

As Beas Dam completes 50 years

As per the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960, the waters of the three eastern rivers — Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — were allotted for use to India. Multipurpose river valley projects were planned for harnessing their waters. The massive Bhakra Dam (Sutlej) was taken up first, followed by Beas Dam and Ranjit Sagar Dam (Ravi). The Bhakra-Nangal complex was accomplished by 1963. The workers and engineers gained experience and confidence in dam building and this trained force went on to undertake the Beas, Ranjit Sagar and many other dam projects in the region. Beas Dam at Pong (Kangra district) is an earthen dam. Work on this flood control and storage dam was taken up in 1961 and completed in 1974. Its waters are the lifeline of parched lands in Rajasthan and it is also home to migratory birds and various fish species. The Pong power plant has a capacity of 396 MW and 1,600 million units annually. Beas Dam is celebrating its golden jubilee on June 30. The highest dam in Asia of its time was completed by the sweat and toil of a dedicated band of 15,000 workers and 1,000 engineers and technicians. Over 130 workers and other associates died during the construction. We salute them!

I started my career here as a Sub-Divisional Officer in 1969 and after almost 33 years, joined the project as Chief Engineer. Those days are still fresh in memory. A concrete spillway had been provided on the left side of the dam. During the excavation, a swarm of fearful reptiles was encountered. They would come out in large numbers and attack the dozer and its operator. The work had to be stopped as crushing of reptiles was considered inhuman. We sought the advice of the area's famous 'Ghati Wale Babaji'. He advised to build a 'Shivji' temple. A makeshift temple was built. After a few days, work was resumed after a slight adjustment in alignment of the structure. A full-fledged temple was constructed later at a hillock as an observatory for spillway operations. The temple remains a vibrant site.

The wars of 1965 and 1971 with Pakistan affected the construction schedule of the dam as allocation of funds was slashed. In 1971, construction was in full swing but Army officers insisted on taking away some equipment to strengthen their war strategy. They loaded dozers and allied machines on their trailers and left for the borders, saying, 'First war, later wall'. The financial crunch and import restrictions came as a blessing in disguise. Many equipment and machine innovations were achieved by technicians and engineers.

During 1974-75, the dam work was nearing completion and the retrenchment of surplus labourers was on cards. Work on the Thein (Ranjit Sagar) Dam couldn't start due to lack of funds. This generated a fear of unemployment. There were protests and some labourers even devised ways to slow down work. It was then that many skilled workers and trained operators were sent by the government to Gulf countries and neighbouring regions. Similarly, some engineers were deputed as experts to foreign locations.

Also unforgettable is a down-to-earth senior officer, humble and disciplined to the core. He would always stand in a queue in any public place. He would never jump the queue, even if requested. One day, he went to a Junior Engineer's house disguised as a helper and told his family that he was sent by 'Sir'. He obeyed all orders of 'Bibiji' throughout the day, be it sweeping, watering the plants or bringing their children from school. He had brought his own tiffin and declined all hospitality of the family. At 4 pm, he told 'Bibiji' that his duty was over. While leaving, he took all the pilfered items — hose pipe, buckets, table and chairs — and got these deposited in the government store as 'lost and found'. Word spread fast and pilferage stopped almost at once.

Then there was a Chief Engineer who was surprised to find that he was not the only 'Chief'. The Chief Fire Officer, the Chief Purchase Officer — they were addressed as 'Chief' too.

The swadeshi Beas Dam — planned, designed and constructed by Indian workers and engineers — has completed 50 years of life. It's a modern temple of a resurgent India in service of mankind.

Patronise only those buildings that are fire safe

The Gujarat High Court's recent outburst over the state government's failure to follow its earlier orders on fire audits and fire prevention reflects the collective anger and frustration felt by citizens over the continuing neglect of fire safety in public buildings around the country. The series of devastating fires that took a heavy toll last month has, in fact, brought into question the state administrations' ability to enforce fire safety laws and protect consumers. Be it the amusement facility at Rajkot, where 28 persons were charred to death because the administration allowed it to make money at the cost of consumers' safety, or the private neonatal care hospital in Delhi, that fleeced even the poorest of the poor, no one paid attention to their safety. What is apparent is the complete disregard for fire safety laws by those who are supposed to comply and those who are supposed to enforce them. The victims are, of course, the consumers of these services.

In a desperate bid to rectify such enforcement failures, consumers often seek judicial intervention or sometimes, the court itself takes up the matter suo motu, as the Gujarat High Court did following the gaming centre tragedy. What really irked the court was that in response to a PIL filed in 2020 following a series of hospital fires in the state, it had given detailed directions on ensuring fire prevention and protection of life and property.

Yet, the Rajkot civic authorities had ignored the court's directions and allowed the amusement centre to function and flourish without a fire safety certificate. Going by preliminary reports, the fire was inevitable, and so also the deaths, because the temporary tin walls were covered with highly inflammable plastic foam sheets as shadow walls. More combustible material, including petrol and diesel, was stored on the premises, but there were no fire alarms, fire extinguishing systems and escape routes!

As usual, the government woke up after the fire and the resultant checks of gaming centres in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Rajkot and Surat showed the extent of lawlessness — as many as 19 recreational facilities were shut down after inspections for not having the required permissions and fire NOC! But this is the usual practice everywhere in the country — following a major fire, the authorities suddenly spring into action and, nudged by courts, they start hauling up offenders. But once the tragedy moves away from the media glare and the courts' scrutiny, everything is forgotten and violations continue, till the next tragedy!

Following the devastating Kumbakonam (Tamil Nadu) school fire, the Supreme Court had in 2009 directed all states and UTs to ensure that all schools strictly complied with the National Building Code of India, particularly Part IV — Fire & Life Safety, and the Code of Practice of Fire Safety in Educational Institutions, formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards. But, even today, PILs are being filed in state high courts to ensure compliance with the apex court's order.



Now, in the aftermath of the deadly fire at the Baby Care Newborn Hospital in East Delhi, that robbed six couples of their babies, the Delhi High Court has taken up two petitions seeking directions to the government to conduct regular, comprehensive fire safety audits of small and medium-sized nursing homes and ensure that they have adequate facilities for fire prevention, life safety and fire protection measures. There were as many as 340 nursing homes with expired registration, a petition said. One can imagine the quality of registration from the fact that the neonatal hospital had no clearance from the Fire Department, no smoke detectors or sprinklers, no fire exit, nor any provision for safe storage of highly combustible oxygen cylinders!

Since corruption in the enforcement process and administrative apathy and sloth are the major hurdles to

fire safety, consumers/citizens must demand transparency and accountability in the enforcement process through Citizens' Monitoring Committees that would regularly evaluate and assess the implementation of the law. In addition, it should become mandatory for every district administration to publish on their websites the complete list of public buildings in their area and whether they have fire NOCs or not. Establishments that do not have fire clearance or do not renew their certificate should be shut down. It should also become mandatory for every public/commercial building to display prominently at the entrance, the fire safety certificate and the fire exits. This way, consumers can patronise only those buildings that are fire safe. Residents' associations would also do well to check on schools, hospitals, restaurants, malls, etc, in their area for fire safety.

Coalition dharma

Challenge for Modi to ensure unanimity

ADDRESSING a meeting of the NDA parliamentary party, which elected him as its leader on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that he would strive to ensure unanimity in all decisions of his government during his third term. The PM has described the NDA as an organic alliance committed to the principle of 'nation first', while claiming that this is the 'strongest' ruling coalition ever. This is the first time that Modi will be leading a genuine coalition government; the BJP had single-handedly crossed the halfway mark in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, but fell short of the magic figure this time. It now needs the support of allies like N Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party and Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) to form the government. Both regional satraps are expected to not only extract their pound of flesh but also keep the BJP-led dispensation on



its toes. The PM has said that mutual trust is at the core of the NDA. This trust will be put to the test as the government gets

down to brass tacks. Over the past decade, the ruling BJP has steamrollered one Bill after another through Parliament, thanks to compliant allies and a weak Opposition. However, neither the saffron party's partners nor rivals will be a pushover this time. Buoyed by its electoral success, the Congress-led INDIA will miss no chance to corner the government on the Agnipath scheme, the Uniform Civil Code and other pressing issues.

The all-important question is: Will the lack of a brute majority make PM Modi and the BJP more accommodative of the needs and aspirations of their allies and less dismissive of their political opponents? Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a legendary proponent of coalition dharma, believed in taking everyone along and building consensus. It remains to be seen if Modi can reinvent himself to fill those big shoes.

The silent sentinels of mountain landscape

The food chain snow leopards manage helps maintain a complex network of wetlands & meadows

It was a cloudy morning as we negotiated the moraines and scree leading up to Phanghi Galu, a 4,500-metre pass in the Great Himalayan National Park in Himachal Pradesh connecting the remote Jiva Nal and Parvati valleys. As we walked amidst the magnificent scenery in pin-drop silence, a rockfall on a distant slope broke the reverie, and we spotted a group of Ibex at the top of a slope, scampering away out of sight.

As we stood a bit perplexed, being quite far away to be the instigators of this panic among the ungulates, one of the porters surmised casually, "I saw a long tail, must have been a snow leopard." Such are the sightings of this enigmatic species — hardly a fleeting glimpse, earning it the moniker 'the ghost of the mountains'. Most of the times, one has to contend with subtle signs of its presence, a pugmark here or there, the carcass of a devoured prey, or some scat.

The snow leopard is one of the seven big cat species found globally, and perhaps one of the most fascinating. Inhabiting high-altitude mountain landscapes in 12 countries across Central and South Asia, they are highly specialised predators that can survive in extremely cold temperatures and rugged terrain. Their total population is estimated to be between 4,000-7,000, of which around 700 are found in India across Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. By preying on herbivores like sheep and goats, they prevent them from overgrazing, which leaves enough food for smaller animals, and also maintains ecosystem factors like water retention capacity and nutrition of the soil, thereby ensuring a healthy ecosystem for all. The food chain they manage helps maintain a complex network of wetlands and meadows that provide a buffer zone between glaciers and rivers, absorbing excess water during wet seasons, which prevents floods and also provides water during



dry seasons, while allowing plant life to flourish. In India, snow leopard habitats are estimated to provide ecosystem services worth US \$4 billion annually, which include fresh water, minerals, and medicinal and aromatic plants. The Himalayas are often referred to as the 'Third Pole', holding the third highest amount of freshwater after the polar region. It is no understatement to say that the snow leopards are the guardians of these water sources. Today, the snow leopard is classified as

'vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), just one step away from becoming 'endangered'. There are multiple reasons for this. Due to climate change, their natural habitat is shrinking as global temperatures increase. Uncontrolled grazing in wild areas by domestic livestock leaves less food for wild herbivores, leading to a decline in their population and consequently, less prey for snow leopards. This brings them to human settlements in search of livestock

as prey, resulting in retaliatory killings by villagers. Wild sheep and goat are also susceptible to poaching, another reason for a decline in snow leopard populations. Protecting snow leopards requires protecting their habitat, where humans have peacefully co-existed with them for centuries, many of them nomadic and pastoral settlements. These communities are the last bastions of unique traditional knowledge and cultural systems, finding ingenious ways to survive the harsh conditions. Such communities, and their way of living in harmony with nature, need as much protection as the snow leopards themselves. One of the major challenges is tracking the movement of snow leopards and the knowledge of local communities becomes extremely useful. In Uttarakhand, the government has involved youth from villages to assist in conducting snow leopard population census. In Sikkim, community volunteers frequently patrol forests to discourage poaching. Providing alternative livelihoods to communities can reduce their dependency on snow leopard habitats for natural resources. In Ladakh, cottage industries like community-based tourism, handlooms and food processing are providing a stable source of income for villagers. This reduces the need for them to increase the size of their livestock and allows for regeneration of pasturelands for wild herbivores.

Infra-red alarm sensors are reducing instances of snow leopards wandering into human settlements, while frugal innovation like wire meshes to cover corrals or sheep pens is reducing damage to livestock if they enter villages. It is bright and sunny in Tarchit, a village in Rong valley in Ladakh, which is being developed as a winter tourism destination for people to come and spot snow leopards when they descend to lower altitudes during the colder months. For villagers in Tarchit and thousands of people living in the high-altitude Himalayas, the snow leopard is a beacon of hope for a sustainable future.

Chirag Paswan To HD Kumaraswamy: BJP Allies Who Are Now Union Ministers

New Delhi: Narendra Modi took oath as Prime Minister for a historic third term on Sunday after being elected the leader of a dozen political parties led by the ruling BJP. He is only the second prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to return to power for the third consecutive time, though this time he will have to share power with his allies. Among the major BJP allies who have got a ministerial berth are JDU, TDP, Shiv Sena, LJP, and other parties.

PM Modi and 71 other ministers took oath at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday. They included 30 cabinet ministers, five ministers of state with independent charge, and 36 ministers of state. Eleven of them are from the non-BJP alliance partners. The details of who gets what portfolio are not known yet. Here's a look at non-BJP leaders who have taken oath as ministers yesterday:

Cabinet ministers

HD Kumaraswamy (JDS): The Janata Dal (Secular) leader is the son of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda. He first became the Chief Minister of Karnataka in 2006

when he ran a coalition government with the BJP. He assumed the top post again in 2018 when he formed a government in coalition with the Congress.

Jitan Ram Manjhi (HAM): An MLA since 1980, the Dalit leader has served as Bihar's chief minister during 2014-15. The Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) leader was the first chief minister from the state's Musahar community. In Bihar, he has been affiliated with several parties and served as minister under multiple chief ministers. Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lalan Singh (JDU): Popularly known as Lalan Singh, the Bhumihar leader has been among Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's closest aides for years. Mentored by socialist icon Karpoori Thakur, Lalan Singh played a key role in stitching the JDU-RJD alliance in 2022.

Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu (TDP): He is



among the two TDP leaders who have been assigned ministerial berths, but the only one to get a cabinet rank. He is also the youngest in the council of ministers. His father KY Naidu had served as a Union minister during 1996-98. Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party has won 16 seats, the second-best performance by a party in the NDA.

Chirag Paswan (LJP): The young leader from Bihar heads the Lok Janshakti Party

(Ram Vilas), which has won five Lok Sabha seats. The former actor has been a member of the Parliament twice in the past, but it's the first time he has become a part of the Union cabinet. Chirag is the son of Ram Vilas Paswan, who led the consumer affairs ministry until his death in 2020. Ayant Chaudhary (RLD): Mr Chaudhary was once a political rival of the BJP, but aligned his Rashtriya Lok Dal with the NDA in March, and now is part of Modi 3.0. He is the grandson of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, who was recently awarded Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honour in India. Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav (Shiv Sena): He is the only leader from the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in the Union Council of ministers. The four-time MP had served as a minister of state in Maharashtra governments led by Manohar Joshi and Narayan Rane.

Ramdas Athawale (RPIA): He heads the

Republican Party of India - Athawale, a party with its roots in the Scheduled Castes Federation founded by BR Ambedkar. He was the Union Minister of State for Social Justice in the previous Modi cabinet. Nath Thakur (JDU): Ram Nath Thakur is a key face in Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal-United. He is the son of Karpoori Thakur, the former chief minister of Bihar who was recently awarded the Bharat Ratna.

He is a member of the Rajya Sabha. Anupriya Patel (Apna Dal Soneylal): The representative from Mirzapur heads the Apna Dal (Soneylal), a breakaway group of Apna Dal that was formed by her father Sone Lal Patel. Ms Patel was a Minister of State in Commerce and Health ministries in the previous two Modi cabinets. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani (TDP): He was the richest candidate to win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The Telugu Desam Party leader who bagged the Guntur Lok Sabha seat had won the Ernst and Young Award as a young entrepreneur in 2020 in the US.

Cops Add "Disappearing Evidence" Charge Against Swati Maliwal Assault Case Accused

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has added the IPC section for "disappearing evidence and giving false information" against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in AAP MP Swati Maliwal's assault case, an official said on Monday. Kumar is accused of assaulting Ms Maliwal at the chief minister's official residence on May 13. The official said Section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was added in the case. Section 201 carries a provision for imprisonment of one-sixth of the punishment awarded for the biggest offence in the crime, he added. The FIR against Kumar was registered on May 16 under provisions of the IPC such as those related to criminal intimidation, assault or criminal force on a woman with the intent to disrobe, and attempt to commit culpable homicide. Swati Maliwal, a former chief of the Delhi Commission for Women, alleged that Kumar attacked her with full force, slapped and kicked her when she had gone to meet Mr Kejriwal. According to a senior police officer, Kumar's mobile phone was found to have been formatted when he was arrested from Mr Kejriwal's residence on May 18. He was in Mumbai before returning to Delhi. The police took Kumar to Mumbai twice. He is suspected to have formatted his mobile phone in Mumbai but did not disclose the place where he formatted it or the person with whom he shared the data, the officer said. During his police custody, Kumar did not cooperate in the investigation, he added. Another police officer said three CCTV DVRs (digital video recorders) were collected from Mr Kejriwal's residence -- two from cameras installed at the entrance and one outside the drawing room.

On Cabinet table: Approval of 2 crore PM Awaas Gramin houses with more assistance

New Delhi: As part of its first 100-day agenda, the newly formed NDA government is likely to approve 2 crore additional houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) with higher assistance per beneficiary, The Indian Express has learnt. Each beneficiary gets funds up to Rs 1.2 lakh in the plains and Rs 1.30 lakh in hilly states, difficult areas, and tribal and backward districts under the Integrated Action Plan (IAP). It is also learnt that the Centre may increase the assistance provided to the beneficiary under the PMAY-G by about 50 per cent. Sources said the Centre may increase the cost of construction of the PMAY-G house from existing Rs 1.20 to Rs 1.8 lakh in the plains and Rs 1.30 lakh to Rs 2 lakh in hilly areas.

These additional 2 crore houses will be over and above the 2.95 crore houses sanctioned under the PMAY-G since its inception in 2016. Of these 2.95 crore, 2.61 crore houses have been built under the PMAY-G till date. The Centre and states share expenses in the ratio of 60:40 in case of plain areas, and in the ratio of 90:10 for North Eastern States, two Himalayan states, 1 U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir. The Centre bears 100 per cent cost in case of other Union Territories including the UT of Ladakh.

Presenting the Interim Budget for 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that 2 crore more houses will be built under the PMAY-G in the next five years. In her Budget Speech 2024-25, Sitharaman said that despite the challenges due to Covid-19, implementation of PMAY-G continued and the Government was close to achieving the target of 3 crore houses. "Two crore more houses will be taken up in the next five years to meet the requirement arising from increase in the number of families," she announced, presenting the Union Budget (Interim) 2024-25. In all, the Finance Minister has allocated Rs 54,500.14 crore for PMAY-G for financial year 2024-25, which is almost equal to the last fiscal's budgetary allocation of Rs 54,487.00 crore.

J&K bus attack survivor recounts horror: 'Stayed quiet to pretend we're dead'

New Delhi: Survivors of the terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, have recounted the moment of horror, saying the terrorists continued to fire at the vehicle despite it falling into a gorge to ensure everyone was killed. They said that the passengers stayed silent to pretend they were all dead. "They were 6-7 terrorists, their faces were covered with masks. Initially, they fired on the bus by covering it from all sides on the road. When the bus fell, they came towards it and kept firing to ensure everyone was killed," one of the eyewitnesses told India Today TV. "We maintained silence to make them believe (that they were dead). The incident happened 30 mins after we took the bus for Vaishno Devi from Shivkhorhi (Reasi) at 6 pm. We were afraid and just wanted to get back to our homes. There were kids

and women also on the bus and all got injured. Police and locals arrived to rescue us after 10 to 15 mins of this attack," the eyewitness added.

Recounting the horrific attack, one of



the survivors said, "I saw one of the terrorists firing at the bus. He kept firing at the bus for 20 minutes even after it fell into a gorge." The driver of the bus was hit by a bullet due to which he lost control and the vehicle fell into a gorge. Ten people were

killed, and 33 others were injured after terrorists fired upon a bus carrying pilgrims from a shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Sunday, police said. The bus rolled down a gorge following the attack. Sources told India Today that two to three terrorists were involved in the Reasi bus attack. The terrorists are part of the same group that carried out other attacks in Rajouri and Poonch over the past month. The terrorists were hiding in the dense vegetation and ambushed the bus on Sunday. A massive search operation has been launched to trace the terrorists. Home Ministry sources informed India Today TV that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been deployed to probe the attack. Drones are being used to search the forest area while a team from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) have also joined the operation.

Weather Update: IMD Predicts Heavy Rainfall For Maharashtra, Bengal, Karnataka; Check Full Forecast

New Delhi: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted extremely heavy rainfall over the region of West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya and South Interior Karnataka while districts of Madhya Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh and Coastal Karnataka can experience heavy rainfall on Monday. The department informed that the regions of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and north interior Karnataka, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura may experience thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty wind on June 10. Maharashtra's Mumbai has already experiencing rainfall for the past few days due to which several parts are causing waterlogging issues.

States like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal,



Jharkhand and some regions of Bihar are likely to experience a heatwave-like situation on Monday, while Odisha can experience hot and humid weather. Madhya Pradesh districts Tikamgarh, Gwalior and Khajuraho experienced severe heatwave conditions on June 9 with more than 43 degrees Celsius. Mumbai is witnessing

Monsoon Vibe Mumbai has started witnessing rainfall after the southwest Monsoon has arrived in advance and will continue over the region of Maharashtra including Mumbai. Thunderstorms and rainfall were reported over regions of Mumbai which caused the waterlogged in several regions of Mumbai.

In Mumbai Airport Scare, IndiGo And Air India Planes Were Just 509 m Apart

An IndiGo flight from Indore landed on the same runway just moments after an Air India jet took off for Thiruvananthapuram.

New Delhi: At Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, two aircraft came alarmingly close to each other on the runway yesterday, with only 509 metres separating them. An IndiGo flight from Indore landed on the same runway just moments after an Air India jet took off for Thiruvananthapuram. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has launched an investigation and de-registered the air traffic controller involved in the incident. According to DGCA

guidelines, air traffic control can issue landing clearance only when there is a reasonable assurance that the landing aircraft won't cross the threshold until the preceding departing aircraft has crossed the end of the runway. This rule appears to have been violated. "In this particular case that happened on Saturday at the Mumbai airport, the visibility was good and there was no air proximity situation in respect to the landing of the IndiGo flight and the taking off of the Air India flight," the guild representing air traffic controllers said in a statement.

Data from Flightradar contradicts the Air Traffic Controllers' Guild's assertion that there was no air proximity issue. The video circulating on social media shows the Air India jet taking off while the IndiGo plane lands on the same runway, raising serious safety concerns. IndiGo and Air India, in their respective statements, said that their pilots followed ATC instructions.

"On June 8, 2024, IndiGo flight 6E 6053

from Indore was given landing clearance by ATC at Mumbai Airport. The Pilot in Command continued the approach and landing, following ATC instructions. At



IndiGo, passenger safety is paramount, and we have reported the incident as per procedure," said IndiGo in a statement. Similarly, Air India noted, "AI657 from Mumbai to Trivandrum was

on take-off roll on June 8. The Air India aircraft was cleared by Air Traffic Control to enter the runway and subsequently cleared for take-off. The Air India aircraft continued with the take-off movement in accordance with laid down procedures. "Despite these reassurances, the incident has brought to light the intense pressure faced by air traffic controllers at high-density airports like Mumbai. The airport, a single-runway operation with crossing runways 09/27 and 14/32, handles over 850 flights per day, with around 46 arrivals and departures per hour on runway 27 alone.

The DGCA's ongoing probe aims to determine whether all norms were followed by the ATC and the pilots involved. The Guild also highlighted the high stress and pressure faced by ATCs during peak traffic hours. Mumbai airport had earlier announced plans to handle 8 per cent more air traffic during the summer schedule, increasing operations to 951 flights per day.

Reasi Bus Attack: Terrorists Captured In CCTV; Search Operation Underway; LG Sinha Calls High-Level Meet

New Delhi: New Delhi: The Indian Army has launched a search operation near Reasi districts of Jammu and Kashmir since last evening after the terrorists attacked a bus carrying pilgrims coming from Shiv Khorhi. Following the firing on the bus, the vehicle fell into the gorge killing at least 10 pilgrims while several others were injured. A fresh CCTV video has surfaced in which the movement of the bus and four terrorists were captured. On the other hand, Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha has called a high-level meeting with security officials in the wake of the incident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already called for a report from the LG. Lashkar-e-Taiba top commander Abu Hamza has been reportedly involved in the terror attack.

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has also arrived at the incident place and used drones for



search operations in dense forest areas in and around the incident site.

Reasi District Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan confirmed that at least 10 people were killed and 33 others were injured in a terror attack on Sunday. Officials informed that the bus coming from the Shiv Khorhi shrine to Katra was targeted by terrorists at around 06.10 pm when it reached near Pouni area of the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. "Terrorists opened fire, causing the driver to lose control and the bus to plunge into a gorge," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Reasi, Mohita Sharma said, ANI reported. The SSP further informed that the rescue operations are complete and the injured have been taken to Naraina and Reasi District hospitals.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha condemned the terror attack and said that the JKP had launched an operation to hunt down the terrorists. "I strongly condemn the cowardly terror attack on a bus in Reasi. My condolences to the family members of the martyred civilians.

NEWS BOX

India vs Pakistan: Cried when I learned about Rishabh Pant's accident, says Ravi Shastri

New Delhi. Former India coach Ravi Shastri said he had tears in his eyes when he heard about Rishabh Pant's accident and claimed it was heartwarming to see the wicketkeeper back in the fold for the clash against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup. Pant suffered a car accident in December 2022, and it kept him out of action until the IPL 2024. The wicketkeeper was one of the main reasons why India were able to edge past Pakistan in New York on Sunday. Pant scored 42 off 31 balls and also took three brilliant catches behind the stumps as India won the match by 6 runs. Because of his heroics with the gloves, Pant was given the fielding award and Shastri was the special guest to give it away. The former coach was emotional as he had a speech ready for Pant as the rest of the squad cheered on. "All I say for Rishabh. Brilliant performance. I had tears in my eyes when I heard about his accident. When I saw him in hospital, it was worse. And then for him to come back from there and be back in the A-zone playing one of the biggest games, India vs Pakistan, is



heartwarming," said Shastri. Shastri was mightily impressed by Pant's wicketkeeping and range of movement after having undergone major surgery to repair the injuries he had suffered in the car crash. Shastri said Pant's dedication to come back quickly is an inspiration to millions around the globe. "Batting, everybody knew. What you're capable of, the X-factor you have. But your wicketkeeping and range of movement that you have quickly got back in after the operation, is a tribute for how much you worked hard. Not just for yourself, it's an inspiration to millions around the globe. From adversity, from the jaws of death, you can snatch a win as well. So well done, keep up the good work," said Shastri. Pant and India will next be in action on June 12, Wednesday as they face the high-flying USA team in their next match.

Genius Bumrah inspires India's New York heist, haunting World Cup scar for Pakistan

New Delhi. Former India fast bowler Irfan Pathan did not think twice before calling him the greatest-ever white-ball bowler to have played for the country. Pakistan great Waqar Younis agreed. Jasprit Bumrah showed the world once again why he is peerless in modern-day cricket with a spell for the ages, inspiring India's heist in New York in a low-scoring T20 World Cup thriller against Pakistan. At the end of 39 overs of dramatic turnarounds, India heaved a sigh of relief and then smiled. Pakistan suffered another unforgettable scar, one that could push them to an early exit, adding to what seems to be never-ending chaos around their senior national team.

On a day when high-quality pacers put on a show for the 34,000-strong crowd at the Nassau County Stadium, Jasprit Bumrah came up with magic. There was Naseem Shah's control, there was Haris Rauf's mini redemption story, and old warhorse Mohammad Amir's tenacity. But Bumrah's genius trumped them all, emerging as the clear box-office winner. 4 overs, 3 wickets and 14 dot balls were the undoing of Pakistan on the big day. Yes, Pakistan made a meal out of the chase that looked doable. However, it was the bowling brilliance, led by an artist at his peak, that delivered the killer punch to Pakistan. Yes, Pakistan were timid with the bat, but it was understandable as they lacked the quality to deal with the idea of facing Bumrah twice in the powerplay and twice at the death. "India gave Pakistan a chance of winning by batting poorly. I mean. They could have easily put up maybe 140-150. Losing those 7 wickets right at the end did not really help. India is such a good balanced side. Even if they don't bat well, they have got Jasprit Bumrah, they have got Siraj, they have got Jadeja. They have got their bowling really covered and fielding also. They are a super team. Pakistan, if you can't win this game, then what should I say? This was on a plate given to you. And you really spilled it. Pakistan poorly played and I think it's a result of India's brilliance." a disgruntled Waqar Younis said to the broadcaster, echoing the disappointment of millions of Pakistan fans on Sunday. India posted only 119 on the board, their lowest total in a T20 World Cup match against Pakistan. Their big guns, including Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, did not arrive to the party in New York. Thanks to Rishabh Pant's 42 and Axar Patel's 20, India huffed and puffed to a total that kept them in the hunt.

Pressure Jasprit Bumrah claims panic never set in India camp during Pakistan clash

← **Bumrah picked up figures of 3 for 14 against Pakistan**

← **Bumrah said that panic never set in the Indian team**

← **Bumrah and India will next be in action against the USA on June 12**

New Delhi. India's star man Jasprit Bumrah has claimed that panic never set in the camp during the match against Pakistan in New York on Sunday, June 9. India suffered a major batting collapse as they went from 89 for 3 to 119 all-out. However, the team rallied together in the second half and defended the total in the end. Bumrah was the star of the show as he picked up 3 wickets for 14 runs in his 4 overs as India won the match by 6 runs. Speaking at the post-match press conference, the India pacer said the team was disappointed with the score they



posted in the end. Bumrah said that the message during the team huddle before the second innings was not to create panic and maintain their composure. "Yeah, very clear. So that is what we were, we had a chat that, we were a little disappointed on the total that we had put up because we

wanted to add more runs and obviously that was not the plan. We left one over as well. So, once we started, we were very clear the message in the huddle was that now that is over, now what is next? What are the things that are in our control? So, we will try to focus on that and not to

Is Mohammad Rizwan Jasprit Bumrah's favourite wicket Fast bowler answers

New Delhi. Star India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah opened up on dismissing Mohammad Rizwan during high voltage India vs Pakistan match in the T20 World Cup 2024 on Sunday, June 9. Notably, the speedster turned out to be the game changer for India with his magnificent bowling display registering figures of 3/14 in four overs and helped his side defend a low score of 119. Bumrah managed to get the prized scalp of well-set Mohammad Rizwan (31 off 44) in the 15th over as he destroyed his stumps and pulled things back in India's favour. Speaking about his plans to dismiss the Pakistan opener, the India star revealed he was focused on making run scoring difficult and forcing the batter to hit on the bigger side of the ground. "So, you know, at that time, it's difficult. What are the options? So, we have to assess the situation. What is the other batsman going to do as well? So, I was trying to back what is working for me because we played few games here. So, try

to make run scoring as difficult as possible. Try to make them hit on the bigger side. Try to, you know, be nice and calm. So all that was going on at that time and the execution was good. The ball did stay a little low. But



we're very happy that, you know, that changed the momentum and then the things were in our favour," said Bumrah in an interaction with ICC Digital.

Bumrah's back-to-back match-winning performances Further being asked whether the Pakistan

batter has become his favourite wicket, Bumrah said that he focuses on the situation and how can he help the team rather than the opposition. The star fast bowler earlier dismissed him during the ODI World Cup 2023 match between the two sides. "No, I don't think like that. But, you know, I look at the situation. For me, the greatest happiness is that whenever there's a problem or there's a puzzle, how do I solve it? What are my options? Rather than thinking too much in the end or this is... the opposition. I try to focus on how do I help the team and how do I solve this problem so very happy that I could do it today so yeah but there is nothing like that where I was thinking of the opposition," he added.

Meanwhile, Bumrah won his second consecutive Player of the Match award of the tournament after he earlier picked 2/6 against Ireland in the opening game. The 30-year-old will be eager to continue his form in India's third fixture against USA on June 12 at the same venue.

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah can't keep calm in stands after India beat Pakistan

New Delhi. BCCI secretary Jay Shah was spotted wildly celebrating India's win over Pakistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 from the stands of the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on Sunday, June 9. The Men in Blue registered a thrilling six run victory over the arch-rivals as they successfully defended a low total of 119 runs to win their second consecutive match of the tournament.

Following India's heart stopping win, thousands of Indian fans present at the New York Stadium went berserk as they wildly celebrated another triumph over Pakistan. BCCI secretary Jay Shah also couldn't control his excitement as he was energetically punching the air with both fists and encouraged the crowd to join in on the celebrations with their roars. Meanwhile, Pakistan made a mess of their chase as they kept losing wickets at crucial junctures despite having the required run rate under control. The Men in Green got off to a decent start to their chase with

captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan adding 26 runs for the first wicket the catch giving him a reprieve. Bumrah runs through Pakistan batting



before the former edged Jasprit Bumrah to first slip on 13 (10). The Indian speedster almost dismissed Rizwan in his first over as well, as the right-hand batter pulled him straight down the throat of fine leg. However, Shivam Dube failed to hold on to

After surviving the catch drop, the Pakistan opener decided to hold one end as he carefully nudged the ball around for singles as other batters batted around him. Pakistan were well on course for a win being 73/2 after 12 overs, but their chase went astray after Hardik Pandya dismissed the dangerous Fakhar Zaman (13 off 8).

To add to the misery, Rizwan (31 off 44) was cleaned up by Bumrah in the 15th over which brought India right back into the game. Economical bowling from both ends saw the required rate rising as Pakistan continued to lose wickets under pressure. They were eventually restricted to 113/7 in their allotted 20 overs handing a six-run win to India. Bumrah was adjudged Player of the Match for his figures of 3/14 in four overs.

Sachin Tendulkar's jibe at Pakistan after loss vs India: 'New continent same result'

← **Legendary India cricketer Sachin Tendulkar took a jibe at the Pakistan Cricket Team following their loss against India in the T20 World Cup 2024.**

New Delhi. Legendary India cricketer Sachin Tendulkar took a jibe at Pakistan after their six-run loss against India in the T20 World Cup 2024 on Sunday, June 9 at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York. The Men in Blue defended a low target of 119 to hand Pakistan their seventh loss in the eight matches played between the two sides in the T20 World Cup history. Following India's win, Tendulkar, who's been a part of five India victories over Pakistan in the ODI World Cup, mocked Pakistan's loss by calling it a usual result in the contest between the two teams. The legendary batter also hailed the bowlers from both teams for their remarkable performance. "India vs Pakistan. New continent, same result T20 may be a batters' game, but in New York, bowlers were the Apple of our eyes today. What a thrilling match! Great atmosphere and a wonderful exhibition of our great



game in America. Well played, India," wrote Tendulkar on his X account. Coming back to the India vs Pakistan game, after being put in to bat first, India lost their star openers Virat Kohli (4 off 3) and Rohit Sharma (13 off 12) early in the innings. However, they still looked on course of setting up a good score being 89/3 after 11 overs with Rishabh Pant (42 off 31) and Suryakumar Yadav (7 off 8)

create panic because yes, there will be boundaries here and there." "People might play good shots, but we'll have to try and be composed and try to hold our shape. So that was the biggest positive, not at any stage did I feel that the panic had spread in the team and we were looking too far ahead. So that's a really positive sign for us," said Bumrah.

First wicket was important

Bumrah had started the day by dismissing Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and felt that the first wicket was a very important moment in the game as they wanted to avoid a big opening stand. "So, it's not like one particular moment. Yes, obviously we were there was a decent start but I think the first wicket was very important as well to set the base because then you start adding pressure because if they get off to a good start on this wicket, then we didn't have a lot of runs on the board and then the pressure keeps on rising on us. So that was also a crucial stage," said Bumrah.

Sandeep Lamichhane joins Nepal squad for final 2 group matches in West Indies

New Delhi. Sandeep Lamichhane has announced on social media that he has joined the Nepal squad in West Indies for the final two matches in the T20 World Cup 2024 campaign. Lamichhane was denied visa to enter the USA, and that had effectively ruled him out of the ongoing campaign. However in a twist, Lamichhane announced that he had reached the West Indies, where Nepal will play their final two Group D matches against South Africa and Bangladesh. "First of all I would like to thank Government of Nepal, Foreign Ministry, Sports Ministry, National Sports Council (NSC), and Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) for their support to help me get the US visa but unfortunately it did not work out this time." "But now through all of that aside, I am now joining the National Team for the last two matches in the West Indies and looking forward to fulfilling my dreams and the dream of all cricket lovers."

"I extend my gratitude to our President Chatur Bahadur Chand Sir, Secretary and my dear brother Paras Khadka dai, my lawyer Saroj K Ghimire dai, Binod Das Dai, Prabal Gautam dai & beloved Balkrishna Lamichhane dai for their extraordinary dedicated effort to make my journey possible in co-ordination with ICC and all related official networks possible for me to participate in this T20 World Cup." "I am disheartened to see the deliberate image-tarnishing of the important figures like Chatur Sir and Paras Dai, who made my comeback possible. Please don't follow all the false propaganda surrounding my visa issues that people are using to tarnish CAN and Nepal Cricket's image."

"To all our cricket fans and people back home everywhere, who prayed for me, I will forever be grateful for your blessings."

"Let us celebrate Nepal cricket which is playing the world cup after 10 years. We will need your positive support and blessings more than ever. Jai Nepal," said Lamichhane. What did Cricket Nepal say about Lamichhane?

The Cricket Association of Nepal confirmed that Lamichhane will be playing in the final two group stage matches for the national side after being denied visa twice to enter the USA. "The Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) has confirmed Sandeep Lamichhane is already in the Caribbean to play the T20 World Cup 2024." "Lamichhane was denied a US visa twice, which prevented him from participating in the initial stages of the T20 World Cup. However, the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) has confirmed that he is now in the Caribbean and will play in Nepal's two league stage games in the West Indies," read the statement.

at the crease. Indian bowlers snatch win from jaws of defeat

However, the Men in Blue side suffered a dramatic collapse and lost ten wickets within the next 30 runs to be all out for 119 in 19 overs. In reply, Pakistan lost their captain Babar Azam (13 off 10) cheaply but his opening partner Mohammad Rizwan held one end after being dropped on 7 by Shivam Dube. The Men in

Green were in complete control of the game needing 40 runs to win off the last six overs having seven wickets in hand. However, top-notch bowling from Jasprit Bumrah (3/14) and other Indian bowlers restricted them to 113/7 after 20 overs. As a result, India won the match leaving Pakistan on the brink of being knocked out from the tournament after consecutive losses.



Sunny Leone

Slips Into Red Hot Bikini; Flaunts Her Curves, Takes a Dip in the Pool

Sunny Leone set social media on fire with her latest sexy video. The actress took to X and Instagram to share a video in which she was seen enjoying a holiday in Thailand. Sunny slipped into a red bikini for a day by the pool. The two-piece bikini accentuated her voluptuous curves. In the video, she struck many poses, even taking a dip in the pool while the camera caught her at her hottest best. Sunny shared the video with the background music of 'I Can't Get Enough' by Benny Blanco, Tainy, Selena Gomez and J Balvin. Sharing the video, Sunny wrote, "Can't get enough!!!" Watch the video below:

Fans took to the comments section to shower her with love. "The red really looks good on her", a comment read. "Meanwhile, Sunny has a film in the pipeline. Last week, she announced she will be seen in Quotation Gang. 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. Beautiful, another comment read. "You are so beautiful world", a fan said.

Imran Khan Shares His Divorce Left Him Emotionally Weak: 'When My Daughter Was With Me...'

Bollywood actor Imran Khan opened up about the impact of his divorce from ex-wife Avantika Malik left on him. The actor confessed that he went through a bad phase following the separation. Describing the symptoms of depression, Imran admitted that everyday tasks such as getting out of the bed and brushing his teeth felt like a big ask. However, when it was his turn to take care of his daughter, Imara, Imran said he would find the strength and bounce back up. "When I separated in 2019, I was at my weakest—emotionally and physically. I'd say, I would describe it as a husk of a human being. Brushing my teeth and taking a shower was a monumental ask. I didn't know if I could do that. I couldn't even get myself out of bed, I would stay in my pajamas, turn the doorbell off, lock the door and just vegetate," he told Humans of Bombay. "I did have parental duties, we split custody so Thursdays to Sundays, my daughter would be with me. So on the days that she is with me, it doesn't matter how weak I feel, whatever it is, you have to get out there," he added. The actor has once again found love in his life. In a recent



interview, Imran opened up about his relationship with Lekha Washington. He has confirmed the news of his relationship a couple of times and even told comedian Raunaq Rajani that the couple has moved in together.

Raveena Tandon

Makes Her First Public Appearance, As She Resumes Work Since Her Attack

Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon was attacked last week after a group of women claimed she and her driver assaulted three women, allegedly including an elderly lady. A shocking video has surfaced online showing the actress being attacked by a group of women. Almost after a week, since the incident, the actress made her first public appearance for an event in town. Earlier last week, on Saturday, Raveena Tandon was attacked while she was trying to defend her driver. The actress was accused of assaulting three women, including a senior citizen, after her driver allegedly hit them with her car. However, the CCTV footage clarified that the accusations are wrong. Raveena is yet to issue a formal statement. However, she shared the statements made by the police officials investigating the incident. A senior Mumbai Police official told Mid-Day, "The complainant gave a false complaint in the alleged video. We checked the entire CCTV footage of the society and found that the actress's driver was reversing the car from the road into the society when this family was crossing the same lane. The family stopped the car and told the driver that he should check if people are behind the car before reversing. This argument started between them." "This argument escalated into abusive language, and actress Raveena Tandon arrived at the spot to check what had happened with her driver. The actress tried to protect the driver from the mob; however, the mob started abusing her. Both Raveena Tandon and the family went to the Khar police station and gave written complaints. Later, they both also submitted letters stating they did not want to register any complaints," the official said. Nobody was injured in this incident. We checked the CCTV footage, and the car did not hit anyone," he concluded his statement. Raveena shared the statement on her Instagram Stories to clear the allegations



against her. A source had also shared the details of the incident with News18 on Sunday. "The way this episode has been portrayed is wrong. CCTV footages from around the area prove that a group of women came outside Raveena Tandon's home in the evening and they were the ones who started shouting at and fighting with the driver. She joined them just to protect her driver," the insider told us.



Premgi Amaren Ties The Knot With Longtime Partner Indu In Intimate Ceremony



Beloved actor and singer Premgi Amaren has recently tied the knot with his longtime partner, Indu. Their wedding was an intimate and heartfelt affair, graced by the presence of close family and friends. The special event took place on June 9, marking a beautiful celebration of their love and unity. The heartwarming news was joyously announced by Premgi's brother, the acclaimed filmmaker Venkat Prabhu, who shared a series of touching photographs from the ceremony on social media. Additionally, an X account named Happy Sharing By Dks also posted a collection of delightful images, capturing the cherished moments of this joyous occasion. Venkat Prabhu shared the joyous news with a heartfelt message, extending his congratulations and warm wishes to the newlyweds. "Finallllllllyyyyy!!!!!! Love u @premgibest wishes to the newly wed #InduPremgi," he wrote, expressing his excitement and happiness for his brother and sister-in-law.

The wedding of Premgi Amaren and Indu was a star-studded affair, with numerous cinema personalities and friends in attendance. Social media buzzed with well-wishes for the beloved actor, celebrating this momentous occasion. Notably, the reunion of the 'Chennai 600028' gang caught widespread attention, as actors Jai, Shiva, Vaibhav, and Aravind Akash joyfully graced the wedding of their dear friend. Adding to the charm of the event, Premgi Amaren and Indu were elegantly dressed in traditional silk attire, embracing the rich cultural heritage. This traditional wedding ceremony was a perfect blend of love, friendship, and tradition. Actor and music composer Premgi Amaren and Indu had reportedly been in a loving relationship for the past two years. Known for his bachelor lifestyle, Premgi found a new perspective on life through his relationship with Indu. His deep affection and commitment led him to take significant steps towards their future together. After nearly a year of heartfelt efforts to gain his parents' blessings, Premgi successfully convinced them, paving the way for their beautiful union.

Sania Mirza Says She'd Act In Her Biopic If Shah Rukh Khan Or Akshay Kumar Are In It



Sania Mirza recently made an appearance at Kapil Sharma's The Great Indian Kapil Show with boxer Mary Kom, badminton player Saina Nehwal, and sharpshooter Sift Kaur. Amid all the fun and chatter, Kapil recalled an old interview where Shah Rukh Khan had shared that he would like to play Sania's love interest in her biopic. On hearing this, the former Indian professional tennis player cut Kapil off to say, "Abhi mujhe pehle love interest dundna hai (I have to find a love interest first)." Her answer left Kapil and Archana Puran Singh in splits. She also expressed her excitement towards Akshay Kumar and shared, "If Shah Rukh ji does the film, I might play myself. And I'll definitely do it if Akshay Kumar is in it."

In the same conversation, Kapil also pointed out how Priyanka Chopra had played the part of Mary Kom in her biopic and her sister, actress Parineeti Chopra, was seen in Saina Nehwal's biography film.

He then asked Mirza, whom she would like to see play her part in her biopic. Sania then responded, saying, "Are there any Chopra sisters left? No, I think we have many good actors in our country. Anyone is fine. Or maybe I should play myself."

For the unversed, in 2016, Shah Rukh had launched Sania's biopic, titled Ace Against Odds, and said he would not only be open to producing a film based on the book but also starring in it. "Whenever there is a movie made on Sania, I think it will be very inspiring and it will be fantastic. And I don't know... ask her if she will let me play her love interest. But, I will produce it for sure," he said at the launch, as reported by NDTV.

Meanwhile, Sania's comments on her love life comes months after her ex-husband Shoab Malik got married for the third time. The Pakistani cricketer married popular Pakistani actress Sana Javed. They shocked everyone by sharing wedding pictures in January this year.