



# Focus on ties: PM Modi meets Seychelles opposition leader, Mauritius PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Seychelles Opposition Leader Bernard Georges during his official visit to the island nation. The meeting underscored a shared push for peace, prosperity and sustainable development as India deepened its Indian Ocean outreach.

New Delhi.(Agency) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday met Seychelles Opposition Leader Bernard Georges during his official visit to the island nation, with the two leaders reaffirming their shared commitment to advancing peace, prosperity and sustainable development. PM Modi, who is on a three-day visit to Seychelles, exchanged views with Georges on the strong and enduring partnership between India and Seychelles, according to Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. "They reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing peace, prosperity and sustainable development in Seychelles," Jaiswal said in a social media post. The meeting came as PM Modi attends the golden jubilee celebrations of Seychelles' National Day as the Guest of Honour, coinciding with the country's 50th anniversary



of independence and the 50th year of diplomatic relations between India and Seychelles. Earlier, the Indian Prime Minister held wide-ranging talks with Seychelles President Patrick Herminie and underscored India's vision for an Indian Ocean region where maritime security is ensured alongside economic prosperity and where partnerships are guided by mutual respect and trust.

The prime minister said India and Seychelles agreed that the Indian Ocean is "our shared home" and that its security, sustainability and prosperity are a shared responsibility. On the sidelines of the visit, PM Modi also met Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and reviewed the full spectrum of the India-Mauritius Enhanced Strategic Partnership. According to Jaiswal, the two leaders discussed development cooperation, maritime security, trade, capacity building and people-to-people ties, while reaffirming their commitment to advancing cooperation under Vision MAHASAGAR, India's Neighbourhood First policy and its engagement with the Global South. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, reflecting the growing focus on cooperation and stability across the Indian Ocean region.

# Congress vows to keep up pressure on Madhya Pradesh CM to resign over land scam allegations

Ramesh made the remarks in response to a post by Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari, who had publicly called out the Chief Minister's continued silence on the matter. Patwari noted that Congress had given Yadav three days to respond to questions from the public, and that the deadline had passed without any word from the Chief Minister.

Madhya Pradesh .(Agency)

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has accused Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav of being the "mastermind" of a major land scam in the state, vowing that his party will not relent in its demand for the Chief Minister's resignation until he is held accountable. The allegations centre on a 253-acre land scam in Ujjain, with the Congress claiming a conflict of interest over land purchases made by CM Yadav's family in areas falling under the Ujjain Master Plan 2035. "There is no doubt whatsoever that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh is the mastermind of this massive land scam, carried out for his personal gain," Ramesh wrote on X. "The Indian National Congress will continue its relentless struggle to demand his resignation, as that is the only path to ensuring accountability." Ramesh made the remarks in response to a post by Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari, who had publicly called out the Chief Minister's continued silence on the matter. Patwari noted that Congress had given Yadav three days to respond to questions from the public, and that the deadline had passed without any word from the Chief Minister.



# Karjan Police Shamed The Unholy Hanubha-PI Patel Nexus Fueling Vadodara's Illicit Crime Empire

## As Illicit Distilleries Run Round-the-Clock in Rural Vadodara Terrified Locals Fear a Catastrophic Hooch Tragedy

Mahanagar Metro Desk Pawan Makan Vadodara / Karjan: Despite Gujarat's strict prohibition claims, a terrifying ground reality has surfaced in the Karjan taluka of Vadodara, where a thriving empire of illicit liquor, narcotics, and gambling operates with complete impunity. Local youth are rapidly sinking into addiction as villages like Kurali and Sapa have turned into open hubs for Warli Matka gambling, drawing operators all the way from Vadodara city. More alarmingly, round-the-clock country liquor distilleries in Kandari and Karamdi are brewing highly toxic, chemical-infused alcohol. This unchecked operation directly risks a catastrophic hooch tragedy, yet the corrupt local administration seems to



be waiting for a disaster to unfold before taking any action. At the center of this criminal network is an unholy nexus between bootleggers and law enforcement, spearheaded by a notorious D-staff constable named Hanubha. Despite being previously suspended for colluding with liquor smugglers, Hanubha

has brazenly returned to Karjan under political patronage. He now serves as a lucrative "cash cow" for Karjan Police Inspector (PI) Patel. Together, they allegedly manage a massive extortion racket, collecting millions in monthly protection money (hafta) that reportedly reaches up to the district Local Crime Branch

(LCB). This corrupt system openly defies the anti-crime directives of the state government and the Home Minister, severely tarnishing the region's governance. The terrorized citizens of Karjan are now demanding immediate accountability from the top brass. Urgent intervention is required from the Vadodara Superintendent of Police and Gandhinagar's State Monitoring Cell (SMC) to launch aggressive raids, deploy bulldozers against these illegal dens, and jail the corrupt officials involved. If the state government fails to take decisive action against this khaki-bootlegger syndicate, further explosive evidence will be brought directly to the public forum to expose the systemic rot.

# Karnataka 'gutka' ban? CM DK Shivakumar warns of total ban if pan masala products contain drugs

New Delhi.(Agency)

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday warned of a total ban on the sale of pan masalas and 'gutka' if intoxicating substances are mixed and sold in pan masalas. Addressing a massive audience at the 31st Foundation Day of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) and the Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drug-Free India) Conclave at Kanteerava Stadium, Karnataka Chief Minister said that the state is willing to absorb the financial hit. Even if a complete ban costs the state treasury roughly Rs100 crore in tax revenue, public safety and achieving a drug-free state take absolute priority. In a major escalation against drugs, DK Shivakumar issued an absolute ultimatum to tobacco and chewable product manufacturers. The state government is prepared to enforce an outright blanket ban on all pan masala, gutka, and areca nut (supari) products if authorities discover any trace of illicit narcotic substances being mixed into them. The Chief Minister revealed that the government has received disturbing intelligence reports indicating that certain manufacturers are intentionally lacing everyday tobacco items with intoxicating substances. The illicit strategy is reportedly designed to hook consumers by delivering a potent, drug-like "kick" disguised as a standard tobacco buzz. "I have received information that even products like pan masala and gutka are now being mixed with substances that cause intoxication," Shivakumar warned. "If anyone is found adding even a small quantity of any intoxicating substance to these products, I will make every effort to see that they are banned in Karnataka."



Vice President C P Radhakrishnan administers oath in Parliament House; Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra attend ceremony

# Mallikarjun Kharge takes oath as Rajya Sabha member after re-election

New Delhi.(Agency)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was on Monday sworn in as a member of the Rajya Sabha after being re-elected to the Upper House. The oath of office was administered to Kharge by Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President C P Radhakrishnan in his chamber at Parliament House. He took the oath in Hindi and was seen holding a copy of the Constitution during the ceremony. Vice President Radhakrishnan congratulated Kharge and said the Upper House would benefit from his long parliamentary experience. Following the oath-taking, Kharge said he would continue to raise the concerns,



aspirations and voices of the people with sincerity and conviction, while also holding the government accountable. He reiterated that these responsibilities would remain central to his role in Parliament. Senior Congress leaders, including Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia

Gandhi and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were present during the ceremony. Union ministers J P Nadda, Kiren Rijiju, Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh also attended the occasion. In a post on social media platform X, the Vice President's office confirmed that Kharge had taken oath as a re-elected member of the Council of States from Karnataka, sharing photographs of the ceremony. Kharge also posted on X expressing gratitude for the opportunity to continue serving as Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, calling it a matter of "immense pride and responsibility." He thanked Vice President Radhakrishnan and Deputy Chairman Harivansh for their

support, as well as Congress leadership including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, along with party colleagues and workers for their continued backing. He also expressed appreciation to leaders across parties, particularly INDIA bloc members, and said he looked forward to stronger coordination during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament to ensure greater accountability from the government. Apart from Kharge, BJP leader Tarun Chugh, and six other new members including Jitendra Meghji bhai Kanzariya and Mansingh Meraman Parmar (Gujarat), M Nagaraja (Karnataka), Rajendra Hiralal Jain (Maharashtra), Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi (Manipur) and Alka Singh (Rajasthan), also took oath.

## News box

## Dust storm blows through Gurgaon, rain likely from July 1

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A dust storm swept across parts of the city around 4pm on Sunday, even as India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast an active monsoon spell over the coming days. The city recorded a maximum temperature of 40.9°C and a minimum of 30°C. According to IMD, light to moderate rain is likely at isolated places on June 29 and July 1, with rainfall activity becoming more widespread thereafter. Heavy rain is expected at isolated places on July 2 and 3 across Haryana, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph, with gusts reaching up to 60 kmph from July 1. A yellow alert has been issued for July 2 and 3. The weather is being influenced by multiple active systems, including the seasonal trough extending from Punjab to Bihar through Haryana and a western disturbance over the region. IMD said these conditions are favourable for the further advance of the southwest monsoon over parts of northwest India during the next two to three days. Despite the approaching wet spell, heatwave conditions are likely to persist at isolated places in Haryana until June 30. Maximum temperatures are expected to remain largely unchanged over the next three days before declining as rainfall activity intensifies later in the week.

## Call centre offering fake weight-loss products raided in Gurgaon's Udyog Vihar, 3 held

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Three people, who posed as beauticians, dietitians and doctors to gain the trust of customers to sell fake medicines, were arrested. The three women — Mandeep, Neha and Varsha — were nabbed following a raid on a call centre in Udyog Vihar-5, which allegedly defrauded people by selling fake weight-loss medicines. "The accused cheated people in Gujarat of crores of rupees and carried out similar frauds in several other states," a senior police officer said. On June 26, the Cyber Crime police station (west) personnel conducted the raid and seized 102 mobile phones, 150 SIM cards, 12 laptops and other electronic evidence. Mandeep, a resident of Aya Nagar, Delhi, currently stays in Gurgaon's Chakkarpur; Neha is a resident of Delhi's Rangpuri; and Varsha, a resident of Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, currently stays in Sushant Lok. Police said the accused operated social media pages under the name Curest Science and Wellness Pvt Ltd, where they advertised herbal medicines claiming to help in weight loss. "After people showed interest through the advertisements, call centre executives contacted them and convinced them to buy the products," an officer said. The accused allegedly assured customers that the medicines would help reduce weight and promised a 100% refund if the products did not work. However, when customers sought refunds, their calls and messages were blocked, police said. Police said the mobile numbers used in the fraud were allotted to company employees, while the operation was allegedly controlled by its manager, chief administrative officer, director-owner and other associates. A case has been registered under relevant sections at Cyber Crime police station (west). The police team was led by SHO Sandeep Kumar (inspector) under the supervision of ACP Gaurav Fogat.

## Noida woman meets man 'from US' on matrimonial site, cheated of Rs 9 lakh



Noida.(Agency)

A 44-year-old was cheated out of over Rs 9 lakh by a fraudster she met on a matrimonial website. The accused posed as an American resident who was in need of financial support due to a medical condition in order to siphon funds from the woman. In her complaint, the Sector 36 resident told cops she had posted an advertisement on a matrimonial website in April this year. She received a few proposals and quickly ended up in contact with the accused. The two of them communicated via WhatsApp from April 1 to June 22. They had also spoken on the phone. The accused posed as a doctor who owned a 3BHK flat in Dallas, a city in the USA. He had allegedly offered to marry her and provide her son with the opportunity of studying in the USA once the woman's divorce had finalised. He later told her he had a medical condition and needed money for continued treatment.

## Biker who snatched chain from woman held

Noida.(Agency)

A 32-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly snatching a gold chain from a woman during her morning walk in the Sector 113 area. The accused, Vijay Pratap alias Raja Thakur, a resident of Auraiya, has 18 FIRs lodged against him across police stations in Auraiya and Noida, including under the Gangster Act. The incident took place on June 22 at around 6.10am. VS Yadav, a resident of Skytech Matrott in Sector 76, was out walking with his wife near the T-point culvert in front of Mahagun Modern when two men on a motorcycle came from behind and snatched her gold chain, weighing 10 grams. The couple raised an alarm and gave chase but could not apprehend the assailants. Yadav told police that the pillion rider was wearing a white shirt and a white gamcha. An FIR was registered against two unknown persons under Section 304(2) of the BNS and multiple teams were formed to track them down. Using CCTV footage from nearby areas, police identified one of the suspects. Vijay Pratap was arrested on Sunday from the FNG service road in Sorkha village in Sector 113.

## Gurgaon's heat divide: 12-year satellite data reveals up to 8°C gap between wards

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A person living in Gurgaon's Dwarka Expressway corridor experiences surface temperatures up to 8 degrees Celsius (°C) higher than someone in Sushant Lok or South City. A thermometer reading of 39°C in Sector 43 can register as 44°C on the ground in Sector 84 — a difference of 5°C. These differences are neither anomalies nor are they entirely down to the geography of a spot. Instead, they are driven by a decade of unchecked concretisation, vanishing green cover, and the spread of heat-absorbing roads and glass buildings. A 12-year ward-wise analysis of satellite-derived land surface temperature (LST) data, covering the summer months of March through June between 2015 and 2026, maps this divide in granular detail. Conducted by climate think-tank Envirocatalysts, the study analysed imagery from Landsat 8 and 9 satellites at 30-metre resolution — each data point represents a 30m x 30m patch of

ground — allowing a precise neighbourhood-level assessment of surface heat across the city's municipal wards. The findings show that where a resident lives in the city can significantly influence their heat exposure, with neighbourhood-level differences often exceeding the impact of year-to-year weather variation. Crucially, the same hotspots have persisted across the entire study period, pointing to structural rather than seasonal causes. The most extreme heat is concentrated along the Dwarka Expressway growth corridor, Old Gurgaon, the industrial belts around Khandas and Udyog Vihar, and parts of the DLF-Sushant Lok area. Every ward in Gurgaon has become warmer since 2015, but the pace has been sharply uneven. The widest temperature gap was recorded in 2019, when surface temperatures in Ward 24, covering Sishi and sectors 83, 84 and 88, along the Dwarka Expressway, were nearly 8°C higher than in Ward 33. Ward 24 also

recorded the highest average summer LST in 2026 at 44.1°C. It also holds the highest single reading in the entire dataset — 56.73°C in May 2019, during what the data identifies as Gurgaon's most intense heat year on record. The ward crossed 53°C on multiple occasions in 2018 and 2019, years when several parts of the city regularly breached the 50°C mark during peak summer months. Ward 8, which includes Basai Village, Dhanwapur, Ram Vihar, Surat Nagar Phase 2, and sectors 100-104, and 37D, recorded the second-highest average summer LST in 2026 and also the sharpest warming trend of any ward over the decade — rising by 3.6°C between 2015 and 2026. Wards 22 and 23, covering areas such as Sushant Lok (Blocks A and B), DLF Phases 4 and 5, Sectors 27, 42 and 43, along with Khandas Village, Saraswati Enclave, and Sector 10A, consistently appeared among the city's hottest wards. Ward 19, covering the railway corridor around Sectors 14, 15 and 31, was another

recurring hotspot. At the other end of the scale, wards 32 and 33, which include Sector 7, Sector 7 Extension, Shivpuri, New Colony, Krishna Colony, Jyoti Park, Housing Board Colony, Laxman Vihar Phases I and II, Sector 4 and Concan Enclave, consistently ranked among the coolest parts of the city, despite being densely built-up urban neighbourhoods. Ward 2, covering DLF Cyber Hub, DLF Phase 2, Udyog Vihar, Sarhaul and Dundahera, also remained comparatively cool throughout the study period. In 2026, ward 33 recorded an average summer LST of 39.1°C against Ward 24's 44.1°C — a gap of more than 5°C within the same city. In several earlier years, that difference widened further, approaching 8°C during peak summer months. Ward 8 recorded the steepest rise at 3.6°C over the decade. Ward 24 followed at 2.71°C. Wards 3 and 4, covering Carterpuri, Palam Vihar Extension and sectors 21 to 23A, warmed by 2.5°C and 2.3°C, respectively.

## Daylight Plunder in Pavi Jetpur

## Unchecked Sand Mining Under Sihod Bridge Exposes High-Level Administration Apathy

Mahanagar Metro Desk Pawan Makan

Chhota Udepur / Pavi Jetpur:

A shocking case of open plunder of natural resources has emerged from the Pavi Jetpur taluka of Chhota Udepur district, completely exposing the hollow claims of the local administration, police, and the mines and minerals department. The illegal sand mining network has once again become aggressively active under and around the Sihod Bridge, which is considered the lifeblood of Pavi Jetpur, as well as in other sensitive adjacent areas including Nalej, Padarvat, Oli Amba, and Tejgarh. Riverbeds are being systematically destroyed to channel millions of rupees worth of state property into the pockets of the land mafia, while responsible authorities continue to turn a blind eye to the ongoing devastation. According to local residents and eyewitnesses, this is not a covert, late-night operation but a blatant act of daylight robbery. Defying all environmental and safety regulations, massive heavy-machinery excavators are deployed directly inside the riverbeds to dig sand at extreme depths. Villagers allege that approximately 150 to 200 overloaded tractors pass through the area every single day completely bypassing royalty passes. The heavy movement of these illegal, overloaded vehicles has completely shattered the rural road networks constructed at the cost of millions of rupees, creating a constant, hazardous threat of fatal accidents for commuters and residents. The most pressing question raised by locals is the absolute paralysis of the administrative system, espe-



cially given that written complaints detailing the entire operation have already been submitted directly to the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Despite these high-level complaints, no concrete action has been taken on the ground. Residents wonder how the flying squads of

the mines and minerals department and the local police manage to miss a daily convoy of 200 illegal tractors that are clearly visible to the entire village. This has led to widespread public suspicion regarding whether district officials, including the Collector, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, and Superintendent of Police, are ignoring their ethical responsibilities, or if a systemic network of protection money extends all the way to high-ranking officials in Gandhinagar. The structural integrity of the Sihod Bridge is now heavily compromised due to indiscriminate and unregulated sand excavation occurring directly underneath and around its foundational pillars. strict crackdowns are not executed against the sand mafia.

## Secret meets, WA texts: Noida unrest a 'planned conspiracy', say police

Noida.(Agency)

Police have told court that the April 13 industrial unrest in the city — marked by arson, violence and attacks on police — was not a spontaneous workers' outburst but a "well-planned conspiracy" orchestrated by a core group that held secret meetings, circulated inflammatory messages and mobilised factory workers across the industrial belt. The claim was made in voluminous chargesheets filed before the ACJM court against 89 accused in three key FIRs lodged at Phase II police station. Overall, the documents stitched together the police version of how the labour agitation escalated into one of Noida's most serious industrial flashpoints in recent years. Seven persons were described as "main conspirators" — Aakriti Choudhary, Shrishti Gupta, Manisha Choudhan, Aditya Anand, Satyam Verma, Himanshu Thakur and Rupesh Roy. They were named in all three FIRs under charges ranging from criminal conspiracy, rioting, assault on public servants and arson to attempt to murder. The unrest had erupted amid simmering tension over layoffs and labour



rights in the industrial cluster. It began as mobilisation outside factories, but spiralled into pitched clashes where public property was damaged and vehicles were set ablaze. In FIR 163, police have chargesheeted 10 persons and listed 77 witnesses. In FIR 164, originally against 1,500-2,000 unidentified people, 45 have been named with 88 witnesses. FIR 165 named 34 accused and invoked the gravest

charges, including attempt to murder, grievous hurt to public servants and mischief by fire. The chargesheet also claimed that Aditya Anand, administrator of a workers' WhatsApp group at Richa Global, allowed and circulated "provocative messages" to trigger protests. "He convened regular meetings with co-accused and was present at the protest sites," the document said, adding that call

detail records showed he was in Noida on April 10 and 11. Satyam Verma, police alleged, played a "key role" in mobilising workers and pushing RWPI-linked ideology. But buried in the documents is a glaring inconsistency. Police have admitted varying arrest dates for the same accused across FIRs. Aakriti's arrest is shown as April 12 in one part of the record, April 22 in FIR 163, and April 27 in FIRs 164 and 165. Similar discrepancies appear for others, raising fresh questions over the chronology of arrests and custody. In FIR 163, police said the first arrests were of Aditya Anand, Satyam Verma and Himanshu Thakur on April 19, while Aakriti was arrested on April 22 and Shrishti Gupta and Manisha Choudhan on April 24. But in FIR 164, the arrest dates of Aakriti, Shrishti and Manisha are all shown as April 27. Rupesh Roy's arrest, meanwhile, is shown as May 7 in both FIRs 163 and 164. The same chargesheet also names Priyamvada Sharma, Prerit Lodha and Yogesh Meena as accused not yet arrested — even though Yogesh was arrested on May 30 and remains in judicial custody.

# Punjab's drug de-addiction centre gives 'Soorma mission' a human face

Jalandhar. (Agency)

On Saturday, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann launched a 'Soorma' campaign, honouring individuals who have remained drug-free for over two years with 'Soorma' rings and T-shirts, and announcing government employment opportunities for them. The initiative, part of the government's ongoing 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' campaign, aims to transform recovered addicts into ambassadors for Punjab's anti-drug movement.

As Punjab steps up its fight against substance abuse, the state government has begun shifting the narrative from punishment to recovery. That approach is already taking shape at the Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Centre in Mohalla Fatehgarh, Hoshiarpur, where a modernised facility is combining medical treatment with skill development, mental wellness and livelihood support to help recovering addicts reintegrate into society.

Just two years ago, a 28-year-old man had lost nearly everything. Addiction had distanced him from his family, disrupted his work, and left him struggling with a sense of hopelessness. Today, he spends his mornings tending a vegetable garden, attends skill development classes in



afternoon, and is preparing to start a livelihood of his own after completing rehabilitation. "I had stopped believing that I could have a normal life again," he said. "Here, I learned not only how to overcome addiction but also how to rebuild myself." Addiction had forced another man, 24, to drop out of his studies and strained relationships with his parents. Today, he is learning professional cooking skills at the

centre's culinary training facility and hopes to work in the hospitality sector after completing treatment. Similarly, a 31-year-old man spent years battling substance abuse that left him unemployed and isolated. At the rehabilitation centre, he discovered a new interest in hairdressing and salon services. He now spends hours training under a professional instructor, with a dream of opening his own salon.

Their stories are different, but share a common thread, that they met at this centre feeling defeated by addiction, and each is rebuilding a future through recovery, skill development and renewed self-confidence. Recognising this need, the Red Cross Society in Hoshiarpur district undertook an ambitious project, and in April last year Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria inaugurated an upgraded centre.

The centre was modernised at Rs 80 lakh through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions made by Kwantum Papers Limited, Hoshiarpur, and Viber Caustic

Private Limited, Mohali, and mobilised by the Red Cross. The centre features fully air-conditioned wards with bunk-bed facilities, a dedicated yoga and meditation hall, a modern gymnasium, recreational and counselling rooms featuring games such as chess, table tennis and football, a music therapy room with instruments like harmonium, tabla and guitar, a video conferencing room enabling virtual counselling and family interactions, and a modern library with newspapers and motivational literature.

Hoshiarpur Deputy Commissioner-cum-president of the District Red Cross Society Aashika Jain led the initiative intending to

create a dignified environment where recovering addicts can regain confidence, learn skills and prepare for independent lives. "These facilities create a positive and reformative atmosphere that supports physical, mental and emotional healing," said Mangesh Sood, Secretary, Red Cross Society Hoshiarpur.

**Skill development at core**

What distinguishes the Hoshiarpur centre from many traditional rehabilitation facilities is its emphasis on livelihood generation. "Every inmate participates in two-hour daily skill development sessions conducted by professional trainers engaged by the Red Cross. Training programmes are tailored according to individual interests and aptitudes," said Aditya Rana, Joint Secretary, Red Cross Society Hoshiarpur. Upon completion, trainees receive Red Cross skill certificates that can help enhance their employment prospects. Three dedicated skill centres have already been established.

The culinary training facility teaches professional cooking skills and food preparation techniques. A professional trainer from Lakme Salon has been engaged to provide training in hairdressing and salon services.

## Short news

### 8 Bangladeshi nationals arrested at Agartala airport area

Agartala. (Agency)

Tripura police arrested eight Bangladeshi nationals Sunday evening on charges of allegedly entering the state illegally and attempting to travel further from Agartala's Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport.

Police said the operation commenced after receiving intelligence input, which indicated that four Bangladeshi nationals planned to enter Tripura and fly out of the state via the airport. Acting on this information, police stepped up surveillance and initially apprehended four individuals.

Further questioning of the detained suspects revealed leads that enabled police to capture additional four individuals in the vicinity of the airport. An official from the Airport Police Station stated that the initial detentions were based on precise intelligence, while interrogations of the first group facilitated the identification and detention of the others.

All eight detainees were identified as adult males who had plans to travel to a southern state via Kolkata. All of them were presented before a court, with law enforcement requesting custodial interrogation.

Investigators are now focusing on determining how the individuals entered Tripura, their intended destinations, and whether the case is linked to a larger scheme such as human trafficking or unlawful immigration, police added.

### J&K: Police in Budgam register FIR in Budgam scuffle incident

Srinagar. (Agency)

Police on Monday said they have registered an FIR in connection with an alleged scuffle in the Budgam district of central Kashmir involving followers of different Shia groups. Police said they have launched an investigation into the incident at Hardpanzoo Budgam, saying those found responsible for instigating or participating in any unlawful activity will face strict legal action.

They assured the public that the investigation will be conducted in a fair, impartial, and professional manner.

"Every aspect of the incident is being examined on the basis of evidence, and no individual found culpable will be spared, irrespective of affiliation," they said.

Police said they have also taken note of misleading and unverified content being circulated on social media regarding the incident. "Such misinformation has the potential to create unnecessary panic, disturb public order, and undermine communal harmony," police said.

The public has been urged by police to exercise restraint and refrain from creating, sharing, or forwarding rumours, unverified claims, or inflammatory content on any platform. Citizens are advised to rely only on information disseminated through official sources. Police in Budgam said they were closely monitoring social media activity, and any individual found creating, circulating, or amplifying false or provocative content with the intent to mislead the public or disrupt peace will face stringent legal action under the relevant provisions of law.

Budgam police appeals to all sections of society to maintain peace, uphold communal harmony, and cooperate with the investigation. The police remain committed to ensuring justice through a transparent, impartial, and lawful investigation while taking firm action against anyone attempting to disturb public order.

## Madhya Pradesh toddler loses vision after doctor administers drops, probe underway

**A 19-month-old boy allegedly lost vision in both eyes after treatment at a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district. Health authorities have ordered an enquiry after the family accused the attending doctor of medical negligence.**

Sagar. (Agency)

A 19-month-old child allegedly lost eyesight after what the family claims was a serious medical error at a civil hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district, where a doctor is accused of administering faulty drops into the child's eyes.

According to the complaint filed by the child's father, Indraj Vishwakarma, the incident took place on May 29, 2026, when he took his son Vinay Vishwakarma to the Civil Hospital in Banda after the child developed cold symptoms and redness in the eyes. After registering an OPD slip, the child was examined by the on-duty government doctor. The father has alleged that during treatment, the doctor administered "saline nasal drops" into the child's eyes, along with prescribing other medicines including paracetamol syrup, an injection and

additional medication.

The family claimed that the child's condition worsened within a few hours of treatment. Despite remaining at the hospital for



several hours, there was no improvement, after which the child was referred to the district hospital in Sagar and later advised advanced treatment at a higher medical centre. The child was subsequently taken

to AIIMS Bhopal, where specialists examined him. The father alleged that doctors at AIIMS informed the family that the child had permanently lost vision, attributing it to possible incorrect treatment or medical negligence.

Following the incident, the father lodged a complaint at Banda police station, demanding strict action against the doctor and other responsible staff. He said he could identify the doctor by face but did not know his name.

Block Medical Officer Yogendra Khatik said that the Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) has constituted a committee to investigate the matter, and action will be taken based on the findings of the probe.

The family has demanded a fair and impartial investigation and strict punishment for those found responsible.

## Key Arunachal road severely damaged after cloudburst, 7 districts cut off

Itanagar. (Agency)

It has been nearly a week since the devastating cloudburst at Poosa in Arunachal Pradesh's Keyi Panyor district, but the destruction continues to cripple road connectivity across the state. The Hoj-Potin stretch of National Highway-13, a crucial lifeline linking central and upper Arunachal Pradesh, remains completely closed, leaving seven districts effectively cut off from the rest of the state.

The June 24 cloudburst triggered massive landslides, flash floods and road washouts, destroying 18 residential quarters of the NEEPCO colony, killing three people and leaving two others missing. Continuous heavy rainfall since then has further hampered restoration efforts.

Papum Pare Deputy Commissioner Lobsang Tsering on Sunday inspected the restoration work along the Hoj-Potin road



amid heavy rain. Speaking to India Today, he said the highway had suffered extensive damage at several locations and would

take more than a week to reopen.

"The damage is severe along multiple stretches following the June 24 cloudburst

in Keyi Panyor district. Restoration will take more than a week," he said. The Deputy Commissioner also clarified that no earth-cutting permission has been granted in Papum Pare district during his tenure. He added that the Sagalee-Parang road, which connects to Potin, remains the only motorable alternative, and directions have been issued to the Additional Deputy Commissioner at Sagalee to deploy manpower and machinery to facilitate the movement of commuters travelling to Keyi Panyor and other affected areas.

## Gujarat Hardlook: A Surat demolition & several unanswered questions

**The demolition operation started swiftly. With the presence of a large number of police personnel, the residents, who had little clue, could not do anything but to shout for help.**

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Over 100 families rendered homeless after a 'ghost' demolition drive to clear encroachments on a portion of "private" land known as Nasirnagar in Surat. First, the Surat Municipal Corporation claimed it had no role in the razing of the shanties. Later, the SMC said the demolition was indeed carried out by its officials and an official probe is underway. A month later, with the matter before the Gujarat High Court, the SMC shifted around 150 persons to a community hall nearby and some are still living in tents put up on the debris of their houses, in the open sky. Kamal Saiyed reports.

May 30, 2026: Two bulldozers and a JCB drove into Nasirnagar, a ghetto spread over 28,000 square metres in the Ved Darwaja area of Surat in the morning when people were doing their daily

chores — some were cooking, children were getting ready for school and some others were preparing to leave for work.

The demolition operation started swiftly. With the presence of a large number of police personnel, the residents, who had little clue, could not do anything but to shout for help. Over 100 shanties were demolished, leaving the residents on the streets. Residents of Nasirnagar claim that the drive continued till June 1.

Thirty-year-old Shabnam was preparing lunch for her daughters Saleha (9) and Aliza (6), before going for work as a household help in the neighbourhood when she heard the commotion and people raising an alarm. "I came out and found police personnel and

municipal officials demolishing houses. Before I could think, the bulldozers were



around 200 metres away, then at my doorstep and within minutes my house became a heap of rubble. All my household items were inside. I somehow

managed to salvage some clothes and cash and rushed out of the house. I saw my home being demolished before my eyes. We shouted and cried for help, but the police threatened us," claims Shabnam.

"Everything, including cooked food, was buried in the debris; my children went hungry. I have been staying in this house for the past 15 years. My parents' home nearby was also demolished by then," says Shabnam, tears rolling down her face.

"The police had cordoned off the entire area so that nobody could resist. The majority of the residents are aged over 50. There are families who are staying for generations at Nasirnagar. How can we resist?" Shabnam asks.

## Traipsing down to road to Trumpville

K M Chandrasekhar

Following the end of the First World War, American agriculture faced a severe depression as the sudden emergence of strong foreign competition, particularly from Europe, sent farm prices crashing. In 1928, during his presidential campaign, Republican candidate Herbert Hoover promised to adjust tariffs to support farmers, who then constituted 20 percent of the population. Hoover won the election, and early in 1929, Representative Willis C Hawley of the House Ways and Means Committee and Senator Reed Smoot of the Senate Finance Committee began framing a law to readjust tariffs. This was, by no means, an easy process, as multiple interests were represented by members of Congress and Senators across the country, all seeking to protect local industries. The exercise stretched over two years as representatives traded votes for particular sectors in a process popularly known as "logrolling". Ultimately, specific duties were imposed on a vast array of goods, and President Hoover approved the law in 1930. At the time, the global and American economies were already in the throes of the Great Depression. While this downturn resulted primarily from the collapse of the financial sector, trade restrictions added fuel to the fire, particularly since the specific duties placed a heavy burden on consumers as prices collapsed everywhere. As import prices plunged by nearly 50 percent between 1929 and 1932, the effective average tariff rate on dutiable goods surged from 40.1 percent in 1929 to 59.1 percent by 1932; moreover, competing countries retaliated by imposing duties on American goods. Between 1929 and 1934, global trade fell by 66 percent and industrial production by 32 percent. There was mayhem in the global economy, and Americans suffered heavily, too. Shanty towns, nicknamed "Hoovervilles", sprang up across the US. John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath* tells the story of an impoverished Oklahoma family moving to California in search of a living during the Great Depression. Roosevelt was eventually elected President, and Congress's authority to set individual tariffs was curtailed.

President Trump, in his first term in 2018-19 and more comprehensively in 2025, decided to become Hoover the Second. On the so-called Liberation Day in 2025, he announced sweeping increases in tariffs on goods from all territories. He also expressed a deep animosity towards immigrants. At an internal meeting, he referred to various African nations as "s...tholes"—a statement that aroused the ire of the African Union, which retaliated by stating that the rhetoric hurts shared global values on diversity and human rights.

Individual African countries used stronger language. In Kenya, activist Boniface Mwangi urged Americans to impeach their "narcissist, racist" president, calling him an "embarrassment". Trump famously called Kim Jong Un of North Korea "Rocket Man" and threatened to wipe that country off the map, a threat we heard repeated recently when he threatened to destroy the ancient civilisation of Iran. Kim retaliated, threatening to "tame the mentally deranged US dotard with fire".

Furthermore, Indian immigrants were placed in shackles and flown to India in military aircraft—an act against which the Indian foreign ministry "strongly registered" its concern. In his use of inappropriate language and his implementation of strong-arm actions, Trump certainly left Hoover far behind. While imposing tariffs on Liberation Day, Trump naively ignored the fact that global value chains now dominate production. When he imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium in his first term, downstream US industries suffered significantly, resulting in a \$3.5 billion loss. There was no evidence of American manufacturers 'reshoring' their units following the 2025 tariffs. American manufacturing construction spending actually declined by 21 percent from mid-2024, bringing down industrial output; if there was any growth, it was primarily in AI data centres and power infrastructure. A net loss in 2021.

## Tracing the family tree of trees

The oak in which Robin Hood is believed to have hidden from the sheriff of Nottingham has died, leaving acorns scattered around the world. Given the centrality of trees like the ones under which the Buddha and Newton were enlightened, it's worth tracing their histories

Pratik Kanjilal

The Major Oak of Sherwood forest, the only visible relic of the Robin Hood myths and a pilgrimage destination for millions, has been declared dead, leaving us to ponder the memory of trees. The 1,200-year-old tree, whose massive trunk is believed to have concealed the bandit and his merry men at a sticky time, failed to produce foliage this spring. The Major Oak will fall one day, but its acorns have apparently been planted all over the world. Even a millennium after the prince of thieves lived and died—if he ever lived at all—his oak will keep his world alive. No one knows if Robin had indeed hidden from the sheriff of Nottingham in that tree. And the tree's offspring are growing far from home, their genealogy unauthenticated. But Robin's legend does not rely on evidence, but on the compelling idea that he robbed the rich to give to the poor—a very early expression of the trickle-down effect, tweaked by the intervention of non-state actors. In an unfair, extractive world, the legend is powerful. But the oak? The authenticity of trees is a Ship of Theseus problem. In popular culture, belief trumps facts. But trees are also heritage and religious objects. Is the Mahabodhi tree at Bodhi Gaya authentic? The current avatar is not the tree beneath which Sakyamuni meditated. It was planted in 1881 by Alexander Cunningham, founder of the Archeological Survey of India. He used a cutting from the Jaya Shri Mahabodhi tree at Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, which is the oldest verified human-planted tree. In 236 BCE, Emperor Ashoka's children Mahendra and Sanghamitra led a Buddhist mission from Sanchi to Sri Lanka, and planted a branch of the Bodhi Gaya tree at Anuradhapura. In December 1964, 2,200 years later, Sri Lanka gifted a cutting of the Jaya Shri Mahabodhi tree to Pakistan President Ayub Khan on a State visit, and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, then foreign minister, planted it in the Taxila Museum. The original Mahabodhi tree, under which the Buddha found enlightenment, was destroyed three times in antiquity alone, and its successors faced adversity, too. Cunningham was filling a void when he planted a cutting in 1881—the previous avatar of the tree had fallen in a storm in 1876. He planted another Bodhi tree for Hindu worshippers nearby. Tacitly, the second tree acknowledged even older cultures—Bodhi trees have figured in Indian faiths, in sacred groves, temples, ghats, squares and crossroads, from remote antiquity. Mindful of past calamities, in 2010, the government planted an offspring of Cunningham's Mahabodhi tree as a backup, in case the present avatar ever fails—like Robin's oak now has. But then, to complicate matters, the Forest



Research Institute at Dehradun conducted genetic tests which suggested that Cunningham's tree for Hindus was of older stock than his tree for Buddhists. Age is a marker of authenticity. So, what is the yardstick of authenticity? What does it mean with respect to the distant past? Does biological descent matter if it cannot be fully tested—if it is not falsifiable, in the language of science? Humans and bots are now spending aeons of time, terabytes of data and gigawatts of energy on the internet promoting exclusivist theories of nation, race, community, caste, colour—in short, identity politics. These theories are hollow because they are immune to falsification. They are beliefs. And so is the idea of authenticity. Consider the world's most famous tree, which allegedly bore Newton's apple. The façade of the Great Gate of Trinity College in Cambridge, UK, features a statue of its founder, King Henry VIII. In his time, it wielded a sceptre. But recalling his appetite for violence, generations of students have replaced his sceptre with the leg of a chair, a common weapon in classical English brawls. In contrast to this horrible royal legacy, right beside the gate are the lodgings of Isaac Newton, facing a little garden with an apple tree. In school, you may have learned of the importance of Newton's apple tree in the history of science. But this tree at Trinity does not bear the authentic patina of time. It was

grafted in 1954 from the apple tree in Newton's childhood home in Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire. Newton went home from Trinity in 1665 to escape the plague. There, a home-grown apple is said to have impinged upon his head and jolted open the doors of perception. His *Principia* was published 22 years later. It took time to appreciate that falling fruit obey the inverse square law, and that gravity is a fundamental force of the universe. If the most famous trees are potentially inauthentic, Robin Hood's oak is doubly so, because Robin himself is perhaps inauthentic. In the Sherwood forest area, of course, he is a living presence. People recall playing cops and robbers in his tree as children, before it was cordoned off as a heritage site. But Robin's depiction as a socialist revolutionary who forcefully redistributed wealth, like the guerrilla ascetics in Bankim Chandra's *Anandamath*, has always been questioned, right from a passage in the 14th century poem, 'Piers Plowman'. The ambivalence persists in the latest iteration of the legend, *The Death of Robin Hood*, whose theatre release is imminent. Michael Sarnoski presents Robin as a violent thug, with none of the saving graces of the myth. As Chinua Achebe said, history will not be rewritten until the lions have their own historians. And trees, as well as legendary figures, are far more enigmatic than lions.

## Cheer for chairs : Chandigarh must seize the moment

The swift action by the UT administration in raising the issue of the two heritage chairs being auctioned in Paris marks the beginning of a more robust approach on recovery efforts and for fixing accountability

THE withdrawal of two chairs from an auction scheduled in Paris, following timely intervention by the Indian diplomats in France, sets a precedent for a more proactive strategy to preserve Chandigarh's modernist heritage. The teak-and-cane armchairs designed by Pierre Jeanneret bear inventory markings indicating association with Panjab University's Chemistry Department and PGIMER. The simple yet elegant chairs are celebrated globally as a classic design, fetching huge prices at auctions in Europe and the US. The suspected theft, illegal export, sale and trafficking have continued unchecked over the years. The swift action this time round by the UT administration hopefully marks the beginning of a more robust approach on recovery efforts and for fixing accountability. There have been recurring concerns about how such heritage items leave the country and whether their export complies

with law. A more disturbing aspect is the overall lack of



appreciation of cultural and architectural heritage, and

the laxity in taking care of the legacy. Public institutions in Chandigarh are answerable on both counts. The public at large, too, has shown scant regard. That same disinterest in fixing shortcomings is reflected in the city's landmark spaces meant to celebrate the arts. Chandigarh must seize the moment and redouble efforts to reclaim a largely ignored but invaluable heritage. For a city known for Nek Chand's unique magical creation, it does come as a surprise that conservation and preservation efforts do not get enough attention. The Paris reprieve provides a lifeline. Inadequate funding is a lame excuse in the absence of passion and a desire to hold on to a treasure trove of seemingly ordinary but truly extraordinary inheritance. If public-private initiatives are the way forward, explore the possibilities and go for it. The visionaries who sculpted Chandigarh deserve a more spirited collective indulgence.

## As the ground shifts in Punjab

THE GREAT GAME: Under-fire CM is fighting back, while BJP is looking to make inroads in the state

Jyoti Malhotra

IT's been an overheated week in Punjab's politics. The new BJP president Nitin Nabin was in the state just prior, travelling across Amritsar, Ludhiana and Jalandhar to get a feel of the challenge in the run-up to the Assembly polls in early 2027. Just as Nabin left Punjab, an old video that purportedly shows Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann committing a blasphemous act has taken over the airwaves. The Akal Takht, widely considered by believing Sikhs to be the supreme authority in all matters of faith, has censured Mann over the video, as have all the Opposition parties. Mann is fighting back, citing the clean chit from a laboratory in BJP-ruled Gurgaon—except, two people from the lab have since been arrested by the Haryana Police on allegations of money exchanging hands. Will Mann survive this crisis? Will it significantly damage AAP that began its political journey with a people's movement against corruption, far away in Delhi, or will the party still be able to overcome this week's setback and transform the crisis into an opportunity? Until last week, AAP was widely seen to be coasting along, a fragmented Opposition hardly enough to mount a serious challenge. The chief minister's episodic walkabouts after dusk were hardly enough to stir the Suttlej-still-not-in-spate. Along with Arvind Kejriwal's shrewd promises of freebies—a leaf the AAP leader seems to have successfully taken from the BJP arsenal—which includes the distribution of monies to women (Rs 1,500 monthly to women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Rs 1,000 to those that don't), besides promising to assuage the grievances of influential groups, including sanitation workers, school teachers and sarpanches, AAP was crafting a formula that had a little bit

of something for everyone. As Punjab holds its breath, the question is if this week's political war over videos will spill into the next.

Until last week, the BJP was seen as an also-ran; this week, amid the unfolding chaos, it is sensing the political ground open up beneath its feet. Ambition has always been known to be a persuasive glue, but the question



always is, whether it's enough. Meaning, with six months or so to go to the polls, does the BJP have 117 candidates to fight all the seats in the House?

Senior BJP leaders like Home Minister Amit Shah and Nitin Nabin certainly think so. The Tribune ground reports say neither SAD nor BJP have a leg to stand on, alone; together, though, they could be a force to contend with. My colleague Aditi Tandon recently quoted a senior BJP leader, speaking on the condition of anonymity, saying that "nothing can be ruled out in politics". And so

the question this week, as the ground shifts in Punjab: Will BJP and SAD, who had a bitter falling out over the Modi government's farm laws in 2020, finally kiss and make up?

Certainly, "a week is a long time in politics" is a cliché every politician swears by—except Rahul Gandhi, who seems to have bigger fish to fry, including flying off abroad for a belated 56th birthday celebration, while crucial conversations over a new state chief for Punjab had hardly concluded in Delhi last week. Remember the Congress came second to AAP in the recent urban body elections, indicating that while it is a divided party in the state—at least five self-appointed chief ministerial candidates at last count—a glimmer of loyalty to the idea of the Congress still remains.

SAD's big challenge, of course, is whether Punjab has been able to forgive it for not taking strong action against those accused of the sin of "beadbi" or sacrilege, which took place back in 2015 in a small town called Bargari, when pages of the holy Guru Granth Sahib were found torn up—SAD was in power at that time.

Certainly, the Opposition this week is accusing Mann of committing the same sin in the alleged video—a charge that Mann and AAP have strongly refuted. That's why the coming days will define the character of the election campaign ahead. Will the CM be able to weather the storm and prove his innocence? Or will Punjab do to AAP in 2027 what it did to SAD in 2017? The battle for 2027 is only beginning. The Akal Takht has already ordered that historic gurdwaras across Punjab put up banners that are critical of Mann. Many have complied; but there are also reports that some independent managements as well as those that hold affiliation to the

Singh Sabha are not falling in line—not yet. The lines are still unclear this week.

And then there's that other so-called party, Waris Punjab De (WPD), whose MP from Khadoor Sahib, Amritpal Singh, was elected when he was behind bars in an Assam jail and remains there. As the ground shifts in Punjab, where does WPD fall in the new narrative?

As the week ends, the horizon turns muddier and people wonder what tomorrow will bring, here is a screenshot of the state, wildly spinning on an axis hardly of its own making. The Tribune's reporter in Amritsar, Pawan K Jaiswar, says everyday seizures of heroin and small arms along the India-Pakistan border are rising; police officials explain that drones from across the border are getting more sophisticated, able to beat the radar by flying low and bringing in larger consignments, of drugs and guns.

In Jalandhar, Aparna Banerji's stories on entire families being wiped out by heroin is an indication of the drug's monstrous hold. AAP's 'Yudh Nashiyan Virudh', the campaign against drugs, is welcome because it has exposed and excavated this crisis to a significant degree, but the enormity of the challenge means that rehabilitation cannot be limited to name-calling. If Punjab has to be saved, an exhaustive action plan must have everyone, both the ruling party and the Opposition, on board.

Sometimes it gets worse—when drug-running collaborator with arms smuggling. This week in Amritsar, the BJP suspended a local senior leader after the BSF recovered 26 sophisticated weapons, including an AK-47 gun, from his son, allegedly an addict.

Perhaps the last word this week should belong to my colleagues Neha Saini and Rajmeet Singh, who pointed out that political parties like to invoke history to leverage the present—from AAP's use of Shaheed Bhagat Singh in the 2022 election to BJP's invocation today of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Sarkar-e-Khalsa, a Sikh state that was both secular and inclusive.?

# How to cope with a Career low and stay Positive

**Anjali mundetiya, a 36-year-old advertising professional, says, "I have been working in this company for the past three years and I have seen a few colleagues being fired for no reason. I now fear I will face the same treatment and it has affected my work." She's not alone, given the scenario.**

Relationship counsellor Sauleha Shaik, however, feels it's okay to feel the slump at work sometimes. He says, "You need to boost your motivation every now and then so that you don't lose hope." he adds. So, stop fretting over and here's how you can keep yourself motivated:



**Stay positive:**

No matter what the job atmosphere is, remember that staying positive will keep you motivated. Also, negativity will sap you off your energies. When you stay optimistic, it will automatically show in your work.

**Surround yourself with happy colleagues:**

At times, the reason to feel demotivated at work is that you have too many negative people surrounding you at your workplace. These are people who are constantly cribbing about the work atmosphere and leave no stones unturned when they have to gossip about something at work. Take the hint and try to maintain a distance from such people because their constant nagging may one day make you become just like them.

**Talk it out with your boss:**

If you think the reason for feeling demotivated is your boss's attitude, then try talking it out with your immediate superior. Not only will you feel relieved, you will also be able to understand the perspective of your boss.

**Don't worry too much:**

Don't get too affected by your colleague losing his/her job or people finding it difficult to cope at work. It's all a part and parcel of the professional environment. Working hard will surely reap benefits.

**Look out for another job:**

Says clinical psychologist Dr Seema Hingorrany, "Staying in a negative work atmosphere pulls you into further negativity. So, if you are not happy with your present job, it is better to look out for a job which suits you."

**Seek professional help:**

Says Advaita Kalra, a 27-year-old software engineer, "I was jobless for almost eight months and had started losing hope. I would keep applying to various companies, but none had any vacancy. That is when a friend suggested that I approach an outsourced HR agency. Within two weeks, they approached me with a job opening and I was happy to take it up."



## Key to happiness at work is unrelated to Job

the desk chair right next to us. According to a new report, which explores what employees love most about their jobs, one of the most important factors in enjoying a 9-to-5 gig is the company we keep as we do so. Nearly 40% of survey respondents named their co-workers as the top reason they love working for their company, with 66% saying those positive relationships increased their productivity and 55% saying they helped mitigate their on-the-job stress levels. And considering the average office worker spends 47.5 hours or more in office each week, some employees may spend more time with their co-workers than with family members or friends outside of the office. "The centrality of social connections to our health and well-being cannot be overstressed," says author Sonja Lyubomirsky. Employers are beginning to recognise the importance of these connections in the office and are taking steps to reinvent the workplace to help nurture the positive aspects of employees' work experiences, reducing burnout and turnover in the process. Camaraderie at work — or even just the opportunity for it — has been found to not just make for a happy employee but a more effective business as a whole. Whether coworkers use their time to air grievances about their bosses, chat about weekend plans or head out to happy hour together, close bonds help dissolve dissatisfaction they may feel otherwise, making them more likely to work productively and remain in their current position for longer.

From taking lunchtime walks to adjusting frustrating commutes to trading old jobs for ones we actually like, we make changes (both big and small) for the sake of our workplace happiness. But what many of us might not realise is that the biggest mood booster could be sitting in



## Are you always Struggling to be on time?



Repetitive lateness, if neglected, can become a part of your character. Here are a few tips to avoid being late:  
**Sleep well:** If you have trouble getting out of bed early in the morning, then make a serious effort to get to bed earlier. Sufficient sleep is essential for maximum brain function anyway, so you really don't want to ignore this.  
**Give yourself a buffer time:** Don't be on a tight timeline. Give yourself enough time to finish your daily chores and get ready for work.  
 Waking up to rush to work will only keep you running around. Organize your day. Keep a diary to note down your 'things-to-do' list. Jot down your appointments and tasks clearly. It is always beneficial to maintain a log of your day-to-day activities.  
 Pack your bag a day before. If you struggle to reach your college on time, keep your bag ready ahead of time. In fact, do it a night before. Don't procrastinate.  
**Stop misusing the snooze button:**

Take the snooze button out of your life. Get up when the alarm rings and get rid of the habit of pressing the snooze button every morning.  
**Take your appointments and tasks seriously:** A laid back approach will prevent you from reaching your destination on time.



# How to navigate your way to Success



## How do you ensure that your career is always in good health?

Building a successful career is a continuous process of managing your life, learning and work. A person's career success depends on several factors, but essentially, you need to have the vision, passion and commitment to succeed. 'My day at work was great' and not 'thank God it's over' should be the thought at the end of your workday. If it is not so, there is one thing that you are not doing at work and that is, enjoying it! It all begins with creating the right career plan, ascertain what you want to achieve in your career and establish goals accordingly. This should be followed by identifying and acquiring the skills and knowledge that will enable you to perform well and make informed decisions leading to

accomplishment of your goals.

## How to navigate your way to success: Realise The Power Of 'Now'

Most professionals think they have to change jobs every now and then to get ahead, but that's not true! The prime focus should be on performing well in your current role, and you will recognise that your current job can offer you challenges and opportunities you haven't yet tapped. You can even look at taking on new assignments in your current position; this will expand your skill set and develop your leadership capabilities, and thus, your marketability.

### Be Self-Aware

Knowing what you want begins with knowing yourself. An honest assessment is key to figuring out your ultimate goals. Each of us has unique strengths and areas of improvement. You are most likely to succeed in life if you use your talents to the fullest extent. Similarly, by understanding your improvement areas, you can eliminate barriers that might impact your ability to move forward.

### Be Aware

It can be easy to rush through life without stopping to notice much. Paying more attention to the present moment - to the world around you - can improve your professional well-being. Being aware will help you to make better and informed decisions, and you will be able to spot barriers and opportunities early on, which can give you a competitive



edge. This is especially important if you contribute to shaping your organisation's strategy. Also, keeping up-to-date with your industry is key for building that "expert power". By developing expertise in your job and your industry, you'll earn the trust and respect of the people around you. From a leadership perspective, this is invaluable!

**Diversify Your Experience** In line with your career plan, identify the skills and knowledge experiences that will enable you to accomplish your career goals. And accordingly partner with your manager to find ways to gain these experiences and skills, which can be through working in a different role, team or location. My advice to you is, take up challenges, step into other people's shoes, add a dash of innovation and keep going.

### Learn And Train

Continuous learning is process of life, pinnacle of the attitude and vision of the universe. The day we stop learning new things professionally and personally, literally, it would be the end of life.

Regardless of the industry you're in, training

is very important to propel yourself up the career ladder. Training helps learn new skills and brush up on concepts you've already learned. Today, internet has dramatically revolutionised the corporate scene, now you can attend virtual sessions anywhere, anytime and that too free of cost. All you need is determination to learn and understanding of your training requirements.

### Network

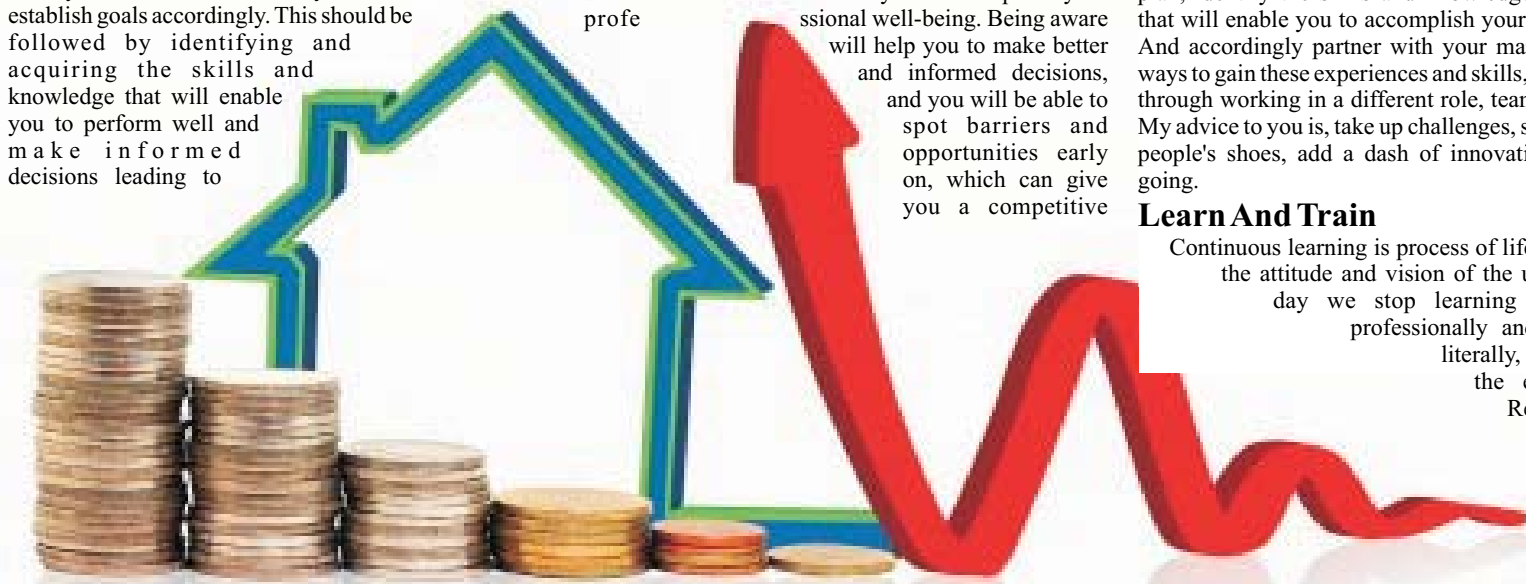
Life is all about perspectives and experiences, and networking provides an opportunity to interact with people and learn from their experiences. After all, it can be a refreshing and enlightening experience to have a conversation with those in or outside your industry.

### Share Knowledge

Knowledge is like a treasure, the more you share the more it grows. So never hesitate to share your knowledge and experiences. If somebody needs to know something, explain them, and it would definitely give you a benefit. This will also help you in building a positive reputation within the organisation.

### Take Criticism Positively

Believe me, no one is born with the capacity to accept criticism constructively. All of us have to work towards developing that attitude and learn not be defensive. This is a quality that comes with time and experience. All you have to remember is to handle such situations (and there will be many) with tact and grace and you will sail through.



# 7 secrets to ace your Job interview

**Most advice on acing a job interview is about memorising answers to an endless number of possible questions. And there, we've got a fundamental problem. Because the interview is not an exam; it's a discussion to establish if you are competent, motivated and trustworthy. Do you want to win your dream job? We have some radically different advice for you. Are they secrets? Well, we don't know, but, for sure, they are tips based on our experience and research:**

- Prepare, don't just show up: Interviews are not walk-ins. Always know the role you are applying for and the company you will be interviewing with. What business are they in, how do they make money, and how will hiring you

- Even freshers have experience: If you are fresh out of university with no job experience, talk about what worked well for you in coursework and internships, the experiences that have shaped you this far and the lessons learned. Forget the myth that you have no experience worth talking about.



make a difference to them?

- First impressions count: From the time you keep to the clothes you wear, from your posture on arrival to the way you greet security in the lobby; it's best to assume that all of this is being observed. Don't let yourself down. Start on a professional note.

- Tell your story, furnish evidence: The interview is your opportunity to show why you should be hired. So, come prepared to talk about your biggest achievements and highlights of your professional journey. How are they relevant to the new job? How do they put you above what the rest of the herd can do?

- Leadership skills matter: Companies are looking for a good match and for people who have the potential for bigger things. If the role they are trying to fill today does not exist tomorrow, will they still have a need for you? Can today's junior analyst be the leader of the business unit in eight years' time? What you know doesn't matter as much as how you work. Be ready to discuss teamwork, your ability to influence and inspire, and what keeps you going each and every day.

- An interview is not a one way: Use the interview to get to know the company better. Is their work culture aligned with what matters to you? Is this the right organisation for you at the stage of life you find yourself in? If you are a young parent, a

24x7 work culture might not exactly be what you are looking for. Remember that a lot of your motivation and happiness will come from the company you join.

- Rejection is part of the game: For all the work that you put in and the advice we can provide, interviewing is still a process loaded with unknowns. If an opportunity does not open up, take it in your stride. Maybe you didn't fit the bill, maybe the position was already spoken for, or the budget disappeared. The truth will never come out. Don't let a rejection bring you down, but learn what you can and keep going.

Think about these tips, take your time and prepare how you will convey your message. Right through your professional journey, whether you are in the final days of your notice period or in the first weeks of your new job, nurture your personal brand. How do you want people to talk about you in your absence, what would you like them to say? Careers are marathons; the interview is just an intermediate step.



# Curious case of Rs 58 lakh recovered by Ram Temple Trust before theft probe began

**Sources claim temple authorities recovered Rs 58 lakh before the FIR in the Ram Temple donation theft case, while the remaining money was returned through bank transfers. The case has since led to arrests, Trust resignations, and an SIT probe into alleged lapses in donation handling and oversight.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Ram Mandir donation theft case has taken a turn with new revelations raising questions about the culpability of people working for the temple's trust. Sources have told that nearly Rs 58 lakh of money stolen from the donation proceeds was traced and recovered even before a Special Investigation Team appointed by the UP government began an investigation into the matter. According to the sources, certain members of the Trust carried out their own internal investigation and recovered Rs 58 lakh from Avinash Shukla, who is among the eight people arrested last week in the theft case. This recovery was made several days before the allegations of theft became public and Special Investigation Team was constituted to look into the matter. The SIT's findings, submitted to

the UP government last week, would lead to registration of an FIR and the arrests of eight persons, including Avniash Shukla. Sources said that on June 5, representatives of the Trust, acting on the instructions of then General Secretary Champat Rai, accompanied police personnel to the residence of accused Avinash Shukla. During the visit, nearly Rs 58 lakh was allegedly recovered. Soon after, Rai, along with trustee Anil Mishra, stepped down on moral grounds. The development is significant because the recovery predates the registration of a formal complaint, according to sources familiar with the investigation. Sources further claimed that between June 5 and June 8, the remaining amount was returned by the accused through bank transfers. The sequence suggests that

efforts to recover the allegedly embezzled money had already begun before the matter formally entered the legal process.



According to sources, the timeline unfolded as follows:  
June 4: Information about the alleged theft reaches the Trust.  
June 5: Trust officials and police visit an accused's residence; nearly Rs 58 lakh is

recovered.  
June 5-8: Remaining amount is returned through bank transfers.  
June 7: Allegations of donation theft enter the public domain.  
Subsequently, formal legal proceedings began and the investigation expanded. The timeline is now emerging as a key focus of the probe, with agencies examining why recoveries allegedly began before the registration of a formal complaint and whether any procedural lapses occurred during the initial handling of the case. The latest revelations build on details that surfaced earlier regarding the Trust's knowledge of the alleged theft before it became public. Trust officials and police had reached the residence of one of the accused on June 5, days before the controversy erupted in the public domain.

## Yamuna clean-up a shared responsibility, says Delhi CM



**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday joined volunteers in a Yamuna cleaning campaign at Chilla village Ghat and said the rejuvenation of the river was a shared responsibility of Delhiites. A large number of young people, volunteers, social organisations and residents participated in the 'Clean Delhi with CM' campaign, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office.

"Yamuna is not merely a river but Delhi's memory, culture and lifeline. Keeping it clean, pure and free-flowing is not just the responsibility of the government, but the shared responsibility of every citizen," Gupta said. The Delhi Government is continuously working towards the scientific, sustainable and comprehensive rejuvenation of the Yamuna, she said.

The Chief Minister said that the government was modernising sewage treatment plants, setting up new decentralised plants, expanding the sewer network and tapping all drains flowing into the river.

### E-Office expansion

CM Rekha Gupta said over 75 per cent of the Delhi government's paperwork has shifted to the e-Office platform, covering 177 departments and nearly 15,700 active users, resulting in reduced paperwork, faster governance and improved transparency.

## Four-year-old girl dies after falling from tenth floor in Delhi's Kalkaji Extension

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

A four-year-old girl died after she allegedly fell from the 10th floor of a residential building in southeast Delhi's Kalkaji Extension area, police said. The incident took place on Saturday evening and the deceased was living there with her family. Her father, who works as a fish seller in Govindpuri market, was at work when the incident occurred. Police said the girl was alone inside the flat after her mother briefly stepped out to a neighbour's house.

Police officers reached the spot after receiving information about the incident. A crime team and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team inspected the spot and collected evidence. The body has been sent for a post-mortem examination. Police are examining CCTV footage of the area to establish the sequence of events. Further investigation is underway.



Amrita Das, the child's aunt, urged the authorities to improve safety measures in residential buildings. "We have lost our child, and we pray that this never happens to anyone else. We urge the authorities to fix the unsafe balconies and the large gaps between the staircases and the balcony railings. These safety hazards must be addressed immediately. The victim's parents are in a state of deep grief," she said.

Local resident Sanjay Sarkar said no one knew exactly how the incident had happened. According to him, the child had returned from her maternal grandmother's house three days earlier. After putting her to sleep, the mother had stepped out briefly to speak with a neighbour. The child is believed to have woken up and somehow fallen from the balcony. Whether she slipped through a gap in the railing or climbed over it remains unclear.

## 'How can I stay silent': Wangchuk on hunger strike at Jantar Mantar to back CJP causes

**Before beginning his hunger strike, Wangchuk, along with CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, visited Rajghat and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Prominent activist Sonam Wangchuk, along with six members of left-wing student group All India Students' Association (AISA), began a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar on Sunday, where the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) has been holding a protest since June 20, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities.

Wangchuk had also earlier joined the CJP's first protest held at Jantar Mantar on June 6. Before beginning his hunger strike, Wangchuk, along with CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, visited Rajghat and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. "I have been forced to sit here, I am not doing this happily. I am

sitting on a fast in support of both issues. Many people ask me: 'You were doing a movement in Ladakh, why are you with CJP now?' Education, which is the issue here, has been close to my heart for the last



40 years, since I was a student," Wangchuk said. "I did engineering, but never took a job because I felt the key to all generations is in education.

When some youth raise their voices on issues with the education system, how could I have remained silent? It was natural for me to support them," Wangchuk added.

"When there is no accountability, we are forced to take the only way possible in a democracy - peaceful protest, and we will do that," he said. He also appealed to people to make it a community hunger strike by observing at least a day-long fast. He also pointed out that when a leader recognises their mistake, their stature does not become small or big. "They (leaders) become great," he said. "I want to tell the government that if you are a leader of democracy, you should be kind hearted and empathetic," he said.

## L-G approves executive magistrate powers for DMs, revenue officers

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu has authorised key revenue and administrative officers to exercise executive magistrate powers in the reorganised districts of the city, officials said.

The powers will be conferred upon district magistrates, additional district magistrates, revenue assistants, tehsildars and consolidation officers within their respective reorganised jurisdictions, Lok Niwas officials said. The decision was made in accordance with Section 14 of the BNSS, which replaced the erstwhile CrPC, empowering the state government to

appoint executive magistrates, DM/ADM designates, and place magistrates in charge of subdivisions.



According to a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification dated June 28, 2024, the powers and functions of the state government under the BNSS (except Section 523) stand delegated to the lieutenant governor of Delhi. The districts in

Delhi were reorganised through a notification issued by the revenue department on December 25, 2025, after which a formal conferment of these magisterial powers became imperative to ensure seamless administrative governance, maintenance of law and order, and public service delivery across the newly structured districts, the officials said.

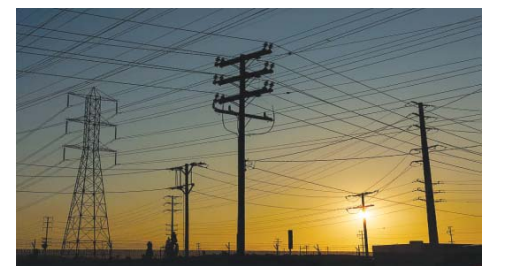
Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Home Minister Ashish Sood had approved the proposal before recommending it to the L-G. With the L-G's formal assent, the government will now issue an official notification under Section 14 of the BNSS, the officials said.

## Beyond subsidy: CAG scrutiny can infuse efficiency into power sector

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The recent Delhi High Court order clearing the way for a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit of the privately-owned power distribution companies (discoms) in the national capital is a significant development in Delhi's power sector since electricity distribution was privatised over two decades ago. While the immediate political debate revolves around transparency and accountability, the larger question is whether the judgment could initiate the next phase of power sector reforms in Delhi.

Soon after assuming office, Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood sought a CAG audit of the three private distribution companies operating in the city. The proposal was resisted by the companies, leading to legal challenges. The High Court's decision now opens the possibility



of an independent examination of their financial records, expenditure patterns and claims regarding operational losses.

When the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) emerged as a political force in 2012-13, one of its central allegations was that the Congress government had created an opaque privatization process that excessively benefited private distribution companies. Arvind Kejriwal himself frequently demanded independent audits.

On coming to power, the AAP government rather than revisiting the structure of privatisation focused on providing consumer relief through extensive electricity subsidies. Households consuming electricity within specified limits received free or heavily subsidised power. The crucial aspect of this arrangement, however, was that the burden of these subsidies was borne by the Delhi government through budgetary support rather than by the private companies themselves.

## 35 years after Sarla Bhat's rape-murder, J&K probe agency chargesheets Yasin Malik

**The Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) is set to file a 737-page chargesheet in the 1990 abduction and killing of Sarla Bhat, alleging the crime was part of a broader JKLF campaign targeting Kashmiri Pandits and marking a major breakthrough in a decades-old terror case.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Nearly 35 years after the abduction, rape, torture and murder of Kashmiri Pandit nurse Sarla Bhat, the State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir, is set to file a 737-page chargesheet before a special court in Srinagar, naming JKLF chief Mohammad Yasin Malik and other accused.

Sources confirm the investigation has revealed the involvement of Mohammad Yasin Malik, then Chief Commander of JKLF, along with Khurshid Ahmad Chalkoo, Abdul Hamid Sheikh, Mohammad Yousuf Sofi alias Idrees and Ghulam Mohammad Taploo in planning and executing the abduction and brutal killing. While Abdul Hamid Sheikh, Mohammad Yousuf Sofi alias Idrees and Ghulam Mohammad Taploo are deceased,

Mohammad Yasin Malik is presently in judicial custody in another case. Legal proceedings, including proclamation proceedings, have been initiated against absconding terrorist Khurshid Ahmad Chalkoo (the man who pulled the trigger), who is believed to have exfiltrated to Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The case was transferred to the SIA, J&K, on March 18, 2024, under the orders of the Director General of Police (DGP), J&K.

The voluminous chargesheet, painstakingly compiled after an exhaustive investigation, brings together a formidable body of oral, documentary, forensic, ballistic, medical and electronic evidence accumulated over decades and meticulously analysed by SIA Kashmir.

The filing of the chargesheet after nearly thirty-five years marks a historic milestone in the pursuit of justice for victims of terrorism and stands as one of



the most significant breakthroughs in the investigation of legacy terror crimes in Jammu & Kashmir.

The case relates to one of the most

barbaric terrorist crimes committed during the early phase of terrorism in Kashmir. Sarla Bhat was abducted from the vicinity of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) on April 18, 1990, subjected to brutal torture and physical assault, and thereafter horrendously killed through automatic rifle fire at Omer Colony, Malbagh, Srinagar. For decades, the case remained unresolved owing to the extraordinary circumstances prevailing during the peak years of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. The atmosphere of fear, intimidation and terror created by terrorist organisations had severely impacted the ability of witnesses to come forward and disclose material facts.

## Rupee gains 20 paise against US dollar as softer crude prices lift sentiment

New Delhi.(Agency)

The rupee appreciated 20 paise to 94.25 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday supported by easing crude oil prices, even as a firm US dollar and tepid investor risk appetite weighed on sentiments. Forex traders said the rupee opened on a positive note with oil prices remaining supportive and foreign inflows improving. The overall bias remains positive for the rupee, they said, adding that the immediate hurdle remains the US dollar, which continues to hold firm near a 13-month high. At the interbank foreign exchange market the rupee opened at 94.36, then gained momentum and touched 94.25, registering a gain of 20 paise from its previous low. On Thursday, the rupee settled at 94.45 against the US dollar. Indian stock, currency, and commodities markets were shut on Friday on account of Muharram. "The rupee may remain under pressure amid a firm US dollar and the risk of a rebound in crude oil prices, though bond inflows could offer some support. Technically, 93.50-94.10 is a strong support zone, while a breakout above 94.80 could open the way towards 95.30-95.50," said CR Forex Advisors MD - Amit Pabari. Meanwhile, India's forex reserves increased by USD 963 million to USD 672.587 billion during the week ended June 19, the RBI said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 9.985 billion to USD 671.625 billion. According to Pabari, a steady gain in India's forex reserves shows the Reserve Bank is rebuilding its buffer after months of heavy dollar selling. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.37, up 0.02 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.72 per cent at USD 72.51 per barrel in futures trade. "Brent crude has slipped to around USD 72 per barrel, its lowest in four months, after falling more than 10 per cent in just one week. Tankers are moving freely through the Strait of Hormuz again, and Gulf supply is returning to normal. For a country that imports most of its crude, this means a lighter import bill and softer dollar demand," Pabari said.

## Gold and silver prices decline marginally: Check retail prices in major cities

New Delhi.(Agency)

The price of gold and silver declined in the retail market in India today, June 29. The dips were marginal but both the 24 karat and 22 karat varieties showed a downward trend. Silver prices also decreased in the domestic bullion market. MCX gold rate for August futures contracts was trading 0.32% lower at the level of Rs 144,130 per 10 grams while on the same exchange silver futures were trading about 0.13% lower at the level of Rs 223,470 per kg in the morning.

Analysts have said that both gold and silver can remain under pressure this week as investors assess the impact of fresh conflicts and a halt to the strikes and counter strikes and meet in Doha for peace talks to save the dialogue. This week major economic data will also come out on manufacturing and services PMI for major economies, inflation data in Europe and unemployment numbers from the US. Both gold and silver prices will remain in the correction zone said analysts.

### Dollar strength rises, safe haven interest falls

In fact, from the Indian bullion market to the global market, there is a decline in the prices of gold and silver. This can bring relief to consumers of gold and gold jewellery. Due to the indications from the US Federal Reserve to keep the interest rates high for a long time and the strengthening of the US dollar, there is a lot of pressure on precious metals globally. Apart from this, the decision to once again give importance to the talks between America and Iran has reduced the demand for gold as a 'safe haven' i.e. safe investment, due to which the prices are continuously falling.

## IIFCL plans \$1 billion overseas loan, also eyes \$400 million ADB funding to back infrastructure push

New Delhi.(Agency)

State-owned India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) is planning to raise \$1 billion from overseas investors in what could become its largest foreign-currency loan, while also holding talks with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a separate \$400 million loan, a senior company executive told Reuters.

The fundraising comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a series of measures to encourage dollar inflows and support the rupee, including allowing state-run firms and banks to raise foreign-currency funds to hedge forex exposure at subsidised rates. \$1 billion loan planned

The proposed \$1 billion loan will have a 15-year tenure and carry an interest rate of below 7%, while discussions with ADB are centred on a separate 20-year loan of about \$400 million, IIFCL Deputy Managing Director Palash Srivastava told Reuters.

Srivastava said IIFCL doubled the size of the proposed 15-year borrowing from an initial \$500 million after the RBI announced the subsidised borrowing facility. Reuters had earlier reported that three Indian development finance institutions planned to raise at least \$1.5 billion through foreign-currency bank loans under the RBI's new framework. Dollar bond also on the cards. Apart from bank borrowings, IIFCL is also evaluating its debt dollar bond issue of around \$100 million by the end of the year.

"The bond will likely be in the three- to five-year tenor," Srivastava told Reuters.

RBI measures spur overseas fundraising Dollar fundraising by Indian financial institutions has picked up after the RBI opened its subsidised foreign borrowing window.

# Nearly Rs 9,000 crore in unclaimed insurance: How to check if any is yours

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Nearly Rs 9,000 crore belonging to insurance policyholders and their families is lying unclaimed with life and general insurance companies, often because nominees are unaware of policies, documents have been misplaced or policyholders failed to update their records. According to information shared by the government in Parliament in March 2026, Rs 8,973.89 crore in unclaimed insurance funds was lying with insurers as of February 28 this year. An insurance amount is treated as unclaimed if it remains unpaid for more than 12 months after it becomes due. While the money may eventually be transferred to the government's Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund after 10 years, policyholders, nominees and legal heirs can still claim it for up to 25 years after the transfer.

Here's why so much money goes unclaimed—and how you can check if some of it belongs to you.

### WHY DOES INSURANCE MONEY

GO UNCLAIMED?

One of the biggest reasons is that families simply do not know an insurance policy exists. The ET report narrates the case of a Delhi woman who discovered her late father's life insurance policy only after finding an email from the insurer months after his death. The family eventually recovered nearly Rs 4 lakh in maturity proceeds after locating the original policy documents. Experts say such cases are far more common than many realise.

"Unclaimed insurance money continues to remain a liability on the insurers' books and is subject to regulatory oversight. However, the bigger challenge is the lack of awareness and proactive action by policyholders and nominees in claiming benefits that rightfully belong to them," Shilpa Arora, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer at Insurance Samadhan, told ET. According to Saurabh Vijayvergia, Founder and CEO of CoverSure,



traditional life insurance products such as endowment, money-back and whole-life policies account for a large share of unclaimed money because they run for 15 to 30 years. "During this period, policyholders may change their addresses, contact details or nominee information," Vijayvergia told ET.

### LIFE INSURANCE FORMS THE BIGGEST CHUNK

Most of the unclaimed money is linked to life insurance. It includes maturity proceeds, death claims, surrender values, survival benefits, premium refunds and reduced paid-up benefits that were never collected.

For health and general insurance policies, the reasons are often different.

Kunal Kabra, Founder of KustodianLife, told ET that while life insurance is largely a "discoverability problem", general insurance usually involves incomplete reimbursements, premium refunds or claims that were never fully processed. Rajat Dutta, Founder of Inheritance Needs Services, told ET that many health insurance claims remain unsettled because policyholders fail to submit all the required hospital documents after discharge, particularly when treatment takes place away from their home city.

## Samsung, SK Hynix's \$518 billion AI bet: Why the chip giants are expanding

New Delhi.(Agency)

Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix on Monday unveiled plans to build four new semiconductor fabrication plants as part of an 800 trillion won (\$518 billion) project in South Korea, one of the biggest investments yet linked to the global artificial intelligence (AI) boom.

Under the plan, the two chipmakers will build two fabrication plants each in South Korea's southwest region. The broader project will also include suppliers, infrastructure and advanced semiconductor facilities, creating one of the world's largest chip manufacturing ecosystems. The sheer scale of the investment has grabbed headlines. But the bigger question is: why are two of the world's largest chipmakers investing so aggressively? AI IS CHANGING THE CHIP INDUSTRY

The rise of AI has dramatically increased demand for semiconductors. Every AI model, from ChatGPT and

Gemini to enterprise AI systems used by businesses, relies on vast amounts of computing power. Training and running these systems requires massive data centres packed with advanced



processors and memory chips. That demand has fundamentally changed the semiconductor business. For years, chipmakers relied heavily on demand from smartphones, laptops and consumer electronics. Today, AI infrastructure has emerged as one of the

industry's fastest-growing markets, with technology companies racing to build the computing capacity needed to support AI services. WHY SAMSUNG AND SK HYNIX MATTER

Samsung and SK Hynix are not just any semiconductor companies. They are among the world's largest producers of memory chips, a critical component in AI systems. These chips allow AI models to process, store and move enormous amounts of data at high speeds.

SK Hynix has emerged as a dominant supplier of High-Bandwidth Memory (HBM), a specialised type of memory that has become essential for AI servers and Nvidia's AI accelerators. Samsung is also aggressively expanding its presence in the HBM market as competition intensifies. As AI adoption grows, demand for such memory chips is expected to increase sharply.

## Stock markets decline in early trade amid renewed flare-up in geopolitical tensions

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in early trade on Monday amid renewed hostilities between the US and Iran. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 63.65 points to 77,047.63 during initial trading. The 50-share NSE Nifty went marginally up by 16.55 points to 24,070.20. Later, the BSE benchmark dropped 246.54 points to 76,853.93, and the Nifty dipped 50.55 points to 24,005.45. From the 30-Sensex firms, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, InterGlobe Aviation, HCL Tech and Reliance Industries were among the major laggards. Eternal, Trent, Asian Paints and Tech Mahindra were among the gainers.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark,

traded 0.72 per cent higher at USD 72.51 per barrel. "Indian equity markets are expected to trade on a cautious note



developments have reintroduced an element of uncertainty into global financial markets and are likely to keep investor sentiment guarded in the near term," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 index traded lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted in the green.

US markets ended marginally lower on Friday. Stock markets were closed on Friday for Muharram. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 383.76 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, the Sensex settled 109.25 points, or 0.14 per cent, higher at 77,100.47. The Nifty rose by 34.35 points, or 0.14 per cent, to end at 24,056.

# Home sales slip 6%: Why are buyers pulling back across top cities?

**ANAROCK said housing sales across the top seven cities fell in Q2 2026 even as new launches rose. The data showed a more balanced market as war-linked uncertainty and IT sector concerns weighed on buyers.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

For the past few years, India's housing market has surprised everyone with its resilience. Even as home loan rates climbed, and property prices inched higher, buyers continued to flock to new launches. Developers, encouraged by robust demand, kept adding projects across major cities.

But the latest numbers suggest that the market may finally be catching its breath. Home sales across India's top seven cities fell 6% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2026, according to ANAROCK Research. Nearly 90,700 homes were sold between April and June, compared with over 96,000 during the same period last year. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, sales



slipped an even sharper 11%. Does this mean the housing boom is over? Not quite. Instead, experts believe the market is entering a more balanced phase, where buyers are taking more time to make decisions while developers continue betting on long-term demand. GLOBAL TENSIONS SLOW HOUSING DEMAND

One of the biggest reasons behind the slowdown is uncertainty. The ongoing

conflict in West Asia has disrupted supply chains, fuelled concerns over commodity prices and added to the broader sense of economic caution. This uncertainty has affected homebuyers as much as businesses. Purchasing a house is among the biggest financial decisions families make, and periods of geopolitical instability often encourage people to delay such commitments.

ANAROCK Chairman Anuj Puri says the

moderation was largely expected.

"These readings are along expected lines, as the Middle East war's impacts on the entire sector were all too obvious. Reasons aside, what we have currently is a more balanced housing market where new supply is catching up with absorption as sales growth moderated across most top cities." According to him, today's housing market is no longer driven by panic buying or fear of missing out. Instead, demand is becoming more measured and closely aligned with actual supply.

### BUYERS ARE BECOMING MORE SELECTIVE

The slowdown does not necessarily mean buyers have disappeared. Rather, many appear to be taking a wait-and-watch approach. Higher property prices over the past two years, concerns around global economic growth and uncertainty in sectors such as IT and IT-enabled services have made households more cautious. Puri believes another factor is also at play. "The Middle East war's disruptions and, inevitably, AI-related uncertainties in the IT/ITeS sector have pushed more buyers onto the fence."



CMYK



## Short news

## Kerala Police warns of 'Boss Scam' targeting CEOs, finance teams

Thiruvananthapuram.(Agency)

The Kerala Police has issued a public advisory warning organisations, businesses and corporate institutions to remain on high alert against a sophisticated cyber fraud known as the "Boss Scam" or CEO Impersonation Fraud.

The emerging scam specifically targets senior executives and finance department employees, using fake identities and malware to deceive organisations into transferring large sums of money.

According to the Kerala Police advisory, cybercriminals begin the attack by sending fake urgent messages in the name of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) or purported official audit teams, creating panic among employees.

Victims are then persuaded to open malicious ZIP files containing malware, allowing the attackers to infiltrate company computer systems and gain unauthorised control. Once they gain access, the fraudsters either create fake profiles of senior executives or compromise their genuine accounts. They then exploit employees' WhatsApp Web sessions to send convincing messages in the name of the CEO or other top officials, instructing finance personnel to make urgent fund transfers.

## No breakthrough in nurses' strike as talks collapse: Protest at Jubilee Mission, Amala hospitals to continue

Thrissur.(Agency)

The prolonged strike by nurses at Jubilee Mission Medical College Hospital and Amala Institute of Medical Sciences in Thrissur of Kerala is set to continue after another round of conciliation talks failed to produce a breakthrough.

The discussions, convened by the Labour Department on Sunday, ended without any consensus as both the hospital managements and the striking nurses remained firm on their positions.

With negotiations reaching yet another deadlock, the United Nurses Association (UNA) announced that the indefinite strike would continue until the managements agree to their key demands, including a fair wage revision, better service conditions, and implementation of long-pending employment benefits.

The conciliation meeting, attended by representatives of both hospitals, the nurses' union and Labour Department officials, failed after the managements declined to accept the union's demands, citing financial constraints.

The nurses, however, maintained that the salaries currently offered by the two leading private hospitals are inadequate and do not reflect the workload and responsibilities shouldered by healthcare professionals.

The strike, which has been continuing for several months, has emerged as one of Kerala's most significant labour disputes in the private healthcare sector. Despite repeated rounds of mediation, both sides have been unable to reach a mutually acceptable settlement.

## MP Tejasvi Surya terms Bengaluru tunnel project a 'tombstone of scientific urban planning'



BENGALURU.(Agency)

"Mr Chief Minister, you have not laid a foundation stone today. You have laid the tombstone of scientific urban planning in Bengaluru," said Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, registering his opposition to the short tunnel project between Hebbal and Mekhri Circle.

Replying to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's post on the foundation stone laying programme, Surya on Sunday called the Rs 1,139 crore, 2-km tunnel project an unscientific solution that will fail to address Bengaluru's traffic problems.

He said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) admits that the tunnel will be saturated from the very first day of operation. "Not five years later. Not 10 years later. Day One. If the project's own report says it will begin its life in a traffic jam, then who exactly is this project for? Certainly not commuters," he said.

He said the perception among Bengalureans is that the project benefits a privileged few, while the entire city bears the cost. "This project seems designed to make life easier for a privileged few, the VIPs of Sadashivanagar, including the chief minister and the city's elite who use this corridor to reach the airport, while ordinary taxpayers across Bengaluru foot the bill," he added.

"Undoubtedly, the primary beneficiaries of this project will be the contractors who will reroute large kickbacks to the Congress' funds," he alleged.

## Railway cop beats passenger, drags him by hair at Surat station

A GRP sub-inspector was transferred after a viral video allegedly showed him assaulting a passenger at Surat's Udhna Railway Station. The footage drew sharp criticism online and prompted a departmental enquiry into police conduct.

Surat.(Agency)

A Government Railway Police (GRP) sub-inspector has been transferred after a video purportedly showing him assaulting a passenger at Surat's Udhna Railway Station went viral on social media, triggering widespread criticism and raising concerns over police conduct.

The viral video, recorded by a bystander, allegedly shows a passenger being dragged by his hair, pushed to the ground and beaten by a police officer on the station platform. The woman filming the incident can be heard claiming that the man was on his way to his village when he was allegedly assaulted without provocation. The footage also shows another passenger retreating after witnessing the incident.

The incident has sparked outrage online, with many questioning the conduct of railway police and the safety of passengers at the busy



station. According to the Surat GRP, the incident occurred at around 8:30 am on Sunday when a special train bound for

Jaynagar arrived at Udhna Railway Station. Police personnel were managing queues of passengers boarding the train. Officials said the passenger allegedly attempted to bypass the queue and board the train directly, following which the GRP sub-inspector assaulted him.

Surat GRP Deputy Superintendent of Police D.H. Gaur confirmed to India Today that the viral video was authentic and identified the officer as GRP Sub-Inspector R.M. Rathod, who was posted at Udhna Railway Station. Following the video's circulation on social media, Rathod was transferred to the Vadodara GRP Headquarters, and a departmental enquiry has been initiated into the incident.

## Civic apathy forces Bannerghatta Road residents get their hands dirty

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Owing to the failure of multiple efforts in getting civic authorities to clear a debris- and garbage-ridden area on Bannerghatta Road, residents took to resolving the issue by themselves.

The community clean-up drive, a joint initiative by local residents and Bengaluru Navanirman Party (BNP), was held on Saturday, on the occasion of Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Jayanti. More than 50 residents cleared a 600-metre stretch of land from Meenakshi Temple to Meenakshi Greens.

The main road near the Temple was plagued by garbage, debris and encroachment for months, contributing to pollution, safety risks and creating difficulties for movement of pedestrians and motorists alike. Despite repeated complaints and appeals to

multiple officers, including the assistant executive engineer of Arakere Ward, no



action was taken to fix the issue. This frustration led to the residents resolving the issue themselves. Poongothai, a BNP leader,

said, "Many letters were written to officials since February, but owing to their inaction, the issue had to be resolved through citizens' participation. It was a three-day effort from Friday. We also removed flex boards on electric poles, fixed chamber cover issues and are trying to work on it further with Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)."

Joshua Sinto, a local resident, said authorities refused to address the issue, saying stating that the stretch comes under two different wards - Arakere and Gottigere.

BNP ward leader Monika said, "Is it the duty of citizens to constantly chase officers for every single task? If this is the condition of a main road, what is the state of interior lanes and bylanes?"

## Pregnant Telangana woman dies by suicide after husband demands DNA test for baby

A five-month-pregnant woman in Medak district allegedly died by suicide after her husband demanded a DNA test. Police arrested the husband and his mother after the family alleged sustained harassment and humiliation.

Hyderabad.(Agency)

A 23-year-old pregnant woman allegedly died by suicide in Telangana's Medak district after facing repeated harassment from her husband, who allegedly questioned the paternity of their unborn child and demanded a DNA test, police said on Monday.

The woman, identified as G Sushmita, was five months pregnant when she was found dead at her matrimonial home on June 25. She had married G Abhilash, a resident of Gadipeddapur village, around 18 months ago.

According to a complaint filed by Sushmita's mother, Abhilash allegedly subjected her daughter to physical and mental harassment and repeatedly cast

suspicion on her character. The complaint also alleged that Abhilash's mother was involved in harassing Sushmita. The family said they had



visited Sushmita's in-laws' house on June 23 to discuss arrangements for her seemantham, a traditional baby shower ceremony. During the meeting, an argument reportedly

broke out, following which Abhilash allegedly insisted on a DNA test to establish whether the unborn child was his. Village elders intervened and managed to calm the situation at the time.

However, two days later, Sushmita was found dead by suicide at her husband's residence. Her family alleged that the continued humiliation and harassment drove her to take the extreme step.

Following the complaint, police registered a case under Sections 85 (cruelty by husband or relatives) and 108 (abetment of suicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with relevant provisions related to common intention.

## Man held for cheating investors of Rs 3 crore in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Police on Sunday arrested a 51-year-old man for allegedly posing as the son of senior Congress leader and former Lok Sabha member late Krupasindhu Bhoi and cheating investors of over Rs 3 crore on the promise of providing lucrative returns.

The accused Sachidananda Bhoi of Bargarh district was staying in Phulnakhara area here. As per police, Bhoi had started a company named 'Go Speedy Go' in the last quarter of 2025 to provide vehicle repair services to people at their doorsteps. He had opened its office in Patia area, besides other branches in Khandagiri and at Kotinda in Ganjam district. However, he cheated the gullible investors and closed down the office in just two months. Zone VI ACP, Manas Ranjan Pradhan said Bhoi had collected Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh from about 200 to 250 people on the pretext of investing their money in his company and providing them higher returns.

"However, he later closed the office and fled. A duped investor lodged a complaint against him in Infocity police station, following which a case was registered and Bhoi was nabbed from his hiding in Darjeeling. He is also accused of not paying the salaries to his staff amounting to around Rs 63 lakh," Pradhan said.

Further investigation revealed Bhoi had criminal antecedents and was earlier booked in three cases by Saheed Nagar police and one case each by Pahala police, Special Crime Unit and CID-CB. This apart, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Jharsuguda had registered a case and a non-bailable warrant was pending against him in this connection.

## 32-month duty, Rs 27 lakh earned, Rs 2 crore spent: Bihar officer faces probe

A Bihar education officer is under investigation after an enquiry found bank transactions worth Rs 2.51 crore despite earning Rs 27.43 lakh in salary over 32 months. The probe also flagged land purchases and assets, with the report sent to the state government for action.

Saran.(Agency)



A District Programme Officer (DPO) in Bihar's Saran district has come under the scanner after an enquiry reportedly uncovered bank transactions worth over Rs 2.51 crore despite his official salary being just Rs 27.43 lakh during his 32-month tenure.

Ajit Amar, DPO for Secondary Education, Planning and Accounts, is facing allegations of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. A five-member enquiry committee submitted its findings to the District Magistrate, who has forwarded the report to the

Education Department for further action. According to the enquiry, more than Rs 2.51 crore was transferred through the bank accounts of Ajit Amar and his wife during the period under review. Investigators also found that 120 kattas of land were purchased in Ekma in his wife's name for nearly Rs 41.5 lakh. The report further mentions the construction of a house allegedly worth several lakhs.

The probe was initiated after a contractor accused the officer of demanding money in exchange for official work. During the investigation, officials examined

financial records and property details, leading to the discovery of the alleged discrepancies.

The enquiry panel has recommended a comprehensive investigation into the bank accounts, properties and financial dealings of the officer, his wife and other family members. It has also sought records from banks and various government departments to verify the source of the funds. The District Education Officer confirmed that the enquiry report has been sent to the state headquarters. The Bihar government will now decide on departmental and legal action based on the findings of the investigation.

## J&amp;K Police register FIR over fake news on Baramulla attack, Amarnath Yatra cancellation

Srinagar.(Agency)

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have registered an FIR and launched an investigation into the circulation of fake news falsely claiming that terrorists attacked a police station in Baramulla, opened fire at government offices across the town, and that the Chief Minister had proposed cancellation of the Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The police said the deliberate dissemination of such fabricated content appears to be a calculated attempt to create fear, spread panic, disturb public tranquillity, and undermine public confidence during the yatra.

In a statement, Police Baramulla categorically debunked false and fabricated information being circulated on social media alleging that terrorists attacked a police station in Baramulla, opened fire on government offices across the town, and that the Chief Minister has proposed the cancellation of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

"The claims are completely false, baseless and devoid of any factual basis. No such terrorist attack or firing incident has taken place anywhere in Baramulla, and the information regarding the proposed cancellation of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is also entirely false and misleading," police said. "The deliberate dissemination of such fabricated content appears to be a calculated attempt to create fear, spread panic, disturb public tranquillity and undermine public confidence during the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra," they added. In this regard, an FIR has been registered and an investigation has been initiated.

The annual Amarnath Yatra is all set to begin on July 3 and will last for 57 days and conclude on August 28. Police said it is taking all necessary steps to identify the persons responsible for creating, publishing and circulating this malicious disinformation.

## NEWS BOX

## Was Ben Stokes forced to retire? England captain breaks silence on selfish call

New Delhi, (Agency)

The timing was pure, unadulterated Ben Stokes. Dropping an international retirement bombshell midway through the fourth day of a crucial, series-deciding Test match against New Zealand at Trent Bridge is a script only he could write. While the England and Wales Cricket Board released the official announcement just 15 minutes before the tea interval, the 35-year-old was out on the turf, deep into a relentless bowling spell. The sudden nature of the exit immediately ignited intense speculation across the cricketing world: was England's talismanic captain pushed out by the hierarchy?

The suspicion was entirely logical. Stokes had only just returned to the side after being stood down for the second Test at The Oval on disciplinary grounds. The ECB and the Cricket Regulator had launched an investigation into his late-night celebrations following England's victory in the first Test at Lord's. Though he was ultimately cleared of any serious wrongdoing and reinstated for Trent Bridge, rumours swirled that the governing body was preparing to punish their skipper, creating a major rift.



Speaking to Sky Sports after breaking the news, Stokes addressed the conspiracy theories directly and made it clear that this was his choice alone. He denied that the disciplinary action or the missed match at The Oval had a direct, causal effect on his decision to bring down the curtain on a spectacular 15-year international career. Instead, Stokes revealed the roots of his departure stretched back much further, originating during the painful 4-1 Ashes defeat in Australia last winter.

"The Lord's Test, for me, was something that brought back negative feelings about where I was in my career," Stokes said. "I'd worked so hard since getting home to put things right, or at least that's what I thought I was doing. I put so much time and effort into doing that and I just burned myself out."

## Wimbledon Day 1 schedule: Sinner and Djokovic begin campaigns amid relief from heat

New Delhi, (Agency)

The pristine grass courts of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club are ready for action as Wimbledon 2026 gets underway on Monday, 29 June. Day 1 features a star-studded line-up packed with definitive title contenders, structural shift narratives, and intriguing opening-round tests. All eyes will be on Centre Court and No. 1 Court as the top half of the men's draw and the bottom half of the women's draw commence their campaigns on the historic SW19 lawns. Wimbledon's



premier show courts will host some of the biggest names in modern tennis. Action on Centre Court begins at 1:30 PM BST, while Court No. 1 matches will commence slightly earlier at 1:00 PM BST. Here are the confirmed fixtures for the first two courts in chronological order. Great expectations rest on the shoulders of the day's three marquee players: Jannik Sinner, Novak Djokovic, and Aryna Sabalenka.

**Jannik Sinner**  
Defending champion Jannik Sinner shoulders the unique pressure of opening the fortnight on Centre Court, a privilege that tests a player's nerve as much as their baseline rhythm. The world number one arrives in London looking to banish the ghosts of a physically demanding French Open semifinal exit, where gruelling five-set conditions ultimately exposed a rare vulnerability in his otherwise flawless season. Drawn against the stubborn Miomir Kecmanovic in his opening match, the Italian's primary challenge will be to establish his sliding defense and hyper-aggressive groundstrokes on a pristine grass surface that remains notoriously slick during these opening encounters.

**Novak Djokovic**  
For Novak Djokovic, entering SW19 as the seventh seed represents a fascinating shift in narrative, placing the seven-time champion in the rare position of a hunting predator rather than the hunted favourite.

## Wimbledon: Emma Raducanu withdraws, fit-again Sinner ready to battle heat

**Emma Raducanu has withdrawn from Wimbledon after scans confirmed a stress fracture in her lower right leg. Jannik Sinner, meanwhile, says rising temperatures are reshaping preparations for his title defence.**

New Delhi, (Agency)

The opening day of a Grand Slam is traditionally a celebration of fresh starts and pristine grass. Yet, as play commences at Wimbledon, the contrasting fortunes of Emma Raducanu and Jannik Sinner have laid bare the unforgiving physical demands of modern tennis. On the eve of the tournament, the home crowd was dealt a crushing blow, while the men's world number one revealed the extreme lengths required to survive the sport's shifting climate. For Raducanu, the tournament ended before it could even begin. The British number one and 30th seed was forced into a late, heartbreaking withdrawal on Sunday evening after a final medical scan revealed that a persistent lower right leg injury



had progressed into a stress fracture. The 23-year-old former US Open champion, who was scheduled to open her campaign against Croatia's Antonia Ruic on Court One, had defiantly told reporters earlier that day that she intended to play through the discomfort. "I've done everything possible to try to get to the start line tomorrow but after a final scan tonight, the niggles I've been managing has developed into a stress fracture," Raducanu announced on Instagram. "I've been medically advised to stop pushing through." The setback forms a devastating chapter in a career



continually disrupted by illness and injury since her historic 2021 triumph in New York. Despite a promising grass-court build-up that saw her reach the final at Queen's Club under the guidance of reunited coach Andrew Richardson, the underlying issue — dating back to the end of the clay-court season — proved insurmountable. Having sat out practice last week and cut short a session on Saturday, the medical reality finally caught up with the home favourite's ambitions. **FIT-AGAIN SINNER READY**  
Across the grounds, top seed Jannik Sinner is

preparing to confront his own physical hurdles, albeit with a healthier prognosis. The 24-year-old Italian arrived in southwest London determined to banish the memory of his shocking second-round collapse at Roland Garros. In Paris, Sinner had cruised to a two-set lead against Juan Manuel Cerndolo before succumbing to debilitating cramps amidst a brutal European heatwave.

With Britain itself experiencing record-breaking temperatures over the past week, Sinner's coaching staff spent the subsequent fortnight overhauling his preparation to withstand extreme weather. While the intense heat is forecast to dip slightly for Monday's opener against Miomir Kecmanovic, the top seed remains acutely aware that global tennis is operating under a new atmospheric reality. "All tests were really good, even though we are very sure we need to practise in hotter conditions," Sinner noted. "I feel like everywhere where we're playing, it's going to be very hot. Every year it's getting warmer and warmer." The Italian admitted that while "you cannot simulate 100% what you feel in a match because of tension," his team has implemented structural changes to his training routine.

## India women self-destruct, have no one else to blame for T20 World Cup exit

**Women's T20 World Cup, IND vs AUS: Harmanpreet Kaur's India crashed out of the tournament after a six-wicket defeat to Australia at Lord's on Sunday. The loss highlighted familiar shortcomings in bowling, fielding and decision-making, exposing the areas India must address if they are to consistently challenge the world's best.**

New Delhi, (Agency)

If anyone had been asked before Sunday's match which team was most capable of beating a full-strength Australia, the answer from most would have been India. At Lord's, India showed exactly why they were considered capable. But is being capable enough? Perhaps not. Perhaps not because Australia are through to the semifinals, while India are left wondering what could have been. Amid all the what-ifs, however, one question stands out: who was responsible for India's defeat to Australia? Yes, Australia were outstanding. Yes, Ellyse Perry and Ash Gardner were magnificent. But who let the match slip away after

appearing to have the six-time champions firmly under pressure? Who allowed Australia to pull off the highest successful run chase in Women's T20 World Cup history? As brilliantly as Australia played



and underlined their class, Harmanpreet Kaur's India will know they have only themselves to blame for the defeat and the subsequent exit. Had they held their nerve and avoided costly mistakes at crucial moments, they might still have been alive in the competition.

WHY BAT FIRST?

Even before the match began, India had already started faltering. Their first mistake came at the toss. Australia have been among

the best batting sides in the ongoing competition, alongside England. That comes as no surprise, considering they have always boasted of their batting depth. Choosing to let them chase, therefore, was inviting danger. If that wasn't enough, India should never have made that decision given how vulnerable their bowling has looked throughout the competition. That weakness was exposed against South Africa, where Marizanne Kapp tore into the attack. Without Shreyanka Patil, India's death bowling has appeared extremely fragile. If those reasons weren't convincing enough, the numbers at Lord's further underlined why India shouldn't have opted to bat

first. Out of 31 Women's T20Is played at the venue, chasing teams have won 21 matches, reinforcing why India should have bowled first. Sophie Molineux was sensible and got exactly what she wanted, admitting she would also have chosen to bowl had Australia won the toss. Harmanpreet's decision proved fatal for India, and Molineux's side capitalised on that mistake to make them pay a heavy price.

## World Cup what to know: Round of 32 heats up with Brazil-Japan, Netherlands-Morocco

New Delhi, (Agency)

The World Cup's knockout stage is already providing some premier matchups in the round of 32. It's part of a bracket that features an easier road for some teams than others. There are three games on Monday, starting with Brazil vs. Japan in Houston. The Brazilians — who won Group C — are five-time World Cup champions but face a tough opponent in Japan, which is ranked No. 17 in the world. The Japanese finished second in Group F with one win and two draws. Group E winner Germany faces Paraguay in the day's second game. Germany scored 10 goals in the group stage, which was tied for the most of any team. Paraguay bounced back from a 4-1 loss to the United States by beating Turkey and fighting to a draw with Australia to narrowly qualify for the knockout stage after finishing third in Group

D. The nightcap is a matchup of top-10 teams when the Netherlands faces Morocco. The



Dutch are often considered the best country to never win a World Cup, while Morocco has jumped into soccer's elite over the past few years after a surprise run to the 2022 World Cup semifinals in Qatar. What to

watch on June 29 — Brazil vs. Japan, 1 p.m. EDT in Houston (Fox/Telemundo/Peacock) — Germany vs. Paraguay, 4:30 p.m. EDT in Foxborough, Massachusetts (Fox/Telemundo/Peacock) — Netherlands vs. Morocco, 9 p.m. EDT in Monterrey, Mexico (Fox/Telemundo/Peacock) Brazil-Japan matchup features countries with close relationship. These countries have extremely strong ties with Brazil being home to about 2.7 million Japanese descendants, which is the largest Japanese population outside of Japan. Those ties extend to soccer where Brazilian superstar Zico moved to Japan in 1991 to play for the Kashima Antlers and help build Japan's professional soccer network. He managed the Japan national team from 2002-06, leading the team to the World Cup in 2006.



altercation with a few Sri Lanka players before the final, smashed an 11-ball fifty — the fastest recorded in List A history. He was also in contention to register the joint-fastest List A hundred but was dismissed for 94 off 29 balls.

WHY DID INDIA NOT DEBUT VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI?

However, India opted not to use the in-form batter, stating there was no hurry in handing the 15-year-old his debut. Speaking at the post-series press conference, Ryan ten Doeschate said it was difficult to leave out Sanju Samson, who had played a major role in India's T20 World Cup 2026 triumph. "He's absolutely ready to play international cricket, there's no doubt about that. But also, I think it's not a question to say you can leave Sanju Samson out. A guy who went a long way to winning India the World Cup three months ago. A guy who's had a fairly good IPL," Doeschate said.

## Canada reach World Cup last 16 as Stephen Eustaquio's late strike sinks South Africa

**South Africa delivered a timely reality check to India in Manchester. The six-wicket defeat exposed glaring shortcomings in Harmanpreet Kaur's side and raised fresh questions about their ability to translate ODI dominance into T20 success as the battle for the semi-finals heats up.**

LOS ANGELES, (Agency)

Stephen Eustaquio's stoppage-time winner fired Canada to a 1-0 win over South Africa on Sunday in the first match of the World Cup knockout rounds, as the co-hosts advance to the last 16 for the first time in their history. With both sides making their inaugural appearance in the knockout phase, the game appeared to be heading for extra time, before Eustaquio broke South African hearts with a

clinical hit from just outside the area. Canada — playing in Los Angeles despite being co-hosts, after failing to win their group — will now face the Netherlands or Morocco in Houston in the last 16 on July 4, as South Africa's World Cup adventure comes to an end. "We felt like we could wear them down over time, and it took 92 minutes, but we got there," said Canada coach Jesse Marsch. The manager said his team could have "made life a little easier on ourselves" by converting multiple good chances earlier in the game.

But obviously the timing of the goal means that the win is incredibly dramatic, and I think the effect that it will have in Canada and the inspiring of people will be immense," he added. Before the game, Marsch had talked up the "X-factor" of Canada's star Alphonso Davies, available again after a hamstring injury. But the Bayern Munich wing-back, who was yet to appear at this



World Cup, remained glaringly absent from the starting line-up. Still, Canada began on the front foot, racking up chances against South Africa's low block. In the 22nd minute, a pinpoint Eustaquio free-kick found Derek Cornelius wide open on the six-yard line. The Canada center-back utterly mistimed his headed effort. South Africa threatened

sporadically on the counter. But in a frenetic period just before half-time Canada came agonizingly close.

From a corner, Moise Bombito's header was cleared off the line, before Tajon Buchanan's follow-up shot was blocked by goalkeeper Ronwen Williams. Moments later Khuliso Mudau crashed into the dangerous Richie Laryea, but his penalty appeals were waved away. That enraed a heavily Canadian crowd, and the jeers grew louder after half-time as South Africa were content to exchange deep passes under little pressure while the clock ticked down. Just past the hour mark, Canada came close again. Substitute Niko Sigur slid a through ball to Tani Oluwaseyi whose shot was well-served by the goalkeeper and looped up toward Jonathan David — but defender Mbekezeli Mbokazi just got there first and cleared brilliantly.

Kalki 2898 AD Turns 2

# Keerthy Suresh

## Recalls Turning Down A Role Before Taking Up THIS One

**K**alki 2898 AD, starring Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, and Amitabh Bachchan in the lead roles, had another actress who wasn't seen in the film but was still an integral part of it. Remember Prabhas' witty AI-powered companion, Bujji? Did you know it was Keerthy Suresh whose voice brought Bujji to life? Now, as Kalki 2898 AD turns two, Keerthy has revealed that she was first offered a different role in the film, but she turned it down.



Speaking about it, National Award winner Keerthy revealed that she chose not to take up the original role offered to her. Although she has not revealed which character it was, she admitted that she still wanted to be a part of the ambitious sci-fi epic.

"Nagi offered me another role in the film, which I was not very sure of. But later he messaged me one day and he was like, 'Do you want to peep through a wall at least?' I said, 'I would love to in your film.' In his film, I know I will end up doing something. And I'm actually glad I said no to the other character because I was able to do this one. So, he called me and he said, 'Listen, I want you to be there in the film.' And he said, 'There is this very interesting character, which is a voice. So, you have to voice an AI bot.' So, I didn't understand in the beginning. So, I said, 'So you don't need me for the shoot?' He said, 'No, I just need your voice.' And I go, 'Wow, this is different.' The minute I heard it, I said, 'Yes, I'm doing it.'"

Despite never appearing on screen, Keerthy's voice performance became one of the highlights of Kalki 2898 AD. Bujji's playful personality, emotional moments, and witty interactions with Prabhas resonated strongly with audiences, making the character an instant fan favourite.

### Keerthy Suresh's work front

Meanwhile, on the work front, Keerthy has a lot on her plate. The actress will be seen in Sathyavan Savithiri, Raftaar, Akka, Rowdy Janardhana, and a project with Daggubati Venkatesh, further expanding her filmography.



Akshay Kumar Shot Ghis Ghis Ghis Despite Severe Fever

# Akshara Singh

## Calls Him Dedicated

**A**kshay Kumar's Welcome To The Jungle has finally arrived in theatres, and as audiences react to the comic caper, Bhojpuri actress Akshara Singh has opened up about her experience of working with the Bollywood star. Akshara, who features in the song Ghis Ghis Ghis from the film, recalled how Akshay continued shooting despite battling a high fever.

In an interview with ANI, Akshara praised Akshay's discipline and dedication, revealing that he was running a fever of around 103-104 degrees during the shoot but refused to let it affect the schedule.

### Akshara Singh Recalls Shooting With Akshay Kumar

Akshara Singh, one of the most popular names in Bhojpuri cinema, made a special appearance in Welcome To The Jungle through the song Ghis Ghis Ghis. The track features her alongside Akshay Kumar in a fun, high-energy setup with choreographed moves.

Speaking about the shoot, Akshara said she was struck by Akshay's professionalism. She revealed that

the actor was unwell at the time and had a severe viral infection, but continued to perform with full energy once the camera rolled.

"The biggest thing was that he had a fever of 103-104 degrees while shooting. I kept observing him and realised how much he loves his work and his craft. He works with a great sense of responsibility and dedication," she said. Despite his illness, Akshay reportedly did not retreat to his vanity van for long breaks or halt the shoot. Akshara shared that he pushed through the discomfort and made sure the production did



not suffer because of him.

### Akshara Singh Praises Akshay Kumar's Dedication

Akshara said what impressed her most was the way Akshay would transform the moment the director called action. Even while physically unwell, the actor masked his discomfort and performed with his usual energy and smile. For Akshara, the experience became a lesson in

### Rishi Kapoor Was 'Depressed' After Karz Release, Film Was Called A Flop: Subhash Ghai



**F**ilmmaker Subhash Ghai took a trip down memory lane as his 1980 cult classic 'Karz' completed 46 years on June 27. Looking back at the film's journey, Subhash Ghai revealed that the cast and crew, especially late actor Rishi Kapoor, were left depressed after the film was declared as a flop at the box office upon its release.

Taking to his social media account, Ghai shared a collage featuring celebration marking the film's legacy and a vintage behind-the-scenes picture from the sets of 'Karz', followed by the poster of the movie. The old picture features Subhash Ghai directing Rishi Kapoor and actress Tina Munim while the filming of Karz.

Sharing the post, the filmmaker wrote, "Today: they call it a GRAND MUSICAL SHOW. YESTERDAY: They called it a FLOP SHOW on release 1980, 27 June.-We all were depressed, Rishi Kapoor specially. Today we all celebrate it as evergreen musical film. We all come together to celebrate its 46th year n miss our great actor friend #RISHI KAPOOR OF KARZ. NOW On the way to be a MUSICAL STAGE SHOW BROADWAY SOON. Congratulations the team of #KARZ produced by MUKTA FILMS 1980."

Talking about Karz, the movie released on June 27, 1980, and was directed and produced by Subhash Ghai under the Mukta Arts banner. The reincarnation thriller starred Rishi Kapoor, Tina Munim, Simi Garewal, Raj Kiran, Premnath, Pran and Durga Khote in pivotal roles.

The story of the iconic movie revolved around Monty, a successful singer who begins experiencing mysterious memories from a past life, eventually discovering that he is the reincarnation of Ravi Verma, a wealthy man who was murdered by his wife Kamini for his fortune. The film further follows his quest and determination for justice. Apart from the movie's storyline and performances, Karz also made headlines for its iconic soundtrack. The music was composed by Laxmikant-Pyarelal with lyrics by Anand Bakshi, and it remains iconic even decades later. Songs such as 'Om Shanti Om', 'Ek Hasina Thi', 'Dard-E-Dil Dard-E-Jigar', 'Main Solah Baras Ki' and 'Paisa O Paisa' continue to remain chartbusters.

### Salman Khan To Leave Galaxy Apartments? Actor Gets Nod For New 6-Storey Bandra Home



**S**alman Khan has received approval to construct a new six-storey residential building in Mumbai's Bandra, bringing the Khan family a step closer to a new home in the neighbourhood where the actor has lived for decades.

However, there is no official confirmation yet on whether Salman will move out of Galaxy Apartments, his long-time Bandra residence, where he has lived since 1974.

### Salman Khan Gets Approval For New Bandra Building

The Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority granted approval for the proposed building on June 16. The new residential structure will come up in Bandra's Chimbai area, located a short distance from Galaxy Apartments. According to MCZMA sources, the plot where the building is set to be constructed is registered in the name of Salman Khan's mother, Salma Khan. The property earlier had a two-storey house that had been standing since before 1956. The old structure was later demolished after it became structurally unsafe. The approved project includes a ground floor, stilt parking and six upper floors. The proposed building will have a total built-up area of around 1,014 square metres and will be developed by Sach Developers.

The project had earlier received the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's Intimation of Disapproval, a preliminary approval, in October 2025. With the MCZMA clearance now in place, the development has moved closer to the construction stage.

### No Trees To Be Cut During Construction

The approval also comes with environmental conditions. As per the clearance, no existing trees will be cut during the construction of the building. Instead, new trees belonging to local species will be planted around the property. The move is part of the environmental safeguards attached to the project, given that the construction falls under the purview of the coastal zone authority.

NEWS BOX

### 29 Dead As Pakistan Carries Out Ground Operation Along Afghanistan Border

World.(Agency)

Pakistani security forces Sunday carried out a ground operation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, followed by "calibrated strikes" against militant hideouts and safe havens, killing 29 fighters, officials said. In a post on X, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said the operation was launched in response to multiple militant attacks across the country. There was no immediate response from Afghanistan. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks targeting police and security forces in recent years. Authorities have blamed the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, and allied militant groups for most of the violence.

It comes a day after militants armed with guns and explosives targeted the regional headquarters of the paramilitary Rangers in the southern port city of Karachi, killing three soldiers. Security forces killed three attackers and arrested another assailant, whom the military identified as an Afghan national in wounded condition. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a breakaway faction of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the Karachi attack in a statement Saturday night. Tarar said Pakistan's latest operation along the Afghan border targeted hideouts and safe havens of the Pakistani Taliban. The Pakistani Taliban are a separate militant group from the Afghan Taliban, although the two are allies. The Afghan Taliban returned to power in neighboring Afghanistan in 2021.

The latest operations are likely to further strain already tense relations between Islamabad and Kabul.

Sunday's cross-border strikes and ground operation came less than three weeks after Pakistan's military launched airstrikes on what it said were militant hideouts in Afghanistan. They ended about a month of relative calm following what Islamabad had described as an "open war" between the neighboring countries, despite international efforts to broker a lasting peace.

### Hope Fades In Venezuela As Death Count Nears 1,500 After Twin Earthquakes

World (Agency)

Emergency teams with rescue dogs were searching Sunday for any remaining survivors of powerful twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela, where the death toll has surpassed 1,450 and nearly 200 buildings have completely collapsed. A man and his teen son were found alive under the rubble Sunday by French and American rescue teams in Caraballeda, a town about 40 kilometers north of Caracas, AFP journalists saw. The rescue offered a glimmer of hope in an ongoing tragedy that has shaken a country already mired in an economic crisis, but tens of thousands of people were still reported missing and the critical 72-hour window for rescuing trapped victims following a natural disaster has now passed. Millions more people were feared to lack sanitation and other basic needs after one of Latin America's most devastating earthquake disasters. Rescue teams from the United States, Mexico and elsewhere scrambled to save people as desperate residents dug by hand for relatives trapped in the pancaked layers and rubble of collapsed apartments.

Some 774 buildings were badly damaged in back-to-back quakes of magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 that struck on Wednesday evening, including 189 buildings that have totally collapsed, National Assembly President Jorge Rodriguez said Sunday. In one of the worst-hit areas, the coastal city of La Guaira, Hector Aguilera came to search for four family members buried in the rubble.

### 'Certain Shortage': Putin Flags Fuel Crunch After Ukraine Strikes

World.(Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin acknowledged that the country was suffering from "a certain shortage" of fuel in an interview published by the Kremlin Sunday, after repeated Ukrainian strikes in their four-year war. Kyiv calls the attacks fair retribution for Russia's near-daily barrages on Ukrainian civilians and energy infrastructure since its February 2022 offensive.

"As for strikes against critical infrastructure in general, and energy infrastructure in particular, of course these attacks on our infrastructure facilities create problems, that's obvious," said Putin. "Right now we're observing a certain shortage, but it's not critical." The main task now, he said, was to increase Russian anti-aircraft defence capacity and to ensure fuel supplies, particularly in Crimea. In the interview, Putin also said he was expecting a team of US negotiators to come to Moscow to discuss ending the Ukraine war, once Washington was no longer so preoccupied with Iran and the Middle East conflict. The authorities in Russian-annexed Crimea on Friday declared an "emergency situation" over fuel shortages and power cuts triggered by Ukrainian attacks on its logistics chains and oil facilities. Russia annexed the territory from Ukraine in 2014, a move not recognised by the vast majority of countries.

A few hours earlier, in a speech to the United Russia party congress, Putin had vowed to ensure security and overcome challenges as Ukraine steps up its retaliatory strikes inside Russia. "We are responding" "Yes, we see the problems, we are aware of them and are responding to them, but we will certainly ensure the security of both the country and our citizens, as well as the inviolability of Russia's borders," Putin told party members. "We will undoubtedly overcome all the challenges facing us today, including terrorist attacks on our territory and infrastructure facilities," he added.

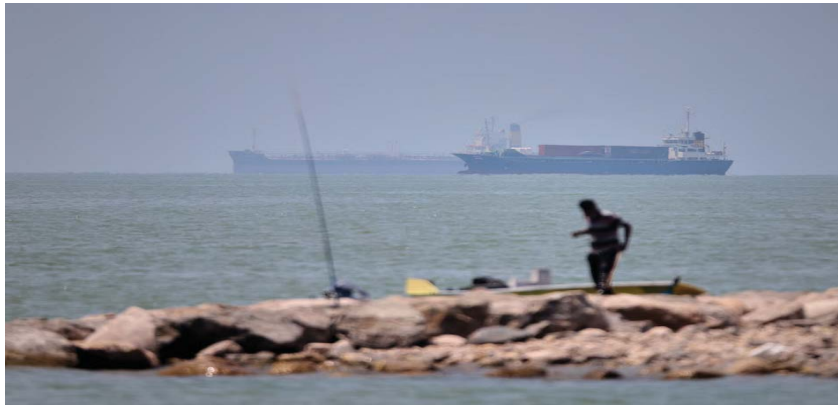
Putin's speech came hours after a Ukrainian drone strike killed one person in Russia's southern Krasnodar region and sparked a fire in a refinery, according to regional governor Veniamin Kondratyev. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called the hit part of the "operations that weaken Russia's ability to wage this war".

# Washington says US, Iran pausing strikes, talks to proceed

**Iran has not immediately commented on the US statement, and sources did not confirm a US media report that talks would resume Tuesday in Qatar.**

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

A US official said Sunday that Washington and Tehran agreed to halt attacks after new tit-for-tat strikes strained their interim deal, with the sides planning to renew talks aimed at ending the West Asia war. The exchanges have underscored the fragility of a Pakistan-brokered agreement to end the conflict that has killed thousands and snarled the flow of oil shipments through the vital Strait of Hormuz. Although a ceasefire took effect in April, sporadic violence has flared up in the



Gulf region, with traffic in the strait serving as a regular flashpoint. "Technical talks are slated to continue on all areas of the MOU," a US official told AFP in an email late Sunday, referring to the memorandum of understanding struck between Washington and Tehran. "Both sides will stand down for

now and vessels can move freely" in and around the Strait of Hormuz, the official added. Iran has not immediately commented on the US statement, and the US official did not confirm a US media report that talks would resume Tuesday in Qatar. Tehran has insisted on controlling passage through the

vital strait, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas travel in peacetime. It did not have that control before the war. Iran's top diplomat warned Sunday that any attempt by ships to bypass its preferred route through Hormuz would "increase tensions" in West Asia. The strait comprises Omani and Iranian territorial waters, but under customary international law the two cannot generally block passage or charge tolls. Nevertheless, Iran prevented most ships from using the narrow waterway during the war, granting it enormous economic leverage which it appears reluctant to give up. Tehran's enforcement of its control has sparked repeated flare-ups with Washington, the latest of which came early Sunday, when US Central Command said it had attacked 10 Iranian military targets over "continued Iranian aggression against commercial shipping". Iran said it retaliated with strikes against US bases in Kuwait and Bahrain. Both Kuwait and Bahrain denounced the Iranian attacks.

## Pakistan launches cross-border strikes into Afghanistan after Karachi attack, says 29 militants killed

ISLAMABAD.(Agency)

Pakistani security forces Sunday carried out a ground operation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, followed by "calibrated strikes" against militant hideouts and safe havens, killing 29 fighters, officials said. In a post on X, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said the operation was launched in response to multiple militant attacks across the country. In Afghanistan, government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said Pakistan's attacks resulted in the deaths and injuries of dozens of civilians, including women and children. "We strongly condemn this cowardly act of aggression and consider it a crime and an act of brutality," he said.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks targeting police and security forces in recent years. Authorities have blamed the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, and allied militant groups for most of the violence. The security operation took place a day after militants armed with guns and

explosives targeted the regional headquarters of the paramilitary Rangers in the southern port city of Karachi, killing three soldiers. Security forces killed three attackers and arrested another assailant, whom the military identified as an Afghan national in



wounded condition. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a breakaway faction of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the Karachi attack in a statement Saturday night. Tarar said Pakistan's latest operation along the Afghan border targeted hideouts and safe havens of the Pakistani Taliban. The Pakistani Taliban are a separate militant group

from the Afghan Taliban, although the two are allies. The Afghan Taliban returned to power in neighboring Afghanistan in 2021. The latest operations are likely to further strain already tense relations between Islamabad and Kabul. Strikes are the latest in cross-border violence between neighbors Sunday's cross-border strikes and ground operation came less than three weeks after Pakistan's military launched airstrikes on what it said were militant hideouts in Afghanistan. They ended about a month of relative calm following what Islamabad had described as an "open war" between the neighboring countries, despite international efforts to broker a

lasting peace. The escalation follows months of tit-for-tat military action between the two countries. Hundreds of people have been killed in cross-border fighting since February, when Afghanistan launched retaliatory strikes after Pakistan carried out airstrikes inside Afghan territory.

## Pakistan's 'Double-Tap' Strikes On Afghanistan Border Kill 35, Including Children

Islamabad.(Agency)

As Pakistan rides high on the success of brokering a truce deal between the United States and Iran to halt the war in the Middle East, the situation back home is bloody. In the 'double tap' attack, Islamabad's forces have killed at least 35 people— who, according to Pakistan's claim, were terrorists— in a ground operation along the Afghanistan border. A "double tap" is a military term used to describe a deliberate second strike on the same location shortly after an initial attack. It is a highly controversial and often condemned tactic because the second strike is deliberately timed to coincide with the arrival of emergency responders, medics, and journalists.

Afghanistan has claimed that Pakistan's attacks resulted in the deaths and injuries of dozens of civilians, including women and children. Authorities in Kabul have also repeatedly denied that their territory harbours terrorists.

**The Double-Tap Attack**

According to available information, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) jets took off at 12:30 AM (IST), striking homes and mosques across three Afghan districts -- Gyan in Paktika, Chamkani in Paktia, and Marawara in Kunar. In a display of calculated military brutality, Rawalpindi used a notorious "double-tap" tactic.

At 12:55 AM, just 25 minutes after the first bombardment, when villagers rushed to pull out trapped women and screaming children from the smoking wreckage, Pakistani jets returned and dropped a second wave of bombs on the unarmed rescuers. That deliberate second strike is the main reason the death toll swiftly climbed beyond 35 and hospitals were inundated with more than a hundred casualties.

**Why Pakistan is Attacking Afghanistan**

Authorities in Pakistan have claimed the strikes on Afghanistan were in response to multiple terrorist attacks across the country, including one in Karachi last week in which three members of the country's paramilitary forces were killed and four others were injured. In a post on X, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said the operation was launched in reaction to the recent multiple terrorist incidents inside Pakistan against the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and the Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Camp, Karachi, and targeted Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) splinter group. "A well-planned intelligence-based ground operation was carried out by security forces along the Pakistan-Afghan border, followed by calibrated strikes in the border region against the hideouts and safe havens of terrorists belonging to Jamaat ul Ahrar and Fitna al Khwarij, killing 29 khwarij (radicals as per Islamic history)," Tarar said. He added that three targets in Paktia, Paktika and Kunar were destroyed during precision strikes.

**What Afghanistan Said**

The Taliban government said on Monday the airstrikes in three eastern provinces killed or wounded dozens of civilians. Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the military action, calling it a "cowardly act of aggression". "We strongly condemn this cowardly act of aggression and consider it a crime and an act of brutality," he said.

## Andy Burnham To Outline Vision For UK With Focus On Raising Living Standards

World.(Agency)

Andy Burnham, the Labour lawmaker expected to replace Keir Starmer as British prime minister, will outline his vision for Britain on Monday, his office said, promising to change how the nation is governed with power moving from London to the regions. Burnham, who returned to Westminster earlier this month after winning a parliamentary seat, is currently the only declared candidate to take over from Starmer and could be installed in Downing Street within weeks. Starmer announced last week he would step down, just two years after winning a huge parliamentary majority for Labour, as his popularity sank. Burnham, who rose to prominence as mayor of Greater Manchester and has been dubbed the "King of the North", will use Monday's speech to make devolving power to regions and local communities his flagship proposal. He will also commit

to a 10-year mission to raise living standards through reindustrialisation, housing, infrastructure and reform of utilities. The focus would be not just on



who governs Britain, but on changing how it is governed, his office said.

He will set out how he plans to "lift Britain back up to where it should be" and provide the "circuit-breaker it needs", alongside a pledge to reform public procurement to better support British jobs and industry. If he takes office, Burnham will become Britain's

seventh prime minister in a decade, with many in his party believing only he has the charisma and the vision to connect with voters and counter the rise of Nigel Farage's anti-immigration Reform UK party.

**FISCAL PRESSURES LIMIT SCOPE**

However, with Britain's economy struggling from the impact of the war in Ukraine and more recently the energy shock of the US conflict with Iran, the scope to make radical spending changes is limited. Burnham has previously said the government should "get beyond this thing of being in hock to the bond markets" but later said his comments had been misrepresented. He has also stepped back from earlier calls for large-scale nationalisation or a near-term return to the European Union.

Housing minister Steve Reed said on Sunday Burnham would stick to Labour's commitments made before the 2024 election and also to the

# Ukrainian drones set another Russian oil refinery ablaze as Putin admits fuel shortages

**Ukraine has markedly stepped up its long-range attacks on Russian military industries and energy facilities in recent months, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for its invasion — now in its fifth year — and make Russians feel the consequences.**

KYIV.(Agency)

Ukraine kept up its heavy drone assault on Russia, setting fire to a major oil refinery in the south, as President Vladimir Putin acknowledged for the first time on Sunday that the country was facing a "certain deficit" of fuel and vowed to strengthen protection of oil facilities and boost fuel

output. Ukraine has markedly stepped up its long-range attacks on Russian military industries and energy facilities in recent months, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for its invasion — now in its fifth year — and make Russians feel the consequences. "Our 'long-range sanctions' reached two oil refineries in Russia," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on the Telegram messaging app on Sunday.

"Each (strike) means a reduction in the resources that fuel the Russian war machine, and another step toward peace." The campaign has choked Russian fuel supplies, causing widespread shortages and long lines at gas stations across the country and prompting authorities in many regions to introduce fuel rationing. According to Western analysts, it has also slowed Moscow's efforts on the battlefield, heaping pressure on the Kremlin to come to the negotiating table. Putin says Ukrainian attacks aim to split Russian society. Speaking to a Russian state TV reporter, Putin

described the Ukrainian attacks on oil refineries as an attempt to "cause a split in



Russian society and force Russia to halt, even if only briefly, the advance of our troops along the line of contact, and create conditions for launching a negotiation process on terms advantageous to our adversary." "We will not give them that chance," Putin said, adding that "strikes on our infrastructure, wherever they are directed, have absolutely no effect on the

situation at the front, on the line of contact."

He said for the first time that Ukraine has proposed a halt on deep strikes, arguing that Kyiv made the offer because Russian strikes deep into Ukrainian territory are more powerful and devastating. The Russian leader added that Kyiv also offered to limit the fighting to the four regions that Russia annexed but never fully captured - Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. He rejected the proposal, arguing it would allow Ukraine to relocate its forces that are fighting Russian troops in other areas to let them

focus on fending off the Russian attacks in the four southeastern regions. Ukrainian drones set major Russian refinery on fire. Meanwhile, debris from downed Ukrainian drones sparked a blaze at the refinery in Slavyansk-na-Kubani, a town in Russia's Krasnodar region, east of occupied Crimea, according to regional Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev.