

Dumani Mail

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Delhi HC directs removal of social media posts accusing sitting Judge in Saket collapse case

New Delhi : The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the removal of certain videos and online content posted by Dr. Kapil Kakar, which allegedly made serious allegations against a sitting judge of the Court in connection with the recent building collapse at Saiduilajab near Saket Metro Station.

The direction came while the Court was hearing a criminal contempt petition filed by the Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA) against Dr. Kakar over a series of videos and social media posts relating to the May 30 building collapse in which six persons lost their lives.

Appearing for the DHCBA, its President N Hariharan submitted that the videos contained allegations of corruption and criminal misconduct against a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court. He argued that such statements amounted to an attack on the institution of



the judiciary and could not be justified as fair criticism.

During the hearing, the Bench expressed concern over the growing influence of social media and the effect that such content could have on public confidence in the judicial system.

The Court observed that social media platforms cannot become a means to scandalise the judiciary and orally directed that the impugned videos and related links be removed.

The contempt petition

states that Dr. Kakar uploaded videos on various social media platforms after the Saiduilajab building collapse. According to the petition, the videos attributed responsibility for the incident to a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court and alleged corruption and collusion in relation to judicial proceedings concerning the property.

The Delhi High Court Bar Association has contended that the statements made in the

videos go beyond criticism of judicial orders and amount to criminal contempt as they seek to undermine the authority of the Court and public confidence in the administration of justice.

The petition further alleges that judicial orders were misrepresented in the videos to support claims of wrongdoing by the Court. It seeks initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against Dr. Kakar and directions to social media

platforms, including Meta, Google, X and LinkedIn, to remove the content and preserve relevant records.

The matter has been listed for further hearing in July.

The Standing Counsel (Criminal) for the Government of NCT of Delhi and Delhi High Court, Sanjay Lao, has recently granted written consent under Section 15(1)(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, for the filing of a criminal contempt petition before the Delhi High Court against Dr. Kapil Kakar.

The consent has been granted following a request made by the Delhi High Court Bar Association in relation to a series of social media posts and videos allegedly published by Dr. Kakar concerning the collapse of a building at Saiduilajab near Saket Metro Station on May 30, 2026, in which six persons lost their lives.

BJP won't stand a chance with ballot papers: Tejashwi Yadav after INDIA bloc meeting

New Delhi : Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, on Monday, asserted the collective strength of the opposition following an INDIA bloc meeting in the national capital today.

Addressing the media, Yadav emphasised that the alliance has reached a consensus on five key national issues and remains united in its resolve to advocate for them in the days ahead.

The RJD leader took a sharp dig at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), challenging the party's electoral dominance. "There has been consensus on five issues, and we are all united in raising them," he said. Directly questioning the current electoral process, Yadav added, "If the election is held using ballot papers, the BJP won't stand a chance."

Following a high-level meeting of the INDIA bloc, the opposition coalition has unveiled a comprehensive five-point strategy to challenge the government on issues ranging from electoral integrity to national crises. The alliance reaffirmed its unity and established a roadmap for coordinated action in the coming months.

Top of the agenda is the question of electoral fairness. The alliance reached a consensus to formally petition the Chief Justice of India regarding serious concerns surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and alleged manipulation of voter lists. The bloc intends to submit this letter to the Chief Justice at the earliest opportunity.

In light of the widespread irregularities impacting millions of students, the INDIA bloc has collectively demanded the immediate resignation of the Union Education Minister. The leaders characterised the current



state of NEET and CBSE examinations as a "betrayal" of the country's youth, placing the responsibility squarely on the Minister's tenure.

The coalition also raised the alarm over the nation's pressing economic challenges. Citing skyrocketing unemployment, rising inflation, and the plight of the farming community, the INDIA bloc urged the Central government to immediately convene an all-party meeting to address these urgent public concerns.

To ensure sustained pressure, the alliance has institutionalised a routine for collaboration. Moving forward, the INDIA bloc will hold formal meetings every two months, with the next session scheduled to take place in Hyderabad this August.

Furthermore, the bloc announced a heightened level of parliamentary coordination for the upcoming monsoon session. To ensure a unified front, leaders will conduct daily morning coordination meetings at the office of the Leader of the Opposition, Mallikarjun Kharge.

A major gathering of the INDIA bloc took place today at the Constitution Club of India, bringing together leaders from 23 political parties to deliberate on the alliance's national strategy and coordinated response to current political

challenges.

The high-profile meeting saw a significant turnout of top-tier opposition leadership. Congress was represented by a robust contingent, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) was present through Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee, while Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav also marked their presence to reinforce the alliance's united front.

Key regional leaders, including National Conference's Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, and NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule, attended the conclave to participate in the discussions.

The Left parties were represented by D Raja (CPI) and John Brittas (CPI-M). The meeting also saw the presence of former Congress leader Kapil Sibal and representatives from regional allies such as MDMK and VCK.

While the majority of the leadership gathered in person, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren joined the deliberations virtually, ensuring their party's active participation in the strategic discussions.

INDIA bloc parties to meet every two months, next meeting in Hyderabad: Kharge

New Delhi : Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said that the INDIA bloc parties will meet every two months to enhance coordination on national issues and for greater synergy between partners of the opposition grouping to take on the BJP-led government.

Addressing a press conference after a meeting of the INDIA bloc parties, Kharge said 25 parties attended it. "It was agreed that all parties of the INDIA alliance would meet every two months. The next meeting will be held in Hyderabad in August," he added. Kharge said the INDIA bloc parties have decided to write to the Chief Justice of India over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), "vote loot and electoral malpractices".

"It was agreed to send a letter to the Chief Justice of India on SIR, vote loot and stealing elections. The letter is to be delivered to the Chief



Justice of India very soon," he said. "It was unanimously agreed to demand the immediate resignation of the Education Minister because he presided over the betrayal of lakhs of youth who appeared for NEET and CBSE examinations," the Congress leader added.

Strategy meetings of all alliance partners will continue to be held regularly in the office of the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) to ensure a unified front against the

treasury benches on a day-to-day basis, Kharge said. He said the Union government should immediately call an all-party meeting to discuss the precarious current economic situation, unemployment, price rise and farmers' issues and other people-centric issues. He said Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren participated in the meeting virtually and extended support to the decisions taken.

Deliberations on role of Legislatures in nation building during CPA Zone II Conference

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the three-day Zone-II Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, CPA, India Region, in Chandigarh today. The conference is being hosted by the Haryana Legislative Assembly. During the 3 day conference, deliberations will be held on significant topics like role of legislatures in the nation-building, Viksit Bharat, 2047 artificial intelligence and making democratic institutions more effective, making democratic institutions more effective.

The event will be attended by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, presiding and deputy presiding officers from 15 legislatures across the country, as well as Members of Legislative Assemblies.

During the inaugural session, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker Harvinder Kalyan will deliver the welcome address. A special documentary showcasing the history and development of Haryana will also be screened on

the occasion. This will be followed by addresses from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

A cultural evening will be held at Tagore Theatre, featuring performances that highlight the Constitution and India's rich cultural heritage. Speaking ahead of the event, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker Harvinder Kalyan said, elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the conference.

Delhi Police nabs ex-employee for Darya Ganj shop burglary, 3.36 lakh recovered

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested a 33-year-old former employee of a shop in Darya Ganj in a burglary case and recovered ₹3.36 lakh in cash stolen from the store, officials said on Monday.

The accused, Abhinash Kumar, a resident of Pratapgarh district in Uttar Pradesh, was apprehended on June 5



following a multi-state operation, within days of the burglary.

"The burglary came to light on June 3 when a complaint was received at Darya Ganj police station. The complainant, a resident of Tilak Nagar, reported that unknown persons had broken the lock of his shop located at Kucha Challan in Darya Ganj during the intervening night and stolen a bag containing around ₹3.5 lakh from a cash box," a senior police officer said.

An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and an investigation was launched. During the investigation, police identified a scooter allegedly used in the commission of the crime.

Technical surveillance and intelligence gathering subsequently led investigators to Kumar, who had worked with the complainant about six months ago.

Police said the accused had returned to his native village in Uttar Pradesh after committing the offence. Acting on specific inputs, the team traced him to Pratapgarh and arrested him.

During interrogation, Kumar allegedly confessed to the crime and revealed where he had hidden the stolen property, police said.

Based on his disclosure, police recovered the stolen bag and cash amounting to ₹3,36,650 from bushes behind an auto repair shop in the Shukulpur area of Pratapgarh district.

The scooter allegedly used in the burglary was also recovered from Indrapuram in Ghaziabad. During verification, investigators found that the vehicle had been rented and was allegedly used by the accused to facilitate the crime and avoid detection.

India issues fresh Iran travel warning, urges citizens to leave

New Delhi: India on Monday reiterated its warning to its nationals in Iran to avoid any travel to the country and exit the region by available means of transport.

The advisory comes in view of the latest developments in the region.

In the urgent advisory, the Indian Embassy in Iran reiterated its earlier advice to all Indian nationals to avoid travel to Iran.

"In view of the latest developments in the region, the

Embassy reiterates its earlier advice to all Indian Nationals to avoid any travel to Iran," the advisory stated on X.

"Indian Nationals presently in Iran are also advised to exit the country by available means of transport," it said.

On Monday, Israel launched airstrikes targeting central and western Iran in response to missile fire from Tehran. On April 7, India issued the advisory asking its nationals in Iran to stay wherever they are for the next 48 hours.

The advisory was issued after US President Donald Trump had warned that a "whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his 8 pm Eastern Time deadline to end its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

According to official data, around 9,000 Indians, including students, were in Iran when the conflict began following strikes on Iranian targets by Israel and the US on February 28. Nearly 1,800 Indians have returned to India so far.

3 Air India aircraft at Delhi airport's Terminal 2 damaged by rain, winds

New Delhi: Three Air India aircraft parked at the Delhi airport's Terminal 2 (T2) sustained damage on Sunday when strong winds and heavy rain displaced nearby ground support equipment, causing it to strike the planes, airport officials said.

Officials from the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said that the three narrow-body aircraft had to be withdrawn from service following the incident.

"Three Air India aircraft were damaged due to ground support equipment hitting the aircraft as they moved from their position due to sudden strong wind and rain. The incident occurred at 4.40pm," an airport official said.

The incident occurred during a spell of rain and gusty winds



that swept through the Capital on Sunday, disrupting airport operations and affecting flight schedules.

"No weather warning had been issued by the Air Traffic Control (ATC) to either the airport operator or airlines ahead of the sudden deterioration in weather conditions," an airport official said. Air India did not comment on the incident.

However, an official familiar with the matter said aircraft belonging to other airlines were also affected by the severe weather, adding that while all three damaged Air India aircraft have been grounded for inspection and repairs, two are expected to return to service shortly.

"We are investigating the matter," the official said.

Godavarish Mishra Model Primary School will be developed the model of Bakulabana Vidyalaya,said CM Mohan Charan Majhi.

Khordha--7/6- Just as Panchasakha established Bakulabana Vidyalaya in Satyabadi and all kinds of education were provided to the children there, 'Godavarish Mishra Model ??Primary Schools' are also being prepared in the same model, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today while laying the foundation stone of the second phase of Godavarish Mishra Model ??Primary Schools Scheme at Kumarbasta in Khordha district.

The scheme was launched in Banpur in January this year. In the first phase, 2,200 Godavarish Mishra Adarsh ??Primary Schools will be established across the state with an investment of ? 12,000 crore. Out of these 2200 schools in the first phase, the Chief Minister first laid the foundation stone of 118 schools in Banpur and today he laid the foundation stone for the construction of 204 more model schools in the state. With this, the process of construction of 322 model schools has now started in the state. Chief Minister said in his speech that primary education is the foundation of a student's education. The stronger the foundation, the brighter the future of the child will be. Therefore, our government has implemented the Godavarish Mishra Model Primary School Scheme for the



development of primary education. Through this, the learning environment in primary schools will be strengthened and organized. Children will be taught through modern technology. Children will get the best and quality education. In today's changing job market, it is not enough for children to just study, but it is more important how they become employable, problem-solvers and creative. He said that the Godavarish Mishra Model Primary School Scheme will play a decisive role in achieving this goal.

All-round development in the education sector is our top priority. Implementation of National Education Policy-2020, PM Shri, Sishu Vatika, Heritage

School Scheme, Saheed Madho Singh Hata Kharcha Yojana to check drop-out rate of tribal students, mid-day meal for children from class 1 to 10 under the Chief Minister's Poshan Yojana, etc., have strengthened the education system of the state today. Taking the teacher shortage problem of the state seriously, 26,615 teachers and non-teaching staff have been appointed in the last 2 years. We are taking steps to appoint 45,000 teachers in the next 3 years. Through Child Tracking Survey and the Asa School Jiba campaign, out-of-school students can be brought back to school. These schemes will not only strengthen the education infrastructure in the state, but also pave the way for

building a prosperous Odisha and a developed India, the Chief Minister asserted. On this occasion, the Chief Minister interacted with Abhilipsa Singh, a student of Deuli School, Mayurbhanj district, Satyaprakash Bhuyan and Radhika, students of Machhkunda Government High School, Koraput district, Ayush Kumar Ghada, a student of Genguti Primary School, Balasore district, and Pramila Kundu, a teacher from Nuapada district, through virtual mode, about their teaching and the benefits of Godavarish Mishra Adarsh ??Primary School. The Minister of Works, Excise and Law, Prithviraj Harichandan, joined the program and said that the more a nation develops its education system, the more that nation progresses. This historic scheme of the Chief Minister will bring about a world-changing change in the education system in the state in the coming days and lead the state on the path of prosperity.

Minister of Schools and Mass Education, Nityanand Gand, said that if children receive good education, they will shape their future and contribute to the progress of the country and the state. Keeping this in mind, our government has started the Godavarish Mishra Adarsh ??Primary School Scheme. He

said that this scheme is an important step towards strengthening the primary education system of the state.

As one of the guests, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said that no government had worked sincerely towards the development of the education system in the state before. This innovative scheme, which has been started in the name of Godavarish Mishra, will bring about a revolutionary change in the education system of Odisha in the coming days. He said that the Revenue Department has given leases to 26,000 schools in the state in 2 years to improve the education system.

Ministers, MPs and MLAs from various districts joined the program through virtual mode. MLA, Khordha Prasanta Kumar Jagdev, MLA, Jatni Bibhuti Bhushan Balabantaray Bhubaneswar, Ekamra MLA, Babu Singh, Zilla Parishad President Rupshree Rani Guman Singh, Collector Amrit Raturaj were prominently present in the program.

Commissioner of Schools and Mass Education Department and Secretary Dr. N. Tirumala Nayak delivered the welcome address at the event while Ananya Das, Project Director of OSEPA, delivered the vote of thanks.

Free Eye Check-up Camp



Puri : A free eye check-up camp was organized at the premises of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir. The camp was conducted jointly by a leading social organization of Puri and the Rashtra Sevika Samiti, Puri, with experienced doctors from iBlancs Hospital, Bhubaneswar providing medical services.

The camp was attended and supported by Dr. Abhimanyu Bhuyan, President of the Samarpan organization; Jayanti Mahapatra, Secretary and Service Head of Rashtra Sevika Samiti;

along with Chandramani Das, Soumya Ranjan Patra, Balaram Patra, Kabita Rath, Rosalini Mishra, Rangalata Sahu, Snehalata Mishra, Rosalini Mahapatra, and the school's Principal Prasanna Pradhan, as well as teachers and staff members who assisted in the camp's management.

More than 100 people underwent eye examinations, and spectacles were distributed to those in need. Additionally, participants requiring further medical attention were advised to seek advanced treatment.

Political parties come together to demand strong action against Sarkhel to restored Law & Order situation in Paradip

Paradip - The law and order situation in the port and industrial city of Paradip is deteriorating. Three accused were arrested in the bomb attack on the house of Paradip Municipality Chairman Basant Biswal on May 30, but eight days have passed since its main accused, Jyotikant Parida (Bapu), has not been caught yet. The police seem to be unable to find any clues about the main mastermind of the incident, Arindam Sarkhel alias Bapi Sarkhel. However, anger has been expressed among the residents of the city regarding this incident. In this context, on Sunday, members of some organizations, including the leadership and workers of various political parties, reached the Paradip Model ??Police station along with thousands of their supporters to protest. BJP Paradip unit President Subrat Pradhan, BJP leader Sarbeshwar Baliarsingh, Soleman Raju, Ullash Behera, Prakash Sahu, BJP councillor Pratap Nayak, BJP Women's Leader Pritirekha Nayak, BJD President Kumarbar Basant Biswal, BJD State Vice President Sabita Mohapatra, District General Secretary



Chinmay Ranjan Parida, Shankar Prasad Rout, Women's Leader Chapla Swain, Congress President Kedar Nath Biswal, Kujang, Paradip Regional Committee CPI leader Subash Mohapatra and Paradip Citizen Forum President Sasank Acharya, Ravindra Jena, Bibekanand Rout reached Paradip Model Police station and separately submitted their demands to ASP Ajinkya Baburao Mane.

According to allegations, this anti-social circle aims to create an atmosphere of fear and terror in Paradip. Since the emergence of Bapi Sarkhel in Paradip in the year 2000, in the past 25 years, it has been alleged that the Sarkhel has definitely played a role in all the incidents in Paradip city such as the murder of Muna Pati,

Duryodhan Swain, Seways company manager Mahendra Swain. Besides, these antisocials are intoxicating the youth of Paradip and committing various anti-social and criminal incidents. Apart from this, a person named Khalid Khan, who lives outside the state and sometimes in Dubai, has been hijacking the entire work of IFFCO, PICT and other industrial projects through Bapi Sarkhel and providing huge financial support to Sarkhel, alleged by Paradip Citizen Forum.

Therefore, for the sake of law & order situation, peace and brotherhood in the calm city of Paradip, representatives of all parties and organisations of Paradip submitted a demand letter to ASP Ajinkya Mane and requesting him to take appropriate action.

Dead body of a unmarried girl recovered after missing about 26 days

Keonjhar : Keonjhar police arrested a youth allegedly killed his lover and dumped in the forest near Kolharoida village under Barbil police. The accused is identified as Sangram Alda (24) of village Jhadagaon under Town PS..Deceased is identified as Anita Mahakud (21).

Police recovered the skeletal remain of the lover in presence of magistrate and scientific team.

According to the police investigation the accused Sangram Alda and Anita

Mahakud were neighbors. Both are living in village Jhadagaon with their families. Both are in love for last 2-3 years. Accused Sangram Alda had left his village 2-3 months back outside in search of job. Mean-while he suspected that, the deceased is in love with other person. Out of anger, he decided to finish Anita from life. Both of them were disagree to maintain their love life again.

On 11 May at about 4 PM in the afternoon Anita was called by the accused over phone to meet him in the forest area back side of their village. Anita came with a small water



bucket saying their family that she is going to attend call of nature. Accused Sangram was already there with 2 knives in a hidden condition with a motive to finish her.

On their meet, there was exchange of hot words over their love lives. Accused attacked her throat with a knife and kept assaulting till her death. After murder he concealed the dead body and other materials there and went away to Komarjoda.

He threw 2 knives there in the field at Komarjoda, in front of Govt.

Hospital. At odd hours of night, he came to the murder spot with his bike and carried the dead body and other materials to Kolharoida forest area.

He concealed the dead body of Anita in a burrow and put leaves

and earth. Thereafter he concealed bucket, shoes of Anita in another burrow near to the dead body. IIC Barbil PS Ashok Nayak said " The dead body as well as other materials discovered in presence of

Executive Magistrate and other witnesses. The weapon of offence including 2 knives also

seized as shown by him. Scientific Team and Dog Squad were utilized in this case".

According to the police the accused tactfully executed this murder and was leading a normal life to deceive other public and investigating agency. After all technical and human intelligence, the accused was nabbed with confession of crime. Further investigation is going on.

After missing on 11 May family members lodged complaint on 14 May in Barbil PS, after failed to trace her.

Excavation of Luna and Daya Rivers Underway; Nearly 40,000 People to Benefit

Puri: Excavation work is currently in progress on the Luna and Daya rivers, a major initiative expected to improve irrigation facilities for nearly 40,000 residents across 32 villages in Puri district.

The project was undertaken after both rivers became heavily silted and overgrown with vegetation, severely affecting water flow and irrigation in surrounding agricultural areas. The decision to restore the rivers was approved during a meeting of the State Flood Control Board's Technical Advisory Committee in 2021.

According to official plans, the Luna River will be dredged along a 16-km stretch from Bada Goth to Matipur at an estimated cost of ?26.93 crore. Similarly, the Daya River will

be excavated over a 21-km stretch from Botolama in Kanas to Tirumal, with an approved expenditure of ?41.32 crore.

The Drainage Division had initially entrusted the work to Odisha Construction Corporation Limited (OCCL). In January this year, OCCL transferred the project to Andhra Pradesh-based Nasababu Private Limited, which is now executing the work through BBPL.

Using heavy machinery, riverbeds are being dredged to a width of 40 metres and a depth of 2 metres. The removal of accumulated silt is expected to restore smooth water flow and significantly enhance irrigation potential in the region. Excavated silt and soil are being



transported through pipelines to locations 1.5 to 2 km away from the riverbanks to prevent re-entry into the channels during the upcoming monsoon season.

Officials said the Daya River restoration will benefit around 22,000 people in villages including Beguniapada, Dalunuanpada, Suria, Botol, Ghanipur, Ghoradia, Kanakafisia, Tigiria, Jorkani, Baradia, Badalpur, Sambalpur, Barimandala, Kanas, Dokanda, Balipatna, Kakharubasta and Gadasahi, among others in Kanas and Delanga blocks.

Likewise, residents of villages located along the Luna River, including Madhipur, Rudhipur, Bijipur, Andalsingh, Jagannathpur, Naduapur,

Podakera, Talamala, Paramandipur, Nikhar Gobindpur, Manpur and Karmala, are expected to benefit from improved irrigation access.

Experts associated with the project noted that excavation to a depth of nearly six feet could help retain three to four feet of water in both rivers during the summer months. This would ensure year-round water availability, enabling farmers to undertake additional cultivation during the dry season and improve agricultural productivity.

The river restoration initiative is expected to strengthen irrigation infrastructure, improve water conservation and provide long-term benefits to farming communities across the region.

Gurugram: Residents protest maintenance fee hike, flag safety lapses in Sec 37C

Gurugram: Residents of a condominium in Sector 37C staged a protest on Saturday against the builder and maintenance agency, alleging an arbitrary increase in maintenance charges without prior notice and raising concerns over poor upkeep of amenities, including fire safety systems and the sewage treatment plant (STP).

Residents of Imperia Esfera Phase 2 alleged that maintenance charges were increased significantly without any prior information or discussion. They also claimed that the society's STP is non-functional and that several fire safety systems are either not working or inadequately maintained.

Puran Singh, a resident, alleged that untreated sewage is being discharged onto internal roads due to the non-functional STP. "This is a serious violation, yet the maintenance agency has failed to take any corrective action," he said.

He further claimed that the society's infrastructure has deteriorated within two years of occupancy. "Within two years, the building has gotten in poor shape, with plaster peeling off at several places. Despite these unresolved issues, residents were suddenly informed about an increase in maintenance charges," Singh said.

Surrender Sharma, another resident, alleged that key fire safety systems are not operational. "The alarms



are non-functional. The water pipes are choked and the fire extinguishers are also not working," he said.

"We have witnessed several fire incidents in high-rise buildings in recent years. Such safety lapses and violations can have serious consequences and put residents' lives at risk," he added.

Residents warned that they would approach authorities over the alleged violations. "We are willing to go to the civic body, the state pollution control body and the fire department regarding all the violations in the society," said Pankaj Maheshwari, another resident.

Responding to the allegations,

Harsh Pushkarna, vice-president of Pragati Associates Pvt Ltd, the agency appointed by Imperia Structure Limited for Imperia Esfera, said, "The fire No Objection Certificate (NOC) is in place. I don't remember when we got it, but it is in place. About the fire safety equipment, we will get it checked." When asked to share the fire NOC document, Pushkarna refused and declined further comment. On the maintenance fee hike, he said, "We apologise to residents for increasing the maintenance charges in a hurry. Rest, it will be discussed in the next meeting."

MCG to buy road-washing machines, anti-smog guns to curb dust pollution

Gurgaon: The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) is set to procure two road-washing machines, 10 CNG-based anti-smog guns and four static anti-smog guns for the Bandhwari landfill to tackle rising dust pollution in the city, officials said.

MCG officials said tenders for procurement of the equipment have been floated, adding that dust

mitigation remains one of the civic body's key priorities. Officials said this will be the first time MCG procures dedicated road-washing machines as part of its dust-control strategy. The machines, estimated to cost around ₹1 crore, are expected to improve dust suppression on major roads and pollution-prone stretches across the city.

"We will initially assess

the effectiveness of these machines. If the results are satisfactory, we will consider adding more such machines to our fleet in the future," said Sandeep Dhundwal, executive engineer, MCG.

The four static anti-smog guns, estimated to cost ₹34 lakh, will be installed at the Bandhwari landfill site. "The static anti-smog guns will be installed at the Bandhwari landfill site to help suppress

dust emissions," Dhundwal said.

Officials said the civic body will also procure 10 CNG-based anti-smog guns. MCG currently operates 16 anti-smog guns across Gurugram and had earlier procured five diesel-operated units.

"CNG is definitely a greener choice, and these new machines will be added to the fleet to take on dust pollution

in the city," Dhundwal added. In May, residents and commuters had raised concerns over heavy dust pollution along the Gurugram-Faridabad road near the Bandhwari landfill, saying the nearly one-kilometre stretch remained covered in thick dust, reducing visibility and affecting commuters, particularly two-wheeler riders.

Man wanted for snatching held after gunfight with cops in Greater Noida

Greater Noida: A 26-year-old man, wanted for allegedly snatching a gold chain from a 20-year-old man in Greater Noida's Nawada village on June 1, was arrested following a brief gunfight on Saturday night, police said on Sunday, adding that his condition is critical.

Police identified the suspect as a resident of Site-5 in Kasna, Greater Noida.

According to the police, on June 1 when the victim, Jitendra Kumar, 20, a resident of Nawada was strolling outside his home after dinner, two unidentified men on a bike approached him from behind, and the pillion rider snatched away his gold chain.

A case under Section 303 (theft) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered against the unidentified suspects at Beta-2 police station on June 2 following a complaint from the victim, and teams were formed to trace the suspects.

"On Saturday, when a police team was checking near Dhakiya Baba roundabout in Greater Noida, a man on a bike was spotted moving suspiciously. When police tried to stop him, he opened fire at them, and in retaliatory firing, he suffered bullet injuries to his leg," said Vinod Kumar, station house officer (SHO), Beta-2 police station.

"The suspect was sent to a nearby hospital," the SHO added. Investigation found that the suspect had been involved in chain-snatching for some time, said officials.

"He had snatched more than 10 chains, and whenever any victim tried to resist, he pulled out an illegal weapon to threaten them. The weapon was recovered from his possession," the SHO said, adding that an illegal firearm was recovered from him. Efforts are underway to nab his accomplice, and further investigation is underway, police added.

India's journey toward developed nation guided by inclusive growth & active citizen engagement: LS Speaker Om Birla

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has asserted that the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 can only be realized through public participation, innovation, entrepreneurship, and collective resolve. Addressing a conclave in New Delhi, he emphasized that entrepreneurship and nation-building must progress hand in hand to ensure that the benefits of development

reach every section of society.

Lok Sabha Speaker noted that India's journey toward becoming a developed nation must be guided by inclusive growth, social responsibility, and active citizen engagement. Highlighting the role of youth in shaping the future, Mr Birla stated that educated, skilled, and technology-enabled young people

constitute the greatest strength of Viksit Bharat 2047.

He urged the younger generation to embrace innovation, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies to position India as a global leader. Mr Birla observed that the coming era will be driven by knowledge and innovation, calling upon the youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

NTA releases exam city intimation slips for NEET-UG re-examination

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has released the exam city intimation slip for the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination, scheduled to be held on 21 of this month. According to a public notice issued by the agency, the re-examination will be conducted in pen-and-paper mode from 2 pm to 5:15 pm

across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad. The NTA clarified that the exam city intimation slip is not the admit card and is being issued solely to inform candidates about the city where their examination centre will be located. The agency further urged candidates to stay updated through its official websites for the latest

announcements regarding the examination and admit card release. The NEET-UG for admissions into medical courses took place on May 3 this year but was cancelled by the NTA on May 12 amid allegations of paper leak. The CBI is currently investigating this matter, and a retest is scheduled for June 21.

Free Eye Check-up Camp

Puri : A free eye check-up camp was organized at the premises of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir. The camp was conducted jointly by a leading social organization of Puri and the Rashtra Sevika Samiti, Puri, with experienced doctors from iBlancs Hospital, Bhubaneswar providing medical services.

The camp was attended and supported by Dr. Abhimanyu Bhuyan, President of the Samarpan organization; Jayanti Mahapatra, Secretary and Service Head of Rashtra Sevika Samiti; along with Chandramani Das, Soumya Ranjan Patra,



Balaram Patra, Kabita Rath, Rosalin Mishra, Rangalata Sahu, Snehalata Mishra, Rosalini Mahapatra, and the school's Principal Prasanna Pradhan, as well as teachers and staff members who assisted in the camp's management.

More than 100 people underwent eye examinations, and spectacles were distributed to those in need. Additionally, participants requiring further medical attention were advised to seek advanced treatment.

GMDA plans signal-free corridor from Iffco Chowk to Greater SPR

Gurugram: The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has decided to make the 10 km road from Iffco Chowk to the proposed Greater Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) signal-free to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.

The authority has hired a consultancy firm to conduct a feasibility study for the project. Officials expect that four to five grade separators, including flyovers and underpasses, may be required at major

intersections along the route to ensure seamless vehicle movement.

Officials said the proposed underpasses will be constructed at Z-Chowk near the Millennium City Centre metro station, RD Ardee City Chowk, Sector-52 Chowk, Golf Course Extension Road, and the Sector-61/62 intersection. "A plan will also be formulated to integrate other intersections along the route with the road. The road will connect to the proposed

Greater SPR, the Gurugram-Faridabad road, Sohna road and terminate at Delhi Jaipur highway near Manesar," said Amit Godara, GMDA executive engineer.

The Haryana government has approved a three-lane underpass at Z Chowk to ease congestion around Millennium City Centre Metro Station. GMDA also plans to construct a cloverleaf interchange and a flyover to connect the road with the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway,

added officials.

Officials said the road upgrade is important because the Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation (HMRTC) and NCRTC are planning to construct a metro and Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors along this stretch. The metro line will be constructed till Golf Course extension road and the RRTS corridor from Iffco Chowk to Faridabad, they added.

Godara said that this road will serve as an

alternative route to Manesar. Currently, many commuters use the Delhi-Jaipur Highway but the new route from Greater SPR will provide an alternative to residents travelling from Gurugram, Delhi and Faridabad. "The Iffco Chowk to Greater SPR roads and Millennium City Centre to Dwarka expressway are two key stretches where flyovers and underpasses will be constructed to make these signal-free," he added.

NHAI to issue fines for abrupt lane changes on Delhi-Mumbai E-way from next week

Gurugram: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will begin stricter lane discipline enforcement on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (DME) this week by upgrading automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras across its Haryana stretch, officials said on Saturday. Enforcement via these cameras will come into effect from next week.

The enhanced ANPR-based traffic monitoring system will automatically issue camera-generated challans for abrupt lane violations along nearly 120 km of the expressway passing through Gurugram, Sohna and Nuh and connecting to Faridabad, officials privy to the matter said.

Officials said the cameras' software is being upgraded with a new "offence



code" to detect sudden lane jumps, a key contributor to high-speed crashes and rear-end collisions on the corridor. "Already, these cameras are equipped with detecting speeding, wrong-side driving and parking-related violations. The latest upgrades will come fully into force within a week," said PK Kaushik, project director (PD) of NHAI's project implementation unit in Sohna. The move follows similar deployments by other PIUs

in Dwarka and along the Delhi-Jaipur-Gurugram (NH 48) corridor. In July 2025, district traffic police installed ANPR cameras at 15 high-footfall, violation-prone locations on both expressways to detect 14 types of offences.

"The upgraded ANPR network will be integrated with the National Informatics Centre (NIC)-managed transport databases, enabling real-time verification of vehicle registration. Signages,

too, will be improved in the coming months at accident-prone spots, warning motorists to avoid sudden lane swaps," a senior NHAI official said, requesting anonymity.

NHAI has also instructed toll plaza staff to sensitise commuters about lane-wise speed limits on the DME. "While 120 kilometres per hour is the maximum speed limit on the third and fourth lanes of the expressway, its second and first lanes allow

speeds of up to 100 and 80 km/h, respectively," the official said.

The revamp coincides with traffic police plans to penalise heavy- and large-commercial goods vehicles for lane violations. Deputy commissioner of police (traffic) Prateek Gehlot said he met 25 sensitizers on Thursday to sensitise drivers and unions, including via WhatsApp groups.

"Heavy vehicles are required to ply in the left-most lane on high-speed corridors. Strict action through challans will be taken against drivers tampering with high-security number plates or repeating lane violations," Gehlot said. Police said awareness drives at major intersections will continue until Sunday, after which a dedicated challan drive against HGVs and LGVs will begin.

Delhi HC issues notices



New Delhi: The Delhi High Court today issued notices to the Centre and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) over a PIL challenging the newly introduced On-Screen Marking system for Class 12 board exam answer sheets. A Bench of Justices Neena Bansal Krishna and Madhu Jain sought responses from

the Centre and CBSE on the plea filed by the National Students' Union of India (NSUI).

The court has listed the matter for hearing on 12th June. The PIL questions the fairness, transparency and reliability of the digital evaluation system adopted by CBSE. It alleged that thousands of students faced problems after

the Class 12 results were declared. The issues included blurred scans, missing pages, mismatched answer sheets, incomplete uploads and unexpectedly low marks.

The PIL referred to CBSE's public communications acknowledging technical glitches in the portal used for providing scanned copies of answer books to students.

Economy Review

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's review of the economy with the Economic Advisory Council comes at a time when the global economic landscape is increasingly uncertain. Geopolitical tensions in West Asia, volatile energy prices, disrupted trade routes and weakening global demand are posing fresh challenges for economies worldwide. For India, the task is not merely to sustain growth but to protect ordinary citizens from the fallout of these external shocks. The impact is already visible. The Rs 29 hike in domestic LPG prices, following an earlier increase last month, has added to the burden on households grappling with rising costs of living. For millions of families, cooking gas is an essential expense, and higher fuel prices inevitably squeeze disposable incomes. Such increases also risk fuelling broader inflationary pressures across the economy.

However, India enters this period of turbulence from a position of relative strength. Strong domestic demand, robust infrastructure investment and a growing digital economy have helped maintain momentum despite global headwinds. But this resilience cannot be taken for granted. Rising crude oil prices continue to strain the import bill and exert pressure on the rupee. The Reserve Bank of India's recent measures to attract foreign institutional investment reflect a proactive response to these challenges. By easing investment norms and encouraging capital inflows, the RBI aims to strengthen external stability, support the rupee and ensure adequate liquidity in the financial system. These initiatives complement its broader effort to maintain macroeconomic stability without compromising growth.

The challenge before policymakers remains a delicate balancing act. Inflation must be contained to protect consumers, but growth and employment cannot be sacrificed in the process. Fiscal prudence, targeted support for vulnerable households and continued structural reforms will be essential.

Manipur Crisis

THE restoration of peace and normalcy in Manipur continues to be a Herculean task. As per details disclosed under the Right to Information Act, at least 730 internally displaced people have died in the northeastern state's relief camps since the outbreak of ethnic violence in May 2023. The high death toll is



a damning indictment of the BJP-led Central and state governments. Tens of thousands of families have been uprooted by the conflict; they face an uncertain future as rehabilitation is nowhere in sight. Unfortunately, the humanitarian crisis has received scant national attention. More than 43,000 people are living in temporary shelters and relief camps, many without proper healthcare, sanitation or psychological support. The fact that camp residents are dying not only from illness but also from unnatural causes — including drowning, electrocution, substance abuse and violence — shows that the living conditions are both unsafe and sub-human.

Four months after the reinstatement of an elected government, there is no let-up in the attacks and ethnic hostility despite repeated assurances from the authorities. Three persons were killed after armed assailants attacked a village in Kangpokpi district on Friday. Six Naga civilians, who were allegedly abducted by Kuki militants on May 13, are still in captivity. Local residents continue to live in fear, while armed groups are exploiting administrative paralysis and deepening mistrust between communities.

Manipur's tragedy is far more than a collapse of law and order; it is an utter failure of governance and reconciliation. Relief camps were meant to be temporary sanctuaries, not semi-permanent settlements where displaced citizens spend years without hope of returning home. The longer displacement continues, the greater the risk of generational trauma, radicalisation and irreversible social fragmentation. The "double-engine" government must pay heed to the warning implicit in the RTI reply: prolonged neglect can turn a political conflict into a long-term humanitarian catastrophe. India as a whole must not allow this to happen.

The Reach of Growth

Raghunath Mahapatra
Economic history has largely been a search for the sources of growth. Capital accumulation, industrialisation, technological innovation and productivity growth have each served as engines of prosperity. Yet as economies have become larger and more sophisticated, a different question has moved to the forefront. The challenge is no longer merely to generate growth; it is to ensure that growth is transmitted through the broader economic structure.

The question is especially relevant today. Global GDP has expanded from roughly \$27 trillion in 1990 to more than \$110 trillion, while India's economy has grown from about \$320 billion at the onset of liberalisation to nearly \$4 trillion today. Few periods have witnessed such a sustained expansion of productive capacity. Yet concerns over employment quality, wage growth, regional divergence and economic participation persist. Paradoxically, growth is easier to generate than ever before, but increasingly difficult to translate into broad-based prosperity.

This tension revives one of the most debated propositions in modern economics: Trickle-down theory, which is less a theory of privilege than a theory of transmission. Its premise was that investment-led growth would initiate a chain reaction in the economy extending from capital formation to production, from production to employment, and from employment to rising household incomes. The proposition is not equal outcomes, but efficient diffusion of growth through the economy's interconnected channels.

History provides substantial

evidence that such transmission mechanisms can work. China's market-oriented reforms helped lift more than 800 million people out of extreme poverty. South Korea's industrial transformation converted a low-income agrarian society into a high-income manufacturing economy within a few decades. Singapore combined market dynamism with sustained investments in housing, education and human capital. What distinguished these economies was the strength of their transmission architecture. Manufacturing converted investment into employment. Education converted employment into productivity. Infrastructure converted productivity into competitiveness. Growth reached households because institutions enabled its movement across sectors and social groups.

Yet the transmission architecture that once connected growth to widespread prosperity has weakened in many economies. OECD research points to declining social mobility and growing inequality of opportunity, while IMF studies suggest that rising income concentration can limit the extent to which aggregate growth translates into broadly shared welfare gains. The challenge, therefore, is ensuring that these mechanisms remain effective.

This weakening becomes visible in the links that traditionally connected economic expansion to rising living standards. Output, employment, wages and participation no longer move together with the consistency once expected. Investment does not invariably broaden economic participation. OECD studies have documented periods in which productivity growth outpaced median

wage growth, while the ILO has highlighted persistent challenges in generating quality employment despite rising output. Economic gains continue to be created, but their journey through the economic system encounters increasing frictions.

India reflects both the strengths and the limitations of this process. Since 1991, the country has sustained rapid expansion, reduced poverty significantly and built one of the world's most impressive digital public infrastructures. Rapid growth in UPI transactions, expanded financial inclusion and efficient Direct Benefit Transfers has improved welfare delivery. These have strengthened the transmission of economic opportunity.

Despite these achievements important frictions remain. Nearly three-fourths of India's workforce continues to operate in informal employment arrangements, constraining productivity growth and limiting the conversion of economic expansion into stable income gains. Agriculture generates barely one-sixth of national output but continues to absorb nearly 45% of the workforce. At the other end of the spectrum, manufacturing (accounting for only around one-tenth of total employment) has not emerged as the large-scale employment engine that powered the development trajectories of China, South Korea and several Southeast Asian economies.

The consequence is a transmission gap: growth is generated, but the channels through which it reaches broad segments of labour remain narrower than the economy's overall expansion would suggest. Economic value continues to be created, yet its

diffusion across workers, households and regions becomes increasingly uneven.

This carries an important policy implication. The objective is neither to abandon market-led growth and nor to dismiss trickle-down mechanisms altogether. Growth remains indispensable for jobs, fiscal capacity and rising living standards. The challenge is to strengthen the channels through which its gains travel. Labour-intensive manufacturing, competitive MSMEs, human capital, healthcare, better credit transmission and stronger regional connectivity are not alternatives to growth but they are mechanisms through which growth acquires greater economic reach.

The debate over trickle-down economics is often framed as a contest between success and failure. Economic history offers a more nuanced verdict. Growth does spread through economies, but its transmission is neither automatic nor frictionless. The critical question is not whether prosperity trickles down, but how much of it is lost along the way. As economies become increasingly driven by technology, capital intensity and specialised skills, the success of public policy will depend less on generating growth and more on improving its transmission. The true measure of economic progress lies not merely in the pace at which an economy expands, but in how far the gains of that expansion ultimately travel.

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Current Turbulence in Rupee Exchange Rate

Surajit Patnaik
The exchange rate of a currency appears to be an innocent numerical expression of relative strength between two currencies. Yet behind this number lie stories of conflict and compromise, victories and vulnerabilities, hopes and fears, confidence and cross perceptions. For exporters, importers, investors and governments, the meaning of currency strength is often very different, while computing currency movement in a forward time frame. What may appear attractive to a trader may not necessarily align with the objectives of a central bank, whose responsibility extends far beyond short-term market convenience.

Economics textbooks tell us that exchange rates are determined by the equilibrium between demand and supply. In reality, especially in the present global environment, narratives often overpower fundamentals. Rhetoric, geopolitical tensions, sanctions, policy signalling, speculative positioning and even casual remarks from influential global actors increasingly shape the direction of currencies. But the Indian Rupee though broadly follow the hype yet it does not get swept away on sentiments.

There is a growing perception that speculative positions in non-deliverable rupee derivatives traded in financial centres such as London, Dubai and Singapore influence the Rupee more than domestic economic fundamentals. While such offshore markets certainly create short-term volatility, a closer examination of long-term data does not support panic. If one studies CCIL statistics relating to spot forex, forward and swap transactions alongside India's monthly EXIM turnover over an extended period, the ratios remain broadly within manageable limits. The underlying structure does not indicate disorder.

India today undoubtedly faces a difficult global environment. Geopolitical instability, particularly the prolonged uncertainty in the Middle East, continues to cast a shadow over energy security, inflation expectations and capital flows. Speculation regarding the duration and



spread of regional conflicts creates additional pressure on all emerging market currencies, including the Rupee.

Yet this is perhaps the right moment to ask a larger question: Is this the first adverse phase India has encountered?

Since the balance of payments crisis of 1991, India has steadily progressed on the path of economic expansion and external sector stability. The pace may not have matched China's extraordinary rise, but India's progress has nevertheless been substantial, despite repeated predictions of failure from sceptics and detractors. In fact, the very emergence of offshore rupee derivative markets reflects the growing international relevance of the Indian economy and currency.

India's foreign exchange management framework has evolved through accumulated experience and institutional prudence. One of the most significant demonstrations of policy wisdom was the Reserve Bank of India's decision not to adopt full capital account convertibility during the late 1990s, despite strong intellectual and global pressure at the time. That restraint protected India from vulnerabilities which later devastated several emerging economies during periods of global financial

stress.

Over the last three and a half decades, the RBI has gradually liberalised foreign exchange administration with remarkable balance and caution. Few comparable economies have managed such calibrated reforms while simultaneously preserving macroeconomic stability. This accumulated institutional wisdom should not be lightly abandoned in pursuit of fashionable global prescriptions or competitive financial posturing. One-upmanship in exchange rate management can become a dangerous game for a developing economy.

India's challenges in reserve management and external commercial borrowing (ECB) management are unique and complex. The policies framed in these areas have largely been indigenous in design and adaptive in character rather than borrowed templates from elsewhere. However, vulnerabilities remain.

ECB norms prescribed by regulators have not always been uniformly internalised at the corporate level. Prudential exposure management has often lagged behind the pace of borrowing expansion. A future scenario involving adverse sovereign rating narratives, higher US interest rates, sudden correction in

gold prices, severe climatic disruption such as a super El Niño affecting agricultural output, or imbalance in renewal and prepayment of short-term external debt could place significant pressure on India's external sector.

Particularly important is the management of short-term foreign currency liabilities maturing within the next twelve months. Refinancing risks during periods of global uncertainty can quickly transform into exchange rate stress if accompanied by capital outflows or commodity price shocks.

The RBI is undoubtedly more aware than public commentators of these layered risks and likely runs multiple stress simulations covering such contingencies. Therefore, debates focused merely on the size of the RBI balance sheet or day-to-day exchange rate fluctuations often miss the deeper structural issues.

The movement of the Rupee from the ₹85-86 range to levels closer to ₹97-98 against the US Dollar, if it were to occur over time, should not necessarily be viewed purely through the lens of weakness or crisis. Exchange rate management is often a matter of strategic adaptation rather than emotional reaction. The real concern is not the arithmetic level of the currency but the pace, disorderliness and accompanying macroeconomic instability.

India's strength ultimately lies not merely in reserves or intervention capacity, but in the credibility of its institutions, the depth of its domestic market, the resilience of its economy and the maturity gained through decades of navigating external shocks.

Temporary discomforts should therefore be treated as lessons rather than signs of defeat. India has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to absorb pressure, recalibrate policy and move forward with greater resilience. The present phase too may eventually be remembered not as a crisis of confidence, but as another stage in the evolution of India's economic and monetary maturity.

(Former Banker with experience in Forex dealing)

Looking Forward To Deepen Ties: PM Modi Congratulates Armenian Counterpart Nikol Pashinyan

New Delhi, 8/6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated his Armenian counterpart Nikol Pashinyan for securing win in the country's parliamentary elections and expressed readiness to working closely with him to further strengthen ties between the two nations. "Congratulations to Mr. Nikol Pashinyan on the impressive victory of the Civil Contract Party in the parliamentary elections. The renewed mandate reflects the enduring trust and confidence of the people of Armenia in your leadership and vision. I look forward to working closely with you to further deepen the warm and historic ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Armenia." PM Modi posted on X. PM Modi's statement came after Pashinyan's Civil Contract Party secured victory in parliamentary elections held in Armenia on Sunday. According to preliminary Central Electoral Commission (CEC) data, ruling Civil Contract party received 49.825 per cent votes. Strong Armenia bloc got 23.281 per cent votes, "Armenia" bloc received



9.934 per cent votes, while Prosperous Armenia Party got 3.996 per cent votes, Armenia-based 'News Am' reported. Last month, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Armenia Lieutenant General Edvard Asryan was on an official visit to India. During his visit, Lieutenant General Edvard Asryan held a meeting with Chief of Army Staff

(COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi in New Delhi, with talks focused on the current geostrategic situation, strengthening defence cooperation, expanding military engagement and advancing collaboration between two nations in areas of mutual interest. "Lieutenant General Edvard Asryan, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces

of the Republic of Armenia, called on General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS. The interaction focused on the current geostrategic situation, strengthening India-Armenia Defence Cooperation, expanding military engagement and advancing collaboration in areas of mutual interest," Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information

(ADGPI) stated on X. Lieutenant General Asryan had also called on Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and discussed issues related to defence cooperation. "During his official visit to India, First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Edvard Asryan met with the Defence Secretary of India Rajesh Kumar Singh," Armenia's Ministry of Defence posted on X. "Issues related to Armenia-India cooperation in the defence sector were discussed," it added. Lieutenant General Asryan also held a meeting with Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal, A P Singh, with discussions focused on enhancing operational cooperation, interoperability and strengthening bilateral air power ties. He also called on Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and discussed ways to have joint ventures in the development of military hardware. Earlier this year, Armenia facilitated the evacuation of Indian nationals in Iran as tensions erupted in West Asia in February.

INDIA Bloc Exhausted, Opposition's Morale Crushed: Maha Dy CM Eknath Shinde

New Delhi, 8/6: Launching a scathing attack on the Opposition's INDIA alliance, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde on Monday questioned both its leadership and unity. "The Opposition's morale has been completely crushed, and the INDIA alliance has reached a state of sheer exhaustion," Shinde alleged, taking indirect swipes at Rahul Gandhi, Uddhav Thackeray and the Congress party. Claiming that the Opposition lacks a development agenda and relies solely on criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shinde expressed confidence that PM Modi's leadership would emerge even stronger in the coming days. He made these remarks while addressing the media following a key meeting of Shiv Sena office-bearers from 20 states across the country, held in Delhi. Shinde said detailed discussions were held with state chiefs regarding the nationwide expansion of the Shiv Sena, adding that the atmosphere is highly favourable for the party's growth. He expressed confidence that the meeting would infuse new strength into the Shiv Sena and address the concerns of its workers. Accusing Opposition parties of being unable to tolerate the country's progress, Shinde said that India is advancing rapidly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, since the Opposition lacks a constructive agenda, it continuously resorts to criticising the Prime Minister, he alleged. He added that the Opposition is struggling to digest India's growth and its rising prestige on the global stage. Taking an indirect jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Shinde remarked that despite holding meetings across the country, there is no concrete direction behind them. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the country for many more years because he has the blessings and trust of 140 crore Indians. Rahul Gandhi should first work consistently by staying in the country before criticising Modi," he said. Shinde further pointed out that senior leaders like Sharad Pawar and Mamata Banerjee have also questioned the consistency of Rahul Gandhi's leadership. "Politics aimed at defaming the Prime Minister is being played out both within the country and abroad."

SC Invokes Extraordinary Powers To Acquit POCSO Convict After Victim Marries Him, Seeks Case Closure

New Delhi: Invoking its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to ensure "complete justice", the Supreme Court has set aside the conviction of a man sentenced under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act after taking note of subsequent developments, including his marriage with the victim after both attained majority and a settlement arrived at between them. A bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Atul S. Chandurkar allowed the appeal filed by Tamil Nadu resident Maruthupandi against his conviction under Section 5(1) read with Section 6 of the POCSO Act and acquitted him of the charge. However, the apex court clarified that the relief was being granted in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case and would not serve as a precedent. "Therefore, at this stage, without entering into the merits of the case, in the peculiar facts, as narrated above, we deem it appropriate to exercise our plenary power under Article 142 of the Constitution for setting aside the judgment of conviction and sentence of the appellant," the Justice Maheshwari-led

Bench said. The case stemmed from a complaint lodged by the victim alleging that the accused had repeatedly engaged in sexual intercourse with her on a promise of marriage when she was a minor. Following the trial, a Fast Track Mahila Court in Dharmapuri convicted Maruthupandi in April 2019 and sentenced him to 10 years' imprisonment along with a fine. During the pendency of the appeal before the Madras High Court, the victim sought permission to adduce additional evidence, claiming that she and the accused had settled their differences and wished to live together. The plea was rejected by the Madras High Court, prompting the accused to approach the Supreme Court. The top court subsequently directed that the victim's statement be recorded before a magistrate under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In her statement recorded in December 2022, the victim reiterated that the accused had sexual relations with her when she was a minor and that she had lodged the complaint after he refused to marry her. However, in a subsequent statement recorded in February 2025, she disclosed that

after a failed marriage with another person, she had married the appellant on December 5, 2024, and was living with him. The Supreme Court also noted that the accused paid Rs 10 lakh to the victim towards securing her future and family life. The victim informed the apex court that she had received the entire amount and did not wish to pursue the litigation any further. "She has specifically admitted that she has received the amount of Rs 10,00,000/- and she wishes to put a quietus to this litigation. It is specifically stated by her that in case the conviction of the appellant is set aside, she has no objection," the Justice Maheshwari-led Bench recorded. The Tamil Nadu government also informed the top court that it had no objection to setting aside the conviction in view of the peculiar factual scenario, while requesting that the order should not be treated as a precedent. Taking note of the victim's statements, the subsequent marriage between the parties after attaining majority, and the compensation paid by the accused, the Supreme Court exercised its powers under Article 142 and acquitted him.

Trinamool Congress Crumbles Like A House Built On Sand

New Delhi, 8/6: The Trinamool Congress, once the formidable force that ended three decades of Left Front rule in West Bengal, today resembles the Biblical parable of a house built on sand that collapses when storms arrive. Following the state election defeat, its organisational base — weakened by corruption, factionalism and overreliance on professional consultants — is being battered by storms of scandal and dissent. About five days after a breakaway faction comprising 58 of the Trinamool's 80 elected MLAs laid claim to recognition as the "original party" in the West Bengal Assembly, 20 of its 28 Lok Sabha MPs have reportedly made a similar request to the office of the Lok Sabha Speaker. One of West Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha seats, Basirhat, remains vacant following the death of the sitting Trinamool MP. Among the party's 13 Rajya Sabha MPs, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy on Monday announced his resignation from both the Upper House and the party's primary membership. Roy's current tenure in the Rajya Sabha was scheduled to end in 2029. The 77-year-old MP was already in trouble within the party following his open support for protesters seeking justice after the rape-murder of



an intern at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in August 2024, even as the then Mamata Banerjee-led government faced criticism over its response to the incident. Since the Trinamool's Assembly poll defeat, he has publicly criticised the party over corruption-related issues. Mamata Banerjee, once the fiery street-fighter who toppled the state's communist regime in 2011, now appears increasingly detached from the party's grassroots. Her nephew, Abhishek Banerjee, entrusted with organisational control, leans heavily on professional consultants whose strategies allegedly often lack resonance with West Bengal's political culture. Discontent had been

reportedly organised dissident MPs. The 66-year-old physician was upset with the party leadership after being removed unceremoniously as party Whip and had earlier resigned from all organisational positions. She has reportedly forwarded a list of the rebel MPs to the Speaker's office, seeking recognition as a separate bloc aligned with the ruling National Democratic Alliance. Sources said she believes that the party's latest intimation regarding her removal as Chief Whip has not yet reached the Speaker's office and that she therefore continues to hold the position officially. In a similar development recently, disgruntled Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MPs, led by Raghav Chadha, left the party and merged with the Bharatiya Janata Party without attracting anti-defection provisions. While the final decision will rest with the Election Commission and the respective presiding officers of the Assembly and Parliament, the party founded by Mamata Banerjee 28 years ago appears to be under severe strain. Just as a sandy foundation struggles to withstand a storm, the Trinamool is facing an internal crisis within about a month of its defeat in the state election.

India's 7.7 PC GDP Growth Driven By A Decade Of Economic Reforms: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, 8/6: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said India's 7.7 per cent GDP growth reflected sustained policy interventions and economic reforms undertaken by the government over the past decade, which have ensured that the country remains the fastest-growing economy.



"I don't think any of you would have imagined that last year would close with a GDP growth of 7.7 per cent. This is not an accident, it is a decade of structural reforms," he said. The minister launched the BHAVYA portal to accelerate the development of 100 investment-ready industrial parks across India. On May 23, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) released the detailed operational guidelines for the implementation of the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) Scheme, which provides for the development of

100 industrial parks over a period of six years from 2026-27 to 2031-32, with a total financial outlay of approximately Rs 33,660 crore. In the first phase, up to 50 industrial parks will be taken up through a challenge-based competitive selection process. Up to 20 Industrial parks will be selected from the applications received by July 31, and 30 more will be selected from applications received in the subsequent 4

months. The minister said that the government has been endeavouring with hard work and sincerity to improve the lives of 1.4 billion Indians. Giving them a good quality of life, ease of living and ease of doing business has been at the fulcrum of the government's efforts towards promoting more and more economic activity, he added. "More than 250 million people have come out of extreme poverty.

Many obsolete laws have been taken off the books, and we have a listening and vigilant government, recognising what, when and where we need to act," Goyal said. The minister said that to maintain this momentum, India's exports rose last year despite the 50 per cent US tariffs and global wars in Ukraine and West Asia. He further stated that the country attracted record FDI last year despite geopolitical tensions. "The government has finalised five FTAs in a span of six months. The world is looking up to India as a trusted partner, and all see India as an investment destination, not only for the large-scale demand it generates but also for its young talent and youthful energy. It is an opportunity of a lifetime, and as we conclude 12 years today, we rededicate ourselves to do much more in the future, prepare the nation for the challenges ahead, and continue to work for the people of India," Goyal added.

Govt To Celebrate A Decade Of PMSMA With Awareness, Outreach Activities

New Delhi, 8/6: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday said it will launch nationwide celebrations to commemorate 10 years of implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA). As part of the celebrations, starting from Tuesday, awareness and outreach activities will be organised across states and Union Territories to encourage pregnant women and their families to avail the nine assured free services available under PMSMA and promote the importance of timely and quality antenatal care, an official statement said. PMSMA is among India's flagship initiatives to ensure safe pregnancy and healthy motherhood. The inaugural ceremony will be presided over by Union Health Minister JP Nadda. A special Rs 75 Commemorative Coin and a Rs 5 Postal Stamp will also be released by minister Nadda, to honour a decade of contribution from the



scheme. PMSME, operational since June 9, 2016, has transformed the maternal and neonatal healthcare ecosystem by providing free, comprehensive, and quality Antenatal Care (ANC) services to pregnant women on the 9th of every month. Extended PMSMA strategy ensures quality antenatal care (ANC) to pregnant women, especially to high-risk pregnant (HRP) women and individual

HRP tracking until a safe delivery is achieved by means of financial incentivization for the identified high-risk pregnant women and accompanying ASHA for extra 3 visits over and above the PMSMA visit. 'LaQshya' improves the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.

North Korea's Kim Calls Enhancing Ties With China 'Top Priority'

Seoul, 8/6: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said Monday deepening ties with China is his country's top policy priority, as he held summit talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Pyongyang, according to a report. The Kim-Xi talks came hours after the Chinese leader arrived in Pyongyang for his first State Visit in nearly seven years, Yonhap news agency reported. Developing friendship between the North and China is "the people's choice and the calling of the times," China's Xinhua News Agency quoted Kim as saying during the talks with Xi. Kim said Pyongyang viewed the development of mutual ties as the country's "most important strategic priority." With the international community "going through unprecedented, grand change," he reaffirmed Pyongyang's



support for Beijing's "One China" principle and pledged to keep helping safeguard China's core interests, according to the report. Kim also vowed to work toward making the relationship an exemplary one between nations, saying the two sides should jointly contribute to

regional and global peace and prosperity. Xi said China remained firmly committed to protecting North Korea's interests and expanding practical cooperation across a broad range of areas, including the economy, trade, military, science and healthcare. "No

matter how the international situation changes, the Chinese party and government's firm commitment to safeguarding the shared interests of the two countries and preserving a favourable strategic environment will not change," Xi was quoted as saying. Xi said both sides should "maintain high-level exchanges as guidance and build on the foundation of political mutual trust." He also called for stronger coordination across diplomacy, law enforcement and the military, saying the two countries should stand firm in defending each other's sovereignty, security and development interests. China was ready to work with Kim to chart the course of bilateral relations from a strategic perspective and push for greater development of their relationship, Xi added.

Avoid All Non-Essential, Unnecessary Travel Within Israel: Indian Embassy

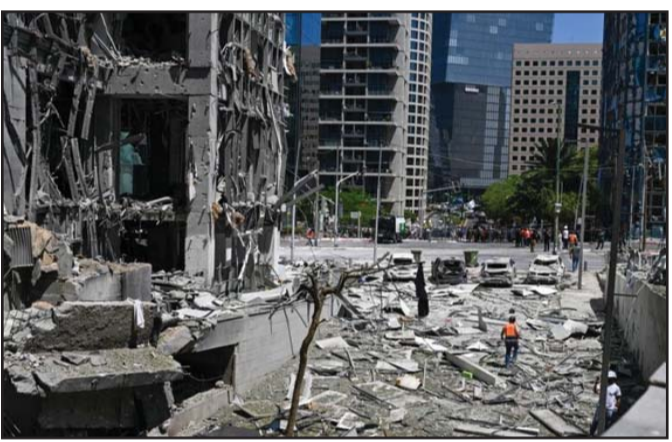
Jerusalem, 8/6: India on Monday issued a fresh travel advisory for Israel amid the ongoing developments in the region, urging Indian nationals to avoid non-essential travel inside Israel and exercise utmost caution. "In view of the prevailing security situation in the region, all Indian nationals in Israel are advised to exercise utmost caution and remain vigilant at all times," the Indian Embassy posted on X. "Indian nationals are advised to avoid all non-essential and unnecessary travel within Israel until further notice," it added. The Embassy strongly advised Indian nationals to strictly adhere to the safety guidelines and instructions issued by the Israeli authorities and the Home Front Command. It also urged the Indian nationals to remain in close

proximity to designated shelters and familiarise themselves with the nearest protected spaces in their area of residence or work. The advisory comes as tensions continue to escalate in the West Asia region following renewed missile exchanges between Iran and Israel. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said its aerospace forces on Monday morning targeted two "important and strategic" Israeli air bases in retaliation for Israel's attacks earlier in the day against the Gulf country. In a statement on its official news outlet, Sepah News, the IRGC said that it struck Israel's Nevatim and Tel Nof airbases in response to Israel's missile strikes on a number of radar sites in three Iranian

locations. All its combat and operational units are fully ready to carry out operations on all fronts, the IRGC added. Explosions were heard in Iran's capital, Tehran, and in two other provinces early Monday, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting the semi-official Fars news agency. Yemen's Houthi group said on Monday that it had launched a barrage of missiles targeting what it described as sensitive Israeli sites in the Jaffa area and announced a complete ban on Israeli-linked maritime navigation in the Red Sea. In a televised statement, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the group's forces carried out a missile attack against targets in Jaffa, claiming the operation achieved its objectives.

Israel Strikes Petrochemical Company In Iran's Khuzestan

Jerusalem, 8/6: Israel on Monday morning carried out an airstrike against the Karun Petrochemical Company in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province, state media reported. Part of the petrochemical complex has sustained damage after being hit by the Israeli projectiles, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency cited Valiollah Hayati, Khuzestan's deputy governor for security affairs, as saying. He added that no casualties have been reported so far. Iran's Petrochemical Special Economic Zone Organisation said later in a statement that it had evacuated all employees in the port city of Bandar-e Mahshahr in Khuzestan, state-run IRIB news agency reported. Also on Monday morning, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said its aerospace forces targeted two "important and strategic" Israeli air bases, reports Xinhua news agency. In a statement published on its official



news outlet, Sepah News, the IRGC said the Nevatim and Tel Nof air bases were struck in response to Israel's missile strikes on several radar sites in three locations in Iran. It added that all the IRGC's combat and operational units are fully ready to carry out operations on all fronts, with action plans tailored to the "enemy's" scenarios. The clashes come as the IRGC's aerospace forces on Sunday launched ballistic missiles at the

Ramat David air base in northern Israel in response to Israel's "widespread crimes" in southern Lebanon, including the killing and displacement of civilians. In a statement on its official news outlet, Sepah News, the IRGC said that it struck Israel's Nevatim and Tel Nof airbases in response to Israel's missile strikes on a number of radar sites in three Iranian locations. All its combat and operational units are fully ready to carry out operations on all fronts, the IRGC added.

NATO Fighters Shoot Down Drone Over Latvia

Riga, 8/6: A drone was shot down by a NATO fighter aircraft on Monday in Latvia after an air alert over the regions of Zemgale and Ludza in the east of the country, local media reported. Last month, the violation of Latvian airspace by drones had triggered the resignation of the Minister of Defence and the subsequent resignation of Prime Minister Evika Silina, Italian news agency Adnkronos reported.

The drone on Monday was intercepted by French fighter jets from the NATO Baltic Air Policing operation. Russia has recently intensified the diversion, with electronic jamming, of Ukrainian drones over the Baltic countries. Adnkronos reported that 155 drones were launched from Moscow overnight, and Ukrainian defence forces shot down 124 of them. The command of the Ukrainian Air Force wrote on Telegram that the drones were shot down in the north, south, and east of the country. The leaders of Britain, France and Germany, collectively known as the E3, have voiced support for direct



dialogue between Ukraine and Russia aimed at achieving a ceasefire and advancing peace negotiations, following talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in London. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz issued a joint statement with Zelensky after the meeting on Sunday, saying

they backed direct Ukraine-Russia talks with the active participation of the United States and Europe. The four leaders called for an immediate and complete ceasefire, saying the current line of contact should serve as the starting point for negotiations, reports Xinhua news agency. According to the statement, Europe should play an important role in the peace process, with

relevant efforts conducted in close coordination with Ukraine, European partners and the United States. The leaders also discussed post-ceasefire security arrangements for Ukraine. The statement said European security interests should be safeguarded in any agreement and noted that matters relating to the European Union and NATO would require the consent of their respective members.

Powerful Baroud Dance Performance Greets Indian Ambassador In Algerian City

Algiers, 8/6: A warm ceremonial welcome with the powerful 'Baroud dance', a thunderous celebratory display of rifles, rhythm, and cultural pride, was given to Indian Ambassador Swati Vijay Kulkarni as she visited Laghouat, a town considered the 'gateway to the desert', 400 kms away from the country's capital Algiers. "The Baroud Dance is an important part of Algerian cultural heritage. It echoes traditional Indian martial and sword dances like Chholiya, Getka, and Naga war dances that are also rooted in battle preparations, community rituals to celebrate bravery, regional identity, and shared joy," the Embassy of India in Algiers posted on X along with videos of the grand welcome given to the Indian Ambassador. "The Ambassador thanked Dr. Mohamed Benmalek, Hon'ble Wali (Governor) of Laghouat for this grand welcome," the Indian Embassy added. India and Algeria share cordial relations with cooperation in several fields including strategic areas like oil and gas, defence, and space cooperation. Taking into consideration the current bilateral



trade at USD 1.7 billion, both countries have emphasised the scope for significant expansion. In this regard, they have identified pharmaceuticals, higher education, energy, mining, fertilizer, agriculture as potential areas of cooperation. On March 29, Algiers hosted the 7th Foreign Office Consultations between both countries, co-chaired by Neena Malhotra, Secretary (South) at the

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Lounes Magramane, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad and African Affairs, of Algeria. Both delegations had expressed satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation while emphasising the importance of continued high-level interaction. They also agreed to explore new avenues of cooperation to further

strengthen this partnership and underlined the impetus provided by the maiden and historic State Visit by President Droupadi Murmu to Algeria in October 2024. "Both sides comprehensively reviewed bilateral relations including political, trade and investment, capacity building, tourism, cultural cooperation and people-to-people linkages, in the spirit of South-

South cooperation. Human resource development was identified as an important pillar of this partnership," read a statement issued after the meeting. It added that both countries also agreed to strengthen parliamentary cooperation and in this regard, Algeria welcomed the formation of the India-Algeria Parliamentary Friendship Group in Indian Parliament. "Condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, both sides agreed to work together to fight this menace. India appreciated the warm welcome accorded to the All Party Parliamentary delegation from India following the Pahalgam terrorist attack. They expressed happiness at the steadily expanding trade and investment linkages between India and Algeria," the statement added. During her visit to Algeria, MEA's Secretary (South) had also called on Mohamed Arkab, Algerian Minister of Hydrocarbons and Mines, and discussed ways to further enhance cooperation in hydrocarbon, phosphate, mining and geology sectors and diversifying India's energy sources.

Iran Says Targeted Two Israeli Airbases In Retaliatory Attack

Tehran, 8/6: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said its aerospace forces on Monday morning targeted two "important and strategic" Israeli air bases in retaliation for Israel's attacks earlier in the day against the Gulf country. In a statement on its official news outlet, Sepah News, the IRGC said that it struck Israel's Nevatim and Tel Nof airbases in response to Israel's missile strikes on a number of radar sites in three Iranian locations. All its combat and operational units are fully ready to carry out operations on all fronts, the IRGC added. Explosions were heard in Iran's capital, Tehran, and in two other provinces early Monday, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting the semi-official Fars news agency. Citing local sources, the report said one explosion was heard west of Tehran, two in the central province of Isfahan, and one near Tabriz, the capital of the northwestern East Azarbaijan province. The Israel Defense Forces said on Telegram that the Israeli Air Force struck military targets in western and central Iran on Monday morning. On Sunday, the IRGC said in a statement that it had launched ballistic missiles against the Ramat David Air Base in northern Israel in response to Israel's "widespread crimes" in southern Lebanon, including the killing and displacement of civilians. The statement said the Israeli air base carried out the attacks in Lebanon. Also on Sunday, Ali Abdollahi, chief commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, warned that Israel would face more "crushing and regret-inducing blows" if it expanded attacks on southern Lebanon and the southern Beirut suburb of Dahieh. Meanwhile, an Iranian missile, or debris from an interception, struck a settlement in the occupied West Bank on Monday, damaging three homes, Israel's Channel 12 News reported. Video footage shared on social media showed a large plume of smoke rising from the area. There were no immediate reports of casualties, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service.

Renewed Attacks In West Asia Matter Of Utmost Concern: India

New Delhi, 8/6: India on Monday expressed regret over the renewed attacks in West Asia and called on all parties to de-escalate tensions while asserting that the fresh developments are a matter of utmost concern to the international community. "India deeply regrets the renewed attacks in West Asia. These developments are a matter of

utmost concern to the international community. This conflict has now lasted over 100 days and has already caused immense human suffering. It has also had a debilitating impact on the global economy and energy supplies," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). "We call on all parties to immediately de-escalate tensions,

ensure that civilians are not harmed and conclude ongoing negotiations for a diplomatic solution so that peace and stability can return to the region," it added. Earlier in the day, the Indian Embassy in Tehran reiterated its travel advisory for Iran amid the ongoing developments in the region, urging its nationals to avoid travelling to the region and those there to leave the country

by all available means of transport. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said on Monday that it has struck "several targets" at the petrochemical complex in Iran's Mahshahr area. In another statement, the Israeli military said that all the Iranian missiles launched at Israel on Monday morning were intercepted. The IDF stated that the impact reported in

an open field in the West Bank was likely a large fragment after an interception. Furthermore, an all-clear was given in the Jerusalem area after an early warning was issued for an Iranian missile attack, "The Times of Israel" reported. Meanwhile, Ali Abdollahi, chief commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, warned that Israel

will face more "crushing and regret-inducing blows" if it expands its attacks on southern Lebanon and the Dahieh district south of the Lebanese capital, Beirut or responds to Iran's action. In a statement aired by Iran's semi-official Fars news agency on Sunday (local time), he stressed that Israel must stop its attacks on southern Lebanon and Dahieh;

otherwise, "devastating" attacks will begin against Israel and its supporters. Israel has increased its "malicious actions" against Lebanese people on a daily basis with the US "greenlight" and international organisations' lack of response and "is perpetrating war crimes by using banned weapons, including phosphorus bombs," Abdollahi said.

India Secures Clearance To Export Aquaculture Products, Honey And Eggs To EU Beyond September 2026

New Delhi, 8/6: India has been included on the list of countries authorised to export aquaculture products, eggs, honey and animal casings to the European Union beyond September 2026 under an amended EU regulatory framework, the government said on Monday. The European Union amended Regulation (EU) 2021/405 to address concerns about antimicrobial resistance. The revised regulation will come into effect from September 2026 and lays down additional requirements for countries exporting specified animal-origin products to the European Union. India's inclusion in the list of authorised countries ensures continuity of exports of the specified animal origin products to the EU market beyond September 2026, the statement from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said. The development is most significant for the fisheries



sector, as fish and fishery product exports from India to the European Union are currently valued at approximately \$1.59 billion. The Department of Commerce's sustained efforts in close coordination with the

Export Inspection Council (EIC) and other stakeholders played a major part in the clearance, the statement noted. The Department of Commerce has been actively engaging with the European Commission to address regulatory

requirements and market access issues, while the EIC has strengthened India's Official Control System through enhanced inspection, testing and certification mechanisms in line with European Union regulations. "The Department of Commerce, along with the Export Inspection Council and other stakeholders, including the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), will continue to work closely with EU-approved establishments and regulatory authorities to ensure smooth implementation of the regulatory requirements and maintain high standards of quality and food safety in export products," the statement noted. India's inclusion under the amended EU regulation will facilitate continued market access for Indian exporters, support trade growth and create new opportunities across the concerned sectors, the ministry noted.

Virginia Targets Indian Tourists As Second Largest International Source Market: Report

New Delhi, 8/6: Virginia Tourism Corporation is stepping up engagement with India's travel trade to boost overnight stays and visitor spending after India became the US state's second largest international source market and its largest overseas market, a new report has said. Preliminary estimates showed that Virginia welcomed just over 65,000 Indian visitors in 2025, generating about \$112 million in visitor spending. In 2024, the state recorded over 69,000 Indian arrivals and roughly \$124 million in spending. Heidi Johannesen, Managing Director — Global Markets, Virginia Tourism Corporation told Indian travel partners during a visit that the slight moderation in arrivals is due to broader geopolitical developments and visa-related challenges. The tourism officials said their priority is to broaden awareness among Indian tour operators and travel advisors of Virginia's attractions beyond the popular Luray Caverns caves,



which many Indian visitors currently visit as a day trip from the Washington, DC, area without overnight stays. Christi Braginton, Director — Global Markets, Virginia Tourism Corporation, said that the state's wider offerings include Mount Vernon, Monticello, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg and Fairfax County but visitors are mostly unaware of them. The officials said

Virginia's tourism proposition extends from mountains and beaches to vineyards, culinary experiences, theme parks and some of the most significant historical landmarks in the United States, according to the report. To improve awareness, VTC runs co-operative marketing campaigns, trade and consumer media outreach, social media initiatives and direct engagements with Indian travel partners.

RBI's FCNR-B Deposit Push May Attract Long-Term Forex Inflows: Report

New Delhi, 8/6: The Reserve Bank of India's decision to reinvigorate Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) or FCNR-B deposits could pave the way for fresh long-term foreign exchange inflows, according to a report.

Jefferies, in its report, said that the renewed focus on FCNR-B deposits is aimed at mobilising funds from non-resident Indians for a tenure of 3-5 years, potentially opening a stable channel of forex inflows into the country's banking system. It noted that the initiative draws parallels with the RBI's 2013 measures, when FCNR-B and external commercial borrowing (ECB) schemes collectively mobilised around \$34 billion, equivalent to about 12 per cent of India's foreign exchange reserves at the time and nearly 3 per cent of total bank deposits. One of the key factors to watch in the current cycle is the extent of clarity on leverage available to depositors, especially as the yield differential between Indian and US assets is relatively narrower compared to 2013. The report highlighted that the central bank may absorb the full cost of hedging this time, while



potentially exempting such deposits from statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) and cash reserve ratio (CRR) requirements. This would mark a more liberal approach compared to 2013, when the RBI had capped hedging costs for banks at 3.5 per cent. In addition, the central bank has allowed public sector undertakings (PSUs) to raise ECB funds, with hedging costs potentially being borne by the RBI. The hedging window remains open until September 30, 2026. The brokerage said the 2013 mobilisation drive was highly successful, aided significantly by leverage structures that

allowed investors to amplify exposure through bank-issued standby letters of credit (SBLCs), resulting in larger inflows. However, it noted that subsequent regulatory changes led the RBI to discourage leverage through such instruments. India's foreign exchange reserves, currently around \$682 billion are significantly higher than in 2013, which could influence the scale and design of the current mobilisation effort, it said. According to the brokerage, participation from large banks played a major role in widening the funding pool and supporting credit growth and margins during that period.

DGCA Launches Probe Into Damage To Air India Planes At Delhi Airport

New Delhi, 8/6: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Monday that it is investigating the matter in which three aircraft of Air India parked at Delhi airport were damaged due to adverse weather conditions on Sunday. The civil aviation regulator said the planes have been grounded for inspection and maintenance. "On 7th June 2026, three Air India A320 aircraft parked at the Delhi Airport Terminal II were damaged by ground equipment and foreign object debris during adverse weather conditions around 16:30 IST," the DGCA statement said. Due to strong winds, two pieces of ground equipment positioned at adjacent stands and in nearby areas moved from their locations and hit two different aircraft at various positions, causing damage. In addition, the right-hand sliding window of another aircraft sustained damage due to the impact of foreign object debris, the statement added. According to Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), the incident — which took place on Sunday at Terminal 2 after strong winds accompanied by heavy rainfall — caused ground handling equipment positioned near parked aircraft to shift from



its location and collide with three Air India narrow-body aircraft. Following the incident, all three aircraft were withdrawn from service to undergo detailed inspections and repairs. In addition, DIAL said the displaced equipment belonged to Air India Engineering Services and IndiGo's ground handling operations. Weather conditions deteriorated rapidly and unexpectedly, and neither the airport operator nor airlines had received any advance warning regarding the sudden weather

change from Air Traffic Control (ATC), according to airport officials. Reports claim that an aircraft belonging to other operators was also affected because of the severe weather conditions. Meanwhile, two of the three affected Air India aircraft are expected to return to operations soon, while repairs on the third aircraft may take longer. The incident comes amid increasing operational challenges posed by sudden weather disruptions, particularly during periods of intense rainfall and strong

winds. Delhi-NCR has witnessed a sudden change in weather as rainfall lashed several parts of the region. During the day, visuals from areas around the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport showed rain sweeping across multiple localities near the airport. In addition, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast another spell of very light to light rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds reaching up to 60 km per hour on June 11 and 12.

Sensex Falls 719 Points, Nifty Drops Over 1 PC As West Asia Tensions Spike

Mumbai, 8/6: Indian equity markets ended sharply lower on Monday as escalating tensions in West Asia triggered a risk-off sentiment across global markets, leading to a sell-off in domestic equities amid a spike in crude oil prices. The benchmark index Sensex declined 719.08 points, or 0.97 per cent, to close at 73,524.26, tracking weakness in global equities and rising geopolitical uncertainty. Similarly, the 50-share Nifty index fell 243.70 points, or 1.04 per cent, to settle at 23,123.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 23,250-23,300 zone now acts as the immediate resistance area, followed by 23,450 where the latest breakdown originated. "A decisive move above these levels will be required to improve market structure and trigger any meaningful recovery," the analyst stated. "On the downside, 23,100 remains the immediate support to watch. A breakdown below this level could accelerate selling pressure towards the crucial 23,000



mark," a market expert noted. Market sentiment was hit after reports suggested that Iran fired missiles at Israel, raising concerns over the fragile security situation in the region and dampening hopes of any immediate peace breakthrough between Washington and Tehran. The development also fuelled worries over potential disruptions in global oil supply, pushing crude prices higher. Broader markets

witnessed even steeper losses, with the Nifty MidCap index declining 1.66 per cent and the Nifty SmallCap index falling 2.88 per cent. Sectorally, selling pressure was broad-based, with Nifty Realty, Nifty Metal and Nifty Auto indices underperforming the most during the session. In contrast, the Nifty Healthcare index managed to outperform, offering some relative resilience amid the broader market

decline. Experts said that the sharp fall in domestic equities reflected a combination of global risk-off cues, geopolitical tensions in West Asia and concerns over rising crude oil prices impacting inflation and corporate margins. "Selling pressure resurfaced during the afternoon session as global uncertainty and continued foreign investor caution prevented the market from sustaining higher levels," a market expert mentioned.

Gold, Silver Prices Fall Up To 4 Pct Amid Geopolitical Tensions

Mumbai, 8/6: Gold and silver prices traded lower on Monday, with precious metals falling by nearly 4 per cent amid escalating tensions in the West Asia conflict, a volatile global macroeconomic environment and surging crude oil prices. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August contract) declined as much as 1.85 per cent or Rs 2,882 to hit an intraday low of Rs 1,52,712 at around 12:30 pm. The yellow metal was trading at Rs 1,53,550, down over 1 per cent or Rs 2,044. It touched an intraday high of Rs 1,54,512, down 0.69 per cent or Rs 1,082 from the previous close. Similarly, silver futures (July contract) were trading at Rs 2,41,763, down Rs 6,774 or around 3 per cent. The white metal touched an intraday low of Rs 2,39,064, declining 3.81 per cent during the session. It also touched an intraday high of Rs 2,51,001, down around 1 per cent from the previous close. Earlier in the day, gold and silver opened at Rs 1,54,177 and Rs 2,51,001, respectively, on the MCX. In international markets,

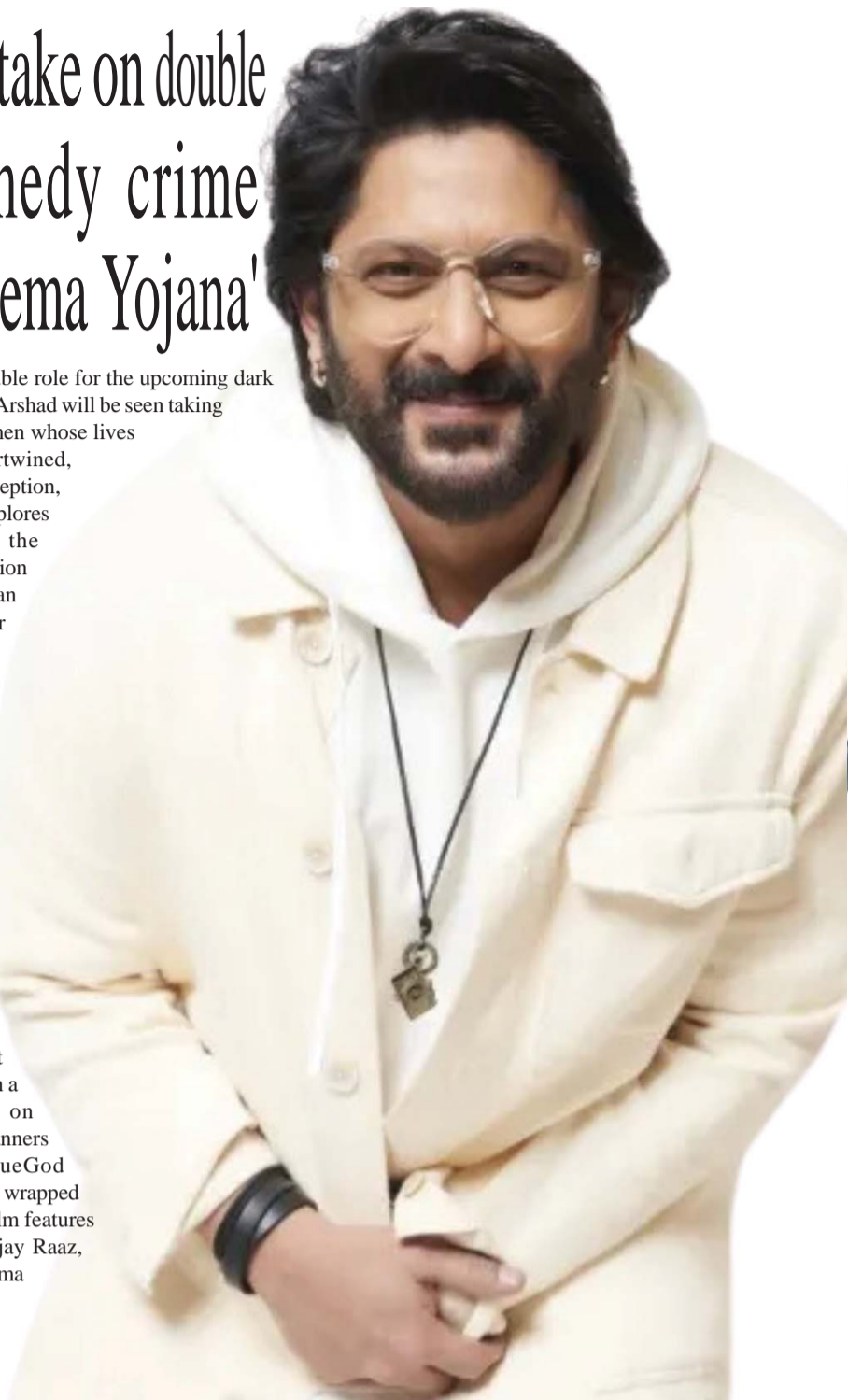


precious metals also remained under pressure. COMEX silver was trading at \$67.17 per ounce, down 2.79 per cent, while COMEX gold was trading around 1 per cent lower at \$4,324.70 per ounce. According to commodity analysts, precious metals witnessed selling pressure after stronger-than-expected US jobs data reinforced concerns that the US Federal Reserve could keep interest rates elevated for longer, reducing the appeal of non-yielding assets such as gold and

silver. They added that while geopolitical tensions continued to support safe-haven demand to some extent, improving sentiment around possible US-Iran negotiations and easing concerns over supply disruptions limited buying interest in precious metals. Meanwhile, crude oil prices surged sharply, with Brent crude rising around 4 per cent to trade at \$96.90 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) climbed more than 4 per cent to \$94.75 per barrel.

Arshad Warsi set to take on double role for dark comedy crime thriller 'Jeevan Bheema Yojana'

Actor Arshad Warsi is all set to step into a double role for the upcoming dark comedy crime thriller 'Jeevan Bheema Yojana'. Arshad will be seen taking on the challenge of portraying two lookalike men whose lives become unexpectedly and dangerously intertwined, setting the stage for a chaotic tale of crime, deception, and dark humour. 'Jeevan Bheema Yojana' explores themes of greed, desperation, love, and the consequences of one seemingly perfect decision gone terribly wrong. "It follows the life of Jeevan and his wife Yojana, a couple struggling under mounting debt. Their fortunes seem set to change when they discover Bheema, a stranger who looks exactly like Jeevan. What begins as a seemingly foolproof plan to fake Jeevan's death and claim an insurance payout soon spirals out of control when the man presumed dead turns out to have ties to a dangerous diamond-smuggling network," as per a press release from the makers. Speaking about the film, director Abhishek Dogra shared, "Jeevan Bheema Yojana is a film about ordinary people making one extraordinary, catastrophic decision and then spending the rest of the film paying for it. The genre is dark comedy, but the heart of it is very human. Greed, desperation, love, and the terrible momentum of a lie you can't stop telling. Arshad brings both men to life with a precision that constantly surprised us on set." Produced by Anshu Mishra under the banners of Star Beam Ventures Ltd (formerly BlueGod Entertainment Ltd), 'Jeevan Bheema Yojana' has wrapped production. Directed by Abhishek Dogra, the film features a talented cast including Sanjeeda Shaikh, Vijay Raaz, Pooja Chopra, and Bijendra Kala. 'Jeevan Bheema Yojana' is slated to release in Monsoon 2026.



Amitabh Bachchan spotted driving himself, reflects on technology & generational gap in blog post

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan once again grabbed public attention after being spotted in an unusual moment—driving himself on a Sunday, instead of using his usual chauffeur-driven car. The rare sighting quickly went viral on social media, surprising fans who are accustomed to seeing the veteran actor travel with a driver. The incident took place on Sunday when Bachchan was also seen continuing his long-standing tradition of greeting fans outside his Mumbai residence, Jalsa. Popularly known as "Sunday Darshan," this weekly interaction has become a cherished ritual for his admirers. Later in the day, the actor shared a reflective post on his Tumblr blog, where he discussed generational differences and the rapid evolution of technology. He recalled growing up in an earlier era with limited access to modern conveniences and highlighted how dramatically life has changed over the decades. Describing his experiences, Bachchan wrote about a time when basic technologies such as telephones, refrigerators, and air conditioners were not readily available, noting how their later introduction felt overwhelming and fascinating. He also acknowledged that younger generations may find it difficult to relate to such experiences, just as older generations sometimes struggle to adapt to modern advancements. The actor further observed that technological progress continues at a rapid pace and that future generations may also face similar challenges in adapting to constant change. He emphasized the idea of "catching up" with modernisation while noting that some people may choose to disengage, whereas others remain eager to learn and adapt. Concluding his reflections, Bachchan wrote, "YES ... NO ... two of the most expressions to be expressed ..." On the professional front, Amitabh Bachchan was last seen in Kalki 2898 AD, directed by Nag Ashwin, which featured Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, and Kamal Haasan in key roles.



SPORTS

PV Sindhu To Spearhead India's Challenge At The Australian Open

New Delhi, 8/6: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will lead a 24-member Indian contingent at the Australian Open 2026, with experienced campaigners HS Prannoy and rising star Ayush Shetty hoping to make a strong impression when the BWF Super 500 tournament gets underway in Sydney on Tuesday. India, however, will miss some of its star performers, as defending men's singles champion Lakshya Sen pulled out of this year's tournament, while former world No 1 Kidambi Srikanth, who bagged the title in 2017, is also sitting out this event. This puts a spotlight on Sindhu, who heads a powerful Indian women's singles challenge in the Quaycentre in Sydney. Alongside the former world champion in the main draw, former Asian junior champion Malvika Bansod, Anmol Kharb, Tanvi Sharma, Isharani Baruah, Aakarshi Kashyap, and Tanya Hemnath will compete in the women's singles, while Imad Farooqui and Samiya will start from the qualifying



rounds. India's challenge in the men's singles draw will be led by the trio of Prannoy, Ayush Shetty, and Kiran George. The three all suffered a first-round exit in last week's Indonesia Open and would look to make amends by reaching the later stages in Sydney. Youngsters Tharun Manneppalli, Saneeth Dayanand, and Manraj Singh form the rest of India's challenge in men's singles, with the latter two starting from the

qualifiers. Injury concerns have also hit India's men's doubles bid. Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will miss out after Satwik aggravated a shoulder injury that he sustained in last week's Indonesia Open. The pair of MR Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan will carry India's hopes in the men's doubles after reaching the quarter finals in Jakarta, while Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu and Arjun Reddy

Pochana make their second appearance on the BWF World Tour event after the Spain Masters. There is no Indian representation in the women's doubles competition this year. India's challenge in the mixed doubles is spearheaded by Dhruv Kapila and Olympian Tanisha Crasto, who will be accompanied by the pair of Dhruv Rawat and Manisha Keer and siblings Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan.

TN Government amends cinema rules, permits 5 shows a day for new Tamil movies

The Tamil Nadu government has amended theatre regulation rules to permit five shows a day in all cinemas across the State for newly released Tamil films on the first seven days. The notification stated that the extra show will be permitted for seven days from the date of release of a new Tamil movie. The additional screening facility will also be available on local festival days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. The amendment came into effect from May 22, 2026. The Gazette notification was signed by K Manivasan, Additional Chief Secretary to the State Government. With the amendment, theatres in Tamil Nadu can now schedule up to five shows a day for newly released Tamil films during the first seven days of release, a move to benefit exhibitors and the film industry by accommodating higher audience demand during opening weeks. In May, the actor-turned-politician Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay issued an order to permit all theatres across the state to screen five shows per day for seven days from the date of release of new Tamil films. According to the statement, the representatives of the film industry met the CM to present their request to "permit all theatres across Tamil Nadu to screen five shows per day for all films." In a post on X, the chief minister's office said, "On 16.05.2026, representatives of the film industry met the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, S. Joseph Vijay, and submitted various requests. One of their key demands was to permit all theatres across Tamil Nadu to screen five shows per day for all films." Under Rule 14-A of the 'C' Form licence conditions prescribed in the Tamil Nadu Cinemas (Regulation) Rules, 1957, theatres in Tamil Nadu have been permitted to screen four shows per day. In addition, on local festival days or public holidays, one special extra show, making it five shows per day, has been permitted by the licensing authority/District Collector in the districts and by the Commissioner of Police in Chennai city," the CMO further said. After the meeting, CM Vijay approved amendments to the Tamil Nadu Cinemas (Regulation) Rules, to permit the "screen five shows per day for seven days from the release date of newly released Tamil films." After holding discussions regarding the requests submitted by members of the film industry, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has approved amendments to the Tamil Nadu Cinemas (Regulation) Rules. Accordingly, all theatres in Tamil Nadu will now be permitted to screen five shows per day for seven days from the release date of newly released Tamil films.



Major Records Under Threat As India Chase Maiden Women's T20 World Cup Title

New Delhi, 8/6: Fresh from their historic ODI World Cup triumph earlier this year, India will head into the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup with hopes of ending another long wait — lifting their first-ever T20 world title. Beyond the team's pursuit of glory, several Indian stars are on the verge of achieving iconic records of their own during the tournament in England and Wales. India's tournament journey starts against archrivals Pakistan in Birmingham on June 14 before facing the Netherlands, South Africa, Bangladesh, and Australia in Group A. India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur is on the cusp of a historic moment as she stands one cap away from becoming the first-ever player in either men's or women's cricket to register 200 T20 International appearances. The seasoned batter currently has 196 T20 International caps and requires only four more matches to achieve the unprecedented record. What makes the achievement all the more special is that Harmanpreet made her T20I debut during the inaugural Women's T20 World Cup in England in 2009. Seventeen years later,

she could reach this incredible landmark in the same country where her T20 International journey began. Harmanpreet set to join elite 10-World Cup club. As well as the potential T20I cap milestone, the World Cup will also witness Harmanpreet's 10th outing at a Women's T20 World Cup, which places her among a very elite seven players who have featured in every single edition of the competition since its inception. She joins an esteemed group alongside Ellyse Perry, Chamari Athapaththu, Marizanne Kapp, Stafanie Taylor, Sophie Devine, and Suzie Bates. India's premier all-rounder Deepti Sharma could become the first woman in history to reach 200 T20 International wickets. The Indian spinner holds the record for the most wickets in women's T20Is after surpassing Australia's Megan Schutt and remains one of India's key players leading into the global tournament. The Indian all-rounder is already the only cricketer — male or female — in history to register a staggering double of 1000+ T20 International runs and 150 wickets. With a strong World Cup campaign under her belt, she could extend her already remarkable advantage in this department further and get closer to the 200-wicket landmark.

"There is no bitterness": Mahhi Vij reflects on separation, calls ex-husband Jay Bhanushali her "best friend"

Actor Mahhi Vij has opened up about her equation with former husband Jay Bhanushali months after the couple announced their separation, revealing that despite the end of their marriage, she still considers him her "best friend" and an integral part of her family. The actor will be seen opening up about her personal life in an upcoming episode of "Tum Ho Naa - Ghar Ki Superstar," hosted by Rajeev Khandelwal. During an emotional conversation on the show, Mahhi reflected on life after separation, her continued bond with Jay, and the immense support she received from her father during one of the most challenging phases of her life. She speaks about how her family stood firmly by her side, Mahhi shared that her father never "questioned anything" and always encouraged her to choose happiness above all else. The actress also revealed that Jay remains her "best friend" and continues to share a close relationship not only with her but also with her family. "Actually, I think he never questioned anything, and he has always said that whatever decision you take, we are with you, you should just be happy in life. Between us, Jay is my best friend right now, and he is like family to me. Even my father goes home with Jay, they have tea together, and he also comes over."