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SUNRISE : 6:03 SUNSET : 5:32

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Nifty faces resistance at 24,500, Sensex eyes... 08



Govt proposes faster approval timelines for medical device 02

Akshay Kumar says he added the line 'Bhojpuri...' 10



India cautions its citizens against undertaking Kailash Mansarovar Yatra with incomplete documents

New Delhi, India has issued an advisory for its citizens planning to undertake the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through private tour operators, urging pilgrims not to begin their journey unless they have secured all the mandatory travel documents, including the required permits and visas for entering China.

The advisory comes after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) received several requests for assistance from Indian nationals who became stranded in Nepal while attempting to undertake the pilgrimage without the necessary entry permits and Chinese visas.

According to the MEA, many of the affected pilgrims had opted for tours organised by private travel operators. In its statement, the Ministry cautioned trav-

ellers against commencing their journey based on the expectation that the required documents would be arranged later.

"Citizens are advised not to commence their journey from India until all required travel documents have been obtained for undertaking the complete journey. Commencing travel without confirmed documentation or in anticipation of obtaining the necessary documentation increases the likelihood of being stranded," the MEA said.

The Ministry also advised prospective pilgrims to carefully verify the credentials of private tour operators before making travel arrangements. "Pilgrims are also strongly advised to verify that their tour operator is duly registered and authorised," the Ministry

added. The advisory was issued amid reports that around 52 Indian citizens travelling to Kailash Mansarovar are currently stranded in Kathmandu, Nepal, and are seeking urgent assistance to continue their onward journey safely. The issue was highlighted earlier on Saturday by Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MP Supriya Sule, who appealed to the MEA and the concerned Indian diplomatic missions to intervene and provide immediate assistance to the stranded pilgrims.

She urged the authorities to ensure that the affected Indian citizens receive timely support so that their travel difficulties can be resolved and they can proceed with their pilgrimage without further hardship. The Kailash **contd. on page 3**

India, Seychelles sign pacts to strengthen trade, digital payments, farm ties



New Delhi, India and Seychelles on Sunday signed agreements to strengthen bilateral ties across trade, digital technology and agriculture following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Patrick Herminie during the Indian Prime Minister's three-day State Visit to the Indian Ocean na-

tion. The two countries agreed on several major initiatives, including the umbrella line of credit agreement for Rs 1,250 crore between the Export-Import Bank of India and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Trade and Investment of Seychelles, according to a statement issued by the

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"President Herminie and Prime Minister Modi held bilateral talks at the State House in Victoria in Seychelles, which included development cooperation, clean energy, creative industries and health," the statement said. Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to deepening the relationship, proposing direct shipping links, increased trade in local currencies, and greater connectivity to promote trade and tourism.

He announced the gifting of six ambulances, access to affordable medicines under the Janaushadhi Scheme, and training for Seychellois medical personnel. India also committed to sports training. **contd. on page 3**

Ram Temple embezzlement: Police recover jewellery, documents from Tinnu Yadav's house

Ayodhya, Police on Sunday recovered jewellery and documents from the house of accused Ramshankar Yadav alias Tinnu Yadav, after searches were conducted at the residences of all eight accused, arrested in connection with the alleged misappropriation of donations and offerings at the Ram Mandir. This comes after the eight individuals were sent to three-day judicial custody on Friday. They will stay in jail till June 29 and will be produced before a city court again on Monday.

According to police sources, some cash and property documents were also recovered from the house of Yadav, who is associated with the temple management. By evening, the police will complete an assessment to determine exactly what has been recovered from the premises of each accused.

Later at night, the investigators will decide whether to seek police custody of the accused again during the court hearing tomorrow. Officials have recovered some items from the residence of each accused, and all the recovered materials are currently being verified.

Earlier in the day, accused Tinnu Yadav's neighbour, Tara Devi, speaking to IANS, referred to him as a "brother" and expressed faith in his innocence. Asserting that Yadav was a good person, she claimed: "He is being framed."

Krishna Nand Tiwari, a neighbour of accused Anukalp Mishra, said: "Action is being taken,

brother (Mishra) or whoever is involved in this, whoever has committed theft or wrongdoing, they should be given the strictest punishment. They should be ashamed of their act, especially since it is related to God. They have betrayed the faith of crores of devotees." About the accused, he said: "Though he (Mishra) didn't come across as such a kind of person, but one can never gauge anybody's intentions."

Another neighbour, Anurag, said he had known Mishra for around a year: "He was a person of good nature; we used to greet each other whenever we met. But I don't know if he had any malicious intention," he told IANS.

A total of eight accused have been booked for alleged theft at the temple, and all were subsequently arrested. The FIR was registered at Ayodhya Kotwali police station on Thursday, based on a complaint filed by Krishna Mohan, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. Those named in the case include Ramshankar Yadav, Trust employees Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra, Manish Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramashankar Mishra, and Avinash Shukla; and retired bank employee Subhash Srivastava.

The filing of the case came soon after a three-member SIT flagged several irregularities at multiple levels in its preliminary report. The police state that the entire episode of alleged theft will **contd. on page 3**

India-US deepen AI, chip partnership



Washington India and the United States are stepping up cooperation in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and critical minerals, with senior officials from both countries saying the strategic partnership is moving from policy frameworks to concrete projects and trusted technology supply chains.

Speaking at a high-level roundtable in Washington

this week, hosted by the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum, India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Kwatra, said the two countries have complementary strengths in emerging technologies.

"The opportunity before the United States and India extends from chips to neural networks. India's mission-based approach across semiconductors, AI, and quantum technologies, com-

bined with America's innovation ecosystem, creates enormous potential for collaboration.

"Together, we can build trusted, resilient technology ecosystems while ensuring secure access to the critical infrastructure that powers these emerging technologies," he said.

The roundtable brought together diplomats, policymakers and industry leaders working in semiconductors, AI, quantum technologies and critical minerals. The discussions focused on strengthening critical supply chains, accelerating AI innovation and building economic resilience. S. Krishnan, **contd. on page 3**

Trump warns Iran after fresh US air strikes over Strait of Hormuz attack

Washington US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States had launched fresh air strikes on Iranian military targets after accusing Tehran of again violating the ceasefire agreement by attacking a commercial oil tanker near the Strait of Hormuz, warning that the Islamic Republic "will no longer exist" if the attacks continue.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said the strikes were carried out at the President's direction after Iran allegedly launched a one-way attack drone that hit the Panama-flagged tanker M/T Kiku at 4:30 a.m. ET. The



tanker was transiting near the Strait of Hormuz carrying more than two million barrels of crude oil.

In a Truth Social post, Trump said US aircraft had struck Iranian missile and drone storage locations as well as coastal radar sites. "United States aircraft just struck Iranian missile and drone storage locations, and

coastal radar sites, for violating the Cease Fire Agreement, AGAIN! It is very possible that they will never learn!" "There may come a point when we are no longer able to be reasonable, and will be forced to militarily complete the job that we very successfully started. If that happens, the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer exist!" the President wrote.

CENTCOM said Iran had been given an opportunity to comply with the ceasefire after Friday's US strikes in response to the attack on M/V Ever Lovely "After yesterday's **contd. on page 3**

Three gold medals for women wrestlers as India dominates day 2 of U15 Asian Championships

Pattaya, Indian women wrestlers produced a dominant performance, clinching three gold medals as the country bagged an impressive eight medals on the second day of the Under-15 Asian Wrestling Championships here on Sunday.

Samruddhi Satish Patil (33kg), Vinakshi (46kg), and Disha Shokeen (66kg) captured gold medals in their respective weight categories to headline a stellar day for the Indian contingent. Besides the three gold medals, India won two silver and three bronze medals to ensure a 100 per cent podium record across all eight medal bouts of the day. Meanwhile, the Indian Under-15 Greco-Roman team finished third overall in



the team standings, securing 150 points following their opening-day performances. Uzbekistan claimed the top spot with 171 points, while Kazakhstan finished second with 167 points.

In the women's events, Shokeen was clinical in the 66kg final, registering an

authoritative 11-0 win by technical superiority over Japan's Nowa Doike. In the 33kg title clash, Patil defeated Uzbekistan's Madina Nosirova 8-2, while Vinakshi overcame another Uzbek grappler, Muslima Hojimatova, 7-4 to claim the 46kg final.

Divya Rani (36kg) and Dnyaneshwari Vrusheshwar Shinde (42kg) settled for silver medals after going down against Japanese opponents in their respective title clashes. Rani lost 2-6 to Sara Kori, while Shinde suffered a narrow 7-9 defeat to Ramu Sugibayashi.

The Indian contingent also swept all three of its bronze-medal playoffs. Nisha Mor **contd. on page 3**

Nearly 10 Chinese, Russian military aircraft briefly enter South Korea's air defence zone: JCS

Seoul, Nearly 10 Chinese and Russian military aircraft briefly entered and left South Korea's Air Defence Identification Zone (KADIZ) above the country's eastern and southern waters, South Korea's military said Saturday.

The Chinese and Russian military aircraft successively entered the KADIZ earlier in the day before retreating from the air defence zone, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). The aircraft, which reportedly

included bombers and fighter jets, did not violate South Korea's airspace, the JCS said, Yonhap news agency reported. The South Korean military detected the aircraft before they entered the air defence zone, and dispatched Air Force fighter jets to prepare for any possible contingencies, it added.

The air defence zone is not territorial airspace but is delineated to call on foreign planes to identify themselves so as to prevent

accidental clashes. The brief entry appears to have occurred during joint air drills between the two countries, according to a JCS official.

Beijing's defence ministry later said Chinese and Russian forces conducted their 11th joint strategic aerial patrol, which it claimed was conducted to show their resolve to safeguard regional peace and stability. It marks the latest such incident after two Chinese military planes

and seven Russian aircraft briefly entered and left the KADIZ in December last year, prompting the military to dispatch Air Force fighter jets in preparation for a possible accidental situation.

Lee Kwang-suk, director general of the ministry's international policy bureau, "sternly" protested their aircraft's entry into South Korea's air defence zone, according to the ministry. "Our military will actively respond **contd. on page 3**

India script history with first-ever AVC men's cup bronze after beating Bahrain

Ahmedabad, The Indian men's volleyball team created history on Sunday by clinching their first-ever medal at the AVC Men's Cup, defeating defending champions Bahrain 3-1 (25-23, 23-25, 25-21, 25-17) in the bronze medal play-off in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The landmark victory capped a memorable campaign for India. They bounced back strongly from the disappointment of a narrow semi-final loss to Indonesia to stand on the podium for the first time in the tournament's history.

Just a day earlier, India had come close to reaching a historic final before losing a



thrilling match 2-3 (25-15, 24-26, 20-25, 25-19, 13-15) against one of Asia's volleyball powerhouses. India started the semi-final in strong form, delivering one of their best performances of the tournament. They dominated the opening set 25-15 with aggressive serving, solid

blocking, and quick attacks that left Indonesia struggling to respond.

In the second set, the momentum changed as Indonesia won a tense battle 26-24 to even the match. They then took the third set 25-20 with better serving and defense. Facing elimina-

tion, India rose to the challenge. Their blocking improved, their attack found its rhythm, and the hosts controlled the fourth set to win 25-19, leading to a dramatic fifth set.

The decider met expectations, with both teams trading points throughout. India matched Indonesia rally for rally. However, the visitors kept their cool in the final moments to secure a 15-13 victory and reach the final.

Although the defeat meant India could not compete for the championship, the team refused to let disappointment define their campaign. In the bronze medal play-off **contd. on page 3**

T20 WC: Deepti Sharma scripts history, becomes leading wicket taker in women's cricket

London, Star Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma etched her name in history books on Sunday, becoming the highest wicket-taker in women's international cricket during India's ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Group A clash against Australia at the Lord's Cricket Ground.

The Indian all-rounder entered the match needing just one wicket to surpass legendary pacer Jhulan Goswami's long-standing record of 355 international wickets. Deepti achieved the historic milestone by dismissing Australian star Beth Mooney, who miscued a slog-sweep off the off-spinner and



was comfortably caught by Radha Yadav at long-on.

The landmark wicket came when Deepti bowled a full delivery on the stumps, forcing Mooney out of her crease in search of a big hit.

The left-hander failed to time the slog-sweep, sending the ball high into the air before Radha completed a simple catch. Mooney departed for 22 off 20 balls, with two boundaries, as Deepti

claimed the record-breaking 356th wicket of her international career.

The match also marked Deepti's 278th international appearance for India. The Agra-born all-rounder now has 356 wickets across all three formats, underlining her remarkable consistency over the years.

Deepti's tally includes 22 wickets in six Test matches, 166 wickets in 124 One-Day Internationals, and 168 wickets in 148 T20 Internationals. Earlier in the tournament, she had already showcased her brilliance by claiming a five-wicket haul against Pakistan in India's opening match **contd. on page 3**

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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on **15.07.2026**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under-

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property are being sold	Description of properties	Type of Possession	Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increase Amount
1) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch Borrower : M/s. BAKD Steel Pvt. Ltd.Directors: (1)Mr. Ganesh Parida s/o Mr. Raghunath Parida (2)Mrs. Ratnaoraha Parida w/o Mr. Ganesh Parida Address: Near Bhanpur Sub- Station, Ward No. 19, Urkura, Raipur (C.G.) 493221 Guarantor: (1) Mr. Ganesh Parida s/o Mr. Raghunath Parida (2) Mrs. Ratnaprabha Parida w/o Mr. Ganesh Parida (3) Mr. Kartikchandra Parida s/o Mr. Raghunath Parida (4) Mr. Sankarshan Parida s/o Mr. Balram Parida. Village-Birgaon, Raipur (C.G.) 493221	Rs.3,53,78,712.78/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty three Lakh seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred twelve rupees and Seventy eight paise only) (Ledger Bal: Rs. 3,53,78,712.78/- + unapplied interest of Rs.28,96,121/- upto 15/08/2023 + penal interest @ 2.00% p.a. other expenses w.e.f. 16.08.2023 + penal interest and other charges / expenses	(A) Diverted Plot bearing Kh. No 84/128, P.H. No. 108/40, Area admeasuring 3200 Sq. feet located at Village – Urkura, ward no. 19, (Madhav Rao Sapse ward) RIC – Raipur, Tehsil & Distt- Raipur (C.G.) in the Name of Mr. Sankarshan Parida s/o Mr. Balram Parida (B) Diverted Plot bearing Kh. No 84/127, P.H. No. 108/40, Area admeasuring 3100 Sq. feet located at Village – Urkura, ward no. 19, (Madhav Rao Sapse ward) RIC – Raipur, Tehsil & Distt- Raipur (C.G.) in the Name of Mr. Kartikchandra Parida s/o Mr. Raghunath Parida Note - The sale is subject to order/outcome of S.A. No. 1149/2023	Symbolic	Rs.9360000/- Rs. 936000/- Rs. 10000/-
2) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur (1) Shubhankar Marketing Pvt. Ltd. Address: C/o Ashirvad traders, 76/3, Nehru Nagar(East), Opposite to Shivaji Square, Bhilai, Distt Durg(C.G.) Directors: 1) Abhilash Joshi s/o Manohar Joshi 2) Manohar Joshi (Deceased) Guarantor: 1) Abhilash Joshi s/o Manohar Joshi Address: B/52, Phase 2 Surya Vihar Colony, Near TI Mall, Junawani, Bhilai Distt Durg (C.G.) 2)Smt. Sudha Joshi; Address: HIG 153, Padmanbhpur, Durg(C.G.) 491001 3) Subodh Joshi; Address: HIG 153, Padmanbhpur, Durg(C.G.) 491001 4) Sudhir Joshi; Address: HIG 153, Padmanbhpur, Durg(C.G.) 491001 5) Vardha Joshi Address: HIG 153, Padmanbhpur, Durg(C.G.) 491001	Rs.63,05,781/- (Rupees Sixty three lakhs five thousand seven hundred and eighty one only) + unapplied interest and penal interest + other charges / expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2021.	Flat no-37-E, Kh.No.1347/2,P.H.No.16, Second Floor, Ayodhya Apartment, Ward no.24, Deepak Nagar, Durg, R.N.M Durg-1, Tehsil & Dist: Durg	Physical	Rs.2070000/- Rs.207000/- Rs. 10000/-

Inspection of Properties by bidder: 11.07.2026 between 11:00 am. and 4:00 pm

Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid application/KYC documents/EMD etc. 15.07.2026 up to 11.00 a.m.

Date & time of E-auction with auto extention for 10 minutes- 15.07.2026 between 12.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

The auction sale will be On-line E-Auction / Bidding through website <https://baanknet.com>, email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com. Mob. - 8291220220 The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal using their mobile number and email id. Please take note that the registration and KYC approval etc take 2-3 working days. For detail terms and conditions of sale please refer to the link provided in <https://bankofmaharashtra.bank.in/asset-for-sales-search> and <https://baanknet.com>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorized officials **Contact details: Shri Onkar Kumar (Zonal Manager) - 9823296164, Shri Nikhil S Patil (I2M) - 7387211200, Shri Bhushan Mohite (CM Recovery - Z.O.) - 9923257090, Dr. Ravikumar Verma (Sr. Manager) (9300955688) & Shri Hariom Trivedi (CM & Authorised Officer) - 9405719723**

Note - The sales are subject to the order/outcome of any case pending/filed if any before Court/Tribunal

Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors/Legal Heirs(LRs):/Coparceners

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The above shall be treated as Notice of 15/30days u/ r 9(1) of security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

Chhattisgarh CM honours democracy fighters, releases souvenir on Emergency remembrance day



Raipur, (VW) Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday attended a state-level felicitation ceremony for loktantra senanis (democracy fighters) to mark Emergency Remembrance Day at the DDU Auditorium. During the event, the Chief Minister released a memorial publication titled "Aapatkaal Ke Yoddha" (Warriors of Emergency), which chronicles the historical struggles of political prisoners, and distributed prizes to the winners of a state-level essay competition.

Addressing the gathering as the keynote speaker, senior RSS leader

Indresh Kumar stated that democracy is fundamentally a way of life rather than a mere administrative system. Recalling the 1975 Emergency as a testing phase that severely strained fundamental rights and press freedom, Kumar urged the youth to internalise the spirit of "Nation First" while upholding social harmony and national unity.

Chief Minister Sai termed the Emergency a dark chapter in India's democratic history, emphasizing that the state curriculum now includes this history to acquaint future generations with the sacrifices made to preserve constitutional

values. Sharing a personal account, Sai recalled that his maternal uncle, the late Narhari Sai, was imprisoned for 19 months during the crackdown while local volunteers secretly sustained affected families.

Echoing these sentiments, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh stated that the suspension of civil liberties and arbitrary constitutional amendments during the period serve as a permanent reminder for citizens to remain vigilant. Singh lauded the resilience of the public representatives who endured imprisonment to restore institutional checks and balances.

The state-level essay competition witnessed participation from over 540 students across the state. In the school category, Jagriti Jangde of JR Dani Girls School, Raipur, won the first prize of ₹31,000, followed by Suraj Tandiya of Korba and Ansh Deshmukh of Durg. In the college division, Kalyani Patle of Raipur secured the top spot, followed by Seema Sao of Raigarh and Khushboo of Durg.

The convention was attended by Union Minister of State Tokhan Sahu, Rajya Sabha MP Laxmi Verma, Loktantra Senani Sangh national president Kailash Soni, and local MLAs Motilal Sahu and Gomti Sai, alongside senior administrative officials and families of veteran activists.

IMD issues heavy rainfall alert for Chhattisgarh as monsoon advances

Raipur, (VW) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday issued a heavy rainfall and lightning alert for Chhattisgarh, forecasting that the southwest monsoon will cover the remaining parts of the state over the next three to four days. According to meteorological officials, the monsoon system has already advanced across nearly 80% of the state, bringing light to moderate showers to several districts over the last 24 hours. The advancing weather front has triggered highly contrasting microclimate conditions across the state capital. While heavy downpours were recorded around Phundhar Chowk in Raipur, the nearby VIP Chowk area remained completely dry.

During the past 24 hours, Mungeli recorded the state's highest precipitation at 50 mm, followed by Darbha at 40 mm. Gundardehi, Arjunda, and Konta registered 30 mm of rainfall each, while Raigarh, Akaltara, Premnagar, Ahiwara, and Durg recorded around 20 mm. Routine tracking showed minor showers up to 10 mm in Jagdalpur, Bastar, and Gariaband. Despite the steady geographical advance across 18 districts, multiple regions face severe rain deficits. Rajnandgaon registered the state's highest maximum temperature on Saturday at 39°C amid an 80% seasonal rainfall deficit, whereas Pendra Road reported the lowest minimum temperature at 23.6°C. The IMD noted that the monsoon front is currently active across southern and central areas, including the entire Bastar division, Durg, Dhamtari, Mahasamund, Baloda Bazar, Betameta, and Kabirdham. Remaining northern districts like Sarguja, Surajpur, Balrampur, Koriya, and Jashpur are expected to witness official monsoon onset within 48 hours, keeping localized pre-monsoon showers active in the interim.

Chhattisgarh health minister defends cross-state doctor registration proposal amid shortage

Raipur, (VW) Chhattisgarh Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal has defended the state health department's controversial proposal to allow doctors registered in other states to practice locally without separate registration, citing a severe shortage of medical professionals. Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Jaiswal urged opposing medical groups to consider the state's healthcare needs rather than just issuing critical statements.

The proposal has drawn sharp resistance from local medical associations. Critics argue that bypassing state-level registration could undermine regulatory oversight and compromise the career interests of medical professionals already practicing in Chhattisgarh.

Clarifying the policy, Jaiswal stated that only doctors registered with the National Medical Commission (NMC) holding valid licenses in other states would be eligible.

The minister added that four to five other states have already adopted similar models to counter manpower deficits, and the state government plans to consult medical community representatives to ease apprehensions.

The minister highlighted that despite active government recruitment drives, many medical vacancies remain unfilled due to a lack of applicants. "We had announced recruitment for 125 professor posts, but only 78 positions could be filled. There is no shortage of vacancies. We are recruiting, but what can we do if doctors are not available?" Jaiswal said.

Separately, the Health Minister launched the National Pulse Polio drive in the state by administering vaccine drops to children at the Raipur District Hospital. He urged parents to ensure all children under five years of age are immunised, noting that booths have been set up across all state health centres.

Three morning walkers run over, killed by speeding vehicle in Janjgir-Champa

Janjgir-Champa, (VW) Three elderly men were killed on the spot after an unidentified speeding vehicle ran them over during their morning walk on Bharatmala Road under Baloda police station limits on Sunday. The driver fled the scene immediately after the hit-and-run accident, prompting law enforcement to launch a district-wide search.

The deceased have been identified as Dilharan Das Vaishnav (62), Kedar Baret (52), and Santu Yadav (70). All three victims were residents of the nearby Dongri-Korbi village.

According to the local police, the incident occurred between 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM. The impact of the speeding vehicle killed all three pedestrians instantly before they could be rushed for medical aid.

A police team reached the spot shortly after local residents gathered at the site. Officials conducted the necessary inquest proceedings and sent the bodies to the district hospital for post-mortem examinations.

A case has been registered against the unidentified driver under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). A special police team is currently scanning footage from CCTV cameras installed along the highway route to identify the vehicle and apprehend the fleeing accused.

Around 40 Chhattisgarh labourers allegedly held captive at Haryana brick kiln, seek urgent rescue

Sakti, (VW) Around 35 to 40 migrant labourers from Chhattisgarh's Sakti district have alleged that they are being held captive at a brick kiln in Haryana after being lured with promises of high wages. The stranded workers, including women and children, have appealed to the Sakti district administration for immediate rescue and safe repatriation.

The labourers had migrated from Parsadih, Baradwar, and Kari Bhavar villages in Sakti to work at a kiln located in Sultanpur, under the Hansi police station limits in Haryana's Hisar district. The workers claimed that they are trapped at the worksite, facing constant harassment

and threats of physical violence from the contractor.

According to the victims, the contractor refused to clear their final dues or offered only half of their actual wages upon completion of the work. In a video message circulated by the labourers, two women highlighted their plight, stating that they are forced to live without electricity and lack the financial means to travel back to Chhattisgarh.

The workers also alleged that local Haryana Labour Department officials sided with the employer, demanding caste and income certificates instead of offering immediate relief. When contacted, Sakti District Labour Officer Manjulata Kurre claimed she was un-

aware of the matter but promised to initiate an inquiry. Kurre noted that disputes often emerge when labourers accept financial advances and attempt to leave before fulfilling their work contracts.

Condemning the situation, anti-bonded labour activist Nirmal Gorana, convener of the National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labour (NCCEBL), stated that restricting worker movement post-advance payment constitutes bonded labour. Gorana urged the authorities to register legal cases, secure pending wages, issue release certificates, and ensure immediate rehabilitation compensation under the law.

Bemetara wall collapse: Two minor girls killed, woman critical

Bemetara, (VW) Two minor girls died and a woman sustained critical injuries after a wall suddenly collapsed on them at Raurpur village in the district on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Vanshika (11) and Radhika (7), daughters of Omprakash Koshle. The injured woman, identified as Shashikala, has been referred to Raipur for advanced medical treatment.

The victims were present in the courtyard of a house when the structure gave way, burying them under the debris. Local residents rushed to the spot upon hearing their cries, pulled them out, and transported them to the district hospital in a 108 ambulance. Doctors at the hospital declared both girls dead on arrival. Local police have reached the spot and registered a case to investigate the cause of the collapse.

Over 20 criminal cases against 18 sitting, former MPs and MLAs pending in Chhattisgarh, High Court report reveals

Bilaspur, (VW) Over 20 criminal cases involving 18 sitting and former Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) remain pending across various trials courts in Chhattisgarh, according to a compliance status report submitted by the High Court of Chhattisgarh to the Supreme Court. The high court clarified that it is continuously monitoring the special designated MP-MLA courts to ensure rapid disposal of proceedings against public representatives.

The high court's report, submitted in adherence to the apex court's directives, noted that all special courts have been instructed to submit regular updates and eliminate procedural delays. Prominent political figures currently facing trials include former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, along with Congress MLAs Kawasaki Lakhma and Devendra Yadav. Charges against these leaders involve allegations of obstructing official duty

and public disturbances during political protests. Additionally, separate judicial proceedings are actively underway against Lakhma regarding an Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigation linked to the alleged liquor syndicate scam.

The status report further highlighted that the special MP-MLA court in Bilaspur is actively hearing a case against Masturi MLA Dilip Lahariya concerning alleged violations of the Model Code of Conduct. Similarly, in Janjgir-Champa, trial proceedings are continuing in a fraud case registered against Akaltara MLA Raghavendra Kumar Singh.

Other cases, including one involving former MP Abhishek Singh, remain stalled at various judicial stages. While the special courts have successfully framed charges in some matters, others are currently navigating through the process of witness examinations and evidence recording.

Contd. from page 1

India cautions ...

Mansarovar Yatra is regarded as one of the most significant religious pilgrimages for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and followers of the Bon faith, attracting thousands of devotees every year.

The pilgrimage requires travellers to obtain multiple clearances and travel documents, including permits issued by the Chinese authorities for entry into the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Meanwhile, the official Kailash Mansarovar Yatra for 2026 has already commenced. On June 20, the first batch of pilgrims undertaking the annual pilgrimage crossed into China through the India-China border at Nathu La Pass, marking the formal beginning of this year's yatra under the approved arrangements.(agencies)

India, Seychelles ...

youth exchange, and promoting Seychelles as a creative and filming destination.

Both leaders participated in the virtual groundbreaking of the India-assisted Professional and Technical Education Centre and inaugurated three solar water pumping systems under the International Solar Alliance. They also jointly unveiled the commemorative logo marking 50 years of diplomatic relations.

Additional agreements covered cooperation in agricultural research and education, mutual recognition of training and certification for seafarers serving on Seychelles-flagged vessels, and collaboration in the peaceful exploration of outer space.

The two sides agreed to begin preliminary work on establishing a new Seychelles National Hospital.

New Delhi also extended humanitarian and development as-

sistance by supplying 500 metric tonnes of rice and 8,500 metric tonnes of cement.

President Herminie reaffirmed progress in implementing the Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages (SESEL), adopted in February this year.

The Seychelles President expressed appreciation for India's Special Economic Package of \$175 million, comprising \$125 million in a rupee-denominated Line of Credit and \$50 million in grant assistance, to support priority projects in social housing, e-mobility, vocational training, health, defence, and maritime security.

He also highlighted food security, parliamentary cooperation, and the strengthening of historic ties between the two nations as key areas of discussion.

The wide-ranging agreements reflect the deepening partnership between the two countries in connectivity, capacity building and sustainable development.

The outcomes were announced during PM Modi's State Visit, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Seychelles.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting Seychelles at the invitation of President Herminie and will attend the country's National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour.(agencies)

Ram Temple ...

be uncovered based on interrogation of the accused and CCTV-based evidence. If more names are revealed in the investigation, action will be taken against them as well.

The preliminary probe has highlighted key roles played by each accused at various levels. The role of Ramshankar Yadav,

alias Tinnu Yadav, is particularly under increased scrutiny.(agencies)

India-US deepen ...

Secretary in India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), said India was rapidly emerging as a trusted partner in the global technology supply chain.

"India is positioning itself as a trusted and resilient partner in the global technology supply chain. Our electronics manufacturing ecosystem has expanded dramatically, semiconductor fabrication is now becoming a reality, and the next phase of our Semiconductor Mission will build on this momentum.

"Combined with India's talent, digital public infrastructure, and AI capabilities, we have an opportunity to develop solutions not just for India, but for the world," he said.

K. Nagaraj Naidu, Additional Secretary (Americas) in the Ministry of External Affairs, said the India-US relationship had evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership suited to emerging technologies.

"India and the United States have built a comprehensive strategic partnership fit for the 21st century. Through initiatives spanning AI, quantum technologies, critical minerals, advanced energy, and trusted supply chains, we are now moving from principles to projects.

"The private sector will play an indispensable role in transforming these frameworks into real-world outcomes," he said.

US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) President and CEO Mukesh Agni said that microchips and critical minerals would define the future of the

global economy.

"The United States and India are uniquely positioned to build the trusted technology partnership of the 21st century. From semiconductors and AI to critical minerals and quantum technologies, the government can establish the enabling framework.

"But it is industry that will ultimately drive execution, innovation, and investment. USISPF is proud to convene this dialogue to help translate strategic vision into tangible partnerships," he said.

USISPF organised the roundtable in partnership with the Embassy of India in Washington and the Silverado Policy Accelerator.

It also featured Bill Guidera, Deputy Under Secretary for Innovation and Engagement at the US Department of Commerce, and Christopher Saldana, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Critical Minerals, Materials, and Manufacturing at the US Department of Energy.

The organisers said closer collaboration between governments, industry and research institutions would be essential as India and the United States deepen cooperation in emerging technologies and resilient supply chains. (agencies)

Trump warns ...

US strikes in response to the Iranian attack on M/V Ever Lovely, Iran was given a chance to honor the ceasefire agreement but elected not to when its forces launched a one-way attack drone that hit M/T Kiku this morning at 4:30 a.m. ET," the military command said.

It said US forces launched the latest operation "in direct re-

sponse to continued Iranian aggression against commercial shipping."

According to CENTCOM, US military aircraft targeted Iranian military surveillance infrastructure, communication systems, air defence sites, drone storage facilities and minelayer capabilities.

"Commercial vessel transits through the Strait of Hormuz continue. US forces remain vigilant, lethal, and ready," CENTCOM said.

The latest strikes marked another escalation despite the ceasefire agreement announced earlier this week following days of military confrontation between the United States and Iran. Washington has repeatedly accused Tehran of targeting commercial shipping in and around the Strait of Hormuz. (agencies)

Nearly 10 ...

to aircraft activities from neighbouring countries in the KADIZ in compliance with international law," the ministry said in December.

The aircraft did not violate South Korea's airspace, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Russia has denied recognising the air defence zone drawn up by South Korea, claiming it was not grounded in international law. The airspace above Ieodo, a submerged rock south of Jeju Island, where Chinese aircraft entered the previous day, is a point of dispute between Seoul and Beijing with their overlapping air defence zones.

Since 2019, the two countries have sent their military planes into the KADIZ once or twice a year during joint exercises, without prior notice.(agencies)

Three gold ...

(54kg) secured an 8-0 victory by

fall against Chinese Taipei's Lo I Huang, Dipanshi (58kg) defeated Mongolia's Anudari Bayanmunkh 6-1, and Anjali Santosh Vetal (62kg) outclassed Mongolia's Khongorzul Lkhagva Ochir 15-2 via technical superiority.(agencies)

India script ...

against the defending champions Bahrain, India put on a strong showing to win 3-1, marking a historic achievement by winning the country's first AVC Men's Cup medal.

The bronze medal represents another important step for Indian volleyball. Throughout the tournament, India defeated higher-ranked teams, showed improved tactical discipline, and proved they could compete with Asia's best. Their spirited five-set battle against Indonesia and historic win over Bahrain highlight the national team's steady progress and offer great hope for future international competitions.(agencies)

T20 WC: Deepti ...

of the Women's T20 World Cup in Birmingham on June 14. With the historic dismissal of Mooney, Deepti moved past Jhulan Goswami, who retired with 355 wickets in 284 international matches. Goswami finished her illustrious career with 44 wickets in 12 Tests, 255 wickets in 204 ODIs, and 56 wickets in 68 T20Is.

Deepti now sits alone at the top of the all-time list of wicket-takers in women's international cricket. Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry occupies third place with 336 wickets, followed by England's Katherine Sciver-Brunt with 335, Sophie Ecclestone with 333, and South Africa's Shabnim Ismail with 323.(agencies)

J&K L-G Manoj Sinha reviews Amarnath Yatra arrangements at Baltal base camp

Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday visited the Baltal base camp in north Kashmir to review the arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026. L-G Sinha said on X: "Today I visited Baltal base camp and chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Together with senior officials, I examined the infrastructure, security measures and overall arrangements to ensure that all preparations are complete. "I have instructed all the stakeholder departments to make certain that all amenities are in place and that devotees of Lord Shiva are welcomed into an environment that is safe, comfortable and well-organised. "My priority is that every pilgrim can enjoy the spiritual journey and leave with a truly enriching and fulfilling experience. The sacred Yatra is a moment of faith



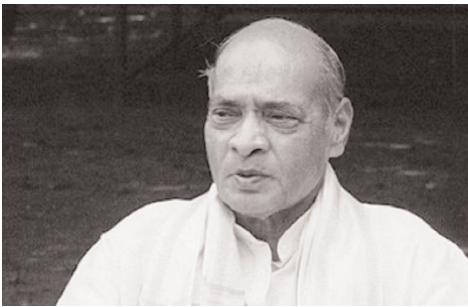
and shared joy. I want the arrangements to reflect that spirit, ensuring that Teerth Yatris are well cared for." Talking to reporters at the Baltal base camp, the L-G said preparations for the Shri Amarnath Yatra have been carried out over the past several months through the coordinated efforts of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, the J&K administration, security agencies and other stakeholders. He expressed confidence that this year's pilgrimage would be safer and better managed than ever before. "Today at Baltal, I launched the

sion into reality, preserving the environment and the profound spiritual dignity of the Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage," the L-G further said. The Amarnath Yatra starts on July 3 and will conclude on August 28, coinciding with the Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan festivals. The cave shrine, situated 3,880 metres above sea level, lies in the Kashmir Himalayas in Anantnag district. Yatris use either the longer traditional Pahalgam route or the shorter Baltal route. Those using the Pahalgam route reach the cave shrine after four days, while those travelling via Baltal return to the base camp the same day after having 'darshan' inside the cave shrine. The cave shrine houses an ice stalagmite structure that wanes and waxes with the phases of the moon. Devotees believe the ice stalagmite symbolises the mythical powers of Lord Shiva.(agencies)

Leaders cutting across party lines in Telangana pay tributes to Narasimha Rao

Hyderabad, Leaders cutting across party lines in Telangana paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on his 105th birth anniversary on Sunday. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, in a message, paid tributes to the former Prime Minister, acknowledging his "enduring contributions to the building of modern India". He hailed Narasimha Rao as a freedom fighter, a polyglot, and a visionary leader who ushered in economic reforms and steered the nation effectively through challenging times.

The Chief Minister stated that the services and ideals of P.V. Narasimha Rao -- a beloved son of Telangana, a leader who made the nation proud, and a brilliant intellectual -- would always serve as an inspiration for future generations. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud called Narasimha Rao one of India's most visionary statesmen. "A scholar, reformer, and transformative leader, his bold economic reforms in 1991 reshaped India's future and laid the foundation for a stronger, globally competitive nation. His wisdom, administrative excellence, and unwavering commitment to public service continue to inspire generations. Remembering his remarkable legacy with gratitude and respect," the state Congress chief posted on 'X'. Leaders of the ruling Congress, the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and family members of the late leader visited PV



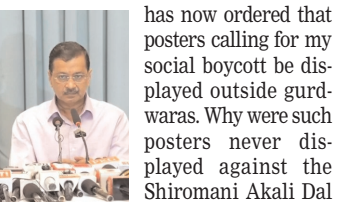
Gnaa Bhoomi (PV Ghat) on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake here to pay floral tributes. They recalled the services of the late leader, who was posthumously conferred the Bharat Ratna in 2024. Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, state BJP president Ramchander Rao, Narasimha Rao's grandson and BJP leader N.V. Subhash were among those who visited PV Ghat. Kishan Reddy said that Narasimha Rao was a visionary who paved the way for economic reforms. "The initiative and vision he demonstrated as Prime Minister regarding economic and policy reforms paved the way for the nation's development. His role in building modern India is truly memorable," he said. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao also paid rich tributes to Narasimha Rao, hailing him as a pioneer of economic reforms, a polyglot, and a statesman. "It is a matter of pride for all of us that P.V. Narasimha Rao - who steered the nation out of a mas-

sive crisis during a turbulent period - was born in Telangana," he said and recalled that the KCR government celebrated the centenary of Narasimha Rao on a grand scale. Rama Rao said the BRS government named the Veterinary University after him, renamed Necklace Road as 'P.V. Marg' and installed a towering statue of him to commemorate his enduring legacy. State BJP president Ramchander Rao stated that Narasimha Rao was a leader of immense intellect and foresight, and the great architect of India's economic reforms. He was the first Prime Minister from outside the Nehru-Gandhi family to complete a full five-year term in office. "However, the Congress's 'first family' could never come to terms with this; they believed that the right to the Prime Minister's office belonged solely to their family. That is why even after completing his term as Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao did not receive the respect he deserved within the Congress party," he said. He alleged that Narasimha Rao's mortal remains were not even permitted to be kept at the Congress headquarters in Delhi for the public to pay their final respects. The Congress insulted P.V. Narasimha Rao, the architect of India's economic liberalisation and historic economic reform, and tried in every way to erase his legacy, the BJP leader said.(agencies)

Akal Takht supreme, all MLAs will appear before it on Monday: Punjab CM Mann

Amritsar, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday reaffirmed that the Akal Takht is the supreme temporal authority of the Sikh community and said that all ministers, MLAs and the Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha will appear before it on Monday to present the government's position with humility. Declaring that every directive of the Akal Takht Sahib is paramount and will be obeyed in true letter and spirit, the Chief Minister said the government would also submit details of the fake video featuring his impersonator. The Chief Minister pointed out that Opposition parties are trying to gain political mileage by giving the issue a religious colour, and asserted that politics and religion must never be mixed while urging the Maharashtra government not to interfere in Sikh religious affairs. Accompanying AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, CM Mann told the media here, "Sri Akal Takht Sahib is sacred for every Sikh and is the highest temporal seat of our community. Any command or order issued by Sri Akal Takht Sahib is acceptable to us

with complete reverence and will be obeyed. "All our Ministers, MLAs and the Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha who have been summoned by Sri Akal Takht Sahib will appear before it on Monday. They will present their side along with the government's position before the Takht as humble Sikhs." The Chief Minister said, "For me, Sri Akal Takht Sahib is above everything. Every order received from the sacred Takht will be obeyed in true letter and spirit. Its command is, was and will always remain supreme for me and my family. My reverence for Sri Akal Takht Sahib is evident from the fact that when I was earlier summoned by the Takht, I even skipped a function of the President of India to appear before it." He said, "However, when political appointees occupying religious positions start taking one-sided decisions to appease their political masters, questions naturally arise. The SGPC (Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee)



after they admitted responsibility for incidents of sacrilege?" The Chief Minister said on December 2, Sukhbir Badal and his associates appeared before the Akal Takht, acknowledged their mistakes, admitted wrongdoing, accepted responsibility for the firing incidents and admitted that orders had been issued against the sangat. Did anyone display posters outside gurdwaras calling for their boycott in the manner they are doing against me today? The sangat is wise, and the people are supreme. These individuals are acting out of arrogance because they have no real issue left to raise against him. CM Mann stated, "Whenever I visit villages, community gatherings and public meetings, massive crowds gather. The Opposition cannot tolerate this

because they themselves are unable to attract such public support. Frustrated by this overwhelming response, the traditional political parties have stooped to levelling baseless allegations against me. The people of Punjab will never tolerate such politics." The Chief Minister said the BJP, the Congress and the Akalis wanted to gain political mileage by defaming him on religious grounds, whereas "I have been working only for the welfare of the people on issues like employment, water, electricity, healthcare, education and overall development". Replying to a query, the Chief Minister said the government will soon write to the Jathedar explaining how my impersonator was used in a fake video to defame me. "The details of the letter are being finalised. After our ministers and MLAs appear before Sri Akal Takht Sahib, we will deliberate on the future course of action. The sangat is supreme in the Sikh Panth, and every decision will be taken in accordance with its wishes because the sangat is fully capable of judging every action."(agencies)

Teachers prepared despite working for SIR, Census: Aspirants after TET 2026 paper leak in Maharashtra

Mumbai, Teachers in Maharashtra, who had prepared for the now postponed Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) 2026, said on Sunday that they had put in hard work for the exam while simultaneously working for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the Census during the day. The Maharashtra State Council of Examinations (MSCE) abruptly postponed the examination on Saturday, after a joint raid by the Bhiwandi police exposed a major question paper leak just a day before the state-wide examination. Speaking to IANS, an aspirant Girish Patil in Maharashtra's Dhule, said: "Due to the exam paper leak, the candidates are extremely disappointed. All the teachers had worked hard in the blistering heat during the month of May for TET 2026 exam. The teachers had prepared for the exam while undertaking visits for Census-related work and working as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for



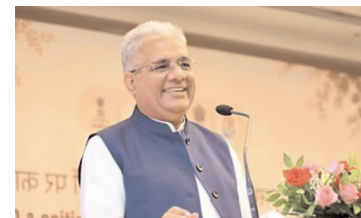
SIR." "In Maharashtra, schools reopened on June 15 this year. Teachers had prepared for that too. Despite all this, the candidates worked hard for the exam but due to the paper leak their entire effort has been wasted," he added. School teachers have been appointed as BLOs to assist the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the SIR of electoral rolls. They are also deployed as enumerators and are required to conduct house visits for Census 2027. Patil appealed the state government to conduct an impartial probe into the incident and take strict action against the guilty. A primary teacher, Kiran Patil, called in-

stances of paper leak a "disappointment" for the democracy, saying "such incidents are extremely wrong, wherever it happens in the country". "First of all, conducting exams for teachers despite so many years of their experience is itself unfair," he added. Kiran Patil echoed, saying: "Now, teachers are involved in so many works like SIR, Census... even after that so many teachers worked hard and prepared for the exam and then the exam paper got leaked. This is so wrong." Condemning the incident, he, too, urged the Maharashtra government to conduct a thorough probe and to take care that such incidents do not get repeated. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday ordered the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to launch a thorough probe into the alleged irregularities into the TET examination which was scheduled to be held in the state on Sunday.(agencies)

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav leads talks on tiger re-introduction projects

Alwar, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav said on Sunday that tiger conservation is not merely about protecting a single species, but about conserving forests, watersheds, the rich biodiversity that shares the tiger's habitat and involving local communities. After inaugurating a National Workshop on "Tiger Re-introduction: Opportunities & Challenges" at Alwar in Rajasthan, the Minister said on X, "On a day marking 18 years of tiger reintroduction in Sariska, inaugurated the workshop on 'Tiger Re-introduction: Opportunities and Challenges', along with Rajasthan Minister

@Sanjay4India1ji." "The workshop will bring together field directors, wildlife experts and chief wildlife wardens from the different tiger landscapes of India and their respective states, to discuss the key management aspects of tiger reintroduction and augmentation programmes," he said. "It will draw extensively from the learnings and experiences of ongoing programmes, fostering knowledge exchange for strengthening future tiger conservation efforts," said Yadav. Describing the Sariska tiger reintroduction programme as a historic milestone in wildlife conservation, Yadav said it represents the world's first successful scientific reintroduction of



tigers into a landscape where the species had become locally extinct. He said the programme has emerged as a global example of successful species restoration through scientific management, dedicated conservation efforts and community participation. The Minister said Sariska has witnessed remarkable recovery from a sit-

uation of local extinction in 2005 to supporting 56 tigers today. He said Sariska today serves as a global example of successful species restoration and offers valuable lessons for future conservation initiatives. Highlighting the country's achievements in tiger conservation, the Minister said the number of tiger reserves has increased from 46 to 58 over the past decade. He also noted that India has successfully achieved the St. Petersburg Declaration target of doubling its wild tiger population by 2022. The Minister said that the successful reintroduction of tigers in Panna and Sariska was possible because of the support and participation of local com-

munities. He noted that similar success could not be achieved in Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Odisha, due to the lack of community support. Yadav said that the success of Project Cheetah has also been driven in large measure by the active participation of local communities. The Minister stressed that while efforts are made to attract tourists from across the country and abroad, equal importance should be given to the welfare and interests of local communities. Yadav also said that in landscapes where the distribution of tigers and elephants overlaps, emphasis should be placed on maintaining and strengthening landscape connectivity.(agencies)

Heavy rain disrupts normal life in north Bengal, red alert issued in several districts

Kolkata, Heavy rain over the last few days has affected normal life in the north Bengal hills, with a large number of tourists stranded in several hill stations. Road connectivity with the plains has been snapped in several places due to landslides. Following incessant rainfall, various areas of Alipurduar district have been submerged. At the same time, continuous rain has increased the water level in the Torsa River in Cooch Behar district. Meanwhile, traffic has come

to a halt on Falakata Road in Alipurduar. According to administrative officials, a landslide occurred in Mirik on Sunday morning following continuous overnight rain. Work to clear the debris began swiftly. On the other hand, various areas of Alipurduar town have been inundated due to the relentless downpour. Water has accumulated in several areas, including Wards 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9. The sluice gates have been closed because of the rising water levels in the Dima and Kaljani rivers. As a

result, water from the town is unable to drain out. The situation in Cooch Behar is also grim. The water level in the Torsa River has risen due to continuous rainfall. The Madhupur area under Cooch Behar Block II has turned into a flood-affected zone. Sukumar Roy, BJP MLA from the Cooch Behar Uttar Assembly constituency, visited the area on Sunday to take stock of the situation. The administration is closely monitoring the weather situation and making arrangements

to assist people in distress. Relief materials have been stocked at BDO offices, while civil defence personnel have been kept on high alert. It is worth noting that a red alert for heavy rain has been issued in north Bengal till Monday. According to the forecast, the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar may receive up to 200 millimetres of rainfall. An orange alert is in force in North Dinajpur district. Similar alerts for thunderstorms and rain have also been is-

sued for South Dinajpur and Malda districts. A yellow alert for heavy rain remains in place in the remaining districts. Due to the continuous rainfall, a large number of tourists are stranded in the hill stations of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Mirik. Landslides have forced them to take detours and remain in hotels until roads are cleared. In view of the inclement weather, several hotel booking cancellations have also been reported across many areas.(agencies)

TN: EPS demands probe into TRB assistant professor recruitment, seeks suspension of appointments

Chennai, AIADMK General Secretary and Tamil Nadu's Leader of Opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) on Sunday demanded a thorough and independent investigation into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Assistant Professors conducted by the Tamil Nadu Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB), urging the state government to suspend the appointment process until the inquiry is completed. In a strongly-worded statement, Palaniswami said the allegations surrounding the recently announced recruitment results had raised serious concerns over the transparency and fairness of the selection process. He called upon the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led state government to intervene immediately to protect the interests of deserving candidates and restore public confidence in the recruitment system. Referring to media reports and complaints from candidates, the AIADMK leader questioned the evaluation process adopted by the TRB, particularly the marking of the descriptive examination. He pointed to an instance in which a candidate who had secured a perfect score of 100 marks in the objective examination was reportedly awarded zero in the

descriptive paper. "How can a candidate who scored 100 marks in the objective paper receive zero in the descriptive paper?" Palaniswami asked, saying that such a disparity indicated a lack of uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process. He alleged that the recruitment exercise had unfairly disadvantaged several meritorious candidates while benefiting others who had secured comparatively lower marks. According to Palaniswami, the reported discrepancies had cast a shadow over the credibility of the entire selection process and warranted immediate corrective action. The former Chief Minister also demanded that the recruitment process be cancelled if the allegations were found to be true. He insisted that an independent agency should conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the complaints to determine whether any malpractice or manipulation had occurred during the evaluation and selection stages. Palaniswami also urged the state government to keep all recruitment and appointment procedures on hold until the investigation was completed and a transparent review of the results was carried out.(agencies)

'Electoral politics': NDA leaders slam Kejriwal's Sita temple announcement in Amritsar

Besides, the airline has expanded its network by launching four weekly non-stop flights between Mumbai and Tokyo Haneda, in addition to its existing daily Delhi-Haneda service. Wilson said Air India Express will next month become the first airline to operate a direct international passenger flight from Navi Mumbai International Airport to Abu Dhabi. The carrier will also add a Pune-Amritsar service to its domestic network in August, alongside its first direct flights from Guwahati to Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Wilson said June marked Air India's strongest operational performance, with overall on-time performance of 86 per cent and domestic on-time performance reaching a record 90 per cent. "This depends on continuous improvements in aircraft health, systems, focus, and procedures, even though it is somewhat aided by our temporarily shortened schedule (and good weather)," he added.(agencies)

India’s rising green powerhouse

India generated \$110 billion in green revenues in 2025, emerging as one of Asia’s fastest-growing green economies as the country’s clean energy and sustainability-related businesses continued to expand, according to a report. A report by London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) showed that India’s green revenues have grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20 per cent over the past five years, which is higher than Asia’s average growth of 12 per cent and the global average of 10 per cent during the same period. Despite accounting for only around 4 per cent of Asia’s total green revenues, India is steadily strengthening its position in several specialised segments of the green economy, it noted. Moreover, India contributes nearly 87 per cent of Asia’s green revenues from biogas energy equipment and accounts for 75 per cent of the region’s revenues from advanced irrigation systems and devices. These segments highlighted the country’s growing capabilities in areas such as sustainable agriculture, decentralised energy systems, waste-to-energy technologies and rural infrastructure.

In addition, Asia remained the world’s largest green revenue-generating region in 2025, contributing 47 per cent of global green revenues. India remained among Asia’s leading destinations for clean energy investments. The report has estimated that the nation attracted around \$100 billion in clean energy investments, with nearly 83 per cent of power-sector capital expenditure directed towards renewable energy, energy storage, nuclear power and energy efficiency projects. It also pointed out that coal continues to play a significant role in Asia’s energy mix, with Asian countries accounting for a large share of global coal demand. The findings underline India’s rapidly expanding green economy, driven by strong growth in niche sectors even as the country continues to build its overall presence in Asia’s broader green revenue landscape, according to LSEG. However, a stark dichotomy remains. Even as clean energy investments surge, coal continues to command a heavy presence in Asia’s broader energy matrix. India’s challenge going forward will be balancing this rapid, commendable green expansion with the immediate, baseline energy security needs of its massive population. If these specialized victories in biogas, irrigation, and renewables can be scaled across the broader industrial landscape, India will not just remain one of Asia’s fastest-growing green economies—it will define the blueprint for sustainable emerging markets worldwide.

India's East Asia push opens new opportunities for Mongolia: Report

Ulaanbaatar/New Delhi, India’s growing engagement with East Asia across several areas, including technology, trade, supply chain resilience, and soft power, offers fresh opportunities for Mongolia’s landlocked economy. The two countries’ shared non-bloc approach complements their respective economic and growth strategies, a report has stated.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar recently concluded his East Asia tour, which included a visit to Mongolia, underscoring the growing strategic partnership between the two countries. The visit highlighted expanding economic engagement and a shared political commitment to deepen cooperation, reinforcing connectivity between Eurasia

and the Indo-Pacific, according to a report in international online magazine ‘The Diplomat.’

EAM’s June 22-23 official visit to Mongolia was part of the 10-year strategic roadmap built in 2025 during Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa’s State Visit to New Delhi.

In his press statement, EAM Jaishankar described Mongolia and India as “strategic partners” and “spiritual siblings.”

According to the report, the strategic priorities of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government - spanning from digital and physical connectivity to defence partnerships, economic integration, and cultural diplomacy - closely align with Mongolia’s economic and development goals, reinforcing India’s role as

a key third-neighbour partner.

During his visit on June 22, EAM Jaishankar toured the flagship Mongol Oil Refinery project in Dornogovi Province. India is constructing Mongolia’s first-ever green-field oil refinery under a USD 1.7 billion line of credit. Once operational, the refinery is expected to become the country’s second-largest foreign investment project after Rio Tinto’s Oyu Tolgoi mine, with the potential to transform Mongolia’s energy sector.

“Importantly, the oil refinery is one of the largest investments being financed by Mongolia’s third neighbours outside of the mining sector. The successful completion and operation of the refinery will serve as a major source of diversification for

Mongolia’s limited market. Hence, the completion of the project is highly anticipated by both Mongolia and India,” the report detailed.

“However, mining remains an important focus of Mongolia’s economic strategy - and India is also a possible third destination for Mongolia’s coking coal industry. Given India’s increasing need for coal for its technological advancement and steel industry, Jaishankar expressed interest in exploring logistical opportunities for Mongolia to export coking coal and other mining products to India,” it added.

Beyond economic engagement, the report said, India and Mongolia have increasingly relied on soft power to shape their international and regional outreach. Cultural diplomacy,

shared religious heritage, and educational cooperation have emerged as the cornerstones of their bilateral relationship.

Highlighting the importance of EAM Jaishankar’s recent visit, the Foreign Ministry of Mongolia said, “This visit is of great significance in strengthening the ‘Strategic Partnership’ between the two countries, enriching trade and economic cooperation with new ideas and links, and determining the direction of future cooperation.”

With Mongolia seeking investment from its third neighbours, India is expected to play a key role as a significant partner. Likewise, Mongolia has become an important pillar of New Delhi’s Act East Policy, the report noted.

Balochistan: Judicial Terrorism

Tushar Ranjan Mohanty

On June 22, 2026, an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, sentenced Dr. Mahrang Baloch, founder and leader of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), and her associate, Sibghatullah, to life imprisonment in connection with the death of Frontier Corps (FC) trooper Shabbir Baloch during the Baloch Raaji Muchi (Baloch National Gathering) held in Gwadar on July 29, 2024. The verdict was delivered by ATC-I Judge Muhammad Ali Mubeen while the accused, other detained BYC members, and their legal counsel were boycotting the proceedings, describing them as a “faceless trial.” According to Advocate Israr Jattak, counsel for Mahrang Baloch and other BYC leaders, the convictions relate to allegations that Shabbir Baloch sustained fatal injuries after being struck by stones allegedly thrown by participants during the gathering.

Since June 12, 2026, Mahrang Baloch and other detained leaders of BYC have been staging a sit-in inside Hudda District Jail in Quetta, de-

manding that their trial be conducted in an open court and that they be allowed legal representation by counsel of their own choosing. In protest against what they alleged were unfair judicial proceedings, the accused and their legal team boycotted the trial and declined to accept lawyers subsequently appointed by the Government.

Mahrang Baloch’s sister, Advocate Nadia Baloch, rejected the court’s ruling, characterizing it as the outcome of a “faceless court”, and questioned the basis of the convictions, noting that the individual allegedly responsible for the killing of the FC trooper had reportedly been acquitted, while those accused of delivering speeches at the gathering received life sentences. In a statement issued after the verdict, BYC condemned the judgment, describing it as evidence of what it termed the Pakistani state’s hostility toward the Baloch people. The organization further asserted that the ruling would usher in what it called “a historic phase of resistance and struggle.”

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) called for an immediate review of the verdict, express-

ing concern over its implications for fundamental rights and due process. In its statement, HRCP argued that the State continued to equate advocacy for fundamental rights with extremism, resulting in what it described as administrative and judicial decisions that were “one-sided and biased.”

Detained since March 2025, Mahrang Baloch has emerged as one of the most prominent critics of state-sponsored ‘enforced disappearances’ and human rights violations in Balochistan, a province affected by a decades-long separatist insurgency. Her advocacy has received international recognition, including inclusion in Time magazine’s ‘TIME100 Next list’ in October 2024 and the BBC’s ‘100 Women List’ in December 2024. Born in 1993 into the Langove tribe in Mangochar tehsil (revenue unit) of Kalat District, Mahrang Baloch’s activism was shaped by personal experiences. Her father, Abdul Gaffar Langove, a left-wing political activist, was allegedly subjected to an ‘enforced disappearance’ in 2009, and his body was recovered in Lasbela District three years later. In 2017, her brother was also reportedly detained

by the Security Forces (SFs) and held for nearly three months, during which he was allegedly subjected to torture. These experiences became the catalyst for her sustained campaign against ‘enforced disappearances’ and ‘extrajudicial killings’ in Balochistan.

Mahrang Baloch founded BYC in July 2018 as a grassroots movement advocating the rights of the Baloch community, with a particular emphasis on mobilising women and the families of individuals allegedly subjected to ‘enforced disappearances’.

The BYC, in its annual report released on February 3, 2026, documented 1,223 cases of alleged enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings across Balochistan and adjoining regions during 2025, including affected areas in Sindh and Punjab. On February 11, 2026, the Baloch National Movement’s (BNM) human rights wing, PAANK, reported 1,355 enforced disappearances and 225 alleged extrajudicial killings. The Human Rights Council of Balochistan (HRCB) recorded 1,455 disappearances, with 1,052 persons remaining missing. The Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP) esti-

mates that more than 7,000 persons have disappeared since the insurgency began, while its continuous protest against enforced disappearances in Quetta reached 6,207 consecutive days by June 26, 2026.

Mahrang Baloch gained national and international attention after leading a protest march from Balochistan to the federal capital, Islamabad, between November 23, 2023, and January 23, 2024. The march, which covered more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometres), involved hundreds of women and family members of individuals allegedly subjected to ‘enforced disappearances’. During the course of the march, Mahrang Baloch was arrested on two occasions.

Mahrang Baloch served as the chief organizer and principal speaker at the Baloch Raaji Muchi (Baloch National Gathering) held in Gwadar in July 2024, an event that drew thousands of participants. The gathering focused on issues including alleged resource exploitation and enforced disappearances in Balochistan. The demonstrations culminated in a prolonged sit-in marked by confrontations between protesters and the authorities, followed by a security crack-

down. In the aftermath of the protests, Mahrang Baloch was kept under detention.

Mahrang Baloch was arrested on March 22, 2025, while leading a protest in Quetta following the burial of 13 unclaimed bodies, which protesters believed were those of individuals subjected to enforced disappearances. The Balochistan Government accused Mahrang Baloch and other leaders of the BYC of orchestrating an attack on Quetta Civil Hospital and inciting violence during protests demanding the return of the bodies of those killed in the military operation following the 2025 Jaffar Express hijacking. She has remained in detention at Hudda District Prison in Quetta since her arrest.

The life sentence imposed on Mahrang Baloch represents a significant deterioration in the Pakistani state’s engagement with Baloch rights activism. The verdict is likely to intensify concerns over the human rights situation in Balochistan and deepen mistrust between the State and Baloch people, which will further aggravate the longstanding insurgency.

Shivangi Sharma

On June 18, 2026, Saif Ansari alias Rohit was arrested in Ranchi, Jharkhand, while Aman Ansari alias Golu and Sayam Sujan were arrested near Gajhandi Railway Station in the Koderma District of Jharkhand on June 17, 2026, for hurling petrol bombs at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) office in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on June 17, 2026. All three arrestees were linked with Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)-funded Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan (TTH). Officials said all three were in constant touch with their handlers through encrypted messaging platforms, including Botim and WhatsApp. The Botim app is widely used in Dubai. It was reported that the accused recorded the entire incident involving the throwing of petrol bombs on their mobile phones and later shared the footage with their handlers. Investigators also said accused Saif Ansari and Aman Ansari had travelled to Dubai, where they came into contact with Shahbaz Rana alias Bhatti, a Pakistani national. They are believed to have been radicalised during this period and later agreed to carry out activities in support of TTH’s anti-India agenda.

On June 18, 2026, the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of the Uttar Pradesh Police arrested two men, Mohammad Umar, 19, and Faizan, 21, residents of Akbarpur Village in the Bulandshahr District of Uttar Pradesh (UP), for working for Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)-based operatives, engaging in activities aimed at creating fear, as well as espionage. The accused were entrusted with conducting surveillance of the Army Cantonment in Lucknow and the Indian Air Force (IAF) Station at Bamrauli in the Prayagraj District of Uttar Pradesh, and sharing information with their handlers. For this task, they were promised INR 10,000. Investigators added that the two accused came in contact with Pakistani gangsters Shahzad Bhatti, Abid Jatt, Hammad Barkati and Rana Hunain through WhatsApp and Instagram. According to ATS, the network was backed by ISI and was attempting to create sleeper cells in India through social media platforms.

On June 16, 2026, Delhi Police dismantled a Pakistan ISI-backed terrorism-crime module operating across the Delhi-NCR region and arrested seven operatives - Anas Tyagi, Mohit alias Yogi, Deepak Agrola, Arif alias Pradhan, Jatan, and Sabir, all residents of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, and Karanvir Singh from Punjab - accused

of smuggling arms and narcotics from across the border. The module was being run by Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorists Shahzad Bhatti and Ajmal Gujjar, who are believed to be operating under the patronage of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The accused were involved in procuring and distributing illegal arms, ammunition and narcotic substances smuggled into India through drone drops along the Punjab border, before being supplied across Delhi-NCR.

On June 9, 2026, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out operations at 18 locations in nine Districts of Haryana and Punjab in connection with three major cases linked to Pakistan-based narco-terrorist Shahzad Bhatti. NIA’s investigation in case RC-22/2025/NIA/DLI had traced the March 16, 2025, grenade attack at the residence of social media influencer Roger Sandhu in Jalandhar, Punjab, to Shahzad Bhatti. NIA further found that Bhatti was the mastermind behind the November 25, 2025, explosion at the Women’s Police Station, Sirsa, Haryana (case RC-24/2025/NIA/DLI), and the January 10, 2026, blast at Baldev Nagar Police Station in Ambala, Haryana (case RC03/2026/NIA/DLI). Operating from across the border, Bhatti is also behind narco-terrorism networks in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and has recently floated a new terrorist formation, the TTH, according to official sources.

On May 26, 2026, NIA disclosed that it had filed a charge sheet against nine people, including Pakistani nationals and handlers, Shahzad Bhatti (the ‘mastermind’ behind TTH) and Sohail Ahmad alias Sohail Baloch; and had arrested Indian nationals Dheeraj alias Dhuru, Vikas alias Vikky, Sandeep alias Daimar, Vikas, Sushil alias Sillu, Mohammad Sijaan alias Sijaan alias Ghazi, and Gurjant Singh, in connection with the November 25, 2025 grenade attack on a women’s Police Station in the Sirsa District of Haryana.

On May 24, 2026, an outfit identifying itself as TTH claimed responsibility for the killing of Punjab Police Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Joga Singh in the Majitha area of Amritsar District in Punjab. A poster circulated on social media by the group’s ‘Al-Burak squad’ claimed involvement in the attack and threatened further assaults against Police, Army, and intelligence personnel.

On May 24, 2026, Intelligence and law

enforcement agencies uncovered that gangster-turned-terrorist Shahzad Bhatti, operating from Pakistan, was the ‘mastermind’ behind the propaganda and operations of TTH.

On April 9, 2026, the Uttarakhand Special Task Force (STF) arrested a 29-year-old man, Vikrant Kashyap, a resident of the Jhajhra area of Premnagar in Uttarakhand, for suspected involvement in anti-national activities and conspiring to establish a foothold for TTH in the state. According to the Police, Kashyap had come under the influence of Pakistani handlers, specifically identified as Shahzad Bhatti and an associate known as ‘Rana’.

On March 23, 2026, an 18-year-old key TTH operative, Harmandeep Singh alias Harman, linked to Shehzad Bhatti, was arrested by the special cell of the Delhi Police. The arrestee was being groomed to carry out grenade attacks and to paint pro-TTH graffiti across Delhi, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

On February 22, 2026, two Policemen, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Gurnam Singh and Home Guard Ashok Kumar, were killed at Adhian village under Dorangla PS limits in the Gurdaspur District of Punjab near the International Border (IB). Initial findings suggested that the officers were shot while asleep, pointing to a targeted attack rather than a coordinated strike. TTH posters were circulated on social media, claiming responsibility.

According to partial data collated by the Institute for Conflict Management (ICM), at least three persons have been killed, and nine persons have been arrested linked to the TTH in the current year (data till June 21, 2026). 13 persons linked with Shahzad Bhatti were arrested in 2025 and another 40 in 2026.

Shahzad Bhatti, originally from the Punjab Province of Pakistan, is identified as a Pakistan-based underworld figure who operates an advanced criminal network with deep ties to Pakistan’s intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). According to Indian officials, he is described as a key ISI proxy, tasked with managing cross-border terrorist modules and recruiting Indian youth through social media platforms to carry out high-profile strikes. Beyond terrorism, Bhatti commands an extensive arms and narcotics smuggling syndicate, especially in J&K, using his international reach to challenge rival factions like the Bishnoi gang, and was at one time known to have friendly ties with gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Bhatti first came

under the radar of Pakistan’s Police in 2013, when cases involving theft and robbery were registered against him. Around 2015, Bhatti is believed to have moved to the UAE, where he claimed to own an agricultural and dairy business. His current location remains unclear, but investigators believe he moves between Pakistan and Gulf countries. Bhatti is not only linked to ISI but also receives support from Pakistan-based ISI handlers such as Abid Jatt, Ajmal Gujjar, his close aides, and Yawar Khan, a Dubai-based ISI handler, linked to the Dawood network. Authorities have further stated that Bhatti’s network operates through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. The network identifies vulnerable youth in India, initiates conversations through private messaging and then connects them to Bhatti via video calls.

After it was reported by Indian agencies that Bhatti was the mastermind behind TTH, the deeper conspiracy unravelled following two operations by the agencies and the Delhi Police Special Cell in May 2026. In the first operation, the cell arrested Sohail, who had a prior criminal record, from Delhi. Investigations revealed that Bhatti had assigned Sohail the task of painting ‘TTH’ graffiti across prominent walls and locations in Delhi and Faridabad. Sohail was specifically instructed to paint the letter ‘S’ beneath the TTH acronym to signal Bhatti’s personal signature behind the outfit. Financial mobilisation from Pakistan was also established, as Bhatti had paid Sohail for executing this “test task”. Further investigations exposed the involvement of the targeted killing of Police personnel, driven by Bhatti and backed by ISI. In the second operation, the Delhi Police Special Cell arrested three youths who were found to be in direct contact with Bhatti, Jatt, and Ajmal Gujjar. Bhatti had ordered the trio to record videos displaying firearms and to film themselves shooting a policeman, promising financial rewards in return.

The formation of TTH is still in process, with the group’s identity coming into the spotlight with the arrests in 2026. There were no records relating to the group prior to this. Bhatti, however, has been known to be active in India at least since early 2025.

After the Bhatti network came to light, agencies launched a major nationwide operation in the first week of May 2026. The 48-hour operation covered multiple states, including Delhi,

Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Security agencies were tracking more than 500 mobile numbers and social media accounts. 40 suspects were rounded up in the border districts of Punjab. Around 90 youths were detained and questioned by the Haryana STF. More than 20 people were called in for questioning in Delhi, where some were counselled and asked to delete their social media accounts. In total, 481 suspects and criminals were detained as part of the operation. Later, on May 13, 2026, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) questioned 57 persons across Maharashtra over suspected links with Shahzad Bhatti and the Dogra gang, another Pakistan-based gangster network. Coordinated operations were conducted at more than 40 locations, including Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Nanded, Jalgaon, Mira Road, Nalasopara and Akola. According to ATS officials, the operation targeted individuals connected to Bhatti’s networks through social media or suspected of acting as sympathisers and local operatives. The latest operations were conducted by the NIA in Haryana and Punjab on June 9, 2026, identifying the Bhatti network as a substantial threat.

A media report on May 25, 2026, indicated that Indian Intelligence agencies believe that Bhatti’s criminal networks provide the logistical infrastructure through which the ISI seeks to expand TTH’s influence inside India. Agencies have concluded that social media has become the principal recruitment and radicalisation weapon for the group and, with Bhatti’s network and ISI backing, the agenda is to link the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and TTH in India and Afghanistan. A second objective is to spread a narrative suggesting that India is actively backing groups such as TTP to target the Pakistani Security Forces (SFs). Intelligence officials claim that TTH’s primary purpose is to create the impression of a homegrown Indian extremist group, providing Pakistan with another plausibly deniable proxy in the event of future terrorist attacks. ISI is attempting to portray TTH as an offshoot of TTP, even as Pakistan advances the narrative that both India and Afghanistan are supporting TTP, which has carried out numerous attacks against Pakistani SFs. Another element of the agenda behind floating TTH is to target the Indian Police and carry out terrorist attacks across India to create fear. The broad strategic objective behind the Bhatti network is visible. ISI is combining online propaganda, proxy operations and support to on-ground recruitment, an instrument of hybrid warfare. However small it may seem now, TTH has the potential to become a dangerous challenge for Indian security and intelligence. SAIR

Defence deal with China risks creating long-term dependency for Bangladesh: Report

Dhaka, Although Bangladesh can derive opportunities from relations with China, those opportunities carry the risk of long-term dependency if not strategically balanced. Defence modernisation should be pursued in line with the country’s economic capacity, technology development and human resource growth, a report has stated. “There are signs of a major change in Bangladesh’s foreign policy: Amidst the long-standing diplomatic balance, initiatives to increase defence, infrastructure and economic cooperation with China have now come to the fore. New discussions have begun surrounding Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s visit to China—especially the possibility of purchasing J-10CE fighter jets from China, military technology cooperation and Chinese financing for major infrastructure projects”, according to a report in leading Bangladesh daily ‘Dhaka Tribune’. The report also questioned the rationale behind the multi-billion-dollar acquisition of J-10 CE fighter jets, asking whether such a massive defence expenditure is justified for a developing country where critical sectors such as healthcare, education, skills development and employment continue to face significant challenges. It stressed that Bangladesh’s security does not rest on weapons alone. A country’s long-term strength is built on the foundations of a robust economy, technological advancement, a skilled workforce and strong social institutions. Therefore, before expanding its defence ties with China, the report said, Bangladesh must carefully assess whether such engagement constitutes a necessary strategic investment or risks creating the foundations of long-term dependency. “Bangladesh is planning to buy the J-10 CE multirole fighter jet from China. Discussions are underway to buy 20 to 24 fighter jets under a possible deal, which could be worth several billion dollars. China is promoting the J-10CE as a modern 4.5-generation fighter jet. It is claimed to have an AESA radar, a modern missile system and multi-role combat capabilities. However, a section of international defence analysts believes that the actual combat effectiveness of the aircraft has not yet been fully proven,” it mentioned. The report stressed that procuring a fighter jet is not merely about acquiring the aircraft but also requires long-term training, pilot development, spare parts, maintenance systems and technical support.

It warned that growing dependence on one country’s military technology could create long-term strategic pressure in terms of future supplies of spare parts, maintenance support, and future upgrades. China’s military technology, the report said, has also faced scrutiny over the years. In 2016, Yu Shu, the first Chinese female J-10 CE pilot, lost her life in a training crash involving the fighter jet in Hebei Province of China.

Highlighting the wider implication of Bangladesh’s military dependence on China, the report said, “For a developing country like Bangladesh, defence spending of several billion dollars, therefore, needs to be considered not only from a military perspective but also from an economic priority perspective. The question is, if the same amount of money had been spent on the country’s technological education, health system, or skills development, which investment would have increased Bangladesh’s strength more in the long run?”



Seismologists continue to monitor the region closely, with Funvisis maintaining round-the-clock surveillance. The agency has called on the public to stay informed through official channels and avoid spreading unverified information that could cause panic.

Total industrial profits reached 3.14 trillion yuan during the first five months of 2026, remaining below the level recorded during the same period in 2022. "The problem of strong supply and weak demand within the country remained outstanding and companies in some industries were still facing difficulties," NBS analyst Yu Weining said in a statement. (agencies)

Women's T20 WC: India knocked out of semis as Perry, Gardner power Australia to historic chase at Lord's

London, India's campaign in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 came to a heartbreaking end as Australia produced the highest successful run chase in the tournament's history to register a commanding six-wicket victory at Lord's on Sunday. Chasing a challenging target of 171, Australia rode on superb half-centuries from Ellyse Perry and Ashleigh Gardner to complete the chase with an over to spare, ending India's hopes of reaching the semifinals.

The defeat meant India finished third in Group 1 with three points from five matches, while Australia and South Africa progressed to the last four with eight points each. It was another painful exit for Harmanpreet Kaur's side despite posting one of their best batting performances of the tournament. India had looked firmly in control after captain Harmanpreet Kaur produced a sensational late assault to power her side to 170/4, a total that appeared competitive on a surface offering something for both batters and bowlers. However, Australia's experienced middle order absorbed the early pressure before launching a clinical

chase that eventually rewrote the Women's T20 World Cup record books. Needing a strong start, Australia suffered an early setback when Renuka Singh trapped Georgia Voll leg-before in the opening over. Voll departed for just four, briefly lifting Indian spirits in what was a must-win encounter. However, Renuka's opening over also contained four wides and conceded 11 runs, allowing Australia to recover quickly. Returning from injury, Phoebe Litchfield looked confident from the outset as she struck consecutive boundaries off Kranti Gaud in the second over before Beth Mooney joined the attack with two boundaries of her own.

Litchfield ensured Australia finished the Power-play strongly by smashing a six off the first ball of the sixth over before collecting another boundary, taking Australia to 49/1 after six overs despite the early wicket. India finally found another breakthrough immediately after the Power-play through their premier spinner Shree Charani. The left-arm spinner produced a superb delivery that trapped Litchfield as she attempted to accelerate. Litchfield departed for a com-

posed 24 from 25 deliveries, an innings featuring two fours and a six, but Australia's response was immediate. Ellyse Perry walked in with positive intent and signalled her approach by striking two boundaries in her first three deliveries. At the other end, Mooney continued rotating the strike before attempting to break free against Deepti Sharma. Looking to slog-sweep a full delivery, Mooney mistimed her shot high into the air, allowing Radha Yadav to complete a comfortable catch. Mooney's dismissal for 22 from 20 balls gave India renewed hope while Deepti achieved another personal milestone by claiming the 356th wicket of her international career. At 82/3, India sensed an opening. Instead, Perry and Ashleigh Gardner combined to produce the match-defining partnership.

The experienced duo gradually shifted momentum towards Australia through intelligent strike rotation before launching an aggressive assault against India's bowlers. Gardner immediately took on Radha Yadav, smashing a four and a six during the 13th over, while Perry continued finding regular boundaries to keep

the asking rate comfortably under control. Gardner cleared the ropes once again in the 15th over while Perry continued piercing the infield with elegant drives. Harmanpreet searched desperately for a breakthrough and even handed the ball to Shafali Verma in an attempt to break the partnership, but the move failed as Australia comfortably collected another 12 runs.

The turning point came in the 17th over. Renuka Singh, India's most experienced pace bowler, endured a difficult spell as Perry completed her half-century off just 33 balls with another boundary. The over leaked 17 runs and effectively ended India's hopes of making a comeback. Perry eventually fell in the final over after a magnificent 56 from just 38 deliveries, striking eight boundaries, but by then the damage had already been done. Gardner ensured there would be no late twist. The Australian all-rounder reached her fifty from only 28 balls with a boundary off Deepti Sharma and remained unbeaten on 53 as Australia completed the chase in 19 overs, sealing not only a semifinal place but also the highest

successful run chase in Women's T20 World Cup history. Earlier, India had produced one of their finest batting displays of the tournament after Harmanpreet elected to bat first upon winning the toss. Openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma began cautiously, scoring only three runs in the opening over while assessing the conditions at Lord's. Once settled, Mandhana quickly found her timing. She collected consecutive boundaries off Kim Garth in the second over before adding another four in the following over as India steadily built momentum.

Shafali initially played the supporting role before launching a counterattack against Ashleigh Gardner. The aggressive opener hammered a six and a four in the fourth over before adding another boundary in the final over of the Power-play, helping India reach 43 without loss after six overs. The opening partnership continued frustrating Australia's bowlers. Shafali particularly enjoyed batting against Gardner, striking another four and a six in the ninth over as the opening stand crossed fifty and then sixty, putting India in an excellent position. Australia fi-

nally broke through in the 10th over when captain Sophie Molineux clean bowled Shafali for a fluent 34 from 26 deliveries. Her entertaining innings included three fours and two sixes and provided India with an impressive 66-run opening partnership.

Mandhana continued anchoring the innings while Jemimah Rodrigues settled quickly with an early boundary. However, India's momentum suffered a setback through a costly misunderstanding between the pair. Mandhana called for a quick single, but Rodrigues, committed to playing a reverse sweep, could not respond in time. The confusion resulted in Mandhana being run out for 38 from 37 balls after an otherwise well-constructed innings featuring six boundaries. With India suddenly losing two wickets in quick succession, captain Harmanpreet Kaur walked in and immediately took charge. Alongside Jemimah, she rebuilt the innings sensibly through clever strike rotation and timely boundaries. The pair guided India past the 100-run mark in the 14th over before Harmanpreet shifted gears dramatically during the death

Saptak Talwar close to top-10 finish in France



Pl neuf (France), India's Saptak Talwar had three each of birdies and bogeys in his even par third round of 70 as he stayed in the running for a Top-10 finish at the Blot Play9 on the Hotel Planner Tour. Talwar, leader on the DP World PGTI Tour rankings this season, is now Tied-12th with one more round to go. While the topper on the DP World PGTI Tour gets a berth into the DP World Tour the following season, the Top-15 from Hotel Planner also get a berth into the main Tour, which means Talwar has two pathways. He is inside the Top-20 in Hotel Planner rankings called Road to Mallorca. Talwar has been dividing his time between the PGTI and Hotel Planner Tour. His earlier rounds were 68-67 on the Par-70 course and he is now 5-under for 54 holes. John Gough will take a solo lead into the final round of the Blot Play9, after carding a four under par round of 66 on day three in France. The Englishman went bogey-free to reach 12 under par in Pl neuf, with home favourite Maxence Giboudot and Spain's Joseba Torres two strokes back on ten under par. Starting the third round in a share of the lead, Gough failed to make a gain on his first eight holes, those behind him making the most of the moving day to push ahead.

Gough is yet to secure his maiden Hotel Planner Tour victory but has enjoyed decent outings at Blot Play9 in the past, including a fourth-placed finish at last year's edition in Brittany, where he carded a final round of 63 to earn his joint highest finish of the season. Giboudot birdied two of his final three holes to sign for a seven under par 63, the joint lowest round of the week. Meanwhile, Torres mixed four birdies with an eagle, dropping just one shot in a round of 65.

South African Bryce Easton and Spain's Pablo Er no share fourth position on eight under. Dane Frederik Kjettrup and American Charles Huntzinger both sit one shot further back on seven under.

Women's T20 WC: 'We need to rethink how we play against good teams,' says Harmanpreet after India's exit

London, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur admitted her side needs to reassess its approach against top opposition after Australia's record-breaking six-wicket victory at Lord's knocked the Women in Blue out of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 on Sunday.

Despite posting a competitive 170/4, courtesy Harmanpreet's explosive 56 off 26 balls, India were unable to defend the total as Ellyse Perry (56) and Ashleigh Gardner (53 not out) guided Australia to the highest successful run chase in Women's T20 World Cup history. The defeat ended India's semifinal hopes, with Australia and South Africa progressing to the last four from the group.

Reflecting on the result,

Harmanpreet felt India had put enough runs on the board but admitted the team once again failed to deliver against one of the tournament's strongest sides.

"End of the day, we got a decent total on the board. In between when I was batting, I thought we were a little short, but the last couple of overs did the job. They were looking for the runs but couldn't do so," Harmanpreet said after the match.

The skipper acknowledged that India's performances



against stronger opponents had proved costly throughout the campaign.

"If I have to think about the entire tournament, we didn't do

well against good teams. Against the best teams, always your best comes. I think we need to rethink that," she said.

Harmanpreet credited Australia for executing their plans well and felt India could not capitalise despite preserving wickets during their innings.

"They're one of the best. I think they bowled according to their plans. We didn't

Looking at the bigger picture, the India captain called for serious introspection, particularly over the team's recurring struggles in crunch matches against elite opposition.

"As a group, we really need to rethink a lot of things, how we have to go against good teams, especially because sometimes we are in the game, but in the last few overs, we've been giving away heavy runs. And if we have to chase, then we are not able to get those runs while batting. So I think it's been happening for quite a long time," Harmanpreet said.

India finished their campaign with six points from five matches, while Australia and South Africa qualified for the semifinals with eight points each.

2nd T20I: Tilak's 55 in vain as Ireland beat India by one run, get historic 2-0 series win

Belfast, Ireland stunned T20 World Cup champions India by securing a one-run victory in the second T20I to complete a 2-0 series sweep, their first-ever bilateral series triumph over the Asian giants. Tilak Varma's fighting 55 kept India in the hunt, but debutant Jai Moondra's early strikes and disciplined death bowling ensured the hosts defended 154/8 at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Stormont on Sunday.

The result ended India's streak of 16 consecutive T20I series wins dating back to 2023, as it marked one of the greatest weekends in Irish cricket history. Lorcan Tucker's side, missing five first-choice players, showed remarkable spirit to defend totals in both matches.

Jai Moondra and Matthew Holland picking three wickets each helped Ireland in being the better bowling side across both games. For India, the series defeat was a sobering reminder of the challenges in excelling on outside IPL pitches and their shortcomings in facing left-arm fast bowlers. Despite Varma's resistance, the Indian middle order faltered under pressure, leaving Ireland to celebrate a famous triumph in front of a jubilant home crowd.

The chase began disastrously for India as Moondra dismissed openers Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma for first-ball ducks. Just like how it happened in the first game, Samson fell for a duck after he missed a flick off Moondra's skiddy delivery and

trapped lbw. On the fourth ball, Abhishek miscued a pull off Moondra's short ball to third man.

India were rattled further as skipper Shreyas Iyer chopped onto his stumps off Moondra for 10. Ishan Kishan attempted to rebuild alongside Tilak Varma, but a mix-up resulted in his run-out for 12. At 39/4, India were in deep trouble, having lost four wickets inside the Powerplay for just the 13th time in T20Is. Vice-captain Varma, however, held his nerve.

He struck successive boundaries off Moondra through the leg-side and steadied the innings with a 32-run stand with Axar Patel. Rain interruptions briefly halted play, but the duo ensured India stayed afloat, even as the asking rate hovered above eight

runs per over.

Once the game resumed, Matthew Holland broke the partnership as Axar looked to steer him, but was caught by a superb Lorcan Tucker diving to his left and completed a stunning one-handed catch. Shivam Dube added some impetus into the innings with two fours, before pulling to deep square leg off Matthew Humphreys.

Amidst all this, Varma hanged around and brought up his fifty in 45 balls by hitting India's first six of the innings – crouching low to heave Holland over deep mid-wicket. But on the very next ball, Varma's aim to hit a lofted drive resulted in him mistiming to extra cover, and was followed by debutant Suryansh Shedge's pursuit of clearing the bigger side of the ground

ending in a catch to deep mid-wicket.

Rana, though, had other ideas – he slammed Moondra through point for four; before muscling him over long-on for six. With 20 runs needed off the final over, Rana got a boundary by evading the keeper on the free hit. Despite Tector giving two wides, he had the last laugh by having Rana caught at long-on. Though Prince Yadav hit a last-ball six, it wasn't enough to stop the result from going in Ireland's favour.

Brief Scores: Ireland 154/8 in 20 overs (Harry Tector 53, Ben Calitz 37; Prince Yadav 3-22, Shivam Dube 2-25) beat India 153/9 in 20 overs (Tilak Varma 55, Harshit Rana 21; Matthew Holland 3-26, Jai Moondra 3-32) by one run

Messi adds another feather to his cap, becoming the first player to score in 7 consecutive FIFA World Cup games

Dallas, Lionel Messi added another remarkable milestone to his legendary career as he became the first player to score in seven consecutive FIFA World Cup matches during Argentina's final group game against Jordan at Dallas Stadium on Sunday. Messi, was named among the substitutes, came off the bench on the hour and promptly set about ensuring that Argentina would collect a third straight victory with a wonderful free-kick to extend both Argentina's lead and his own scoring record. Notably, Argentina fielded a World Cup starting XI without Lionel Messi for the first time since June 2006, when La Albiceleste were beaten in a quarter-final by host nation Germany.

The 39-year-old striker lashed home an 80th-minute free-kick when he curled it past the wall, scoring in his seventh successive World Cup game and also extending his own all-time finals record to 19. He is now two strikes ahead of superstar quartet Kylian Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele, Vinicius Junior and Erling Haaland in the Golden Boot race.

The streak started with the Round of 16 game at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where Messi scored in the 35th minute.



He then scored penalties in the quarter-final and semi-final against Netherlands and Croatia, respectively. In the final against France, he converted from the spot again before adding another in extra time.

In the current edition, he began with a hat-trick against Algeria and followed it with a brace against Austria, which saw him surpass former Germany forward Miroslav Klose as the all-time leading men's goalscorer in the FIFA World Cup.

These achievements come during Messi's sixth FIFA World Cup campaign, making him the first men's player ever to appear in six editions of the tournament (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022 and 2026).

As Argentina progresses to the knockout rounds, Messi will have the opportunity to continue extending his record on football's grandest stage. (agencies)

Golfer Akshay Bhatia stays within striking distance as Hovland takes slender Travelers lead

Cromwell (Connecticut), Akshay Bhatia kept his hopes of a second PGA Tour title of the season alive by remaining in the leading group after three rounds of the Travelers Championship, ensuring that the Indian-origin star will begin Sunday's final round with a realistic chance of lifting another trophy.

Bhatia, backed by Hero, followed his spectacular second-round 62 with a composed three-under 67 to move to 15-under-par 195, leaving him tied for third at TPC River Highlands. Although five shots behind Norway's Viktor Hovland, the 23-year-old has already shown this week that low scores are possible on one of the Tour's most birdie-friendly layouts. Hovland surged into the lead at 20-under after a six-under 64, edging world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler by a single stroke in what promises to be an exciting final-day showdown. Bhatia shares third place with Patrick Cantlay,

while a group of contenders, including reigning U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark and England's Matt Fitzpatrick, remain within touching distance.

For Bhatia, Saturday demanded discipline rather than brilliance. After dazzling the field with nine birdies during Friday's 62, he produced another solid display, picking up four birdies on the outward nine before a mixed back nine featuring one more birdie and two bogeys resulted in a 67. The steady round ensured he stayed firmly in contention despite Hovland and Scheffler setting the pace. The American of Indian origin has already enjoyed a memorable season, highlighted by victory at the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Another strong finish this week would further cement his status among the PGA Tour's elite and strengthen an already impressive campaign.



Among the other Indian-origin players, Aaron Rai continued his consistent run with a three-under 67 to climb to 10-under and a share of 22nd place. Rai's remarkable consistency has been one of the stories of the tournament, as he remains the only player in the field yet to card a bogey during 54 holes. Hero-backed Sahith Theegala, meanwhile, continued his recovery after an opening-round 74. A second successive 67 lifted him to two-under overall and tied 62nd, though he remains well

down the leaderboard. The battle for the title intensified throughout the third round as Hovland and Scheffler traded blows over much of the day.

Starting two strokes behind Scheffler, Hovland wasted little time erasing the deficit by birdieing three of his first four holes. The pair remained locked together for most of the round before Scheffler briefly reclaimed the outright lead with a brilliant wedge approach to within two feet at the 14th. The decisive moment came on the closing hole. Hovland calmly holed a six-foot birdie putt to finish with a 64 and reach 20-under-par 190. Moments later, Scheffler suffered his only blemish of the day, three-putting from the fringe for a bogey that left him at 19-under after a 67.

Cantlay also strengthened his challenge with a flawless six-under 64 to join Bhatia at 15-under. The eight-time PGA Tour winner boasts an out-

standing record at TPC River Highlands, having now registered eight consecutive finishes of tied-15th or better at the Travelers Championship. Five players sit another two strokes back at 13-under, keeping the championship wide open entering the final day. Hovland will be seeking his eighth PGA Tour title and first Travelers Championship victory. His record when leading after 54 holes is encouraging, having converted four of his previous five such opportunities into victories. Scheffler, however, remains a formidable threat. The world No. 1 is chasing his second title of the season and knows one more low round could be enough to overhaul the Norwegian.

Bhatia, though, cannot be discounted. His scintillating second-round 62 demonstrated his ability to go exceptionally low, and on a course where birdies often come in clusters. (agencies)



Akshay Kumar says he added the line 'Bhojpuri is better than Hollywood' in 'Welcome ToThe Jungle'

Actor Akshay Kumar revealed that he is responsible for adding the line "Bhojpuri is better than Hollywood" in 'Welcome ToThe Jungle' during an exclusive interaction. The abovementioned lines are spoken by actress Jacqueline Fernandez in the sequel.

Akshay was asked if an actor like him playing a Bhojpuri star in the movie and doing a Bhojpuri song elevates the position of an industry known for objectifying women. In response, Akshay revealed that it was he who had suggested that the dialogue "Bhojpuri is better than Hollywood" be added in 'Welcome ToThe Jungle'. The 'Houseful' actor told IANS, "In my opinion, Bhojpuri cinema, if you have seen, there is a dialogue of Jacqueline in the film that, 'Bhojpuri is better than Hollywood'. I had put that dialogue. We have shown her introduction that she is coming from London, Paris, so she has seen the world, and when she saw something like this, everything shining, and this energy, dance, etc. Where will you get that Hollywood? And dance like this, dance like Bhojpuri, where will you get it? So, it is anytime better than Hollywood."

Praising the Bhojpuri industry, Akshay went on to add, "So, according to me, Bhojpuri is right up there, and to play a Bhojpuri actor; it was an honor". The third instalment in the popular franchise has stellar cast with Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Jackie Shroff, Raveena Tandon, Disha Patani, Jacqueline Fernandez, Arshad Warsi, Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Johnny Lever, Aftab Shivdasani, Lara Dutta, Shreyas Talpade, Tusshar Kapoor, Daler Mehndi, Farida Jalal, Krishna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda, Kiran Kumar, Mukesh Tiwari, Yashpal Sharma, Vindu Dara Singh, Nawab Shah, Urvashi Rautela, Puneet Issar, Arjun Firoz Khan, Late Pankaj Dheer, Sudesh Berry, Hemant Pandey, Zakir Hussain, and Sayaji Shinde, along with others.

AA Nadiadwala and Star Studio18 present in association with Cape of Good Films and Seeta Films, "Welcome ToThe Jungle" is a Base Industries Group and Seeta Films Production. The original drama, "Welcome," reached the audience back in 2007. In 2015, the makers came up with the sequel "Welcome Back".

When SRK shared a hilarious encounter with a fan: I'm not Akshay Kumar

Shah Rukh Khan is one of the most well-known Indian celebrities across the globe. But did you know that he was also once mistaken for another Bollywood actor. During his appearance on filmmaker Sajid Khan's talk show "Yaaron Ki Baraat", King Khan shared a hilarious and awkward encounter with a fan.

SRK shared that during the shoot of his movie "Pardes" he was returning from New York and was in a lot of hurry to reach home as unfortunately his wife, Gauri Khan, had suffered a miscarriage. "I was running in a hurry, and amidst all this, the handle of my bag also broke. I was absolutely confused."

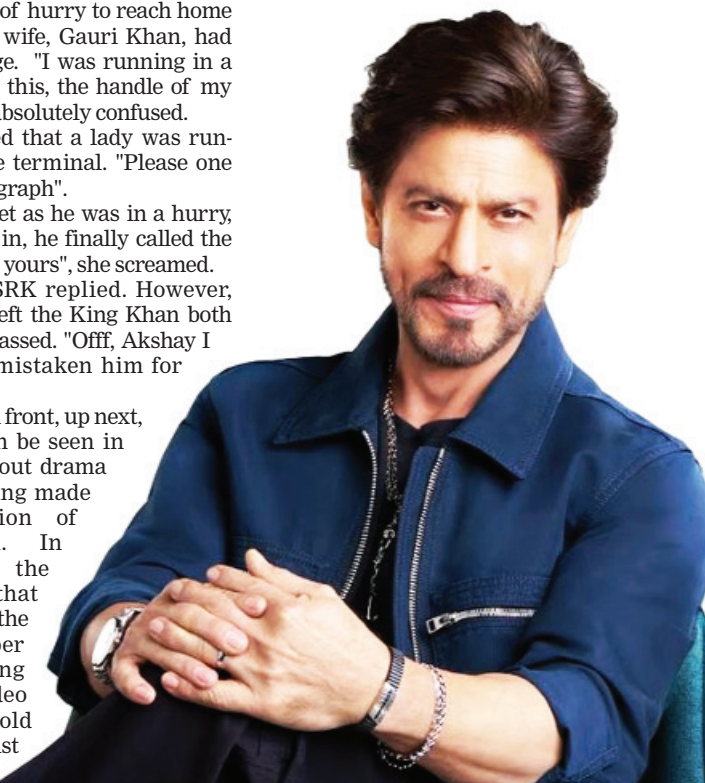
Shah Rukh recalled that a lady was running after him at the terminal. "Please one photograph, one autograph".

While SRK got upset as he was in a hurry, once he had checked in, he finally called the lady. "I am a big fan of yours", she screamed.

"Its okay mam", SRK replied. However, what she said next, left the King Khan both confused and embarrassed. "Offf, Akshay I love you". She has mistaken him for Akshay Kumar.

On the professional front, up next, Shah Rukh will soon be seen in the highly talked about drama "King", which is being made under the direction of Siddharth Anand. In January this year, the makers confirmed that "King" will "roar" in the theatres on December 24, 2026. The gripping announcement video opened with the bold title 'ROAR' set against

a dramatic backdrop. After this comes an impactful line, "This Christmas, fear wears the crown," pointing towards the film's larger-than-life scale. On Shah Rukh's 60th birthday in November last year, the makers of "King" revealed the title video featuring SRK as a ruthless mercenary who has even lost count of how many people he has killed, and doesn't even know if they were good or bad.



Kareena Kapoor once said she tries her best to be like Karisma Kapoor in every way

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan once expressed deep admiration for her elder sister, Karisma Kapoor. During her old appearance in the talk show, "Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai," the Jab We Met actress revealed that she looks up to Karisma in every way and is constantly trying to emulate her. Bebo also praised her confidence, grace, and strong sense of self. Kareena's heartfelt words highlighted the close bond between the sisters and reflected the immense respect she holds for Karisma both personally and professionally.

In a video message, Kareena told Karisma, "The things I admire in you are endless. The list is just too long. Very few girls today have their head on their shoulders, know what they want out of life, and know exactly how to behave. I admire you for everything."



'Admire' is too mild a word for you because I don't even know what to say. I just wish I could be like you in every way, and I am trying so hard. But I also admire you for the most important thing in my life, and that is for standing by me and being my strength, because without you I would not be able to go on even for a minute of the day." During the show, host Farooq Sheikh also played a throwback video featuring Karisma and Kareena sitting together and enjoying a meal. In the heartwarming clip, Karisma was seen lovingly helping little Kareena, adding a nostalgic touch that beautifully captured their close sisterly bond.

Both sisters share a very close bond, and Kareena Kapoor has often been vocal about her deep respect and admiration for her elder sister, Karisma Kapoor. Over the years, she has openly praised Karisma as her biggest inspiration and strength.

Anil Kapoor recalls how 'Woh Saat Din' was adapted from K. Bhagyaraj's work

Veteran actor Anil Kapoor recalled how his first movie as a lead, 'Woh Saat Din' which also turned out to be a major milestone in his career; was adapted from late Tamil actor, director, and screenwriter K. Bhagyaraj's work. Through his latest social media post, Anil revealed that he recently met Bhagyaraj at the wedding of Avantika Sundar, the elder daughter of actor-politician Khushbu Sundar and filmmaker Sundar C.

The 'Animal' actor took to his official Instagram handle and wrote, "Deeply saddened and shocked by the passing of K. Bhagyaraj sir. It feels especially unreal because I had the opportunity to meet him recently at Khushbu's daughter's wedding and spend some time with him. Bhagyaraj sir was a creative genius whose contributions to Indian cinema go far beyond what many people know. (sic)." "He was the original creator behind stories that went on to become landmark Hindi films and career-defining milestones for so many of us. Woh Saat Din, adapted from his work, became one of the most important films of my career," he added.

Shedding light on some of Bhagyaraj's other memorable contri-



butions to the Indian cinema, Anil went on to write, "Mohabbat, with its story, screenplay and dialogues by Bhagyaraj sir; not only gave us a memorable film but also helped launch the journey of Indra Kumar and Ashok Thakeria as producers through Maruti International. Later, Beta, another adaptation of his brilliant writing, became a blockbuster and remains one of the defining films of its era. Boney and I had acquired the rights and passed them on to Indra Kumar and Ashok Thakeria during a difficult phase in their journey. The film went on to become a massive success, with all of us receiving tremendous recognition."

The 'Mr India' actor further revealed how Bhagyaraj was also the brain behind, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar and Priyanka Chopra starrer 'Mujhse Shadi Karogi'.

"Another remarkable example of Bhagyaraj sir's brilliance was Mujhse Shadi Karogi. Directed by David Dhawan, produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, and starring Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar and Priyanka Chopra, the film's story and screenplay were by Bhagyaraj sir and adapted into Hindi by Anees Bazmee. The film became a major success and marked another important milestone in Akshay Kumar's career," Anil penned.

When Aishwarya Rai Bachchan spoke about building a lasting friendship with Rani Mukerji



Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan had once opened up about her friendship with Rani Mukerji. In a throwback interview, the 'Taal' actress spoke warmly about her bond with Rani, revealing how the two grew close while touring together for nearly 45 days on an international concert tour. Aishwarya recalled how their bond strengthened during an international world tour.

During her old appearance in the show "Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai," Aishwarya revealed that spending nearly 45 days together while traveling, performing, and staying with their families helped them develop a close and comfortable equation. The 'Devdas' actress also dismissed the perception that actresses in the same industry cannot be friends, describing Rani as "very warm" and "very friendly." Aishwarya said, "Two years ago, actually, we had

met once. She's also a very warm girl. Very friendly. Very easy, also. We've got no hang-ups. It's really, really easy. And we were on the world tour together, our first world tour together, doing shows."

"During the shows, we got to live together for virtually 45 days. We were performing, we were working, we were staying together, and the bond grew from there. We were with our families. This was two and a half years ago, and we've kept in touch ever since and through it all. I mean, I know people find it very tough to believe that actresses in the same world can have all kinds of problems. But no." Rani Mukerji was also expected to appear on the show alongside Aishwarya, but she was unable to attend due to ill health. Despite her absence, she made sure to be a part of the occasion by sending a heartfelt video message for Aishwarya. In her message, the

In her message, the 'Bunty Aur

Babli' actress stated, "You know I love you. I'm so sorry I couldn't come for the show because you know I'm unwell. As you know, I'm always unwell and couldn't make it to Delhi. But just to let you know that I love you and you mean a lot to me. I just love you Aish. I don't think I need to say it. But because of everyone I have to say it on TV again. I just want to say one thing that we are going to be friends forever."

However, their friendship reportedly did not last long. The turning point came during the making of the 2003 film "ChalteChalte." Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was originally cast as the female lead opposite Shah Rukh Khan, but she was later replaced by Rani Mukerji.

Over time, this incident created a rift between the two actresses, and they eventually drifted apart. What began as a promising friendship soon became one of Bollywood's most talked-about fallout.

Akanksha Chamola confirms divorce from Gaurav Khanna: Have been living separately for a year

The second season of the show 'Lock Up' has opened with the sensational news of television actor Gaurav Khanna and his wife Akanksha Chamola, heading for a divorce.

Akanksha revealed on the show that she and Gaurav have been living separately for the past year. She said, "Gaurav Khanna and I are getting divorced. We have been living separately for the past one year. People don't know about this yet. This is a decision we have both taken. We have been talking about it for the past one year."

Akanksha added that there is no bitterness between them. She shared that down the line, they realized that they wanted different things from life.



"There is nothing bad between Gaurav and me. We still talk to each other, but we feel that we are not right for each other as partners. That is because we both want different things in life," she said.

Refreshing your memory, during 'Bigg Boss 19', Gaurav had talked about his wish to embrace fatherhood, while revealing that Akanksha was not ready to be a mother.

Akanksha shared that even their families were of the opinion that they should spend some time away from each other.

She said that things have not been good between her and Gaurav ever since the latter participated in 'Bigg Boss 19'.

"All this has been going on since Bigg Boss 19. Gaurav's parents and my parents told us to stay separately for some time. It happens sometimes that when you stay away, you realise each other's importance," Akanksha said.

Akanksha also said that since Gaurav and she are still on talking terms, many believed that they would eventually find their way back to each other.

Gaurav and Akanksha tied the knot in 2016 after dating for some time and have been married for 9 years.