



Angelina Jolie shimmers in sequinned gown at Cannes 2025 red carpet

Iran says it will continue nuclear talks with US shrugging off Trump's threats

Litton Das offers a glimpse into Bangladesh's approach in T20Is moving forward



2 NATIONAL
Can't help economies of nations working against India: Dhankhar

3 DELHI
Delhi Police recover 76 lost mobile phones via CEIR portal in month-long drive

5 STATE
CM Yogi calls for setting up of AYUSH colleges in every division of UP



6 SPORTS
DC ready to go all out against Gujarat Titans as IPL 2025 resumes



7 BUSINESS
India to Lead 6G Tech Regulations: Jyotiraditya Scindia

WEATHER

Sunrise 5:29 AM
Sunset 7:07 PM
Moonrise 10:40 PM
Moonset 8:48 AM

Today's Prediction
Maximum 42°C Minimum 30°C
Tomorrow's Prediction
43°C | 31°C

Govt picks Tharoor to lead Op Sindoor delegation to US; Congress fumes

The delegations will be travelling to four of the five permanent Security Council members and not visit China, which has long been a Pakistan ally.

ONew Delhi opposition leaders Shashi Tharoor and Kanimozhi will join members of the ruling alliance, including Ravi Shankar Prasad and Sanjay Jha, in leading seven all-party delegations to key partner countries to convey India's message of zero tolerance against terrorism following Operation Sindoor.

The other MPs picked by the government to present India's "national consensus" in fighting terrorism before the world, including to UN Security Council members, are Nationalist Congress Party-Shardachandra Pawar's Supriya Sule, BJP's Bajajant Jay' Panda and Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde.

A statement issued by the parliamentary affairs ministry on Saturday said, "The all-party delegations will project India's national consensus and resolute approach to combating terrorism in all forums and manifestations."

"They would carry forth

HIGHLIGHTS

The delegation led by Janata Dal-United MP Jha is likely to visit Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia, the country with the largest Muslim population.

The government has made a careful selection of leaders who will head the delegations as they come from parties across the political divide and are considered articulate voices.

The leaders -- four



from the ruling National Democratic Alliance and three from the opposition INDIA bloc -- include seasoned lawmakers with long stints in public life.

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Sources said the delegations will be travelling to four of the five permanent Security Council members and not visit China, which has long been a Pakistan ally.

While the delegation led by Congress MP

Tharoor will visit the US, Panda's group, which includes AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi and BJP's Nishikant Dubey, will travel to western European countries such as the UK and France, both UNSC members.

The delegation led by Dravidia Munnetra Kazhagam MP Kanimozhi will travel to Russia, an

other UNSC member.

The sources said the delegation led by BJP MP Prasad is expected to visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Algeria, while Sule's team of MPs will be travelling to Oman, Kenya, South Africa and Egypt.

The delegation led by Janata Dal-United MP Jha is likely to visit Japan,

Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia, the country with the largest Muslim population.

Shinde's team of parliamentarians are likely to visit some Gulf and African countries. Each delegation with six to seven MPs may visit around four to five countries, the sources said.

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The Congress, however, staffer working at the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. On May 13, India had expelled that Pakistani official for allegedly indulging in espionage.

Her YouTube channel account shows some videos regarding her visit to Pakistan -- 'Indian

Haryana YouTuber held on charge of spying for Pakistan

A Chandigarh Haryana-based YouTuber has been arrested on the charge of passing on sensitive information to Pakistani intelligence operatives, police said on Saturday.

Jyoti Malhotra, who runs a YouTube channel, Travel with JO, and hails from Hisar in Haryana, was arrested from New Aggarasain Extension, they said.

She has been booked under the relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, said police.

She was sent to a five-day police remand after being produced before the court.

Jyoti, whose YouTube channel and Instagram account have 3.77 lakh subscribers and 1.33 lakh followers respectively, allegedly was in contact with a Pakistani staffer working at the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. On May 13, India had expelled that Pakistani official for allegedly indulging in espionage.

Her YouTube channel account shows some videos regarding her visit to Pakistan -- 'Indian



Girl in Pakistan', 'Indian Girl at Kataraj Temple' and 'Indian Girl Rides Luxury Bus in Pakistan'.

She has made a total of 487 videos so far.

She has described herself as a 'Nomadic Leo Girl', 'Wanderer Haryanvi + Punjabi' and 'purane khayalon ki modern laddi' on her YouTube channel.

In 2023, Jyoti came in contact with Ehsan-ur-Rahim alias Danish, allegedly was in contact with a Pakistani staffer working at the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. On May 13, India had expelled that Pakistani official for allegedly indulging in espionage.

Her YouTube channel account shows some videos regarding her visit to Pakistan -- 'Indian

Dissatisfied with AAP, 13 MCD councillors float new political outfit

In a setback for AAP in Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), 13 councillors resigned from the party on Saturday and announced the formation of a new outfit - Indraprastha Vikas Party - citing stalled development work and growing internal discontent.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), however, alleged that the ruling BJP was behind the defections and its councillors were offered Rs five crore each as part of a "horse-trading operation".

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP.

Senior councillor Mukesh Goyal, who will head the new party, said "In the two and a half years since our election, no development work has been carried out. The party (AAP) was too busy with internal conflicts and blame games." He claimed councillor

HIGHLIGHT

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lors were not given budgets for developmental work and asserted that the new outfit aims to focus on public welfare and the smooth functioning of the MCD. The move, he said, was confined to the civic body and not aimed at state-level politics.

Among those who have joined the outfit are veteran municipal leader Hemchandra Goyal and former AAP councillors Dinesh Bharadwaj, Himani Jain, Usha Sharma, Sahib Kumar, Rakhi Kumar, Ashok Pandey, Rajesh Kumar and Anil Rana. Agency

Trump claims India willing to cut '100% of tariffs for United States'

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percent of their tariffs for the United States?" Trump said.

When asked if the deal with India is coming soon, Trump said, "That'll come soon. I'm in no rush. Look, everybody wants to make a deal with us."

Then he went on to add: "South Korea wants to make a deal but I'm not going to make deals with everybody. I'm just

going to set the limit. I'll make another some deals. Because I can't, you can't meet with that many people. I've got 150 countries that want to make deals."

India and the US are holding talks to firm up a trade deal.

On Thursday, Jaishankar said trade talks have been going on between India and the US. "These are complicated

negotiations. Nothing is decided till everything is. Any trade deal has to be mutually beneficial; it has to work for both countries," he said.

"That would be our expectation from the trade deal."

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in Washington to assess the progress of negotiations for the proposed trade agreement.

He is expected to hold talks with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer.

To boost bilateral trade, India is seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes, and bananas in the proposed pact with America.

Four killed, two injured in separate wall collapse incidents in Delhi



Three people died while another was injured after a wall of a basement at an under-construction building collapsed due to rain in central Delhi on Saturday evening, an official said.

In another incident of wall collapse, a 35-year-old man died and his co-worker was injured while doing welding work in outer north Delhi, the official said.

Police said the incident occurred when Prabhu, the contractor, was doing construction work at the basement along with his workers Niranjan and Roshan.

Deputy Commissioner of Police M. Harsha Vardhan said 65-year-old Prabhu, 40-year-old Niranjan and 35-year-old Roshan died in the incident while 35-year-old Chuttan is undergoing treatment for his injuries.

He said that police received a PCR call regarding a wall collapse at Arakashan Road at 6.20 pm.

An official of the Delhi Fire Services said that the incident occurred in the Paharganj area and they received a call at 6.05 pm. Four fire tenders were pressed into service.

"Three labourers were trapped under the debris. They were rescued and taken to a hospital for treatment," the official said, adding that the rescue operation was over by 6.35 pm. Agency

India to curb B'deshi goods via Northeast land routes

In New Delhi India on Saturday decided to allow entry of ready-made garments from Bangladesh only through Kolkata and Nhava Sheva sea ports and barred imports of a range of consumer items through land transit posts in the northeast -- a move that is set to significantly hit Dhaka's trade with New Delhi.

Besides ready-made garments (RMG), plastics, wooden furniture, carbonated drinks, processed food items, fruit flavoured drinks, cotton and cotton yard waste



will not be allowed to enter India through land customs stations and check posts in Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram, and Phulbari and Changrabandha in West Bengal, according to a government notification.

The new restrictions for Bangladeshi consumer goods are coming over five weeks after New Delhi ended a nearly five-year-old arrangement for trans-shipment of Bangladesh export cargo to third countries via Indian airports and ports.

immediate effect.

India's fresh restrictions on limiting access to Bangladesh exports appears to be in response to Dhaka denying certain value added items from the Northeast to enter that country through the land transit points.

The friction in trade between the two countries came amid increasing strain in the overall relations after Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka in August last year in the face of a massive anti-government protest. Agency

Rahul targets Jaishankar over informing Pak, MEA says misrepresenting facts

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at the government for "informing" Pakistan about targeting terror infrastructure as part of Operation Sindoor, saying it was a crime and asking who had authorised it.

In a post on X, Gandhi questioned External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar for publicly admitting that the government of India (GOI) had informed Pakistan of the action and asked how many aircraft the Indian Air Force lost as a result.

"Informing Pakistan at the start of our attack was a crime. EAM



has publicly admitted that GOI did it. Who authorised it? How many aircraft did our air force lose as a result?" said Gandhi, the leader of

opposition in the Lok Sabha.

He also shared an undated video of Jaishankar saying India had informed Pakistan of the action against terror infrastructure on its soil.

Jaishankar can be heard saying in the video, "At the start of the operation, we had sent a message to Pakistan, saying, 'We are striking at terrorist infrastructure and we are not striking at the military.'" "So the military has the option of standing out and not interfering in this process. They chose not to take that good advice," the minister can be heard saying in the clip. Agency

Govt picks Tharoor to lead Op Sindoor delegation to US; Congress fumes

CONT FROM PAGE-1
Tharoor, an eloquent voice who has been one of the staunchest champions of the government's tough response to Pakistan, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took a dig at his colleague, "Congress mein hona aur Congress ka hona mein zameen-aasmaan ka antar hai (There is a difference between being in the Congress and of the Congress)."

An unfazed Tharoor said he is honoured by the government's invitation to lead an all-party delegation to five key capitals.

He added, "When national interest is involved, and my services are required, I will not be found wanting, Jai Hind!"

The Parliamentary Affairs Ministry's statement said distinguished diplomats, including retired foreign secretaries, will be part of each delegation. In a post on X, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said, "In moments that matter most, Bharat stands united. Seven All-Party Delegations will soon visit key partner nations, carrying our shared message of zero-tolerance to terrorism."

Sharing the ministry's statement, he said, "A powerful reflection of national unity above politics, beyond differences." The statement said the proposed visits of the seven all-party delegations come in the context of Operation Sindoor and India's continued fight against cross-border terrorism.

MPs from different parties, including Anurag Thakur, Aparajita Sarangi, Manish Tewari, Amar Singh, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Samik Bhattacharya, Briji Lal, Sarfaraz Ahmad, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Vikramjit Sawhney, Sasmit Patra and Bhuvaneshwar Kalita, will be part of these delegations, sources have said.

The government also tapped Trinamool Congress MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay to join the exercise but he declined due to health reasons.

The expansive diplomatic drive is aimed at driving home in global capitals India's stand following the country's aggressive response to the Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians dead, amid Pakistan's efforts to skirt the issue of terrorism while putting Kashmir at the centre of its discourse.

Agency

People nowadays don't stand for truth due to deteriorating character of society: SC

New Delhi. Due to deteriorating character of society, people nowadays are not ready to stand for truth, the Supreme Court has observed as it asked the Maharashtra government why it was relying on a large number of witnesses for oral testimony in the 2017 Bhivandi corporator murder case.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh was hearing a bail plea of Prashant Bhaskar Mahatre, the alleged main conspirator in the Congress corporator murder case.

The bench directed the state's counsel to furnish a list of crucial witnesses which it plans to examine to bring home the conviction of the accused in the case.

"Due to the deteriorating character of society, people nowadays are not ready to stand for truth. Why are you relying on the testimonies of so many witnesses? Yes, there is a threat of gangsters pressuring the witnesses, who later turn

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh was hearing a bail plea of Prashant Bhaskar Mahatre, the alleged main conspirator in the Congress corporator murder case.

hostile as unfortunately there is no witness protection programme in this country," the bench said after the state government's counsel submitted that they need to examine 75 witnesses out of the 200 they have stated in the charge-sheet.

The bench said it will fix a time-line for speedy completion of trial once the state government furnishes a list of crucial witnesses in the case.

The state government's counsel said that during the hearing of bail petition by the Bombay High Court, the prosecution has examined 14 witnesses out of which 10 have turned hostile.

The bench asked the counsel about the crim-



inal antecedents of Mahatre to which he submitted that the accused was booked in over dozen cases.

Counsel for Mahatre submitted that he was acquitted in several cases lodged against him and urged the court to grant him bail as he has been in jail since 2017.

"Don't expect a miracle from here. We just wanted your trial to be expedited. We want the society to be in peace. If

you come out of jail, a lot of people will get sleepless nights," the bench told Mahatre's counsel.

Justice Kant said that the court was not monitoring the case in technical terms but supervising it, so that trial is expedited in the case.

The Bombay High Court dismissed Mahatre's bail plea on February 7 saying, "...the confessional statements of all the accused persons do indicate that the said

prima facie case against the applicant as being the main conspirator, who motivated the other accused persons to join him, in order to launch a brutal assault on the victim, which resulted in his death. Therefore, this Court does not find any merit in the application filed by the applicant - accused No.10 and accordingly, it is dismissed."

According to the FIR, victim Manoj Mahatre, a corporator of Bhivandi from Congress party for three times at Bhivandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation, was brutally assaulted on February 14, 2017 by firearm as well as sickles and choppers, grievously injuring him at the spot of the incident.

The FIR lodged by Manoj's driver stated that after the assault, the accused persons fled the spot and some of them escaped in a Swift car, waiting outside to help them escape.

Police later arrested the victim's cousin, Prashant Bhaskar Mahatre, and seven others in the case.

PM on two-day visit to Bihar from May 29 BJP

Patna. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bihar later this month for a two-day tour during which he is scheduled to launch several projects and address a public rally, state BJP leaders said on Saturday.

The visit assumes significance with assembly elections scheduled later this year.

According to Deputy Chief Minister and former BJP state president Samrat Choudhary, the PM is scheduled to arrive here on May 29 and inaugurate the new terminal of Patna Airport.

He said the PM will lay the foundation stone for Patna-Sasaram four-lane road to provide better connectivity to the people of Shahabad region, which includes Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas and Kaimur.

Talking to reporters, Bihar BJP chief Dilip Jaiswal said, "Modi will address a public rally at BIKRAMGANJ in Rohtas district and launch a number of projects on May 30."

Modi had visited Madhubani district last month where he issued a strong message against cross-border terrorism in response to the Pahalgam attack.

Jaiswal said the new terminal at Patna Airport will feature six additional aircraft parking bays, increasing the total capacity from five to eleven.

The airport's annual passenger handling capacity is also being upgraded from 30 lakh to one crore.



New Delhi. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said that people cannot help economies of nations working against India: Dhankhar

His remarks came amid trade and tourism boycott of Turkey and Azerbaijan following their support to Pakistan in the conflict with India after Operation Sindoor.

Addressing an event here, the vice president said every individual is empowered to help the nation in security, Trade, business, commerce, and industry in particular can play a pivotal role in security issues, he observed.

"Can we afford to empower countries that are inimical to our interests? Time has come when each one of us must deeply think about economic nationalism," he said.

Dhankhar said, "We can no longer afford, by travel or import, to improve economies of those countries because of our participation. And those countries, in times of crisis, are positioned against us."

He said everything has to be reckoned on the fulcrum of unflinching commitment to nationalism.

Stablecoins: The internet's answer to financial middlemen

New Delhi. Back in the 1990s, sending an email across the world felt revolutionary. What once took days by post, or cost a fortune through long-distance calls, suddenly became instant and free. Today, we hardly think twice before hitting "send." But while communication has evolved at lightning speed, how we move money hasn't changed much.

Even after three decades of internet progress, our financial system is still tangled in slow, expensive, and outdated processes. Sending money across borders still takes days, and small businesses lose a portion of every sale to card processing fees. For millions of families who rely on remittances, up to 10% of their hard-earned money gets eaten up in transfer charges before it even reaches home.

But there is a solution as well as all these problems, and that is Stablecoins—a digital form of money designed for the internet age. Stablecoins are crypto assets that are pegged to stable assets



like the U.S. dollar or euro. They are fast, stable, and programmable, and work just like digital cash. Unlike Bitcoin or Ethereum, which are often seen as investment assets, stablecoins are built for everyday use and real-world transactions.

Stablecoins combine the best of both worlds—trust in fiat with the efficiency of blockchain. They enable instant, borderless transactions without the need for banks, card networks, or FX conversion desks. In many ways, stablecoins

represent a monetary protocol for the internet, just as HTTP enabled websites, stablecoins could underpin the next generation of online commerce and financial services.

Companies like SpaceX and ScaleAI are using stablecoins to pay contractors and manage treasury operations across borders. Payment giants like Stripe now offer stablecoin payouts, helping merchants reduce costs tied to legacy card networks.

The impact is even greater in the Global South. For the 800 million people who rely on remittances, stablecoins offer faster, cheaper transfers than services like Western Union. And for the 1.4 billion people around the world who don't have access to a bank account, stablecoins can offer a path into the financial system, accessible with just a mobile phone.

But to fully unlock this potential, clear and thoughtful regulation is essential. Governments and regulators should focus on ensuring transparency, proper licensing, and making systems interoperable, without shutting down innovation. A well-regulated stablecoin ecosystem can bridge the gap between old and new, powering everything from online shopping to emergency aid.

It is not like Stablecoins will replace traditional finance overnight, but they offer a chance to revire how money moves online, making it faster, more open, and more inclusive. Just like email changed communication, stablecoins may soon do the same for money.

RS Dy Chairman Harivansh to lead Indian delegation for Pope's inuguration



New Delhi. An official Indian delegation, led by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and comprising Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, will visit Vatican City to attend Pope Leo XIV's inauguration ceremony on May 18.

The participation of the Indian delegation in this important global ecclesiastical event reflects India's deep commitment to interfaith engagement, mutual respect among communities, and diplomatic engagement with the Holy See, officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had extended wishes to Pope Leo XIV and expressed India's commitment to continued dialogue and engagement with the Holy See to further our shared values.

He noted that Pope Leo XIV's leadership

of the Catholic Church comes at a moment of profound significance in advancing the ideals of peace, harmony, solidarity, and service.

In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "I convey sincere felicitations and best wishes from the people of India to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. His leadership of the Catholic Church comes at a moment of profound significance in advancing the ideals of peace, harmony, solidarity and service. India remains committed to continued dialogue and engagement with the Holy See to further our shared values."

Pope Leo, born Robert Prevost in Chicago, was elected on May 8, becoming the first US-born Pope. This news surprised and delighted many Catholics across the Americas.

Sibal hails Centre's diplomatic outreach

New Delhi. Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal Saturday welcomed the Centre's decision to send diplomatic outreach delegations after Operation Sindoor, and recalled how the UPA government had undertaken such an exercise after 26/11 attack to expose Pakistan as a "factory of terrorists" that benefits India even now.

His remarks came after the government announced that it will be sending seven all-party delegations to key partner countries to convey India's message of zero tolerance against terrorism following Operation Sindoor.

"I can remember that after 26/11, then prime minister Manmohan Singh decided that we



should take a step which proves to the world that Pakistan is a terrorist state and breeds terrorists. We collected the facts, did documentation, then different delegations went to different regions such as the US, Europe," he said at a press conference here. "I headed the delegation that went to the African continent. We met parliamentarians, appraised them... We created an environment which benefits us even

now. We said that Pakistan is a factory of terrorists. Even China condemned the terrorist attack," Sibal, who was a Union minister in the Manmohan Singh government, said.

He asserted that terrorist activities decreased during the Manmohan Singh regime. Sibal said that after the Pahalgam attack, he had demanded a resolution to be passed and if that had happened, "we could have told the world what is the thinking of Parliament."

"I had also demanded sending all-party delegations. I made this demand on April 25 and then repeated it two days later at a press conference. I have been stressing on this," he said.

Modi govt 'buckled under US pressure' at IMF meeting on Pak loans: Congress

New Delhi. A day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh urged the IMF to re-think its assistance to Pakistan, the Congress on Saturday alleged that the Modi government had "simply buckled under US pressure" at the IMF Executive Board meeting when the loans to that country were deliberated upon.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said Singh is now criticising the IMF for approving loans to Pakistan on May 9, 2025, "but on April 29th itself before the Modi government woke up - the Congress had said that the IMF Executive Board was meeting on May 9th to consider this issue and that India should oppose it forcefully." "As it turns out India



only abstained on May 9th. Later the Modi government's drumbeaters, cheerleaders and apologists argued that this was the only option available to India. This is a lie," Ramesh claimed. There is indeed a provision to vote No in the Executive Board, he said. Russia had voted No on a loan proposal to Ukraine in September 2016 and India herself

had voted No on September 11, 2005, on the issue of the expulsion of Zimbabwe, the Congress leader said. "Where there is a will there is a way. The Modi government simply buckled under US pressure to vote No in the IMF Executive Board meeting," Ramesh said. India on Friday pressed the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

to reconsider its USD 1 billion assistance to Pakistan, saying Islamabad could use a large part of it to fund the terrorist infrastructure.

In an address to air warriors at Gujarat's Bhuj Air Force station, Singh cautioned against providing financial support to Pakistan, saying any such assistance would be no less than terror funding.

In its board meeting in Washington on May 9, the IMF cleared a USD 1 billion tranche for Pakistan as part of its USD 7 billion funding programme for the country. "The Pakistan government has announced financial assistance to rebuild the terror infrastructure of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed located in Muzikke and Islamabad," Singh had

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two criminals linked to Gogi-Jathedi gang held in Delhi

New Delhi
Two criminals associated with the Gogi-Jathedi gang were arrested in Delhi's Narela area, police said on Saturday.

During arrest, Akshat Khatri (22) and Bijender alias Ganja (22), were found in possession of a sophisticated pistol and two live cartridges, an official said.

"Acting on specific intelligence inputs regarding the movement of suspected gang members, a team was deployed to nab them on May 16. The team intercepted a motorcycle near Suroti Van in Narela," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan said.

Two live cartridges of .32 bore were recovered from Bijender and a sophisticated pistol from Khatri, he added.

During sustained interrogation, Khatri disclosed that he was influenced by his cousin, Amit alias Commander, an associate of gangster Akshay Palada, linked to the Kala Jathedi syndicate.

The duo allegedly planned to expand the gang's local influence and recruit new members from the area, the officer added.

Bijender has five previous criminal involvements, including cases of robbery, dacoity, and attempt to murder in the outer north Delhi and Rohini area. However, Akshat has no criminal history.

A case under the Arms Act has been registered against them at Narela police station, the police said, adding that further probe is underway to identify the source of the weapon and verify the ownership of the vehicle used in the incident.

Delhi set for transformation as 48 villages go urban

New Delhi
The Delhi Master Plan 2041 will be implemented soon and 48 villages in the national capital will get urbanised, Public Works Department Minister Parvesh Verma said on Saturday.

The minister also announced that the first registry of properties falling under the Lal Dora category will be completely free of cost. The move is expected to resolve long-pending property disputes and enable people to obtain legal ownership documents without financial burden.

The minister made the remarks during a visit to Daulatpur village in southwest Delhi, said a statement by Verma's office.

"The long-awaited Master Plan 2041 is in its final stages and will be implemented very soon. Our goal is not just to create colonies, but to transparently implement them on the ground with accountability," Verma told reporters.

"Master Plan 2041 will change the face of Delhi's villages and provide the rural population with facilities at par with urban areas," he added. Under the ambitious plan, around 48 villages in Delhi will be urbanised, marking a historic shift in the capital's development strategy, the minister said.

Delhi Police recover 76 lost mobile phones via CEIR portal in month-long drive

New Delhi
Delhi Police has recovered 76 lost mobile phones in a month-long drive using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, which helps trace and block lost or stolen devices, officials said on Saturday.

The phones, either reported lost or mentioned in theft-related e-FIRs, were recovered through cyber surveillance and International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI)-based tracking, a police officer said.

"We traced 76 mobile phones in the last one month and handed them over to their rightful owners. The operation was made possible through a combination of cyber-space surveillance and IMEI tracking," Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Dev



possible through a combination of cyber-space surveillance and IMEI tracking," Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Dev

vesh Kumar Mahila said. "The recoveries were made by various police stations across the New Delhi district. The maximum number — 38 — were recovered by Kartavya Path police sta-

tion, followed by 10 recoveries by Tughlak Road, seven by Tilak Marg, four each by Chanakyapuri and South Avenue.

He said three each were recovered by Barakhamba Road, North Avenue, and Connaught Place, two by Mandir Marg, one each by Parliament Street, and the Cyber police station.

Some of the recovered phones had been reported missing as far back as three years ago, while others were lost only a week before being traced, the officer added.

The police are currently working on tracking around 300 more mobile phones and expect to return them to their owners over the next month, he said.

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Rain dust storm in Delhi gusty winds more showers likely at night

New Delhi
A dust storm followed by rain was witnessed in parts of Delhi on Saturday, with the weather department predicting gusty winds and more showers in the coming hours.

Several areas in Delhi's central, south, southwest, north zones and parts of the National Capital Region (NCR), including Noida, experienced rain, thunderstorms and dust storms.

In its latest weather notification, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, "In continuation of the previous weather alert, dust storms followed by thunderstorms with light to moderate rainfall, lightning, and gusty winds of 40-60 kmph are very likely to occur across Delhi and NCR in the coming hours."

Some parts of Delhi NCR, including Noida, also reported tree uprooting due to the storm.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature in the national capital settled at 40.8 degrees Celsius, 0.4 notch above normal.

The minimum temperature on Saturday was 24.3 degrees Celsius, 2.2 notches below normal.

The IMD has forecast a thunderstorm with rain for Sunday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle around 42 degrees Celsius and 28 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Meanwhile, Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) data, which updates daily by 4 pm, was not shared by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The AQI in the "moderate" category with a reading of 157.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

Smuggler arrested in Noida with 20 kg of Ganja, one accomplice on the Run

Amar Saini Noida

In a major crackdown on narcotics trafficking in the National Capital Region, the Noida Police have arrested a man allegedly involved in the smuggling of ganja. The accused, identified as Vishal, was apprehended by a team from Sector 63 police station with a substantial consignment of illegal drugs. According to officials, the police recovered 20 kilograms and 800 grams of ganja from his possession, estimated to be worth approximately ₹3 lakh in the illegal market.

The arrest was made following a tip-off received through local intelligence and confidential sources. Acting swiftly on the information, the police team intercepted Vishal near Metro Pillar No. 36 in Noida, where he was caught red-handed transporting the contraband. A Swift car, reportedly being used for the transportation of the narcotics, was also seized during the operation.

Central Noida Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Hirdesh Katheria confirmed the development and said that the accused was part of an inter-state drug smuggling network. "Vishal, along with his associate, used to procure ganja from the state of Odisha at a low price and smuggle it into Noida and the surrounding NCR region for sale at high-

er rates," said ADCP Katheria.

He further added that preliminary investigations suggest Vishal has been involved in this illegal trade for some time, and his criminal background is currently being verified. The police have also identified one of his associates, who is currently absconding. Raids are being conducted at multiple locations to nab the second accused and to

uncover the broader network involved in this racket. The arrest highlights the growing concern of drug trafficking in urban areas and the continued efforts of law enforcement agencies to clamp down on such illegal activities. The case has been registered under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and further investigation is underway.

"We are working on an online unified and centralised platform where victims can lodge complaints without worrying about jurisdiction. This will significantly improve response time and coordination," the officer said.

In coordination with specialised cybercrime units, Delhi Police is also preparing a detailed database of gangs involved in such frauds. The data will include their profiles, past cases, locations and methods of operation, sources said.

"By mapping these criminals and analysing their modus operandi, we can build preventive mechanisms and alert systems to stay one step ahead," the officer added.

The police also plan to issue detailed advisories highlighting common tactics used by such gangs.

Man shot dead by cousins in Faridabad over old rivalry

Sandeep Chauhan Faridabad

In a chilling act of violence rooted in a long-standing personal feud, a 25-year-old man named Suraj was brutally shot dead by his cousins in Faridabad, Haryana. The murder, which took place in the Palla police station area, has shocked the local community and raised concerns about escalating personal enmities turning deadly.

According to police officials, the assailants, identified as Rohan and Akash, fired multiple rounds—between 8 and 10—at Suraj, killing him on the spot. The entire incident was captured on CCTV, which also showed the attackers dragging Suraj's lifeless body into the middle of the road before fleeing the scene.

Suraj, originally from Uttarakhnad, was working for a property dealer in Faridabad. Police investigations have revealed that tensions

between him and the accused had been brewing since 2017, when a fight between them sowed the seeds of enmity. The conflict escalated in recent months after Suraj allegedly began posting obscene and derogatory

comments about Rohan and Akash on Facebook. These social media posts appear to have reignited the feud, culminating in the fatal shooting.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime) Aman Yadav confirmed that the accused had no licenses for the firearms used in the attack. "The rivalry was long-standing, and the social media posts added fuel to the fire. The accused fired at Suraj in a fit of rage. After committing the murder, they tried to make a statement by dragging the body into the road. We have recovered CCTV footage that clearly shows their actions," he said. The local police and crime

branch acted swiftly, managing to apprehend both Rohan and Akash within hours of the incident. Authorities are currently interrogating the duo to determine the source of the illegal weapons used in the crime.

Suraj's body has been sent for postmortem at Badshahi Khan Civil Hospital. Meanwhile, the accused are scheduled to be presented in court today. Police are seeking their custody for further questioning, especially to investigate whether others were involved in procuring the firearms or planning the murder.

The incident has caused widespread concern among local residents, many of



between him and the accused had been brewing since 2017, when a fight between them sowed the seeds of enmity. The conflict escalated in recent months after Suraj allegedly began posting obscene and derogatory

DU to roll out uniform seniority policy for teachers to streamline promotions appointments

New Delhi
Delhi University is set to implement a uniform policy to determine the seniority of college teachers, aiming to eliminate ambiguity and streamline faculty appointments and internal governance.

The proposal will be placed for final approval at the upcoming Executive Council (EC) meeting scheduled for May 23. The EC, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh, is the university's highest statutory body.

The lack of a standardised framework for determining seniority, particularly among Assistant Professors (Level



10), has led to widespread confusion in colleges, especially in promotions, when nominating senior-most faculty members for academic committees and statutory bodies.

Recognising the pressing need for reform, the university constituted a high-level committee in July 2024 to examine the issue and recommend a consistent policy. Chaired by the Dean of Colleges, the committee included principals of major DU colleges, members of the Executive and Academic

Councils, and category-wise representatives from SC, ST, and OBC communities. After holding five meetings between July 2024 and April 2025 and examining provisions under Ordinance XI, the committee submitted a detailed set of recommendations.

The proposed policy states that the departments whose appointments happened first will be treated senior to the other departments.

Within a department, if a common seniority list is not prepared by the selection committee, then seniority will be determined based on the age of the faculty mem-

Delhi Police targets digital arrest scams

New Delhi

Delhi Police is formulating a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the rising cases of digital arrest scams, officials said on Saturday.

A four-member committee has been constituted to draft guidelines, policies and regulations for the move. Headed by a Special Commissioner-rank officer, the committee includes a convener of Deputy Commissioner Police rank and two members of Joint Commissioner and Additional Commissioner rank, a senior police officer said.

The move comes amid a surge in cases where cyber-criminals, posing as police officers, government officials or courier agents, deceive victims by falsely claiming they are involved in legal offences.

The fraudsters often conduct video calls simulating legal proceedings and coerce people into transferring large sums of money under threat of arrest.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which monitors cybercrime at the central level through the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Indians lost ₹120 crore to digital arrest scams between January and April in 2024.

One of the key challenges being addressed is the difficulty victims face in identifying the appropriate police station to register their complaints.

"We are working on an online unified and centralised platform where victims can lodge complaints without worrying about jurisdiction. This will significantly improve response time and coordination," the officer said.

In coordination with specialised cybercrime units, Delhi Police is also preparing a detailed database of gangs involved in such frauds. The data will include their profiles, past cases, locations and methods of operation, sources said.

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
TENDER NOTICE No. ELG-03-M05-2025-26	Date: 15.05.2025
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N. C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following work:	
Tender No. ELG-03-M05-2025-26	Approx. Cost of the work Rs. 5268556.74
Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrification work in connection with Development of Bichpura Station with upgradation of facilities in Agra Division. Completion period: 08 months	
For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.irps.gov.in up to 15:30 hrs. on date 09.05.2025. 84923 (ADM)	
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Sr. DEE/TRD/Agra for & on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (e-Tendering) for the following work:	
Tender No.: ASCTD7022508	Period of completion: Twelve months
Approximate Cost: ₹ 1,99,73,664.78/-	Earnest Money: ₹ 2,49,900/-
Name of work: Modification in GHE due to Provision of Passengers Escalator & FOB over Agra Division	
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www.nctrailways.gov.in www.ncri.indianrailways.gov.in	

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY				
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Date: 15.05.2025				
On behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi, invites the E-procurement tender for following items:				
S.N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Tender opening date
1	92255882	Secondary Lashing Chain	8906 Nos.	05.06.2025
2	92255889	Scotch Block (Stopper)	8696 Nos.	09.06.2025
3	92255898	Track Guide (Guide) for BWT/BWTA Wagon	2475 Nos.	12.06.2025

Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement is available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.irps.gov.in>. Please visit this website regularly for any change/contingendum in the tender. No separate correspondence will be published in the newspaper. 84125 (ADM)

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By Dr Satyavan Saurabh

Opposition to dowry, but why the desire for a wealthy person?

■ "Those looking for a wealthy groom, question yourselves too!"

Dowry system is a social curse in India which is still deeply rooted. Taking dowry is not only a crime but it is an insult to the honor of a woman who is given a high status in the society as a daughter, wife and daughter-in-law. But, this practice is not limited to the greed of men only, but many times the thinking of the family and society itself is also involved in promoting it.

Speaking against dowry is one thing and finding a rich groom for your daughters is another. This contradiction exposes the deep guilt in our mentality. On the one hand, we protest against dowry, write posts, raise slogans, and on the other hand, when it comes to marrying our daughters, we start looking for a boy from a rich family and with a hefty salary. This double thinking is a social disease that is taking us away from our values.

This mindset is not limited to dowry. It is a pervasive part of our thinking that is visible in every aspect of society. For example, when we look for a boy for a girl, we value his financial status more than his education, ideology, and character. This mindset not only objectifies girls but also puts economic pressure on boys to focus more on their career and earnings to become an 'ideal groom'.



The biggest example of this thinking is seen when matrimonial advertisements demand a boy from a 'good family', 'government job', and 'a well-earning boy'. This is not just a demand for economic security, but is indicative of a deep mindset that believes that money is the most important element to keep a girl happy. This not only turns marriage into a business, but also weakens the foundation of a true relationship.

In such a situation, the question arises whether we are really so insecure that we need only financial stability for the happiness of our daughters? Are we still late in understanding that the worth of a good person should be judged by his character, thoughts and behavior, and not by the

depth of his pocket?

It is important to get out of this mindset. This is possible only when we teach our sons that their value lies in their character, not in their salary. We have to teach our daughters that their value lies in their own identity, not in being associated with someone's name.

This requires a collective effort. We have to end this double standard in our society and create a generation that understands the meaning of equality and respect in the true sense.

The tradition of dowry has such a deep impact in our society that people consider it a symbol of respect. Sometimes it is considered a matter of pride and prestige,

and those who do not follow it are considered inferior in the society. This thinking not only weakens the daughters but the entire society. It drowns families in debt, creates cracks in relationships and shakes the foundation of the society.

The fight against dowry will be successful only when we eradicate this problem not only from law but also from our mindset. We have to create a society where education, self-reliance and independence of girls are given top priority.

Apart from this, we have to teach our sons to choose their life partner only on the basis of their qualification, character and ideology and not on the basis of their family's financial condition.

This change is possible not only by the thinking of one person but by changing the thinking of the entire society.

The time has come to eradicate this evil of dowry and lay the foundation of a society where marriage is an equal and respectable bond, not a means of economic bargaining. We must understand that marriage is a sacred relationship, not a business.

Just making laws is not enough. We have to change our thoughts, traditions and thinking. We have to ensure that daughters and sons are given equal importance in our homes. We have to teach our sons to respect their spouses, treat them as equal partners, not as an object.

True change must begin in our homes. Only when we teach our sons to associate with someone based only on their character and ideology, can the evil of dowry be eradicated from society. We must remember that daughters are not a burden for anyone, but a blessing.

About the Author

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

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.

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

Ever wonder how much someone misses you? Ever wonder how much someone thinks of you? Ever wonder how much someone wants you? The common answer for the different questions is- how much they need you. Every time they find someone similar to you they will think you, every time they find someone just opposite of you they will miss you, every time they find someone who reminds you they will remember you. Even if someone seems to have replaced you, even if someone seems to have made them forget you, even if someone seems to have them change - your giving will remain with them. The intensity of your impression will go fading, they memories of the moments will go blurring, but no matter how much your form of giving deforms it will always have its existence, remember or forgotten, kept or forsaken but it will always have its space reserved on its own layer.

Just because someone misses you that doesn't mean they want you and just because someone wants you that means they will miss you. Sometimes people miss you because they don't seem to find someone to fill that gap, and sometimes people want you because they just want someone to fill that gap. Love is not defined by how much someone misses someone, it is defined by how you love them while you have them. You don't win by making someone miss you, you win by making someone thank you.

Missing doesn't define you as the source of love but the source of pain. When someone misses you like anything you hurt them like anything. Making someone miss is sin in disguise, act of unkind and process of emotional grind.

Moral: Missing someone has virtual love and real pain.



If you have got free time from spitting on the faces of those who take dowry Spit on the faces of those who are looking for a single rich boy. This double thinking is the real face of our society, where opposition to dowry is limited to speeches only, but a big bank balance and a government job become the criteria for the marriage of daughters. If change is really needed, then this double thinking will also have to be eradicated. Marriage is a bond of relationships, not a game of bargaining. Stop just pretending, change your thinking. We need real change, not just slogans.

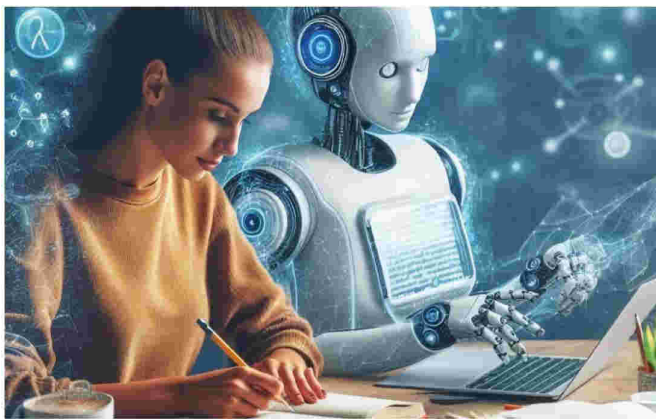


By Vijay Garg

Changing Reading and Teaching Modalities from Artificial intelligence technology

AI is touching every aspect of our life including the field of education. This technique changed not only teaching, but also evaluation methods. There is a big change at the same time providing personalised content keeping student's learning speed, interest, and level in mind. AI is associating with skills apart from making education interactive.

Dr. Manu Middha is one of the greatest technological achievements of the twenty-first century so far Artificial Intelligence i.e. AI. A technology that provides the ability to think, understand and decide machines. AI is touching every aspect of our lives, which is now only not limited to robotics or industrial sector but also using it in the field of education. AI has not only changed the way of teaching, but also revolutionized the perspective of learning, evaluating and understanding the personal needs of pupils. Actually every student has different learning ability, speed and interest. In the traditional education system all the students were taught in a similar manner, leaving many students behind. While AI based learning tools like Adaptive Learning Systems now take into account student's learning speed, interest, and vulnerabilities provide them with friendly content. For instance, platforms like Byjus, Khan Academy and Coursera suggest topics to students according to their level with the help of AI and provide personalized content to explain better. This gives students a chance to learn at their own pace, increasing their under-



standing and confidence. AI based smart tutors and chatbots provide 24x7 support to students. Now students don't have to wait for the teacher for every small doubt. These virtual assistants immediately answer questions, whether it is a complex formula of mathematics or a significant date of history. AI has not only changed the way of teaching, but also revolutionized the perspective of learning, evaluating and understanding the personal needs of pupils. Actually every student has different learning ability, speed and interest. In the traditional education system all the students were taught in a similar manner, leaving many students behind. While AI based learning tools like Adaptive Learning Systems now take into account student's learning speed, interest, and vulnerabilities provide them with friendly content. For instance, platforms like Byjus, Khan Academy and Coursera suggest topics to students according to their level with the help of AI and provide personalized content to explain better. This gives students a chance to learn at their own pace, increasing their under-

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About the Author

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

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CM Yogi calls for setting up of AYUSH colleges in every division of UP

■ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed that integrated AYUSH colleges be established in every division of the state, with all AYUSH systems—Ayurveda, Unani, and Homeopathy—available in a single campus.

LUCKNOW
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed that integrated AYUSH colleges be established in every division of the state, with all AYUSH systems—Ayurveda, Unani, and Homeopathy—available in a single campus.

He emphasized that this initiative would not only strengthen the AYUSH medical system but also contribute to the development of the future health-based education system.

In a high-level review meeting of the AYUSH department here on Saturday, while highlighting the government's commitment to expanding access to AYUSH services, the Chief Minister stated that efforts are being carried out in mission mode to bring traditional healthcare systems across the state to mass.

He instructed that the establishment of Naturopathy and Yoga Centres in all AYUSH institutions be made mandatory, and called for the timely completion of the



recruitment process to fill 100% of approved academic and medical posts.

The Chief Minister also said, "Health and Wellness Centres should be established in every district of the state, and may be operated either through government initiatives or in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode." He emphasized that the

construction of the AYUSH University must be completed on time without compromising quality, and directed that all ongoing departmental projects across the state be fast-tracked for early completion.

Encouraging private sector participation, the Chief Minister urged investors to explore opportunities in the

AYUSH domain. He also directed that AYUSH colleges and hospitals operated by private institutions must meet stringent quality benchmarks in infrastructure, laboratories, libraries, faculty, and staff to ensure high standards of education and healthcare delivery.

The Chief Minister said, "Special methods like

Panchkarma in Ayurveda are very effective in the treatment of serious diseases, so these methods should be promoted in all AYUSH institutions of the state. In view of the popularity of AYUSH medicine, this is the time when India's traditional medicine should be presented scientifically and established on the global platform."

The Chief Minister directed that preparations for the successful organization of International Yoga Day begin immediately. He emphasized that Yoga Day programs should be held across all divisions, districts, municipal bodies, gram panchayats, and government departments throughout the state. "To ensure the success of this initiative, trained master trainers must be available in every district to teach yoga to the general public," he said.

The Chief Minister further suggested signing memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with leading Ayurvedic manufacturing institutions such as Dabur, Baidyanath, and Patanjali

to ensure a steady supply of essential medicines to all AYUSH hospitals, so that no patient faces shortages of medical treatment.

During the meeting, officials from the AYUSH department informed the Chief Minister that the state currently has 2,127 Ayurvedic, 259 Unani, and 1,598 Homeopathic medical institutions, all of which play a vital role in delivering AYUSH services to the public.

The Chief Minister instructed that continuous monitoring of these institutions should be carried out to enhance their effectiveness, and that resources should be allocated based on their requirements.

He said, "AYUSH is not only a symbol of India's rich medical tradition, but it also represents a holistic approach to health." He stressed that all efforts should be united, planned, and executed in a timely manner to position Uttar Pradesh as a national and global leader in the field of AYUSH.

UP govt launches India's first Vistadome jungle safari train



LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a first-of-its-kind Vistadome coach service connecting the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary to the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in a bid to promote tourism, according to a statement.

This initiative marks Uttar Pradesh as the first state in the country to offer a jungle safari experience via a Vistadome train.

The new tourist train offers breathtaking panoramic views of the forest landscape, thanks to specially designed coaches equipped with large glass windows and transparent roofs, the statement said.

The initiative aims to offer travellers a thrilling wildlife experience while showcasing the natural beauty of the state, it said.

Currently, the service operates on weekends but plans are underway to expand it to daily operations, making it accessible to more visitors.

This initiative also provides a new dimension to nature-based tourism and is expected to generate local employment opportunities and boost the region's economy.

Tourism Director Prakash Mishra said, "Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is working hard to make the state's forest areas famous nationally and internationally as 'One Destination Three Forests.'"

"As part of this initiative, Dudhwa National Park, Katarniaghat, and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuaries have been integrated to provide tourists with an accessible and exciting experience through the operation of the Vistadome coach," Mishra said.

He explained that the Uttar Pradesh Eco Tourism Development Board has launched this service to offer tourists a unique nature trail and jungle safari experience throughout the year. Through the Vistadome

coach, tourists can travel 107 kilometres inside the forest and closely experience natural scenery, biodiversity and wildlife.

The journey lasts approximately 4 hours and 25 minutes with tickets priced at Rs 275 per tourist for the route.

Mishra said that the board is preparing a package to transport tourists from Lucknow to Katarniaghat. The government is considering providing subsidies on this package to make it more accessible to visitors.

Sharing details about the Bichia to Mailani Tourist Passenger Train (train number 52259), which offers a 107-kilometer journey filled with rich biodiversity, he said that the train departs from Bichia station in Bahraich at 11:45 am and passes through several stations before reaching Mailani station in Lakhimpur Kheri at 4:10 pm. The return service, Mailani to Bichia Tourist Passenger Train (train number 52260), leaves Mailani at 6:05 am and arrives at Bichia by 10:30 am.

The train stops at nine stations: Bichia, Manjehra Purah, Khairata Bandh Road, Tikunia, Belerayan, Dudhwa, Palia Kalan, Bihra Kheri and finally Mailani.

The Vistadome coach service will not only pass through forests and wildlife sanctuaries but also offer tourists close views of natural landscapes such as wetlands, grasslands, farmlands, and woodlands. This service is expected to attract visitors even during the monsoon season.

Currently, special curated tours are being organised weekly under the Youth Tourism Club for government school children. Additionally, fame tours for social media influencers and travel bloggers would also be arranged to promote the Vistadome coach experience digitally, the statement added.

Leopard enters classrooms calm turns to chaos

Rajan Panchhi

MANDI

A routine school day turned into a scene of panic and fear when a leopard strayed into the premises of Government Primary School Gajincha, located in the Rewalgarh Education Block of Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh, on Friday morning. The shocking incident unfolded around 10:30 a.m. while classes were in session, sending waves of anxiety not only among the students and teachers but also throughout the nearby villages.



cer (BPEO) had been informed about the incident. He also said that a team from the forest department had visited the school to assess the situation. It was noted that the presence of thick bushes and forested terrain close to the school makes it easier for wild animals to wander into human habitats.

The forest department has assured the school authorities and local residents that efforts are being made to track the leopard and relocate it to a safer location away from populated areas. Bhim Singh further stated that concrete steps would be taken in consultation with the forest department to enhance the security measures at the school. He added that special arrangements would be made to prevent such incidents in the future, including regular patrolling and possible clearance of dense vegetation around the school.

Meanwhile, the incident has triggered widespread fear among the villagers of the Natedn Panchayat, under which the school falls. Locals are now wary of stepping out, especially during early morning and late evening hours. Many are urging the forest department to closely monitor the movement of wild animals in the area and take proactive measures to prevent further threats to human safety.

The unexpected intrusion of a leopard into a school where young children are being educated has served as a grim reminder of the fragile boundary between wildlife and human settlements in hill districts like Mandi. It underscores the urgent need for coordinated efforts between the education department, local authorities, and the forest department to ensure that such a frightening incident is never repeated.

Previous govts drowned Punjab in darkness: Kejriwal over drug menace

Komal Ramola

Hoshiarpur (Punjab)

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday accused previous governments of drowning Punjab in darkness by allowing the drug menace to flourish in the state, and said his party government is undertaking a war against drugs. Kejriwal was addressing a gathering at Jalalpur here as part of the state government's ongoing 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' campaign.

"Drugs (menace) did not come in 5-10 days. Previous governments drowned Punjab in such a darkness that it seemed that no hope was left," he said.

"But I am happy that the 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' campaign has been rolled out...action is being taken against drug smugglers, their premises are being demolished, they are being arrested," said the former Delhi chief minister.

De-addiction centres are being opened, he fur-



ther said.

Kejriwal also said people are taking responsibility to keep their villages and areas drug-free. Each village will have to take responsibility in this regard, he said, assuring them all help from the state government.

Kejriwal highlighted that over 13,000 villages in Punjab are now being equipped with sports grounds to keep youth engaged and away from drugs.

"Every village will have facilities for games like

volleyball and football, along with gyms. Five sets of sports equipment are being distributed in each village," he added.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, addressing the gathering, also slammed the past governments over the drug menace.

Mann commended the people of Jalalpur village for their initiative in reclaiming their youth from addiction.

"Those who've recovered and are now helping others are the best coaches

Devbhoomi becoming haven for criminals due to govt failure: Thakur

Rajan Panchhi

Mandi

The deteriorating law and order situation in Himachal Pradesh has drawn sharp criticism from former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, who has accused the Sukhu-led government of failing to curb rising crime, especially incidents involving criminals from outside the state. Thakur expressed grave concern over what he described as a complete breakdown of law enforcement, warning that even rural areas of the state are now under threat from organized criminal elements.

Thakur stated that dreaded criminals are now entering the heart of the state after conducting recesses in various areas. "It is no longer just the border districts like Una, Bilaspur, Nurpur, Baddi-Nalagarh, and Simaaur that are under threat. Incidents are now being reported regularly from Kullu-Manali, Mandi-Sundemagar, Kangra, and

Hamirpur. Criminals from outside states are committing heinous crimes like robbery and armed dacoity and then fleeing across state borders with impunity," he said.

The senior BJP leader criticized the state police for failing to control the rising crime graph, adding that the chief minister appears to be more focused on his weekly visits to Delhi than on maintaining internal security. Thakur noted that there is growing insecurity and distrust among the people, especially traders, who despite installing CCTV cameras and relying on police control rooms, are still falling victim to criminal activities.

He revealed that numerous local business owners have approached him with their concerns, expressing frustration over the government's inaction. "Even in a peaceful city like Mandi, the number of suspicious outsiders is increasing.

Brave soldiers made Operation Sindoor a symbol of national pride: CM Saini

Komal Ramola

Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini hailed the courage, loyalty and discipline displayed by Indian soldiers during Operation Sindoor, calling it a shining example of national pride and dignity.

Addressing a large gathering at the Tiranga Yatra held in Bahuvli village of Ludhiana constituency, the Chief Minister said the operation showcased India's strength and resolve in the face of terrorism. Youth, women, and elderly citizens participated in the yatra with enthusiasm, expressing solidarity with the armed forces and honouring those martyred in the operation.

"Today is not just an event; it is a tribute to the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice. We are here to salute those brave sons who brought Pakistan to its knees in just four days during Operation Sindoor," Saini declared. He extended his salute not only to the soldiers but also to the mothers who gave birth to such



courageous warriors.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced a grant of Rs 21 lakh to the Gram Panchayat of Bahuvli village for local development works.

He called upon the people to take a pledge through the Tiranga Yatra to stand united against terrorism and uphold the nation's honour.

Highlighting the contribution of Haryana's youth to the armed forces, Saini noted that lakhs of soldiers from the state are ever-ready to serve the nation. "The bravery of our villages is an inspiration to the entire country.

Operation Sindoor a symbol of national pride: CM Saini

Through this yatra, the message of patriotism and unity has reached every corner of Haryana," he said.

The Chief Minister praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive leadership, stating that the entire world had witnessed India's firm stance on national security. "Our forces destroyed terrorist bases during Operation Sindoor and gave Pakistan a clear message that any attack on India's sovereignty will have severe consequences," he said.

According to Saini, the Indian Army destroyed nine

terrorist hideouts and 11 airbases in Pakistan during the operation. In addition to military action, India undertook non-military measures such as suspending the Indus Water Treaty, halting visas and trade, sending back Pakistani citizens, sealing the Attari borders and diplomatically isolating Pakistan.

"This was not just a war—it was the revenge of a New India," the Chief Minister asserted. He explained that the operation was named Sindoor after terrorists attacked Pahalgam and destroyed the sindoor—a symbol of marital dignity—of Indian women. "The terrorists spared the women and asked them to convey a message to Modi. Today, Prime Minister Modi has shown them what happens to those who dare to attack India's identity," he said.

The Chief Minister concluded by emphasizing that Operation Sindoor will remain a powerful reminder of India's strength, unity, and unwavering spirit in the face of adversity.

Delhi GM Open to take place from June 7 with record prize pool of 1.21 crores

New Delhi:

With a record prize pool of Rs 1.21 crore, the Delhi International Open Grandmasters chess tournament will be the largest classical-format chess tournament in Asia by participation. This year, the Delhi GM Open will host over 2,500 players from over 15 countries, including 20 Grandmasters, competing across three rating-based categories. The prize pool marks a 168 per cent increase from last year's edition.

Category A carries a Rs 51 lakh prize pool and is open to internationally rated players. Categories B and C, for players rated below 1900 and 1700, respectively, will offer Rs35 lakh each. All matches will follow FIDE rules and the FIDE Swiss System format, with 10 rounds in every session.

Speaking on the occasion, Delhi Chess Association president Bharat Singh Chauhan said as quoted by the Delhi Chess Association press release, "Over the past two decades, the Delhi GM Open hasn't just kept pace with the rise of chess in India, but has helped drive it. We've seen the sport move from the margins to the mainstream, and this tournament reflects that shift in every sense, from the scale of participation to the depth of competition and the infrastructure supporting it. With every edition, we're strengthening the foundations for a sustainable, high-performance chess culture in the country."

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Litton Das offers a glimpse into Bangladesh's approach in T20Is moving forward

New Delhi: A new era is on the horizon for Bangladesh as they lay the groundwork for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which began with the appointment of Litton Das as T20i captain, according to an official statement from the ICC.

Bangladesh will initially participate in two T20is against the UAE in Sharjah on May 17 and 19. Following that, they will depart for Pakistan to engage in a five-match T20i series that starts on May 25. The series will wrap up on June 3.

On May 4, wicket-keeper-batter Litton Das was officially named as Bangladesh's T20i captain, while offspinner Mahmud Hasan has been appointed as his vice-captain for the seven-away T20is against UAE and Pakistan in May-June 2025.

Litton takes over from Najmul Hossain Shanto in the position after the 26-year-old stepped down as Bangladesh's T20i captain earlier this year.

Ahead of his first assignment, the 30-year-old laid out a clear and



Litton takes over from Najmul Hossain Shanto in the position after the 26-year-old stepped down as Bangladesh's T20i captain earlier this year.

pragmatic vision for the team, focused not on a rigid style but on adapting to match situations.

"I am not going to talk about a particular brand of cricket. We need to chase 180-200 in some games, and 140-145 in other games. The ultimate goal is to win the game," Litton Das said as quoted by ICC.

The new skipper of the Tigers emphasised flexibility and match awareness, stressing the fact

that a batter's role could change on a game-to-game basis.

"A batter might need to score 40 of 20 balls in one game, and 15 off 20 in the next game. I want every player to be involved in the game."

"What the team needs from me is what the players must understand. It is more important for the player to know how to win a game, rather than stick to a brand of cricket."

"For the Bangladesh team to go ahead, the players have to perform. They have to play their specific roles. I have to communicate well with the players. The more time I get, the more I'll get involved in team matters."

Litton has the full backing as he leads Bangladesh into a new era of T20i cricket. Ahead of the team's departure to the UAE, assistant coach Moham-

DC ready to go all out against Gujarat Titans as IPL 2025 resumes

New Delhi:

With the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 resuming after a brief hiatus, the Delhi Capitals (DC) are set to take on the Gujarat Titans (GT) at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday.

Speaking on the eve of their first match after the IPL resumption, Delhi Capitals' all-rounder Vipraj Nigam said, as quoted by the DC press release, "We are taking it as a fresh start. Our focus is on how we began our campaign from the first game, and we will try to continue that momentum."

"We have a few replacements. It is tough to replace Mitchell Starc, but we have regrouped as a team. We don't want to dwell on the absence of players who are not here, but we will try to give our best with the players available," he added.

Speaking about his equation with Kuldeep Yadav, Vipraj said, "The good thing is that we are from the same state, and I've played a good number of matches with him. The IPL is a new experience for me, he has been playing for a long time



and sees me both as a player and as a younger brother."

"The state league gives a similar kind of experience. It's the same process and pressure. I've been playing in the state league for the past two seasons, and I had a very good experience. It is helping me now in the IPL, the state league plays a very important role," he added.

Delhi Capitals will take on Gujarat Titans in their 12th match of IPL 2025 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday.

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India to face Bangladesh in SAFF U19 final, aim for record 10th title in Arunachal showdown

Yupia:

Aiming to win their record-extending 10th SAFF age-group men's tournament, India will take on Bangladesh in the SAFF U19 Championship 2025 final on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the Golden Jubilee Stadium, at 19:00 IST.

India has won the U15, U16, and U17 tournaments twice each, and the U18, U19 and U20 once each. Head coach Bibiano Fernandes has won three of them and is looking for his fourth on Sunday. Bangladesh is a familiar opponent for the Blue Colts. The two nations have met in four SAFF men's age-group finals, and India has won all four, including last year's SAFF U17 final by 2-0, with goals from Md Arbab and Mohammed Kaif, both of whom are part of the current U19 squad.

India has showcased utter dominance in front of a roaring Arunachal Pradesh crowd so far, winning 8-0 and 4-0 against Sri Lanka and Nepal, respectively, in the group stage, and 3-0 against the Maldives in the semi-final on Friday.

Fernandes and cap-



tain Singamayum Shami had plenty of praise for the local crowd who have come in increasing numbers in every India match, especially during the semi-final under pouring rain.

"Yesterday, we saw so many fans under such heavy rain, and nobody moved out of the stands. They were still there supporting till the end of the game, and that was amazing. I would like to call the fans to come back tomorrow as well. We will give our best on the pitch and make sure that we don't leave anything behind. I promise that it will be a good

Real Madrid sign Bournemouth defender Dean Huijsen for 50 million



Madrid: Real Madrid and AFC Bournemouth have reached an agreement for the transfer of defender Dean Huijsen on a five-year deal.

Real Madrid on Saturday released a statement to confirm the arrival of the 20-year-old Spaniard on a five-year contract, which read, "Real Madrid C. F. and AFC Bournemouth have reached an agreement for the transfer of Dean Huijsen, who will be linked to our club for the next five seasons, from 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2030."

Bournemouth confirmed that Real Madrid activated the 50 million release clause to sign the youngster. According to reports, Premier League top clubs Newcastle, Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal were keen to acquire the services of the young defender, who

grabbed the headlines in his breakout campaign. However, Huijsen decided to return to Spain, where he grew up playing for Malaga's youth team. Huijsen is already a Spanish international and has played in Italy's Serie A with Juventus and Roma, apart from playing for Bournemouth in the Premier League. He has been nominated for the Premier League Young Player of the Year 2024-2025.

The 20-year-old's ability to read the game made him one of the hottest prospects for the top clubs. His impressive defensive ability to read the game and intercept is reflected in his numbers. In the ongoing Premier League season, in 200 interception attempts, Huijsen boasts an 80.5 per cent success rate, more than Liverpool's ace Virgil van Dijk.

Labuschagne search for lost mojo continues, goes out for duck before WTC final

London:

Marnus Labuschagne got off the wrong foot while trying to pursue his blueprint to find the rich vein of form in the County Championship before Australia's title defence in next month's World Test Championship final against South Africa at Lord's.

The former world number one Test batter turned his focus to get some time on the crease before the blockbuster fixture against the Proteas, scheduled to take place from June 11. He joined County side Glamorgan for their two fixtures, looking to get a hang of the English conditions a bit early before Australia turns up to defend the prized WTC mace.



out at the crease at 46/1 for Glamorgan against Northamptonshire at Sophia Gardens on Saturday, looking to find his groove; however, his plans were immediately scuppered by South Australia quick Harry Conway.

The 30-year-old lasted just seven deliveries and eight minutes before Northamptonshire's Conway lured out a thick outside edge straight to Justin Broad, forcing the experienced batter to return for a duck.

Labuschagne's prized wicket pulled out a big celebration from the jubilant Conway, enacting the umpire's signal to confirm the dismissal. While one Australian relished the moment, the other looked back on his

spoiled first hit-out after a recent paternity break.

The 32-year-old seamer's display has enchanted the Northamptonshire coach and former Australia star Darren Lehmann. He famously introduced Conway before his debut as "a mad badger, and people are going to love him!"

Considering the form he has exuded, Marnus would now look to make the most of his second turn against Northamptonshire. With just 232 runs from five Tests at 25.78 in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India, Labuschagne's mediocre run for the Baggy Greens raised concerns about his position in the team.

Harith Noah Returns to the Rally Raid Action at W2RC's South African Safari Rally

Sun City:

Indian rally-raid sensation Harith Noah is set to make his return to competitive racing in the Rally 2 category at the newly introduced South African Safari Rally, scheduled to start from May 18 to 24, 2025, according to a release from W2RC.

The rally marks Round 3 of the FIA FIM World Rally-Raid Championship (W2RC) 2025, and Harith's first competitive return to W2RC after an injury-led exit at the Dakar Rally earlier this January.

Noah, part of the SHERCO TVS RALLY FACTORY, returns after an early exit from Dakar 2025, where a crash during Prologue left him with a fractured wrist and forced him to withdraw early. Despite the setback,



Noah completed the stage before scans confirmed the injury that required immediate surgery.

Now, just four months later, he's looking forward to tackling the unforgiving South African landscape and getting back in the mix for his 2025 campaign, with future rounds and a longer-term goal of mounting a strong challenge for Dakar 2026.

"After Dakar, I needed time to recover

from the injury, but everything went well and I'm back to full fitness now. This is my first race since the crash, so there are definitely some nerves, which is normal. But the South African Safari Rally is a new challenge for everyone; the route is unfamiliar territory across the board. The key is to stay calm, get used to the bike again, and take it one kilometre at a time," said Harith Noah.

Bangladesh installs floating border outpost in Sundarbans

Dhaka: Bangladesh on Saturday set up a floating border outpost in the Sundarban area in southwestern frontier with India to carry out patrol and enforce surveillance through waterways.

The floating border outpost (BOP) was set up by the paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at the confluence of Roymongol river and Boyesing canal under Shyamnagar upazila or sub-district of Satkhira, about 300 kms southwest of Dhaka. Home affairs adviser of the interim government (Retd) Lt Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury opened the installation with officials saying this was BGB's third such floating BOP to carry out patrol and enforce surveillance through waterways operated by a riverine unit of the border guards.

"Maintaining security and patrols in the vast wetland and riverine border areas is challenging. This floating BOP will help BGB ensure immediate and effective responses to prevent smuggling, human trafficking, forest resource looting, and other border crimes," Chowdhury said at the ceremony. The floating BOP was built at the Narayananj dockyard. Chowdhury said Bangladesh and India have a total border of 4,156 kms, which includes about 180 kms of riverine boundary, and 79 kms is in the Sundarbans.

Iran says it will continue nuclear talks with US shrugging off Trump's threats

Tehran: Iran's president said his country will continue talks with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear programme but will not withdraw from its rights because of US threats.

"We are negotiating, and we will negotiate, we are not after war but we do not fear any threat," President Masoud Pezeshkian said during a speech to navy officials broadcast by state television Saturday.

"It is not like that they think if they threaten us, we will give up our human right and definite right," Pezeshkian said. "We will not withdraw, we will not easily lose honourable military, scientific, nuclear in all fields."

The negotiations have reached the "expert" level, meaning the sides are trying to reach agreement on the details of a possible deal. But a major sticking point remains Iran's enrichment of uranium, which Tehran insists it must be allowed to do and the Trump administration increasingly insists the Islamic Republic must give up.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's programme if a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.



Iran's president said his country will continue talks with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear programme but will not withdraw from its rights because of US threats.

Earlier on Friday, Trump said Iran received a proposal during the talks, though he did not elaborate. During his trip to the region this week, Trump at nearly every event insisted Iran could not be allowed to obtain a nuclear bomb, something US intelligence agencies assess Tehran is not actively pursuing, though its programme is on the cusp of being able to weaponise nuclear material.

Mohammad Eslami, the head of Iran's atomic organisation, stressed the peaceful nature of the programme, saying it is under "continuous" monitoring by the UN nuclear watchdog, state TV reported Saturday. "No country is monitored by the agency like us," Eslami said, adding that the agency inspected the country's nuclear facilities more than 450 times in 2024. "Something about 25% of all the agency inspections" in the year.

Meanwhile, Israel routinely has threatened to strike Iran's nuclear facilities if it feels threatened, further complicating tensions in the Mideast already spiked by the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

3 Iranian men face spying charges in London court

London: Three Iranian men faced spying charges in a London court Saturday following an investigation by counterterror detectives.

Mostafa Sepahvand, 39, Farhad Javadi Manesh, 44, and Shapour Qalabali Khani Noori, 55, were charged with engaging in conduct likely to assist Iran's foreign intelligence service between August 14, 2024 and February 16, 2025.

All three men were living in London after entering the UK through unauthorised means between 2016 and 2022. They have been in custody since their arrests on May 3.

Sepahvand was also charged with engaging in "surveillance, reconnaissance and open-source research," intending to commit serious violence against a person in the United Kingdom.

The others are charged with engaging in surveillance and reconnaissance with the intention serious violence would be committed by others.

The three did not enter pleas during a brief hearing in Westminster Magistrates' Court. They confirmed their identities through a Farsi interpreter.

Police did not identify their intended target. They were held in custody awaiting a hearing June 6 at the Central Criminal Court.

Britain's domestic intelligence service has warned of a growing threat from attackers linked to Tehran.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said the government plans to publish a review next week of how to apply the UK's counterterrorism approach to state threats.

"Iran must be held to account for its actions," Cooper said. "We must also strengthen our powers to protect our national security as we will not tolerate a growing state threat on our soil."

Commander Dominic Murphy of the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command called the charges "extremely serious."

UK Foreign Secretary says ceasefire between Pak India must be 'sustained'

Islamabad: UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, who is on a two-day visit here, said on Saturday that the ceasefire between Pakistan and India must be "sustained".

Lammy's visit, the first by a British Foreign Secretary to Pakistan since 2021, follows India's Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attacks that claimed



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account at the conclusion of his trip during which he held talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

"My message has been clear with India, Pakistan and international partners. The ceasefire must be sustained, further conflict is in nobody's interest," Lammy said in the video.

"And I am proud of the work that foreign

office staff in both countries and back in the UK have done to ensure that British nationals in this part of the world have access to up-to-date, accurate advice and information to help keep them safe," he said.

According to the statement, Lammy's visit to Pakistan followed the "hugely welcome ceasefire in reality".

"Because of the deep links between our

countries, the UK is determined to play our part with India, Pakistan and international partners to help counter terrorism and ensure this peace lasts," it read.

Lammy's visit comes days after he told the House of Commons that the UK "stands ready to work with both sides to make a lasting ceasefire a reality".

The UK was one of the countries that reportedly played a role in brokering the ceasefire understanding between Pakistan and India on May 10.

The UK has condemned the "horrendous" attack on April 22, with Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) officials saying that Friday's ministerial visit is intended to assert the importance of continued stability for the region.

BUSINESS

RITES Revenue Growth: Exports & Diversified QA

New Delhi: Proactive efforts to secure export orders for rolling stock and diversify the client base have helped improve our revenue outlook for the coming years, RITES Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Rahul Mithal said.

A Navratna public sector undertaking and leading transport and engineering consultancy company, RITES this week reported a 4.3 per cent decline in its consolidated operating revenue in the March quarter to Rs 615 crore compared to Rs 643 crore in the year-ago quarter. Net profit rose by 3.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 141 crore in the quarter.

Mithal told PTI that the company's rolling stock export business was impacted due to a lack of fresh orders from many of its erstwhile African and South Asian clients during the pandemic and post-pandemic periods.

He added that the Quality Assurance seg-

ment also faced challenges as Indian Railways fixed four entities, for the first time, for the Quality Assurance work through an open tendering process, impacting both the volume and margins substantially.

However, according to him, the export outlook improved after nearly three years when we secured an export order from Mozambique for the supply of 10 locomotives - the first such order won through global competitive bidding - driven by sustained and focused outreach to prospective countries.

"The aggressive outreach has also helped us in securing one export order in each quarter during FY25. As on March 31, 2025, RITES' export order book stands at Rs 1,360 crore. As an export order takes at least 15-24 months to materialise (from receipt of the order to conversion in revenue), you will see the impact on revenue from FY26," Mithal said.

He also said new services are being introduced in the postal system, adding that India Post is one of the largest logistics and distribution networks in the world having 1.64 lakh (164,000) post offices

India to Lead 6G Tech Regulations: Scindia

Gwalior: A telecommunication revolution is rapidly unfolding across the globe and India is at the forefront of this movement under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday.

The Union minister of communications also asserted that in the days to come India will play a leading role in tailoring rules for 6G technology.

"The rollout of 5G technology has taken place, and in just 22 months, the information revolution has reached 82 per cent of the population of 99 percent districts in the country. India will take the lead in shaping the upcoming 6G technology regulations," Scindia asserted.

He also said new services are being introduced in the postal system, adding that India Post is one of the largest logistics and distribution networks in the world having 1.64 lakh (164,000) post offices



and 2.5 lakh (250,000) postal workers.

"In 2008, I designed the logo for the Department of Posts, with the slogan 'Postal Service is Public Service.' Every postal worker operates

with this spirit. India will continue to lead the telecom revolution," said Scindia, who was Union minister of state for communications in the first term of the Manmohan Singh-led

UPA government. May 17 is observed as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day with the aim of raising global awareness of social changes brought about

by the internet and new technologies and reducing the digital divide. Endorsing the boycott of Turkey and Azerbaijan by citizens after the two nations decided to support Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, Scindia said, "This is the will of the people. The nation comes first."

"The boycott is an emotional decision taken by the people of the nation. Citizens have made this decision voluntarily. The nation comes first, and no citizen will compromise when it comes to national interest and security," he asserted.

He also said new services are being introduced in the postal system, adding that India Post is one of the largest logistics and distribution networks in the world having 1.64 lakh (164,000) post offices and 2.5 lakh (250,000) postal workers.

Sebi Resolves 4,239 Complaints via SCORES in April

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi disposed of 4,239 complaints through grievance redressal mechanism SCORES platform in April.

The markets watchdog received 4,341 fresh complaints in the month and a total of 4,263 complaints remained unresolved at the end of April, slightly higher than the 4,161 complaints that were pending as of March 31, according to a public notice by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The regulator also highlighted that the average resolution time taken by the entities to submit the Action Taken Reports (ATR) in April was eight days, while the average time taken for complaints under First Level Review was four days, it added.

SCORES, or Sebi Complaint Redressal System, is an online platform which facilitates investors in lodging and tracking complaints against listed companies and registered intermediaries.

Under the upgraded SCORES 2.0 framework, complaints are automatically forwarded to the entities, which are given 21 days to submit an ATR to the investors.

If dissatisfied, investors can opt for a first-level review within 15 days. During this period, complaints remain on the pending list, even if an ATR has been submitted. If the investor continues to be unsatisfied, they can escalate the issue to a second-level review by the regulator, with the same timeline for resolution applying, Sebi said.

India Develops Platform for Trade Remedy Documents

New Delhi: The government is developing a digital platform to enable the electronic submission of documents in trade remedy investigations with a view to further promoting transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for all stakeholders, an official statement said on Saturday.

These investigations are carried out by the commerce ministry's arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).

Since 1995, India has initiated over 1,200 trade remedy investiga-



tions and recent interventions have protected domestic sectors including solar energy and ad-

wire rods, from unfairly priced imports and subsidized goods.

"Looking ahead, the government is developing a digital platform to enable the electronic submission of documents in trade remedy investigations," the commerce ministry said in the statement.

The platform is expected to go live soon, offering enhanced transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for all stakeholders, it said.

The main objective of the directorate is to protect sensitive sectors

against the adverse impact of the trade liberalization like dumping and subsidy from any exporting country, by way of carrying out investigations in a time-bound manner.

The main functions of the DGTR include conducting anti-dumping, anti-subsidy/CVD (countervailing duty), and safeguard investigations.

The finance ministry takes the final decision to impose these duties.

In addition, DGTR, through its trade defence wing, has effectively con-

tested the imposition of trade remedy measures by foreign trade remedy authorities.

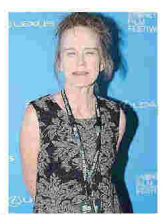
"These efforts have resulted in either reduced duties or complete relief from such measures on Indian exports, thereby protecting India's international trade interests," the ministry said.

It was established in 2018 through the consolidation of the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) and the Directorate General of Safeguards.

domestic sectors including solar energy and advanced materials, such as solar cells and copper

Angelina Jolie shimmers in sequinned gown at Cannes 2025 red carpet

Hollywood icon Angelina Jolie made a dazzling appearance on the Cannes Film Festival 2025 red carpet, wearing a stunning embroidered strapless gown at the premiere of 'Edgington'.



As per Page Six, the 49-year-old actress looked radiant in a Brunello Cucinelli made-to-measure look made entirely of cashmere and silk, covered in sequins. Jolie's gown was a masterpiece of luxury fashion, featuring intricate embroidery and exquisite textiles. She completed her look with Chopard jewellery, wearing a diamond necklace with a pear-shaped centre stone and matching earrings.

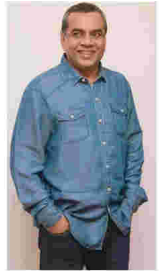
The actress held hands and posed with Marie Colomb, Finn Bennett, and Chopard co-president Caroline Scheufele. According to Page Six, Jolie was named godmother of this year's Trophée Chopard Award and will present it to young actors at the festival. She will offer guidance to the winners throughout the year, following in the footsteps of past mentors like Demi Moore, Robert De Niro, and Julianne Moore.

Jolie's appearance at Cannes marks her return to the festival after a 14-year absence. The actress has become increasingly involved in the fashion industry, launching her own line, Atelier Jolie, in 2023. While she often wears Atelier Jolie designs on the red carpet, she opted for a different designer look at Cannes this year.



Paresh Rawal confirms his exit from Hera Pheri 3

For over two decades, Paresh Rawal's character, Baburao Ganpatrao Apte, aka Babu Bhaiya, from the 'Hera Pheri' series has been one of Indian cinema's most iconic and beloved comedy characters to date.



Earlier this year, director Priyadarshan confirmed a third instalment of the iconic franchise, with the OG trio—Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, and Suniel Shetty—returning. Fans were left excited ever since the news was announced.

However, actor Paresh Rawal has now confirmed that he has exited the third film in the beloved series. When a news reporter reached out to the actor to ask if the news was true, he replied, "Yes, it is."

Soon after the news went viral, heartbroken fans quickly expressed their disappointment on social media. One user wrote, "This can't be true. If it is, then how can they let go of an actor like Paresh Rawal? Aur inhe kya lag raha hai, Paresh Rawal as Babu Bhaiya ke bina Hera Pheri 3 bana lenge? I hope they just request him to return; otherwise, this deci-

sion will make fans furious." Another user commented, "Paresh Rawal QUITS Hera Pheri 3. Just shut your shops and declare this movie as shelved. There is no Hera Pheri without any of the three, especially not Baburao Ganpatrao Apte."

Meanwhile, the reason for his exit has not been revealed yet. Directed by Priyadarshan, Hera Pheri was released in 2000. It featured Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal, and Tabu in the lead roles. The second part, which came out in 2006, was directed by the late Neeraj Vora. It featured Akshay, Paresh, Suniel, Bipasha Basu, Rajpal Yadav, and Rimi Sen in the lead roles.

Kevin Bacon's 'The Bondsman' cancelled after one season

Action-horror series 'The Bondsman', which stars Kevin Bacon in the lead role, is not expanding. As per The Hollywood Reporter, Prime Video has canceled the series after the first season.



The show debuted its first and only season via the popular streaming giant on April 3 with eight episodes. During its first week, Bondsman landed at No. 9 Nielsen's streaming charts for March 31-April 6 with 563 million minutes watched. However, it swiftly exited the charts and did not land in the Top 10 again. Bacon stars as a 'former country music star and murdered bounty hunter, Hub Halloran, who gets a second shot at life when the Devil resurrects him to catch demons who have escaped from Hell.'

Jennifer Nettles, Damon Herriman, Beth Grant and Maxwell Jenkins also featured in the series. Grainger David created the series and served as an executive producer alongside Jason Blum, Jeremy Gold, Chris Dickie, Chris McCumber, Bacon, Paul E. Shapiro and Erik Oleson, who is also showrunner. Erik Holmberg served as co-executive producer. The Bondsman hails from Blumhouse Television, Marker 96, CrimeThink Production Company and Amazon MGM Studios.

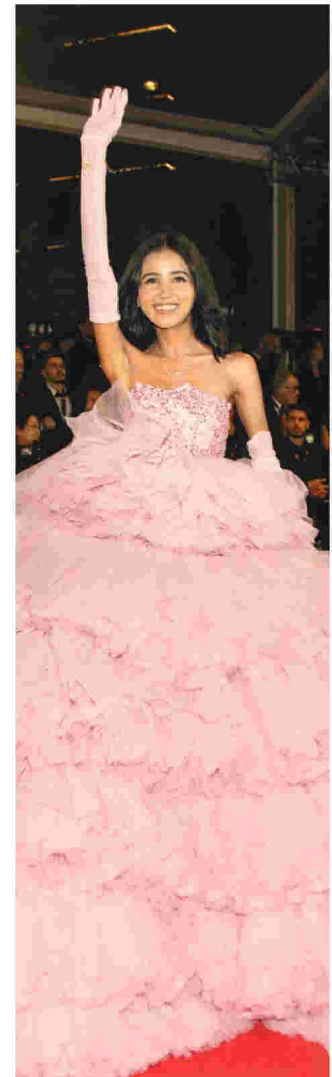
Nancy Tyagi wows Cannes for the second time with self-designed silver gown

Nancy Tyagi, a Delhi-based fashion influencer, has once again made a statement on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival.

The influencer, who made her debut at the festival last year, wore a stunning self-designed gown that has garnered praise from the internet. The custom creation featured a plunging neckline, a corseted bodice adorned with glittering sequins, a multi-layered tulle skirt. The gown's structured design and rose florets added to its grandeur.

Videos of Nancy's appearance on the red carpet have been doing the rounds on the internet. Sufi Motiwala, a fashion influencer, shared a video of Nancy's red carpet appearance on Instagram, captioning it "Nancy Tyagi's second majestic Cannes slay".

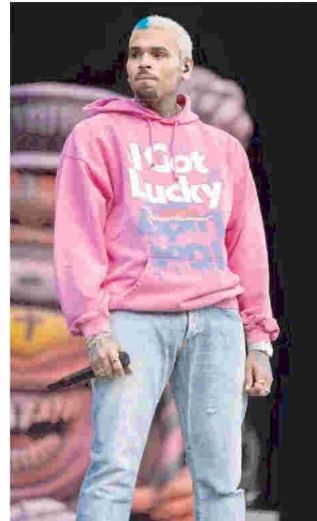
Nancy's look was completed with statement-making jewel pieces, nail art, and a sleek centre-parted twisted bun. Her makeup look featured silver smokey eyes, winged eyeliner, and a brown lip shade.



Singer Chris Brown denied bail after U.K arrest on assault charge

Grammy-winning singer Chris Brown has been ordered to remain in custody by a British court over allegations that he attacked a music producer with a bottle in a London nightclub in 2023, reported The Hollywood Reporter.

Brown, 36, appeared in Manchester Magistrates' Court on Friday to face "one count of causing grievous bodily harm," according to the publication. Judge Joanne Hirst refused to grant bail, calling the case "extremely serious." Brown will remain in custody until his next court hearing, scheduled for June 13 at Southwark Crown Court in London. The date coincides with the third show of Brown's world tour, set to take place in Frankfurt, Germany, raising questions about his participation in the tour. According to prosecutor Hannah Nicholls, "Brown was on tour in the U.K. in February 2023 when he launched an unprovoked attack on producer Abe Diaw, striking him several times with a bottle at the Tape nightclub in the swanky Mayfair neighborhood in London. Brown then chased Diaw and punched and kicked him in an attack caught on surveillance camera in front of a club full of people." Brown, who was arrested early Thursday at the Lowry Hotel in Manchester, appeared in court wearing sweatpants and a black T-shirt. Defense lawyer Grace Forbes argued for his release, saying he was not a flight risk. The case will move forward at Southwark Crown Court, where Brown is expected to enter a plea to the charge.



'Zip Wire' lead actress announced

Filmmaker Howard J. Ford is all set to come up with his new film 'Zip Wire'.

British-Swedish actress MyAnna Buring has come on board to lead the project, as per Variety. Buring is best known for her acting chops in the Netflix series 'The Witcher'. She recently wrapped up shooting for 'Slow Horses,' in which she has a pivotal role. She can currently be seen in 'The Unforgiven.' Before that, she reprised her leading role in the BBC's 'The Responder,' opposite Martin Freeman.

"Zip Wire" is being created by the duo Tom Boyle and Ford, who also made 'The Ledge' in 2022. Like 'The Ledge,' 'Zip Wire' explores themes of survival and human endurance and will offer a gripping thriller where survival hinges on both the mind and the will," REinvent said. According to Variety, the "film follows Amy Watson, who - when she was 13 years old - watched her mother die from an incurable disease."