

Operation Blue Star left Punjab deeply scarred

TWO generations have attained adulthood since Operation Blue Star was clumsily executed 40 years ago — in operational haste and amidst gross underestimation of Sikh militant firepower and crafty fortifications inside the Golden Temple. This eventually compelled the deployment of Vijayanta tanks to end the ferocious fighting, in which hundreds died.

The operation's security, political and even foreign policy ramifications remain possibly the most wanton of all such internal security actions conducted in post-Independence India and ones that continue to resonate in some mutated form even today. Its most recent manifestation is India's diplomatic scuffle with Canada over the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in that country, allegedly at New Delhi's behest, alongside the intended analogous 'hit' on another such extremist in the US. Blue Star's immediate fallout was within the Army itself — a mutiny by hundreds of Sikh soldiers from units in Sriganganagar (Rajasthan) and the Sikh Regimental Centre at Ramgarh (now in Jharkhand). These well-armed and duly accoutred mutineers set course for Amritsar in commandeered vehicles to 'rescue' the Golden Temple from the Army's 'heretical' attack. Expectedly, their progress was halted by other Army units following extended firefights on highways leading north, in which scores of soldiers died and over 2,600 mutineers were arrested, many of whom were later court-martialled. However, Blue Star's history-altering repercussion was the revenge killing of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984. This, in turn, triggered the grisly pogrom that lasted three days; officially, 2,733 Sikhs were slaughtered in Delhi alone, though human rights organisations claim over 4,000 had died. Hundreds of others were similarly killed in cities like Kanpur and Bokaro. The mid-air bombing of Kanishka Air India Flight 182 in June 1985, which killed all 329 people on board, was in retaliation for Blue Star. A year later, retired Gen Arun Vaidya, the Army Chief at the time of the operation, was shot dead by two Sikhs in Pune.

Furthermore, Blue Star stoked a surge in Sikh militancy across Punjab, with hundreds of youngsters, radicalised by the assault on the Golden Temple and the anti-Sikh pogrom, joining the armed uprising against the Indian state in support of their demand for Khalistan. These armed cadres also emerged as misguided arbiters of Sikhism, openly dictating Punjab's social, linguistic and moral mores. Undermining state authority, in an egregious reversal of roles never witnessed earlier or since in India, militant kangaroo courts dispensed justice in Punjab's villages and small towns. Summary executions were carried out even in cases of infidelity, dowry, cattle rustling and misappropriation of canal water. Anarchy gripped Punjab for years after Blue Star, paralysing people's daily existence. There were horrific massacres of train and bus passengers by militants. Matters deteriorated even further after the Sikh insurgency was seized upon and strategically furthered by Pakistan's military, adding a worrisome external dimension to a volatile domestic situation. This was eventually stamped out ruthlessly in 1993-94 through concerted counter-insurgency (COIN) operations launched by the Punjab Police and paramilitary forces with the Army's backing.

Blue Star was a watershed for the Army, which lost 83 officers and jawans in over five days of brutal, close-quarter fighting in scalding temperatures, exacerbated by the temple's heat-radiating white marble flooring and edifice. And though the Army did achieve its immediate objective of securing the temple premises after eliminating the insurgents' leaders, including Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the intensity of professional resistance it faced forced it to employ armoured personal carriers and tanks in order to prevail.

Thereafter, for years, Blue Star prompted an internal re-evaluation of the Army's urban warfare strategy and tactics — an entirely new concept at the time — and underscored the importance of minimising collateral damage in COIN operations. It also highlighted the imperative for better intelligence-gathering, as in planning Blue Star, the Army, assorted security agencies and associated police and paramilitary organisations had all grossly under-assessed the levels of resistance inside the temple.

Will to prevail over the West brings Russia, China closer

Russia is able to evade the sanctions imposed by the West with the help of China and other countries.

SENDING out a political message to the West, Russian President Vladimir Putin chose Beijing for his first foreign visit since being elected as the President for the fifth time. Though there was no mention of their friendship with 'no limits' this time, the joint statement made it clear that Russia and China would "deepen the comprehensive strategic cooperation" and firmly support "each other's core interests and major concerns".

This was a calculated snub to the US and Europe, whose leaders had told Chinese President Xi Jinping in recent meetings that China was filling the critical gaps in Russia's ability to sustain its assault on Ukraine by providing it with semiconductors, drones and micro-electronics. An upset US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell told European leaders at a NATO meeting held in Brussels last month with "as much detail and specifics as possible" that China had supported Russia to the hilt, though it was "downplaying it publicly to maintain normal diplomatic and commercial ties with Europe".

Campbell stated that the Chinese assistance to Russia was not a one-off affair or something that involved only a couple of Chinese firms. This was a sustained and comprehensive effort backed by the leadership in China to reconstitute Russia's military force, long-range missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, radars, long-range artillery and the like. Campbell urged Europe to impose collective sanctions on China, stating that Beijing might not retaliate in view of the "vulnerabilities of its economy". Though China has reduced the supply of dual-use items to Russia, it will not terminate such assistance completely as it plays an important role in enhancing Russia's war-fighting capability in Ukraine. There are several reasons for this decision. First of all, Beijing and Moscow have a common worldview; they believe that the present international order dominated by the US is unfair and unjust. The global power is shifting from the West to the East, and it is time to shake off the US hegemony and make the world more multipolar and balanced. Secondly, the domestic opinion in the US is drifting away from support for the Ukraine war. Russia is making gains on the battlefield in Ukraine, and China must support it and be on the winning side.

Thirdly, Moscow and Beijing complement each other, as Russia provides crude oil, natural gas, coal, fertilisers and food items to China through the land route, which can't be interdicted by the US in the event of a war over Taiwan. Their trade is settled in their local currencies, free from US control. Both can gain by cooperating in emerging and sensitive technologies, such as nuclear energy, space, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and cyber warfare. Fourthly, the US continues to have an aggressive posture towards China, as seen in the imposition of higher tariffs on the latter's electric vehicles and batteries, and sanctions on Chinese companies. There is no rationale for



Beijing to oblige Washington. Even if China cuts back on its support for Russia, it's unlikely that the West or America will drastically amend its attitude toward China as a competitor. Russia believes that the West is determined to weaken and dismember it and that its conflict with the West will last long. The Ukraine war is likely to be protracted. And China, with its growing power, can play an important role in undermining the US global dominance and hastening Russia's victory. Similarly, China thinks that the US is bent on containing its influence and not willing to accord the due status to the rising global power. So, their alliance can become a countervailing force in their long-term struggle against Washington and its allies.

China's predicament is that the US and Europe are its key investment and trade partners, responsible for about 45 per cent of its trade. China has to publicly maintain a balance between its strategic ties with Russia and economic ties with the West, avoiding a confrontation with the latter while quietly aiding the former. It is Beijing's hope that Europe, which has already been crippled by high energy prices, will not be able to collectively slap sanctions on it due to internal divisions and the dependence of important countries like Germany and Hungary on the Chinese market.

Trade between Russia and China reached a record \$240 billion last year. Following the exodus of Western

companies in the wake of the Ukraine conflict, China has become the supplier of everything, from clothes to machinery, cars and high-technology dual-use items. Russia is able to evade the sanctions imposed by the West with the help of China and other countries. The joint training, cooperation in data exchange on the speed of strategic (nuclear-capable) bombers and the joint command and control in military exercises near Alaska and Taiwan have started worrying Western military planners. If Russia and China integrate their missile defence systems, the sensors on the Russian northern territory could give China an advance warning of the US intercontinental ballistic missiles traversing through that territory on the way to China, completely changing the scenario for the use of nuclear weapons by China against the US. Though both Russia and China have misgivings about each other and suspicions of one prying in the other's political backyard and copying advanced technologies, the instinct to confront the West can force them to shed past differences and fight together. Some American analysts are not happy about President Joe Biden's policies uniting these two countries against the US. They are hoping that Donald Trump, if elected again as the US President, will wean Russia away from China by settling the Ukraine issue in a suitable manner so that America is not forced to fight these two great powers at the same time.

Healthcare relief

Policyholders to get cashless claims in 3

hours

THE Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has taken a much-needed step to smoothen the health insurance landscape by mandating a three-hour limit for settling cashless health claims. This significant directive is aimed at enhancing the efficiency and customer-centricity of health insurance services in India. By stipulating that insurers should decide on cashless authorisation within an hour and settle claims within three hours of discharge, the regulatory authority is setting a new benchmark for responsiveness and reliability in the sector.

Health insurance claims pose major challenges to customers. Lengthy processing often results in financial strain as patients and their families must raise funds immediately to pay hospital bills. Delays in cashless claims can lead to additional charges, prolonged hospital stays and potential disruptions in treatment. The rigmarole exacerbates the patients' stress. Further, erratic



service and a lack of transparency contribute to deep distrust in the system, deterring many from purchasing health insurance policies altogether. The new directive also includes a provision for a no-claim bonus and mandates a wider range of products to be offered by insurers, catering to the needs of all kinds of patients.

These reforms are aimed at boosting customer confidence and, subsequently, increasing insurance penetration in a country where health insurance coverage remains relatively low, with a significant section of the population reliant on government schemes. The lack of awareness about health insurance is another stumbling block. By streamlining the claims process and suggesting a discount on the premium amount for claim-free years, the IRDAI has taken on these challenges head-on. It must now ensure that the health insurance companies align their operations with the new guidelines by the July 31 deadline.

Heed the cry from Khadoor Sahib

Don't push us to the brink, Punjab seems to be telling the man who will soon sit on the Delhi throne

YOU don't need to travel to Khadoor Sahib to get a sense of why independent candidate Amritpal Singh, currently lodged in a jail in faraway Dibrugarh on charges under the National Security Act, may have the hawa, or the electoral wind, in his favour and could even swing the election. Just beyond the Sector 51 traffic lights, on the border between Chandigarh and Mohali, a group of elderly Sikhs has set up camp for the last year and a half, seeking to draw attention to the fact that 22 Sikh prisoners have been in jail for decades. One of the men, Angrez Singh, is doling out cups of sweetened, hot milk to those who have ventured this far this hot afternoon. A group of Sikh farmers has ventured this far from Karnal. It doesn't take long for the conversation to travel from the Centre's — read BJP's — discrimination with Punjab as manifesting in the 'bandi Singhs' (or Sikh prisoners) episode to the 'unfairness' of Amritpal's incarceration. Across the road, posters of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, Shabeg Singh, Deep Sidhu, Amritpal and Beant Singh (Indira Gandhi's assassin) are plastered across empty tents and on standalone hoardings. One poster has Bhindranwale flanked by Hardeep Singh Nijjar and Jaswant Singh Khalsa on one half, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, his wife and a couple of children on the other. "Dhanyavaad, Canada," it says in Gurmukhi. Thank you, Canada.

For one, strange second, as your iPhone crashes in the heat and time stands still, you wonder if you are in 1984 (when Operation Blue Star took place), 1988 (Operation Black Thunder) or 2024. This is Punjab's rogues' gallery and according to some reports, one of them may even be in your next Parliament. But hold on to that hot iPhone and steady yourself. Not only is the camp mostly empty, the few elderly but hugely eloquent men whiling away the afternoon have old age on their side. We are here because we just want our rights, they say. Let the 'bandi Singhs' go home, they have been in jail far too long. Even Kumbhakarna woke up after a few months, but this government refuses to wake up. Amritpal is a much



misunderstood man, all he wanted was to improve Sikh society — he got the boys off drugs and wiped the tears from the eyes of their mothers. He doesn't want Khalistan. In any case, there are those in India who want Hindu Rashtira.

The cry in the afternoon heat dissipates quickly. Even these ageing men understand the unspoken truth that Khadoor Sahib, Faridkot and Sangrur — from where Amritpal, Indira Gandhi assassin's son Sarabjit Singh Khalsa and SAD (Amritsar) chief Simranjit Singh Mann, respectively, are contesting — cannot take on the

contours of a new Republic of Khalistan, simply because all three candidates agreed to protect the Constitution when they decided to stand for elections. The lesson of the terrible Eighties is that all three men today — especially Mann, who has fought several elections since he first won in 1989 — understand that they can use the rights of free speech, expression and protest that the Constitution guarantees them to persuade their audiences. The beauty of the democratic process allows them to push the limits of that process and begin their journey back towards the centre, when they can push no

more. Clearly, all three are far smarter than their mentor and role model Bhindranwale, who preferred to break rather than bend. In any case, barely won the Sangrur seat in a bypoll after it fell vacant in 2022 — when Bhagwant Mann became chief minister of Punjab — by a margin of 5,000-odd votes. That's why mainstream politics is alive and well in Punjab. Even if Khadoor Sahib is wrested by a would-be secessionist called Amritpal — and all the world's press will flock to the constituency to paint Punjab with an indiscriminate, insensitive and unintelligent brush — the fact remains that Punjab's 2.14 crore voters have already chosen moderation. The fight between AAP, Congress, BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal is real because the issues are real. An agricultural crisis that won't go away. The comatose industrial climate. A deepening environmental emergency. Ageing populations and emptying villages. The melodrama around Khadoor Sahib has actually hidden in plain sight a civil disobedience movement-in-the-making. For all of Punjab's rebellious spirit that chafes at authority, the citizenry is willing to protest peacefully at a significant cost to itself. The farmers' blockade of Delhi in 2020-21 is a classic case in point — as many as 750 farmers are believed to have died in that one year before the Modi government agreed to take the farm laws back. In recent weeks, as the election campaign has taken giddy turns, Punjab's farmers have shown black flags to BJP candidates over their unhappiness at the Centre's refusal to bend on issues like MSP, and stubbornly refused to let them enter their villages. Punjabis have persisted with the demand that the borders at Attari-Wagah and Hussainiwala be reopened for trade and better relations with Pakistan.

And yet, it may be time to heed the cry from Khadoor Sahib. Talk to us. Let's do things differently, Punjab seems to be saying, to the man who will soon sit on the throne in Delhi. Don't push us to the brink, we don't like it here.

GST collection in May up 10% to Rs 1.73 lakh crore

NEW DELHI: Continuing with the trend of robust growth, GST collections in May logged 10% year-on-year increase in gross GST collection at Rs 1.73 lakh crore. This growth was mainly driven by mop-up from domestic transactions (up 15.3%) even as collection from imports slowed down to 4.3%. After accounting for refunds, the net GST collection for May 2024 stands at Rs 1.44 lakh crore, reflecting a growth of 6.9% compared to the same period last year. In April, the gross GST collection crossed Rs 2 lakh crore for the first time. Of the Rs 1.73 lakh crore, Central GST stood at Rs 32,409 crore, SGST at Rs 40,265 crore and integrated GST at Rs 87,781 crore (including Rs 39,879 crore from imported goods). Collection from cess stood at Rs 12,284 crore, including Rs 1,076 crore collected on imported goods. After regular settlement from IGST, total revenue under CGST is Rs 70,928 crore and under SGST is Rs 72,999 crore. Gross GST revenue in FY25 till May 2024 stood at Rs 3.83 lakh crore, showing 11.3% YoY growth, driven by 14.2% rise in collections from domestic transactions. After accounting for refunds, the net GST revenue in the FY25 till May 2024 stands at Rs 3.36 lakh crore.

Freer gold imports will help rid us of smugglers

NEW DELHI: The recent arrest in the Delhi airport of a duo, one of them a part-time aide of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, has once again revived the exciting discussion on 'gold smuggling'. Tharoor's aide, one Shiv Kumar Prasad, who seemed to have an 'aerodrome' pass that allowed him access to the airport's security area, was caught receiving 500 grams of the precious metal from an associate who had just landed.

After the Gold (Control) Act, 1962 was abolished as part of the government's liberalization package in 1990, and gold was allowed to be imported freely, gold smuggling became passe. Now, with a steady rise in import duty, gold smuggling has become lucrative again.

Another recent case that brought the spotlight back on gold smuggling was a seizure in July 2020 of 30 kilograms of 24 carat gold worth Rs 15 crore from a diplomatic bag destined for the UAE Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram. The seizure and arrests exposed the sophisticated nexus between politicians, diplomats and the smugglers. India has had a troubled history with Gold. The government realized the hard way that owning the precious metal is so intrinsically tied to the Indian psyche that no legal controls can restrict the appetite for gold. It started with the Gold (Control) Act 1962. It was promulgated during the crisis with China and the early years of foreign exchange shortage, and the fiat recalled all gold loans by banks and banned forward trading. Subsequent legislations in 1963 and 1965 banned production of gold jewelry above 14 carat fineness and a gold bond scheme was launched to mop up private gold holdings. Then came Prime Minister Morarji Desai's Gold (Control) Act in 1968, which barred citizens from owning gold in the form of bars and coins. All existing holdings had to be converted to jewelry. The government expected this would bring down consumption of gold and hence its imports, and help preserve precious foreign exchange. It was an unsustainable absurdity. What happened was the government killed the official gold market, but instead created a booming black market. While the mafia thrived, the poor, small artisans of the Sonar community were rendered penniless.

Initiate quicker GST recovery in special cases, officers told

NEW DELHI: In a bid to check unnecessary pressure on GST payers against early recovery of dues, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has put in place guidelines mandating senior officers to initiate recovery action quickly only in rare cases and that too after clearly stating the reasons.

The law allows central GST authorities to initiate recovery after three months in case the dues remain unpaid after an order is passed. Only in exceptional circumstances can recovery be initiated earlier. But with "early action" becoming a norm or sorts, leading to pressure on taxpayers, CBIC has now said that if recovery has to be initiated before three months, a principal commissioner- or commissioner-rank officer will have to order action and state specific reasons.

"Such reasons could include high risk to revenue involved in waiting till the completion of the three-month period due to apprehension that the concerned taxable person may close the business operations in near future, or due to possibility of default by the taxable person due to his declining financial

Boeing Starliner capsule's first crewed test flight postponed just before launch

Cape Canaveral, Florida A second attempt at launching Boeing's new Starliner space capsule on its inaugural test flight with NASA astronauts on board was automatically halted with minutes to go before liftoff by a computer-abort system, mission officials said. The scrubbed launch, capping a string of 11th-hour technical issues that ground teams worked through and resolved earlier in the countdown, adds another indefinite delay for the highly anticipated and much-delayed test flight. The next available launch window for the mission is Sunday at about noon local time, but NASA said in a statement on Saturday that mission officials would forgo that opportunity, without setting a new date. The next available chances to launch are Wednesday, June 5, and Thursday, June 6. "We got really close today," said Steve Stich, manager of NASA's commercial crew program. "I know it's a little disappointing, we were all excited. This is kind of the way spaceflight is," he said. The postponement on Saturday was triggered by computers on the Atlas V rocket's launchpad that coordinate the

final moments before liftoff. The Starliner capsule appeared healthy, officials said. At a news conference after the postponement, executives from Boeing and United Launch Alliance (ULA), the Boeing-Lockheed Martin joint venture that owns the Atlas V rocket, hoped a review of the computers on Saturday night would allow for a launch on Sunday. "We'll take either that opportunity or the next one to come," Mark Nappi, a Boeing vice president, told reporters. The decision to forgo the launch opportunity on Sunday, NASA's statement said, would "give the team additional time" to assess the issue.

The CST-200 Starliner's first crewed voyage to the International Space Station (ISS), with two astronauts aboard, remains a key milestone for Boeing as it scrambles to gain a greater share of lucrative NASA business now dominated by Elon Musk's SpaceX. The gumdrop-shaped Starliner capsule had stood ready for blast-off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, perched atop the Atlas V. But with three minutes and 50 seconds left in the countdown clock after



the final "go" for launch was given by the flight director, a ground system computer triggered an automatic abort command that shut down the launch sequence, according to mission officials.

LOOKING FOR THE GLITCH ULA Chief Executive Tory Bruno said the leading causes would be "either a hardware problem or a network communication" issue between three computers that control automated launch systems. The first attempt by Boeing to send an uncrewed Starliner to the space station in 2019 failed due to software and engineering glitches. A second try in 2022 succeeded, paving the way for efforts at getting the first crewed test mission off

the ground. A May 6 countdown was halted just two hours before launch time over a faulty pressure valve on the Atlas V upper stage, followed by weeks of further delays caused by other engineering problems, since resolved, on the Starliner itself. The two-member crew, NASA astronauts Barry "Butch" Wilmore, 61, and Sunita "Suni" Williams, 58, had been strapped into their seats aboard the spacecraft for a couple of hours before launch activities were suspended on Saturday. Technicians safely assisted the astronauts out of the capsule and away from the launch tower after the flight was scrubbed, returning them to their quarters under quarantine to await the next flight attempt. It is not uncommon in the space industry for countdowns to be halted at the 11th hour and for launches to be postponed for days or weeks, even when seemingly minor malfunctions or unusual sensor readings are detected, especially in new spacecraft flying humans for the first time. Boeing, whose commercial airplane manufacturing operations are in disarray after several crises, badly needs a success in space for its Starliner venture.

Healthcare sector sees boom with record investments

BENGALURU. Healthcare sector has been witnessing record investments for the past few years and in just five months of this year, the industry has secured private equity and venture capital investment of over \$1 billion.

As per analytics firm Venture Intelligence data, the industry saw investments of over \$4.5 billion across 19 deals in 2023, a 220% rise from last year. In 2022, the sector attracted \$1.4 billion across 15 deals. Hospitals are also announcing their expansion plans as recently Aster DM Healthcare launched Rs 250 crore expansion plans for Aster CMI Hospital in Bengaluru. It will raise its bed capacity from 500-850 by FY27. Recently, Japan's Toyota Tsusho and Secom Medical System announced their plans to set up a second multi-specialty hospital, Sakra, in Bengaluru for Rs 1,000 crore. The facility will boast a 500-bed capacity. "PE community sees a huge opportunity in healthcare, which is an undeniably recession-proof sector and they would participate in the buoyant growth story. This growing participation will get a booster dose as more and more Indians move up the economic ladder to demand better lifestyles and quality healthcare," said Dr. B S Ajaikumar, Executive Chairman, HealthCare Global Enterprises Ltd (HCG).

He said there are challenges given a few stifling government rules and minuscule GDP allocation to healthcare, but the opportunities outnumber and outweigh the challenges. HCG is expanding its footprint in Bengaluru with the launch of two new cancer care centres. The two centres will commence operations in early 2025. Demand for health services is surging in PE and VC investments in the sector is primarily attributable to the substantial demand for healthcare services. Investors foresee potential in meeting this growing demand and are thus allocating major funds towards healthcare ventures, said Dr Anil Krishna, chairman and MD of Medicovert Group of Hospitals. "This influx of investments underscores the confidence in the sector's future prospects and its pivotal role in addressing evolving healthcare needs of the population. As anticipation mounts, investors are seeking opportunities to contribute to advancement of healthcare infra and services in India," he added.

As per him, the surge in demand for private healthcare services following the pandemic underscores the vital role of hospital sector. This demand is likely to persist and even escalate, in the foreseeable future.

"India faces a notable shortage of hospital beds, a pressing issue further exacerbated by the recent health crisis. Addressing this shortfall presents a substantial opportunity for expansion and investment within the sector," Krishna added. Recently, global investment firm KKR announced the acquisition of Healthium Medtech, a medical devices company, from an affiliate of funds advised by Apax Partners. The acquisition will be made by a special purpose vehicle owned by KKR-managed funds which will acquire a controlling stake in the group, including Healthium, it said.

In April, Apollo HealthCo, an arm of Apollo Hospitals Enterprises, entered a pact to raise equity capital of Rs 2,475 crore from PE investor Advent International. In the same month, healthcare provider in Northern India Ujala Cygnus announced its partnership with General Atlantic. GA acquired a majority stake in the hospital chain, as per the data, the investment is \$120 million. Anil Krishna said, "Initially, there was a noticeable trend towards single-specialty chains, mainly in areas like women's and child health, cancer care, and ophthalmology. These specialised centres catered to specific healthcare needs with focused expertise and precision.

May vehicle sales moderate to 4% at 3.50 lakh units

NEW DELHI: Passenger vehicle (PV) sales during the month of May were in the slow lane as buyers' sentiments were impacted by general elections and extreme heat waves.

Growing by a modest 4%, PV dispatches from companies to dealers stood at 3,50,257 units in May 2024 as compared to 3,35,436 units in May 2023. Maruti Suzuki (MSI) reported that its domestic PV sales rose marginally to



144,002 units last month from 143,708 units in the year-ago period. "It has been discussed that growth this year will not be very high. It will be in single digit because of the high base effect. Secondly, there were elections and the scorching temperatures also had an impact on the overall sales in May," said Partho Banerjee, MSI Senior Executive Officer (marketing & sales). Sales growth of MSIL's entry-level and compact cars were again in negative territory. To revive the segment, MSIL announced new Dream limited editions for Alto K10, S-Presso and Celerio. All three cars will be similarly priced at Rs 4.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

Hyundai Motor India (HMIL) reported a 1% year-on-year increase in domestic dispatch to 49,151 units last month. "In April also the industry grew by around 1.5%...so April plus May the industry growth should be around 2-2.5% over same period last year," said HMIL COO Tarun Garg. Kia India's May sales grew by 4% to 19,500 while Tata Motors' PV sales grew by 2% y-o-y to 47,075 units in May. Meanwhile, SUV majors Mahindra & Mahindra and Toyota (TKM) continue to grow at a much faster pace than the industry. Mahindra reported a robust 31% increase in PV dispatches last month at 43,218 units. Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) reported a 24% increase in total wholesales in May at 25,273 units. Growing forward, industry experts believe sales tax pick up once election results are out and a stable government is formed. MERIL's Next-Gen Myval THV Series Marks India's Triumph in Global Heart-Exciting news from Meril Life Sciences! The LANDMARK trial's 30 days primary outcomes were presented on 15th May at EuroPCR 2024, Paris, France.

11 crypto exchanges in Hong Kong to get licences soon

NEW DELHI: Hong Kong's securities regulator said 11 cryptocurrency exchanges are a step closer to obtaining licences, one year after rolling out a digital-asset rulebook to try and foster a hub for the industry.

Applicants including Crypto.com and Bullish are "deemed to be licensed," the Securities & Futures Commission's website showed Saturday. Those venues are among platforms on the list with notable trading volumes globally. Prominent digital-asset outfits such as OKX and Bybit, which regularly command big chunks of activity, withdrew bids for



permits. Binance Holdings, the world's largest exchange, didn't apply, nor did the top US platform Coinbase Global or Kraken, another popular venue. Hong Kong set a June 1 deadline for crypto

exchanges to be either licensed or deemed to be so. Firms at a minimum must fall in the latter category to operate in the city and market services to local investors, and will receive actual permits once the SFC is satisfied about compliance. Officials pivoted toward fostering a virtual-asset hub in late 2022, part of an effort to repair Hong Kong's image as a financial centre after a crackdown on dissent sent a chill through global companies as well as expatriate staff. Hong Kong is vying with the likes of Dubai and Singapore to be a digital-asset center and whether the city will succeed is an open question.



conditions or impending insolvency, or likely initiation of proceedings under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act," the instructions issued on Thursday said, while stating mechanical issuing of demand should be avoided. The order must be based on credible evidence and should be issued after considering the financial health, status of business, credibility of the taxpayer, infrastructure and should strike a balance between the interests of tax authorities and ease of doing business, it said. "Such explicit instructions from govt are quite welcome and will help minimise any unnecessary hassles that businesses have been facing regarding tax recovery. I hope these guidelines are implemented and followed in letter and spirit by jurisdiction officials," said Abhishek Jain, indirect tax head and partner at KPMG.

India-based Tata Steel owns the UK's largest steelworks of 3 million tonne per annum (MTPA) at Port Talbot in South Wales and employs around 8,000 people across all its operations in that country.

NEW DELHI. Loss of jobs for around 2,500 workers at Tata Steel's operations in the UK, which are in a transition phase, is "inevitable", the company's CEO T V Narendran said. Fear of job losses has attracted criticism of the workers' unions and they are continuously protesting against the company in the UK. India-based Tata Steel owns the UK's largest steelworks of 3 million tonne per annum (MTPA) at Port Talbot in South Wales and employs around 8,000 people across all its

operations in that country. As part of its decarbonisation plan, the company is shifting to low-emission electric arc furnace (EAF) process from the blast furnace (BF) route which is nearing its end of life cycle. Speaking to PTI, Narendran said the transition to EAF with the UK government aid will make the company competitive in terms of reduced production cost, and also help in reduction of 5 million tonnes of Co2 per year. "But all this involves 2,500 job losses and that is what the unions obviously are not happy with. And that's a conversation going on with the unions to how can we do it in a smooth as possible way. It is inevitable," he said. In September 2023, Tata Steel and the UK government agreed on a joint investment plan of 1.25 billion pounds to execute decarbonisation plans at Port Talbot steel making facility in Britain. Of the 1.25 billion pounds, 500 million pounds was provided by the UK



government. Sharing the updates on the UK operations, Narendran further said the coke ovens were already closed in March. One blast furnace will close in June because it is operationally struggling, and the second blast furnace will close in September for reasons of asset quality as well as for reasons of financial bleed. "We want to transition to EAF production because the UK has a lot of steel scrap. It is one of the few countries which is a big exporter of steel scrap. So, it makes sense to use scrap available in the UK to make steel in the UK to sell to customers in the UK, as

compared to importing iron ore and coal from all over the world." Making steel through EAF process will make Tata Steel competitive by at least USD 150 a tonne. So, the UK business, which has traditionally lost money for the company, can become EBITDA positive and cash neutral once completion of this transition," he said.

Tata Steel aims to complete decarbonisation journey at its plant in the UK in next three years, the CEO had earlier said. Annual revenues from the UK business were 2,706 million pounds and EBITDA loss stood at 364 million pounds. For the January-March quarter, revenues were 647 million pounds and EBITDA loss stood at 34 million pounds. Tata Steel on Wednesday reported a 64.59 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 554.56 crore for the January-March quarter of 2023-24 on lower realisations and expenses on certain exceptional items.

Sikkim's Ruling SKM Sweeps Polls, BJP Scores Himalayan Arunachal Win

With 10 BJP candidates elected unopposed, the results for 50 of the 60 assembly seats will be known today. In Sikkim, the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is hoping for a second straight term.

New Delhi: The verdict of Himalayan states Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh will be out today, as the votes of elections to their legislative assemblies are being counted. Here are top 10 points on this big story:

Ten BJP candidates in Arunachal have been elected unopposed. So, the counting is being held for 50 out of 60 Assembly seats. The BJP has crossed the halfway mark now, with 34 wins and leads on 11 seats. The BJP's ally, Conrad Sangma's National People's Party, has won two seats and is leading in three.

In Sikkim, incumbent Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is set to return to power. It has already won 16 out of 32 seats and is leading in 15.

The Opposition Sikkim Democratic Front has won one seat. Incumbent Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang told the media, "I thank the people of Sikkim and our party workers. We worked for the people with all our heart. That's why we have won."

SDF leader Pawan Chamling, who has been the longest-serving Chief Minister of the country, has lost from both seats he contested. In Arunachal Pradesh, the Congress is leading on one seat and the NCP on three. The People's Party of Arunachal has won two seats. Among those elected unopposed in Arunachal Pradesh is Chief

Minister Pema Khandu, who has won three of his four terms as MLA without a contest from Mukto is in Tawang district.

The others include Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein from Chowkham, Techi Kaso from Itanagar, Nyato Dukam from Taliha, and Mutchu Mithi from Roing. In the 2019 assembly election, the Janata Dal (United), or JD(U), won seven seats, the National People's Party (NPP) five, Congress four and People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) one seat. Two independent candidates had also won. In 2019, the SKM had ended the 25-year rule of the SDF in Sikkim by winning 17 seats against 15 of Pawan Chamling's party. Going by the 'first past the post' system, the SDF was unseated despite polling more votes than the SKM. While Sikkim had recorded a turnout of 79 per cent in these state polls, Arunachal had clocked 82.7 per cent voting.

Counting of votes for the lone Lok Sabha seat in Sikkim and Arunachal's two seats will be held on June 4, along with those in the rest of the country.



"Incredible Praggnanandhaa!": Gautam Adani's Big Praise For Chess Prodigy

New Delhi: Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, on Sunday lauded 18-year-old Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, calling him "incredible" for winning against world no. 1 Magnus Carlsen and no. 2 Fabiano Caruana in classical chess at the 2024 Norway Chess tournament. The Indian Grandmaster beat Caruana in Round 5 after defeating five-time world champion Carlsen in Round 3 in the chess competition in Stavanger, Norway. "Incredible Praggnanandhaa!" said Gautam Adani, in a post on the social media platform X.

Beating both World no. 1 Magnus Carlsen and no. 2 Fabiano Caruana in classical chess at #NorwayChess is mindblowing. You're on a roll and still just 18! Keep the tricolour flying high. All the very best," added the Adani Group Chairman. Defeating the champions made the teen sensation among the top 10 in the International Chess Federation's world ranking.

PRAGG IS BACK Young prodigy Praggnanandhaa stuns the chess world again by defeating World no. 2 Fabiano Caruana in Round 5! "the official handle of Norway Chess said in a post on X. "After toppling World no. 1 Magnus Carlsen in Round 3, he's now beaten the top two players in classical chess for the first time ever, rocketing into the top 10! What a tournament for the Indian prodigy #NorwayChess," it added. Meanwhile, Pragg's sister Vaishali continued her dominant performance by defeating the legendary Pia Cramling, extending her lead to a total of 8.5 points.

Manoj Tiwari vs Kanhaiya Kumar: Who Holds Edge In Bihar vs Bihar Battle? Check Exit Poll Prediction For Northeast Delhi Seat

New Delhi: The Northeast Delhi seat has garnered remarkable attention in Lok Sabha elections 2024, primarily due to the candidature of two Biharis; Manoj Tiwari of the BJP and Kanhaiya Kumar of the Congress. The high-profile contest between Tiwari and Kumar has not only heightened the seat's importance but also stirred anticipation with all eyes on the June 4 results. 'Axis My India exit poll' has predicted a clean sweep for Tiwari in the northeast Delhi constituency. Both Tiwari and Kumar, the former president of the JNU Students' Union, relied on the large Poorvanchal population in the region. The alliance of AAP and Congress in the constituency has slightly affected the vote share of the BJP, as the saffron party is set to



witness a shortfall in vote share, but this does not amount to formidable competition as the BJP is expected to bag a 54% vote share in the national capital. Established in 2008, Northeast Delhi comprises the Burari, Timarpur, Seemapuri (SC), Rohtas Nagar, Seelampur, Ghonda, Babarpur, Gokalpur (SC), Mustafabad, and Karawal Nagar segments. Out of these ten, only three (Rohtas Nagar, Ghonda, and Karawal Nagar) have BJP representatives, while the remaining seven have AAP MLAs.

However, the exit poll also indicated that the BJP is likely to secure 6 out of the total 7 seats in Delhi, with the INDI Alliance posing a significant challenge only in the Chandni Chowk constituency. During the 2019 general elections, the BJP secured a landslide victory in all seven constituencies in Delhi. Manoj Tiwari had registered victory from the Northeast Delhi seat during the elections in 2014 and 2019.

A Look At 13 Bellwether Seats In 7 States And How They Voted Over The Years

New Delhi: With the conclusion of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on Saturday, all eyes are now on June 4, when the election results will be declared. While the parties wait for the results with bated breath, about 13 bellwether seats spread across 7 states give a good indication of what to expect on the counting day. A bellwether seat is a constituency that gives an indication/trend for the region and also its impact on the national level.

Such seats signal the election mood not just locally but nationally as well, as the party winning here is usually the winner at the national level. These bellwether seats are Valsad, Jamnagar, Banaskantha and Anand (in Gujarat),



Faridabad, Ambala, Karnala (in Haryana), Jammu, Udhampur (Jammu), Alwar (Rajasthan), Secunderabad (Telangana), Sasaram (Bihar) and Ranchi (Jharkhand). All these constituencies voted for a party, which rose to power and formed the government at Centre. Rajasthan's Alwar seat voted for BJP (1999, 2019)

and for Congress (2004, 2009).

Jharkhand's Ranchi Lok Sabha seat voted for BJP (1998, 1998, 1999, 2019) and for Congress (2004, 2009).

Haryana's Karnal LS set voted for BJP (1999, 2014, 2019) and for Congress (2004, 2009). Faridabad, another Lok Sabha seat of Haryana voted for BJP (1998, 1999) and for Congress (1980, 1984, 1989, 1991). Jammu and

Kashmir's Jammu LS seat voted for BJP (1998, 1999, 2014, 2019) and for Congress (2004, 2009). Meanwhile, a couple of exit polls, at least six polling agencies, have predicted a hat-trick for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that the BJP is poised to win 2024 elections with a thumping majority.

Alleged plot to kill Pannun: To stall extradition, Gupta told court in Prague to consider if Delhi gave orders

NEW DELHI: IN their bid to stall his extradition to the United States, lawyers for Nikhil Gupta, currently in custody in Prague for his alleged involvement in the plot to kill Khalistan separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, asked the court to determine if he was an agent working for the Indian secret service and if he could have refused the order to kill Pannun, show court documents accessed by The Sunday Express. Ironically, a Czech court rebutted this argument and said that it was "absurd" to consider that a democracy like India would resort to such methods. Gupta was detained by Czech authorities, at the request of the US government, shortly after he arrived in Prague on June 30 last year. Since then, the case pertaining to his extradition to the US, where he would be tried for allegedly plotting to kill Pannun, has been heard and decided by

the Czech Municipal Court, High Court, and Constitutional Court.

On May 22, the Constitutional Court, country's top court, dismissed Gupta's challenge to the decisions of the Municipal Court in Prague dated November 23, 2023, and the High Court in Prague dated January 8, 2024, both of which had ruled positively on the admissibility of the US request for his extradition. The Constitutional Court's decision has paved the way for Gupta's extradition, but the final call now rests with the Ministry of Justice. Court documents show that as Gupta's lawyers made a case against his extradition before the Prague High Court, they urged the court to check whether if their client was acting as a "soldier sui generis" in eliminating a terrorist, who according to the Indian government, threatens India's security similarly to how Osama bin Laden

threatened the United States. The High Court in Prague in its January 8 order, a copy of which is with The Sunday Express, shot down this argument stating that it found it unnecessary to consider whether the Gupta was obligated to comply with the murder demand due to his potential connections to his country's secret services. The High Court emphasised the absurdity of considering that a democratic state like India, adhering to the rule of law and international treaties, would resolve its issues in peacetime by murdering a citizen of another state, particularly when it maintains normal relations and has a legal assistance agreement with that state. A similar argument was also made before the Czech top court, as shown by the Constitutional Court's final order and the press release on the decision permitting.

My Mistake Was...": Finfluencer Anupam Gupta Victim Of Loan Fraud

New Delhi: Identity theft and loan fraud have become a major concern in today's world with Anupam Gupta, a financial influencer, being the latest victim. His name and address were used to take a loan without his knowledge and he was being "chased by Mobikwik agents" to repay this loan, he said.

Though Mobikwik has halted the loan calls for now and is trying to resolve this, the fact that a finfluencer, who is also a chartered accountant, could fall victim to such a fraud shows the grim reality of identity theft. Screenshots of his CIBIL (which maintains credit files in India) enquiry on X, Mr Gupta said a ? 30,000 personal loan was taken from Lendbox, an online peer lending platform, using his name and contact



details. "From 28th April onwards, the calls and WhatsApp pings started. @MobiKwik collection agents said repay the loan. I said I have taken no loan. When I asked for details, here is the ledger they sent me," said Mr Gupta, who runs the investing podcast 'Paisa Vaisa'. He said the agents refused to listen to him and provided him with a UPI number that had received the loan amount. But it did not belong to him, said Mr Gupta and filed a police complaint. He said he had received a CIBIL notification a month earlier about a loan being taken using his account, which he had ignored. "Folks, please be careful. My mistake was that when I got the CIBIL notification, I did not pay attention. I should have flagged it off then and there. But I didn't. And now I have to face these calls," he said. Responding to him online, Mobikwik said all follow-up calls and process-related adjustments regarding the loan have been halted and they are trying to resolve the matter. Mr Gupta isn't the only person who has been a victim of such a loan fraud.

Piyush Sinha, another chartered accountant, had a loan default reported by Mobikwik in April though he had not taken any such loan. Raising the issue with Lendbox, from where the loan was taken, did not help and they asserted the loan was taken by Mobikwik, he said.

Amid Record Heat, Delhi's Water Crisis Worsens; Residents Fight Over Water Tankers

The footage is of Okhla Phase 2, with residents scrambling for access to a water tanker, some even resorting to queue-jumping and climbing atop the vehicle with their pipes.

New Delhi: The capital city grapples with a severe water shortage amid a heatwave knocking on the doors of Delhiites. Residents are forced to roam the streets with buckets in their hands, waiting for the water tanker to fulfil their daily water requirements. A video shared by ANI on its 'X' platform depicts the ongoing chaos.



The footage is of Okhla Phase 2, with residents scrambling for access to a water tanker, some even resorting to queue-jumping and climbing atop the vehicle with their pipes. On Friday, the Arvind Kejriwal administration

filed a petition with the Supreme Court, requesting increased water allocation from neighbouring states including Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh, prompting a heated political dispute between the

Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party, which holds power in Haryana, regarding the water shortage.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini replied to these accusations by saying that the AAP government is 'spreading lies' to hide its own 'corruption.' Meanwhile, levelling accusations against the AAP government in Delhi, Lt Governor V K Saxena alleged that the party habitually blames others for their "inefficiency," "inability," and "inaction." Saxena labelled the water crisis "mismanagement."

Many parts of Delhi, such as Sanjay Camp in Chanakyapuri and the Geeta Colony area, were experiencing severe water shortages. In the scorching heat, residents had to endure lengthy lines to collect water from tanker trucks.

NEWS BOX

China Makes Landing On Far Side Of The Moon

Beijing. China landed an uncrewed spacecraft on the far side of the moon on Sunday, a landmark mission which aims to retrieve rocks and soil from the lunar surface, China's space agency said. The landing elevates China's space power status in a global rush to the moon, where countries, including the United States and India, are hoping to exploit lunar minerals to sustain long-term astronaut missions and moon bases. The Chang'e-6 craft successfully landed in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the back of the moon at 6:23 a.m. Beijing time, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said in a statement on its website.

"The Chang'e-6 mission is the first human sampling and return mission from the far side of the moon. It involves many engineering innovations, high risks and great difficulty," CNSA said. "The payloads carried by the Chang'e-6 lander will work as planned and carry out scientific exploration missions," CNSA said. The successful mission is China's second on the far side of the moon, a region no country has landed on before. The back of the moon perpetually faces away from the Earth, making communications challenging. The Chang'e-6 probe landed nearly a month after it was launched by a Chinese Long March-5 rocket from Wenchang Space Launch Center on the southern island of Hainan. Last year, India made history after its Moon mission became the first to land in the lunar south pole region. India joined an elite club of countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, after the US, the former Soviet Union and China. The Vikram lander from Chandrayaan-3 successfully touched down last August.

North Korea Sends 600 Trash-Filled Balloons Across Border, Seoul's Military Responds

Seoul. Around 600 more trash-filled balloons were sent by North Korea, containing items ranging from cigarette butts to plastic, across the border, Seoul's military said Sunday. "North Korea has resumed launching waste balloons towards South Korea," since around 8 pm Saturday evening, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. As of around 10 am Sunday, "approximately 600 balloons have been identified, with about 20 to 50 balloons per hour moving through the air," it added.

The balloons are landing in South Korea in areas that are home to nearly half of the South's population. North Korea began sending hundreds of balloons carrying bags of trash earlier this week, which Seoul has slammed as "low-class", warning of strong countermeasures unless Pyongyang stops such "irrational" provocations. Since the campaign started Tuesday, some 900 balloons have been launched. Till now, they have been found to contain "waste such as cigarette butts, scrap paper, fabric pieces, and plastic," it said, adding that "no hazardous substances have been found." "Our military is conducting surveillance and reconnaissance from the launch points of the balloons, tracking them through aerial reconnaissance, and collecting the fallen debris, prioritising public safety," it said. "We urge the public to avoid contact with the fallen waste balloons and report them to the nearest military unit or police station," it added.

The Seoul city government sent a text alert to residents on Saturday, warning of an "unidentified object presumed to be North Korean propaganda leaflets". Pyongyang defended its release of the balloons earlier this week, saying the "sincere gifts" were retaliation for the balloons sent into North Korea with propaganda against leader Kim Jong Un.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun Assassination Plot: Accused Nikhil Gupta Claims New Delhi's Interference

WORLD. To stall the extradition of Nikhil Gupta to the United States, his lawyers have resorted to a new tactic. The attorneys of Gupta, who is in jail in Prague for allegedly being involved in the murder plot to kill Khalistan separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, argued that the court must investigate whether Gupta was an agent for the Indian secret service and if he had the option to refuse the order to kill Pannun, reported the Indian Express. He was detained by Czech authorities on June 30 of the previous year on charges of attempting to hire a hitman to kill Pannun, who is designated as a terrorist under India's Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and is a US citizen. Amid his current custody in Prague the United States has requested his extradition.

According to the Indian Express' report, Gupta's legal counsellors suggested that he, as a "soldier sui generis," was executing orders to eliminate a terrorist (Pannun), who posed a threat to India's security. Gupta's lawyers argued that he might have been acting as an agent of the Indian secret service.

According to the Indian Express' report, a Czech court pronounced these claims absurd by noting that India is a democratic country that adheres to the rule of law and international treaties. The High Court underlined that India would not resort to such methods to resolve its issues, especially against a citizen of another state.

Gupta was detained by Czech authorities at the request of the US government following which the case has been through the Czech Municipal Court, the High Court, and the Constitutional Court. The Municipal Court in Prague initially ruled in favour of the US extradition request on November 23, 2023. Meanwhile, the High Court in Prague upheld the Municipal Court's decision on January 8, 2024. The High Court dismissed the argument that Gupta's potential connections to the Indian secret services necessitated compliance with the murder order. The Constitutional Court, on May 22, 2024, dismissed Gupta's challenge to the lower court decisions, paving the way for his extradition to the US. However, the final decision rests with the Czech Ministry of Justice.

Convicted US killer gets death penalty for murdering wife, girlfriend's children

Boise. A jury in Idaho unanimously agreed Saturday that convicted killer Chad Daybell deserves the death penalty for the gruesome murders of his wife and his girlfriend's two youngest children, ending a grim case that began in 2019 with a search for two missing children.

The 55-year-old Daybell, wearing a dress shirt and tie, sat with his hands in his lap at the defense table. He showed no emotion when learning he would face the death penalty for the murders of Tammy Daybell, 16-year-old Tylee Ryan and 7-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow. When asked by the judge whether he wanted to make a statement, Daybell declined. Jurors found him guilty Thursday and decided on the death sentence after deliberating for just over a day. The mother of the children is Lori Vallow Daybell, whom Chad Daybell married shortly after his wife's death. Vallow Daybell was convicted last year in the three murders and is now awaiting trial in Arizona, charged with murder in connection with the shooting death of her fourth husband, Charles Vallow. Charles Vallow was JJ's father. The case began in 2019, when a

family member called police. Investigators soon realized both children were missing, and a multistate search ensued. Nearly a year later, their remains were found buried on Chad Daybell's property. Tylee's DNA was later found on a pickaxe and shovel in a shed on the property, and JJ's body was wrapped in trash bags and duct tape, prosecutors have said. During a nearly two-month-long trial, prosecutors said Chad Daybell, a self-published author who wrote doomsday-laced fiction, promoted unusual spiritual beliefs including apocalyptic prophecies and tales of possession by evil spirits in order to justify the killings. "This has been a tough case because of its complexity, both in telling the story of an investigation that spanned years and trying to figure out the best way to present it in a way that would make sense to others," Fremont County Prosecutor Lindsey Blake said outside the Boise courthouse after the sentencing.

Relatives of the victims welcomed the jury's decision. "This is the best justice we can possibly get. And again, it doesn't



change the outcome, but it is good news, and it brings closure for everybody that's been hurt," Colby Ryan, Vallow Daybell's oldest child, told reporters. Larry Woodcock, JJ's grandfather, thanked the judge, law enforcement and the people who have followed the case and shared their support over the years. "You are family," he said. "I look at the faces, and I'm going to tell you all: I'm going to miss you." "We saw justice," he added. "Equal, honest and righteous." Daybell's defense attorney, John Prior, argued during the trial that there wasn't enough evidence to tie Daybell to the killings, and suggested

Vallow Daybell's older brother, Alex Cox, was the culprit. Cox died in late 2019 and was never charged, and Vallow Daybell was convicted last year and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

During the sentencing hearing, Prior asked the jurors to judge Daybell on his life before he met Vallow Daybell, describing her as a bomb that blew him off the trajectory of an otherwise wholesome life. But Daybell also declined to offer any mitigating evidence during the sentencing hearing. Mitigating evidence is often used to encourage jurors to have sympathy for a defendant in an effort to show that a life sentence would be more appropriate than capital punishment. Family members of the victims gave emotional statements to the jurors. JJ Vallow's grandmother, Kay Woodcock, tearfully described how the 7-year-old would show empathy and compassion to others through soft touches and by frequently asking if those around him were OK. She also said Tylee was a doting big sister, and that it warmed her heart to see them together.

European Union Elections: Far-Right Surge, Climate, Ukraine Emerge As Key Issues

Brussels. With the European Union's 370 million voters being called on to decide their next European Parliament in June 6-9 elections, here are the key issues at stake: That should benefit the two main extreme-right groupings in the parliament: the European Conservatives and Reformists, which counts Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy in its ranks; and the Identity and Democracy grouping, which kicked out Germany's scandal-ridden AfD but remains home to the National Rally of France's Marine Le Pen. An unknown going into the elections: Where will the currently unaffiliated Fidesz — the nationalist ruling party of Hungary, which maintains warm ties with the Kremlin — end up? Together, far-right forces could theoretically outnumber the parliament's top group, the centre-right European People's Party (EPP) of EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen. But they remain divided on several issues, including over whether



or not to support Ukraine in its fight against Russia.

After the elections, the political balance of power will help determine who gets the top jobs running the EU's main institutions, most notably the European Commission and the European Council. The leaders of the 27 member countries will tackle that tricky carve-up at a June 27-28 summit. Von der Leyen is seeking a new five-year term as boss of the commission, and is considered the front-runner. But she will need not only the leaders' backing but also endorsement from the incoming parliament, which is potentially complicated by her overtures to Meloni,

which have already angered left-wing allies.

One name circulating as a possible alternative is Mario Draghi, Meloni's technocrat predecessor as premier and a respected former chief of the European Central Bank. The EU has already made progress toward its ambitions of a carbon-neutral future by legislating a phase-out of combustion-powered cars, banning imports from deforested areas and introducing a carbon border tax. But further initiatives are facing headwinds, from burdened households, irate farmers and leaders calling for a "pause." Von der Leyen's EPP is siding with far-right parties to promise an easing-up on green measures in order to help European industry and competitiveness. In a sign that the environment is sliding down EU voters' list of priorities, the Greens grouping in the parliament could lose around 40 percent of its seats, polls suggest.

New York: 29 People Detained In Pro-Palestinian Protests At Brooklyn Museum

New York. New York City police said on Saturday they had taken into custody more than two dozen people in connection with Friday's pro-Palestinian protests at the Brooklyn Museum. Six of the 29 individuals were arrested and charged with offenses including assault and criminal trespassing, while 16 people were released with orders to appear in court and another seven were issued summonses and released, a New York City Police Department spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

There was damage to existing and newly installed artwork on our plaza," a museum spokesperson said. "Protesters entered the building, and our public safety staff were physically



and verbally harassed. Hundreds of demonstrators were marching through Brooklyn when some of them rushed the entrance. Security guards prevented many from entering but some managed to get inside.

A banner was hung from atop the

neoclassical facade proclaiming, "Free Palestine, Divest From Genocide." A pro-Palestinian organization named "Within Our Lifetime" urged demonstrators to "flood Brooklyn Museum for Gaza." It said activists occupied the museum to compel it to disclose any Israel-related investments and to divest any such funding. Demonstrations against Israel's war in Gaza have continued in the United States, largely on university campuses. On Saturday, hundreds of students and faculty walked out of the University of Chicago's graduation ceremony, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Black leaders react to Donald Trump's guilty verdict in hush money case

New York. As Donald Trump lambasted the guilty verdict of his hush money trial this week, he stood inside a Manhattan courthouse that was the site of one of the most notorious examples of injustice in recent New York history. And he had a part in that. It's the same courthouse where five Black and Latino youths were wrongly convicted 34 years ago in the beating and rape of a white female jogger. The former president famously took out a newspaper ad in New York City in the aftermath of the 1989 attack calling for the execution of the accused in a case that roiled racial tensions locally and that many point to as evidence of a criminal justice system prejudiced against defendants of color.

But on Friday, a day after making history as the first U.S. president convicted of felony crimes in a court of law, Trump blasted that same criminal justice system as corrupt and rigged against him.

"This is a scam," he said of the case brought by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office led by Alvin Bragg, the first Black person in the role, and overseen by Judge Juan Merchan, who is of Colombian descent. This is a rigged trial. It shouldn't

have been in that venue. We shouldn't have had that judge," the presumptive Republican presidential nominee said Friday from Trump Tower in Manhattan.

Some Black Americans found irony in Trump railing against the injustice of his own conviction, in a courthouse where five Black and Latino teenagers were wrongly convicted in a case Trump supported so vociferously. The Central Park Five case was Trump's first foray into tough-on-crime politics that preluded his full-throated populist political persona. To many, Trump employed dog whistles as well as overtly racist rhetoric in both chapters of his public life. But lately, in his outreach to Black and Hispanic communities, Trump has adopted the language of criminal justice reform advocates. He claims Black Americans and Latinos can relate to him because prosecutors are out to get him like they have been out to get many men and boys in their communities. "Donald Trump's conviction is going to be a problem for him with many Black people because, guess what, many Black people do not like people who violate our criminal



laws," said Maya Wiley, a New York civil rights attorney and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. "Black people are disproportionately the victims of crime. It's not that they just side with people who've been convicted of a crime." Wiley, who ran unsuccessfully for New York City mayor in 2021, said the city's Black and Hispanic residents also remember Trump's comments about the Central Park jogger case. "They haven't forgotten the fact that Donald Trump took out a full-page ad suggesting the death penalty for the Central Park Five, who have been exonerated and were the victims of an abusive system," Wiley said. The Rev. Al Sharpton, an advocate for the five

exonerated men, called Trump's conviction a symbolic measure of justice for them. This is the same building that Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Raymond Santana, and Corey Wise all passed into, day after day, as they endured a show trial for a crime they did not commit," Sharpton said just after the verdict was read. "Now the shoe is on the other foot. Donald Trump is the criminal, and those five men are exonerated," he said.

Salaam, who won a seat on the New York City Council last year, said he didn't take pleasure in the former president's guilty verdict "even though Donald Trump wanted me executed even when it was proven that I was innocent." Salaam and the other young men had their convictions vacated in 2002 after evidence linked another person to the crime. Trump in 2019 refused to apologize to the exonerated men. "We should be proud that today the system worked," Salaam wrote Thursday on the social media platform X. "But we should be somber that we Americans have an ex-President who has been found guilty on 34 separate felony charges."

NEWS BOX

Virat Kohli leaves Nassau Cricket County Stadium amid tight security

New Delhi. Virat Kohli left the Nassau Cricket County Stadium in New York amid heavy security. The star batter had donned the Indian jersey as the security arrangements were tightened outside the stadium. Kohli was also accompanied by Rinku Singh, who travelled as a reserve player with the Indian team for the T20 World Cup. The security arrangements were kept in check to ensure a smooth experience for the Indian players. Kohli had arrived for the pre-tournament photo-shoot after being awarded as the ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2023. The 35-year-old was nominated alongside Shubman Gill, Mohammed Shami and New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell. However, the star Indian batter emerged as the eventual winner and had a special photo-shoot on receiving the honours. Kohli became the first-ever player in history to have won the ODI Cricketer of the Year award thrice, surpassing AB de Villiers and MS Dhoni who had won it



twice.

The ICC posted a special video featuring Kohli with the 'ODI team of the year 2023' cap. Kohli had a fantastic year in the 50-over format, where he emerged as the leading run-scorer in the ODI World Cup as well, with 765 runs in 11 matches. However, Kohli's focus will shift to the T20 World Cup, which could be his last chance to lift the trophy in the shortest format of the game.

Kohli had arrived in the USA on May 31, Friday and could not take part in India's warm-up game against Bangladesh. Kohli will be raring to take the field in the Indian jersey against Ireland at the Nassau County Cricket Stadium, New York on June 5. It remains to be seen at which position Kohli will get to bat. There could be a toss-up between Kohli opening alongside Rohit Sharma or batting at his designated No. 3 position. Kohli had a sensational run in IPL 2024 as he won the Orange Cap for the 2nd time after scoring 714 runs in 15 matches at a strike-rate of over 154 with 5 fifties and a hundred.

Real Madrid's mentality in Champions League is different: Kroos retires as 6-time winner

New Delhi. Real Madrid beat Borussia Dortmund in a strong comeback in the second half of the Champions League final on Saturday, 1 June. Madrid scored two goals late in the second half to beat Dortmund, who looked much more threatening on the day. It was also legendary Toni Kroos final outing as a Real Madrid player as the German calls it time on his storied career in club football.

Kroos spoke about what makes Real Madrid different as a club and said that Madrid's mentality in the finals of any competition was on a different level altogether. Kroos said that Madrid, time and again have found ways to win matches in the Champions League despite being the worse team on the pitch. Kroos said that Sunday's outing was no different and Madrid found a way to clinch the title after a shoddy show in the first half. "We were pretty lucky first, we didn't do a good game. We change some things. We try to a bit more compact. The coach put me some meters to the right and asked me to be a



bit more compact than this area and I think it helped, especially, I think after we scored I think we improved a lot and then there was no doubt anymore. But first half we struggled a lot," Kroos told Jamie Carragher after the final in an interview.

"You don't lose finals. I think that's a good base to have to have. I guess now I think it's crazy when you see. The way to the finals over the last years is that it comes down to quality, of course, but the mentality is crazy. To even be the worse team but to win this game, I think it's a lot of believing and that that I think that separates this club on all the others. Six titles in the Champions League is crazy. It's definitely something I never thought I'm going to achieve," concluded Kroos.

Real Madrid turned the tables in the second half against Borussia Dortmund to seal their record-extending 15th UEFA Champions League title in Wembley on June 1, Saturday. Dani Carvajal and Vinicius Jr were the stars of the show for Los Blancos as they won the final 2-0 to break Dortmund, who were sensational in the first half but were left to rue their misses.

Rohit and Virat to open in T20 World Cup? India drop major hint in warm-up vs BAN

India have dropped a major hint that they might open with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the T20 World Cup 2024. This might mean that Yashasvi Jaiswal will be snubbed from the line-up despite a promising start to his India career.

New Delhi. India dropped a massive India on what their opening combination is going to be for the T20 World Cup 2024 on Saturday, June 1. Playing against Bangladesh in the warm-up match ahead of the tournament, India did not start with Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal. Instead, Sanju Samson was given at the top alongside the India captain. The move might indicate that India would opt for a Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli combination in the group stage



of the T20 World Cup, given Kohli's sensational form in the second half of the Indian Premier League. Kohli was the top-scorer in the tournament, hitting 741 runs. While he continued his healthy average in the tournament, Kohli's strike-rate in the second half was sensational. The batter was

criticised for his slow batting in the first half of the tournament but he rediscovered his spin-hitting ability to put on impressive shows in RCB's brilliant 6-game winning run in the latter stage of the league. The move, if it happens will be an unfortunate one for Yashasvi Jaiswal, who had a

promising start to his India career. After a successful Test series against England in 2024, Jaiswal's form dipped horribly in the Indian Premier League. This, and the resurgence of Rishabh Pant might force Jaiswal to sit the World Cup out for the time being. Kohli and Rohit's combination is expected to be exciting if the former sticks to his IPL role. Both of them have been intent merchants in recent times, Rohit in ODIs and Kohli in IPL, and if the partnership comes off, it could work gloriously well for India, who have been criticised in the past for being too conservative in the power play.

KOHLI-ROHIT'S LAST HURRAH?

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are possibly playing their final T20 World Cup. Rumours have done rounds in the Indian media that the team might move on from the duo after the conclusion of this T20 World Cup. There are multiple youngsters waiting in line, and at some point, India will have to make use of the bright and talented youngsters that IPL produces every year.

Rest assured, one can expect Kohli and Rohit to have a spring to their steps, in case they come out to bat together in the T20 World Cup 024 on June 5 in New York.

Learnings from India's T20 World Cup warm-up win: Pant punt and Hardik's big statement

New Delhi. Team India made the best use of their only warm-up match against Bangladesh, trying different combinations in the T20 World Cup 2024 lead-up. India comfortably outclassed Bangladesh by 60 runs on Saturday, May 1, laying down an early marker. Captain Rohit Sharma and head coach Rahul Dravid would have been thrilled with how things went to plan on a bright morning at the Nassau County Cricket Stadium in New York.

Rohit Sharma made it clear at the toss that India would try out different combinations and India walked the talk, finding answers to quite a few questions that had been there before they arrived in the USA. The warm-up match served as a crucial encounter for India, who hadn't played an international T20 since January due to the Indian Premier League commitments. "I am quite happy with how things went, and got what we wanted with the game," captain Rohit Sharma said after India posted 182 and successfully defended it, restricting



Bangladesh to just 122 for 9.

The following are the key takeaways from India's dominant win over Bangladesh in their only T20 World Cup warm-up match.

HARDIK PANDYA SET FOR REDEMPTION

Hardik Pandya had headed into the T20 World Cup under a lot of pressure after how things went for him during his stint as captain of Mumbai Indians in IPL 2024. Hardik faced the wrath of a section of fans for taking over MI captaincy from Rohit Sharma and MI's insipid performances did not help his cause. He was booed by the

crowd across venues during the IPL 2024 season in which MI finish with the wooden spoon. However, vice-captain Hardik Pandya showed he is a different beast when he dons the India blue. Playing for the senior national team for the first time since his injury against Bangladesh in an ODI World Cup game last year, Hardik played brave cricket, taking the bull by its horn. The all-rounder smashed 40 not out in just 23 balls while acing the finisher's role. Hardik walked into bat when

India were 130 for 3 in the 15th over and needing a late push. Hardik provided exactly that for Rohit Sharma's team. On the drop-in pitch at the Nassau County Cricket Ground that favoured the bowlers more, Hardik started on a cautious not, but hit a boundary against Shakib Al Hasan in the 16th over. He switched gears in the very next over bowled by Tanvir Islam, hitting the spinner for three sixes in a row. The highlight of Hardik's cameo was the six over covers that he hit against leg-spinner Rishad Hossain off the backfoot in the 19th over.

USA's Aaron James lights up T20 WC opener, falls 1 short of Chris Gayle's sixes record

New Delhi. USA batter Aaron Jones set the opening game of the T20 World Cup 2024 against Canada on fire as he registered the second-most number of sixes in a single innings in the tournament's history. The right-handed batter played a scintillating innings of 94* off 40 balls as he guided USA home in a massive chase of 195 at Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas. Jones hit a whopping ten sixes during his innings along with four fours and decimated Canada's bowlers. The 29-year-old got level with the legendary Chris Gayle to register the second-most number of sixes in an innings in the tournament's history. Notably, Gayle clobbered ten sixes in the opening game of the inaugural edition of the T20 World Cup in 2007 against South Africa.

The West Indies legend also occupies the top spot on the list having smashed 11 sixes against England during the 2016 edition of



the tournament. Coming back to the USA vs Canada opener in the T20 World Cup, USA captain Monank Patel won the toss and invited Canada to bat first. Openers Navneet Dhaliwal and Aaron Johnson (23 off 16) got their team off to a great start adding 43 runs for the first wicket off 31 balls.

Aaron Jones and Andries Gous' record-breaking stand

Following Johnson's dismissal, Dhaliwal took the innings forward with his marvellous knock of 61 (44) with the help of six fours and three sixes. Dhaliwal got involved in a 62-run stand off 37 balls with Nicholas Kirton who also scored a half-century (51 off 31). A cameo from Shreyas Movva (32* off 16) helped Canada finish on 194/5 in 20 overs. In reply, USA lost their opener Steven Taylor (0 off 2) and captain Monank Patel (16 off 16) with just 42 runs on the board. However a record-breaking stand between Andries Gous (65 off 46) and Aaron Jones (94* off 40) of 131 off 58 balls brought USA back in the game. Gous lost his wicket in the 16th over but Jones managed to bat till the end and help his team chase down their highest-ever total in T20Is. Jones was deservedly adjudged Player of the Match for his breathtaking knock.



anything under 200 is chaseable. Outfield and pitch were good and we knew that. (Big shots) I go through my processes and I like my power hitting. I know if I get it in the middle, it will go for sure. I like to come in when the team is under pressure, it brings out the best in me," Jones said.

The USA pulled off a great come-from-behind victory as they were asked to chase down the target of 195 runs. However, the hosts did not get off to a great start as the openers fell early on. Andries Gous and Jones joined hands to press the accelerator button. Canada were stunned as 19, 14, 10, 15, 20, 33 runs were scored in the next 6 overs.

Jones played an aggressor role and recorded the fastest T20I fifty for the USA. It was a counter-attacking innings from the USA batter as he showcased slogging and slog-sweeping at their level best. The duo stitched a 131-run partnership, the highest-ever for the USA in T20Is. Jones slammed the 2nd highest number of sixes in an innings, i.e. 10 in the T20 World Cup.

Rishabh Pant is a better wicketkeeper than Sanju Samson: Sunil Gavaskar

New Delhi. Former India cricketer turned commentator Sunil Gavaskar feels Rishabh Pant will feature in the starting XI for India in their opening fixture against Ireland in the T20 World Cup 2024. Both Pant and Samson have been selected in India's squad for the ongoing event as wicketkeepers. However, Pant had a good beginning to the tournament as he scored a half-century against Bangladesh in the warm-up fixture. The southpaw scored 53 off 32 balls coming in to bat at number three and smashed four fours and as many sixes in his innings. On the other hand, Samson failed to impress with the bat scoring just 1 (6) as he opened alongside Rohit Sharma. Following the game, Sunil Gavaskar said that India is likely to start with Pant as he's a better wicketkeeper than Samson. The former cricketer also said that the recent string of low scores for Samson further shifts the balance in Pant's favour.

"Yes, I think simply because if you compare the wicketkeeping abilities then Rishabh Pant is a better wicketkeeper than Samson. We're not talking about batting here, the batting aspect also comes into play. But, Rishabh Pant in the last few matches has batted really well. On the other hand, Sanju Samson started the IPL season superbly, scored runs at will, hitting the ball to all corners of the ground," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

Further speaking ahead, Gavaskar stated that a good innings from Samson in the warm-up fixture would've sealed the spot for him in the opening fixture. "In the last two-three matches, he didn't quite get runs. So this was an opportunity for him actually the match against Bangladesh. If he had scored about



50-60 then there would have been no question but I do feel that the Indian selection committee will look at having Rishabh Pant as the keeper," he added. Notably, both Pant and Samson were in top form in the recently concluded Indian

Premier League 2024. Pant finished as the highest run scorer for his side with 446 runs to his name from 13 innings at an average of 40.54 and a strike rate of 155.40 and three fifties.

On the other hand, Samson was the fifth-highest run scorer of the tournament with 531 runs to his name from 15 innings at an average of 48.27 and a strike rate of 153.46 scoring five fifties. However, the RR captain didn't have a memorable outing in the last four outings of the tournament having scores of 15, 18, 17 and 10 to his name. Meanwhile,

Pant seized the opportunity with a half-century in the warm-up fixture. The southpaw also kept the wickets during the game which clearly makes him a first-choice of the team management for the wicketkeeper's slot.



Ridhima Pandit

To MARRY Shubman Gill In December 2024? Actress Reveals It All

Television actress Ridhima Pandit has finally clarified that she is not getting married to Shubman Gill. Recently, a report went viral online which claimed that the 'Bahu Hamari Rajnikanth' actress will tie the knot with Gill in December 2024. However, Ridhima has now made it clear that there is no truth to these claims. As reported by TellyChakkar, Ridhima Pandit took to her Instagram stories recently and dropped a video in which she said, "I woke up with a lot of calls from



journalist asking about my marriage, but what marriage I am not getting married and if something important like this is happening in my life I myself would come out and announce the news, there is no truth to this news." Ridhima Pandit is known for television shows like Bahu Hamari Rajnikant and Khatra Khatra Khatra. She was also seen in the first season of Bigg Boss OTT. Recently, in an exclusive interview with News18 Showsha, Ridhima claimed that it is sad that nobody talks about the abuse on television sets. She did not name anyone but recalled an incident when an executive producer of her show did not let her visit her ailing mother in hospital.

"It is true that nobody talks about it. There is a certain form of abuse that does follow. In one of my shows, the producers were nice but the EP (Executive Producer) would mentally harass me. It was during that time I started to discover that my mother was unwell. She was admitted into the ICU. That was very heartbreaking for me to see my mother suffer so much. On the days she was admitted to ICU, the visiting hours were 7 am - 8 am and 4 pm - 5:50 pm," she said. "I told him to keep me in the 9 am shift so that I could visit my mother and then come for the shoot or if he wants me to shoot at 7 am, then he must allow me to leave at 4 pm."

Vicky Jain Pens Heartfelt Note For Ankita Lokhande As Pavitra Rishta Clocks 15 Years: 'Humari Sabki Archana'



It's been 15 years since Ankita Lokhande marked her acting debut with Pavitra Rishta. On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram handle to pen down a heartwarming note as she thanked everyone for the love she has received in these 15 years. Soon after, her husband, Vicky Jain also took to his Instagram to congratulate his wife. Vicky took to his Instagram story and wrote, "I remember Randeep Hooda once told me at the screening of Swatantrya Veer Savarkar, 'You will be proud after watching your wife's performance!' Can't agree more because Manku... you have always made me proud. Today, indeed, is a very special day." He added, "Pavitra Rishta completes 15 years and it takes me back to your amazing roller-coaster journey. From me saying, 'Manku tu kar legi yaar,' to actually seeing you to be there on the top, it fills my heart with immense joy. I am super proud of you. Keep on doing what your heart says and keep on rocking. Humari sabki 'Archana'." While Ankita used to play the role of Archana in Pavitra Rishta, the show also starred Sushant Singh Rajput in the lead. Earlier today, Ankita Lokhande dropped a video that featured several of her glimpses of Pavitra Rishta. It also featured glimpses of Ankita's performance in her other projects including the 2019 film, Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi. The video also included Ankita's clip Bigg Boss 17 in which she was seen talking about 'Pavitra Rishta'.

In the caption of her video, Ankita penned down a long note as she also remembered Sushant Singh Rajput. The actress recalled how SSR used to help her on sets and added that she will always be thankful to him. Ankita and Sushant worked together in Pavitra Rishta. In the show, their chemistry as Archana and Manav respectively was widely loved by all. The two also dated for some time but later parted ways. Sushant was then found dead in his Mumbai apartment in June 2020.

Dalljiet Kaur Posts Wedding Video Amid Separation From Nikhil Patel, Gets TROLLED: 'Have Self Respect'



Dalljiet Kaur confirmed her separation from husband Nikhil Patel last week. On Saturday morning, the actress took to her Instagram handle and accused Nikhil of cheating on her. Dalljiet wrote a note expressing her anger towards Nikhil for his "shameless" and "humiliating" behaviour towards the entire family. As a retort, Nikhil argued that they could not make their marriage successful because the actress found it "challenging to adjust" in Kenya. And now, amidst all this, Dalljiet has posted her wedding video. The video features their grand wedding, moments from the haldi ceremony and the reception. In the video, Nikhil's daughter from his previous marriage also praises Dalljiet, saying that she is happy her father found someone. Dalljiet also talks about her relationship with Jaydon. She mentions feeling apprehensive about her second marriage but decided to take a deep breath and say, "Let's do it." She captioned the emotional video, "1 year three months back! Soon after she posted the video, fans thronged the comments section, but this time, trolling her. Comments ranged from "Please try to move on" and "Have some self-respect. The man cheated on you." Dalljiet has now turned off comments on the post. She has also shared it on her Stories. Last week, she posted a photo of estranged husband Nikhil and wrote, "You are out on social media with her now everyday shamelessly. Your wife and son came back in 10 months of the wedding. The entire family is humiliated. Some dignity for the kids would have been good," Dalljiet wrote and then added, "At least you should have left your wife little dignity publically as I was quiet about a lot of other things too."

Rumours of Dalljiet and Nikhil's separation first made headlines in February this year i.e. after 10 months of their wedding. It all started after the actress left everyone shocked by deleting all her wedding pictures from her Instagram handle.

Sunny Leone

Teases 'Big Announcement', To Share Exciting Update On Her Tamil Debut Film 'Quotation Gang'

Fans of Sunny Leone are in for a treat as she is set to unveil an exciting update on her upcoming film 'Quotation Gang', which will also mark her Tamil debut. The actress took to her Instagram handle on Saturday and shared a picture with "Big Announcement On Monday" written on it. In the caption of her post, Sunny wrote, "A hyperlink story that portrays multifarious intense human emotions that enthrall your being! Soon after the post was shared, fans rushed to the comments section to express excitement and guess what this 'big announcement' could be. Check out the post here:

Previously, the makers of the film also treated the audience with the trailer of the Sunny Leone starrer, where people were amazed to see the actress in a rustic and de-glam look. But what piqued curiosity among her fan base was the actress' role in the film. She will be seen portraying the character of a calculative assassin who is an integral part of a ruthless gang involved in contract killings. Sunny Leone's character will be depicted as fierce, calculating, and enigmatic, adding depth and intrigue to the storyline. Her character, which allowed her to break away from her glamorous image, adds substantial depth and intrigue to the film's narrative. Besides Sunny Leone, 'Quotation Gang' will also star Jackie Shroff, Priya Mani and Sara Arjun in pivotal roles.

In December 2023, Sunny talked about being a part of Jackie Shroff's movie when she exclusively told News18 Showsha, "I don't want to be the star of a movie. I would rather have a smaller part that has a meaning and purpose than an entire film based on my name, which isn't very good. Kennedy was like that. My next film Quotation Gang with Jackie (Shroff) sir is another film which isn't solely based on my name. It's a smaller part but it's great for me. Meanwhile, apart from 'Quotation Gang', Sunny Leone will also be seen in the Anurag Kashyap-directorial 'Kennedy', which premiered at Cannes 2023. The film is set to head to the theatres soon. The actress also has an untitled Malayalam film to her credit.

