

When a psychologist won economics Nobel

There was something odd about the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2002. It was given to the psychologist, Daniel Kahneman. Perhaps, this would never have happened had Kahneman and his comrade-in-arms, Amos Tversky, chosen to publish their most significant theory on how people take decisions — they called it 'prospect theory' — in *Psychological Review*, the most respected journal for psychologists. Instead, they chose to send it to *Econometrica*, perhaps the most name-drop-worthy journal for economists to be published in. It is now considered to be the most cited paper ever in the history of economics.

What Kahneman and Tversky showed in their theory was that when human beings make choices, they do it on the basis of how these choices are represented to them, not how they actually exist in the objective, external world. For example, imagine there's a deadly virus ravaging your town, which could kill 60,000 people. You are the mayor and you have to choose between two vaccines — one which is guaranteed to save only 20,000 people, and another which has a one-third chance of saving everybody, but a two-thirds chance of not saving anyone. Most people choose the first option, even though it would kill 40,000. On the other hand, if the same choice is reversed and they are told that the first choice is guaranteed to kill 40,000 people, and the second has a 1/3rd chance of saving everyone, they are likely to choose the second. The two choices are exactly the same, but they have been represented differently. Kahneman gave another example of how human beings are driven more by their aversion to avoiding losses, than by rational calculations of how much things would actually cost them. It goes something like this — imagine a situation in which you have bought movie tickets for Rs 300 and when you reach the theatre, you find you have lost them. Chances are, you will simply go home because you don't want to pay twice for the same thing. On the other hand, imagine that you didn't have tickets when you reached the cinema, but realised that Rs 300 had fallen out of your pocket. There is a high likelihood that you will buy the movie ticket and watch it, even though the monetary loss is exactly the same. The rational consumer should have recognised that it would make no difference to their overall consumption to buy the tickets again, but the real consumer would only buy when the loss of Rs 300 has been "charged to general revenue".

Economists, who had been dissatisfied with the complete absurdity of rational choice, embraced Kahneman's insights into how consumers actually make choices. On the other hand, the orthodoxy, which wanted to protect the theoretical validity of Homo Economicus, attacked and rejected Kahneman. One young economist who took to Kahneman's ideas was Richard Thaler, who would later go on to win the Nobel in economics for his contributions to 'behavioural economics'. Thaler had been pointing to 'anomalies' in the supposedly 'rational' behaviour of economic agents, in his popular series in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Collaborating with Thaler helped Kahneman dig deeper into the discipline of economics and also helped further establish his credentials amongst economists.

Kahneman's contribution to the theory of decision-making has had many more applications outside the discipline of economics, most importantly in public policy. It gave rise to the concept of 'nudges' (popularised by Thaler) to push people to make the choices that policymakers want, without depriving them of the freedom of choice. For instance, it was found that consumers can be 'nudged' into choosing to buy more fruits if these were displayed close to the payment counter. Similarly, people can be oriented towards choosing environment-friendly options if that is the default option. This is based on the work of behavioural economists, like Kahneman, that people often tend to use their intuition and habitual ways of thinking when they make decisions, instead of thinking things through. Nudge theory attempts to utilise this tendency to offer 'good' options that people will intuitively choose. Kahneman popularised this concept in his bestselling book, 'Thinking, Fast and Slow'.

Real people, real lives

While all political parties talk of the syncretic nature of our civil society, they also sow the seeds of doubt

The fact that four major religious groups in India — Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs — had their most holy celebrations this fortnight or in the one gone by is reason to ponder and mark. Easter, Chaitra Navratras, Eid-ul-Fitr and Baisakhi are being celebrated by all Indians now. What does this say about us as a country? This should give us a reason to discredit all those political leaders who try and corral us into religious ghettos and hand them a lesson to learn. I hope that the coming time will teach some of them a vital fact they need to remember.

It is ironic that while all political parties talk of the syncretic nature of our civil society with pride, they also sow the seeds of doubt that makes one the other. However, the wise Indian voter can see this devious game for what it's worth and will, as ever, vote with the usual sense of collective responsibility to keep this country together. In fact, I place more faith in the village and non-elitist voter than I do on the urban city slicker. I hope I am right. Every gathering of family, friends and neighbours today is a cacophony of divergent political views. People have stopped meeting friends who go back several years because they support a different political party. These deep cleavages have entered individual homes and siblings and married couples are now reduced to avoiding the banter and good-hearted leg-pulling that was the usual way to deal with such differences. But please keep in mind, as a wise friend's post pointed out, that it is not the government that will come to your aid when you most need it, but your friends and family. Also, that governments may change every five years, but your social ties remain constant.

That said, let us move to more pleasant matters. Less than a week ago, I had a cataract surgery performed on one of my eyes. Decades ago, I had stood with my mother when she had hers done and was so impressed with the quantum leaps that have been made since then. For one, there is an option to go for a completely digitally-aided laser surgery, which means that no human surgical cuts are needed. The procedure takes less than half an hour and before you know it, you are discharged. Now that I have one new eye and an old one, let me tell you how bright the colours appear from my new eye. It's as if a dirty window pane has been gently wiped clean of all the dust and muck covering it. Since I've been confined to the house this last week and asked to limit staring into a mobile screen, I listen to podcasts and read books. And while we are on the subject of books, I must say that my fascination for English language fiction is almost over. The genres of magic realism, urban anxieties, existentialism and alienation, the immigrant's experience of exile and longing — all these are now as dead as the dodo. The real discovery is the strong sense of identity and social reality available now only in our



bhasha writing. Some excellent translators have made it possible to access those books that are written in languages I am not familiar with, and the discovery has been such an eye-opener. So that's another old cataract excised, I think.

Most publishing houses in India have seen a huge decline in retail book trade. Fewer people are now reading printed books as many download titles on their devices. Others listen to audio books. The hardest hit are the niche publishers, run by a dedicated editor/publisher who has to rely on the marketing wings of the multinational publishing houses as their budget for publicity is severely cut. The result is that a new genre of writing has cropped up: these are the super-ambitious young writers, often either a woke activist or someone with pockets deep enough to pay the publicists, freelance editors, agents and other such enablers to ensure that books are seen, talked about and reviewed. Believe me, most deserve to be trashed, for many are the literary version of an entitled bunch of brats.

Naturally, they prefer to write on self-help, motivational yakkety-yaks, health and self-care, food and issues related to that. With such a limited experiential arc and an ever-shrinking vocabulary, they are like a flash in the pan, and quickly disappear. If you have visited a lit-fest recently, you can spot them from a mile, stalking a famous writer, a well-known publisher or a promoter. I run a mile away when someone says, 'Ma'am, I want to be a writer. Please can you help?' If such a person does not have a book that is bursting to come out, then a Caesarean operation is not the answer.

On the other hand, the freshness and depth of the writing that is coming out of the non-English writers is astounding. In languages such as Marathi, Malayalam, Tamil, Maithili, Urdu and Hindi — to name just a few — the energy pulls you in instantly. Gender, poverty, the suffocating lives of those stuck in remote areas, social invisibility, sexual exploitation, Dalit tales that are raw experiences and not imagined angst — all these need no props or lessons from anyone.

Ukraine peace talks

Imperative to bring Russia on board

SWITZERLAND has announced that it will host an international conference in June to provide a platform for a high-level dialogue on ways to reach a 'comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine, based on international law and the UN Charter'. Leaders of major Global South countries, including India, and Western nations have been invited. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will attend the summit, even as his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin has spoken disdainfully of the scheduled round of peace talks. He has warned that Moscow will not accept any enforced plans that ignore its interests. Claiming that Russia has not even been invited, Putin has retorted: 'They think there is nothing for us to do there, but at the same time they say it's impossible to decide anything without us.' In the same vein, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has dismissed the meet as a Western ruse to rally broader international support for



Kyiv. It is obvious that no viable peace plan can take shape without Russia's participation and consent. Putin has

already dismissed Zelenskyy's formula requiring Moscow to pull back its troops, pay compensation to Ukraine and face an international tribunal for its alleged crimes. The US-led West's ploy to seize the initiative through the Swiss talks can prove counterproductive and further prolong the war, which is in its third year and has caused global upheaval in terms of supply chain disruptions.

The onus is on the host country, which has affirmed that 'peace is at the heart of the Swiss spirit', to go all out to bring Russia to the negotiating table. It's also imperative to have an influential player like China on board. India, which is seen as a potential mediator because of its good ties with both warring nations, needs to play a proactive role to prevent the June summit from coming a cropper and being reduced to a Western show of strength.

Take to task food business operators playing with lives

Regular reports of food poisoning, such as in Patiala, call for better surveillance of baking industry

The tragic death of a 10-year-old girl in Patiala from food poisoning believed to have been caused by a chocolate cake bought from Kanha Bakery through delivery app Zomato underscores the need for stringent enforcement of food safety laws. This is not the first time that a birthday celebration has been marred by a cake rendered toxic on account of unsafe ingredients or unhygienic conditions during the baking and decorating process, or during handling or storing, leading to food poisoning. While in most cases, the victims have recovered, in the Patiala case, the young girl succumbed. In October last year, three persons, including a four-year-old girl, had to be admitted to a hospital in Erode, Tamil Nadu, with very serious symptoms of food poisoning following consumption of a cake and egg puffs from a local bakery. Two months prior to that, the food safety officials in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district seized 65 kg of sub-standard bread and cake from a manufacturing unit, following a complaint of four single tooth dentures found in a cake! On December 31, 2022, food safety authorities in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, seized hundreds of cakes from bakeries for using prohibited colours and banned additives.

On December 29 last year, a District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Ernakulam, Kerala, directed KN Bhaskaran of Susheela Bakery to pay Rs 30,000 as compensation and Rs 20,000 as costs to Santosh Mathew for the food poisoning suffered by him and his family following consumption of puffs bought from the bakery. On August 31, the Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission held a south Bengaluru bakery liable for selling black forest cake in a rotten state and asked Vinayaka Cake Shop to refund the cost of the cake (Rs 3,590) and pay Rs 3,000 as compensation and Rs 3,000 as costs of litigation to Pooja Shankar, whose son's birthday party was ruined because of the substandard cake. On August 11, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Ludhiana directed



Nova Bakery to pay Rs 20,000 as compensation to Rajinder Kumar for delivering a cake infested with ants. The cake had been bought by Kumar for his son Kartik's birthday and following consumption of the cake, the boy as well as some guests fell ill.

In all such cases, the biggest problem is to get the food tested to prove its toxicity or the presence of microorganisms that caused food poisoning, because by the time people start getting sick, the food would have already been consumed. Even if there is a left-over piece

and is adequate to satisfy the requirements of the law and is preserved, not every consumer knows the food safety law and her/his right to get the food independently tested in a government laboratory.

So, consumer courts have kept this practical difficulty faced by consumers in mind and based their orders on the investigation of the food safety officer in response to the complaint, the doctor's certificate of food poisoning and the proof of purchase. In fact, in *Yum Restaurants (India) Pvt Ltd vs Kishan Hegde* (February 5, 2020), the apex consumer court agreed with the restaurant that the initial onus of proving that the food served was defective would be on the complainant. "However, the burden of proof cannot be so high that an ordinary customer visiting a restaurant is unable to discharge the same. If a customer files an affidavit stating therein that the food served was rotten/stale/inferior in quality, such an affidavit will be sufficient to discharge the initial onus placed upon the customer, unless it is shown that the complaint is motivated or actuated by extraneous considerations," the Commission said.

Coming back to the Patiala case, the food safety authorities must complete the investigations quickly and ensure maximum punishment under the law to the perpetrators. Equally important, the food regulator should use the compensation provision (Section 65) in the Food Safety and Standards Act to ensure that the guilty pay the compensation amount provided under the law. Compensation for non-grievous injury can go up to Rs 1 lakh and for grievous injury, up to Rs 3 lakh. In case of death, it shall not be less than Rs 5 lakh and can go up to any amount, depending on the case. The parents should also seek a steep compensation under the Consumer Protection Act. Of course, no amount of money can compensate for the loss of their child, but imprisonment and stiff penalties would send out a warning to all those food business operators who play with the lives of consumers.

Iran-Israel conflict: These Indian stocks may get caught in crossfire

New Delhi. Several domestic stocks across sectors could get caught in the crossfire as tensions escalate between Iran and Israel, stoking fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East. Iran launched a retaliatory attack on Israel over the weekend, leading to a sharp downturn in global markets today, including Dalal Street. While India's benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty have witnessed record-breaking rallies over the past few days, the fresh geopolitical escalation could hurt several stocks spread across sectors like IT, exports, pharma, banking and more. To be specific, stocks of companies such as TCS, Infosys, Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, Lupin, State Bank of India, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, NMDC, Kalyan Jewellers, Titan and Larsen and Toubro (L&T) could be impacted. This is because all of them have presence in Israel. Not just these, but stocks of companies that export Basmati Rice and tea will also be in focus amid the conflict. This is because countries like Iran, Israel and adjoining regions are major consumers of basmati rice, and exports from India could be hit if the ongoing conflict escalates. Meanwhile, tea exporters who were looking to expand their business with Iran this year are also nervously watching the situation unfold. They are worried that if the conflict escalates, it would spoil any chances of boosting exports to Iran.

Analysts said that any escalation in the ongoing conflict could have a knee-jerk reaction, adding that the need of the hour is to assess the situation and stay alert.

Sensex, Nifty tumble: What's making Dalal Street investors nervous

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices fell sharply in early trade on Monday, triggering deep losses for investors on Dalal Street. The S&P BSE Sensex fell over 800 points in early trade, while the Nifty experienced a similarly sharp decline amid a sharp rise in volatility.

It may be noted that the combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies dipped by approximately 6 lakh crore in early trade. The broader market indices also fell, reflecting the weak sentiments among investors. At 10.15 am, the Sensex was down 547.99 points at 73,696.91, while the Nifty50 declined 162.75 points to 22,356.65. Several factors contributed to the weakness in benchmark indices, including Iran's drone attack on Israel, fears over rising oil prices, negative US inflation data and pre-election jitters. Domestic stock market sentiments were hurt by a decline in Asian stocks, following Iran's retaliatory attack on Israel, stoking fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East.

Analysts at SMC Global Securities noted that the risk sentiment took a hit after Iran's retaliatory attack on Israel over the weekend. The analysts said it has "kept traders on edge".

"The worries in the Middle East have rattled all financial markets, pushing investors to look for safer places for their money," said the note prepared by the analysts. The rising tensions have sparked fears about a possible rise in crude oil prices. Although global oil prices have not witnessed a sharp rise, investors are worried about any escalation as it could lead to higher oil prices, which could hit major oil-importing countries like India. At the moment, Brent Crude oil prices remain steady at \$90 per barrel.

Another reason behind the weakness in domestic stocks is the recent US inflation data. The inflation rate in the US experienced a greater-than-expected jump, dashing hopes of early rate cuts as stated earlier by the US Federal Reserve. Lastly, the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, which will be held in the coming six weeks starting from April 19 to June 1, has led to some pre-election jitters. While there are high expectations that the BJP-led NDA will be re-elected for a third-term, analysts said some amount of volatility will be witnessed ahead of the results.

Apple announces Vietnam spending boost as CEO visits Hanoi

HANOI. Tech giant Apple said Monday it would increase spending on suppliers in Vietnam, a key production hub, as CEO Tim Cook arrived in the country for a two-day visit. The iPhone maker announced the news in a statement on its website but gave no details of how much it would spend or where the money would go.

Cook is expected to meet programmers, content creators and students during his visit, according to VnExpress. The visit comes as US President Joe Biden's



administration seeks to ramp up Vietnam's role in the global tech supply chain in order to reduce American dependence on China. Images on the VnExpress news site showed Cook taking a walk by Hoan Kiem lake in downtown Hanoi. "Hello Vietnam. I am so excited to be here today. I can't wait to see all the developers and creators in the community," the Apple boss said in a video posted on the news site. The Apple statement said the company has spent nearly 400 trillion dong (\$16 billion) since 2019 through its local supply chain and has more than doubled its annual spending to Vietnam during the same period.

"From cooperating with local suppliers, to supporting clean water projects and educational opportunities, we are committed to continuing to strengthen connections in Vietnam," Cook said in the statement.

Last week more than 60 environmental and human rights organisations called on the US-based company to oppose the detention of climate activists in Vietnam.

Tata Electronics wins Tesla deal to supply semiconductor chips: Report

The deal between Tata Electronics and Tesla to supply semiconductor chips was quietly signed a few months back.

New Delhi. Tesla has signed a strategic deal with Tata Electronics to obtain semiconductor chips for its global operations, reported The Economic Times. The deal, which was quietly signed a few months back, holds importance as it puts Tata Electronics in the spotlight as a dependable supplier for major global clients eyeing a crucial part of their semiconductor setup in India. US-based Tesla is eyeing India, known as the world's fastest-growing major car market. This development suggests the electric carmaker's growing interest in India. Elon Musk is coming to India later this month to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is anticipated that Musk might reveal his plans for potential investments in India, including putting money into making electric vehicles (EVs). Both Tesla and Tata Electronics, the front-runner in the



Tata group's semiconductor venture, have not confirmed the news and hence the exact value of the deal and other specifics remain under wraps for now. Ashok Chandak, head of India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA), said that Tesla's move to rope in local suppliers for electronics and subsystems indicates it's not banking solely on one market. The main concern revolves around getting local semiconductor sources right. "This needs improvement in the supply chain as value addition for the industrial and automotive segments is much higher,"

Chandak told The Economic Times. Though the numbers might differ, most experts estimate Tesla could pour in at least \$2-3 billion into India to make electric cars, which are gradually gaining traction in the local market. Recent changes in policies have made it easier for carmakers to bring in EVs valued at \$35,000 or above with a reduced import duty of 15%. But there's a catch: they need to pledge \$500 million within three years to start making cars in India. Tesla might initially focus on high-end electric models tailored with fancy features for the Indian

market. Most experts think Tesla might invest \$2-3 billion in India to make electric cars, which are slowly becoming more popular in the country. Recent rule changes let carmakers bring in electric cars priced above \$35,000 at a lower import tax of 15%. But they have to promise to invest \$500 million within three years to make cars in India. Tesla might start with high-end electric cars for India and then make cheaper ones here. Meanwhile, Tata Electronics has hired 50-60 top experts from abroad in recent months to boost its chip business. Since Covid, Tesla has been looking for more places to get parts from, besides China. It makes some parts itself, like electric motors and batteries, but buys the rest from suppliers around the world. Randhir Thakur, the head of Tata Electronics, has played a big role in getting these top experts on board. He used to work at Intel, a big chip company.

Thakur's long experience and contacts have helped him convince many top bosses from around the world to join Tata Electronics. The company has chip-making factories in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Assam, and plans to expand across India. It has already put in \$1.4 billion and has a team with over 1,000 years of experience to run the project.

Iran-Israel conflict: Oil prices fall as global markets keep watch

NEW DELHI. Oil prices saw a decline on Monday as traders reduced risk premiums in response to Iran's attack on Israel over the weekend. The attack, which the Israeli government reported caused limited damage, prompted a decrease in risk premiums among the traders. Brent futures for June delivery declined by 23 cents, or 0.2%, to \$90.22 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures for May delivery dropped by 29 cents, or 0.3%, to \$85.37 per barrel by 0430 GMT. Iran's attack involved more than 300 missiles and drones, marking the first assault on Israel from another country in over three decades. This event raised concerns about a potential broader regional conflict impacting oil traffic in the Middle East. Despite the attack, which Iran said was retaliation for an airstrike on its Damascus consulate, the damage was relatively minor, with Israel's Iron Dome defence system intercepting missiles. Israel has not confirmed or denied involvement in the consulate strike. Warren Patterson, head of

commodities strategy at ING, told Reuters that the market had already factored in the possibility of an attack, and the limited damage suggests Israel's response may be measured. "An attack was largely priced in the days leading up to it. Also the limited damage and the fact that there was no loss of life means that maybe Israel's response will be more measured," said Patterson. However, uncertainty remains, particularly regarding Israel's next steps. Iran, a major oil producer within OPEC, could face stricter oil sanctions, and Israel might target Iran's energy infrastructure in retaliation. In response to potential supply disruptions, the US could release more crude oil from its strategic reserves, and OPEC could increase production from its spare capacity of over 5 million barrels per day. While oil prices rose on Friday in anticipation of Iran's retaliation, analysts expected a short-lived rally. Significant and lasting price effects would require a substantial disruption to supply, such as constraints on shipping in the Strait of

Hormuz. The conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has had minimal impact on oil supply so far.

ANZ Research analysts said that while tensions have escalated, the oil market's ample spare capacity and existing geopolitical risk premium could mitigate immediate price reactions. "The strike on Iran's embassy in Syria and Iran's retaliation have raised tension in the Middle East. However, we don't expect an immediate reaction in crude oil prices given ample spare capacity and an already elevated geopolitical risk premium," ANZ Research analysts told Reuters. Citi Research told Reuters that prolonged tensions could sustain oil prices in the \$85-90 per barrel range. However, a de-escalation might lead to prices falling back to the high \$70s or low \$80s per barrel. The market has not fully priced in the potential for a direct conflict between Iran and Israel, which could drive oil prices above \$100 per barrel, depending on the severity of events, according to Citi Research analysts.

Byju's India CEO Arjun Mohan resigns 6 months after appointment

NEW DELHI. Byju's has announced changes in its leadership structure with CEO Arjun Mohan stepping down from his position having taken it up just six months ago on Monday. Byju Raveendran will resume his responsibilities in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the company, while Mohan will transition to an advisory role outside the company. "This reorganisation marks the start of BYJU'S 3.0 - a leaner and more agile organisation ready to quickly adapt to evolving market dynamics, especially in the realm of hyper-personalized education," said Byju Raveendran, Founder and Group CEO. This reorganisation is intended to make the company more agile, cost-efficient, and better positioned to seize market opportunities. Each division will have its own leaders responsible for ensuring sustainable growth and profitability.

"By focusing on our core strengths with three specialised business units, we will unlock new growth opportunities while continuing to focus on profitability," he added. Raveendran praised Mohan for his leadership during a challenging period and expressed gratitude for his contributions. "Arjun has done an outstanding job steering BYJU'S through a challenging period. We are grateful for his leadership and look forward to his continued contributions as a strategic advisor," said Raveendran. The decision comes as Byju's aims to streamline its operations for long-term success. The company will now

Wholesale inflation inches up marginally to 0.53% in March



NEW DELHI. Wholesale inflation in the country rose marginally to 0.53 per cent in March compared to 0.20 per cent in the preceding month due to increase in prices of vegetables, potato, onion and crude oil. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was in the negative zone from April to October and had turned positive in November at 0.26

per cent. The inflation in March 2023 was 1.41 per cent. "The annual rate of inflation based on all-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is 0.53 per cent (provisional) for the month of March, 2024 (over March, 2023)," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement on Monday. Food inflation moved up marginally to 6.

88 per cent in March from 5.42 per cent in the same month a year ago, data showed. Inflation in vegetables was 19.52 per cent, up from (-2.39) per cent in the same month a year ago.

WPI for potato witnessed a jump of 52.96 per cent against a deflation of 25.59 per cent, while for onion 56.99 per cent as compared to (-) 36.83 per cent in March 2023.

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The data showed that inflation in the crude petroleum segment rose by 10.26 per cent in March this year against a deflation of 23.53 per cent in March 2023 due to hardening of crude prices globally. However, retail inflation declined to a five-month low of 4.85 per cent in March mainly due to cooling food prices. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 5.09 per cent in February and 5.66 per cent in March 2023. Previously, CPI-based inflation was the lowest at 4.87 per cent in October 2023.



consolidate its businesses into three main divisions: The Learning App, Online Classes & Tuition Centres, and Test-prep. The restructuring follows a comprehensive review and cost-saving initiative led by Arjun Mohan during his tenure as CEO. Byju Raveendran, the Founder and Group CEO, sees this as the beginning of 'BYJU'S 3.0', focusing on personalised education and unlocking new growth prospects while maintaining profitability. In this new phase, Byju Raveendran will take a more hands-on approach to leading the company's daily operations.

Previously focused on strategic aspects like fundraising and global expansion, Raveendran recognises the importance of strong leadership during this critical time. He aims to leverage his expertise to guide BYJU'S towards its next phase of growth and innovation.

Income inequality up in 60% of IMF, World Bank recipient nations: Report

New Delhi. An analysis by Oxfam International found that 60% of countries that receive loans or grants from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank are facing high or increasing income inequality. Oxfam, a non-profit group, explained that out of 106 such nations, 64 are seeing either high levels of inequality or a rise in inequality.

This is determined using a measure called the Gini coefficient, where a value above 0.4 is seen as a warning sign by the United Nations. According to Oxfam's study, 42 countries, including Ghana, Honduras, and Mozambique, have high income inequality. Additionally, in the past decade, inequality has increased in 37 countries, such as Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, and Zambia. Kate Donald, who leads Oxfam International's Washington DC Office, criticised the IMF and World Bank, saying they claim to prioritise reducing inequality but support policies that widen the gap between the rich and everyone else. "The IMF and World Bank say that tackling inequality is a priority but, in the same breath, back policies that drive up the divide between the rich and the rest," said Donald. She highlighted the



struggles of ordinary people due to cuts in public funding for essentials like healthcare and education. "Ordinary people struggle more and more every day to make up for cuts to the public funding of healthcare, education and transportation. This high-stakes hypocrisy has to end," she added. But if the Bank is serious about tackling inequality, the first test will be making it a headline priority for its lending to the world's poorest countries, being discussed now at the Spring Meetings,"

said Donald, describing the World Bank's agreement to prioritise reducing inequality for the first time since its establishment in 1944 as a 'landmark move'. The Spring Meetings, running from April 15th to 20th, bring together officials from the IMF and World Bank to discuss global economic issues. Oxfam also highlighted the slowdown in donor contributions to the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), which aids the world's poorest countries, especially in Africa. This

comes at a time when these countries are fighting debt crises. The organisation proposed raising funds by increasing taxes on the super-rich, which could generate trillions of dollars to support development and address climate change. It urged the G20 Finance Ministers, meeting during the Spring Meetings, to support such measures. Brazil, the current G20 Chair, has called for a global plan to ensure fair taxation of the wealthy, a move supported by France as well. Oxfam highlighted the need for a global agreement that imposes substantial taxes on the super-rich to reduce inequality.

Donald said that there's enough money available; it's just a matter of directing it where it's needed most.

"We don't buy the excuse that 'we can't afford it' - the money is there; it's just not flowing to where it's needed. We urgently need donor governments to step up their contributions to IDA, and for the G20 to move forward with a global deal to tax the super-rich. It's all part of ensuring that rich countries and rich people pay their fair share towards tackling inequality and climate breakdown," said Donald.

Man who fired outside Salman Khan's house is wanted gangster: Sources

One of the two bike-borne men seen on CCTV firing shots outside Bollywood actor Salman Khan's Mumbai house is a wanted gangster from Haryana's Gurugram, according to sources.

gang. Hours after the firing outside Salman Khan's Galaxy Apartments house, Anmol Bishnoi, the brother of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, claimed responsibility for the incident in a social media post, and said it was only a "trailer".

Vishal, who studied till Class 10, belongs to Gurugram and was involved in multiple killings and robberies in Haryana. He has over five criminal cases registered against him in Gurugram and Delhi. The Gurugram-based gangster was recently involved in the murder of a bookie in Rohtak at the behest of Lawrence Bishnoi. The incident, which was captured on CCTV, showed Vishal firing a bullet. During the firing, the bookie's mother was also shot. Vishal was also involved in a murder at a dhaba (roadside restaurant) in Rohtak on February 29, according to sources. A Delhi Police Special Cell team went to search Vishal's house in Gurugram on Monday. Following the firing outside Salman Khan's house, many teams of Delhi Police, Crime Branch and Special Cell have begun investigating. The Haryana Police is also investigating after the shooter's connection to the state emerged. In an interview with Aaj Tak TV/India Today TV,



Vishal's family said they had no idea how he got linked with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. His sister said Vishal had been missing from home since March 7 after the murder of a bookie in Rohtak. "We don't know how he came into contact with Lawrence Bishnoi. We have not spoken to him for a long time," she said.

FIRING OUTSIDE SALMAN KHAN'S HOUSE

Two bike-borne men fired four rounds outside Salman Khan's house early on Sunday and fled the spot. The incident occurred around 4:51 am outside Galaxy Apartments. Security was tightened following the incident. According to a

Mumbai Police official, Salman Khan was present at his house when the firing occurred. The incident came as Lawrence Bishnoi and wanted gangster Goldie Brar had announced several times to kill Salman Khan. According to sources, Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldie Brar had sent their shooters to Mumbai to kill the actor.

In March and November last year, Salman Khan received online threats allegedly from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The Mumbai Police have ramped up security outside the actor's house since then. Lawrence Bishnoi is currently behind bars in a drug smuggling case investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). According to police sources, the bike used by the accused during the firing is registered in Panvel near Mumbai. Salman Khan's farmhouse is also located in Panvel.

The police suspect that the bike could be stolen and are finding out the details of the bike owner. Both the accused left the bike near Mount Mary Church and went to Bandra railway station by auto or any other public vehicle. From there, both took a local train and went towards Andheri, police sources said. The police suspect that the accused have left Mumbai, but it was not clear whether they went by road or train, they added.

New Delhi. One of the two shooters seen on CCTV footage firing shots outside Bollywood actor Salman Khan's house in Mumbai early on Sunday is a wanted gangster from Haryana's Gurugram, sources said. The gangster, Vishal Rahul, is a shooter of gangster Rohit Godara, who is associated with the Lawrence Bishnoi

Madhya Pradesh power officials thrashed by women, had gone to cut supply

A team of electricity department officials and a Junior Engineer were allegedly abused and thrashed with sticks after they went to disconnect the power supply of a consumer in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district. The team was attacked by Jamila Khatun, her daughter Tina, son-in-law and other family members after they reached their house to disconnect the power supply for not paying outstanding bills, a station-in charge said.

The mother-daughter duo thrashed the team with sticks while other family members hurled casteist slurs at



them, he added. Meanwhile, JE Sagar Malviya said that on January 29, a vigilance team had accused Jamila Khatun of electricity theft with a recovery amount of Rs 98,207. The woman had deposited Rs 40,000, but was unable to pay the full amount. She was to deposit the remaining Rs 58,207 on February 25. An order was issued to disconnect her power supply after she failed to deposit the remaining amount within the deadline. The team had reached her house following the orders when they were attacked. A case has been registered against five people and further investigation is underway.

K Kavitha's Judicial Custody Extended Till April 23 In Liquor Policy Case

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday sent BRS leader K Kavitha, arrested in connection with a corruption case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, to judicial custody till April 23.

The daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao was arrested from the Tihar Jail, where she was lodged after her arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The CBI produced the accused before the court on the expiry of her three-day police custody granted earlier by the judge and sought



her JC. The CBI told the court that she was not required for further custodial interrogation. Advocate Nitesh Rana, representing Ms Kavitha along with Deepak Nagar, opposed the police plea, saying the grounds were not sufficient to keep her in custody since she is no longer required for custodial interrogation. CBI officials had recently questioned Ms Kavitha inside prison after obtaining permission from a special court. The BRS leader was questioned about the WhatsApp chats recovered from co-accused Buchi Babu's phone and documents related to a land deal, after which an amount of ? 100 crore was allegedly paid to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in kickbacks to swing the excise policy for the national capital in favour of a liquor lobby.

Indian diplomat dresses up as 'Apsara' on Cambodian New Year

India's envoy to Cambodia, Devyani Khobragade, did a photoshoot dressed as a 'Khmer Apsara' to convey her wishes on the occasion of Cambodian New Year.

New Delhi. The Indian ambassador to Cambodia, Devyani Khobragade, donned a traditional attire of 'Khmer Apsara' to extend wishes of the Cambodian New Year, photos of which have gone viral on social media. Khobragade, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer who found herself in the middle of a controversy that sparked tensions between India and the US in 2013, did a photoshoot dressed as 'Khmer Apsara'.

Ambassador Devyani Khobragade has a deep admiration for Khmer culture and tradition. Embracing the spirit of Khmer New Year, she elegantly dressed as a Khmer Apsara, embodying the rich bond of our civilizations. Wishing all our friends a joyous Khmer New Year celebration," the Indian Embassy in



Cambodia posted on X (formerly known as Twitter).

A doctor by education, Khobragade joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1999, undertaking assignments in Berlin, New York, Islamabad, and Rome over the years. However, her time in New York took a dramatic turn when she was arrested by the US attorney for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) on

charges of visa fraud and making false statements in December 2013.

In a separate row, Khobragade faced accusations of paying her domestic worker below the mandated minimum wage in the United States. Denying the allegations as "false and baseless," she defended her stance. Eventually, a US court dismissed the charges, citing diplomatic immunity. Devyani Khobragade returned to India after New Delhi turned down the US's request to waive her diplomatic immunity. The fallout from her case strained relations between India and the US, leading to New Delhi reducing privileges for specific categories of US diplomats in India. In response, the US withdrew one of its diplomats from the country.

Modi Ji Ka Ek Bhi Baccha Hai?': BJP MP's Quick-Fix To Tackle Unemployment, Says Stop Producing So Many Children

New Delhi: As the Lok Sabha Elections of 2024 gain momentum, the political atmosphere is charged with tension. The opposition is relentlessly targeting the central government and Prime Minister Modi for the pressing issues of inflation and joblessness. Amidst these heated exchanges, a provocative statement by Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua, the BJP's Member of Parliament and contender for the Azamgarh constituency, has sparked controversy. He provocatively suggests that the root cause of rising unemployment lies with those who are expanding their families. "Consider this," he asserts, "neither Modi Ji nor Yogi Ji have children of their own. They have put a halt to unemployment. So, the question arises: who is contributing to the unemployment crisis? It is those who continue to have children despite the government's advisories against it." "Those who say that



unemployment is increasing in the country, tell them that there is so much employment and after that, you are increasing the population... that unemployment is increasing. Modi Ji is trying to stop it, the government is trying and when they want to bring a rule that you have fewer children... have only two children... you are saying you are unemployed and you are producing eight more unemployed... you yourself are not able to feed yourself... you are saying that we are unemployed, so if you are unemployed, are you thinking once

why are you producing eight more unemployed," the Bhojpur actor and BJP MP added. Congress leader Srinivas has taken a jibe at this statement of BJP MP Dinesh Lal Yadav, he shared this video and said, 'Modi Ji-Yogi Ji did not have a single child so that unemployment does not increase in the country', he said, did Modi-Yogi really not have children for this reason? Unemployment is a big issue in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Congress and Samajwadi Party along with many opposition parties are attacking the Modi government over this. The opposition is continuously cornering the government on this and has made it a big issue in the election. Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua is the BJP candidate from the Azamgarh Lok Sabha seat. He is pitted against SP's Dharmendra Yadav. Voting is to take place in Azamgarh in the sixth phase.

India Preferred Digital Services Destination Globally In GenAI Era: Report

According to the report, GenAI emerged as a prominent technology last year, attracting targeted investment from nearly 70 per cent of global enterprises.



New Delhi: Amid the global economic headwinds, India continues to be the preferred outsourcing destination for businesses aiming to build and expand their digital services portfolio, a new report showed on Monday. About 45 per cent of high-tech and travel and transportation companies, alongside

41-43 per cent of telecom, discrete manufacturing, and construction firms, opted to "nearshore" to India in 2023, underscoring the country's growing appeal as a global hub for digital services outsourcing, according to the report by Nasscom in collaboration with Avasant. Traditional sectors such as

energy and utilities, along with construction and engineering, demonstrated substantial growth in their digital talent base, reflecting a broad-based commitment across industries to deepen their digital capabilities. According to the report, GenAI emerged as a prominent technology last year,

attracting targeted investment from nearly 70 per cent of global enterprises. This led to sectors including BFSI, high-tech, discrete manufacturing, telecom, media and entertainment, as well as energy, utilities, and alternatives significantly expanding their digital services contracts.

"A strategic framework for businesses seeking to hasten digital adoption in an era where artificial intelligence and skills are paramount," said Sangeeta Gupta, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at Nasscom.

Generative AI is poised to receive heightened investment in 2024, with 73 per cent of firms that allocated budgets to Gen AI in 2023 deeming it essential to increase spending, especially in talent development. According to the report, 71 per cent of enterprises spent over 20 per cent of their tech spend on digital last year. Moreover, nearly 90 per cent of firms plan to boost investments in key digital technology areas this year, including AI/machine learning (AI/ML), big data analytics, cloud computing, cybersecurity and intelligent automation.

Lalu Yadav Warns BJP Leaders Who Speak Of Changing Constitution, Says 'Janta Aankh Nikal Legi..'



New Delhi: RJD chief Lalu Prasad launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, criticising him for his alleged inability to control BJP leaders who time and again have hinted at drafting a "new Constitution" if the party secures a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha elections. He warned that anyone daring to undermine the constitution drafted by Baba Saheb Ambedkar would face severe repercussions. RJD Supremo cautioned that if anyone tries to alter it, the public will have their 'eyes gouged out (Janta Aankh Nikal Legi...)'

Lalu Prasad, who has been former CM of Bihar and Union minister in Manmohan Singh's Cabinet is currently out on bail following convictions in several fodder scam cases. Lalu expressed that numerous BJP leaders have been talking about changing the Constitution without facing any consequences, and to his dismay, some of them are even being nominated as candidates by the Bhartiya Janta Party. Since a long time, the opposition has raised suspicions regarding the BJP-led NDA's motives behind the slogan 'Abki Baar 400 Paar.' They assert that this slogan reflects the BJP's ambition to secure a parliamentary majority to potentially amend the Indian Constitution. While Lalu Prasad said that "The PM is actually scared." To mask his apprehension, the PM is exaggerating BJP's projected seat count to over 370.

Earlier, several BJP leaders have made statements targeting the change in constitution. Ayodhya's sitting MP Lallu Singh recently made one such statement, but he later retracted, claiming it was a slip of tongue. Similar remarks had been made by Jyoti Mirdha, a BJP candidate in Rajasthan and the party's Karnataka MP Anant Hegde.

NEWS BOX

Israel Claims To Intercept 99% Of Iranian Drones, Missiles With US' Support

WORLD. The United States aids Israel in intercepting 'nearly all' drones launched by Iran, as Biden vows continued support. Over the weekend, American troops, with the assistance of U.S. European Command destroyers, neutralised over 80 single-use attack drones and at least six ballistic missiles targeting Israel from Iran and Yemen. A spokesperson from the Israeli military reported that the total number of launches exceeded 300, yet nearly all of them, approximately 99%, were successfully intercepted. As per report from AP, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari stated that Iran deployed 170 drones, over 30 cruise missiles, and more than 120 ballistic missiles. Despite this, only a few ballistic missiles managed to reach Israeli soil, resulting in minor damage to an air base.

Israel's President Isaac Herzog stated on CNN Sunday afternoon that the events of the past day had demonstrated the "ironclad" alliance between the United States and Israel. However, during a call with its Israeli counterpart, US President Joe Biden warned that the US will refrain from joining Iran counter-offensive. "U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) remains postured to support Israel's defense against these dangerous actions by Iran. We will continue to work with all our regional partners to increase regional security," reported news agency Reuters citing the announcement of the CENTCOM. Late Saturday, Iran initiated a retaliatory assault on Israeli soil using drones and missiles, following a suspected Israeli strike on its embassy compound in Syria on April 1, which resulted in the deaths of senior Revolutionary Guards commanders. The barrage launched from within Iran, resulted in minor damage, as the majority were intercepted by support from the United States, Britain, France, and Jordan.

Maldives President Muizzu announces second batch of Indian military personnel leaves Male

Male. The second batch of Indian military personnel manning an aircraft gifted by India to the Maldives has left the island nation as demanded by President Mohamed Muizzu, according to a media report on Sunday. The second group of Indian military personnel who left the Maldives on April 9 were Indian soldiers who operated the Dornier aircraft. Adhathu.com news portal reported. Earlier it was thought that the Indian military personnel who left the island nation were operating a helicopter.

The departure of the second batch of Indian soldiers was first announced by President Muizzu on Friday during an election campaign meeting. "The first team has already gone. Now, on April 9, the soldiers on the second platform have also been withdrawn," Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, said. "Adhathu has confirmed from a reliable source that the group that left on April 9 included Indian soldiers based in Haa Dhaal Hanimaadhoo for Dornier flights. Civilian or technical personnel brought in their place have since arrived in Hanimaadhoo," the news portal quoted a source as saying.

Maldives did not disclose any details on withdrawal plans

The Maldives government has not officially disclosed any details on the latest withdrawal of Indian military personnel from the country. Muizzu announced the withdrawal of the second Indian military contingent from the Maldives while speaking during a campaign event in Addu city for the ruling People's National Congress party candidates ahead of the parliamentary elections scheduled for April 21.

The first team has already gone. Now, on April 9, the soldiers on the second platform have also been withdrawn," Muizzu, who has been demanding the withdrawal of foreign soldiers from the Maldives during his election campaign last year. Muizzu had set March 10 as the deadline for the withdrawal of the first group of Indian military personnel from his country. Under an agreement between Maldives and India in February, New Delhi agreed to replace the Indian military personnel stationed in Maldives to oversee the operations of the military aircraft the country has gifted with trained civilians also from India.

May 10 is the last date for withdrawal

Muizzu also said the Indian soldiers on the last aviation platform would also leave the Maldives before the May 10 deadline set by him and that would mark the fulfilment of his pledge to remove Indian soldiers from the island nation. "There is only one platform left. As the two countries have already signed, they [the remaining Indian military personnel] will also be recalled ahead of May 10. They will leave," Muizzu was quoted as saying by Edition.mv news portal on Saturday.

Iran allows Indian officials to meet 17 Indian crew members of hijacked ship after Jaishankar's intervention

In response to the recent seizure of an Israeli ship by Iran, the Indian government has initiated efforts to meet with the 17 Indian crew members aboard the vessel. This development follows a conversation between the Minister of External Affairs, S Jaishankar, and his Iranian counterpart, S Jaishankar held discussions with his Iranian counterpart to address the situation and ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian nationals on board. The Indian government is coordinating efforts to arrange a meeting with the Indian crew members to assess their condition and provide necessary assistance. A post on X by Jaishankar said he spoke to his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. "Took up the release of 17 Indian crew members of MSC Aries. Discussed the current situation in the region. Stressed the importance of avoiding escalation, exercising restraint and returning to diplomacy," he said, adding that India and Iran have agreed to "remain in touch".

Naval chief's insights

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar confirmed that the cargo vessel, MSC Aries, en route to an Indian port, was seized by Iran's Revolutionary Guards after clearing the Strait of Hormuz. Admiral Kumar outlined the Indian Navy's vigilance in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, underscoring efforts to safeguard maritime trade routes amidst regional tensions.

Middle East is on brink, can't afford more war: UN chief on Iran-Israel conflict

United Nations. Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned the international community Sunday against deeper descent into conflict, addressing the Security Council during a meeting over Iran's weekend attack on Israel. "Neither the region nor the world can afford more war," Guterres said. "The Middle East is on the brink," he told the Security Council.

"The people of the region are confronting a real danger of a devastating full-scale conflict. Now is the time to defuse and de-escalate," he added, calling for "maximum restraint." Late on Saturday, Iran launched a direct attack on its long-time arch foe Israel for the first time, firing a wave of more than 300 missiles and drones. Nearly all of them were intercepted by Israel and others, including the United States, Jordan and Britain. According to the Israeli army, 12 people were injured. Iran said its attack came in response to a deadly April 1 air strike on Tehran's consulate building in the Syrian capital Damascus that was widely blamed on Israel. That attack



killed seven Iranian Revolutionary Guards, including two senior generals, and prompted Iranian threats of retaliation. The unprecedented exchange, marking a major escalation between the two countries, has sparked renewed fears of a broader conflict, including the potential for an Israel counterstrike.

'STEPBACK FROM THE BRINK'

The United States said Sunday it will not join any Israeli counterattack on Iran, with President Joe Biden warning Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "think

carefully" about any escalation. The rising tensions come against the backdrop of Israel's six-month-old war against Hamas in Gaza, which began after the Palestinian militant group's unprecedented attack in Israel October 7 which resulted in the deaths of 1,170 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 33,729 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry. Since the start of the conflict,

Iran-backed groups in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen have carried out a flurry of attacks on Israeli and Western targets. Sunday's Security Council session on the simmering crisis came at Israel's request, with its Ambassador Gilad Erdan urging the council to "take action (and) condemn Iran for their terror." The body must "impose all possible sanctions on Iran before it's too late," he said. Iran's UN envoy Amir Saeid Iravani meanwhile insisted the Islamic republic was exercising its "inherent right to self-defence." "The Security Council... failed in its duty to maintain international peace and security," Iravani said. Therefore, "Tehran 'had no choice' but to respond, he said, adding that his country does "not seek escalation or war," but will respond to any "threat or aggression." During his speech, Guterres repeated his condemnation of Iran's strikes on Israel, and the Israeli attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. "It's time to step back from the brink. It is vital to avoid any action that could lead to major military confrontations on multiple.

'Had no choice but to respond': Iran cites 'right to self-defence' at UN

United Nations. Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, addressing an emergency meeting of the Security Council, stated that the Islamic Republic was exercising its "inherent right to self-defence" and had "no choice but to respond" to Israel. "The Security Council... failed in its duty to maintain international peace and security," Iran's envoy Amir Saeid Iravani insisted.

Therefore, Tehran "had no choice" but to respond, he said, adding that his country does "not seek escalation or war," but will respond to any "threat or aggression."

"It is time for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility and address the real threat to international peace and security," Iravani said. The body "must take urgent and punitive measures to compel this regime to stop a genocide against the people of Gaza."



The rising tensions come against the backdrop of Israel's six-month-old war against Hamas in Gaza, which began after the Palestinian militant group's October 7 attack in Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,170 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 33,729 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the

territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

Since the 1979 Iranian revolution Israel has been considered a sworn enemy by the Islamic republic, which calls for Israel's destruction. Until now, Tehran had refrained from attacking Israel head-on, and the two countries have opted instead to confronting each other through third parties. On Sunday United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged restraint, telling the emergency meeting that "neither the region nor the world can afford more war." Now is the time to defuse and de-escalate," he said. Guterres also repeated his condemnation of Iran's strikes on Israel, and the attack on Iran's consulate in Damascus. "It's time to step back from the brink," Guterres said.

Sydney knife attacker may have targetted women: Police probe gender motive

Sydney. Australian police on Monday said the attacker who fatally stabbed six people at a busy shopping centre in Sydney's beach suburb of Bondi may have targetted women, as the country mourned the victims and hundreds of people laid flowers near the scene. The attack on Saturday, five of the six people killed and the majority of the 12 injured were women. Police said on Monday they had finished taking physical evidence at the Westfield Bondi Junction mall. "It's obvious to me, it's obvious to detectives that seems to be an area of interest that the offender focused on women and avoided the men," New South Wales state Police Commissioner Karen Webb told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"The videos speak for themselves, don't they? That's certainly a line for inquiry for us." Witnesses described how attacker Joel Cauchi, 40, wearing shorts and an Australian national rugby league jersey, ran through the mall with a knife. He was killed by Inspector Amy Scott, who confronted him solo while he was on the rampage.



Police have said Cauchi had mental health issues in the past and there was no indication ideology was a motive.

Violent crimes such as Saturday's stabbing are rare in the country of about 27 million people, which has some of the world's toughest gun and knife laws. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said "the gender breakdown ... was concerning" when asked on ABC Radio if it was a gender-motivated attack. "The New South Wales Police have said they're looking at that as part of the investigation," he said. The only man who was killed by

Cauchi during the attack was a mall security guard.

The Australian national flag is flying at half-mast across the country, including at the Parliament House and Sydney's Harbour Bridge, in honour of the victims.

Sydney Opera House's sails will be lit with a black ribbon on Monday evening. Chinese state TV reported on Sunday that one Chinese citizen was among those who had died in the attack, without revealing the identity of the victim, adding that another Chinese citizen was injured.

Russia aims to capture key town near Bakhmut by May 9: Ukraine's top commander

Kyiv. Ukraine's top commander said on Sunday (local time) that Russian forces aimed to capture the town of Chasiv Yar by May 9, setting the stage for an important battle for control of high ground in the east where Russia is focusing its assaults. The fall of the town west of the shattered city of Bakhmut by the date Moscow marks the Soviet victory in World War II would indicate growing Russian battlefield momentum as Kyiv faces a slowdown in Western military aid. Colonel General Oleksandr Syrskiy, who warned this weekend that the situation in the east had deteriorated, said Russia was focusing its efforts west of occupied Bakhmut to try to capture Chasiv Yar before moving towards the city of Kramatorsk. Chasiv Yar in the Donetsk region lies 5-10 kilometres from Bakhmut, the devastated city captured by Russian forces in May last year after months of bloody fighting. Kyiv's brigades were holding back the assaults near Chasiv Yar for now and had been reinforced

with ammunition, drones and electronic warfare devices, he said in a statement on the Telegram messenger. "The threat remains relevant, taking into account the fact that the higher Russian military leadership has set its troops the task of capturing Chasiv Yar by May 9," he said, without elaborating. Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, wrote on Facebook, and said he visited Ukrainian units on the eastern front on Sunday, and described the situation as "tense", with Russia trying to make headway in areas west of Bakhmut. "Despite the numerical superiority of the enemy, we effectively disrupt these plans thanks to the courage, training and professionalism of the defenders," he wrote. Russia marks May 9 with a big military parade on Red Square overseen by President Vladimir Putin, who won a new six-year term in the Kremlin at a tightly-controlled election in March.

ATTACKS ON THE ENERGY



SYSTEM

The war has escalated in recent weeks with Russia staging three massive airstrikes on Ukrainian power plants and substations, raising fears over the resilience of an energy system that was hobbled in the war's first winter. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told Ukrainians in his nightly address on Sunday, "The situation at the front during such a hot war is always difficult. But these days - and especially on the Donetsk front - it's getting harder." The Ukrainian leader has warned the Kremlin may be preparing to launch a big offensive in late spring or summer. It

is unclear where that attack would come, but Russia has focused its attacking efforts in the Donetsk region.

Ukraine has this year tried to find a pressure point to strike back against the Kremlin, using domestically-produced long-range drones to bomb oil facilities deep inside Russia. Ukraine now faces manpower challenges and artillery shell shortages. Rob Lee, a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think-tank in Philadelphia, said on X that Chasiv Yar would likely prove an important battle. "Chasiv Yar is located on defensible high ground. If Russia takes the (town), they could potentially increase the rate of advance deeper into Donetsk (region) as part of an expected summer offensive," he said. Russian forces will still have to cross the canal to take the (town), but they have now reached the canal southeast of the (town). Immediate increased deliveries of ammunition could prove critical," he added.

After Iran Attacks Israel, World Races To Avoid Full-Scale War

WORLD. The huge salvo of missiles and drones launched from the arid plains of Iran toward Israel was the kind of direct conflict between the Middle East powers that the world had long feared would mark the explosion of a full-blown regional war.

But behind the unprecedented nature of the attack was a dance of diplomatic signalling that allowed both sides to claim success, raising the risk of a broader conflict without making it a certainty. The Israeli military said 99% of the barrage was shot down and no Israelis were killed after Iran had signalled for days it was coming. Tehran said it had made its point, seeking to put the march toward a wider conflagration on hold. Israel's backers in the US and Europe were also pressing to avoid any further escalation in calls on Sunday.

For all the steps toward the brink, since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, the Jewish state and its enemies have managed to stop short of the precipice, even as violence has spread to other countries in the Middle East. What changed over the weekend is that the latest US-led diplomatic efforts - until now focused on deescalating the crisis in Gaza - are being targeted at ensuring any response from Israel is measured, according to people familiar with the discussions.

US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said while the attack was meant to be deadly and destructive, Washington is urging Israel against retaliation. The concern, though, is that logic might not prevail, according to a person familiar with the discussions. Indeed, one wildcard is the pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from hardliners in his government, though the success in defeating the Iranian strike may strengthen his hand. The attack by Iran was "very calibrated" to limit the damage, said Sanam Vakil, director of the Middle East & North Africa Program at Chatham House. Still, she said, "we're closer than ever to a broader regional war." Iran's latest assault was a dramatic escalation, with the hardline government striking directly for the first time after decades of relying on proxies like Hamas and Hezbollah to fight a shadow war with its main regional rival. It showed with the massive barrage that it was ready to challenge Israel's superior military head-on, something no other power had dared to do for decades. The US moved ships and planes into position and vowed to help protect Israel. The UK and Jordan were also involved. Oil markets steadied on Monday after Israel repulsed the attack but the prospect of \$100 for a barrel of oil is now looming again, while Bloomberg Economics predicts a direct war between Israel and Iran would thrust the world economy into recession.

NEWS BOX

Mitchell Starc unfazed by criticism after slow start to IPL 2024: 'I don't ready anything'

New Delhi.Kolkata fast bowler Mitchell Starc said he was not worried about criticism about his performances in IPL 2024, saying he tries to keep himself away from the outside noise. Starc returned to form with a match-winning spell for the Knight Riders against Lucknow at the Eden Gardens on Sunday, April 14. Starc was bought by the Knight Riders for a whopping sum of Rs 24.75 crore, but he had a slow start to his second stint in the IPL.Starc came up with his best show this season, claiming 3 for 28, including two wickets in the final over, that helped KKR restrict Lucknow Super Giants to a below par 161 for 7. KKR then chased down the target in 15.4 overs with eight wickets intact, making a statement on a festival day in Kolkata.

Starc had taken just 2 wickets in the first 4 matches for KKR in IPL 2024, leaking runs at 11 per over. However, he managed to turn it around on Sunday against LSG.

"I don't read anything so that doesn't bother me. I haven't played a lot of T20 cricket in the last couple of years, so it's probably taken me a little bit longer than I would have liked to get back into the rhythm of things and make a better impact. So today was nice in that regard," Starc said on Sunday.

I AM GOOD WITH MY WORKLOAD: STARC

Starc played down concerns about workload, saying it's easy for Test specialists to get used to the rigours of T20 cricket. Starc played the Ashes and then the World Cup in India in a busy year before making himself available for the IPL 2024 auction."I'm 34, so I'm pretty good with my workloads. I've been doing this a long time, so that's fine. It's T20 cricket. For the guys that play a lot of Test cricket, this is certainly a lot easier physically. It's probably more getting used to the tactical side of it. We play again on Tuesday, and I think that's a feature of T20 cricket, whether you have a good day or bad day. You quickly focus on the next game. So far, we've started the season quite well as a group, and now we move on to Tuesday."KKR will take on Rajasthan on Tuesday at Eden Gardens as games are coming thick and fast for the 2-time champions.

Hardik Pandya smiling too much: Pietersen says MI skipper badly affected by boos, hatred



NEW DELHI. Kevin Pietersen said that outside noise has affected Hardik Pandya big time in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. Ever since he replaced Rohit Sharma as the skipper of MI, he has faced severe criticism. Hardik has been greeted with boos and crowd hostility when he has stepped out in matches at the Wankhede and Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

On Sunday, April 14, Hardik's MI lost to Chennai by 20 runs at the iconic venue in Mumbai. The 30-year-old Hardik, himself, was not on top of his game as he leaked 26 runs in the last over and then got out after scoring only 2 runs. Pietersen said that the entire chaos has got to Hardik's nerves and made a negative impact on his game.

Hardik doesn't want to be treated like this'

"I think with Hardik Pandya everything away from the game is affecting him so much. He's smiling too much when he is at the toss; he is trying to act like he is so happy. He's not happy, I have been there, I have been in the firing line and I can tell you that it affects you," Pietersen told Star Sports.

"If what's happening to Hardik, the boos that we've been hearing now and how happy they are to see Dhoni smacking him all over the park, it hurts you because he has emotions and he is an Indian player and he doesn't want to be treated like this. So when this is happening, it's affecting him, it's affecting his cricket and something needs to happen," Pietersen told Star Sports.Pietersen also criticised Hardik for not introducing spinners into the attack when the fast bowlers were leaking runs at an alarming rate. Until the 8th over, Mohammad Nabi bowled 3 overs while Shreyas Gopal rolled his arms over for 1 over. But from there on, Hardik relied only on the fast bowlers."What I saw this evening wasn't good enough. I saw a captain that had plan A from a team meeting that was 5 hours ago and a captain that did not want to go to plan B when he should have gone to plan B. How on earth have you not bowled a spinner when your seamers are going for 20. Brian Lara said on commentary, 'Can we please bowl a spinner'. There are spinners who can bowl, somebody need to bowl. You need to change the pace of the game," Pietersen added.

RCB vs SRH, Head-to-Head, Bengaluru Pitch Report and Who will win?

New Delhi. RCB will host SRH in Monday's IPL 2024 clash at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium where the Bengaluru-based side has struggled to find home comfort. Reeling at the bottom of the table with just one win in 6 matches, RCB don't have a lot of time for course correction and the visiting SunRisers side will not make it easy for them. Having already hit the highest-ever IPL total of 277, the SunRisers batters will be licking their lips at the prospect of facing a dysfunctional RCB bowling attack in Bengaluru, known for being one of the notorious venues for six-hitting.RCB are heading into the contest after having been hammered by Mumbai at the Wankhede Stadium last Thursday. RCB had some signs of encouragement as they managed to post 195 despite losing their main man Virat Kohli cheaply. Captain Faf du Plessis and India batter Rajat Patidar returned to form, much to the relief of the team management after which Dinesh Karthik continued his glorious finishing form. However, their bowling weaknesses were exposed so much so that captain Faf du Plessis conceded that RCB batters might have to score 10-20 extra runs every game to make up for it. MI chased down the target in just 15.3 overs.RCB's bowling unit has been disappointing, to say the least. It all started when Kolkata gunned down 183 in just 16.5 overs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium after

which Rajasthan chased down 184 with 5 deliveries to spare on a not-so-easy pitch for batting at the SawaiMansingh Stadium in Jaipur. However, the hammering at the Wankhede Stadium raised concerns and the near future looks a bit bleak as there are no readymade fixes for the side.On the other hand, SunRisers are heading into the contest on the back of a thrilling 2-run win over Punjab in Mullanpur. The 2016 champions rode on a sensational batting effort from young Nitish Kumar Reddy on a day when their big guns, including Travis Head, Aiden Markram, and Heinrich Klaasen, failed to trouble the scorers much. SunRisers, however, held their nerves as their bowling group stepped up and delivered to clinch their 3rd win of the season.SunRisers's big guns will be keen on proving that the batting failure in Mullanpur was just a blip and they have a great opportunity in Bengaluru to flex their muscles again. Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma will be keen on maximising their powerplay and it doesn't look good for RCB. Heinrich Klaasen will be targeting the roofs on quite a few occasions if he gets going against the RCB bowling unit.

RCB vs SRH: Head-to-Head

RCB and SRH have met as many as 23 times in the IPL and the SunRisers have a slender lead



in head-to-head meetings, having won 12 of them. RCB, on the other hand, have won 2 of their last 3 meetings. RCB also have won 5 of their 7 meetings against SRH at their home ground, the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

SunRisers are heading into the big game on the back of a week-long break and they are unlikely to tinker with their winning combination. Mayank Agarwal, who missed their last game, is fit and ready to go and might get a game at his home ground.On the other hand, RCB team director Mo Babat hinted at a few more changes as the home side looks to arrest a slide and get back on track. RCB are short of options and their bench strength is not something that inspires confidence. Glenn Maxwell seems to be doing okay after recovering well from a

finger injury he picked up in Mumbai and RCB need their all-rounder to fire.RCB left out Cameron Green for their away game in Mumbai for Will Jacks. The England star is expected to retain his place as he showcased a glimpse of his big-hitting prowess. Will it be his day in Bengaluru?The weather in Bengaluru is expected to be clear for a full 40-over match. And the pitch at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium is expected to aid the batters, as usual. However, the team bowling first will look to make use of the two-paced nature of the pitch. The dew in the late evening has made the venue good for chasing. RCB will be hoping and praying that they get an opportunity to chase a total here.

RCB vs SRH: Predicted Playing XIs

RCB: Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis (captain), Will Jacks, Rajat Patidar, Glenn Maxwell, Mahipal Lomror, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Reece Topley, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj.Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Aiden Markram, Nitish Reddy, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Abdul Samad, Shahbaz Ahmed, Pat Cummins (captain), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, T. Natarajan.SRH, with their superior batting firepower and bowling unit, are likely to win the contest in Bengaluru against RCB.

MS Dhoni's knock put MI under psychological pressure: CSK coach Eric Simons

New Delhi.CSK bowling coach Eric Simons said that MS Dhoni's knock affected MI psychologically during the IPL 2024 match on Sunday, April 14 at the Wankhede Stadium. Coming in to bat in the last over, the 42-year-old Dhoni took no time to settle down and helped Chennai post a big score of 206 for 4 on the board. The veteran started his knock with 3 huge sixes off Hardik Pandya, after which he finished off with a quick double.Dhoni scored an unbeaten 20 off 4 balls as CSK finished their innings at 206 for 4. He also became the first Indian to hit 3 sixes in a row in the first 3 balls of an IPL innings. Apart from that, Dhoni also became the 2nd batter after Suresh Raina to score 5000 runs for CSK. Simons said that MI were jolted badly when they were unable to restrict Chennai to a score of under 200.

Such an important thing is the psychological pressure you put an opposition in when you



go into the break. You go to the changeroom and you have an over like that, it gives you massive momentum. They were looking to restrict us under 200 and suddenly they were facing 206 with an over like that. MS Dhoni continues to amaze us," Simons said in the post-match press conference."To go out there and hit the first ball like that for six and continue the way he did was

exceptional. He has been batting exceptionally well in the nets all the way through, pre-season and into the tournament. It was just another unbelievable MS Dhoni moment."

Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan took MI off to a flying start, but Matheesha Pathirana made sure that Chennai won the match by 20 runs. Simons said that CSK use Dhoni as a "batting template" to prepare well for bowling at the death."Dhoni is one of the most incredible cricketers I have come across. Just the way he goes about it, calmness at the wicket. We use him as a batting template when we are bowling at the death because he is so good at it. We can test out our theories against him, and we know that we are going to do well," Simons added.

Placed third in the points table, CSK will next face KL Rahul's Lucknow on April 19 at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow.

Is it The Undertaker? Shivam Dube questions Matheesha Pathirana about viral celebration

New Delhi.CSK's new bowling hero Matheesha Pathirana has grabbed the spotlight with his sly action and incredible yorkers. The Sri Lankan fast bowler is also becoming a broadcaster's favourite because of his ability to add to the theatre in an IPL match every time he gets a wicket. Matheesha Pathirana's celebratory gestures have gone viral and the young pacer flaunted them as many as 4 times after hurting the Mumbai batting line-up in IPL 2024 El Clasico on Sunday, April 14.Matheesha Pathirana has been trying to mimic an iconic Cristiano Ronaldo celebratory gesture by folding his hands near his chest and looking up to the sky. However, quite a few have pointed out that Pathirana's celebration also resembles WWE superstar The Undertaker's iconic eye roll. The 21-year-old Sri Lankan fast bowler seems to have cleared the confusion, once and for all when the question was posted to him by CSK batting star Shivam Dube on Sunday.

Matheesha Pathirana explained that he is a big fan of Portugal football star Cristiano Ronaldo and he tried to mimic his celebration. However, his inability to close his eyes completely while doing so has led to comparisons to the iconic eye roll of The Undertaker in the WWE.

"No, it is not the undertaker. I follow Cristiano Ronaldo and try to do his celebration. I try to close my eyes. I can't do that, unfortunately," Pathirana told Dube during their fun interaction at the Wankhede Stadium."So that's why you become The Undertaker?" Dube questioned as both the cricketers broke into laughter.

Matheesha Pathirana was in sensational form with the ball on Sunday as he starred in CSK's win against their arch-rivals. The Sri Lankan fast bowler picked up 4 wickets and conceded just 28 runs. The 21-year-old got the wicket of a well-set Ishan Kishan and No.1 T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav in the very first over of his spell to halt the MI charge in their chase of 207. MI were off to a rapid start with 70 runs in their first 7 overs, but Pathirana got Ishan Kishan to break a dangerous opening partnership.Pathirana then returned to snip another steady stand, this time between Rohit Sharma and Tilak Varma, getting the wicket of the latter in the 14th over of the contest. He then shattered the woodwork of Romario Shephed, knocking the wind out of MI's sails.

MI fell short of the 207-run target by 21 runs as they slipped to their 5th defeat of the season while the Supe Kings continued to remain in the top 4 after securing their first away win of IPL 2024.

No more Neverkusen: Bayer Leverkusen end wait for Bundesliga crown

NEW DELHI.Undefeated Bayer Leverkusen secured their first Bundesliga title on Sunday with a 5-0 victory over Werder Bremen, breaking an 11-year stranglehold on the league by Bayern Munich.Xabi Alonso's team, who have now gone a league-record 29 matches without defeat this season to secure their first trophy since 1993, have a 16-point lead over Bayern with five matches remaining.They can add more titles this season, having reached the German Cup final and the Europa League quarter-finals where they have a 2-0 first leg advantage over West Ham United.

Leverkusen left nothing to chance and sealed their title win at the first opportunity with Florian Wirtz bagging a hat-trick in a win that stretched their unbeaten run across all competitions to a remarkable 43 games this season."I cannot describe this," Germany international Wirtz said. "I personally can still not realise this has happened. I will need a few moments in the changing room to understand what we have achieved."We could not have imagined something like this



when you see how the previous season went."They earned a 24th minute penalty and Victor Boniface, who only recently came back after a three-month injury break, stepped up to score his first league goal since December and his 11th of the campaign.

There were more chances to double their lead in a one-sided first half, with Amine Adli also hitting the woodwork for the hosts.Fans had been out in force from early morning across the city to prepare for the big moment, having queued for hours outside

the stadium before the gates opened. Now they could barely stay in their seats with their team only 45 minutes away from the title.Werder came out fighting after the break, trying to spoil the party, but Granit Xhaka's missile on the hour from 25 metres out sparked wild celebrations.The hosts were not yet done with substitute Wirtz adding another goal eight minutes later.The Germany international, gearing up for Euro 2024 on home soil in June, bagged another in the 83rd with impatient fans then briefly running onto the pitch.He

completed his hat-trick in the 90th to cap his team's five-star performance and secure the title in style as thousands of cheering Leverkusen supporters raced onto the pitch to celebrate their first trophy in 31 years."The team under coach Xabi Alonso played thrilling and champion-worthy football," German FA President Bernd Neundorff said."They have not yet lost a game and left no doubt whatsoever about who would be at the top in the end."

'Ruthless' Stefanos Tsitsipas grateful after 'nerve-wracking' Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo Masters

2024: World No.7

Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Casper Ruud 6-1, 6-4 to win the clay-court tournament for the third time in his career.

NEW DELHI.Stefanos Tsitsipas started his clay-court season in the best possible manner after winning the Monte Carlo Masters. The Greek star, who reclaimed his spot in the top 10, defeated Casper Ruud 6-1, 6-4 in the final on Court Rainier III in one hour and 37 minutes. With the triumph, World No.7 Tsitsipas also won the tournament for the third time after winning in 2021 and 2022, beating Andre Rublev and Alejandro Davidovich Fokina respectively.It was a straightforward win for the 25-year-old



Tsitsipas, who converted 4 out of his 8 break point chances. Ruud got as many as 8 chances to break his opponent's serve, but failed to convert even one of them. Tsitsipas made a shock exit in the Round of 64 of the Miami Open last month, but turned his

fortunes around with a change of court.

'Unbelievable win for me'

"It has been very difficult, so to be back on the podiums, winning tournaments just feels amazing," Tsitsipas said after the match.I can't thank my family enough and friends,

and if there is God out there, for making this moment possible. I am extremely grateful for every person behind this journey. The third time is even more special than the first or second time. This is an unbelievable win for me. Capturing that win today was nerve-wracking.

I really wanted this trinity. I am extremely happy today," Tsitsipas said.Apart from Tsitsipas, Rafael Nadal (11), Bjorn Borg (3), Thomas Muster (3) and Ilie Nastase have won the Monte Carlo Masters 3 or more times. Tsitsipas said that he felt at home during his match against Ruud where he was able to show more ruthlessness.

"I had to go out there and show my tennis as I promised every single of them [my team] I will make the most out of it. I am glad I presented on court and showed some ruthless tennis. From the beginning to the end my play was cohesive and I was able to blend in a lot of different shots," Tsitsipas added.Tsitsipas will now be looking to carry his momentum into the other 2 Masters 1000 in Madrid and Italy before taking part in the French Open, starting May 26.

Pooja Hegde

Buys 45 crore Luxurious Sea-Facing Residence in Mumbai

Pooja Hegde is set to appear alongside Shahid Kapoor in the upcoming film 'Deva'. It has been reported that she recently acquired a luxurious property in Mumbai, valued at ₹45 crore. According to a report from ETimes, this lavish property is located in the prestigious Bandra locale, offering stunning sea views.

The property boasts 4,000 square feet of space, symbolizing the epitome of luxury living in Bandra, Mumbai, and comes with a price tag of ₹45 crore. The report elaborates that Hegde has moved into an exquisite sea-facing mansion, emphasizing its expansive living space and its prime positioning that affords breath-taking sea views, alongside providing a haven of comfort and elegance within Mumbai. Hegde has not yet confirmed this information.

Nonetheless, the portal suggests that Hegde's keen eye for aesthetics might soon see her transitioning to this new residence. An insider close to Hegde remarked that the mansion is a reflection of her accomplishments and ambitions, signifying that hard work, persistence, and relentless commitment can turn dreams into reality. Hegde's journey began when she won the Miss India Talented 2009 title, although she did not advance beyond the first round. She ventured into acting with the Tamil superhero film 'Mugamoodi,' and made her Bollywood debut in Ashutosh Gowariker's 'Mohenjo Daro,' opposite Hrithik Roshan. Her filmography expanded to include roles in 'Housefull 4' with Akshay Kumar, 'Cirkus' with Ranveer Singh, and 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' with Salman Khan. Her acting credits also span collaborations with leading figures in the South Indian film industry, such as Allu Arjun, Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Vijay, and Chiranjeevi.

Hegde is actively working on the action-thriller 'Deva' with Shahid Kapoor and will feature in Sajid Nadiadwala's "Sanki" alongside Ahan Shetty. Recently, Pooja Hegde was spotted riding in a car with her rumoured boyfriend, Rohan Mehra, and the pictures are now going viral on social media. After this, fans started speculating that the duo had been dating. In the viral pictures, Pooja looked stunning in a denim jacket paired with a peach-coloured tank top underneath and denim pants. She kept her look minimal and left her tresses open to complete her look. On the other hand, Rohan was seen wearing a black T-shirt which he paired with blue pants. Pooja Hegde's rumoured boyfriend, Rohan Mehra, is an actor. He started his acting journey in 2018, with the financial thriller Baazaar, starring Saif Ali Khan in the lead role along with Radhika Apte and Chitrangada Singh playing other important roles. The actor is the son of the late actor Vinod Mehra, who was a popular figure in Hindi cinema.



Priyanka Chopra

Reviews Diljit Dosanjh, Parineeti Chopra's Chamkila, Says 'Looks So Good'; See Here

Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra's Chamkila has finally been released on the OTT platform. They have been receiving positive responses for their performance in the film. Priyanka Chopra also took to her social handle and heaped praises on the team. She called it good. Taking to her Instagram stories, Priyanka shared the poster and wrote, "Congratulations Imtiaz sir, Diljit, Tisha and the team. Looks so good (heart-eye emoji)". News18 gave the film 3.5/5 stars. Our review read, "Diljit delivers a stupendous act as the protagonist. The character of Amar Singh Chamkila is tailor-made for him and he pours his heart out into it. His hard work is palpable and yet his performance is effortless. Watching him become Chamkila and sing his songs will fill your heart up with unadulterated joy. Even in some heavy-weight scenes, he brings a rare restraint to the fore and renders a whole new layer of poise. It, inarguably, is his career-best performance. And somewhere in the middle, you will see him becoming one with Chamkila and very soon, you won't be able to separate these forces that forever changed the music industry of Punjab."

Previously, in an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, Imtiaz talked about getting Diljit and Parineeti on board when he explained why it was important for him to cast

actors who are also singers. "It was mandatory for me to cast actors who are singers as well. It was important for them to sing live. This film wouldn't have been possible without them. It's not like Diljit didn't train a lot like Parineeti did but he does live singing and is used to it. They both recorded the songs after singing them live. The reason behind this is that I've never had singers singing live during a shot. I thought that in case, the live singing doesn't work out, we can always use the recorded version and use it as playback like we usually do," he said.



When Goldy Brar Issued Open Threat To Salman Khan After Sidhu Moose Wala's Death: 'We Will Kill Him'



Early on April 14, shots were fired outside Salman Khan's Mumbai home. The event happened at approximately 4:55 am, according to initial CNN-News18 reports, involving two individuals on a motorcycle who discharged three shots into the air. While the actor is safe, this is one of the many threats Khan has received in the last few months. In June 2023, Salman Khan had received a death threat from Canada-based fugitive gangster Goldy Brar, who had openly said that the Bollywood superstar is on his gang's kill list. In an interview with India Today channel, Goldy Brar, alleged mastermind in Sidhu Moosewala killing, said that his gang will "definitely kill" Salman. "We will kill him, we will definitely kill him. Bhai saheb (Lawrence) had stated that he wouldn't apologise. Baba will show mercy only when he feels merciful," Brar said, referring to jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's interview where he said that killing Salman Khan was his "life goal". Brar continued, "Like we have said earlier, it's not just about Salman Khan. We will continue our attempts against all our enemies as long as we're alive. Salman Khan is our target, there's no doubt about that. We'll keep trying, and when we succeed, you'll know." For the unaware, the Canadian government named Satinder Singh Brar, nicknamed Goldy Brar, among the country's top 25 wanted criminals in 2023. The Punjab-origin affiliate of Lawrence Bishnoi's gang is wanted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for murder, according to the 'Bolo (Be On the Lookout) Programme' list issued. The 29-year-old, who reached Canada on a student visa in 2017, allegedly claimed responsibility for the murder of Shubdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, who was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29, 2022. Salim Khan has reacted to the gunshots that were fired at Salman Khan's house in Mumbai. Speaking with CNN News18, Salim Khan said there is nothing to worry. "There is nothing to tell. They just want publicity, there is no need to worry," he said. Salman Khan is yet to address fans about the firing.

Salman Khan Firing: Interrogation Completed; Alvira, Arpita to Visit Him at 5:30 PM



In the early hours of April 14, gunfire was reported outside Salman Khan's residence Galaxy Apartment in Mumbai. The incident occurred at around 4.55 am, as per initial reports by CNN-News18, with two individuals spotted on a motorcycle who fired three shots in the air. It's still unclear as to the group these men belong to. Meanwhile, security has been heavily amped up outside the Khan residence. A source exclusively tells us, "A team of Mumbai Crime officers visited Galaxy Apartment a while back. They have questioned every family member and staff and taken the required information from them regarding the episode this morning. It's rather shocking that it happened despite the presence of cops and police surveillance vans stationed outside their home." Last year, Salman found himself targeted by a death threat from Canada-based fugitive gangster Goldy Brar, who openly declared that the Bollywood superstar was on his gang's hit list. Mumbai Police had filed an FIR against gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar, along with another individual, following an email threatening Salman earlier this year. Our source further reveals that their other family members haven't been able to visit the Khans due to strict security. "Atul Agnihotri, Alvira Agnihotri, Aayush Sharma, Arpita Khan Sharma, and a few others will be visiting them post 5:30 pm. The family is holding up well. As of now, no other celebrities or Salman's contemporaries from the film industry has been spotted going inside Galaxy Apartment," the source says.

A while back, speaking to CNN News18 exclusively, Salman's father, Salim Khan, opined that the incident was merely a stunt pulled by the men in question. He said, "We can't tell anything here, there is nothing to tell. They just want publicity. There is no need to worry."

