessing state-of-the-art technologies and for developing tech sovereignty in a restricted landscape. Even when provided wholeheartedly, tech transfers have traditionally not gone past making a version of the product the transfer came with. For example, India received knowhow to make Mig-21 fighter jets, but still needed to buy Mig-25, Mig-27 and Mig-29. Tech transfers for Mig-29 and Sukhoi-30MKI played a minimal role in getting the indigenous Kaveri jet engine off the ground. This shows that in the name of transfer of technology, India has ended up getting only transfer of manufacturing.

Tech transfers are never complete, as tacit knowledge is almost impossible to transfer. A healthy transfer would allow subsequent advanced versions be built from the learnt knowledge. Thus, the best way to procure a foreign technology is to buy the company or business unit that owns the technology. Examples for this do exist. During the pandemic days, Rolls-Royce sold its stake in the Spanish ITP Aero, which makes jet engines for Rafale's competitor, the Eurofighter Typhoon. Along with other capabilities, ITP Aero also built the Eurojet EJ200 engine, an upgraded variant of which (EJ230) it bid for the Tejas Mark II project, though it lost the order to General Electric's F414. Eventually, ITP Aero was bought for €1.7 billion—a pittance in the context of its strategic importance and the industry—by an American private equity group. One might argue: why buy a sinking business when one just needs the technology? History shows that by moving labour-intensive manufacturing to India from higher-cost territories, Indians have been able to turn around many businesses. Tata's acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover comes to mind. Another tech access strategy frequently talked about in bureaucratic circles is hiring foreign high-tech workers like those available during the fall of the Soviet Union. The private sector has a recent success story in telecom, where a large player hired an army of expats to build their infrastructure.

Another tech procurement strategy—seen more as a taboo in India—is reverse engineering. Due to its low acceptance, those who dabble in it are susceptible to the Dunning-Kruger effect, or the lack of foundational knowledge that's required to realise what one doesn't know. Reverse engineering continues to be misunderstood as a theft of intellectual property, though a landmark US Supreme Court judgement provided legitimacy for its use. In *Bonito Boats vs Thunder Craft* (1989), reverse engineering was adjudged “the very lifeblood of a competitive economy”. In *Kewanee Oil vs Bicon* (1974), the US Supreme Court defined reverse engineering as “starting with the known product and working backward to divine the process which aided in its development or manufacture”. Limits exist through patents and contractual laws, but they do not cover the whole ground. For example, Indian IP laws provide safeguards that are used by the pharmaceutical industry. It's time the Indian jet engine industry learnt from it. Almost all primary jet engine manufacturers have, at some stage, dabbled in reverse engineering to discern a technology legitimately. When done within a company, reverse engineering is also called re-engineering. Most jet engines today are built through such methods.

David's new slingshot

The drone is redefining warfare as much smaller nations are taking on the might of superpowers

Gurbachan Jagat

The English Longbow emerged as a fearsome weapon in the 13th century. It is considered synonymous with England's military dominance between the 13th and 15th centuries. It also marked a turning point in medieval warfare — England's military might shifted from the armour-clad nobility to yeoman archers, so much so that Edward III pronounced a royal decree that “...every able-bodied man on Sundays and holidays shall practice archery, and all other sports are forbidden.” The Battle of Agincourt (1415) perhaps best encapsulates this power shift as a small English force of about 7,000 men, of whom 5,000 were archers, defeated a much larger French army of armoured knights (comprising nearly 20,000 men). The longbow turned commoners into crucial components of military power and fuelled an entire economy of trade and craftsmanship. Shakespeare immortalised this transformation in King Henry V's speech before the Battle of Agincourt: We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

For he to-day that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition.”

Today, the drone has become a fearsome weapon. It is redefining modern warfare in which much smaller nations are taking on the military might of superpowers and humbling them in the process. We have seen this in the Russia-Ukraine war and the US-Israel-Iran conflict. David has successfully taken on Goliath because David has a new slingshot, and it is called a drone. Cheap mass-produced drones have managed to engage and bring massive armies and armadas to a halt. Let us take the example of the Russian Bear. Russia had long been planning the invasion and annexation of Ukraine. It was given an excuse to do so by the ever-expanding NATO, which threatened to make Ukraine a member state and thereby reach Russia's borders. The Russians launched what they called a “special military operation”, which in reality was a full-scale invasion by the infantry, artillery, air force and the navy. Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that the operation would take a few days to complete. One saw on TV endless armoured columns moving into Ukraine. However, Russia made the cardinal mistake of underestimating the enemy. Ukraine was supported by the US and NATO, mainly in the supply of arms, ammunition and intelligence.

Gradually, the Russians got bogged down and started suffering heavy losses. Ukraine overcame its initial disadvantage and gradually brought the massive Russian army to a halt. A recent article in *The Hindu* states, “Ukraine rapidly adapted commercially available drones

— originally designed for civilian purposes... into improvised reconnaissance and strike systems. These systems quickly evolved into a decisive combat capability, as small quadcopters and FPV (first-person view) drones were progressively weaponised and deployed as low-cost precision-guided munitions.” Drones became active instruments of destruction, and by 2024, they had been fully integrated into almost every area of Ukrainian combat formations. From there on, the development of drones has moved significantly and



rapidly. To cut a long story short, drones have changed the course of the war; from a retreating defensive posture, Ukraine is striking deep into Russia, its oil depots, airbases, ships and cities like Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Russia's “three-day” operation has turned into a war of attrition that is now in its fifth year.

The US-Israeli war with Iran is also worth mentioning in this context. The Americans moved a massive armada into the Gulf, amassed troops and deployed their formidable air force in the region, demanding Iran's unconditional surrender. Subsequently, along with Israel, they took to the skies and decapitated the Iranian spiritual, military and intelligence leadership and threatened to erase Iran from the world map. The US did not take into account the civilisational spirit and history of the Iranians and their great progress in the development of hundreds of thousands of drones and missiles, their secondary and tertiary levels of leadership, their strategic and tactical ingenuity—hubris and its follies once again checked a superpower.

The Iranians attacked American bases and the infrastructure of US allies in the Gulf countries with drones and missiles. Israel was also hit with similar munitions. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz was a strategic masterstroke implemented by the threat of drone and missile attacks on commercial shipping; it

managed to bring the entire global economy to its knees. Once again, the humble mass-produced drone in the hands of a committed army was successful in punching well above its weight and bringing a superpower and its entire military machine to a grinding halt.

As asymmetrical warfare shaped by drones transforms the battlefield, history teaches us that such disruptions invariably lead to political, social and economic changes. The English Longbow was a case in point. Similar examples can be found in history — the Mongol bows, gunpowder, the Lee-Enfield rifle etc. New empires and alliances are formed as power shifts and the old order is disrupted. How long this process takes is anybody's guess, but ‘change’ is inevitable. This brings me to the question of how all this will affect India. I have mentioned in my earlier articles about the China-Pakistan-Bangladesh confluence. As Pakistan's influence on the US and China grows, so will its ambitions (which it has spelt out many times in respect of J&K). China only stands to gain from the misjudgments of the US and Russia and it remains aggressive in its stance on the North-East and Ladakh as well as in its trade with India. In the 21st century — the emerging era of AI, robots, drones and energy transition — new alliances will be formed both militarily and economically. The US has already torn up the old global order of free trade and is steering this transition. Needless to say, it was China and its industrial and trade might which forced this shift. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the “powers” raced to colonise the world and garner resources. Today, once again, the wheels of power are turning as the great powers vie for control and dominance. India must find its direction quickly in this tumultuous period. Our economy is getting caught in the middle-income trap with largely jobless growth. Most of our graduates are paid salaries below taxable income slabs and have to fight high inflation. Joblessness accompanied by inflation is a toxic formula which can be used by elements inimical to India's interests to cause all kinds of strife. FPV drones have shown the kind of damage that can be done by a single operator.

J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and the North-East are facing a continuous influx of drones being used for smuggling arms, ammunition and drugs. Fault lines in the North-East, J&K etc. should be brought under control with a spirit of inclusion and growth... we cannot afford to do otherwise. United, the nation needs to strengthen its alliances through strategic partnerships and diplomacy. In the light of the Russian and US experience, India needs to rethink its short-term and long-term military strategies and also induct new weapon systems as well as countermeasures.

Diesel distress

Hill states require tailored solutions

The Centre's decision to regulate diesel sales amid concerns over supply disruptions may have been driven by prudence, but its unintended consequences in Himachal Pradesh highlight the pitfalls of one-size-fits-all policymaking. Farmers, orchardists and small traders in the hill state are finding themselves caught in a web of restrictions that fail to account for local realities. Unlike in urban areas or the plains, agricultural activity in Himachal is spread across difficult terrain. Orchards and farms are often located far from roads and fuel stations, making it impractical to bring machinery directly to petrol pumps. Diesel is routinely carried in containers to power spray pumps, tillers, generators and other equipment essential for farm operations. Restricting such access may curb hoarding, but it also hampers legitimate economic activity. The timing could hardly be worse. Apple growers are in the midst of crucial crop-management operations.



Any delay in spraying or field work can affect yields and

incomes. Small businesses, too, depend on diesel-powered machinery and backup generators to keep operations running. A policy intended to ensure fuel security should not end up undermining livelihoods. Governments must prepare for supply uncertainties, especially during periods of global instability. However, effective policy requires flexibility. Measures designed for metropolitan centres cannot be mechanically imposed on rural and mountainous regions. What is required is a system of targeted exemptions for genuine users. Farmers, orchardists, essential service providers and small enterprises should be able to procure diesel through a simple verification process. Such an approach would preserve safeguards against hoarding while ensuring that productive sectors are not penalised. Public policy works best when it combines caution with common sense. Regulations succeed only when they are grounded in the realities of those they affect.

Rescuing more, recovering less

► The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which marked its 10th anniversary at May end, faces a fundamental challenge in its second decade. As resolution rates have risen, timelines and recoveries have fallen. Value destroyed by delays dents the code's original promise

M S Sahoo, Raghav Pandey

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, now in its 10th year, is perhaps India's most consequential market reform for resolving corporate distress and reallocating resources from failed enterprises to more efficient hands. Since its inception, the code has resolved stress of more than 4,400 companies, rescuing around 1,400 through resolution plans and sending the rest into liquidation.

The proportion of companies rescued has steadily improved: from 16 percent in 2017-18 to 48 percent in 2025-26. This is a significant achievement. It reflects a combination of legislative and regulatory facilitation, a consistent judicial preference for rescue over liquidation and growing institutional familiarity with the insolvency process. The IBC has undeniably converted a liquidation-first culture to one where business rescue is increasingly the norm. Yet public discourse continues to judge the code primarily through the lens of creditor recoveries. This is conceptually misplaced. Recovery is only a by-product of insolvency resolution. The code aims to preserve enterprise value, continue viable businesses, discontinue unviable ones, reallocate capital efficiently and reinforce credit discipline. An excessive fixation on haircuts obscures these larger goals. Even within the recovery debate, the metrics commonly used are often misleading. Official statistics place creditor realisation at roughly above 31 percent of admitted claims, while the World Bank estimates recovery in India at 72 cents to a dollar. The divergence reflects methodological differences. Both approaches compare recoveries against admitted claims, a benchmark detached from economic reality. Many firms entering insolvency have already suffered years of value erosion. Comparing eventual recoveries with accumulated claims, therefore, tells us little about the

effectiveness of the framework. A more meaningful benchmark is recovery relative to liquidation value of the assets available when the proceedings commence. Measured against this baseline, the IBC appears considerably more effective than headline haircut narratives suggest. The data reveals another important feature: extreme concentration. Creditors in merely eight insolvency cases realised almost half the total recoveries generated from more than 1,400 companies. Such outlier cases heavily distort simple averages. To understand how the system performs in ordinary cases, it is more useful to examine outcomes in the broad middle of the distribution.

One way is through the interquartile mean (IQM), which captures outcomes in the middle range. Read through this lens, the trajectory of the IBC appears more nuanced. The early years before the pandemic represented the code at its strongest, resolving large legacy defaults. The pandemic disrupted this momentum. What is striking, however, is that even after economic recovery, the system has not returned to its earlier performance levels despite the rising proportion of companies rescued.

The evidence points to a troubling pattern. As resolution rates have increased, both timelines and recoveries have weakened. The IQM of recoveries relative to liquidation value has declined from 158 in 2017-18 to 130 in 2025-26. During the same period, the average time taken for insolvency proceedings ending in resolution plans has increased from 229 days to 886.

This does not necessarily establish causal relations

among rescue rates, recovery rates and timeline. Several factors may be contributing simultaneously: changing case composition, weaker post-pandemic asset quality, prolonged litigation, strategic behaviour by stakeholders and institutional delays. But the correlation is sufficiently



strong to warrant serious attention.

The growing delay has drawn judicial concern. The Supreme Court recently noted that 363 resolution plans were pending with the National Company Law Tribunal for approval, some for nearly four years, and warned that unless these deficiencies were addressed on a war footing, the very purpose of the IBC would stand frustrated.

Delay destroys value. A company trapped in prolonged insolvency proceedings steadily loses customers,

employees, contracts, suppliers and market relevance. The longer the process drags on, the smaller the eventual recovery pool becomes. This may explain the paradox in the data. The real prize in insolvency resolution is the rescue premium, the difference between what creditors

recover from a functioning business and what they would have recovered from a break-up sale in liquidation. That premium appears to have narrowed over time. The composition of rescues appears to be changing, suggesting that the insolvency ecosystem has progressively shifted from resolving a smaller number of large, asset-intensive companies to a larger number of smaller or relatively asset-light enterprises. Alternatively, it may suggest that resolution applicants are becoming more selective in bidding for large distressed assets. A bidder may submit a resolution plan today but receive approval years later, by which time economic conditions may have fundamentally changed. Yet the applicant remains locked into the process with limited flexibility.

The implications are significant. If one applies the deterioration in recovery performance across the liquidation value of all companies rescued, the shortfall may run into tens of thousands of crores. That loss is ultimately borne by banks, depositors, taxpayers and the broader economy.

The harder question confronting the IBC in its second decade is whether a rescue that takes years and delivers lower value is consistent with the code's original promise.



Make a statement with your Sofa

Style or trends can be thought of later when it comes to sofas, rather comfort and personality are priorities. Modern settee, sofa, lounges can give you that special 'my space' in any room with a decor that is stylish but impersonal. These usually are furniture that are functional — a lounge in front of the television set, a recliner in front of your bookcase to sit down and read, a settee for knitting, an armchair to take a quick nap on, or a comfortable sofa for your guests to sit. The latest design trends for living room furniture have to offer many traditional and contemporary sofa designs and myriad options of using colours, textures and designs to enhance the feel of a room.

Two-seaters are cosier

A comfortable two-seater sofa can double up as a space to take a nap on or watch your favourite show on TV

Bright upholstery works Choose bright upholstery to jazz up your otherwise simple and minimalist decor.

Paisley shaped settees

Take paisley to another level with a bright settee. There are some available that are in the shape of a paisley too. Try different shapes.

Stylish recliners

Single recliners can add personality to your decor Lounge on your L-shaped sofa

An L-shaped sofa is not just comfortable but can also work as a lounge

How green is your home?



see," said co-author of the study Noah Fierer, associate professor at the University of Colorado Boulder in the US.

"We live in a microbial zoo, and this study was an attempt to catalog that diversity," Fierer said.

The study examined roughly 1,200 homes across the US.

On average, each home contains more than 5,000 different species of bacteria and around 2,000 species of fungi.

Fungal communities tend to be more predictive of a home's location while bacterial communities provide clues about the identity of its residents.

"Geography is the best predictor of fungi in your home," Fierer noted.

When it comes to bacteria, however, where you live may be less important than whom you live with.

From the dust samples, researchers could confidently predict which homes had pets such as cats or dogs and, to a slightly lesser extent, the gender ratio of the residents.

What story can the dust collected from your house tell?

These organisms can indicate not just the geographical location of your residence, but also the proportion of male and female members in the house, and can also reveal if you have a pet, says a new study.

The new findings highlight the impressive amount of microbial diversity in the average household.

"Every day, we are surrounded by a vast array of organisms in our homes, most of which we cannot

Tips to buy rustic Furniture

The latest design trends for living room furniture have to offer many traditional and contemporary sofa designs and myriad options of using colours, textures and designs to enhance the feel of a room. Here are a few ideas

If you are the one who likes rugged and country-side look in a house, doing up your pad with rustic furniture is your best bet. It makes your house look unique and interesting. Here are a few options —

For your living room

Instead of having a sofa in your living area, opt for light-weight wooden arm-rests. To add comfort, you can add a few cushions. To jazz up the look, you can also paint the chairs in quirky colours.

For your bedroom

Choose a teak wood bed, instead of rot iron one. For the country-side charm, you can also have a piece of log placed in the room, near the bed to make your bedroom look interesting.

For your balcony

A few wooden chairs in the balcony along with an unpolished table looks great. To complete the look, you can have a wooden or a cane swing chair placed near the chairs.



If mirrors fascinate you more than anything, here's how using mirrors differently can make your home look playful and classy at the same time.

Mirrors as art work

Mirrors are not always a utility or random piece of decor that is just only used in wardrobes or dressing tables. Mirrors can be creatively used as artwork at home to lend an artistic look. You can either have a collection of small or different-sized mirrors, hung haphazardly to create an artsy look on the wall. You can also use a single statement mirror on a highlighted wall to add to its charm.

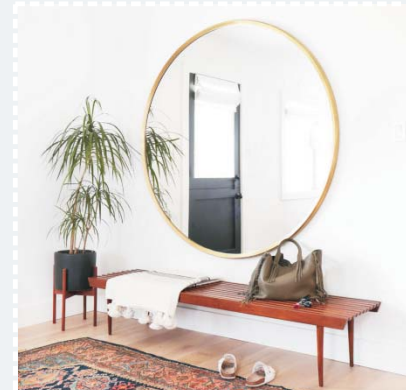
Brighten your living room with a mirror wall

Since, space crunch is something we all face while living in a city like Mumbai, ideas that make the home look spacious are always welcome. Living rooms make for a great place for installing a super-large mirror; especially mirror walls. Use one wall in your living room to install a simple wooden frame mirror, to open up the space with the entire reflection of the room. Make sure you use a wall near the window, so that it also reflects enough sunlight to make your home look bigger and brighter.

A mirror cabinet for a bigger looking kitchen

How to decorate your home with

Mirrors



If you always thought a hallway is something you just quickly pass by, you got to think again. Adding mirrors to the space will open up the area so that you don't feel confined within it. If you creatively place them, they can also serve as hallway utilities, like the ones here. Drawers and cabinets with mirror doors in the hallway can make the home look lively and colourful, as they would reflect everything around it. No to mention, you can always stop by to have a good look at yourself while passing.

A statement mirror at the dining area

Now, you would ask why do we need a mirror in the dining area? We say, why not? As mentioned before, mirrors are not just an utility, its a style statement. Using a statement mirror with a beautifully carved wooden or metal with filigree worked frame on one of the walls of your dining space, will add to the motif of the room without taking away from the more interesting things, like food. Although an attention-getter, the mirror will only enhance the look of your enclosed dining area.

Using a mirror instead of tiles for your kitchen wall against the sink or the platform will help open up a small area. You can also use mirrors as a sliding door for your cabinets so that they do not look like one. Especially if you have an open kitchen, this mirror will help you talk to people in the living area without facing them as well as increase the brightness of the space.

Create optical illusion in the hallway



CMYK



Simple cleaning Techniques that never go wrong

Want to be a domestic goddess but having trouble getting that elusive crown? Not every woman is blessed with the natural gift of having amazing housekeeping skills.



to keep your furniture clean and use the polish sparingly for special occasions.

Whether you're the most careful person in your family or not, everyone spills things. Even the smallest and most innocuous things can cause ghastly stains on your lovely upholstery, carpets or clothes. Instead

But that doesn't mean you can't learn. Start by learning basic things, cleaners, detergents, powders, etc. And make sure you don't make these mistakes:

If you have wooden flooring in any part of the house, make sure that you don't ever clean it with water. Mopping a wooden floor with water will be its death knell, it will damage the wooden flooring in no time. Use a slightly damp cloth to clean it instead. The idea is to minimize the use of water as much as you can. The same goes for laminated floors as well.

While polishing your wooden furniture, don't go overboard with the polish. While it might make the furniture look shiny and new, it can also make smears look more noticeable, which is the last thing you want. Instead, just use a clean cloth every other day



reaching out for some water and scrubbing the stain with your fingers, use a tissue paper or a dry towel to blot out the stain. Keep the stained item in a bucket of water and detergent and try the blotting technique again.

Thanks to the omnipresent dust and pollution in Mumbai, windows get dirty very quickly. But the trick is to clean your windows after the sun has set or before the sun rays hit your windows. This is because the harsh rays of the sun can cause the cleaning liquid to make streaks across the glass, just the thing you don't want.

How to make flower-pot people

Get the kids involved in gardening this season. Mrs Pott is easy to make, and her edible hair makes this the perfect craft project to get little ones interested in gardening.

YOU WILL NEED:

Glue
Brown twine
One large and one small terracotta pot
Buttons
Googly eyes
Red paint and brush
Gems
Ribbon
Card
Papier mache paper

To make the arms, glue twine onto the base of the small pot. Thread two large buttons on the ends of the twine and secure with a knot. Turn the large pot upside down and glue



the smaller one on top (right-side up) to form a head and body. Attach googly eyes with glue, and paint on a little smile.

Stick gems down the front of the large pot to create buttons on a jacket, and glue ribbon around the base. Now to create her lovely floral wellies. Draw a pair of boots onto card and cover them with glue. Attach twine to each boot, then cover with papier mache paper. Glue the twine to the inside edge of the large pot.

Finally, plant cress or anything else you like into the top pot to create hair, then find her a nice sunny indoor or outdoor spot so she can grow.

YOU WILL NEED:

Garden furniture
Newspaper/dust sheets
Sandpaper
Masking tape
2 cans of all-surfaces spray paint

Move your furniture to a well-ventilated area and place it on top of a large dust sheet or some old newspapers. You may want to cover the surrounding area with additional dust sheets newspaper to protect it from spray mist. Make sure the surfaces that will be painted are free from loose paint, rust, wax, oil and grease, and lightly sand down furniture that's been previously painted.

Cover any areas you don't want painted with masking tape - like the metal legs on this rattan chair. Using your selected colour (we chose bright orange), hold the can approximately 30cm from the surface of the furniture and spray in a steady back-and-forth motion, slightly overlapping with each stroke. For best results, apply several light coats a few minutes apart.

Once completely dry, they're ready to use.



Every person has a specific style of kitchen which reflects their personality. Whether it is the typical urban kitchen or the old world charm of the cottage style kitchen, everybody has a preferred style that goes with their personality.

Says interior designer Bindya Chhabria, "A home decor expert can only work on the walls of the kitchen. It is the owner of the kitchen who can make it look warm and inviting."

TRADITIONAL STYLE KITCHEN

Bright and sparkling - that's how a traditional kitchen looks like. Warm neutral colours with structured cabinets door and furniture speak about your approachable and straight forward personality. There is an antique touch to this kitchen. Traditional kitchens are spacious with a lot of cross ventilation. In this kitchen, everything is organised. There is absolutely no scope for any kind of mess.

COTTAGE STYLE KITCHEN

Cottage style kitchens have a charm of their own. They are built for comfort with features that help you through the routine life, and also bring in a fresh whiff of air.

There is an element of warmth in this style of kitchen, and retains its old world charm. Artist Radha Sardesai says, "I love inviting people home for informal lunches and dinners and serving simple home-cooked food.

So, I wanted my kitchen to



have a simple earthen look with brick walls. I have decorated it with pots and pans to add that rustic look to it."

URBAN STYLE KITCHEN



The urban kitchen is functional and at the same time, versatile. The stainless steel sink and utilitarian stools lend sophistication to the place. The kitchen has the best of fits and all possible electrical gadgets to give a chic look. The furniture is unique and often mismatched. There is a touch of affluence in this type of kitchen. Amisha Puri, a businesswoman, says, "My husband and I travel a lot. Since we have friends from all over the world visiting us, we wanted to keep our kitchen very urban; it looks uber cool and food can be cooked fast."

MEDITERRANEAN STYLE KITCHEN

The characteristic of a Mediterranean style kitchen is essentially its colours. When it comes to accessories and decor, you will have plenty of options that radiate a relaxed look. Appliances in the kitchen, like coffee maker, mixer and toaster, are in a wide range of colours. Malini Singh, a teacher, says, "My husband and I love all things bright. Everything, including the cookware and the cutlery in our kitchen, is in bright colours." Furnitures are often constructed from quality hardwood. The coloured chairs, tables and stools are a typical characteristic of this style of kitchen.

Using colour psychology for Your home

Most of the time, when we think of interior decoration, we only have the aesthetics in mind and so, whatever — according to our sensibilities — looks the most appealing to us, goes into the decor scheme.

But psychologists, vastu consultants, feng shui experts and colour therapists say that the colours you are using in your house could have a profound effect on your emotional state. Colours could actually be used like a tool to leverage one's behaviours and emotions.

Colours schemes that work best

Dr Snehal Deshpande, vastu and feng shui professional consultant states, "The year 2004 was a year when a lot of energy changes happened. So people who have homes made that year of after, should follow a certain theme. Even if you have done a renovation after 2004, including changing the floor of the house etc., you should follow this — use a light coloured theme in the entire house." Senhal suggests, "Off-whites, a touch of pink or peach should be used extensively. You could also opt for metallic colours like gold and silver." If one feels angry and irritated most of the time they

should opt for whites and gold to experience peace of mind.

Colours can clam you down

Seema Hingorany, clinical psychologist says, "I have had depression patients who have changed their house colours and reported to have felt much better. Subtle colours have a deep impact on the psyche and they play an important role in helping to calm you down

completely."

What you need to avoid

Dark heavy colours like dark pink, dark violet, dark peach, dark green provokes the fire element in the house and hence should be avoided. Painting your walls only with browns should be avoided.

Try these remedies

* There are some homes that have a lot of fire experiences like bursting or breaking of bulbs, pressure cooker bursts etc., they should use a combination of browns and dark blues to calm down the fire element.

* If there are too many disputes and fights in the house you must a bunch of have fresh or artificial pink flowers. You could also use violet flowers or a combination of pink and violet flowers.

* If you feel irritable and angry in rooms that have very bright colours you could switch to light coloured rooms. Paint the walls in light shades of whites.



'Taps either dry or we get dirty flow': Delhi localities marred by water shortage

The shortage, according to locals, has been compounded by concerns over water quality, with complaints of dark, foul-smelling water occasionally flowing through the taps in the houses.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Rows of plastic drums and buckets lining the roadside in Zakhira's Amar Park with residents waiting desperately for a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) tanker. With the DJB's overall production remaining

below peak demand due to reduced output at key water treatment plants this summer, this has been the routine for the residents of this Northwest Delhi locality. Few kilometres away in West Delhi's Sultanpuri too has been plagued by water shortage concerns. The shortage, according to locals, has been compounded by concerns over water quality, with complaints of dark, foul-smelling water occasionally flowing through the taps in the houses. "The pipeline supply has been stopped for nearly two years," alleged Iqbal Chaudhary, 30, a resident of W Block.

According to him, nearly 500 people depend on the supply in the area, including a nearby mosque.



"We get only one or two tankers in a week. The demand is very high. We cannot even get five litres per person,"

he said. The locality fall primarily under the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant supply zone, which feeds large parts of Central-West Delhi, while also drawing system-level support from the Wazirabad network through Delhi's interconnected distribution grid. Reduced output at these plants and low raw water levels in the Yamuna have contributed to intermittent pressure and supply disruptions in the area. Residents said the problem extends beyond scarcity. "For six months, the taps have been dry. And when water does come, it is highly contaminated. Kalla paani aata hai, naale ka paani se kaise hum usse use

kare? (It is completely black. How can we use sewage-mixed water?) The smell is unbearable," said Chaudhary. Another resident at Sultanpuri said, "We have been facing serious water shortage issues. Nobody is taking a look into it." DJB officials have attributed wider disruptions in the Capital to reduced production at major water treatment facilities, including the Wazirabad and Chandrawal plants, which have been operating below capacity due to low raw water availability from the Yamuna. The shortfall has brought down overall supply levels in the city, affecting multiple neighbourhoods. Following complaints from residents, officials said water samples have been collected from the locality and sent for laboratory testing.

Delhi HC orders removal of false information on Judges

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court has directed social media companies, search engines, web hosting platforms, and online service providers to take down "false" information being spread online that several Indian judges and Union ministers participated in a badminton tournament in London earlier this month at taxpayers' expense. Friday, the matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a vacation bench of Justice Tejas Karia.

The bench said, "The impugned content is ex facie



false, malicious and derogatory to the judiciary, the executive and the sport of badminton. The continued circulation and dissemination of such content has a direct bearing on the reputation of these institutions and, if not restrained forthwith, is likely to erode public confidence in the justice delivery system." Directing a status report from the authorities concerned, the court has posted the matter on July 17 for further proceedings.

'False post may harm confidence'

"Dissemination of such false and misleading information, has the potential to cause serious injury to public confidence in the justice delivery system," the bench said.

Fake CBI officers rob trader of Rs 25 lakh in Maharashtra, arrested within 12 hours

New Delhi.(Agency)

A businessman from Maharashtra's Akola district was allegedly robbed of Rs 25 lakh by two men posing as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers in a carefully planned scam. The accused were arrested within 12 hours of the crime, with police recovering the entire stolen amount and other valuables.

The incident took place on June 19 when the nearly 70-year-old trader, who runs a PCO call centre in Khamgaon, boarded a bus from the Balapur bus stand. According to investigators, one of the accused was known to the victim and used that familiarity to execute the plan.

Police said the accused allegedly created a fake CBI identity card using online tools and approached the businessman while pretending to be a central agency officer. They reportedly accused him of being involved in illegal financial transactions and threatened legal action.

How the alleged fraud was carried out

According to the police investigation, the accused demanded the trader's mobile phone and a bag containing Rs 25 lakh in cash. They also allegedly instructed him to accompany them to a police station for questioning.

To make the operation appear genuine, the first accused called his accomplice to the scene and staged what appeared to be an official investigation. However, once the businessman got off the bus, both men allegedly fled with the cash and mobile phone.

The victim initially believed the questioning was legitimate and waited for a police vehicle that never arrived. Realising he had been deceived, he later approached the Balapur Police Station and filed a complaint. Following the complaint, Akola Superintendent of Police Archit Chandak formed a special investigation team led by Police Inspector Nitin Levarkar. Investigators reviewed footage from nearly 50 CCTV cameras along the Khamgaon-Balapur route and used technical surveillance to track the suspects.

Around 2,000 potholes on Delhi roads; PWD in race to fix them before rain

New Delhi.(Agency)

With the monsoon approaching, the Delhi government's Public Works Department (PWD) on Sunday carried out a citywide special drive to repair around 2,000 identified potholes across roads.

According to PWD records, 14,757 potholes were identified on roads maintained by the department between January 1 and June 4. Of these, 12,762 had already been repaired. Sunday's drive was launched to address the remaining identified potholes before the monsoon season.

PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma inspected road repair works at multiple locations across the capital and reviewed the progress of the exercise. Department officials said engineers, maintenance staff, and field teams were deployed

throughout the day, despite it being a Sunday, to complete the work within a stipulated timeframe. Speaking during an inspection, Verma said the department intensified road



maintenance activities ahead of the rains, when potholes tend to expand and create safety hazards for motorists. "PWD remains vigilant throughout the year in addressing complaints related to potholes and road maintenance. With the monsoon approaching, our focus is to ensure

that roads are in the best possible condition before the rains begin. Today's special drive reflects that commitment. More than 2,000 identified potholes are being repaired across Delhi so that commuters can travel safely and comfortably during the rainy season," he said.

Verma also linked recurring pothole problems to the quality of road construction in the past and said the government had strengthened quality-control mechanisms.

"Road infrastructure must be built on the foundations of quality, accountability and long-term durability. Many of the potholes being repaired today are on roads constructed several years ago, where quality standards were not adequately maintained. We have strengthened quality control measures and introduced greater.

Mumbai to Pune in 48 mins? Full travel time breakdown of India's 7 new bullet train routes

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's high-speed rail plans have taken a major step forward after Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved seven new bullet train corridors across the country. The decision adds fresh momentum to India's growing push towards a nationwide high-speed rail network.

The announcement comes alongside continued progress on the country's first bullet train project, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail, which is currently under construction.

7 new bullet train corridors approved

According to the Railway Ministry, the

newly approved corridors include Mumbai-Pune, Bengaluru-Chennai, Bengaluru-Hyderabad, Pune-Hyderabad, Delhi-Lucknow, Delhi-



Varanasi, and Delhi-Siliguri. These routes stretch across western, southern, and northern India, signalling a broader plan to connect major urban centres through high-speed rail and reduce long travel durations significantly. Officials said

the move is aimed at transforming inter-city travel into a faster and more efficient system that can support growing economic activity across regions. The proposed corridors promise dramatic reductions in journey times. Mumbai-Pune travel is expected to take just 48 minutes, while Bengaluru-Chennai could be covered in around 73 minutes once operational.

Delhi-Lucknow is projected at 2 hours, Bengaluru-Hyderabad at 2 hours 10 minutes, and Pune-Hyderabad at 2 hours 8 minutes. The Delhi-Varanasi route is expected to take about 3 hours 15 minutes. The longest route, Delhi-Siliguri, is expected to take around 6 hours, compared to nearly 20 hours by conventional trains at present.

'Was sole breadwinner': Man beaten to death by fellow train passengers in Delhi, 8 held

New Delhi.(Agency)

Pankaj Dhama, 35, who worked as a security guard at the IP Extension Metro Station, was on Saturday headed home in Khekda village of Uttar Pradesh's Baghat from Delhi, according to police. He was ready to board the Yoga Express at Shahdara railway station in East Delhi when some fellow passengers allegedly attacked him — they were angry over him "blocking the entrance to a coach", according to police.

A group of passengers allegedly punched and kicked several times. Officers said personnel of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) immediately intervened and rescued the injured man before shifting him to Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police have detained eight suspects in connection with the incident. "Eight suspected passengers travelling on the Yoga Express were detained by the



Government Railway Police (GRP) at Muzaffarnagar Railway Station. They are being brought to Delhi for further questioning, while their identities and

specific roles in the assault are being verified. A case has been registered under Sections 105 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station ODRS on Saturday. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the individual culpability of each suspect," said DCP (Railways) Bharat Reddy.

Dhama was the sole breadwinner of his family and is survived by his wife, a six-year-old son and a one-and-a-half-year-old daughter. His brother, Vijender Dhama, said the family was informed about the incident by their elder brother. "He was the only earning member of the family. We came to know about the incident through our elder brother," he said.

Vijender also alleged that railway police personnel present at the station did not come to his brother's rescue after the assault. "He was lying on the platform, but no one helped him. Two of his colleagues wrapped him in a bedsheet and rushed him to the hospital," he alleged. Responding to the incident, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, Chief Public Relations Officer, said, "According to the information received so far, a tragic death occurred at Delhi's Shahdara Railway Station following a dispute between two passengers. At the time of the incident, a GRP constable separated the two sides. The injured person, who had become unconscious, was immediately taken to the nearest hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The accused have been taken into custody, and legal proceedings.

Free bus travel, cooling zones for NEET set up in Delhi

The CM said a total of 97 examination centres have been designated for the NEET examination in Delhi.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Lakhs of students will appear for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) on Sunday. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that while candidates will be allowed to travel free of cost on DTC buses, special cooling zones have also been set up outside all 97 examination centres for parents and family members.

Respecting the dreams of every student and the hopes of every parent is the responsibility of the government, she said, adding that the entire city is wishing success to every candidate appearing for the examination.

The CM said a total of 97 examination centres have been designated for the NEET examination in Delhi. Special cooling zones have been set up by the district administration near all these centres.

"This is the first time that special waiting arrangements have been made keeping in mind the comfort and convenience not only of students appearing for the examination but also of their parents and family members," the Chief Minister said.

"The Delhi government has created cooling zones around the examination centres, where parents will have access to seating and resting facilities, along with clean drinking water, shikanji, ORS, tea and first-aid support. Comfortable waiting arrangements will be available for them outside the examination centres," she said. The Chief Minister also announced that all NEET candidates will be able to travel free of cost on DTC buses on June 21. To avail of the facility, they will only need to show their valid NEET admit card to the bus conductor.

She said the government's effort is to ensure that students do not face any transportation-related inconvenience on the day of the examination and are able to reach their centres on time and appear for the test with complete concentration and confidence.

Meanwhile, Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood visited CM Shri School, Pandara Road, and inspected the arrangements made at the examination centre. Senior officials of the Education Department and the concerned SDM were also present during the inspection. Following the inspection, Sood said that a large number of parents accompany their children from distant areas to examination centres for the NEET examination.

Top-10 firms add Rs 2 lakh crore in market value

New Delhi.(Agency)

The combined market valuation of nine of India's 10 most-valued companies surged by Rs 2.15 lakh crore last week after a strong rally in domestic equities amid improving global risk sentiment. Among the top-10 firms, Bharti Airtel recorded the highest increase in market capitalisation, with its valuation rising by Rs 52,432.67 crore to Rs 11.63 lakh crore.

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) was the second-biggest gainer, adding Rs 51,675.23 crore to take its market valuation to Rs 5.57 lakh crore.

Bajaj Finance saw its market capitalisation climb by Rs 26,553.71 crore to Rs 5.99 lakh crore. Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) gained Rs 21,929.12 crore in market value to reach Rs 5.79 lakh crore.

India's largest lender, State Bank of India, added Rs 16,753.57 crore, pushing its market capitalisation to Rs 9.55 lakh crore. Private sector lender HDFC Bank's valuation increased by Rs 11,948.72 crore to Rs 12.01 lakh crore, while Hindustan Unilever Ltd added Rs 6,661.10 crore to reach a market capitalisation of Rs 5.16 lakh crore.

Another private lender, ICICI Bank, ended the week higher, with its market valuation rising by Rs 4,724.22 crore to Rs 9.66 lakh crore. In contrast, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was the only company among the top-10 most-valued firms to witness a decline in valuation. The IT major's market capitalisation fell by Rs 12,699.49 crore to Rs 7.69 lakh crore amid continued pressure on technology stocks following Accenture's guidance cut. Moreover, during the week, Sensex advanced more than 1,200 points, or 1.68 per cent. Similarly, the Nifty gained nearly 400 points, or 1.65 per cent, to close at 24,013.10.

RBI likely to hold repo rate at 5.25% as geopolitical risks ease: Report

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to maintain its wait-and-watch approach and keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent in upcoming monetary policy meetings as easing geopolitical tensions reduce uncertainty and allow policymakers to focus on incoming economic data, according to a report. As per analysis by BofA Securities, the conclusion of the US-Iran peace agreement has eased a key source of global uncertainty, giving the central bank more room to remain data-dependent rather than reacting to volatile energy prices.

The RBI will continue monitoring the progress of the monsoon, food inflation trends and crude oil prices before considering any change in policy direction, the report added. The RBI had unanimously retained the repo rate at 5.25 per cent and maintained its neutral policy stance at the June MPC meeting amid concerns over the global economic environment and geopolitical developments.

In addition, the central bank revised its macroeconomic projections, lowering its FY27 GDP growth forecast by 30 basis points to 6.6 per cent while raising its inflation estimate by 50 basis points to 5.1 per cent, citing weather-related risks and uncertainties surrounding food prices. The MPC minutes reflected a unanimous recognition of rising inflation risks and a volatile economic backdrop.

Weak start to monsoon seen clouding Kharif season outlook: Report

New Delhi.(Agency)

A comparatively weak start of monsoon in the southwest of India has signalled a negative impact on the agricultural activity with a significant fall in kharif sowing on a year-on-year basis, according to a research report by 360 ONE Capital Research.

Even as sufficient reservoir levels are expected to provide a safe buffer for irrigation, the firm stressed the need for close monitoring given the current pattern of monsoon. It added that a prolonged rainfall deficit may increase pressure on food prices and rural economic activity, but recovery could still support crop prospects.

India's southwest monsoon has begun the 2026 season on a weak note, with rainfall remaining significantly below normal across large parts of the country, 360 ONE Capital Research said.

According to the report, cumulative rainfall as of June 17 stood at 46.2 mm, compared with the normal level of 74.3 mm, representing a deficit of 38 per cent. Weekly rainfall for the period ending June 17 was 48 per cent below the long-period average.

The report highlights that 22 of India's 36 meteorological subdivisions have received deficient rainfall so far this season. At the district level, nearly 66 per cent of the country has experienced scanty or deficient rainfall, underscoring the broad-based nature of the shortfall. Central India has been particularly affected, recording a rainfall deficit of 62 per cent, while eastern India has seen rainfall 44 per cent below normal.

The delayed progress of the monsoon has also begun to affect agricultural activity. "As of June 12, total kharif sowing was reported at 84.6 lakh hectares, down 3.9 per cent from the corresponding period last year. Pulses and cotton have witnessed the sharpest declines, with sowing areas contracting by 43.2 per cent and 28 per cent respectively," according to the report. Rice sowing, however, has shown resilience with a year-on-year increase of 28.4 per cent, albeit from a low base.

India's Russian crude imports jump as refiners prepare for post-Hormuz supply recovery

June purchases from Russia rose sharply while UAE shipments stayed near record levels amid uncertainty over Gulf energy flows.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's crude oil imports from Russia surged in June, while shipments from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) remained near record levels as refiners sought to secure supplies ahead of the full restoration of Gulf flows after the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, news agency PTI reported.

India imported an average of 2.66 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil from Russia in June up to June 19, compared with 1.91 million bpd in May, according to data from maritime and commodity

intelligence firm Kpler cited in the PTI report. The rise cemented Moscow's position as India's largest oil supplier.

Imports from the UAE stood at 6,36,000 bpd in June up to June 19, slightly below the record 6,44,000 bpd imported in May. Venezuela emerged as India's fourth-largest crude supplier with shipments of 2,09,000 bpd, behind Saudi Arabia's 3,84,000 bpd, reported PTI.

Imports from the United States fell sharply to 91,000 bpd from 2,52,000 bpd in May, according to Kpler data.

The purchases highlight India's strategy of diversifying crude sourcing, with Russian barrels remaining attractive due to discounts, while UAE supplies helped offset uncertainty around shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

India, the world's third-largest energy importer, depends heavily on the Gulf region for crude oil, liquefied natural gas

(LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Supplies were disrupted after Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz following US and

UAE and Qatar.

Oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz began recovering late last week after the US and Iran agreed to a ceasefire. However, the truce remains fragile, with Iranian authorities accusing Israel of violating the agreement, raising concerns over the durability of the reopening.

According to Sumit Ritolia, Senior Manager - Modelling at Kpler, the reopening of Hormuz is expected to provide the quickest relief to India's LPG supplies, while crude oil and LNG imports are likely to normalise more gradually as the country has already adjusted to months of disruption through diversification and alternative supply routes, PTI reported.

The impact of the disruption varied across fuels, with LPG emerging as the most affected commodity, while crude and LNG imports remained relatively resilient due to alternative sourcing and bypass infrastructure.



Israeli attacks, affecting a key energy route that carries about 20 per cent of global oil consumption and serves as the main export channel for Gulf producers, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the

Filing ITR: Accuracy is important but know how to correct mistakes after submission

New Delhi.(Agency)

The season for filing ITR or Income Tax return is upon us. Accuracy in filing ITR is of utmost importance. Timely, accurate and transparent — these are the three factors that the Income Tax Department promotes. However, if there are errors in filing income tax returns, the government allows a taxpayer to correct mistakes. Let's have a look at the process. However, one must remember that this is different from a revised return, which is meant to correct errors within the standard filing window. Tax experts point out that any taxpayer who has filed an ITR can choose to revise it if errors or omissions are detected. The provision covers a wide array of errors such as omitted income, overstated or understated earnings, missed deductions, computational errors and incorrect disclosures. If one opts for the incorrect IT form to submit tax, it can be



corrected. Once the submit button is pressed, the revised return becomes the legally valid version and the earlier one becomes irrelevant. It completely replaces the earlier ITR.

Revised ITR or ITR-U?

Timing is of great significance here. According to rules, taxpayers are allowed to revise ITRs until December 31 of the relevant assessment year. But recent changes have stretched the deadline to in certain cases to March 31, enlarging the window to correct mistakes. But here is a catch. If and

once the tax authorities complete assessment, one cannot file revised ITRs and one has to depend on updated returns — popularly referred to as ITR-U, which can impose additional tax burdens.

What is ITR-U?

ITR-U is actually a last-ditch effort in the compliance process for any taxpayers who miss all deadlines or later discover undisclosed income — perhaps the worst that can happen. It was introduced by the Finance Act 2022, it allows for peaceful resolution of what could otherwise lead to litigation and harassment. ITR-U allows taxpayers to file or update returns even after the belated and revised deadlines have expired. The time window is also huge — a good 48 months from the end of the relevant assessment year. But prudence would dictate that one should file within the normal deadline and make all disclosures properly.

Father's Day 2026: You could consider these financial gifts to light up his life

Father's Day is an occasion to remind how much you care for your dad. Apart from the customary flowers, chocolates and pens, perhaps you can consider buying the following gifts for him.

New Delhi.(Agency)

If it often said that before we achieve success in life, the father saw a dream. In fact, Father's Day is an occasion to offer a token to love for the person who has silently shaped most of us. Financial gifts can be an inconspicuous but effective gift expressing love and doing good to the person when they are reaching an advanced age. It can be anything from topping up a health insurance policy (which he is likely to need more as he

advances in age) to a mutual fund investment or a bank FD which will hand him a tidy sum in a few years. Let's have a look at the financial gifts that can make a real difference to his well being and financial security.

Health insurance policy



For a senior citizen, health concerns and healthcare expenditure is an unnerving proposition. Annual healthcare inflation has been reported at an incredible 14%. Therefore, you can always gift your father a health insurance policy. Or, more specifically,

you can top up his existing policy. Of if he is prone to certain critical illness, you can easily buy him a critical illness rider which will be of great significance to him. If you want to buy him a new insurance policy, you can do that too even if he has one health insurance policy. This can secure his mental peace more than you can imagine.

Fixed Deposit

Fixed deposits in banks are one of the instruments that almost all senior citizen has or has tremendous faith in. It is difficult to locate a senior citizen in this land who will shy away from a fixed deposit. You can buy an FD for your father with any amount that is not a tyranny on your pocket. Senior citizens get an additional interest for their deposits and you can also take advantage of this. You can transfer the amount in his account and then put it into an FD. It will only need a few clicks on your phone or computer.

Indian crude oil basket at 76.22, just 7.8% above pre-war level: What did the minister signal?

The Indian crude oil basket has dipped to \$76.22 per barrel as on June 18, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell data has revealed. Can Indians hope for a decline in retail prices of petrol and diesel too? One can read such hints from the petroleum minister.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The average price of crude oil that India is buying now is descending quickly and now stands less than \$6 away from the pre-war crude price levels. The quick descent is now increasingly fueling the question: can Indian expect a cut in the pump-level price of petrol and diesel in the coming weeks? Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said that if crude oil purchased at lower prices reaches Indian refineries,



consumers could benefit from it. "At present, companies have stocks of crude oil bought at higher prices. When crude purchased at lower prices reaches them, there is a possibility of a reduction in fuel prices," Puri told the media in Uttar Pradesh. He also remarked that retail fuel prices in the country have remained relatively stable despite the disruptions in global energy supply due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz following the

outbreak of hostilities between the US and Iran. The minister's indication is quite clear: as soon as the current stocks are exhausted, the new calculations based on the new lower prices could kick in.

Oil ministry data on Indian crude purchase

According to the PPAC figures, the Indian basket of crude oil has been declining rapidly over the past few weeks. As on June 18, it stood at \$76.22 per barrel

dipping from the \$78.66 level as on June 16. Compare the latest level against the pre-war rates. PPAC figures show that the Indian basket price line was \$70.70 per barrel on February 19. In other words, the average price at which India is buying crude oil in June is now just 7.8% higher than the pre-war levels. PPAC or Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell is a wing of the petroleum ministry.

Probable gains from a price cut

If a retail price cut happens, there can be significant economic gains. It can boost consumption, which can raise tax revenues for the exchequer. It can also fuel growth which has come under a cloud, thanks to higher energy prices. A higher growth rate could help employment generation. Lower fuel prices can directly cut inflation projections. It can help especially when higher food inflation on account of the El Nino effect and lower rainfall, is worrying the policymakers.

However, the government might also prioritise raising revenues which it sacrificed in the form of excise cuts of Rs 10 per litre on both petrol and diesel before the assembly elections in April.

Short news

AP leads digital education with Canva in govt schools

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

In a landmark step towards transforming public education through technology and creativity, Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in India to facilitate statewide access to Canva for Education for all government school students, teachers and education department officials through an official partnership between the School Education Department, Samagra Shiksha and Canva.

The initiative marks another major milestone in the NDA Government's mission to make AP a national leader in digital learning and future-ready education. The School Education Department and Samagra Shiksha have entered into a strategic partnership with Canva, the globally renowned designing platform, to provide free access to Canva for Education across government schools in the state.

Subject to technical feasibility, Canva will be integrated with the Government's flagship LEAP (Learning Excellence in AP) App, Google Workspace ecosystem and Chromebooks being deployed in schools. It will create a seamless digital learning while enhancing classroom engagement. The programme will also promote the responsible and effective use of AI tools, enabling educators to leverage emerging technologies while ensuring safe learning environments. HRD Minister Nara Lokesh said, "The future belongs to those who can think creatively, communicate effectively and leverage technology with confidence. Through this partnership, AP is empowering every government school student with access to world-class digital tools that were once available only to a privileged few.

KBG suspends civic official for poor standard of asphalt city road



BENGALURU.(Agency)

Days after pulling up officials for poor pothole filling and asphalt of city roads and questioning if the exercise was rocket science, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday suspended a civic official over poor road work.

On Saturday, after expressing doubts about the quality of asphalt work done in Sampangiramanagar, which falls under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC), Gowda directed the commissioner to inspect its quality.

Upon inspection, the commissioner found that the work was substandard. "I really hope I don't have to do this frequently. But if officers and contractors do not do their job fairly, I will be forced to do this. I urge them to do their jobs properly," Byre Gowda warned officials.

According to the BCCC suspension order, Assistant Engineer Poojarappa, who was supposed to be overseeing the asphalt works, was found to be in collusion with the contractors and failed to ensure correct proportion.

Heavy rain inundates roads in Whitefield, surroundings

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Several parts of Bengaluru witnessed heavy rain on Saturday, leaving roads waterlogged and, in some places, submerged under knee-deep water. Two-wheelers and cars parked along the roads were submerged.

Some of the vehicles that attempted to navigate the flooded roads broke down after rainwater entered their engines. Due to waterlogging, traffic was thrown out of gear in the affected areas.

The sudden downpour flooded the Sahakarnagar-GKV underpass, causing inconvenience to commuters. Roads in Whitefield, Gunjur, Varthur, Hagadur and neighbouring localities were inundated.

According to Varuna Mitra, Horamavu recorded the highest rainfall with 60.5 mm, followed by Hagaduru with 55.5mm of rain. Bagalakunte, Jakkuru, Shettihalli, Banasvadi, Vidyaranyapura, Kodigehalli, Manorayanapalya, HAL Airport, Kadugodi, Vishwanath Nagenahalli and Koramangala areas witnessed more than 20mm of rain.

Sharing a video of two-wheeler riders struggling to move their vehicles through a flooded stretch in Varthur, Janata Dal (Secular) criticised the state government, alleging that delays in the Varthuru Kodi stormwater drain project. The party said that the Congress government keeps chanting 'Brand Bengaluru' while fooling people by not addressing recurring flooding issues.

The party also questioned Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, asking who should be held for the disruption caused by just an hour of rain.

Nimbalkar case: Contradictions, missing evidence led to all eight acquittals

Mumbai.(Agency)

The prosecution's case in the murder of Congress leader Pavanraje Nimbalkar came undone on the testimony of its own star witness. Acquitting all eight accused on Saturday, a special CBI court found major contradictions in the accounts of approver Parasml Jain, saying these were not backed by independent evidence. The court also pointed to investigative gaps, including the failure to collect records that could have corroborated key parts of the alleged conspiracy.

The court said while the CBI's case hinged on the testimony of Parasml Jain, who was an accused in the case till 2019, the central agency decided to give a go-ahead to his plea seeking pardon, and turned him into an approver or a prosecution witness. This was after its own case, including all witnesses,

were closed with all evidence brought on record.

Jain had given two confessional statements, one after his arrest and one before the

For instance, the confession said he was present in the car with the shooters on June 3, 2006, while he also claimed he was in his native village in Rajasthan on the day.

In a separate instance, he made no mention of meeting former minister accused Padamsinh Patil during the planning of the conspiracy in the first statement, but while deposing in court, he said he had met him at his bungalow in the area at that time, but had a house in Colaba, also in South Mumbai. The court said it could not be possible that Jain made a mistake, despite being aware of the topography of the city.

The court said while Jain had claimed to have joined the other accused as he needed Rs 50,000 for medical assistance, he owned five flats around Mumbai, ran several businesses including jewellery shops and had owned 4.5 kg of gold in the form of capital.



chargesheet was filed in 2009. In 2019, his testimony was recorded as a witness. The court said there were several contradictions, modifications and embellishments in each of these.

When teachers leave class for election duty

Mumbai.(Agency)

Schools across Maharashtra reopened this week amid the fanfare of Praveshotsav, the state's annual programme to welcome students into a new academic year. But even before classrooms could settle into a routine, thousands of teachers were back on election duty. Across Mumbai, teachers are spending hours verifying voters, attending review meetings and following up on documents as part of the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. School administrators say the deployment has come at a time when schools are trying to get the new term on track. At Poorna Prajna School in Dahisar, 24 of the school's 34 teachers have been assigned Block Level Officer (BLO) duties.

"How am I supposed to operate the school in this situation? The orders state that teachers should perform this work after school hours, but eventually classes will suffer," said principal Arun Dubey.



Teachers say what was once an occasional election assignment has increasingly become a year-round responsibility. "Our primary responsibility is teaching, but BLO duty has become a continuous assignment," said Hemant Mashelkar, a teacher at Chogale Vidyalaya in Borivali. "When large numbers of teachers are engaged in non-teaching work, it affects students."

The issue has also reached the Bombay High Court, where unaided schools have challenged the deployment of teachers for BLO duty. Government and aided schools,

however, have little option but to comply. Teacher groups say resentment has grown further after FIRs were reportedly filed against teachers who failed to report for election work. The discontent has led to the formation of the BLO Duty Grievance Redressal Forum, which claims nearly 500 teaching and non-teaching staff members have joined it within a short span. Members argue that BLO duties routinely spill beyond school hours and into weekends.

Sangram Santode

As the dismissal bell rang at Matrubhumi Secondary School in Kandivali's Janupada, physical education teacher Sangram Santode gathered a stack of papers from the staff room and prepared for the second half of his workday.

Moments earlier, stick in hand, he had marshalled students into neat rows for the afternoon assembly. After the national anthem and state song, the children headed home. Santode did not.

Sabarimala to get AI-based crowd control system

KOCHI.(Agency)

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) will implement Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based pilgrim management system at the Sabarimala temple during the upcoming pilgrimage season, which begins mid-November.

The board organised a workshop in Kochi on Saturday, in which representatives of three AI firms from Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai demonstrated the functioning of the technology in managing the movement of pilgrims.

"We are discussing the scope of deploying AI cameras and drones in monitoring crowd movement. The AI system will provide real time data and predictive analysis regarding the movement of pilgrims at Sannidhanam, Pampa and Nilakal.

The system will analyse the crowd and forward messages to the police officers concerned. This will help ease pilgrim movement and avoid building up of crowd pressure," said

TDB president K Jayakumar. He said the system will also help spot children and elderly who get separated from their groups amid rush. "It will help avoid unscientific parking at Nilakkal and Pampa. The



system will also provide inputs to avoid waste accumulation and ensure safety of drinking water resources," he said.

DGP and Vigilance director Manoj Abraham, who also attended the session, said predictive analysis and real time data provided by the AI system will be helpful in providing suggestions to the police officers deployed along the trekking path to manage the crowd.

Face-recognition tech will help trace the missing?

"The system will incorporate high-resolution cameras, infrared cameras and drones to analyse the crowd movement," he said.

Pathanamthitta District Police Chief R Anand said the AI system with face-recognition technology will assist in tracing missing pilgrims and identifying the presence of anti-social elements.

"We will hold another round of discussion with the police before inviting Expression of Interest for implementation of the project. An expert committee will analyse the technological aspects of the project before awarding the work order.

We have only 150 days left for the commencement of the pilgrim season. So we are planning to complete the procedure by August 10, so that the selected agency gets 90 to 100 days to implement the first phase of the project before the temple opens for the pilgrim season," said Jayakumar.

TN Farmers oppose tribunal plan in Mekedatu issue, threaten stir

NAGAPATTINAM.(Agency)

A day after the Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution against Karnataka government's plan to build a dam at Mekedatu, delta farmers on Saturday opposed a provision in the resolution that proposed for the constitution of a new tribunal to adjudicate the dispute. The resolution in the Cauvery dispute was moved by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and was unanimously adopted by the House on Friday.

Farmers' associations on Saturday said the tribunal proposal could dilute the TN's existing rights under Cauvery water award and Supreme Court judgments. While welcoming the resolution urging the centre not to permit the dam project, leaders of various farmers' organisations in Thanjavur including Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam and the Cauvery Rights Retrieval Committee argued that a new tribunal was unnecessary as the existing Cauvery Tribunal award and directives of the Cauvery Water Management Authority remain in force.

Farmers threaten to burn Mekedatu resolution copies on June 27

The farmers demanded that the TVK government withdraw this particular provision in the resolution. They also asked the state government to drop the proposal to form a new tribunal to address the Mekedatu dispute and warned that copies of the resolution would be burnt in protest on June 27 if the proposal was not dropped. Also, in this regard, farmers in Nagapattinam staged a black-flag protest in agricultural fields near Magizhi village close to Thirupondi.

Vizag Reads turns Central Park into a quiet haven for book lovers every weekend

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

Dozens of readers carrying novels, biographies, newspapers and academic texts gather at Central Park every Saturday evening, turning a section of the park into an open-air reading room. The weekly gathering is part of Vizag Reads, a silent reading community that has steadily grown in Visakhapatnam over the past three years.

Founded on June 18, 2023 by Shireen Meher, Vizag Reads began as an attempt to create a simple space where people could come together around a shared interest. Three years later, it has evolved into a community that many participants describe as a place for connection,



friendship and a break from pace of everyday life.

Speaking to, Shireen Meher said the idea emerged after she returned to Visakhapatnam following several years in Bengaluru, where she had worked in

corporate roles, including at Amazon. During that time, she noticed the growing popularity of communities built around interests such as reading, sketching and other creative pursuits in different cities across the country.

"Visakhapatnam did not have many active communities. After school and college, it becomes difficult to meet people regularly because friends move away for work or studies. I always wanted to build a community where people could come together around a shared interest," she said. The concept itself was adopted from similar reading communities operating elsewhere. Meher and a few friends adapted the idea to suit Visakhapatnam and launched the city's

own chapter. The response surprised them. While the organisers expected only a handful of participants at the inaugural session, around 25 people attended. Since then, the community has continued to meet every Saturday from 4 pm to 6 pm at Central Park, drawing between 30 and 40 participants on a typical weekend. Larger gatherings have attracted up to 80 or 90 people. What sets Vizag Reads apart is its simplicity. Participants arrive with their own books, find a place to sit and spend two hours reading in silence. There are no prescribed reading lists, formal discussions or book reviews. The focus remains on creating an uninterrupted space for reading. Meher said the format was designed to offer.

NEWS BOX

Neeraj Chopra not surprised by Sri Lankan Rumesh Pathirage's rapid rise

New Delhi. (Agency)

Two-time Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra insisted he was far from surprised by the steady ascent of Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage, the 23-year-old Sri Lankan prodigy who has captured the athletics world's attention with a string of staggering performances this season. Speaking at the inaugural edition of the Indian Athletics Awards in New Delhi on Saturday, Chopra expressed his delight at the emergence of a fierce South Asian rivalry in a discipline long dominated by Europeans.

Chopra's comments arrived a mere day after Pathirage clinched victory at the Doha Diamond League with a superb best effort of 88.68m on Friday. The Sri Lankan outperformed an elite field that included Chopra himself, who registered 85.69m in what was his highly anticipated return from a lengthy injury layoff.

Pathirage was virtually an unknown entity last year when Chopra personally invited him to the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic. While the Sri Lankan turned heads by finishing third at that event, he has elevated his game to an entirely different stratosphere this season. Pathirage opened his 2026 campaign with a couple of effortless 89-metre-plus throws before unleashing a monstrous 92.62m at the Rome Diamond League, becoming only the fourth Asian in history to breach the elusive 90m barrier. In doing so, he missed Arshad Nadeem's continental record of 92.94m by a mere whisker.

"Rumesh is very talented. I met him last year. I thought he would throw well. I met him again. I felt very good," Chopra said when asked about the rising star.

Incidentally, it was Chopra who had coaxed a reluctant Pathirage out of his shell last year, predicting regular podium finishes for the Sri Lankan when the latter hesitated to speak in English during the post-event press conference at the NC Classic.

Replicating the very consistency he long idolised in Chopra, Pathirage has already thrown in excess of 88 metres as many as four times this year.

With Pathirage making an indelible mark and Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem remaining a perennial threat, the global javelin landscape is reshaping into a captivating three-way tussle: India vs Pakistan vs Sri Lanka. Throw in Grenada's two-time world champion Anderson Peters, reigning Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago, and Kenya's Julius Yego, and the men's javelin field for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow promises to be an absolute blockbuster.

FIFA World Cup: Brazil to keep faith in Raphinha despite latest injury setback

New Delhi. (Agency)

Brazil are set to keep their faith in forward Raphinha despite the Barcelona man suffering a hamstring injury during Selecao's 3-0 win over Haiti. The victory on Friday, June 20, came at a cost as Raphinha hobbled off before half-time with another thigh problem. Brazil, however, remains optimistic that he will stay with the squad and recover in time to feature later in the World Cup. The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) announced on Saturday that the winger had picked up a muscle injury but did not specify how long he is expected to be sidelined.

"On Saturday, Raphinha underwent an imaging exam that confirmed a muscle injury in the back of his right thigh," the CBF said in a statement. "The player will follow an intensive treatment protocol, monitored by the Brazilian national team's medical staff, with the aim of facilitating his recovery and return to action as soon as possible."

The latest setback marks Raphinha's fourth hamstring injury in the last 12 months. The Barcelona winger also missed 23 matches for his club last season, while a hamstring issue sustained during Brazil's March friendly against France kept him out for over a month. The Brazil players have shown their unity towards Raphinha by rallying around him and hoping for him to make a comeback later on in the tournament.

"He's a little downcast; we hope it's nothing too serious, that it's the least worst-case scenario, because he's a very important player, and we rely on him a lot," Paqueta told reporters.

Brazil used Rayan to replace Raphinha during the second half against Haiti. The setback for Raphinha comes on the back of Neymar's injury issues, which has seen the Brazil superstar miss the first two matches of the competition.

Brazil will round off their Group C campaign against Scotland in Miami on Wednesday. The five-time champions sit atop the standings with four points, edging Morocco on goal difference, while Scotland are third with three points and Haiti are already out after back-to-back defeats.

IND vs ENG: Virat Kohli's selection subject to fitness as BCCI announces ODI squad

India tour of England: Former captain Virat Kohli has been included in the 15-man squad, subject to him clearing a fitness test. Kohli missed the recently-concluded series against Afghanistan due to an injury sustained during the IPL 2026 final.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced a 15-man squad for the ODI series in England in July, picking Virat Kohli, subject to him clearing a fitness test later this month. Shubman Gill will lead the squad, which features the return of Jasprit Bumrah and Axar Patel. India will play three ODIs against England from July 14 to 19.

Virat Kohli, sources told India Today, is progressing well in his recovery from the hamstring injury he sustained during the IPL 2026 final. He was assessed by the BCCI medical team in London and has been given a programme to continue the initial

phase of his rehabilitation. He will report to the CoE on June 22, 2026, for re-evaluation, further planning and subsequent clearance.

NO JAISWAL, NO HARDIK

Kohli missed the recently concluded three-match series against Afghanistan, which India swept 3-0. In his absence, Yashasvi Jaiswal got an opportunity, and the young left-hander made the most of it, hitting a hundred in the series decider in Chennai on Saturday, June 20. However, Yashasvi finds no place in the 15-man ODI squad for the tour of England.

As reported by India Today, Hardik Pandya was not picked for the ODI tour as he continues to recover from injury setbacks. The all-rounder, who struggled to remain fully fit during IPL 2026, suffered a quadriceps strain during training at the BCCI Centre of Excellence earlier this month.

In his absence, Nitish Kumar Reddy will

continue to hold his spot as the frontline fast-bowling all-rounder. Shreyas Iyer retains his place as vice-captain, while captain Shubman Gill is likely to return to the top of the batting order after vacating the opening slot to accommodate Jaiswal

Jasprit Bumrah, who was rested for the Afghanistan ODIs and the T20I leg of the UK tour (three T20Is against Ireland and five against England), will return to the ODI set-up. The move aligns with chief selector Ajit Agarkar's view of having Bumrah play

Test cricket and focus on ODIs in the lead-up to the 2027 World Cup. Bumrah will have a full-strength pace attack at his disposal, featuring Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana and newcomer Gunnoor Brar, who impressed with seven wickets in his maiden ODI series against Afghanistan. Prince Yadav, who made his debut against Afghanistan, has been left out.

Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Axar Patel, who was not picked for the Afghanistan ODI series, returns to the squad. Axar has been preferred ahead of Ravindra Jadeja. It remains to be seen whether the Rajasthan Royals all-rounder is still part of the selectors' plans for the 2027 World Cup, despite being the first-choice spin.

A World Cup a year: How cricket lost the soul football managed to save

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

In the early summer of 2003, a 10-year-old boy in Chennai performed a ritual that would feel almost alien in today's digital age. He did not download an app or forward a link. Instead, he waited for the local newspaper to publish the full fixture list for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in South Africa, walked to a neighbourhood photocopy shop, and printed dozens of copies. Over the next two days, he distributed those schedules to schoolmates, neighbours and their parents. To miss a single match was to risk being excluded from a four-year cultural conversation. The tournament was not merely an event. It was an epoch.

At the time, cricket and football shared the same psychological currency: anticipation. Fans spent years revisiting old triumphs, reliving heartbreaks and watching national teams slowly rebuild. Because the World Cup was rare, it felt sacred. Its arrival altered routines, conversations and expectations.

That feeling remains alive in football. Earlier this month, towns across Kerala, alongside traditional football strongholds such as Kolkata and the northeast, once again transformed themselves for the FIFA World Cup. Giant cut-outs of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Cristiano Ronaldo rose above roads and rooftops. Homes were painted in the colours of Argentina and Portugal.

A tournament taking place thousands of kilometres away had once again captured the imagination of a country that had not even qualified, probably that will not qualify in the next decade.

The hunger was visible because fans had spent four years waiting.

On the other hand, cricket operates a very different machine. The television screens rarely go dark and the promotional drums never stop beating.

One year brings a Champions Trophy. The next brings a T20 World Cup. Layer onto that the World Test Championship, women's tournaments and age-group global events, and a striking reality emerges: cricket now stages a major international event almost every year.

On paper, this should be a golden age. Revenues are soaring, streaming records are regularly broken and ICC events continue to attract enormous audiences.

Yet beneath the commercial success lies a quieter question. If fans are still watching in record numbers, why do so many feel that something has been lost?

No place for Yashasvi Jaiswal in ODI squad, Varun Chakravarthy ruled of Ireland T20Is

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Less than 24 hours after celebrating his second ODI century for India, Yashasvi Jaiswal was dealt a major setback as the opener was left out of the squad for the upcoming ODI series against England. Meanwhile, India also suffered an injury concern with star spinner Varun Chakravarthy being ruled out of the T20I series against Ireland due to failing to recover from a left foot injury.

Jaiswal had appeared to strengthen his case for a regular spot in India's ODI setup after scoring a brilliant 110 in the third and final ODI against Afghanistan. Drafted into the side as a replacement for Virat Kohli, who missed the series with a hamstring injury, the left-hander featured in two matches and scored 114 runs, with his match-winning century highlighting his growing credentials in the format.

However, the return of Kohli has once again pushed Jaiswal out of India's ODI plans. The Board of Control for Cricket in India



(BCCI) announced the squad for the England series on Sunday, June 21, with Kohli included subject to fitness clearance. With India beginning to shape their core group for the 2027 ODI World Cup, competition for places remains fierce, and Jaiswal has found himself on the wrong side of selection despite impressive returns.

The omission continues a frustrating trend for the young opener, who has established himself as a key figure in India's Test setup but is yet to cement a place in the limited-overs sides. Earlier this year, he also missed out on selection for India's T20 World Cup-

winning squad.

Despite playing only six ODIs, Jaiswal has already accumulated 285 runs at an average of 71.25. His tally includes two centuries, underlining the impact he has made whenever opportunities have come his way. Yet with established stars returning and India's selectors prioritising stability ahead of a busy international calendar, he will have to wait for another chance.

VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY RULED OUT

While Jaiswal's exclusion grabbed headlines, India were also forced to make note of a significant injury update concerning Varun Chakravarthy. The ICC's No. 2-ranked T20I bowler has been ruled out of the upcoming two-match T20I series against Ireland after failing to recover from a left foot injury sustained during IPL 2026. The series is scheduled to begin on June 26, but Chakravarthy will remain at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence as he completes his rehabilitation. Prince Yadav has been announced as his replacement.

First Asian team to score four at World Cup as Japan beat Tunisia on historic night

New Delhi. (Agency)

'Asian giants Japan delivered a commanding 4-0 victory over Tunisia in the 1,000th match in FIFA World Cup history on Saturday, June 20, at the Stadio Monterrey, Mexico, moving to the brink of qualification for the knockout stages. The result also confirmed Tunisia as the third team to be eliminated from the World Cup after suffering a second consecutive defeat in Group F.

The landmark occasion carried extra weight, marking nearly a century since the first FIFA World Cup match was played 96 years ago on July 13, 1930. With FIFA president Gianni Infantino among the dignitaries in attendance, the stage was set for a historic night in global football. Japan ensured it became memorable for all the



right reasons with a performance defined by intensity, control, and clinical finishing. The game began at a frantic pace, and Japan wasted no time asserting dominance. Within four minutes, Daichi Kamada opened the scoring, reacting quickest inside the box to bundle home Keito Nakamura's low cross from close

range. The early goal immediately put Tunisia on the back foot, forcing them into a reactive shape as Japan dictated the tempo.

Tunisia struggled to settle into any rhythm, and their defensive structure quickly began to unravel under sustained pressure. Japan almost doubled their lead soon after, with the ball just creeping past the line—only to replays show it not crossing, out by the narrowest of margins. However, Japan capitalised again in the 30th minute when Ayase Ueda doubled their lead. Picking up possession just outside the box, Ueda unleashed a fierce low drive that flew into the far corner, leaving the Tunisian goalkeeper with no chance. By this stage, Japan were fully in control, pressing high and moving the ball with confidence, while Tunisia.

Eloy Room demands a statue in Curacao after making Tim Howard sweat, Ecuador weep

New Delhi. (Agency)

There is a distinct brand of madness reserved exclusively for goalkeepers who survive a siege. It is a mix of sensory overload and pure, unadulterated defiance, usually vocalised in the immediate aftermath when the heart rate refuses to drop. For Eloy Room, standing in the tunnel at Kansas City after single-handedly dismantling Ecuador's FIFA World Cup 2026 ambitions, that adrenaline manifested as pure comedy. "I think I need a statue in Curacao now," Room beamed. Given the geography of the Caribbean island, they should probably carve it out of coral reef and place it on the shores of Willemstad, facing south to permanently block incoming traffic.

What Room achieved in 90 minutes of harrowing, relentless resistance was the defining individual masterpiece of this



tournament. Ecuador did everything but walk the ball into the net. They unleashed 27 shots, forced 15 official saves, and accumulated an expected goals metric that suggested a rout. Instead, they ran into a 37-year-old veteran playing the game of his life, rewriting the history books for the smallest nation ever to grace football's grandest stage. Yet, even amidst the euphoria of a maiden World Cup point, a staggering recovery from

their opening 7-1 humiliation against Germany, Room couldn't help but look at the stat sheet with a striker's competitive spite. He finished with 15 saves, agonisingly close to the ultimate modern benchmark. While some early tallies suggested a share of history, FIFA's official archives kept Tim Howard's 16-save epic against Belgium in 2014 safely on its pedestal.

"A little bit annoyed that I don't have the record from Tim Howard," Room quipped, a wry smile cutting through the fatigue of his post-match press conference.

"But I think he was sweating in front of the TV because I was close." It was a brilliant punline to cap a serious piece of sporting history. Howard, famously, required 120 minutes of extra-time chaos to construct his fortress in Salvador. Room built his in ninety minutes of regular time, a compressed blitz of reflex stops, point-blank denials, and

commanding aerial claims.

INSANE MEMORY

Naturally, once the humour settled, the standard custodian's humility returned. "It's going to be an insane memory," Room reflected.

"You don't think about it when you do it, but, of course, it's going to be something you look back to. For me as a goalkeeper, this is almost a perfect game... It's unbelievable.

And I cannot do it alone. I did it with the team. "The tactical texture of the match only deepens the absurdity of the result. Played in a partisan Kansas City Stadium swallowed by a sea of Ecuadorian yellow, the contest quickly devolved into a frantic shooting gallery. Dick Advocaat's side entered the pitch with their confidence completely shattered from the Germany thrashing, yet Room set the tone in the 3rd minute by brilliantly denying Enner Valencia in a one-on-one.



Shraddha Kapoor's

Brother Siddhanth Gets Emotional After Watching Eetha Teaser: 'My Jaan Sister...'

Actor Shraddha Kapoor's upcoming film Eetha's teaser has been attached to the Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, and Kriti Sanon starrer Cocktail 2. While the teaser has not dropped online yet, it has been garnering quite a lot of praise from those who have watched it. Fans are hailing Kapoor's acting skills and range in the film, and among the many praising the teaser is her own brother, actor Siddhanth Kapoor. Taking to social media, Siddhanth praised his sister's work, building up the excitement around the film. On Friday, hours after the Eetha teaser was attached to the theatrical release of Cocktail 2, Siddhanth shared a post on his Instagram story and penned, "My jaan sister, I have tears of gratitude." His heartfelt post came shortly after audiences got to see Shraddha Kapoor in a never-before-seen avatar.

The teaser of Eetha

The Eetha teaser highlights one of the most remarkable chapters from the life of legendary lavani artist Vithabai Narayangaonkar. Shraddha Kapoor slips effortlessly into the role from the very first frame, capturing the strength and resilience of the iconic performer. The teaser shows Vithabai heavily pregnant yet continuing to command the stage with unwavering dedication. In a dramatic turn of events, she realizes during a performance that she is about to give birth. Determined not to abandon the show midway, she remains composed and heads backstage, where she delivers her baby. In an extraordinary display of grit, Vithabai cuts the umbilical cord with a stone and returns to the stage to complete her performance. Her courage and commitment leave the audience in awe, earning their admiration and applause.

More about Eetha and Shraddha Kapoor

Eetha promises to showcase Shraddha Kapoor in one of her most intense and performance-driven roles to date. The actress, who last appeared in Stree 2: Sarkate Ka Aatank (2024), has been selective with her recent projects, focusing on scripts that allow her to explore diverse characters.



Sonam Kapoor's Sister Rhea Anil Kapoor's Earrings Worth Rs 1.35 Crore Stolen



Bollywood fashionista Sonam Kapoor's filmmaker-stylist sister Rhea Kapoor's diamond-studded earrings worth Rs. 1.35 crore were reportedly stolen from her makeup artist's handbag. As per the Mumbai Police, the jewellery, rented from two Mumbai-based jewellers for a high-profile fashion event, was discovered missing after the team reached New York. A case has been registered against an unidentified person at Mumbai's Sahar Police Station.

Mumbai's Sahar Police Station has registered a case against an unknown person under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and launched an investigation.

Renowned makeup artist Savleen Singh has been working with Rhea Kapoor for the past seven years. Rhea had been invited to attend the "Met Gala" fashion event in New York on April 29, and her entire team was travelling with her. For the event, two pairs of expensive earrings were rented from Mehta Jewellers and Goenka Jewellers in Mumbai. Savleen Singh carried both jewellery boxes in her handbag.

The team began its journey on April 27 at 10:25 PM on an Emirates flight from Mumbai to Dubai, and then onward to New York. On the evening of April 28, at around 5:30 PM, the team arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport and later checked into The Pierre Hotel in New York, as per the Mumbai Police.

When the make-up artist opened the jewellery boxes in her hotel room to hand over the earrings to a team member named Shireen, she discovered that both boxes were empty. The missing jewellery included emerald-stone diamond gold earrings from Mehta Jewellers worth ₹66 lakh and Zambian emerald-stone gold-bordered earrings from Goenka Jewellers worth ₹69 lakh, bringing the total value of the stolen earrings to Rs. 1.35 crore. After returning to Mumbai, Savleen Singh filed a complaint at Sahar Police Station. Police subsequently registered an FIR under Section 303(2) of the BNS for theft.

Bobby Deol 'Excited' For Sunny Deol's Ramayana, Lauds 'Very Big Budget' Of Ranbir Kapoor's Film



Bobby Deol is excited to see brother Sunny Deol in one of the most awaited movies, Ramayana. The Gadar actor will be seen playing the role of Hanuman in the Nitesh Tiwari directorial. In a recent interview, Bobby expressed excitement for the project and also appreciated the makers for putting in a massive budget in the film's making. "Everybody is excited about Ramayana. I mean, we've all grown up with Ramayana, you know. So it's amazing that someone is going with a very big budget to bring it to audiences around the world," Bobby Deol told Zoom. When the interviewer said "it will be fascinating thing to watch," Bobby agreed by saying, "Yeah, it will be."

What Is Ramayana's Budget?

One of the biggest reasons behind the excitement is the film's reported massive budget. Ramayana is being mounted on a grand scale with heavy investment in VFX, action sequences and world-building. Earlier this year, the producer of the film, Namit Malhotra, left everyone shocked when he confirmed that the production cost for both parts combined is a staggering Rs 4,000 crore.

Who Is Playing What In Ramayana?

While Yash is playing the role of Ravan in Ramayana, Ranbir Kapoor will be seen essaying lord Ram and Sai Pallavi as Goddess Sita in Ramayana. Ravie Dubey will also play the role of Lakshman. On the other hand, Kajal Aggarwal and Rakul Preet Singh will be seen as Mandodari and Surpanakha. Arun Govil, Kunal Kapoor, Adinath Kothare, Sheeba Chaddha, and Indira Krishnan are also part of this project.

Ramayana First Teaser Out

The first teaser of Ramayana was released on April 2, on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti. The teaser of Nitesh Tiwari's directorial unveiled Ranbir Kapoor's looks as lord Ram and marked an important moment as the timeless epic is presented to a global audience. However, it has also received mixed reviews from the audience. A section of viewers expressed disappointment with the VFXs and called the teaser disappointing.



Kubbra Sait

Opens Up About Living With ADHD: 'It's Exhausting, Chaotic, But A Superpower'

Kubbra Sait has opened up about living with ADHD in a candid new video, sparking an important conversation around mental health and neurodiversity. Known for her sharp wit and unfiltered honesty, the actor reflected on the signs she noticed while growing up and how she was often labelled as "dramatic" and "distracted" before she understood what was actually happening.

In the video, Kubbra spoke about how her mind would often drift into elaborate imaginary worlds even when she was expected to focus on everyday tasks. With humour and vulnerability, she described how her ADHD shaped the way she thought, created, remembered and responded to the world.

Kubbra Sait Opens Up About Growing Up With ADHD

Kubbra recalled that while growing up, she was often told that she was too distracted or dramatic. She said, "Growing up I was told three things, Kubbra, you're dramatic, you're distracted, can you please pay attention? While everyone else was in Maths class solving problems, I was plotting a murder mystery, rehearsing my Filmfare speech,

imagining my future husband fighting with my mother, and rescuing three stray cats in my head before lunch."

The actor's humorous yet deeply personal reflection resonated with many who have experienced similar patterns of distraction, hyper-imagination or difficulty focusing in structured environments. Through the video, Kubbra highlighted how people with ADHD are often misunderstood, especially during childhood, when their behaviour may be



dismissed as laziness, carelessness or attention-seeking.

Kubbra Sait Says Everything Made Sense After ADHD Diagnosis

Kubbra shared that it was only as an adult that she discovered she had ADHD. The diagnosis, she said, helped her make sense of several patterns in her life, from unfinished projects to intense phases of hyperfocus.



NEWS BOX

JD Vance reaches Switzerland for high-stakes US-Iran nuclear talks

Zurich. (Agency)

US Vice President JD Vance arrived in Switzerland on Sunday to formally launch talks with Iranian leaders on curbing Tehran's nuclear programme and expanding a fragile interim deal aimed at ending the war in Iran. The framework was signed last week, and top US and Iranian negotiators now have 60 days to agree on the technical details, with major implications for the world economy and global security.

The first days of that period have already been complicated by heavy exchanges of fire in Lebanon between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, and by Iran's announcement that it had closed the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which a fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas passes. US Central Command disputed Iran's claim and said US forces were continuing to monitor the situation to ensure traffic keeps moving through the strait. Vance had originally been due to arrive at the Bregenz resort near Lucerne on Friday, but his departure from the United States was delayed after fighting escalated in Lebanon and Iranian officials cancelled plans to attend the talks. He left the US shortly after Iranian state television said Tehran's negotiators had reached Switzerland. Iran's team includes parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, along with central bank and oil officials. Vance joins special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, who were already in Switzerland to begin work on the technical details of the nuclear talks. The talks will also include Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, along with Qatari mediators. Vance said he planned to stay in Switzerland for just "a day or two", leaving much of the detailed negotiations to Witkoff and Kushner.

His role in the talks has drawn greater attention at a time when he is actively considering a 2028 presidential campaign. Trump and Vance have faced sharp criticism from parts of their own party over the deal, with Republican hardliners comparing it unfavourably to the nuclear agreement signed.

Gaza health officials say Israeli strikes kill 11

GAZA. (Agency)

Gaza health officials said Israeli strikes on Saturday killed at least 11 people, including four members of the same family, in the latest violence to rock the Palestinian territory despite a ceasefire. Israel and Hamas trade near-daily accusations of truce violations and the Gaza Strip remains gripped by bloodshed as progress on permanently ending the war remains stalled.

An overnight Israeli airstrike on an apartment building in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City killed four members of the Al-Safadi family, including the husband, wife and their two daughters, according to the civil defence agency, a rescue service that operates under Hamas authority. It said the strike also injured 12 others. Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital confirmed receiving the bodies of four members of the Safadi family, including two children.

"Around 2 o'clock, my cousins were asleep when a missile struck them. They have no connection to Hamas, nor are they involved in anything. They're just innocent children," said Nael al-Safadi, a relative. AFP footage from the scene showed an exterior wall of the apartment blown off, exposing rubble, clothes, mattresses and other household belongings strewn across the shattered interior.

"By God, I still feel as though I'm in a dream -- I never expected this to happen to us," Mohammad al-Safadi, who survived the strike, told AFP.

His role in the talks has drawn greater attention at a time when he is actively considering a 2028 presidential campaign. Trump and Vance have faced sharp criticism from parts of their own party over the deal, with Republican hardliners comparing it unfavourably to the nuclear agreement signed.

Canada's new anti-hate law may curb pro-Khalistan protests outside temples

World (Agency)

The Canadian Government has enacted a law to combat hate crimes targeting identifiable groups, including those based on religion, by countering hate propaganda and introducing stricter measures against those who prevent access to places of worship or intimidate devotees.

The Combating Hate Act (Bill C-9) received Royal Assent and will come into force on July 18. The legislation is likely to help address the issue of pro-Khalistan groups protesting outside temples in recent years and displaying overt symbols of the movement, including images of terrorists.

The move comes amid rising concerns over antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia and transphobia, which have left many people feeling unsafe in their own communities.

The new protections make it a crime to intimidate or obstruct people from accessing places where communities gather, including places of worship, schools and community centres.

The law also strengthens provisions in the Criminal Code dealing with hate motivated crime and the public display of certain terrorism and hate symbols. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, said, "As hate continues to rise in Canada, communities have been calling for stronger protections against hate crimes. Those protections are now law. We've seen synagogues struck by gunfire, places of worship vandalised or burned, and people being targeted in their own communities. That is unacceptable. We cannot allow that kind of hate to become normal in Canada."

JD Vance arrives in Switzerland for talks with Iran as ceasefire hangs by thread

World . (Agency)

Negotiators from the United States and Iran are set to begin peace talks in Switzerland on Sunday. The Iranian delegation is already in the country, and US Vice President JD Vance has arrived, even as Washington and Tehran remain at odds over Iran's claim that it has closed the Strait of Hormuz.

Vance arrived in Switzerland a day after a high-level delegation from Iran landed in Switzerland for discussions over the peace memorandum that aims to bring stability in the conflict-torn West Asia region.

The negotiations come amid fresh uncertainty over the strategic waterway. Although the United States and Iran agreed to a 60-day ceasefire to facilitate talks, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) declared the Strait of Hormuz closed on Saturday. The US

military, however, said commercial shipping continued to move through the passage.

The dispute threatens to complicate efforts to advance an interim agreement brokered by Pakistan and signed on Wednesday by US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, aimed at ending nearly four months of conflict.

HORMUZ DISPUTE RAISES STAKES

Citing what it described as Israeli "crimes" in Lebanon and alleged US failure to uphold ceasefire commitments, the IRGC warned vessels against approaching the strait, a critical artery for global oil and gas supplies. US Central Command countered that 55 merchant ships carrying more than 17 million barrels of oil and other cargo transited the waterway on Saturday and said American forces would



ensure the continued flow of commercial traffic. The Iranian delegation is led by chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and includes Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, along with senior security, central bank and oil officials. The U.S. team includes Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and presidential adviser Jared Kushner.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tehran would use the talks to press for implementation of

commitments under the agreement, pointing to what he described as a history of the other side failing to honour its obligations.

Vance, meanwhile, said he remained confident the ceasefire would hold and that he had seen no evidence the Strait of Hormuz had actually been closed.

The US vice president left for Switzerland shortly after 4 p.m. ET on Saturday and said negotiators were likely to hold a "couple days of talks."

"I think we're going to hopefully make progress on the nuclear issue, make progress on the Lebanon ceasefire issue," Vance told reporters before boarding his flight.

FRAGILE LEBANON CEASEFIRE

A halt to fighting in Lebanon was one of the key conditions for launching the US-Iran talks on Tehran's nuclear programme and other issues.

Trump floats US Hormuz tolls if Iran deal fails, cites 'Guardian Angel' role

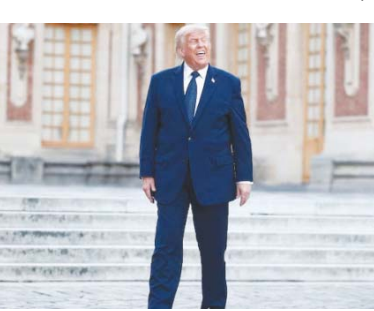
World . (Agency)

US President Donald Trump said no tolls will be charged for ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz during the 60-day ceasefire period. He, however, left open the possibility of a Hormuz toll levied by the United States "for services rendered as the Guardian Angel to the countries of the Middle East" if a peace deal is not completed.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said that no tolls would be imposed after the period ends unless the United States chooses to levy them if a broader deal is not completed, citing America's role as a "Guardian Angel" for Middle East countries.

"There will be NO TOLLS in the

Hormuz Strait for 60 days during the Cease Fire Period, and there will be NO TOLLS after the 60 day period has expired, unless they are imposed by and for the United States of America,



should the deal not be completed, for services rendered as the Guardian Angel to the countries of the Middle East for purposes of both past, present,

and future reimbursement of costs," he wrote in a social media post on Truth Social.

The US President, however, did not react to reports of Iran's claims that it had closed the Strait of Hormuz over alleged Israeli violations of the Lebanon ceasefire.

IRAN DECLARES HORMUZ CLOSED

Despite a 60-day ceasefire agreed by Washington and Tehran to facilitate negotiations, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Saturday declared the Strait of Hormuz closed, escalating tensions just days after an interim agreement

brokered by Pakistan was signed by Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to end nearly four months of conflict.

Massive Los Angeles warehouse fire triggers emergency; toxic smoke sparks health fears

World . (Agency)

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass declared an emergency Saturday to ensure the city gets the resources it needs to fight a large warehouse fire that has sent large plumes of smoke into the air.

"The city and county have opened spaces for families seeking relief from the smoke, and we will continue working around the clock and doing everything possible to put this fire out completely," Bass said in a news release announcing the emergency declaration.

The fire at a privately owned cold-storage warehouse in the city's Boyle Heights neighborhood started Wednesday, prompting shelter-in-place orders in the area because of the risk of hazardous air.



Residents were told to close all windows, doors and vents, turn off air conditioning and bring people and pets to an inside room.

Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Jaime Moore said in a news conference that they have taken care of the hazardous materials portion of the blaze and now they are working on the biohazard challenges. "We have 85 million pounds of frozen food inside of this facility and the way the building has been laid out, it's very difficult for us to get in there because there's zero visibility inside," Moore said. "Our firefighters are not able to just go in there and start moving pallets."

The mayor's declaration asks for recovery help under the California Disaster Assistance Act. She also asked the state to expedite access to resources and other relief programs.

Bass said their chief concern is for the health and safety of the people impacted by the fire, so they are trying to secure the help needed to move the toxic materials away from the area and dispose of them in a way that will avert a major environmental disaster. "So this is about prevention," she said. "This is about protecting your public health."

US Vice President JD Vance arrives in Switzerland to launch talks with Iran on its nuclear program

World. (Agency)

US Vice President JD Vance landed Sunday in Switzerland to help formally launch negotiations with Iranian leaders over curbing Tehran's nuclear program and building out the fragile interim deal to end the war in Iran.

Vance and his wife, second lady Usha Vance, arrived at Emmen Air Base outside Lucerne at just before 6 am local time, according to his office.

The framework was signed last week, and now top US and Iran negotiators are in a 60-day sprint to reach agreement on the technical details that hold massive implications for the world economy and global security.

Yet the first days of that two-month period were complicated by the heavy exchange of fire in Lebanon between Israel and the Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah — and by the subsequent announcement by Iran's military that it had closed the Strait of Hormuz, the vital waterway that transits a fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas.

Vance had originally been slated to be on the ground at the picturesque Bürgenstock resort near Lucerne on Friday, but his departure from the United States was delayed after fighting escalated in Lebanon and Iranian officials canceled plans to



attend the talks.

US Central Command disputed Iran's claim that it had once again shuttered the strait and said US forces continued to monitor the situation to ensure traffic continues to flow through the waterway. Vance has said that millions of barrels of oil have moved through the strait in recent days.

Vance departed the US just after Iranian

state TV said Iran's negotiators had arrived in Switzerland. Tehran's negotiators include parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, along with central bank and oil officials.

The US vice president joins special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, who have already been on the ground to begin sifting through the technical details of the nuclear talks.

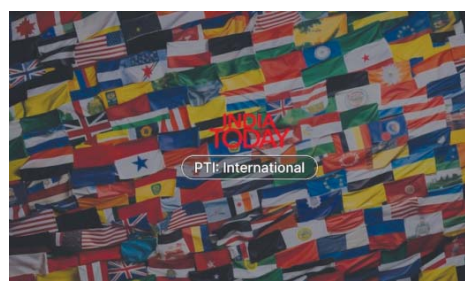
The talks between US and Iran will also include Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, as well as Qatari mediators.

While Vance said he planned to be in Switzerland for just "a day or two," leaving much of the detailed negotiations to be spearheaded by Witkoff and Kushner, his role in the talks has heightened the scrutiny of the vice president at a time when he's actively considering a 2028 presidential campaign.

US-Iran talks open in Switzerland as Hormuz tensions test interim deal

Tyre .(Agency)

US and Iranian negotiators headed to Switzerland on Saturday for talks on adding key details to their interim agreement aimed at halting the war, even as fresh tensions threatened to complicate the process. Hours earlier, Tehran said it had closed the Strait of Hormuz because of Israel's attacks in Lebanon and warned that little might be achieved if the fighting did not stop. The announcements pointed to a difficult start to the technical-level talks, which key mediator Pakistan said will begin on Sunday with Qatari mediators also taking part. The interim deal signed earlier this week by US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian gives negotiators 60 days to reach a nuclear agreement, while also seeking to stop fighting on all fronts, including Lebanon. Trump responded to



Iran's move with a fresh threat to impose American tolls in the crucial waterway if a final deal with Iran is not reached in 60 days, saying the money would be for "services rendered as the Guardian Angel to the countries of the Middle East". The agreement currently calls for toll-free travel for 60 days.

US Vice President J D Vance left for Switzerland on Saturday evening, as Iranian state TV posted a video showing

Iran's negotiators arriving there. The Iranian team is led by parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and includes Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi as well as central bank and oil officials. The deal also calls for billions of dollars of Iran's assets to be unfrozen.

Talks had been due to start on Friday, but Iran cancelled plans to attend because of escalating fighting in Lebanon. According to US and regional officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment publicly, negotiators for the US and Qatar, with help from Iran, worked out an agreement between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group to reduce hostilities.

Vance told reporters he would be in Switzerland "for a day or two" and said he was optimistic about making progress in talks on Iran's nuclear programme and on a

ceasefire in southern Lebanon. He had earlier confirmed that top negotiators Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff were already in Switzerland.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei, however, told state TV that negotiations towards a final agreement would begin once key commitments are upheld. If they are not, he said, "the memorandum of understanding as a whole will be jeopardised". The Strait of Hormuz quickly emerged as a new flashpoint. Iran's joint military command said the strait had been closed because of the US "clear breach of its commitments" by failing to end the war. The US rejected that claim. "Iran does not control the Strait of Hormuz. Traffic continues to flow, and US forces are monitoring the situation to ensure this remains the case," Capt Tim Hawkins, a spokesperson for US Central Command, said.