

TOP STORY

DELHI, FRIDAY 16, MAY 2025

VOL-12, ISSUE - 38, PAGES - 12, PRICE ₹ 3.50 | POSTAL REG. NO. UP/GBD-254/2022-2024



Neeraj Chopra to lead four-front Indian at the Doha Diamond League 2025



Trump downplays Putin decision to skip Istanbul talks with Zelenskyy

Radhika Apte starrer 'Sister Midnight' to hit theatres on May 23



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South African WTC final squad members set to miss IPL playoffs

MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
82530.74	25062.10
1,200.18	395.20
GOLD	SILVER
93,250.00	96,014.00
985.00	548.00

WEATHER

Sunrise	5:30 AM
Sunset	7:06 PM
Moonrise	10:40 AM
Moonset	8:48 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	30°C
Minimum	30°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	42°C
Minimum	31°C

India's dealings with Pakistan will be strictly bilateral: Jaishankar

EAM says Indus Waters Treaty will continue to be held in abeyance until Pakistan stops its support for cross-border terrorism

The minister stressed that further discussions with Pakistan will only be on terrorism and the "vacating of illegally occupied territory in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir."

New Delhi: India's relations and dealings with Pakistan will be "strictly bilateral", which is a national consensus for many years and there is "absolutely no change" in that consensus, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday.



Interacting with reporters on the sidelines of an event here, he also said that the Indus Waters Treaty will continue to be held in abeyance until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" stops its support for cross-border terrorism.

Jaishankar said the UN Security Council had underlined the need to hold the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack accountable, and on May 7 morning, "we held them accountable through the Operation Sindoor".

India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure early on May 7 following which Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and

10. The Pakistani actions were strongly responded to by the Indian side.

The hostilities ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions following talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both sides on May 10.

"To me things are fairly clear. So, let me take this opportunity to spell out our position. One, where Pakistan is concerned, our relations, our dealings with them will be bilateral, and strictly bilateral. That is a national consensus for many years,

and there is absolutely no change in that consensus that dealings with Pakistan will be bilateral," Jaishankar said. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it "very clear" that any talks with Pakistan will be only on terrorism. "...Pakistan has a list

of terrorists, who need to be handed over. They have to shut down terrorist infrastructure, they know what to do," the external affairs minister said.

Jaishankar said New Delhi is "prepared to discuss" with Islamabad what is to be done on terrorism, adding those are the talks that are "feasible".

The external affairs minister was talking to reporters after the opening of an embassy of Honduras here. He was also asked about the Indus Waters Treaty, and the understanding reached on May 10 on stopping the military actions.

"Water issues have been raised. I re-emphasise, the Cabinet Committee on Security was very clear that the Indus Waters Treaty is held in abeyance and will continue to be held in abeyance" until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" stops its support for cross-border terrorism, he said.

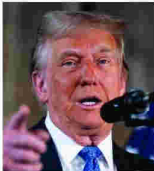
CONTD ON PAGE-2

Trump once again claims he 'helped settle' tensions between India & Pak

Doha: US President Donald Trump on Thursday repeated his claim yet again that he "helped settle" the tensions between India and Pakistan. "And by the way, I don't want to say I did, but I sure as hell helped settle the problem between Pakistan and India last week, which was getting more and more hostile," he said while addressing US military personnel at al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

"And all of a sudden, you'll start seeing missiles of a different type. And we got it settled. I hope, I hope I don't walk out of here and two days later find out that it's not settled, but I think it is settled," Trump said.

This is the sixth time since Saturday that Trump has claimed that the US brokered the "ceasefire" between New Delhi and Islamabad.



HIGHLIGHT

This is the sixth time since May 10, that Mr. Trump has claimed that the U.S. brokered the "ceasefire" between New Delhi and Islamabad.

India carried out precision strikes under 'Operation Sindoor' on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan

President Murmu invokes rare power, poses questions to SC

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has exercised powers under Article 143(1) used in rarely to know from the Supreme Court whether timelines could be imposed by judicial orders for exercise of discretion by President while dealing with the bills passed by state assemblies.

Article 143 (1) of the Constitution deals with the power of President to consult the Supreme Court "if at any time it appears to the President that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President



its opinion thereon". President's decision comes in light of the April 8 verdict of the apex court passed in a matter over the powers of Governor in dealing with bills questioned by the Tamil Nadu government.

The April 8 verdict for the first time prescribed President should decide on the bills reserved for her consideration by Governor within three months from the date on which such reference is received.

In a five-page refer-

ence, President Murmu posed 14 questions to the Supreme Court and sought to know its opinion on powers of Governor, President under Article 200 and 201 in dealing with bills passed by the state legislature.

Article 200 deals with situations with regard to passage of bills by the state assembly and subsequent options available to the governor on grant of assent, or withholding of assent or sending the bill to President for reconsideration.

Rajnath calls for IAEA oversight on Pakistan's nuclear arsenal

Srinagar: Pakistan's nuclear weapons should be brought under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency as they are not safe in such a rogue nation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.



The defence minister's comments came days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India would not tolerate "nuclear blackmail" by Pakistan and would punish cross-border terrorism strongly.

Shortly after landing in Srinagar in his first trip to Jammu and Kashmir since Operation Sindoor, Singh said how strong India's resolve against terrorism can be gauged from the fact that it has not even paid heed to Pakistan's nuclear blackmail.

"The whole world has seen how irresponsibly Pakistan has given nuclear threats to India several times," he said interacting with troops.

"Today, from the land of Srinagar, I want to raise this question before the whole world: are nuclear weapons safe in the hands of such an irresponsible and rogue

nation?" Singh asked. "I believe that Pakistan's nuclear weapons should be taken under the supervision of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," he added.

The defence minister described Operation Sindoor as the "biggest" action taken by India against terrorism in its history.

"For the last 35-40 years, India has been facing terrorism being carried out from across the border. Today India has made it clear to the whole world that we can go to any extent against terrorism," he said.

"By carrying out the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, an attempt was made to hurt India's forehead and to break the country's social unity. Agency

Trump urges Apple CEO Tim Cook to limit production in India

New Delhi/Doha: US President Donald Trump on Thursday said he has asked Apple CEO Tim Cook to stop producing iPhones in India, and rather make them in the US.



Apple has no smartphone production in the US - most of its iPhones are made in China while facilities in India produce around 40 million units per year (about 15 per cent of Apple's annual output).

Trump, who in his second term as President is pushing for local manufacturing, said Apple



executives, who assured that Apple's investment plans for India are intact and the company proposes to make the country a major manufacturing base for its products.

HIGHLIGHT

"Don't want you building in India," said U.S. President and criticised India for its high tariffs

"I had a little problem with Tim Cook yesterday," Trump said of his conversation with Apple's CEO, in Doha. "I said to him, Tim, you're my friend, I treated you very well. You're coming in with USD 500 billion (investment). But now I hear you're building all over India. I don't want you building in India if you want to take care of India." Agency

Be responsible!: SC raps MP minister over Col Sofiya slur

New Delhi: Every word uttered by a minister has to be with a sense of responsibility at a time the country is undergoing "such a situation," the Supreme Court said on Thursday as it reprimanded Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah who is facing an FIR for his remarks targeting Col Sofiya Qureshi.



"What sort of statements are you making? You are a responsible minister of the government," Chief Justice B R Gavai told Shah's counsel.

The bench, also comprising Justice Angus-

the comments. "When this country is undergoing such a situation, every sentence or word uttered by a responsible minister has to be with a sense of responsibility," the CJJI told Shah's counsel.

The bench went on, "Persons holding such a constitutional office are expected to exercise a degree of restraint."

Senior advocate Vibha Datta Makhija, appearing for Shah, mentioned the matter for urgent listing and said the high court had taken suo motu cognisance and asked for registration of an FIR. Agency

3 JeM terrorists killed in encounter in Pulwama



Srinagar: Three Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Nader Tral area of Avantipora in the south Kashmir district after receiving specific inputs about the presence of terrorists there, a police official said.

The search operation turned into a gunfight after the terrorists opened fire at the forces, who retaliated, he said.

The three terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire, they said.

"The eliminated terrorists have been identified as Asif Ahmed Sheikh, Amir Nazir Wani and Yawar Ahmed Bhat, from whom three AK-series rifles, twelve magazines, three grenades and various other war like stores have been recovered," Army's Chinara Corps said in a post on X.

Sources in police said the terrorists belonged to the proscribed JeM. Speaking to reporters near the encounter site, inspector general of police (IGP), Kashmir, V K Birla termed the killing of the three as a significant development in the fight against terror. Agency

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man shot at near Chhatarpur metro station in Delhi

A man was shot at allegedly by motorcycle-borne assailants near Delhi's Chhatarpur metro station in south Delhi's Mehrauli area on Thursday afternoon over old enmity, police said.

They said the victim, Arun Lohia, was travelling in his SUV when the incident took place around 1 pm near CDR Chowk.

"It seems to be a case of old enmity. The accused and the victim are residents of the same village and are known to each other. There is a case history between the two parties," a senior police officer said.

The condition of Lohia is stated to be critical. A case is being registered in the matter, he said.

After the attack, the entire area was cordoned off and multiple police teams rushed to the spot. CCTV footage is being scanned to identify the attackers, the officer said.

Police sources said that at least 10 rounds were fired at Lohia and he was rushed to a nearby hospital by police.

Noida Authority launches illegal building identification drive

The Noida Authority has launched illegal building identification drive, writing "This building is illegal" on illegal buildings. Under this drive, as many as 22 buildings were marked illegal at Garhi Chaukhandi and Basal village. There are shops, residential buildings and hotels among the marked structures.

The authority said that illegal vendors have been removed. This action will continue. Notices have also been pasted on all these buildings. The officials concerned asked the owners that they should demolish the buildings themselves. Otherwise, the authority will demolish them and recover the cost as well.

It may be noted that on the instructions of Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M, all the senior managers from Circle-1 to 10 have started listing illegal buildings in their area. A joint survey has been done. Land mafias are being identified.

In the survey, dozens of notified plots are also being surveyed on which there was illegal construction earlier. It was demolished and an FIR was lodged against the encroacher.

If illegal construction is found on these plots in the survey or construction is seen taking place, then the encroacher will be put in the category of land mafia. A report will be prepared and sent to the government.

Fearless Lady E-Rickshaw driver foils theft in Krishna Nagar

Ravi Dalmeiya New Delhi In a commendable act of courage and quick thinking, a woman driving an e-rickshaw played a crucial role in helping Delhi police arrest two female thieves in the Krishna Nagar area of Shahdara district, police officials reported on Thursday.

The incident unfolded when two women, identified as sisters-in-law, allegedly stole ₹10,000 from a passenger's handbag while she was travelling in the vicinity. The passenger soon realized her money was missing and raised an alarm, prompting immediate action from those nearby.

The brave e-rickshaw driver, witnessing the distress,

Delhi dust storm chokes city air quality sparks political firestorm

PM10 levels surged nearly 145% to 337.6 µg/m³, while PM2.5 rose over 200% to 196.1 µg/m³ at 3 pm, according to CPCB data.

New Delhi Gustly winds blowing from west Rajasthan covered parts of Delhi with dust Thursday morning, sharply spiking air pollution levels and reducing visibility. The poor air quality triggered a political squabble between the BJP and AAP, with each pulling no punches.

PM10 level rose by nearly 145 per cent and was recorded at 337.6 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic metre) at 3 pm while PM2.5 soared by over 200 per cent and read 196.1 µg/m³ at that point in time, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed.

At the same time on Wednesday, the PM10 level was 133.3 µg/m³ and PM 2.5 level 41.9 µg/m³.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was in the 'poor' category at a 4 pm on Thursday with a reading of 292. It was no first time in close to two weeks that the air quality dipped to this zone. The city had been breathing 'moderate' quality air since April 29.

The India Meteorological Department said a high north-south pressure gradient over northwest India caused strong dust-raising surface winds gusting up



to 30-40 kmph that sped through Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and north Rajasthan May 14 night to next morning.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi reported the lowest visibility of 1,200 metres intermittently during this period. Moreover, there was no forecast for such a prolonged and impactful dust storm in the Delhi-NCR region.

Health experts warned people of the hazardous effects of breathing dust-laden fine PM2.5 and PM10 particles, that are a fraction of the width of a human hair, saying these matters can lodge deep in the lungs

and even enter the bloodstream and potentially cause progressive lung diseases and long-term damage.

"Masks can help filter out dust particles but they should fit snugly. Keep windows and doors closed, or use an air purifier at home. Avoid rubbing your eyes as it may lead to injury. If there is irritation, wash the eyes thoroughly with plain water. It is also important to stay well-hydrated at all times," a doctor at the Lok Nayak Hospital (LNJP) said.

The dust had not settled yet that a political kerfuffle stirred up with the opposition AAP claiming the situ-

ation was "never this bad" during its rule and the BJP terming the charge an attempt at scoring political brownie points.

Former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote on X that the air pollution situation was "never this bad" during this time of the year under the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP's) rule.

The ex-CM's views were echoed by his successor and senior AAP leader Sitohi who claimed in the social media platform that Delhi's AQI has never been so high in May.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data shows that from 2022-2024, AQI on May 15 never exceeded

243, she said. "Today, the AQI is 500."

Atishi wondered derisively whether Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa would take responsibility for the city's worsening air pollution.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Birender Singh son of Sh. Rajender R/o H. No. B-1343, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 has severed all his relations with his son namely Rahul Singh S/o Birender Singh and with his wife namely Payal, Both R/o H. No. B-1343, 1st Floor Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052, and have debarred and disowned them due to their misconduct and misbehavior with my client and my client has no concern with them in any manner or with their acts in future, if anybody deals with them, then my client will not be responsible for the same. ANIL DUTT SHARMA (ADVOCATE) CH. NO. B-136, BGS BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Kanika W/o Late Narendra Kumar, Mandawali Fazalpur, District-East, Delhi-110092 has severed all her relations with her son namely Vijay Kumar, S/o Late Prithvi Kumar, and his wife namely Ms. Kamna Jatav W/o Ch. Shiv Kumar, both residents of House No-A/316, Sarawati Marg, behind Budha Marg, Mandawali Fazalpur, P.O.-Laxmi Nagar, District-East, Delhi-110092 due to their bad habits and behavior. My abovementioned client has also debarred and disowned the aforesaid Vijay Kumar & Ms. Kamna Jatav from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with the aforesaid Vijay Kumar & Ms. Kamna Jatav will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done with the aforesaid Vijay Kumar & Ms. Kamna Jatav. Sanjeev Kumar Advocate Office: 57-A, Shastri Park, Chander Nagar, Krishna Nagar, New Delhi-110051

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. W-2, 623, 12, 02, 2025-26, Date: 14.05.2025 E-tenders are invited for the work of Engineer, Eastern Railway, 17, Netaji Subhas Road, Fairlie Place, Kolkata-70001 from eligible contractors for the work mentioned under mentioned work. E-Tender No. W-2, 623, 12, 02, 2025-26; Name of the Work: Augmentation / Upgradation of Power distribution system at Eastern Railway Head Quarter building at Fairlie Place, Kolkata-70001. Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 06.05.2025, 14.00 hrs. The details of tender documents are available at website: <https://www.reps.gov.in>. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online through the website. The manual offer will be accepted. Tender Notice is also available at website: <https://www.reps.gov.in>. Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

RUPEEK CAPITAL PRIVATE LIMITED

45/B, Bhikham Complex, 1st & 2nd Floor, 49/303, Sector-3, Phase-1, Gurgaon-122009

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The borrowers and the public in general are hereby notified that the gold pledged with respect to the below mentioned loan will be auctioned on account of non-payment of dues. The Auctions will happen on 15/06/2025 through an online portal <https://www.reps.gov.in>. Bid submission is not materialised for any reason on the date mentioned above, with respect to any of all items of the pledged ornaments, RupeeK shall be conducting e-auction/Private Sale of the items on any subsequent dates without further notice.

List of Loans (LOS ID)

12009946, 12010475, 12010949, 12010749, 12011003, 12009298, 12002414, 12011196

For more information please contact - 1800 411 8000

Sd/- Authorised officer RupeeK Capital Pvt. Ltd.

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-AUCTION NOTICE

No. Com/Pay/Use/MLDT/Misc/2024 Date: 14.05.2025. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Auction Conducting Officer), Eastern Railway, Mada Town Office Building, P.O.-Jhailalia, Dist.-Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) has published e-auction catalogue on www.reps.gov.in for operation of Pay & Use Toilet at Godda (GDGA) Railway station over Malda Division. Auction Catalogue No. Shri Hanuman Sahay Dhanka (Mother), (3) Chandra Kala D/o Hanuman Sahay Dhanka (Sister), (4) Beena D/o Hanuman Sahay Dhanka (Sister), (5) Rajni D/o Hanuman Sahay Dhanka (Sister), (6) Rajender S/o Hanuman Sahay Dhanka (Brother), (7) Chetan S/o Hanuman Sahay Dhanka (Brother) All P.O.-80, Street No. 5, Chaman Vihar, Loni Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102, out off their family relations and have disowned and debar his/her namely Bhupender S/o Hanuman Sahay Dhanka aged about 32 years from their movable and immovable property due to their disobedient and quarrelsome nature and my clients were not/are not/shall not be responsible for any act of Manish Bhardwaj and his/her daughter in law namely Sangeta and his son namely Anirudh in any manner whatsoever in any manner.

SHARMA & ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES CHAMBER NO.8T-12, B.G.S BLOCK TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

Speaker interacts with Ethiopian delegation under capacity building programme at Vidhan Sabha

DTC directs officials to ensure real-time monitoring of all buses cleanliness

New Delhi

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has directed the managers of its depots to ensure all existing and newly induced buses are integrated into the bus management system for live vehicle monitoring, in a step towards enhancing passenger safety.

DTC officials have also told officials to intensify inspections with a focus on cleanliness and better visibility of buses.

"Around 80 buses are yet to be integrated with the BMS (bus management system). The strategic business unit has been instructed to issue necessary directions to complete the integration without any delay," stated the minutes of a DTC meeting held earlier this month.

The system, designed by the transport authorities for smooth movement of buses across the city, provides real-time monitoring facilities to the IT department of the DTC.

"Penalties must be imposed for non-functioning systems in accordance with the terms of the service agreement," the minutes added.

The bus management system is a multi-purpose data collection process of the DTC that gathers live data on the location of the bus through the GPS system, monitors driver behaviour and the condition of electric bus charging facilities.

"All depot managers have been instructed to ensure monitoring and regular inspections with a focus on clean and well-maintained buses to improve public visibility of DTC," said the minutes of last month's meeting.

Approximately 40 lakh people in the national capital avail buses daily for their commute. These vehicles are operated by the Delhi Transport Corporation and Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Limited (DIMTS). The city has 2,152 electric buses, of which 1,752 are with the DTC and the rest under the DIMTS-Cluster scheme. Delhi is expected to see 5,000 more electric buses by the end of the 2025-26 fiscal, making it a city with the second-largest electric bus fleet globally.

Staff Reporter

New Delhi

The Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Vijender Gupta, warmly welcomed a 41-member Ethiopian delegation on Thursday, who were visiting as part of a "One Week Capacity Building Programme for Civil Servants of Ethiopia," organized by the National Centre for Good Governance.

The delegation comprised prominent officials, including the Deputy Speaker of the Ethiopian Union Parliament, regional parliament speakers, and ministers. During their visit, Gupta gave an insightful overview of the heritage and functioning of the Delhi Assembly, highlighting



its significance and the strides made in governance. Expressing pride in host-

ing the Ethiopian guests, the Speaker underscored the historic and cultural

ties between India and Ethiopia, citing shared traditions such as sambusas

and chai as symbols of their enduring friendship. He also showcased notable governance innovations in Delhi, including the National e-Vidhan Application (NEVA), which facilitates paperless operations, the solar power plant that has made the Assembly fully solar-powered, and the digitization of the Assembly library.

Gupta elaborated on various initiatives aimed at enhancing government responsiveness and public engagement. Among these, he mentioned efforts to transform the Assembly into a center for civic education, featuring attractions like a light-and-sound show depicting India's freedom movement. Emphasizing Delhi's commitment to in-

novation and transparency, he traced the Assembly's historical journey back to its origins in 1909 as the Imperial Legislative Council, noting its role in hosting several significant sessions over the years.

Highlighting the importance of international legislative cooperation, Gupta stressed that cultural exchanges foster mutual understanding and strengthen democratic institutions. He described the Delhi Legislative Assembly as a symbol of India's democratic evolution and expressed optimism for future collaboration with the Ethiopian parliamentarians.

Responding to the Speaker's remarks, Ms. Zahra Humed, Deputy Speaker of the Ethiopian Parliament,

lauded India's vibrant democratic culture and the credibility of its institutions. She pointed out the cultural affinities shared by the two nations, such as their mutual fondness for street food and Indian cinema, and noted that both countries are members of BRICS. Ms. Humed also commended India's economic progress and acknowledged Ethiopia's notable advancements in East Africa. The meeting concluded with the Ethiopian delegates expressing their gratitude for India's dedication to democratic governance and the establishment of effective institutions, marking a significant moment of international parliamentary engagement at the Delhi Vidhan Sabha.

Garbage mountains to disappear from Delhi by 2028, says Sirsa

New Delhi

The Delhi Environment Minister, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, has announced an ambitious plan to eliminate the massive waste accumulation at the Okhla landfill by 2028. Speaking during an inspection of the landfill site, Sirsa highlighted significant progress made in reducing the height of the landfill from 60 meters to 20 meters, reclaiming over 30 acres of land in the process.

Addressing concerns over the city's waste management and air quality issues, the minister criticized the previous administration for exacerbating these problems and emphasized that his government is actively working to resolve them. "Our goal is to eliminate 30 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste by December 2025, and we have already made substantial progress towards this target," he stated.

Since the commencement of bio-mining operations at Okhla, more than 56 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste have been processed using advanced techniques, with plans to process an additional 20 lakh metric tonnes in the upcoming



phase. Sirsa noted that the ongoing work is ahead of schedule, aiming for completion by October 2025.

Comparing the battle against waste to national defense, the minister stressed that just as the country combats terrorism, it can also tackle the capital's waste challenges effectively. The bio-mining process involves sorting the waste into different materials that are then repurposed in environmentally compliant ways—such as producing alternative fuels for cement plants and raw materials for road construction.

The initiative not only focuses on cleaning the landfill but also aims to reduce fire hazards and improve living conditions for the residents near the landfill site. Sirsa reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring clean air, clean water, and effective waste removal as part of their broader mission for a developed and healthier Delhi.

With sustained efforts, the Environment Minister expressed confidence that the "garbage mountains" of Delhi will soon vanish, ushering in a cleaner environment and better quality of life for the city's residents.

GDA cracks down on illegal colonies in Morti and Noornagar Sihani

Shiv Kumar
Ghaziabad

In a decisive move against unauthorized constructions, the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) undertook a large-scale demolition drive in two locations under its jurisdiction, following directions from the Vice Chairman to take stringent action against illegal developments in the city.

The enforcement operation was spearheaded by Mr. Ashok Jain, in-charge of Enforcement Zone-1, who led the demolition activity at Revenue Village Morti and Revenue Village Noornagar Sihani. The drive, carried out on Thursday, targeted two major sites where illegal plotting and infrastructure development had been undertaken without any official approval.

At Revenue Village Morti, in Kharsa No. 600, the GDA team discovered unauthorized plotting activity on both sides of an already existing earthen road. The illegal development spanned approximately 5,000 square meters, where demarcated plots and boundary walls had been constructed. Upon inspection, the developers failed to produce any approved



layout plans or documentation, confirming the illegality of the construction. Simultaneously, a similar case of encroachment was identified at Revenue Village Noornagar Sihani, Kharsa No. 835. Here, individuals identified as Mr. Ankur, Mr. Sanju (son of Mr. Sitaram), and Mr. Sunil were found engaged in large-scale landfilling operations and had already laid a sewer line over a sprawling area of nearly 25,000 square meters. These activities were carried out without any approval or permissions from the relevant authorities, marking a blatant violation of development norms.

Despite facing strong resistance from local colonizers and builders at both sites, the GDA's enforcement team, accompanied by the authority's police force, managed to maintain control over the situation. The demolition work continued uninterrupted under tight security, ensuring the safety of the team and the public.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ashok Jain issued a stern warning, stating that no unauthorized construction would be tolerated within the city limits. "Strict instructions have been given to ensure that the crackdown on illegal colonies will continue over the coming months, with more sealing and demolition operations planned as part of an ongoing drive to bring order and compliance to urban development across Ghaziabad.

To prevent further instances of illegal development, the GDA has issued a

public advisory urging citizens not to invest in plots or buildings located in unauthorized colonies. Residents have been asked to verify necessary approvals and documentation before purchasing any property.

The demolition campaign witnessed the active participation of the Assistant Engineer, Junior Engineers, and the entire staff of Enforcement Zone-1, supported by the GDA's police unit and enforcement personnel. Authorities confirmed that the crackdown on illegal colonies will continue over the coming months, with more sealing and demolition operations planned as part of an ongoing drive to bring order and compliance to urban development across Ghaziabad.

Rs 49.83 lakh tender flots for reconstruction of Dilli Haat



New Delhi

The Delhi government has approved a tender of Rs 49.83 lakh for the reconstruction of shops at Dilli Haat INA that were gutted in a massive fire last month, officials said on Thursday.

The reconstruction work, which includes civil and electrical repairs, is expected to be completed within 45 days, they said.

On the night of April 30, a major fire broke out at Dilli Haat — one of the national capital's most popular open-air markets located opposite INA Market in South Delhi — destroying around 25 to 30 shops and causing extensive damage to semi-permanent structures.

The Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTC) has issued the tender for rebuilding the damaged shops and carrying out necessary alterations to minimise the risk of future fire incidents, officials said.

Four thieves caught stealing phones from weekly NCR markets

Amar Saini
Noida

Noida police have apprehended four members of a gang involved in stealing mobile phones from weekly markets, crowded places, and residential areas across Noida and the NCR region, officials said on Thursday.

During the operation, police recovered 20 Android smartphones, four knives, and two motorcycles from the accused.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Central Noida, Hridesh Katheria, stated that the police received intelligence that the criminals, who had recently stolen phones from Mamura village, were planning to sell the stolen devices while riding on motorcycles.

"Acting on the tip-off, police set up barriers to check passing vehicles. Soon after, four suspects on two motorcycles were stopped and searched. Twenty mobile phones were recovered from their possession," said ADCP Katheria.



Upon interrogation, the accused revealed that the stolen phones were taken from various locations in Mamura village. The arrested individuals have been identified as Akash, Prashant alias Joblin, Vansh, and Ajay

alias Sinchain. ADCP Katheria added, "These criminals are known for their clever tactics, stealing mobile phones from people in weekly markets and crowded areas around Noida and NCR. They

then sell the stolen phones at low prices to enjoy the proceeds of their crimes." The police have registered cases against the accused and are investigating further to dismantle the gang completely.

RPF and GRP reunite missing child with family

Staff Reporter
Ghaziabad

In a swift and coordinated operation, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police (GRP) rescued a 4-year-old boy who had been kidnapped from Ghaziabad railway station, officials confirmed on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Salman Khan, 24, a native of Bihar, was arrested on May 14 by a joint team of RPF and GRP. He had allegedly kidnapped the child, Harshit, from the station two days earlier.

According to police officials, the child's mother had lodged a complaint on May 12, reporting that her son had gone missing from the Ghaziabad railway station while she had briefly stepped away to use the washroom. An FIR was promptly registered, and a special team was constituted to trace the missing boy.

Investigations revealed that the accused had first met the boy's mother on May 11 at the Old Delhi Railway Station. Observing her alone with the child,



According to police officials, the child's mother had lodged a complaint on May 12, reporting that her son had gone missing from the Ghaziabad railway station while she had briefly stepped away to use the washroom. An FIR was promptly registered, and a special team was constituted to trace the missing boy.

he allegedly devised a plan to kidnap and sell the boy for money.

On May 12, taking advantage of the mother's absence, Salman kidnapped Harshit and left the Ghaziabad station. However, before he could carry out his plan to sell the child, he was tracked down and arrested by the police team. Harshit was safely rescued.

Police also recovered a mobile phone, reported stolen from the child's mother, in the possession of the accused.

Punjab DSP held for smuggling drugs mobile phones in Sangrur jail

Chandigarh
A Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) was arrested for his alleged involvement in the smuggling of drugs and mobile phones in the Sangrur jail, the police said on Thursday.

The police also recovered nine mobile phones, four smartwatches, 50 grams of heroin and other contraband during a raid at the jail. Director General of Police, Punjab Gaurav Yadav said.

Preliminary investigation pointed to the involvement of a Class-IV employee, whose role in facilitating the smuggling activities came to light. Yadav said in a post on X.

Pursuing backward and forward linkages, the investigation further led to the arrest of Manpreet Singh from Amritsar, an associate of inmate Gurvinder Singh in Sangrur jail, he said.

Police recovered 4 kg heroin, Rs 5.5 lakh cash, a Glock pistol and live rounds from Manpreet.

"During investigation, DSP Security, Sangrur Jail, Gurpreet Singh was arrested for his involvement in smuggling activities inside the jail," said the DGP.

He was found to be actively involved in the smuggling of drugs and mobile phones into the premises and had been receiving payments through UPI accounts linked to his family members, he added.

The investigation is ongoing and further arrests, disclosures are expected. The DGP expressed his commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against any form of inmate compromise or collusion with criminal elements.

Country proud of armed forces for avenging Pahalgam terror attack: J KLG

Srinagar
Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the country is proud of the armed forces for avenging the Pahalgam terror attack by launching Operation Sindoor against terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

The LG also echoed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's words that Pakistan's nuclear weapons should be under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Nation is proud of our armed forces for scripting a historic victory saga of Operation Sindoor" with bravery and avenging Pahalgam terror attack. They have given exemplary punishment to terror planners sitting in Pakistan by dismantling their terror bases and killing top terrorists," Sinha said in a series of posts on X.

He also posted pictures of the defence minister interacting with soldiers at the Army's 15 Corps headquarters at Badami Bagh here. The LG was also present at the function.

"The world has seen that terrorism in J&K Union Territory is engineered and executed by Pakistan and our mighty forces have ensured that now we will enter deep into Pakistan's heartland and kill the terrorists and well-timed future acts of terror as an act of war," he said. Agency

Amritsar hooch tragedy: Death toll rises to 27 as 4 more die

Chandigarh/Amritsar
The death toll in the hooch tragedy in Punjab's Amritsar rose to 27, with four more people succumbing in the Majitha area in the past 24 hours, officials said on Thursday.

Of the four, three hailed from Bhangyan village and one was from Galowli Kullian village, they said.

Meanwhile, Cabinet minister Kuldeep Singh Dhalwal on Thursday distributed cheques of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of those who died after consuming spurious liquor in villages of the Majitha area.

Dhalwal said strict action will be taken against all those responsible for this tragedy.

Police have so far arrested 16 people in connection with the incident, he said.

The minister said the



Meanwhile, Cabinet minister Kuldeep Singh Dhalwal on Thursday distributed cheques of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of those who died after consuming spurious liquor in villages of the Majitha area.

government is providing free medical treatment to those hospitalized and will grant them financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each.

"No amount of money can compensate for the loss of a family's breadwinner, but it is the government's responsibility to do whatever possible to support the surviving

members," he said. Most of the victims of the tragedy were daily wagers.

The deaths have been reported in Bhangali, Patalpuri, Manari Kalan, Talwandi Khumman, Karnala, Bhangwan and Therawal villages.

A police report revealed that methanol — a chemical used in industrial

products — was procured in bulk online to prepare the toxic brew.

Methanol is a light, colourless organic chemical compound which is poisonous when ingested and is illegally added to alcoholic beverages as a cheaper alternative to ethanol, which is the normal consumable alcohol. The victims of the trag-

Mehbooba Mufti calls for lasting cessation of India-Pak hostilities

Jammu/Mendhar
Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday met the family members of people killed in Pakistani shelling in Jammu and Kashmir's Mendhar and called for a lasting cessation of hostilities and a return to normalcy at the border.

Condoling the deaths in shelling, Mendhar from across the frontier between May 7 and 10, she demanded higher compensation and a government job for a member of each bereaved family.

"The current Rs 10 lakh compensation is inadequate. It must be increased significantly," Mehbooba said, adding those whose houses were damaged in Pakistani shelling should get Rs 50 lakh relief.

About the India-Pakistan tension, she said, "This kind of atmosphere must end, and there should never be a war in the future. What we need now is a lasting ceasefire. Normalcy and peace must be restored."

Stressing the need for banks for the local populace, the PDP chief added, "In these areas, the existing security provisions are of little use and people cannot



be left with nowhere to go during shelling. We need proper bunkers for them."

Urging the government to speed up rehabilitation, she said, "The bunkers in these areas are meant for security personnel. Authorities should work swiftly to build civilian bunkers, repair all damaged houses. Alongside that, grant full, enhanced compensation. In every household that has suffered a martyrdom, one job should be offered."

Replying to a question on celebrations marking Operation Sindoor, Mehbooba remarked, "What can I say about that? First and foremost, there should never have been a war. So many of our people have become martyrs. So many homes have been destroyed, property has been lost, and blood has been shed. What do those sitting in studios know of what is happening here?"

Haryana CM pays tribute to Martyr Dinesh Kumar Sharma, announces Park in his honour

Komal Kamola
Chandigarh

In a solemn gesture that underscored the state's respect for its fallen heroes, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday visited village Nagla Mohammadpur in the Hodal subdivision of Palwal district to pay tribute to Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar Sharma, who was martyred during a recent attack by the Pakistani Army on the Poonch border. The Chief Minister's visit served as both a tribute to the martyr's bravery and a reassurance to the bereaved family that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Chief Minister Saini offered floral tributes to a portrait of Lance Naik Sharma and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the grieving family members. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the courage and supreme sacrifice of the martyr serve as an enduring inspiration for all Indians. "Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar Sharma bravely faced enemy fire on the Poonch border and laid down his life in the service of the nation. His valor will always be remembered with pride," said the Chief Minister.

Assuring the martyr's family of the gov-



ernment's unwavering support, Chief Minister Saini reiterated that they would be provided with financial assistance and other benefits as per government policy. During the visit, the martyr's father, Daya Chand, proposed the construction of a park on two and a half hectares of land in the village to honor his son's memory. Responding to the suggestion with empathy and respect, the Chief Minister announced that a park would indeed be built in the name of Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar Sharma, as a tribute to his sacrifice during Operation Sindoor.

Following the tribute,

Chief Minister Saini proceeded to the residence of the village Sarpanch, Kumar Yagpurush, to offer his condolences to the family of the late Pandit Sheeshram Pathak, grandfather of the Sarpanch. The Chief Minister spoke with the family and offered words of comfort during their time of loss.

On his way back from the village, the Chief Minister noticed a group of women gathered alongside the road. Demonstrating his commitment to grassroots governance, he stopped his convoy to listen to their concerns. The women put forth a longstanding demand to

Mann urges farmers to opt for DSR technique for paddy sowing

Chandigarh
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday urged paddy growers to opt for direct seeding of rice (DSR) technique for paddy sowing, saying it will act as a catalyst for checking further depletion of groundwater.

In a statement issued here, Mann said after assuming the charge of his office, his government has taken several path-breaking initiatives to safeguard the interests of farmers.

He said as part of this endeavour only, the state government has encouraged DSR technique of paddy cultivation as a part of which sowing under the scheme has been started on Thursday.

Mann said his government has set a target of bringing five lakh acres of land under the

DSR technique during this kharif season.

Urging farmers to make maximum use of this scheme, the CM said this initiative is aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture on one hand and conserving groundwater on the other.

Mann further said the state government is giving financial assistance worth Rs 1,500 per acre to each farmer for adopting DSR.

He said the state government has also kept a budgetary allocation of Rs 40 crore for this purpose in the 2025-26 financial year, adding that the farmers interested in it can register for the DSR scheme on an online portal from May 10 to June 30.

The CM said this scheme will save 15-20 per cent of groundwater in the state, along with additional expenses on agriculture.

Punjab Life returning to normal in border villages of Ferozepur

Ferozepur (Pb)

Life in the villages situated along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab district is returning to normal, with the villagers coming back to their homes that they had left behind for safer places following tensions between India and Pakistan.

After the two neighbouring countries arrived at an agreement on May 10 to halt military actions, the residents of the border villages started coming back.

Malket Singh of Jallo Ke village, situated at a stone's throw from the International Border, said, "People are coming back and it feels like life is returning to normal, step by step."

Reflecting on the tense days of the conflict, he said, "The first few days were terrifying. We heard strange sounds at night and the fear of the unknown kept us all awake. But slowly, things are beginning to settle down."

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Haryana adopted comprehensive strategy to tackle drug issue: Home secretary

Chandigarh
Haryana has integrated law enforcement, public health, education, and community leadership as part of a comprehensive strategy in its decisive battle against drug trafficking and substance abuse, a senior official said on Thursday.

Speaking at the 8th Apex Committee Meeting of the National Narcotics Coordination Portal (NCCORD), Additional Chief Secretary Sumita Misra said, as of March 2025, 4,054 Panchayats -- 55.32 per cent -- have achieved a drug-free status.

The Sports for Youth initiative, operated in 2,545 villages through trained police coaches, is engaging over 1.96 lakh youth in regular sports activities to promote discipline, fitness, and a positive relationship with law enforcement, she said.

Misra said the Haryana government has also established eight exclusive Fast Track Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Spe-



cial Courts in Ambala, Hisar, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Sirsa, Fatehabad and Panipat districts.

"Plans are on the cards to establish such special courts in other districts as well. These courts have been set up to expedite the trial of offences under the said Act, ensuring timely adjudication and reinforcing the state's commitment to combating drug trafficking through a robust judicial mechanism," she said at the meeting that was chaired by the Union home secretary.

Misra said the Haryana government recently launched a comprehensive anti-drug campaign

under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

It covered all assembly constituencies between April 5 and April 27, 2025 and emerged as a powerful symbol of collective resolve against drug abuse, witnessing enthusiastic participation from government officials, local leaders, women, youth, and village communities, she said.

Misra said between January and April 2025, Haryana registered 142 cases under the NDPS Act involving commercial quantities of narcotics. A total of 332 individuals were arrested, including 145 interstate smugglers.

Seizures included 1.5 kg of heroin, 40 kg of 'charas', 904 kg of 'ganja' (cannabis), 50 kg of opium, 5,874 kg of poppy straw, over 91,000 tablets, 1,604 bottles, and nearly 48,000 capsules reflecting the extensive scale of the illicit drug trade being tackled in the state, she added.

Apart from this, 143

Schools reopen in border districts of Jammu region

Jammu
Schools in five border districts of Jammu region reopened on Thursday after an eight-day closure following heightened Indo-Pak tensions.

The reopening brought a sense of relief to students, teachers, and parents across the region.

"The schools in five border districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch, opened today after restoration of normalcy. However, schools close to the Indo-Pak border will remain closed," a senior official from the education department said.

"The schools in five border districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch, opened today after restoration of normalcy. However, schools close to the Indo-Pak border will remain closed," a senior official from the education department said.

In districts where schools reopened, students were welcomed with special morning assemblies focusing on

peace and safety.

"We are very happy to return to school after eight days. We feared that the war-like situation might keep us away for a longer time. It's a happy moment to meet our friends again," Urvasi, a student of K C Public School, said.

Alesha, a student of Class 9 at Model Academy, said the Indo-Pak conflict had confined them to their homes as Pakistan shelled their neighbourhood in Rehari.

"We were confined to a safer room on the ground floor as Pakistani shelling hit our neighbourhood. We couldn't step out or meet friends. It was scary. Returning to school now feels like a return to life," she said.

Like them, teachers also felt relieved to return to school. "Peace has returned, and so have our students. We had sleepless nights during the hostilities. It's a huge relief to be back,"

Jagrati Raina, a teacher at G D Goenka School, said.

Although teachers were connecting with students through online mode over the past week, they maintained that offline mode ensures better connection, attention, and accountability among students.

"Offline mode is always better for both teachers and students, as it offers better connection, attention, and accountability," Ragni Datta, a teacher, said.

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By Dr. Anil Singh

Sky Dominance: How Indian Air Force Shattered Pakistan's Defences and Set a New Benchmark in Modern Warfare

The recent Indo-Pak conflict has decisively demonstrated the extraordinary capabilities and strategic superiority of the Indian Air Force (IAF). In a swift, precise, and highly coordinated series of airstrikes conducted last week, the IAF not only destroyed critical military installations and airbases deep inside Pakistani territory but also significantly altered the strategic equation in South Asia.

The operation, executed with pinpoint precision, saw the destruction of nearly half of Pakistan's operational airbases and substantial damage to vital military infrastructure, including radar installations and command-and-control centres. The dramatic effectiveness of these strikes has been met with widespread international appreciation and acknowledgment of India's military capabilities.

Strategic Air Superiority: Precision and Timing

The hallmark of the recent air operations was precision combined with impeccable timing. Using advanced fighter jets such as the Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30 MKI, and Mirage 2000, the IAF struck in a well-orchestrated manner that left minimal room for Pakistani retaliation. The Rafale jets, equipped with state-of-the-art precision-guided missiles and stealth capabilities, led the charge. Their capability to evade radar detection and deliver strikes from safe distances proved invaluable.

Moreover, the integration of advanced electronic warfare systems effectively neutralized Pakistani radar and communications, creating confusion and severely hampering their response capabilities. This strategic approach reflects India's evolving doctrine of aerial dominance, as detailed in my book "Military and Media" (2007, Lancer Publications), where advanced technology and strategic communication were highlighted as critical tools in contemporary warfare.

Operational Excellence: The Role of Strategic Intelligence

The success of these airstrikes wasn't merely a factor of military hardware but also hinged significantly on superior strategic intelligence and surveillance. Robust satellite surveillance, intelligence gathering through drones, and actionable intelligence from ground assets enabled the IAF to select and neutralize high-value targets precisely.

Furthermore, these operations underline India's increased emphasis on joint operations. Coordinated efforts between air force units, ground forces, and naval intelligence demonstrated a seamlessly integrated military strategy, elevating operational effectiveness significantly. The integration of these multi-dimensional tactics resonates with the principles of modern warfare as documented in "Military and Media," showcasing that warfare today extends far beyond conventional battlefields, into technological and informational domains.

Impact and International Reaction



tional Reaction

The international community has taken note of India's decisive actions, acknowledging the IAF's capabilities and India's resolve in countering aggression. While diplomatic channels have remained active to contain the conflict, the military message delivered by India is loud and clear: India's sovereignty is inviolable, and aggression will be met with decisive and overwhelming force.

The strategic strikes have also sent an unequivocal message to Pakistan, underscoring that any form of state-sponsored terrorism or conventional military provocation will not remain unanswered. Moreover, the strikes have significantly diminished Pakistan's strategic military capacities, reducing the immediate threat to India's security and creating a temporary but critical window for diplomatic maneuvers.

Conclusive Remarks:

Lessons from Military Doctrine: Media and Communication Dynamics

The impact of the Indian Air Force's operations extends beyond mere tactical victories. The comprehensive and transparent manner in which these operations have been communicated domestically and internationally exemplifies a masterclass in strategic communication—a vital tool in modern warfare as discussed in my book.

The Indian government's clear messaging, backed by credible visual evidence and strategic media management, has strengthened national morale, garnered international support, and isolated Pakistani propaganda efforts. This highlights a critical dimension of contemporary warfare—how media and strategic communication can be effectively leveraged to amplify military success.

Conclusive Remarks:

A New Paradigm in Warfare

The recent actions of the Indian Air Force have not only reinforced India's aerial superiority but also demonstrated an evolved understanding of warfare, integrating advanced technology, precise intelligence, and strategic communication. This represents a significant evolution from traditional military strategies to a more integrated and comprehensive approach.

As we move forward, India must continue investing in technological advancements, enhanced intelligence capabilities, and strategic communication infrastructures. Continued modernization and strategic preparedness will ensure India remains ahead of emerging threats and maintains its strategic edge.

Way Forward: Strategic Vigilance and Diplomatic Engagement

Going ahead, India

must balance strategic vigilance with proactive diplomatic engagement. Sustained efforts must be directed towards maintaining aerial superiority and leveraging this strategic advantage to prevent further escalations. Moreover, diplomatic channels must remain robust to build international consensus against state-sponsored terrorism and aggression.

The lessons from the IAF's operational excellence must also inform future military doctrines and policies. Investments in next-generation technologies, such as AI-driven drones, cyber warfare capabilities, and satellite-based intelligence, should be prioritized. Strengthening these dimensions ensures India's preparedness in an era where warfare continually evolves.

The recent Indo-Pak conflict has undoubtedly set new benchmarks in military strategy and aerial dominance, highlighting India's growing military stature. India's decisive military action coupled with strategic media management, as articulated extensively in "Military and Media," will serve as critical lessons for global military strategies moving forward.

India's message through the IAF's decisive actions is unequivocally clear: The era of cautious retaliation is over; a new era of decisive, strategic dominance has begun.

About the Author

(The writer is an Editor, Star Views New Delhi)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digit 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only correct solution.

	1			5			3	8
7						2		
5			3			9		
6			9		3	1		
3								9
		9	1		2			4
		5			4			7
		8						3
1	3			8				4

Solution, Sudoku

1	2	4	7	9	5	6	3	8
8	7	9	3	4	6	2	5	1
5	6	3	1	8	2	4	7	9
2	5	6	9	1	3	8	4	7
9	3	8	4	5	7	1	6	2
7	4	1	2	6	8	3	9	5
4	1	2	5	3	9	7	8	6
3	8	5	6	7	1	9	2	4
6	9	7	8	2	4	5	1	3

GURU AND GRANTHA - WHET YOUR APPETITE FOR KNOWLEDGE HERE!



Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai

Knowledge is always revered as a supreme entity in our land. The ancient Indians had the rare acumen to discriminate and differentiate knowledge into the higher knowledge and lower knowledge. This was not to demean the value of one knowledge over another, but to emphasise on one over the other, and how we cannot neglect the higher knowledge in pursuit of the lower knowledge. The difference between the two is that the lower knowledge is of the material world and helps us earn a living, while the higher knowledge is to know and attain the supreme state of Divinity. The focus on a robust material life, while neglecting the pursuit of permanent bliss is considered an ignorant way of leading one's life. Hence, all our scriptures repeatedly stressed on acquiring higher knowledge without fail.

In order to acquire knowledge, one needs to have the following qualities: Shastrasya - faith in the scriptures; guruvakyasya - faith in the words of the guru; satyabuddhya - accepting the words of truth uttered by the guru and having steady faith and belief in those words; shraddha - demonstrating faith in the form of sincere efforts. These qualities alone can help us attain the supreme knowledge - vastupalabhate. 'vastu' here refers to the supreme principle of Godhood. You may find these a bit mawkish due to over-stressing the components of 'faith in scriptures and guru'. But in truth, our scriptures have been very liberal and open to allow its

followers a free hand to accept or reject its teachings, by proposing the following methodologies. Shastra pramana - relying on the scriptures and understanding its content with an open mind, for they are not platitudes, but real experiences of those great masters who had a direct communion with the Divine. Tarka vada - analysing the knowledge and clarifying doubts through discussion, debates, and constructive arguments, until there is intellectual clarity and understanding. Svanubhava - self-experience after clearing the fog of doubts is the most crucial step. Any knowledge should be backed with direct experience to be fully convinced of its truth. Science says that fire burns and we know it does, when we actually touch it with our fingers. This is the same with higher knowledge too. It is possible that in these modern days the teacher may dissuade his students from questioning or debating on a particular topic. But the ancient teaching methodology, unlike popular belief, actually encourages constructive arguments and debates to be intellectually convinced about what we want to practice. The scriptures are so broad-minded and large in outlook that it is easy to know all the efforts to clarify and prove, and then urges the student to put sincere efforts for direct experience. It is a platter of rich knowledge that is waiting for you to partake from, and it allows you all the freedom. Taking it all on the basis of this work, the real essence of life is now your choice.



By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

IAS officer: Duty or digital stardom?

■ "From administration to popularity: The digital journey of IAS officers"

share their experiences, government schemes, and inspirational stories, which increases the trust of the general public in the administration. For example, whether it is the famous IAS officer of Bihar, Tina Dabi, or Shah Faisal of Kashmir, these officers have inspired millions of youth with their online presence.

A new medium for public awareness

IAS officers active on social media not only inform their followers about government schemes but also spread awareness on social issues. They share important information during disasters and establish direct communication with the public. This is completely different from the old pattern of traditional bureaucracy, where officers were confined only to papers and government meetings.

Popularity and Challenge

But the question is, does this digital activism mean that these officers are deviating from their real duties? Is this game of image building on social media compromising their administrative responsibilities? It has been seen many times that some officers have become so busy on social media that their core



responsibilities start getting affected. For example, the time of the DM of a district should mostly be spent on regional problems and development work, not on making Instagram reels.

Stardom of officers

Some officers get so involved in increasing the number of their social media followers that they acquire celebrity-like identities. This not only affects their personal lives but also raises questions about the transparency of their decisions. Is it possible for an officer to strike a balance between serving the public and competing for popularity?

The question of impact and transparency

In addition, it is also worth noting that when officials share their personal views on social media, it can also raise questions about their impartiality. It can be

difficult to maintain a balance between their accountability and impartiality towards the public. On the one hand, they are communicating directly to the public, while on the other hand, they are also engaged in creating an image, which may often be different from reality.

Privacy and security issues

Being more active on social media can also put the privacy and security of officers at risk. The way they share information about their daily routine, location, and personal life can be dangerous from a security point of view. Also, there is a risk of cyber-crimes and trolling.

Responsibility on sensitive issues

Apart from this, officers should also be careful about what information they are sharing. Sometimes their statement or opinion

can give rise to political controversies. This can raise questions not only about their personal image but also about the impartiality of the entire administrative structure.

Expectations of the common man

When the public perceives an officer after seeing him on a digital platform, their expectations also increase. They start believing that an officer who is so active online will be equally dedicated on the ground. But is this always true? Can digital stardom be effective in real administrative work as well?

IAS officers being active on social media can be a positive step, provided they do not put it above their duties. Their presence in the digital world can inspire society, raise awareness, and become a guide for the youth. But it is also true that sometimes it becomes a game of chasing popularity, which can af-

fect their administrative work. For example, Tina Dabi from Bihar, who inspired millions of youth to join the civil service through her social media posts, or Shah Faisal, who remained active on social media and openly expressed his views on Kashmir issues. But on the other hand, excessive digital activism also raises questions about their transparency, impartiality, and security. In such a situation, it is important that the officer maintain a balance between digital stardom and administrative responsibilities so that they can prove to be not only a good leader but also a responsible officer. After all, their biggest service is to solve the problems of the public, not just to garner likes and followers.

IAS officers being active on social media can be a positive move, provided they do not put it above their duties. Their presence in the digital world can inspire society and raise awareness, but it is imperative to maintain a balance. After all, an officer's biggest duty is to serve his public, not just digital stardom.

About the Author

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh is a poet, freelance journalist, and columnist.)

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SC calls for stricter approach to tackle daily degradation of wildlife

■ "It need not be over-emphasised that in the present times, the area left open to the wildlife ecosystem is diminishing everyday due to massive urbanisation"

Observing the everyday degradation of the wildlife ecosystem due to massive urbanisation, the Supreme Court on Thursday said the threat to flora and fauna was "real" and required a strict approach of authorities to bring the guilty to book.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahmaddin Ameenullah, however, said any infringement on the life and liberty of an accused should only be contemplated when the prosecution meets the standard.

"It need not be over-emphasised that in the present times, the area left open to the wildlife ecosystem is diminishing everyday due to massive urbanisation, colonisation, industrialisation and land-use for various commercial



purposes, the threat of wild life, flora and fauna, vanishing and even becoming extinct is real and not imaginary," it said.

The bench went on, "Thus, no doubt, a very strict approach is required

to be taken by the governments and authorities concerned. If guilt of the accused is established beyond reasonable doubt for any offence under the (Wildlife Protection) Act, the punishment meted out

should be appropriate and commensurate to the offence, as laid down in the Act."

The top court's observations came on a plea filed by two accused persons challenging an order of the

Bombay High Court which dismissed their revision plea against their conviction in a case of illegal trade of tiger skin and wild animal products.

The apex court also pulled the CBI for its "casual" and "vague" investigation in the matter and said the probe was an open-ended one.

"Going by the prosecution version, huge quantity of banned/illegal animal products having been recovered, it would obviously mean that there would have been a supplier of the seized products, and prospective buyer(s), since the prosecution itself stated that the products were to be handed over to some other person," it noted.

The verdict added, "What we can gather is that the CBI team did not have the patience to wait

for the transaction to reach its logical conclusion, as the interception of only the accused took place."

The bench, as a result, underlined the agency "casual" manner in conducting the investigation.

"It is gainsaid that in matters of the like herein, the first and foremost duty is on the investigators, including the responsibility of ensuring full and proper forensic tests as also in-depth investigation which encompassing all possibilities, such that the chain of events from the beginning till the end is complete," the bench said.

The top court upheld and affirmed the convictions but modified by substituting the sentences awarded to the accused with three years' simple imprisonment and fine of Rs 25,000 to be paid within eight weeks.

SC asks Raj govt not to tinker with Jaipur open prison plan

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Rajasthan government not to alter any further, the layout plan of an open-air prison in Jaipur and outlined its purpose to bring inmates to society's mainstream.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavi and Justice Augustine George Masih was hearing a contempt plea alleging tampering with the proposed layout plan meant for the construction of an open jail in Jaipur on a plot measuring 17,800 square metre.

The top court was hearing a PIL to explore the possibility of setting up open prisons as a solution to overcrowding and inhumane conditions in traditional jails in the country. The report reveals that the proposal of the state for establishment of a hospital and modernisation of open prison is a feasible one," the bench said.

Rejecting the contempt plea, the bench said inmates will get decent housing and place for recreation if the project is completed.

ties in leading normal lives outside.

"The main purpose is to bring them (inmates) into the mainstream of society. We direct the state government to file an undertaking that the layout plan as prepared and approved by... will not be altered any further," the bench ordered.

Dealing with the plea, the bench noted that the proposed open jail and the adjacent hospital in Jaipur are separated by an over 3.4-metre wide road.

"We do not find any reason to interfere with the present contempt plea. Vide our earlier order, we had directed the Registrar to

Don't behave like maharaja SC tells warring couple

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Thursday reprimanded a couple locked in a matrimonial battle not to behave like "maharaja" as democracy has been prevailing for over 75 years as it also outlined the clash of egos in the case.

The observations were directed at one half of the warring couple who reportedly belongs to a royal clan.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottisar Singh asked the counsel for the husband and wife to talk to them during the day and inform it about their intentions.

"What kind of statements are being made that mediation has failed? Don't behave like maharaja or raja. Seventy five years of democracy have (already) passed," the bench said and warned if no settlement was reached through mediation, it won't shy away from passing a "harsh" order within three days.

The woman, who lives in Gwalior, claimed she belongs to a highly reputed family whose ancestor was an admiral in the navy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and declared the ruler of Konkarn region.

The husband, on the other hand, belongs to a family of Army officers and runs an educational institution in Madhya Pradesh.

A 1951 model antique hand-made classic Rolls Royce car, a single model till date and currently valued at over Rs 2.5 crore, ordered by country's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the erstwhile maharani of Baroda, has become the bone of contention in the dispute.

The counsel appearing for the parties informed the court that the dispute was centered largely over money.

Justice Kant said, "We know it is only due to ego that the settlement has not been reached. If the dispute is centered over money, that can be taken care of by the court but for that the parties have to reach a consensus."

World must speak in one voice to stamp out all forms of terrorism: Om Birla

New Delhi
Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has reaffirmed India's unwavering stance against terrorism and called for a united global response to eradicate the menace in all its forms.

The statement came during a telephonic conversation with H. E. Mr. Milton Dick, who was recently re-elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia.

Congratulating Mr. Dick on behalf of the Parliament of India, Birla said, "I congratulate you on your re-election as the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives. My best wishes to you for your new tenure." Birla expressed hope that the renewed mandate would further bolster parliamentary cooperation and democratic engagement between the two nations.

In a significant expression of gratitude, Birla also extended his thanks to Mr. Dick for Australia's steadfast support to India in the aftermath of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Appreciating Australia's solidarity, the Lok Sabha Speaker highlighted the importance of international cooperation in combating terrorism. "The world must speak in one voice to stamp out all forms of terrorism, wherever they exist," he emphasized.

"The Commerce Minister is in Washington DC and President Trump has made yet another grand announcement from Doha. There is total chuppi from our PM. What has he agreed to and what linkage is there between this and the stoppage of Operation Sindoor?" AICC general secretary Jai Ram Ramesh asked in a post on X.

He also tagged a report



During the conversation, Birla fondly recalled the strong and growing friendship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese. He noted that the personal rapport between the two leaders has significantly contributed to deepening bilateral relations.

Looking ahead, Birla expressed optimism about further strengthening India-Australia ties under the current leadership. He shared that India eagerly anticipates welcoming Prime Minister Anthony Albanese later this year for the Quad and bilateral summits, which are expected to give new momentum to strategic cooperation across sec-

tors.

The Lok Sabha Speaker also voiced confidence that under the Speaker-ship of Mr. Milton Dick, India-Australia parliamentary relations would scale new heights. He underlined the potential for greater engagement not only in bilateral exchanges but also in multilateral forums where both countries can play a constructive role in promoting democratic values and global peace.

The conversation between the two parliamentary leaders underscored the shared democratic ethos of India and Australia and reflected a mutual commitment to advancing a peaceful, secure, and cooperative Indo-Pacific region.

Operation Sindoor not just a military victory, but a major diplomatic win for India: VP Dhankhar

TSN/Jaipur
Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on Thursday hailed Operation Sindoor as a historic moment not only in military terms but also as a landmark diplomatic triumph for India. Speaking at the inauguration of the Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Memorial Library in Jaipur, Shri Dhankhar underscored India's decisive shift in global standing and approach to counter-terrorism under the current leadership.

"Today, I salute the valour of the Indian Armed Forces. A new global benchmark has been set. While upholding the spirit of peace, the aim has been to strike at terrorism," the Vice President declared. He noted that, for the first time, precise cross-border strikes had been carried out targeting key strongholds of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba — without the world demanding proof. "The entire world witnessed the strength of India," he said, adding that terrorism would no longer be tolerated as it threatens global security, not just a single nation.

Highlighting the broader implications of Operation Sindoor, Dhankhar said India had simultaneously fought and won a major diplomatic battle. He pointed to the halting of the Indus Water Treaty as a significant and unprecedented move, signaling India's uncompromising stance until



the situation normalised from its perspective.

From the historic city of Jaipur, the Vice President evoked the cultural pride of Rajasthan, paying tribute to its warrior legacy — invoking figures like Maharana Pratap and Maharaja Suraj Mal. He also drew historical parallels to Pokharn, recalling how India had earlier demonstrated its strength in May under the leadership of then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. "As a result, when provocation occurred in Pahalgam, the world was already aware of India's strength," he said.

Emphasising India's rise on the global stage, he stated, "Today, we are the world's fourth major power and on course to become the third." He further recalled how, when India's identity was perceived to be under challenge, the Prime Minister responded with a firm message from Bihar — backed by action that show-

Describing Shekhawat as a paragon of political grace and statesmanship, Shri Dhankhar said, "Search in any corner of the world, the country, or the state — you will not find a single enemy of his." He praised Shekhawat's belief in political discourse over enmity, urging today's political leadership to embrace those values. "He defined one crucial principle in politics; that there are no enemies in politics," he remarked, calling for a revival of Shekhawat's ideals of dialogue, debate, and Anantawad — the Vedic notion of embracing infinite viewpoints.

Reflecting on his own experience in Rajasthan politics, Dhankhar shared that during Shekhawat's tenure as Chief Minister and his own role in the opposition, "Every opposition member felt that the Chief Minister was their guardian."

He described Shekhawat as a nurturing force — "like a banyan tree under whose shade everything bloomed." Contrary to the saying that nothing grows under a banyan tree, Dhankhar asserted that Shekhawat mentored and created numerous leaders. "It gives me great joy that, as Vice President, wherever I go across the country, I can say with pride what I have, no other Vice President has ever had. Because it was he who held my finger, who guided me, who taught me wisdom, and who inspired me to serve the people."

Lauding Shekhawat's contribution to democratic transparency, the Vice President credited him with initiating asset disclosures for Members of Parliament during his tenure as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha — a move he described as a "truly significant beginning."

Congress questions PM Modi's 'silence' on Trump's 'zero-tariffs' remarks

New Delhi
The Congress on Thursday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" on US President Donald Trump's remarks in Doha, where he claimed that India has agreed to "zero tariffs" on several American goods as against its "highest" tariffs, asking what linkage does it have with the stopping of Operation Sindoor.

"The Commerce Minister is in Washington DC and President Trump has made yet another grand announcement from Doha. There is total chuppi from our PM. What has he agreed to and what linkage is there between this and the stoppage of Operation Sindoor?" AICC general secretary Jai Ram Ramesh asked in a post on X.

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quoting Trump that India has offered "zero tariffs" on several American goods as part of its trade deal with the United States.

"India is one of the highest tariff nations in the world. It is very hard to sell in India.

They have offered us a deal where basically they are willing to — literally — they charge us no tariff. We go from the highest tariff — you could not do business in India, we are not even in the top 30 in India because the

tariff is so high — to a point where they have actually told us that there will be no tariff. Would you say that is the difference? They were the highest, and now they are saying no tariff," Trump said in Doha.

India is currently holding talks for finalising a trade deal with the United States and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is in the US for the negotiations.

Congress's data analytics department and Professionals' Congress chairman Pravin Chakravarty, in a post on X, shared an old speech of Modi, in which he had said, "Ab ki baar, Trump Sarkar."

"Pakistan PM and India PM are equal. Pakistan and India are equal powers. Apple should not manufacture in India. Kashmir is an international issue.

"Only India's sworn enemy would say this? No, these are by President Trump! Who went to US and campaigned for Ab ki baar Trump Sarkar?" Chakravarty asked in his post.

SC directs Centre to set up special PCOSCO court on priority basis

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Centre to set up on "top priority basis" dedicated PCOSCO courts to exclusively deal with cases of sexual offences against children.

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and P B Varale said due to the inadequacy of the number of exclusive courts for the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (PCOSCO) Act cases, the timelines mandated under the law for completion of trials weren't adhered to.

"It is therefore expected that the union of India and the state governments shall take appropriate steps to sensitise the officials associated with the

investigation of PCOSCO cases, and also to create dedicated courts to try PCOSCO cases on top priority basis," the bench said.

The top court further directed filing of charge sheets within the mandatory period stipulated in law besides completing trials within the prescribed time frame.

The apex court noted while majority states, with the funding from the Centre, complied with the directions for setting up exclusive courts for PCOSCO cases, in Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, and a few other states, more PCOSCO courts were required given the pendency of such cases.

Seven militants arrested in Manipur

Imphal: Security forces arrested seven militants belonging to various proscribed outfits from different districts of Manipur, police said on Thursday.

The arrests were made in Thoubal, Kakching, Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts. Two active cadres of People's Liberation Army (PLA), identified as RK Mubisana Meitei (47) and Moirangthem Naresih Singh (28), were arrested from Leirongthel Prita area in Thoubal district on Wednesday. They were involved in extortion activities, a police officer said.

Two 9mm and .32mm pistols with magazines and seven cartridges were seized from their possession, he said.

Security forces arrested an active member of United National Liberation Front (Koireng) from his residence in Kangmong. Meisnam Maning Leikai in Bishnupur district on Wednesday. He was identified as Asem Nanao Singh (31) and was involved in extortion activities in Kakching district, the police officer said.

A militant belonging to the UNLF (Pambel) outfit was also arrested from Minthong in Imphal East district. The insurgent, identified as Waikhom Rajesh Singh (32), was involved in extortion activities and collected money from cargo agencies in Imphal Valley.

A self-styled 'Sergeant Major' of the banned CKLA/UPLF group was arrested from Saikot village in Churachandpur district on Tuesday, the police officer said.

A 9mm pistol along with three cartridges were seized from the militant, identified as David Ngamjang (25), he said.

Another militant belonging to the KCP (Tai-

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet cheers Operation Sindoor success

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh cabinet on Thursday passed a resolution of felicitation, extending congratulations on behalf of the council of ministers and the people of the state to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian Army for the successful execution of Operation Sindoor.

Launched on May 7, Operation Sindoor was India's swift retaliatory strike targeting nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK). The mission followed the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgaon, where 25 tourists and a local were killed in a brutal ambush at Baisaran meadow in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Speaking at a presser after the cabinet meeting, UP Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said, "The proposal lauded the Indian Armed Forces' successful implementation of Operation Sindoor as a demonstration of India's unwavering commitment to national security and its strong stance against terrorism."

The council of ministers hailed the valour and courage of the Indian Army and extended their heartfelt congratulations, he added.

"The entire Uttar Pradesh is proud of our brave soldiers dedicated to the protection of the state," the resolution stated.

The council of ministers also expressed "heartfelt gratitude to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing successful leadership to the nation for the successful implementation of Operation Sindoor," said the minister.

The proposal emphasised that the entire nation stands united against terrorism, asserting that "this operation is a proof of our strength and unity and our collective resolve to protect the country".

The resolution further highlighted that the successful operation was made possible only because "our prime minister gave a free hand to the Indian Armed Forces", said Khanna.

According to a press statement, to bolster agricultural self-reliance, the Yogi Adityanath government on Thursday approved the setting up of five

UP Finance Minister Suresh Khanna praised Operation Sindoor as a testament to India's commitment to national security and its firm stand against terrorism.

state-of-the-art seed parks across UP. These parks, to be developed in phases across five agro-climatic zones, will be named after former prime minister Charan Singh as a tribute to his contributions to Indian agriculture.

The first of these ambitious projects is slated for construction on 130.63 acres of land at the State Agricultural Area in Attari, Lucknow district, with an estimated investment of Rs 266.70 crore. These cutting-edge facilities will feature advanced infrastructure for seed production, processing, storage, speed breeding and hybrid research, poised to revolutionise the seed sector in the state.

Victory is celebrated not ceasefire: Akhilesh Yadav

Amethi (UP): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday criticised the BJP's celebrations over a halt in India-Pakistan conflict, stating that "victory is celebrated, not ceasefire."

Speaking to reporters while attending weddings in Jagdishpur and Musafirkhana on Thursday, Yadav emphasised India's love for peace but firmly asserted that the nation's constitution and its democracy do not tolerate foreign interference in its internal matters.

"Victory is celebrated, not ceasefire. People of our country love peace. But our constitution and our democracy do not accept interference of any foreign country in our matters. This is the identity of our democracy," Yadav said.

On May 7, India launched Operation Sindoor, its military action targeting nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, to avenge the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people in Pahalgaon. While both the countries rained weapons on each other in the following days, they later agreed on a ceasefire.

He urged the govern-

ment to strengthen border security to prevent similar future incidents.

Responding to a question about US President Trump reportedly mediating the ceasefire, Yadav promised that Samajwadi Party would address this question at an opportune moment.

Yadav hit out at the BJP, alleging that its true character was exposed in Madhya Pradesh. Citing a recent High Court order for FIR against a Madhya Pradesh minister for his "objectionable remarks" against a senior female Indian Army officer, Yadav said it is a reflection of the BJP's perception towards women. He also highlighted the BJP government's inaction on earlier complaints against the minister by a "reputed actress."

"BJP has insulted 'nari shakti' many times in the past. It is doing it even today," he added, contrasting this with their 'nari bandhan' slogan.

Regarding rebel SP MLA Rakesh Pratap Singh, Yadav said, "While the BJP is not close to BJP, how close will the BJP be to the turncoats and ungrateful people? Such people will not get tickets to any party now."

Akhilesh slams CM Adityanath over 'rising' pollution in Gomti

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday attacked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over alleged deteriorating condition of the Gomti, ridiculing the CM's call for public participation in the river's cleanliness drive.

Yadav's remarks came a day after CM Adityanath directed that a detailed report be prepared within a month to give concrete shape to the vision of an 'Aviral-Nirmal Gomti'.

Adityanath had also emphasised the need to transform the revival of polluted rivers into a mass movement.

Sharing a newspaper clipping on X, which reported the CM's directive for a DPR on cleaning the Gomti, Yadav ridiculed the BJP's governance model and the CM's call for public participation in the river's clean-up drive.

"The public has now decided to turn the BJP's so-called 'cleanliness program' into a campaign to clean the BJP out of power," Ya-



day wrote on X in Hindi. "Once the BJP is removed, everything will automatically be cleaned," the former CM said.

Referring to past promises made by the Adityanath government, Yadav also questioned the status of the much-publicised "world-class fountains" that were reportedly installed in the Gomti Riverfront area.

"The public that the Chief Minister is now handing over the responsibility to, is asking where did the world-class fountains in the Gomti vanish? Were they stolen in broad daylight or sold off through mutual settlement?" he asked.

Yadav also accused

the CM of attempting to shift blame for the failure of the river rejuvenation efforts. "The chief minister is now preparing to put the blame for his own failures on the people," he alleged.

The Gomti river, which flows through the heart of Lucknow, has long been plagued by pollution and unregulated waste discharge, despite multiple clean-up efforts by successive governments.

The Gomti Riverfront, among the most scenic landscapes in the capital, was built during the previous Samajwadi Party government led by Yadav. The project was opened for public in 2016.

19 dead in separate road accidents in UP

Lucknow: At least 19 people, including women and children, lost their lives and dozens were injured in multiple road accidents in several parts of Uttar Pradesh, with major incidents taking place in Lucknow, Hardoi and Balrampur districts.

The state of accidents prompted Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to instruct officials to expedite relief and medical response.

Five passengers, including two children, were killed when a private bus caught fire on Kisan Path near Mohanlagan on the outskirts of Lucknow early Thursday morning.

The blaze spread rapidly while most passengers were asleep. Though firefighters reached the spot promptly, five passengers — Lakshmi Devi (55), Soni Mahto (26), Devraj (3), Sakshi (2), and Madhusudan (21) — could not be saved, police said.

Several others sus-



tained burn injuries and were hospitalized. Initial police probe revealed that the bus's emergency exit had malfunctioned, trapping passengers in the rear section.

Chief Minister Adityanath expressed grief over the incident and directed officials to ensure immediate treatment for the injured.

In Hardoi district, six people were killed and three seriously injured after an autorickshaw collided with a dumper truck near Hardaul Mau village around 9:45 am. The auto, travelling from Bangarmau to Sandia, was carrying nine passengers, police said.

Among the deceased were Ranjit Rathore (25), Ankit Kumar (20), Arvind (20), Phool Ja-

han (24), Nisar (40), and a woman identified as Bitana (25). The injured — Siraj (26), Ayaz (2), and Jugnu (7) — were rushed to Sandia Community Health Centre (CHC) and later referred to Lucknow, where Ayaz's condition remains critical, police said.

Hardoi Superintendent of Police Neeraj Kumar Jadaun said the dumper fled the scene and a manhunt is underway. Legal proceedings have begun and the bodies have been sent for postmortem, he said.

In a separate incident, a collision between a car and a speeding truck on the Balrampur-Tulsiapur National Highway claimed the lives of five members of a family returning from a wedding late Wednesday night.

The truck rammed into the car near Chakwa village, leaving five people dead and eight others seriously injured. The injured were taken to the District Memorial Hospital, Balrampur District Magistrate Pawan Agarwal and SP Vikas Kumar visited the hospital and directed that the best possible care be provided to the injured.

Adityanath expressed sorrow and wished speedy recovery to the injured.

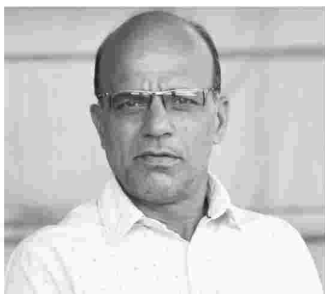
In a motorcycle accident, a truck hit a motorcycle carrying an elderly couple and their son near the DM office on the Varanasi-Shaktinagar road. Amrit Oraon (62) and his wife Mantoni Devi (57), residents of Kachnarva village, were killed on the spot.

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State govt robbing poor through bus fare hike: Ranveer Singh

Rajan Panchhi Mandi: Senior BJP leader and former District President Ranveer Singh has launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led state government, accusing it of burdening the poor through a steep hike in bus fares. Addressing a press gathering, Singh alleged that ever since coming to power, the Congress government has been targeting the pockets of the common man and prioritizing its own interests over public welfare.

Singh, who is also a member of the BJP's State Working Committee, criticized the government's decision to increase bus fares by nearly 15%,



calling it an "anti-poor move." "Most people who rely on public transport belong to the poor, backward, or middle classes. By raising the minimum fare direct-

He further accused the government of failing to introduce any scheme that brings relief to the people during its two-and-a-half-year tenure.

ly to ₹10, the Sukhu government has made it clear where its priorities lie," he said.

He further accused the government of failing to introduce any scheme that

"This is the first time that due to flawed policies, the state could not auction liquor contracts, leading to significant revenue loss," he added.

The current village head, Sunita Yadav, is accused of generating job cards in the names of deceased villagers and withdrawing wages by falsely showing 'work completed' on paper.

The district administration confirmed that an investigation is underway and recovery has been initiated from the village head.

Sambhal (UP):

An alleged fraud under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) scheme has come to light in a village here, with over a dozen individuals shown as labourers and wages withdrawn in their names.

The scam was unearthed in Atrasi village under the Panwasa block of Sambhal district, officials said.

The current village head, Sunita Yadav, is accused of generating job cards in the names of deceased villagers and withdrawing wages by falsely showing 'work completed' on paper.

The district administration confirmed that an investigation is underway and recovery has been initiated from the village head.



was ordered at that time," Sambhal District Magistrate Rajendra Pansiya told reporters. "When the misappropriation in any case is below 10 per cent, we proceed with recovery from the concerned official. In this case, a misappropriation of Rs 1.05 lakh was found. The recovery is being made from the village head. Other developmental works in the village are also being investigated," he added.

Among those listed as labourers was a principal of an inter college. Rishipal Singh, prin-

cipal of Mulayam Singh Yadav Inter College, said, "A job card was made in my name without my knowledge. I have never worked under MGNREGA, yet my name appeared in the records and money was withdrawn. I was even called in for questioning during the inquiry."

Local resident Sanjeev Kumar said, "My grandfather Jagat Singh passed away in 2020. We had no idea that wages were being withdrawn in my name. We only found out when officials came to the village to investigate."

Ukraine's Zelenskyy arrives in Turkiye for peace talks but Putin is absent

Trump downplays Putin decision to skip Istanbul talks with Zelenskyy

Doha (Qatar): President Donald Trump said Thursday he was not surprised that Russian President Vladimir Putin will be a no-show for anticipated peace talks with Ukraine in Turkiye this week.

"Trump had pressed for Putin and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to meet in Istanbul on Thursday. He brushed off Putin's decision to not take part in the expected talks.



counterparts. Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, also plans to be in Istanbul on Friday for the anticipated Russia-Ukraine talks.

The push for direct talks between Zelenskyy and Putin comes amid a flurry of negotiations aimed at producing a ceasefire agreement between Russia and Ukraine.

Putin was first to propose restarting direct peace talks Thursday with Ukraine in the

Turkish city that straddles Asia and Europe. Zelenskyy challenged the Kremlin leader to meet in Turkiye in person.

But the Kremlin has said its delegation at the talks will be led by Putin's aide, Vladimir Medinsky, and include three other officials. Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said Zelenskyy will only sit down with the Russian leader.

Later Thursday,

air campaign against Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis.

The president has held up Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia and Qatar as models for economic development in a region plagued by conflict as he works to entice Iran to come to terms with his administration on a deal to curb its nuclear programme.

Before addressing the troops, Trump took part in a roundtable with business leaders. The group included top executives from Boeing, GE Aerospace and Al Rabban Capital.

After his address to US troops, he will travel to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates for the final leg of his Mideast tour. He will visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the country's largest mosque. The UAE's founder, Sheikh Zayed, is buried in the mosque's main courtyard.

Trump will visit a US installation in Qatar at the centre of American involvement in the Middle East. He has used his four-day visit to Gulf states to reject the "interventionism" of America's past in the region.

Trump will address troops at Qatar's al-Udeid Air Base, which was a major staging ground during the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and supported the recent US

Indian-origin techie among 3 killed in tragic climbing accident in US

New York: Indian-origin techie Vishnu Igrigreddy was among the three persons killed in a tragic climbing accident in Washington state's North Cascades Range of western North America.

Vishnu, 48, a resident of Seattle, was attempting to climb North Early Winters Spire area of the Cascades along with his three friends, Tim Nguyen, 63, Oleksander Martynenko, 36 and Anton Tselykh, 38, on Saturday when the accident happened, NBC News reported.

The group noticed a storm coming and started to retreat when at some point during their descent, the team's anchor point failed and pulled the group plunging 200 feet down. Climbing website reported.

Tselykh, the sole surviving climber, miraculously survived the dangerous fall and drove 64 kilometres to inform the authorities about the

accident that killed his three friends.

Vishnu's friends and family describe him as an experienced climber "who found joy and purpose in nature."

"Originally from India and a proud member of Seattle's vibrant tech and cultural community, Vishnu built a life that reflected his values—integrity, compassion, and a relentless pursuit of growth," a note by family and friends on remembr.com website said.

According to a notice for his cremation ceremony, to be held on Thursday, his friends and family would be making donations to two non-profits to honour Vishnu, who they said had "developed an intense passion for mountaineering and climbing throughout his life." They also made an appeal to others to donate to those charitable organisations till May 22.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was not part of the Moscow delegation, according to a list released by the Kremlin Wednesday night, prompting criticism from Western officials that the Kremlin isn't serious about the peace effort.

Vladimir Medinsky, an aide to Putin, will lead the Russian team that will also include three other senior officials, the Kremlin said. Putin also appointed four lower-level officials as "experts" for the talks.

Earlier this week, Zelenskyy challenged the Russian leader to meet in person in Turkiye to talk about ending the more than three-year war. Zelenskyy said he would travel to Ankara to meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and wait for Putin.

Also in the Ukrainian delegation are Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba, and the head of the Ukrainian presidential office Andriy Yermak, the official said.

Trump's sanctions on ICC prosecutor halts tribunal's work

The Hague: The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor has lost access to his email, and his bank accounts have been frozen.

The Hague-based court's American staffers have been told that if they travel to the US they risk arrest.

Some nongovernmental organisations have stopped working with the ICC and the leaders of one won't even reply to emails from court of



Donald Trump in February slapped sanctions on his chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, according to

interviews with current and former ICC officials, international lawyers and human rights advocates.

The sanctions will "prevent victims from getting access to justice," said Liz Evenson, international justice director at Human Rights Watch.

Trump sanctioned the court after a panel of ICC judges in November issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence

minister, Yoav Gallant. Judges found there was reason to believe that the pair may have committed war crimes by restricting humanitarian aid and intentionally targeting civilians in Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza — charges Israeli officials deny.

Staffers and allies of the ICC said the sanctions have made it increasingly difficult for the tribunal to conduct basic tasks, let alone

seek justice for victims of war crimes or genocide.

A spokesperson for the ICC and for Khan declined to comment. In February, ICC President Judge Tomoko Akane said that the sanctions "constitute serious attacks against the Court's States Parties, the rule of law based international order and millions of victims."

The February order bans Khan and

other non-Americans among the ICC's 900 staff members from entering the US, which is not a member of the court. It also threatens any person, institution or company with fines and prison time if they provide Khan with "financial, material, or technological support."

The sanctions are hampering work on a broad array of investigations, not just the one into Israel's leaders.

BUSINESS

Govt approves 187 Startups for Tax Exemption

New Delhi: The government on Thursday said it has approved as many as 187 startups for income tax exemption.

The tax benefit allows eligible startups a 100 per cent income tax deduction on profits for any three consecutive years within a ten-year window from the date of incorporation.

The income tax benefit scheme is designed to support emerging businesses in their formative years, encouraging innovation, job creation, and wealth generation.

"The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has approved 187 startups for income tax exemption under the revamped Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

The decision regarding this was taken during the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Board (IMB).

With this, over 3,700 startups have now been granted exemptions since the scheme's inception, it said.

In an announcement during the Union Budget 2025-26, the government extended the eligibility window for startups to claim benefits under Section 80-IAC.

Startups incorporated before April 1, 2020, are now eligible to apply, giving more time and opportunity to new ventures to benefit from this financial relief.

"Pertinently, the revised evaluation framework introduced by DPIIT has made the application process more structured and transparent. Complete applications are now reviewed within 120 days, ensuring faster decision-making and reducing procedural delays," it said.

Startups that were not approved in the latest round have been encouraged to reassess and refine their applications, it added.

RBI reviews economic capital framework, dividend to Govt

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday reviewed its Economic Capital Framework (ECF) which is the basis for deciding the surplus transfer or amount of dividend to be given to the government.

The RBI had paid a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for 2023-24. The payout was Rs 87,416 crore for 2022-23.

The dividend payout is expected to be higher this time, the decision about which is likely to be taken at the next meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India to be held on May 23.

"The 615th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held today in Mumbai under the Chairmanship of Sanjay Malhotra,



Governor. As part of the agenda, inter alia, the Board reviewed the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) of the Reserve Bank of India," RBI said in a statement on Thursday.

The transferable surplus is determined on the basis of the ECF

adopted by the Reserve Bank on August 26, 2019, as per recommendations of the Bimal Jalan-headed Expert Committee to Review the extant Economic Capital Framework of the RBI.

The Committee had recommended that the risk provisioning

under the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) be maintained within a range of 6.5 to 5.5 per cent of the RBI's balance sheet.

The Union Budget for the current fiscal has projected a dividend income of Rs 2.56 lakh crore from the Reserve Bank and public sector

The dividend payout is expected to be higher this time, the decision about which is likely to be taken at the next meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India to be held on May 23.

financial institutions. The 615th Board meeting was attended by deputy governors M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar, Swaminathan J, and Poonam Gupta.

Other Directors of the Central Board — Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Nagaraju Madhira, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Satish K Marathe, S Gurmurthy, Ravathi Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel and Ravindra H Dhoolakia — also attended the meeting.

India's unemployment rate at 5.1% in April 2025

New Delhi: The rate of unemployment in the country, measured in monthly term for the first time, stood at 5.1 per cent in April this year, showed the government data released on Thursday.

The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation released the first monthly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) as part of efforts to monitor the proportion of unemployed people among those eligible for jobs in the country in real time.



Until now, the labour force survey was released on a quarterly as well as annual basis.

The latest data collected in current weekly status (CWS) showed that unemployment rate for persons of all ages during April 2025 worked out to be 5.1 per cent in April 2025. The pace of

joblessness among men stayed slightly higher at 5.2 per cent compared to that of women at 5 per cent.

Joblessness among those in the age group of 15-29 was 13.8 per cent across the country. The rate of unemployment in urban areas stood at 17.2 per cent, while it was 12.3 per cent in rural areas.

CWS refers to the activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey.

The study further showed that unemployment rate (UR) among women in the age group of 15-29 was 14.4 across the country (rural+urban), while it was 23.7 in cities and 10.7 per cent in villages.

Joblessness among men aged 15-29 years was recorded at 13.6 per cent in the country, while it was 15 per cent in cities and 13 per cent in villages.

The data also showed that Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) among people aged 15

years and above was 55.6 per cent during April 2025.

The participation rate in rural areas was 58.0 per cent while it was 50.7 per cent in urban areas and 10.7 per cent in villages.

LFPR among males aged 15 years and above in rural and urban areas were 79.0 per cent and 75.3 per cent, respectively.

Among females aged 15 years and above, the rate of labour force participation was 38.2 per cent for rural areas during April 2025.

Two days of market rally makes investors richer by Rs 9 lakh cr

New Delhi: Investors' wealth surged Rs 9 lakh crore in two days of market rally, with the BSE benchmark Sensex climbing nearly 1.50 per cent on Thursday alone.

Rallying for the second straight day on Thursday, the 30-share BSE benchmark gauge jumped 1,600.18 points, or 0.48 per cent, to settle at a seven-month high of 82,530.74. The index rallied 1,387.58 points, or 1.70 per cent, to hit the day's high of 82,718.14 in the second half of the trading session.

In two days, the benchmark has surged 1,382.52 points, or 1.70 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged Rs 9,08,725.11 crore to Rs 4,40,19,512.13 crore (USD 5.14 trillion) in two days.

US President Donald Trump on Thursday claimed that India has offered to drop all tariffs on American goods.

"The market staged a robust rebound, closing with substantial gains, driven by a decline in domestic inflation and positive signals from the US regarding a potential trade agreement with India," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors was the biggest gainer, climbing 4.16 per cent. HCL Tech, Adani Ports, Eternal, Maruti, Reliance Industries, and Asian Paints were among the gainers.

IndusInd Bank emerged as the only loser.

Tim David joins RCB squad ahead of IPL 2025 resumption

New Delhi: Australian batter Tim David has rejoined Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) squad for the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 on Thursday, alongside him all-rounder Romario Shephard and Lungi Ngidi have also joined Bengaluru's squad, according to ESPNcricinfo.

On May 8, the BCCI suspended the cash-rich league for a week in the wake of the cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan. After the cessation of hostilities, the IPL is set to resume on May 17 with Royal Challengers Bengaluru squaring off against the defending champions, Kolkata Knight Riders, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

England's Liam Livingstone has also linked up with the team while Jacob Bethell has already rejoined the team.

Shepherd was accompanied by his national duo, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) mentor Dwayne Bravo. Shepherd is also the part of West Indies ODI squad for their upcoming tour in England, which will be starting from May 29, and the schedule of the series will clash with Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 playoffs.

As of now there is no clarification from the Cricket West Indies about Shepherd's participation in the league after May 29. Bethell has also been named for England's upcoming home white ball series against the Caribbean side, where as Livingstone has been dropped from both the ODI and T20 sides.

The England Cricket Board (ECB) had granted no-objection certificates (NOCs) to all the players participating in IPL till May 25, the original date of the IPL 2025 final. As a result, Bethell was not named in England's squad for the four-day Test match against Zimbabwe that starts May 29, according to ESPNcricinfo.

Ngidi is also featured in the test squad of World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in June. RCB is currently placed on second with 16 points, with eight wins and three defeats.

South African WTC final squad members set to miss IPL playoffs

Johannesburg: Eight South African players, who are included in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final squad, will be missing the Indian Premier League (IPL) playoffs and returning home by May 27.

As per ESPNcricinfo, these eight players are: Kagiso Rabada (Gujarat Titans), Aiden Markram (Lucknow Super Giants), Marco Jansen (Punjab Kings), Tristan Stubbs (Delhi Capitals), Lungi Ngidi (Royal Challengers Bengaluru), Wiaan Mulder (Sunrisers Hyderabad), Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch (both Mumbai Indians). They will all be leaving for UK on May 30. Ahead of the final at Lord's scheduled for June 11, they will be playing a warm-up game against Zimbabwe from June 3 at Arundel.

Earlier, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that SA players were expected to stay until the tournament end, potentially impacting their preparation for the WTC final. The newspaper reported that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) allegedly used its influence to ensure South African players' continued participation.

"One thing we have made clear, and we are finalizing it with the IPL and the BCCI, is that we are sticking to our original plan when it comes to WTC preparations with May 26 being the latest for the Test guys to come back," CSA's director of cricket Enoch Nkwe had said, as quoted from The Sydney Morning Herald.

However, in just few hours, CSA's director Enoch Nkwe changed his stance, saying higher-level talks were happening between CSA, the BCCI, and IPL franchises, suggesting CSA had little choice in the matter.



But now, as per ESPNcricinfo, Cricket South Africa (CSA) has negotiated with the IPL for the early release of their players, considering the importance of their WTC final fixture against Australia.

All other South African players not playing the WTC final will be playing the IPL till the very end, till the final scheduled for June 3.

The IPL will resume from May 17 after a suspension just over a week back amidst rising tensions between India and Pakistan. The high-octane clash between Royal

CSA's director Enoch Nkwe changed his stance, saying higher-level talks were happening between CSA, the BCCI, and IPL franchises, suggesting CSA had little choice in the matter.

Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in Bengaluru will mark the resumption, with pacer Lungi Ngidi expected to play in case Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood does not recover from his shoulder injury.

Out of the seven teams having WTC final-bound SA players, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) is out of contention, and Gujarat Titans (GT) have played the majority of their season without Kagiso Rabada, who has just featured in two matches and is close to securing the playoffs spot.

MI will be heavily affected as their opener Ryan Rickelton is their second-highest run-getter with 336 runs in 12 innings, with three fifties while Corbin Bosch has been solid with bat and ball in his three games so far, having scored 47 runs in two innings and taken a wicket.

Sri Lanka Cricket announces Tim Boon as coach



New Delhi: Sri Lanka Cricket has announced Tim Boon, who previously served as the head coach of Leicestershire and the England Under-19 team, as a coach and high-performance consultant on a one-month deal that begins on May 8, according to ESPNcricinfo.

He will be serving as a batting consultant for the Sri Lanka Women's senior and A-team squad, and the Sri Lanka Under-17s. Boon, who was also England's team analyst under Duncan Fletcher during the 2005 Ashes victory, will also work with the men's emerging team.

His programme will include "technical and tactical sessions aimed at improving the players' overall batting approach and individual performance. His stint dovetails with that of R Sridhar, India's former fielding coach, who earlier this month conducted a "comprehensive 10-day fielding programme" for both men's and women's cricketers in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) released a statement on Tuesday to announce that the specialised program will commence on May 7 and will involve men's and women's national squads, emerging squads, Premier Club players, and the National U19 team, and Women's 'A' team as well.

Sridhar is a BCCI Level 3 qualified coach and will bring a wealth of experience, having served as India's fielding coach across more than 300 international matches from 2014 to 2021.

It is a continuation of SLC's strategy of employing foreign coaches under short-term contracts. In an effort to improve batting standards, Rajasthan Royals' high performance director Zubin Bhucharu ran a short program in 2024. In the previous ten years, Wasim Akram and Jonty Rhodes have also been brought in to lead fielding and bowling programs, respectively.

I come back fitter than I was before I got injured: Ben Stokes

London: England star all-rounder Ben Stokes opened up on his time away from the game due to a hamstring injury, doing his rehabilitation, and how he aims to take up his role of full-time pace bowling all-rounder.

Stokes has made this vow as he has been out of action from county and country cricket after a hamstring tear during the final Test against New Zealand in December. In the coming months, England has two tough series lined up: a home series of five Tests against India, which will kickstart both sides' ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 campaign, and the away Ashes series against Australia towards the end of the year.

Since his surgery in January, the 33-year-old has been on "one of the longest rehab periods of his career," which could help him return in Tests "fitter than ever."

"I always work hard," Stokes said as quoted by Sky Sports.

"My ethos when I am injured is that I come back fitter than I was before I got injured."

"I have worked incredibly hard on all aspects of everything, from my cricket to fitness, and know I am going to be



in a position when I am back on the field to potentially be in physically the best possible shape I have been in," he added.

Stokes' hamstring injury was a recurrence, having previously surfaced during the Hundred tournament last August. It kept him out of four successive Tests, three at home to Sri Lanka and one in Pakistan.

Towards the end of the year, he was challenged to be fit for the NZ tour, and his recovery was condensed, which contributed to his relapse. With a gap in the international calendar giving him enough time, Stokes has seized this opportunity to return to his full fitness.

"The first time I pulled

my hamstring, there was such a small time-frame to try and get myself ready for that series against Pakistan," he added.

"To walk back on to the field after nine weeks with the hamstring tear I had was a pretty good effort, but there were days I had no interest in doing things I needed to do."

"That rehab period then looked a lot different to this period. We had to fast-track certain periods of a normal rehab with a hamstring injury to pass me fit to play, whereas this time around the medical team and I said we are going to nail it because we have got the time absolutely."

"The time has allowed me not to have to get into the mindset of every day waking up and thinking about what I need to do to feel right in my head that I am fit. Those are the unspoken things that people from outside don't necessarily see."

"It was a tough old slog and was very tiring and taxing, not just physically but also mentally, doing something every single day to try and get myself to the next level of my rehab. It does take it out of you; it was pretty much every day for about six weeks where I had to do something, three or four sessions a day, it was tough," he continued.

Stokes said that this time around, he had a lot more time to "slowly drip feed in bits of progression from walking, into fast walking, into running and then into bowling."

"It has not been anything near as taxing physically or mentally, that has been the big difference. I have definitely handled this period of injury and rehab a lot better than the first one."

"I am not fully through that yet, but we are at the back end of the four-month period, and I am excited to get back to playing this summer," he continued.

Sunil Gavaskar inaugurates '10000 Gavaskar' a board room named in his honour at BCCI HQ



Mumbai: In a special ceremony held at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) headquarters in Mumbai, Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar inaugurated a recently created boardroom named after him, "10000 Gavaskar," in his honor.

BCCI posted on their X handle, "Honouring a legend! India great Sunil Gavaskar inaugurates 10000 Gavaskar - a Board Room named in his honour and his iconic milestone at the BCCI HQ in Mumbai."

The ceremony was attended by BCCI president Roger Binny, vice president Rajeev Shukla, and secretary Devajit Saikia.

In a video posted by BCCI on X, Sunil Gavaskar said, "Thank you so much. I really appreciate the opportunities that I've got to be what I am thanks to Indian cricket. And this honour, this is a huge honour. So I'm very, very thankful to BCCI for this honour and BCCI ke live jaan haazir hain. So anything, anything required of me, even at this age, please feel free."

Sunil Gavaskar, who played for India from 1971 to 1979, is considered to be among the best batters in the sport's history. Gavaskar, renowned for his calm demeanor at the crease and technically strong defense, stood tall against the most ferocious pace assaults of his time, frequently without wearing a helmet. He represented resilience in Indian cricket due to his bravery, discipline, and exceptional focus.

During the 1987 Ahmedabad Test against his arch-rivals Pakistan, he reached the milestone of 10,000 runs, becoming the first player in Test history to do so.

Record prize money revealed for World Test Championship Final

New Delhi: With less than a month to go until the one-off Test at Lord's between South Africa and Australia, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled a massive prize money pool for the 2023-25 edition of the ICC World Test Championship.

The total prize pool for the WTC 2023-25 Final stands at \$5.76 million USD, more than double that of the previous two editions, as per ICC.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah said, "It's exciting to announce that the winner of the WTC 25 Final between South Africa and Australia will earn \$3.6M, with the runner-up to receive \$2.1M. The increase in prize money exhibits our efforts to prioritize Test cricket and build on momentum from previous WTC cycles."

The champions will walk away with USD \$3.6 million, a significant jump from the USD \$1.6 million awarded in both 2021 and 2023 while the runners-up will earn USD \$2.16 million, up from USD \$800,000.

To mark the 30-day countdown to the Uthmaniyah Test, the ICC also released a promotional video building excitement for the clash, featuring South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, ace pacer Kagiso Rabada, Proteas star Aiden Markram, Australia talisman Steve Smith and the swashbuckling Travis Head along with former greats Shaun Pollock, Davie Steyn, Matthew Hayden, Mel Jones, Nasser Hussain, Shoaib Akhtar and Ravi Shastri.

South Africa topped the WTC25 standings and became the first team to secure a spot in the final at Lord's, courtesy of series victories over Pakistan, West Indies, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, along with a drawn home series against India.

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Skipper Patidar, Jitesh join RCB camp ahead of IPL resumption

Bengaluru: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) skipper Rajat Patidar and wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma joined the franchise's camp ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) resumption from May 17 with the match against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).



Kings (CSK) on May 3. As per ESPNcricinfo, he

finger and avoid training for a minimum of 10 days before evaluating the injury. IPL 2025 was temporarily suspended due to cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan.

RCB's official X handle posted a picture of Rajat and Jitesh's arrival, captioned, "Captain Rajat and his partner-in-crime Jitesh are back at base, ready to light up the remainder of #IPL2025 with the same swag, same intent, and more fire! Let's wish them the best in the comments, 12th Man Army!"

During the remaining season, Patidar will be aiming to overcome a lean run of form since the last three to four games. In 11 games and 10 innings, he has scored 239 runs at an average of 23.90, with a strike rate of 140.58. He has scored two half-centuries, with the best score of 64.

In 11 matches, on the other hand, Jitesh has made 128 runs at an average of 25.60, with a strike rate of 142.22 and best score of 40*.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday announced the resumption of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 and revealed the schedule for the remaining 17 fixtures.

The BCCI released a statement on Monday night to confirm that "after extensive consultations with the government, security agencies, and all the key stakeholders, the India board decided to proceed with the remainder of the season. Last Friday, the BCCI suspended the cash-rich league for a week in the wake of the cross-border tensions

between India and Pakistan."

After the cessation of hostilities, the IPL is set to resume on May 17 with Royal Challengers Bengaluru squaring off against the defending champions, Kolkata Knight Riders at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

A total of 17 matches will be played across six venues, starting May 17, and culminating in the final on June 3. The revised schedule includes two double-headers, which will be played on two Sundays.

TIDC scouts look for qualities in athlete beyond field of play

Patna (Bihar): Talent scouts look out for small things like an athlete's warm-up routine and demeanour besides an athlete's performance on the field of play, the Sports Authority of India's Talent Identification and Development Committee (TIDC) members for Cycling, Maxwell Trevor, has revealed.

An 11-time national track cycling champion in his heydays and with a fourth place in the 1986 Asian Games, Maxwell Trevor is among the most respected cycling coaches. He shared insights into the work of the TIDC team when he explained what he seeks in athletes competing in the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, Bihar.

Maxwell Trevor said TIDC members for Cycling focus on every athlete, especially between the ages of 14 and 16. "We are watching their pedaling, we're watching their warm-up routines, we are watching their discipline," he said. "Some athletes are so disciplined they know when to warm up."

"Firstly, we look for younger athletes with whom coaches can engage in a long-term training program. We also look at the kind of equipment like frames and wheels that athletes are using their rides because we know that it is a big factor. We also assess the athletes for their explosive power," he said.

"After that, we have sport-specific tests on bicycles attached to a computer that captures the data like the cadence, the revolutions per minute of the pedals, the heart rate and the power generated in Watts in different time frames," he said. "All these tests give us a good idea of the talent that the athlete has."

He does not stop for looking at the physical aspect of the sport. "We are also looking at the mental ability of the young riders," "I've come across many talented athletes who have lacked the mental ability and did not believe in themselves. So these are aspects that we take into consideration."

Speaking about the pockets from where India's better cyclists emerge - Rajasthan in endurance and Manipur and Andaman and Nicobar islands for sprints, Maharashtra and Karnataka - Maxwell Trevor said riders from some of these areas are born with a lot of talent and have the lower body structure for the sport.

Neeraj Chopra to lead four-front Indian at the Doha Diamond League 2025

New Delhi: Neeraj Chopra, the reigning world champion in the javelin throw, will lead the four-front Indian assault at the Doha Diamond League 2025, which is set to take place at the Qatar Sports Club on Friday, according to Olympics.com.

Kishore Jena, who won silver at the Asian Games, will be there in the men's javelin throw competition alongside Neeraj, while national record holder Parul Chaudhary is entered for the women's 3000-meter steeplechase event. Gulveer Singh, another Indian athlete, is prepared for his Diamond League debut when he competes in the men's 5000m event.

Neeraj has had a successful career with the Qatar Sports Club, placing second in the Diamond League's Doha leg in 2023 and winning in 2024. For the past few years, Neeraj has also started his athletic season at the Doha competition. However, following



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the Potch Invitational Meet in Potchefstroom, South Africa, in April, this will be the former Olympic champion's second competitive competition of the year. The Indian ace won the competition with a respectable throw of 84.52 meters. Neeraj, who will

also be attempting to break the sought-after 90-meter barrier in Doha, holds the Indian national record for the men's javelin throw and has a personal best of 89.94 meters. In the interim, Kishore Jena will be hoping to replicate his performance from two

years prior, when he won a silver medal at Hangzhou 2023. Since the victory, the javelin thrower, who was born in Odisha, has had a difficult time. On his Diamond League debut last year, he placed ninth in Doha.

Except for Neeraj Chopra and Kishore

Jena, the javelin throw field is dominated by big names like Grenada's former world champion Anderson Peters, who defeated Neeraj by one centimetre in the 2024 Doha Diamond League.

In her Diamond League debut at the Eugene leg last year, Parul Chaudhary, the national record holder for the women's 5000m and 3000m steeplechase, placed 16th in the steeplechase competition. Meanwhile, Gulveer Singh is poised for his maiden Diamond League run in Doha.

Gulveer owns the 5000m national record courtesy of a 13:11.82-second run he recorded in Japan last year. This is the largest Indian contingent in terms of numbers at any single Diamond League meet to date.

Zara moves to top-10 at Queen Sirikit Cup golf



Miyazaki: Mannat Brar had the best second round among the three Indians at the 45th Queen Sirikit Cup, but Zara Anand continued to the best placed after two rounds of competition, as per a release from Queen Sirikit Cup.

Mannat, who reached the semi-final of the R&A Girl's Amateur event last year, shot 2-under 70 while Zara (73-71) shot 1-under 71. Zara moved from T-12 to T-10, while Mannat (77-70) rose from T-25 to T-15. The third player, Heena Kang (76-76) is T-28.

The Indians, as a team, are lying fifth, two places up from the first round.

Oh Soo-min and Jung Min-seo sprang to the fore as Korea cruised to the top of the leaderboard at the half-way stage.

Oh, the defending individual champion and the tournament's top-ranked player, followed her opening 69 with a sparkling five-under-par 67 on the Tom Watson Golf Course at the Phoenix Seagaia Resort.

Also taking advantage of the ideal scoring conditions was Jung, who improved on her first-round 74 by eight strokes, matching China's Zhou Shiyuan for the best round of the day. In the event in which the best two daily scores from each of the 13 three-player teams are counted, Korea posted a formidable second-round aggregate of 11-under 133.

With a 36-hole total of 16-under 272, the Koreans will take a six-stroke lead from overnight pace-setters Japan into Thursday's penultimate round.

Thailand Open: Unnati Hooda, Malvika Bansod Crash Out In Second

Bangkok: The Indian campaign at the Thailand Open suffered a significant blow on Thursday as rising stars Unnati Hooda and Malvika Bansod bowed out of the Super 500 tournament in the second round of the women's singles category.

Facing formidable local opponents, both shuttlers endured straight-game defeats, ending their run in the competition earlier than hoped. Unnati Hooda, just 17 and already a two-time BWF title winner with triumphs at the Odisha Masters and Abu Dhabi Masters, came up against top seed and world No. 6 Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand.

The Thai ace, known for her aggressive style and swift court coverage, dominated from the outset. Unnati showed glimpses of her shot-making prowess but struggled to maintain consistency against the more experienced Chochuwong.

The match ended 14-21, 11-21 in just 39 minutes, with the Indian teenager unable to shift the momentum in



her favour. Meanwhile, world No. 23 Malvika Bansod also faced a tough draw, going up against former world champion Ratchanok Intanon, one of Thailand's most celebrated shuttlers. The 2024 Hylo Open finalist found herself on the back foot early in both games, as Intanon's deft touches and deceptive strokes controlled the tempo.

Malvika did fight back with a spirited effort in the second game but ultimately fell short, losing 12-21, 16-21.

With Unnati and Malvika's exits, India's hopes now rest on the

shoulders of its remaining contingent in the tournament. Later in the day, the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, bowed out in the second round of the BWF Super 500 tournament at Bangkok's Nimibutr Stadium.

Seeded third and ranked 10th in the world, Treesa and Gayatri were expected to spearhead India's challenge in the absence of top singles players. But despite a fighting start, the duo lost 20-22, 14-21 to Japan's Rui Hirokami and Sayaka Hobara in a 53-minute contest.

The Indian pair pushed the first game to the wire, showing glimpses of their quality, but failed to convert crucial points. The Japanese pair, buoyed by their narrow win, asserted complete control in the second game to knock out the Indian contenders.

India Crash Out As Treesa-Gayatri, Singles Stars Suffer Early Exits

Bangkok: India's campaign at the Thailand Open 2025 came to a disappointing end on Thursday, as all remaining shuttlers, including top women's doubles pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, bowed out in the second round of the BWF Super 500 tournament at Bangkok's Nimibutr Stadium.

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With their exit, In-



dia's campaign came to a grinding halt as the remaining four singles players also suffered defeats earlier in the day. In the women's singles category, India's hopes were dashed by a trio of formidable Thai opponents. Rising star Unnati Hooda, ranked 45th in the world, was outclassed 21-14, 21-11 by top seed and world No. 6 Pornpawee Chochuwong.

Malvika Bansod, currently world No. 23, couldn't get past Thailand's former world champion Ratchanok Intanon.

The seventh-seeded Thai shuttler used her experience and court craft to secure a 21-12, 21-16 win. Aakarshi Kashyap also met a similar fate, going down 21-9, 21-14 to fourth seed Supanida Katethong, who never let the Indian settle into any rhythm.

On the men's side, Tharun Manneppalli was the only Indian to reach the second round but faced an uphill task against world No. 3 Anders Antonsen of Denmark. The second-seeded Dane proved too strong for the Indian youngster, easing to a

21-14, 21-16 win. Earlier, Lakshya Sen and Priyanshu Rajawat had failed to progress past their first-round matches, extending India's lean patch in major BWF events.

This string of early exits highlights the ongoing struggles of Indian badminton at the elite level, especially with top names like PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy either missing or out of form. The Thailand Open was seen as a potential platform for upcoming talent to step up, but the performances failed to meet expectations.

Nippon India Mutual Fund Champions Indo-Japan Friendship

New Delhi: In a powerful tribute to Indo-Japanese collaboration, youth empowerment, and shared human values, Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF) has proudly supported Japanese footballer and social activist Nozomu Hagihara - affectionately known as Nono - in his awe-inspiring 2,000-kilometer solo football dribbling journey across India.

Beginning his mission on March 3, 2025, from the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, Nono set out on foot, dribbling a football every step of the way - a symbolic act of endurance, unity, and determination. Flagged off by Consul-General NAKAGAWA Koichi, the journey took him



through towns, villages, and cities, sparking curiosity, admiration, and support from communities across the nation.

Over the course of two months, Nono not only pushed the limits of athletic endurance

but also ignited important conversations around gender equality, hygiene, nutrition, and youth empowerment. Conducting grassroots football workshops and outreach sessions, he used sport as a medium to bridge cultures,

inspire children, and connect with people from all walks of life.

His journey was also a Guinness World Record attempt for the longest football dribbling distance - adding an unprecedented layer of achievement to

this cross-cultural mission. Simultaneously, it served as a charity campaign to raise funds for a unique sports exchange initiative: enabling 20-30 children from Bihar to visit Japan and experience international cultural and sporting exposure.

The mission culminated today at the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, where Nono was welcomed by a distinguished gathering of Indian and Japanese dignitaries, diplomats, and well-wishers. He is scheduled to meet His Excellency, the Ambassador of Japan to India, along with senior embassy officials and representatives of Indo-Japanese cooperation organizations.

Rutuja Gurav wins wrestling gold on Khelo India Youth Games debut

Patna: Wrestler Rutuja Santosh Gurav was just eight when her father, a construction labourer by profession and a sports enthusiast, took her to a wrestling academy, situated nearly two kilometres from the village Panchnagn, in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

For the next six months, the little girl was hesitant to take up the sport, but the real inspiration came when Rutuja's father made her watch Aamir Khan-starrer Dangal - a movie based on wrestling and inspired by the lives of the Phogat. There was no looking back ever since.

Over the past eight years, Rutuja dedicated herself completely to the sport, and so did Santosh Gurav, who stood like a shadow to her in wherever she



has competed, cheering from the sidelines, even though he doesn't have much technical inputs about her sport. His presence, always at the sidelines, has been her silent strength.

Rutuja's rise began with a gold at the Junior Nationals in 2021, a title she defended in 2022. A silver followed at the 2023 Nationals, and another gold at the School Games the same year. Last year,

she made her international debut with a silver medal at the Junior Asian Championships in Thailand.

Despite these accolades, life at home remains modest. Santosh, who earns around Rs 15,000 a month, relies on his wife's Rs 6,000 income from her job as a grocery store helper to support their family of four, including Rutuja's elder sister, a law student.



Radhika Apte starrer 'Sister Midnight' to hit theatres on May 23

The 78th British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) nominee 'Sister Midnight' starring Radhika Apte in the lead role is set to release in the theatres on May 23. The

film also stars Ashok Pathak, Chhaya Kadam, Smita Tambe and Navya Sawant.

film was written and directed by Karan Kandhari

Nominated for Outstanding British Debut at this year's BAFTA, Sister Midnight was one of the most talked-about titles at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, where it was nominated for the Golden Camera award and in Directors' Fortnight.

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Also nominated for four British Independent Film Awards (BIFA), Sister Midnight won Best Picture in the Next Wave Award at Austin's Fantastic Fest and was warmly received at festivals across the globe.

As per the press note by the makers of the film, the synopsis of the movie states,

"Newly married, Uma (Radhika Apte) sets out to adjust to life with her husband, Gopal (Ashok Pathak). Living in a small room together in Mumbai, life isn't easy for her, especially when Gopal disappears for hours on end, leaving her without money. Grudgingly, she learns to cook, with the help of neighbour Sheetal (Chhaya Kadam). But things change for the disgruntled Uma after attending the wedding of Gopal's cousin. Bitten by a mosquito, she begins to feel sick, as she grows pale and thin. Gradually, she experiences a ravenous thirst for the blood of animals. Yet as others fear her, Uma must learn to embrace this transformation or face extinction," as quoted in a press note.



Shreya Ghoshal announces new date for Mumbai concert

Popular playback singer Shreya Ghoshal has officially announced the revised date for her much-awaited Mumbai concert, part of her ongoing All Hearts Tour. The concert, which was originally scheduled for May 10, 2025, will now be held on May 24 at Jio World Garden.

Known for her versatility across languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bengali, and Marathi, Ghoshal has carved a special place in Indian music. She recently served as a judge on Indian Idol, alongside rapper Badshah and music director Vishal Dadlani.

Due to the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict, several Indian singers have cancelled or postponed their concerts out of respect and in solidarity with the country's current situation. Artists from the entertainment industry have been making thoughtful decisions.

Among many artists, Shreya Ghoshal also postponed her 'All Hearts Tour' concert, which was scheduled to take place in Mumbai on May 10, 2025, due to Operation Sindoor.

Now, Ghoshal has shared an Instagram post confirming the new dates of her Mumbai concert. Her 'All Hearts Tour' will now take place on May 24. The caption of the joined Instagram post by Shreya Ghoshal and GIE Productions reads, Mumbai! New date alert: Thank you for your love, patience and understanding. As promised, we are coming back stronger and here to heal All Hearts with love and music. See you in just a few days @jioworldgarden."

Demi Lovato, Jordan 'Jutes' Lutes all set to tie knot on this date



Singer-songwriter and actor Demi Lovato and her fiancé Jordan 'Jutes' Lutes are all set to tie the knot. The couple will exchange their "I dos" during Memorial Day weekend.

It has not been confirmed what day of the weekend their celebration is, nor has the location been revealed, reported People.

Lovato and Jutes first met in January 2022 while co-writing 'Substance', and then made their romance public in August 2022.

"I live and breathe for our connection," she said at that time, adding, "Everything I do, I wish I was with him. I see my future with him. I

see growing old with him." In September 2024, Lovato shared that she had "waited her whole life for him."

"It's very grounding to have a partner that is so supportive, so loving, so caring," said Lovato, adding, "It's very easy to stay centred with him because I love him so much and he treats me so amazingly," according to People.

Jutes shared in October 2024 that the couple were not looking to rush the wedding planning process.

"We're not trying to stress ourselves out," he said. "I feel like a lot of weddings can be stressful and very quick, and so we're on it, but we're also taking our time, and we're also just enjoying being engaged."

Blake Lively's legal team has unequivocally denied the claim made by Justin Baldoni's lawyer about the actress's friendship with Taylor Swift.

In a letter to the judge, Bryan Freedman, an attorney for Baldoni, explained why they believe their subpoena to Venable, the law firm representing Swift, is relevant in the case.

Freedman claimed that a "source who is highly likely to have reliable information" alleged to them that there is evidence of Lively's lawyers pressuring Swift's lawyers to "release a statement of support" for the actress amid the Baldoni legal saga. If they refused, according to Freedman's claim, Lively was willing to leak their text messages in what he called "extortionate threats," reported People.

There is currently no evidence to support the claims, but Freedman stated that their subpoena seeks these communications to utilise in their

case against Lively.

However, Mike Gottlieb, an attorney for Lively, said in a May 14 statement, "This is categorically false," reported People.

"We unequivocally deny all of these so-called allegations, which are cowardly sourced to supposed anonymous sources, and completely untethered from reality," added Gottlieb.

"This is what we have come to expect from the Wayfarer parties' lawyers, who appear to love nothing more than shooting first, without any evidence, and with no care for the people they are harming in the process," he said. "We will imminently file motions with the court to hold these attorneys accountable for their misconduct here."

Lively sued her It Ends With Us co-star and director Baldoni in December 2024, alleging sexual harassment and retaliation. He denied those claims, filing a USD 400 million countersuit of his own, accusing Lively and Ryan Reynolds of defamation and extortion.

Sonu Nigam gets relief from High Court in Bengaluru remarks case

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday directed the police not to take any "coercive action" against playback singer Sonu Nigam until the next hearing.

The court also stated that Nigam does not need to appear in person to give a statement to the police at this stage.

Justice Shivashankar Amarannavar passed the interim order after hearing Nigam's plea to quash the case against him for allegedly making offensive



legedly making offensive remarks about the Kannadiga community.

The court was informed by the State that no strict action would be taken against the singer for now, as long as he cooperates with the investigation.

The controversy erupted after Nigam's statement at a music event in Bengaluru on April 22, which reportedly hurt the sentiments of many Kannadigas. Following the remarks, a complaint was lodged at the Avalahalli police station in Bengaluru, prompting the authorities to register an FIR

against the singer.

On May 3, an FIR was registered against Nigam under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code, including Section 351(2) (criminal intimidation), Section 352(1) (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and Section 353 (incitement to public mischief). The case was filed following a complaint from Dharmaraj A., the President of the Bengaluru Urban District Unit of the pro-Kannada group Karnataka Rakshana Vedike,

The FIR accuses Nigam of making remarks that "emotionally provoked" and "hurt the sentiments" of the Kannadiga community, potentially inciting unrest among different linguistic communities in the state.

In the aftermath of the FIR, Sonu Nigam issued a public apology on May 5, acknowledging the hurt caused by his comments. Taking to social media, Nigam wrote, "Sorry Karnataka. My love for you is bigger than my ego. Love you always."