

ब्रह्मांड में शक्ति की हर अभिव्यक्ति मां ही है। मां का प्रेम ईश्वर के प्रेम के बाद सबसे ऊंचा है, जो कभी नष्ट नहीं होता।

—स्वामी विवेकानंद



Nora Fatehi To Perform At...

SARAFARAS	
सोना	: 14,115
चांदी	: 280.00

(नोट : सोना 22 कैरेट प्रति ग्राम)

BRIEF NEWS

योगी मंत्रिमंडल में 6 नए मंत्री बने, 2 का प्रमोशन

LUCKNOW : रविवार को यूपी की योगी कैबिनेट का दूसरी बार विस्तार हुआ। 12 कैबिनेट और 4 राज्यमंत्री मिलाकर 6 नए सदस्य शामिल हुए। वहीं 2 राज्य मंत्रियों को प्रमोशन देकर राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) बनाया गया। राजभवन में आयोजित समारोह में सबसे पहले भाजपा के पूर्व प्रदेश अध्यक्ष भूपेंद्र चौधरी ने शपथ ली। इसके बाद सपा के बागी विधायक मनोज पांडेय ने शपथ ली। दोनों को कैबिनेट मंत्री बनाया गया है। तीसरे नंबर पर अजीत पाल और फिर सोमेंद्र तोमर ने शपथ ली। दोनों को प्रमोट कर राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) बनाया गया। इसके बाद कृष्णा पासवान, कैलाश राजपूत, सुरेंद्र दिलेर और हंसराज विश्वकर्मा ने राज्यमंत्री पद की शपथ ली। कृष्णा पासवान पहले अगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्ता थीं। नए बने वाले मंत्रियों में 1 ब्राह्मण, 3 ओबीसी और 2 जलित वर्ग से हैं। शपथ के बाद अजीत पाल, सोमेंद्र तोमर, कृष्णा पासवान, कैलाश राजपूत, सुरेंद्र दिलेर और हंसराज ने राज्यपाल और सीएम के पैर छुए।

भारत-अफ्रीका फोरम शिखर सम्मेलन 31 को

NEW DELHI : भारत और अफ्रीकी संघ आयोग के सहयोग से 31 मई को नई दिल्ली में चौथे भारत-अफ्रीका फोरम शिखर सम्मेलन होगा, जो दोनों क्षेत्रों के बीच पारस्परिक संबंधों को गूढ़ाढ करने और भविष्य के सहयोग की रूपरेखा तैयार करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण साबित होगा। आईए स्पिरिट : नवावार, लचीलापन और समावेशी परिवर्तन के लिए भारत-अफ्रीका एग्नोसिफ साझीदारी के मुख्य विषय के साथ होने वाले इस सम्मेलन में अफ्रीकी महाद्वीप के शीर्ष नेता और क्षेत्रीय संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि हिस्सा लेंगे, जिसका उद्देश्य भारत की विकास यात्रा को अफ्रीका के 'एजेंडा 2063' के साथ जोड़ना है। विदेश मंत्री डॉ. एस. जयशंकर ने बीबी 23 अप्रैल को इस शिखर सम्मेलन के आधिकारिक प्रतीक चिह्न (लोगो), वेबसाइट और थीम का अनावरण किया था, जो इस दीर्घकालिक साझीदारी के बहुआयामी स्वरूप को प्रदर्शित करता है।

यूएस ठिकाने और जहाज निशाने पर : ईरान

NEW DELHI : ईरान के इस्लामिक रेवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स यानी आईआरजीसी ने अमेरिका को कड़ी चेतावनी दी है। आईआरजीसी के नौसेना कमांड ने एक्स पर पोस्ट कर कहा कि अगर फारस की खाड़ी या होर्मुज स्ट्रेट में ईरानी तेल टैंकर्स और व्यापारिक जहाजों पर फिर हमला हुआ, तो अमेरिकी ठिकानों और सैन्य जहाजों पर भारी हमला किया जाएगा। इसके बाद आईआरजीसी की एयरसेस फोर्स ने अलग पोस्ट में दावा किया कि हमारी मिसाइलें और ड्रोन पहले ही अमेरिकी ठिकानों और दुश्मन जहाजों पर लोक हो चुके हैं और अब सिर्फ हमला करने के लिए तैयार हैं। वहीं, वॉल स्ट्रीट जर्नल की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, अमेरिका ने 14 पॉइंट वाला ड्राफ्ट तैयार किया है, जिस पर ईरान के जवाब का इंतजार है। राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने पहले पत्रकारों से बाद करते हुए कहा था कि जवाब मिलने की उम्मीद है।

जोसेफ विजय ने तमिलनाडु के नए मुख्यमंत्री की संभाली जिम्मेदारी

CHENNAI @ PTI : रविवार को तमिलनाडु के नए मुख्यमंत्री जोसेफ विजय ने तमिलनाडु के नए चीफ मिनिस्टर की जिम्मेदारी संभाल ली। चेन्नई के जवाहरलाल नेहरू स्टेडियम में सुबह करीब 10 बजे भव्य समारोह में राज्यपाल राजेंद्र अल्लेकर ने उन्हें पद एवं गोपनीयता की शपथ दिलाई। विजय ने राज्य के 13वें मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में शपथ ली। विजय के शपथ ग्रहण करते ही पूरा स्टेडियम तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट और नारों से गुंज उठा। विजय के शपथ लेने के बाद एन. आनंद, आदव अजुना, अरुणराज, सेंगेथेयन, वेंकटरमणन, निर्मलकुमार, राजमोहन, डीके प्रभु और कीर्तना ने मंत्री के रूप में शपथ ग्रहण किया। सहयोगी दलों के किसी विधायक को मंत्रिमंडल में शामिल नहीं किया गया है। इस समारोह में विजय के परिवार के सदस्य, फिल्म जगत की हस्तियां और गठबंधन दलों के नेता शामिल हुए। शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में कांग्रेस नेता राहुल गांधी भी उपस्थित रहे। 13 मई तक गठबंधन सरकार को बहुमत साबित करने के लिए कहा गया है।

चेन्नई में गवर्नर राजेंद्र अल्लेकर ने दिलाई पद और गोपनीयता की शपथ 9 विधायकों ने भी लिया मंत्री पद का ओथ, सहयोगी दलों का कोई नहीं



हर घर को 200 यूनिट बिजली मुफ्त महिला सुरक्षा के लिए विशेष बल

विजय ने शपथ ग्रहण करने के बाद सबसे पहले महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए विशेष बल के गठन और घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को 200 यूनिट तक मुफ्त बिजली देने से जुड़ी फाइलों पर हस्ताक्षर किए। विजय ने नशा विरोधी अभियान और मादक पदार्थों की रोकथाम से संबंधित फाइलों पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए। उन्होंने कहा, मुझे भी पता है कि जिंदगी में गरीबी क्या होती है। भूख क्या होती है। यह भी मैं जानता हूँ। मैं किसी राजघराने से नहीं आया हूँ। मैं आपमें से ही एक हूँ। आपके परिवार के एक सदस्य जैसा हूँ। मैं खुद को हमेशा ऐसा ही महसूस करता हूँ। और आपने भी मुझे उसी तरह अपनाया, तभी आपने मुझे सिनेमा में इतना बड़ा स्थान दिया। विजय ने कहा, मैं आप लोगों का ऋण चुकाने के लिए राजनीति में आया। तब आपने मुझसे कहा आओ विजय, हम संभाल लेंगे। आपने मुझे इतना प्यार और अपनाना देकर स्वीकार किया।

फिर असम के सीएम बनेंगे हिमंता बिस्वा सरमा, कल लेंगे शपथ

GUWAHATI : हिमंता बिस्वा सरमा फिर असम के मुख्यमंत्री बनेंगे। रविवार को बीजेपी विधायक दल की बैठक में उन्हें नेता चुन लिया गया। जेपी नड्डा ने उनके नाम की घोषणा की। हिमंता 12 मई को सुबह 11 बजे लगातार दूसरी बार राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री पद की शपथ लेंगे। शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी सहित एनडीए के कई वरिष्ठ नेता शामिल होंगे। असम बीजेपी के अध्यक्ष दिलीप सैकिया ने कहा कि 12 मई को होने वाले शपथ ग्रहण समारोह की तैयारियां



चल रही हैं। नेता चुने जाने के बाद हिमंता बिस्वा सरमा के नेतृत्व में सरकार बनाने का राज्यपाल लक्ष्मण प्रसाद आचार्य से मुलाकात कर राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन (एनडीए) के नेताओं ने दावा पेश किया, जिसे राज्यपाल ने स्वीकार कर लिया।

आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग संस्था की 45वीं वर्षगांठ पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी बोले-

राजनीति और सरकारों से भी अधिक शक्तिशाली है समाज

AGENCY BENGALURU :

रविवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग संस्था की 45वीं वर्षगांठ और गुरुदेव श्रीश्री रविशंकर के 70वें जन्मोत्सव समारोह को संबोधित किया। उन्होंने कहा कि कोई भी अभियान तब सफल होता है, जब उसके साथ समाज की शक्ति जुड़ जाती है। उन्होंने कहा कि समाज, राजनीति और सरकारों से भी अधिक शक्तिशाली होता है। कोई भी सरकार तभी सफल हो सकती है, जब समाज स्वयं राष्ट्र निर्माण में सक्रिय भागीदारी निभाए। प्रधानमंत्री ने आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में नवनिर्मित ध्यान मंदिर का उद्घाटन कर संस्था की मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, ग्रामीण विकास, प्रकृति संरक्षण तथा सामाजिक परिवर्तन से जुड़ी राष्ट्रव्यापी सेवा पहलों की शुरुआत की। मोदी ने कहा कि

राष्ट्र निर्माण में समाज की सक्रिय भागीदारी से ही सफल हो सकती है कोई सरकार

- बंगलुरु ने भारत की आध्यात्मिक चेतना और सांस्कृतिक पहचान को दी है नई ऊंचाई
- भारत के आध्यात्मिक मूल्यों से आज पूरी दुनिया हो रही प्रभावित
- जब संकल्प स्पष्ट हो और सेवाभाव से कार्य किया जाए तो मिलता है सुखद परिणाम
- दुनिया का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा स्टार्टअप इकोसिस्टम बन चुका है देश



हम सब लोटस की छत्रछाया में

पीएम ने कहा कि बाकी कुछ हो या न हो, हम सब लोटस की छत्रछाया में हैं। गुरुदेव का आशीर्वाद है तो लोटस की छत्रछाया ही देश को नई ऊंचाइयों पर ले जाएगी।

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान का भी दिया उदाहरण

मोदी ने स्वच्छ भारत अभियान का उदाहरण देते हुए कहा कि यह अब सरकारी कार्यक्रम न रहकर लोगों का जीवन का स्वाभाविक हिस्सा बन चुका है और समाज की शक्ति से ही आगे बढ़ रहा है। समाज जुड़ता है, तो चुनौतियों का भी समाधान निकालता है।

संस्था ने सामाजिक सरोकारों को कार्यक्रमों में दिया विशेष महत्व

प्रधानमंत्री ने महिलाओं, जनजातीय समाज, ग्रामीण समुदायों और कैदियों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य के लिए चलाए जा रहे कार्यक्रमों की सराहना की। संस्था ने सामाजिक सरोकारों को अपने कार्यक्रमों में विशेष महत्व दिया है। उन्होंने युवाशक्ति पर संस्था के फोकस की भी प्रशंसा की। कहा- आज विज्ञान तथा प्रौद्योगिकी नई संभावनाओं के द्वार खोल रहे हैं।

दर्शन, श्रीश्री रविशंकर के 70 वर्ष और आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग के 45 वर्ष जैसे पल उनकी स्मृतियों में

हमेशा बने रहेंगे। दिव्य और भव्य ध्यान मंदिर को लोकार्पण इस बात का प्रतीक है कि जब संकल्प स्पष्ट

हो और सेवाभाव से कार्य किया जाए तो हर प्रयास का सुखद परिणाम मिलता है।

आधिकारिक वेबसाइट पर चेक कर सकेंगे परिणाम

आज जारी होगा CBSE 12वीं के तीनों संकायों का रिजल्ट

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड यानी सीबीएसई सोमवार को 12वीं बोर्ड परीक्षा 2026 का रिजल्ट जारी कर सकता है। मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स के मुताबिक बोर्ड विज्ञान, वाणिज्य और आर्ट्स तीनों संकायों के परिणाम एक साथ घोषित करेगा। रिजल्ट जारी होने के बाद छात्र ऑनलाइन माध्यम से आसानी से अपना स्कोर चेक कर सकेंगे। रिजल्ट देखने के लिए छात्रों को रोल नंबर, स्कूल नंबर और एडमिट कार्ड आईडी की जरूरत होगी।



बोर्ड की ओर से रिजल्ट जारी होते ही सभी डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म पर लिंक एक्टिव कर दिए जाएंगे। रिजल्ट जारी होने के बाद छात्र डिजिटल लॉकर ऐप या वेबसाइट पर लॉगिन करके अपनी प्रोविजनल डिजिटल मार्कशीट डाउनलोड कर सकेंगे। इसके अलावा बोर्ड की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट पर भी परिणाम चेक किया जा सकेगा।

छह दिन बाद भी केरलम में सीएम का एलान नहीं

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM : 6 दिन बाद भी केरलम में पूर्ण बहुमत पाने वाले कांग्रेस के गठबंधन ने अपने सीएम के नाम का ऐलान नहीं किया है। कांग्रेस के संगठन महासचिव के.सी. वेणुगोपाल, पिछले विधानसभा में नेता प्रतिपक्ष वी.डी. सतीशन और 6 बार के विधायक रमेश चैन्नियल यहाँ मुख्यमंत्री की रैस में सबसे आगे चल रहे हैं। 16 मई को कांग्रेस ने मुकुल वासनिक और अजय मानन को पर्यवेक्षक बनाकर केरलम भेजा था। बैठक के बाद उन्होंने कहा कि हमने सभी विधायकों से बात कर ली है। दावा किया जा रहा है कि आलाकमान को सीपी गई इस रिपोर्ट में विधायकों ने के.सी. वेणुगोपाल के नाम पर मुहर लगाई है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, कांग्रेस के 63 विधायकों में 75-80 प्रतिशत ने के.सी. वेणुगोपाल को समर्थन दिया।

मौसम विभाग ने 13 और 14 को तेज वर्षा और वज्रपात का जारी किया अलर्ट

कई जिलों में झमाझम बारिश, जमकर गिरे ओले

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

रविवार को राजधानी रांची समेत राज्य के कई जिलों में अचानक मौसम बदल गया। इस दौरान रांची के अलावा कई जिलों में बारिश के साथ ओले भी पड़े। तापमान गिरने से गर्मी से राहत मिली। इस बीच गुमला जिले के भरनो प्रखंड अंतर्गत सुकुरुहुटु गांव में वज्रपात की चपेट में आकर 13 वर्षीय एक छात्र की मौत हो गई, जबकि उसका छोटा भाई घायल हो गया। मृतक की पहचान अमन महतो (13) के रूप में हुई है। मृतक के पिता फुलेंद्र महतो ने बताया कि

गुमला में वज्रपात की चपेट में आकर बच्चे की मौत, जख्मी हो गया छोटा भाई



उनके दोनों बेटे अमन और अमित महतो बकरी चराने के लिए घर से कुछ दूरी पर गए थे। अचानक

50-60 किमी की रफ्तार से चलेंगी हवाएं

मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, 13 और 14 मई को मौसम का मिजाज बिगड़ने की संभावना है। राज्य के विभिन्न हिस्सों में गर्जन के साथ बारिश, वज्रपात और तेज हवाएं चलने की चेतावनी जारी की गई है। इस दौरान 50 से 60 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से तेज हवा चल सकती है। समर्पित खराब मौसम को देखते हुए मौसम विभाग ने अर्रिज अलर्ट जारी

किया है। मौसम विभाग की ओर से बताया गया कि 13 मई को रावी, खट्टी, सिन्डेगा, गुमला, लोहरदगा, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, सरायकेला-खरसावा, रामगढ़, बोकारो, धनबाद और जमताड़ा जिलों में बारिश और वज्रपात होने की संभावना है। 14 मई को भी इन जिलों के अलावा दुमका में भी खराब मौसम का असर देखने को मिल सकता है।

मौसम खराब हो गया और तेज आंधी-तूफान के साथ बारिश शुरू हो गई। बारिश से बचने के लिए

दोनों भाई पास के एक पेड़ के नीचे खड़े हो गए, तभी वज्रपात हुआ और दोनों उसकी चपेट में आ गए।

चिंताजनक वलाइमेट चेंज की मौजूदा स्थिति प्राकृतिक संतुलन के लिए सबसे बड़ी चुनौती

वनों की बेहिसाब कटाई ने बढ़ाई पर्यावरण संकट की गहराई

PHOTON NEWS @ RESEARCH DESK : पर्यावरण विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, वन घने पेड़-पौधों, झाड़ियों और वन्यजीवों से ढका एक विशाल प्राकृतिक क्षेत्र है। ये पृथ्वी के पारिस्थितिक तंत्र का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा हैं। हवा को साफ करने, जलवायु को नियंत्रित, पर्यावरण संतुलन को बनाए रखने और जैव विविधता को आश्रय देने में अहम भूमिका निभाते हैं। जंगल से लकड़ी, जड़ी-बूटियाँ और अन्य प्राकृतिक संसाधन प्राप्त होते हैं। विकास के नाम खासकर सड़क निर्माण को लेकर आज के दौर में जंगलों की अंधाधुंध कटाई भविष्य के बड़े संकट की ओर संकेत कर रही है। लंबे समय तक वैज्ञानिकों की टीम के नए अध्ययन में यह महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी सामने आई है कि जंगलों की बेहिसाब कटाई की वजह से पर्यावरण संकट की गहराई बढ़ रही है। इस संबंध में ऑस्ट्रेलिया की जेम्स कुक यूनिवर्सिटी से जुड़े शोधकर्ताओं ने विस्तृत हाल ही में सामने आते हैं। इंटरनेशनल जर्नल क्लाइमेट चेंज में प्रकाशित रिपोर्ट में यह चेतावनी दी गई है कि सड़कें भविष्य के पर्यावरणीय विनाश और नई महामारियों की नींव भी बन सकती हैं। बीते कुछ वर्षों में जंगलों की कटाई में तेज वृद्धि के कारण उष्ण जलवायु परिवर्तन की स्थिति गंभीर है। वैज्ञानिकों ने रिपोर्ट में संभलने की चेतावनी देते हुए अनुमान जाहिर किया है कि अगले 25 वर्षों में दुनिया में करीब 2.5 करोड़ किलोमीटर नई पक्की सड़कें बनेंगी, जिनमें से लगभग 90 फीसद निर्माण जैव-विविधता से भरपूर उष्णकटिबंधीय इलाकों में होगा।

नई तकनीक से मिलेंगी कई जानकारीयां

आपने रिसर्च के दौरान दौरान वैज्ञानिकों ने एक ऐसी तकनीक विकसित की है, जो पहले ही यह संकेत दे सकती है कि कहां सड़कें बनेंगी, कहां जंगल कटेंगे और कहां से इसानों के लिए नई बीमारियों का खतरा जन्म ले सकता है। यह रिपोर्ट पूरे डेटा के साथ बताती है कि दुनिया इस समय सड़क निर्माण की अभूतपूर्व दौड़ में शामिल है। अमेजन, एशिया-प्रशांत और अफ्रीका के जंगलों में किए गए अध्ययनों से सामने आया है कि जमीन पर मौजूद सड़कों की वास्तविक लंबाई सरकारी आंकड़ों से कई गुना अधिक है।

बीते कुछ वर्षों के भीतर विकास के नाम पर सड़क निर्माण की रफ्तार में हुई तेज वृद्धि



जानवरों से इंसानों में फैलने वाली बीमारियों का खतरा

भविष्य के पर्यावरणीय विनाश और नई महामारियों की नींव भी बन सकती हैं सड़कें

- ऑस्ट्रेलिया की जेम्स कुक यूनिवर्सिटी से जुड़े वैज्ञानिकों ने लंबे समय तक किया अध्ययन
- अमेजन, एशिया-प्रशांत व अफ्रीका के जंगलों की कई स्तरों पर की गई है तुलनात्मक स्टडी

रिपोर्ट में दर्ज सड़कों की तुलना में 13 गुना तक अधिक हो सकते हैं वास्तविक आंकड़े

अध्ययन से जुड़े प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक प्रो. बिल नॉर्रिस के अनुसार, ब्राजील के अमेजन, एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र और अन्य उष्णकटिबंधीय इलाकों में नवशों के जरिये किए गए विश्लेषण बताते हैं कि वास्तविक सड़क नेटवर्क सरकारी रिकॉर्ड में दर्ज सड़कों की तुलना में 13 गुना तक अधिक हो सकता है। रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि सबसे चिंताजनक पहलू स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ा है। वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि जब जंगलों के भीतर सड़कें बनती हैं, तो वे इसानों को सीधे उन इलाकों तक पहुंचा देती हैं, जहां जंगली जानवरों में पनपने वाले रोग मौजूद होते हैं।

बेंगलुरु में प्रधानमंत्री के कार्यक्रम स्थल से तीन किमी दूर मिला विस्फोटक

BENGALURU : प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के बेंगलुरु दौरे के दौरान शहर में जिलेटिन की छड़े मिलने से सुरक्षा एजेंसियों में हड़कंप मच गया। सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने जिलेटिन की छड़ों को सावधानीपूर्वक हटाया गया। पुलिस मामले की जांच पड़ताल कर रही है। बताया गया कि प्रधानमंत्री के कार्यक्रम से डेढ़ घंटे पहले आसपास सुरक्षा चेकिंग के दौरान कमगालीपुर के ततगुनी के पास स्थित आर्ट ऑफ लिविंग इंटरनेशनल सेंटर आश्रम के बाहरी हिस्से में यानी कार्यक्रम स्थल से लगभग तीन किलोमीटर दूर एनआईसीई रोड जवशन से लगभग एक किलोमीटर दूर सड़क से करीब 20 से 25 फीट अंदर एक सख्तिघ पैकेट मिला। उसने इसकी जानकारी उच्च अधिकारियों को दी। घटना के तुरंत बाद पुलिस ने पूरे क्षेत्र को घेराबंदी कर ली गई। जांच करने पर उसमें दो जिलेटिन की छड़े पाई गईं।

जिलिंगा जंगल क्षेत्र में उग्रवादियों के जुटने की थी सूचना खूंटी में पीएलएफआई के दो उग्रवादी अरेस्ट, हथियार और कारतूस बरामद

PHOTON NEWS KHUNTI :

खूंटी जिले के जिलिंगा जंगल क्षेत्र में चलाए गए विशेष अभियान के दौरान उग्रवादी संगठन पीपुल्स लिबरेशन फ्रंट ऑफ इंडिया (पीएलएफआई) के दो सदस्यों को पुलिस ने अरेस्ट कर लिया। पुलिस के अनुसार, खूंटी के पुलिस अधीक्षक को गुप्त सूचना मिली थी कि पीएलएफआई के कुछ सदस्य जंगल में जुटे हुए हैं। सूचना में बताया गया था कि संगठन के सदस्य किसी बड़ी वारदात को अंजाम देने और इलाके में रंगदारी वसूलने की योजना बना रहे हैं। सूचना के आधार पर पुलिस ने विशेष टीम का गठन कर जंगल क्षेत्र में छापेमारी अभियान चलाया। कार्रवाई के दौरान दो उग्रवादियों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया। तलाशी के



किसी बड़ी वारदात को अंजाम देने और रंगदारी वसूलने की बना रहे थे योजना

दौरान उनके पास से दो देसी तमंचे और दो कारतूस बरामद किए गए हैं। फिनहाल पुलिस दोनों आरोपियों से पूछताछ कर रही है। साथ ही संगठन से जुड़े अन्य सदस्यों और उनकी गतिविधियों के बारे में जानकारी जुटाई जा रही है।

बहु ने ससुर की तक्रिफ से दबाकर की हत्या

सीसीटीवी से खुलासा

RANCHI : रंंची के पंडरा ओपी क्षेत्र स्थित विद्यानगर में बहु ने अपने ही ससुर डा केपी गुप्ता की तक्रिफ से मुँह दबाकर हत्या कर दी। घटना के बाद इलाके में सनसनी फैल गई। सूचना मिलने पर पुलिस ने त्वरित कार्रवाई करते हुए ओबरोही बहु निकाता को हिरासत में ले लिया है। जानकारी के अनुसार डा केपी गुप्ता चर्चित होम्योपैथिक चिकित्सक थे और पैरालाइसिस के कारणातिवृत्ति कुछ महीनों से बेड पर थे। शनिवार दोपहर घर में सास और बेटी खाना पहुंचाते दुकान गए हुए थे। ईसी दौरान बहु ने घटना को अंजाम दिया। बाद में उनसे सीसीटीवी कैमरा तोड़कर सबूत मिटाने की कोशिश की, लेकिन घटना का फुटेज पति के मोबाइल में रिकार्ड हो गया।

झारखंड में बालू के अवैध धंधे पर रोक के लिए विभाग सख्त है। इसके लिए योजना बनाई जा रही है। राज्य में अवैध बालू के उठाव, परिवहन एवं भंडारण जारी है। इस पर रोक के लिए 11 मई को राज्यस्तरीय टास्क फोर्स की बैठक बुलाई गई है। वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से सभी उपखण्डों, जिला खनन पदाधिकारियों तथा अन्य संबन्धित अधिकारियों की निर्देश दिए जाएंगे। राज्य के विभिन्न जिलों में बालू घाटों का संचालन लॉबित रहने के कारण अवैध कारोबार लगातार बढ़ता जा रहा है। इसमें राज्य सरकार तथा आम उपभोक्ता- दोनों

आईएए परफॉर्मे

कार्मिक विभाग की ओर से वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए ऑनलाइन पोर्टल पर अधिकारियों का सॉफ्ट अप्रेंटाल कार्ड जनरेट कर दिया गया है। इसके साथ ही मुख्य सचिव (सीएस) स्तर से नीचे कार्यरत सभी अधिकारियों को निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर अपना स्व-मूल्यांकन विवरण ऑनलाइन दर्ज करने का निर्देश जारी किया गया है। विभागीय निर्देश में कहा गया है कि सभी अधिकारी पोर्टल पर लॉगिन कर अपने कार्यों, उपलब्धियों, योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन, प्रशासनिक दायित्वों तथा नवाचार संबंधी जानकारी निर्धारित प्रारूप में अपलोड करें। इसके बाद संबंधित रिपोर्टिंग ऑथॉरिटी, रिव्यूइंग ऑथॉरिटी और एक्सेप्टिंग ऑथॉरिटी द्वारा अधिकारियों के कार्यों का मूल्यांकन किया जाएगा। सरकार ने इस प्रक्रिया को समग्रबद्ध तरीके से पूरा करने पर जोर दिया है।

किया जाता है नेतृत्व क्षमता का
आकलन : कार्मिक विभाग ने
स्पष्ट किया है कि परफॉर्मेंस

बारिश के बाद व पुल योजना

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :
झारखंड के ग्रामीण इलाकों में सड़क और पुरु निर्माण को गति देने की तैयारी शुरु हो गई है। ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2026-27 के लिए नई सड़क एवं पुल योजनाओं की कार्ययोजना तैयार करने को लेकर राज्य के सभी प्रमंडलों में प्रस्ताव मांगे हैं। इस संबंध में विभाग की ओर से सभी कार्यपालक अभियंताओं को पत्र जारी कर आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश दिए गए हैं। विभाग ने इंजीनियरों से कहा है कि वे अपने-अपने क्षेत्र के विधायकों से संपर्क कर उनके विधानसभा क्षेत्रों में आवश्यक सड़क और पुल निर्माण



प्रतीकात्मक फोटो

को नुकसान हो रहा है। राज्य सरकार को भी इसकी शिकायतें लगातार मिल रही हैं।

विभाग से रविवार को मिली जानकारी के अनुसार इस पर रोक के लिए 11 मई को वीडियो

कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से दोपहर
तीन बजे बैठक होगी, जिसमें सभी
उपायुक्तों, जिला खनन

पदाधिकारियों, बीडीओ और सफल बोलीदाताओं को शामिल होने का निर्देश दिया गया है।

जानकारी के अनुसार झारखंड के 16 जिलों में 229 बालू घाटों की टेंडर प्रक्रिया पूरी हो चुकी है,

लेकिन लीज डीड की प्रक्रिया
लंबित रहने के कारण अब तक
संचालन शुरू नहीं हो पाया है।

ऑफिसर्स की सालाना अप्रेजल प्रक्रिया शुरू

सीएस स्तर से नीचे के अधिकारियों को नियत अवधि के भीतर रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने का आदेश



एआई जनरेटेड प्रतीकात्मक फोटो

विभागीय स्तर पर की जाएगी नियमित निगरानी

राज्य सरकार की ओर से ऑनलाइन अप्रेंटिस प्रणाली को प्रशासनिक पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही बढ़ाने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम माना जा रहा है। डिजिटल लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से अब अधिकारियों की ताकिक मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया अधिक व्यवस्थित, पारदर्शी और समबद्ध तरीके से पूरी की जा सकेगी। विभागीय स्तर पर इसकी नियमित निगरानी भी की जाएगी, ताकि सभी अधिकारियों की रिपोर्ट पर समय पर अपलोड हो सके।

अप्रेजल रिपोर्ट अधिकारियों की सेवा मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा होती है। इसी रिपोर्ट के आधार पर अधिकारियों की कार्यकुशलता, प्रशासनिक क्षमता, योजनाओं के निष्पादन और नेतृत्व क्षमता का आकलन किया जाता है। भविष्य में

पदस्थापन, प्रतिनियुक्ति, पदेन्नति एवं अन्य प्रशासनिक निर्णयों में भी इस रिपोर्ट की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहती है। विभाग ने सभी अपर मुख्य सचिव, प्रधान सचिव, सचिव, प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त, उपायुक्त एवं विभागाध्यक्षों को भी निर्देशित

किया है कि वे अपने अधीनस्थ अधिकारियों द्वारा समय पर स्व-मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट भरने की मॉनिटरिंग सुनिश्चित करें। सरकार ने कहा है कि निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर प्रक्रिया पूरी नहीं होने पर वार्षिक मूल्यांकन प्रभावित हो सकता है।

इन्स्यूरेर्स को पर्यटन विभाग के साथ जुड़कर काम करने का मौका मिल सकेगा। विभाग का मानना है कि यह पॉलिसी डिजिटल क्रिएटर्स और पर्यटन विभाग के बीच औपचारिक साझेदारी की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम होगी।

ने महिला यात्री की बचाई
में चली जाती ट्रेन के नीचे

पर रेलवे स्टेशनों पर आरपीएफ जवान लगातार सतर्कता के साथ ड्यूटी निभा रहे थे। इसी दौरान रांची रेलवे स्टेशन पर ट्रेन संख्या 18611 रांची-बनारस एक्सप्रेस खुलने लगी। ट्रेन के रवाना होने के समय एक

यात्री अपना पत्नी और छोटे बच्चे के साथ जल्दबाजी में कोच में चढ़ने का प्रयास कर रहा था। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के अनुसार, हड़बड़ी में ट्रेन पकड़ने के दौरान महिला यात्री का संतुलन अचानक बिगड़ गया।

एवशन नगर विकास विभाग के प्रधान सचिव ने सभी डीसी और निकायों को जारी किया निर्देश

दुरुस्त रखें चापाकल से लेकर टैंकर तक की व्यवस्था, जलापूर्ति में नहीं हो लापरवाही

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI : गर्मी और संभावित जल संकट को देखते हुए मुख्य सचिव के निदेश के आलोचों ने नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग के प्रधान सचिव सुनील कुमार ने सभी उपयुक्तों, नगर आयुक्तों, कार्यपालक पदाधिकारियों एवं शहरी निकायों को विस्तृत निदेश जारी कर पेयजल व्यवस्था को पूरी तरह दुरुस्त रखने को कहा है। विभाग की ओर से जारी पत्र में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि गर्मी के मौसम में नागरिकों को शुद्ध पेयजल उपलब्ध कराना नगरपालिकाओं की सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता होनी चाहिए और इसमें किसी प्रकार की लापरवाही बर्दाश्त नहीं की जाएगी। प्रधान सचिव ने



सनील कुमार पधान सचिव

कहा है कि राज्य सरकार प्रत्येक व्यक्ति तक स्वच्छ एवं पीने योग्य पानी पहुंचाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। अमृत, अमृत 2.0 तथा राज्य योजना के तहत विभिन्न शहरों

नागरिकों को शुद्ध पेयजल

जिन मोहल्लों एवं वार्डों में पाइपलाइन की सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है, वहां स्थापित चापाकलों को पूरी तरह चालू हालत में रखने का निर्देश दिया गया है। खराब पड़े चापाकलों की तत्काल मरम्मत कराने तथा उनका नियमित निगरानी सुनिश्चित करने को कहा गया है, ताकि लोगों को पेयजल के लिए इशर-उधर भटकना न पड़े। विभाग ने यह भी निर्देश दिया है कि जहां नल या चापाकल के माध्यम से जलापूर्ति संभव नहीं हो पा रही है, वहां टैंकरों के माध्यम से शुद्ध पेयजल उपलब्ध कराया जाए।

और नगर क्षेत्रों में पाइपलाइन आधारित जलापूर्ति योजनाएं संचालित की जा रही हैं। इसके अलावा जरूरत वाले क्षेत्रों में चापाकल, टैंकर एवं अन्य

अलापूर्ति संबंधी शिकायतों के त्वरित प्रमाधान के लिए विशेष टीम गठित

माना सचिव ने सभी नगर निगम, नगर परिषद, नगर पंचायत एवं विधानसभा के सदस्य समितियों को जलापूर्ति संबंधी शिकायतों के त्वरित निराकरण के लिए विशेष टीम गठित करने को कहा है। यह टीम पेजलट कट, मोटर खराबी, पाइपलाइन लीकज, चापाकल खराब होने जैसी शिकायतों पर तुरंत कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित करेगी। परम में यह भी कहा गया कि साफ-सफाई, दूध पेजलट एवं बुनियादी नागरिक सुविधाएं पलख कराना शहरी निकायों की प्राथमिक जिम्मेदारी है। झारखंड नगरपालिका अधिनियम 2011 के तहत निकायों को कर, सेस एवं शुल्क सूची का अधिकार प्राप्त है, इसीलिए उपलब्ध संसाधनों का उपयोग करते हुए नागरिक सुविधाओं को बेहतर बनाना उनकी जिम्मेदारी है।

माध्यमों से भी है, वहां की व्यवस्था की जा साथ नियम में निर्देश दिया गया की जाए। न क्षेत्रों में नलों के जलापूर्ति की जा रही चाहिए।

मुख्य सचिव ने भी दिया है निर्देश

गोरतलब है कि 6 मई 2026 को मुख्य सचिव की अध्यक्षता में हुई उच्चस्तरीय समीक्षा बैठक में राज्य की शहरी जलापूर्ति व्यवस्था की गहन समीक्षा की गई थी। बैठक में गर्मी के दौरान किसी भी शहर या नगर क्षेत्र में पेयजल संकट उत्पन्न नहीं होने देने का निर्देश दिया गया था, जिसके बाद नगर विकास विभाग ने यह आदेश जारी किया है।

पाइपलाइन अथवा अन्य तकनीकी कारणों से आपूर्ति प्रभावित होने पर तत्काल मरम्मत कर व्यवस्था बहाल करने को कहा गया है।

आंध्र प्रदेश के युवा अधिवक्ता के साथ दुर्यवहार का वाईएलए करेगा विरोध

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :
 लॉयर्स एसोसिएशन
 (वाईएलए) ने आंध्र प्रदेश
 हाईकोर्ट में एक युवा अधिवक्ता के
 साथ कथित दुर्व्यवहार व
 24 घंटे पुलिस कस्टडी
 की धमकी दिए जाने की
 घटना के विरोध में
 सांकेतिक प्रदर्शन की
 घोषणा की है। एसोसिएशन
 ने विज्ञप्ति जारी कर कहा है कि
 युवा अधिवक्ताओं के सम्मान,
 परिभा और स्वतंत्र कार्य वातावरण
 की रक्षा के उद्देश्य से सभी
 अधिवक्ताओं को सोमवार 11 मई
 को न्यायालय में लाल रिबन
 लगाकर उपस्थित होने का अनुरोध
 किया गया है। एसोसिएशन ने कहा
 कि यह सांकेतिक विरोध युवा
 अधिवक्ताओं की एकजुटता व्यक्त
 के लिए है। एसोसिएशन ने ये भी

कहा कि अधिकताओं को सीखने और अपने पेशेवर दायित्वों का निर्वहन करने का उचित अवसर मेलना चाहिए। मानवीय भूल के कारण उनके साथ कठोर व्यवहार नहीं होना चाहिए। एसोसिएशन की ओर से सभी सदस्यों से इस सकाैतिक विरोध की प्रशंसा के दौरान न्यायालय की गरिमा और पेशेवर अनुशासन बनाए रखने की अपील की गई है। इसे लेकर यंग लॉयर्स एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष फहीम अख्तर, महासचिव वेंकटेश कुमार व कोषाध्यक्ष नेहा कुमारी के संयुक्त हस्ताक्षर से एक नोटिस भी जारी किया गया है। एसोसिएशन की ओर से झारखंड हाईकोर्ट हॉल नं-2, टेबल नं-11 में एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस आयोजित की जाएगी।

Layers within Telangana's caste pyramid

The Union government gives special grants only for those states or regions that are deemed ‘backward’ for their development to bring them on par with others. But what determines if a state is backward?Economic metrics such as gross domestic product and per-capita income are used to measure the relative backwardness of states. Sounds logical, right? Similarly, shouldn’t social justice schemes also focus more on castes that are more backward than others? If yes, how does one measure the relative backwardness of a caste?

For the first time in India, a composite backwardness index (CBI) has been constructed in Telangana to objectively measure the relative backwardness of a caste. The analytical framework is methodologically modest in description and conceptually radical in implication: it produces a single, comparable number for the relative backwardness of each of 242 caste groups, derived from the responses of 3.55 crore people across 75 fields of information. The CBI is built on 42 equally-weighted parameters spanning education, occupation, income, land and assets, living conditions, access to finance, gender and social discrimination. Each caste is scored on a scale of 0 to 126, where a higher score denotes greater backwardness. The least backward caste in Telangana, the Kapu community, scores 12. The most backward, the scheduled caste Dakkal, scores 116. The state average is 81. Above that line lie 135 of the 242 castes, accounting for two-thirds of the population. Below it lie 107, including all 18 general castes. The numbers, for the first time, settle questions that have so far been the province of assertion.The Mandal Commission, whose 1980 report shaped four decades of reservation policy, used 11 parameters and relied largely on field visits and judgement to classify social and educational backwardness. It was a serious effort with the tools then available. The CBI uses 42 parameters and 3.55 crore observations, distinguishes rural and urban living standards within each parameter, and produces a continuous score rather than a binary classification.The CBI provides empirical evidence of the established ugly truth of Indian society—people belonging to SC and ST communities are three times and the backward classes 2.7 times more backward than the general castes. A whopping two-thirds of Telangana’s population belong to really oppressed castes that badly need help.

The index also changes the paradigm of welfare design, which has so far been built around broad clusters such as BC, SC and ST. The data shows that even within these groups, inequality is sharp. The SC Madiga community is more than double the population of SC Malas and 15 percent more backward. Shaik Muslims are five times more numerous than general-caste Muslims and 40 percent more backward. People from the Padmasali BC are actually less backward than the state average. Aggregating these communities into a single category obscures more than it reveals.Nearly a third of the beneficiaries of Telangana’s flagship welfare schemes belong to castes less backward than the state average. The CBI reframes the welfare question itself: instead of filling a common well from which marginalised groups draw in proportion to their population, the state can now deliver resources in proportion to each caste’s backwardness.The CBI also reveals the specific drivers of backwardness. Contrary to popular belief, it is not land ownership but access to English-medium education that is the strongest predictor of where a caste sits on the scale. People from the Lambadi tribe and Mudiraj backward group rank well on irrigated land ownership, but remain among the more backward groups. Meanwhile, the Gouds, goldsmiths and BC Christians score better than the average because of school access.

The gloves are off in Punjab

THE GREAT GAME: The BJP is certainly sharpening its metaphorical knives in the AAP-ruled state

THE Punjab BJP celebrated the victory in the West Bengal elections in a five-star hotel in Chandigarh on Friday evening, barely a day after the Enforcement Directorate cracked down on three Punjabi real-estate developers in Mohali, just outside the garden city. The two incidents are separate but everyone also knows they are connected. The newfound confidence in the BJP stems from what once was an oft-repeated adage : What Bengal does today, the rest of the country does tomorrow.And so, in the air, hangs the question, “Is Punjab next?” It’s a question not just Punjab, but all the country is asking. Certainly, the gloves are off.

Let’s start with the map of India that has turned mostly saffron in the last 12 years since PM Modi took power. Except for Himachal Pradesh and Punjab in the north, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka in the south and Jharkhand in eastern India, the rest of the country today belongs to the BJP. No need to repeat how the dominoes have fallen.We also know the BJP likes to detail. In Bengal, the Special Intensive Revision was thrown into the “poriborton” mix of caste and gender and religion; alongside these pages, senior journalist Jayanta Ghosal writes how the BJP decided to subdue the “Jai Shri Ram” narrative it has favoured elsewhere to focus, instead, on the anti-incumbency ills associated with Mamata Banerjee. Even Bangladesh was not spared in this “no stone to be left unturned” strategy — Dinesh Trivedi, former Trinamool Congress MP who moved to the BJP five years ago, was sent to Dhaka as High Commissioner (a story broken by my colleague Ujwal Jalali) — to showcase its pro-Bengal intent.The focus on Punjab has been a long time coming. PM Modi visited Gurdwara Sachkhand Ballan in February to mark the anniversary of Sant Ravidas, revered by the Sikh Ravidassia sect, while the sect head was given a Padma Shri in January — about 22 per cent of the state’s Sikhs are Dalits. Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini’s forays into Punjab in a turban are well-known.

It seems the seven defector AAP MPs who recently joined the BJP will soon set up camp in Chandigarh — their staffers are already here. Even the banquet for

Vietnamese President To Lam in Rashtrapati Bhavan earlier this week was designed by Punjab celebrity chef Harpal Singh Sokhi (check out his interview and food stories-cum-recipes in The Tribune) — the menu featured Bathinda vaale aloo, Dal Amritsari, and with a nod to Haryana, Hisar bajra khichdi.With speculation gaining ground that elections in Punjab will be held towards the end of the year — Census operations are likely to start by middle-January 2027, which means they can’t overlap with the conduct of polls — the state BJP is certainly sharpening its metaphorical knives. It hasn’t escaped anybody’s notice that the ED named the president of AAP Punjab, Aman Arora, as being linked with one of the realtors raided on Thursday morning.Oh yes, the gloves are off. The BJP is targeting the ruling



AAP. CM Bhagwant Mann is hitting back at the Akali Dal — and implicitly, the BJP — by upping the ante against the 2015 sacrilege incidents that took place when the Akalis-BJP were in power. AAP will certainly fight to keep Punjab, keenly aware it is the only way it will still be taken seriously as the third pole in Indian politics. The recent passage of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026, is also intended to whittle down the incredible influence of the SGPC (and therefore the Akali Dal), which issues AAP-critical statements every day.

Winning Bengal has certainly pumped up the BJP. And yet,

Hung mandate: Let Tamil Nadu Assembly floor decide

The Governor is expected to determine which formation is most likely to command the confidence of the Assembly

TAMIL Nadu’s unfolding post-election uncertainty has once again brought the constitutional role of the Governor under scrutiny. With Vijay’s Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam emerging as the single largest party but falling short of the halfway mark, the question before Raj Bhavan is politically explosive yet constitutionally settled: who should be invited to form the government? The Constitution does not automatically grant the single largest party the right to govern. The Governor is expected to determine which formation is most likely to command the confidence of the Assembly. However, decades of political controversies have shown how this discretionary power can become a source of suspicion, allegations of bias and charges of partisan intervention.The Supreme Court has repeatedly clarified the constitutional position, emphasising that majority must be tested on the floor of the House, not in the

Governor’s subjective satisfaction. The Karnataka 2018 episode is the clearest precedent, when the BJP emerged as the single largest party but lacked a



majority. The Governor invited it to form the government and granted 15 days to prove numbers.

as Delhi’s Lt Governor Taranjit Sandhu — grandson of Teja Singh Samundri, a blue-blooded reformer of the 1920s Gurdwara reform movement and a founder member of the SGPC — discovered, as the BJP candidate for the Amritsar Lok Sabha seat in mid-2024, that the powerful Sikh peasantry wasn’t ready to let him into their villages, even to campaign. (He had much better luck with the Hindu communities.)

That big question remains, even if much else has changed these past two years. Are Punjab’s Sikhs prepared to let the BJP in today?Or, perhaps, that’s not the right question, because it would be folly to think the Sikhs are an undifferentiated, holistic group of people. The right question, perhaps, should be : How will the different Sikh communities, or castes, vote? And will some Sikh castes/communities let BJP candidates in, more than others?Certainly the BJP will attempt to fragment the Sikh vote, in the hope that it can wean some people away. Talk of a BJP-Akali Dal alliance, before or after the poll, refuses to go away, despite Home Minister Amit Shah’s announcement the BJP will fight alone. It’s clear the two parties need each other — the Akalis need the Hindu vote the BJP can provide and the BJP needs the Akali vote.

The big difference between 2024, when BJP-Akali Dal talks fractured over which party would get more seats in the Lok Sabha polls, and now is that most of the country today, including big Bengal, has been coloured saffron. In this scenario, will Shah still be willing to play second fiddle to Akali Dal’s Sukhbir Badal?

Where, you might ask, is the grand old party in this political melee?

The interesting thing about the Congress, which has just dumped its old partner, the DMK, in Tamil Nadu, and won back Kerala on an anti-incumbency Left vote, is that it has a good chance of retaking Punjab — if its various factions can still come together and hang together and woo the citizenry in its favour. (At the moment, though, that seems like a really tough ask.)It may well, then, be time for Punjab to (tunelessly) hum the Satinder Sartaaj two-liner : Saanu saariyaan visar gaiyaan raavan ve/Kehre paase jaiye sajana. All our paths seem to have disappeared/What direction should I take now?

The SC intervened, ordered an immediate floor test to prevent prolonged political manoeuvring and possible defections. Unable to gather support, BJP’s Yediyurappa resigned before the trust vote, after which HD Kumaraswamy formed the government with Congress support. In 2017, in Goa, the Governor invited a post-poll coalition because it demonstrated majority support earlier than the Congress, despite the latter being the largest party. These cases establish a crucial principle: numbers on the Assembly floor matter more than claims outside it.

If Vijay can demonstrate a workable majority, he should be allowed to take oath and face a floor test within days. Equally, if another coalition reaches the majority mark first, it too has a legitimate constitutional claim. Hung verdicts are part of democracy. Constitutional ambiguity should not be.

UAE-Israel ties have deeper historical roots

It is shortsighted for India to give primacy to one Arab peninsula state, as it is doing today



RESPONSIBLE sections of the western media have reported that Israel has deployed its Iron Dome and Iron Beam anti-missile defences in the UAE during this period of intense armed hostilities, currently paused, in the Gulf. Along with the equipment, military personnel have also been sent to the Arab Gulf country. These systems have been sent, for the first time, by Israel outside its territories. Neither Israel nor the UAE have denied the reports; hence, there is no reason to doubt their veracity.The US, under the Trump 1 administration, brokered the normalisation of UAE-Israeli ties in 2020. This was under the rubric of the Abraham Accords. Under their agreement, Israel and the UAE established diplomatic, commercial and security ties. Observers are tracing the deployment of the Iron Dome and the Iron Beam systems to the normalisation of Israel-UAE ties. However, the reasons lie deeper in history.The implacable enmity between Israel and Iran goes back to the beginning of the Khomeini Revolution in 1979. In the past 47 years, Iran has refused to recognise Israel’s right to exist. That was a position taken by all the Arab states until Egypt recognised Israel in 1978, under Anwar-us-Sadat, in the Camp David Accords. The Arab states considered it a sellout, as did Khomeini. This was different from the Shah of Iran’s approach to Israel; the Shah fled Iran in January 1979. Khomeini returned to the country in February that year and soon took it in his iron grip. That system has continued under the Vilayat-e-Faqih framework.

The UAE’s animosity towards Iran has historical roots. It arose from the traditional cultural superciliousness of Persians towards the Arab bedouin and the disdain with which the Shah treated them. This was exhibited when he occupied the Greater and the Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa just days before the UAE was formed in December 1971. The Tunbs were disputed between Iran and Ras al

Khaimah and Abu Musa between Sharjah and Iran. The Iranian action further embittered relations, but the extent and persistence of negativity became clear when in early 1997, the UAE’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (and now Foreign Minister) Abdullah bin Zayed conveyed an astonishing position to India’s then External Affairs Minister IK Gujral. I know this personally and it would be timely to disclose it in more detail than he has done earlier.Gujral visited Tehran and decided to spend a few hours in Abu Dhabi to meet his counterpart on his

way back to Delhi. In Tehran, apart from bilateral ties, he focussed on the situation in Afghanistan, where the Taliban had captured Kabul some five months before his visit. Both Iran and India along with Russia were assisting the anti-Taliban alliance. While an exchange of views on Palestine took place, the situation in the Gulf and Iran-Gulf relations were not on the agenda; there was no need for them to be so.After the Abdullah-Gujral meeting had gone on for some time, after discussions on bilateral ties, the former asked to meet the latter alone.

All officials present, including me, left the chamber. Gujral and Abdullah were together for around 20 minutes. Gujral came out and looked troubled. When some of the accompanying officials were alone with him and could talk to him in confidence, they asked what had happened. His words are embedded in my memory. He said that Abdullah had cautioned him on Iran and then had added these words: "We can imagine ourselves to be in the same trenches with Israel against Iran"! In the context of the times, this was a bombshell. While it was known that Sheikh Zayed, UAE President and Abu Dhabi ruler, as well as some rulers of the six other UAE sheikhdoms did not have positive feelings for Iran, the possibility of their making common cause with Israel against Iran had never been contemplated in Delhi. A little under three decades later, Israel and the UAE have made common cause against Iran and how!

The UAE has moved away in its approaches to society and diplomacy from other Arab Gulf states in recent years. A substantial degree of antipathy has emerged between Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) and Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ), the current Abu Dhabi ruler. UAE senior officials have openly complained that none of the other Arab Gulf states came to their country’s support when it was facing a far higher degree of missile and drone attacks by Iran since the beginning of the present conflict.

This is not far from the facts. In a kind of response, the UAE left OPEC and OPEC+. Having the sixth largest oil reserves and producing over 3 million barrels per day of oil, the UAE is a significant factor in the hydrocarbons world. It will try to chart its own path, but OPEC+ countries will continue to dominate the oil markets. It is likely that the UAE will get more elbow room for taking independent decisions on its oil production, but it will have to align itself on other issues with OPEC +.

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Unstoppable Gurgaon: Between Jan & April, 27,000 crore pumped into new real estate projects

Along stretches such as the Dwarka Expressway and Golf Course Extension Road, new residential towers keep rising as developers commit fresh capital to one of India’s most active housing corridors.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Geopolitical tensions in West Asia have begun to ripple into global real estate markets, with even high-flying hubs like Dubai showing early signs of uncertainty. Elsewhere, technology firms are cutting jobs, hiring has slowed, and households are becoming more cautious about big-ticket purchases. But in Gurgaon, developers continue to bet heavily on real estate.
Along stretches such as the Dwarka Expressway and Golf Course Extension Road, new residential towers keep rising as developers commit fresh capital to one of India’s most active housing corridors.
In the first four months of 2026 alone, nearly Rs 27,000 crore flowed into new real estate projects in the city, according to

Gurugram Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) data until April 30.
The investment push has coincided with Gurgaon continuing to outperform much of the National Capital Region (NCR), supported by infrastructure expansion and a perception that projects are executed faster in the city when compared to nearby markets.
According to a status report submitted by RERA to Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on May 4, the authority has cleared all complaints pending up to 2024, significantly reducing its backlog and streamlining the dispute resolution process for homebuyers. Industry



executives said this has helped restore confidence in the market. “Gurgaon continues to hold a clear edge within

NCR. The employment base is strong and infrastructure is catching up at a pace that actually moves the needle,” said Manik Malik, CEO and president of real estate company BPTP (Business Park Town Planners).
He added that luxury launches across infrastructure-led micro markets were being driven by “real buyers, not just investor activity”.
Rishi Raj, CEO of Conscient Infrastructure, said the rise in project approvals and registrations reflected growing confidence among both

developers and homebuyers.
Some developers described the current momentum as a sign that Gurgaon’s market has matured. Jitender Yadav, director of Roots Developers, said the scale of investment in just four months indicated that the city was moving beyond its earlier boom-and-bust cycles. He pointed to rising demand for plotted developments alongside high-rise projects, particularly in New Gurgaon and along the Dwarka Expressway.
According to the status report, as of May 1, RERA Gurugram has approved 1,057 projects to date, of which 825 are residential. In a statement, the authority noted that the last couple of years have been significant for project registrations in the region.

Express Special: Data ‘leaked’ to China-based firms, Customs officer detained

New Delhi.(Agency)
A Customs department official has been detained by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of Delhi Police for allegedly selling sensitive data to private companies, including firms based in China, The Indian Express has learnt.
The case pertains to an FIR registered by the IFSO unit on March 10 under provisions of the Information Technology Act, the Customs Act, and sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including conspiracy, cheating and breach of confidentiality.
Sources said the accused, identified as Rahul Sinha, is currently in police custody and is being questioned. When contacted, DCP (IFSO) Vinit Kumar confirmed that the matter was under investigation. “The case is under investigation. No further information can be divulged at the moment,” he added. Police said a complaint was filed with the IFSO unit on February 27, alleging the unauthorised access, extraction, disclosure and commercial sale of sensitive customs data from notified protected systems classified as critical information infrastructure. The complaint was submitted by the Joint Director (Data Centre and Cyber Security), Directorate General of Systems.
The complaint alleged that someone had illegally accessed and sold customs data from government systems. The data, pertaining to trade details and confidential information, may have been extracted by misusing passwords, insider access or third-party access, it added. The FIR mentioned that the data stolen was important, as it was processed and stored in central government databases, and comprised both personally identifiable and commercially sensitive information.
“It includes detailed insights into pricing, sourcing patterns, supplier relationships, trade volumes, logistics chains and the market positioning of exporters and importers. If accessed and misused unlawfully, such data can act as economic intelligence, allowing competitors or data brokers to analyse transaction-level pricing and undercut businesses by strategically lowering prices,” the FIR said.

Carrying hope: Against medical odds, woman delivers baby after rare cancer diagnosis

New Delhi.(Agency)
On May 7, as doctors wheeled her into the operation theatre, Kalpana Gupta knew she was fighting two battles at once. Hours later, a baby girl weighing 1.28 kg was delivered and immediately shifted to specialised neonatal care — a fragile but life-affirming moment that marked the end of a journey defined by fear, endurance and medical precision. For the 32-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, the arrival of her daughter carries a deeper meaning. Kalpana earlier lost a child to stillbirth. When she conceived again, hope returned — only to be upended midway through her fifth month by a diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL), an aggressive blood cancer that required urgent treatment.
The diagnosis turned her pregnancy into a medical emergency, forcing doctors to carefully balance the mother’s survival with the safety of the unborn child. What followed was a months-long race against time, marked by constant monitoring and coordinated care.
Kalpana was treated at BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital, where doctors opted for a calibrated approach — initiating chemotherapy while attempting to prolong the pregnancy for as long as it remained medically safe.
“Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia during pregnancy is an extremely rare and high-risk condition. The challenge lies in controlling an aggressive cancer while carefully balancing foetal safety. Through coordinated multidisciplinary care and timely chemotherapy, we were able to stabilise the disease and safely prolong the pregnancy to improve neonatal outcomes,” said Dr Dharma Choudhary, chairman, haemato-oncology, BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital.
For several months, Kalpana underwent treatment under continuous supervision as doctors tracked both disease progression and foetal development. At 32 weeks, however, foetal monitoring showed growth restriction and altered blood flow patterns, prompting doctors to take an immediate decision to deliver.
Led by Dr Alka Sinha, head unit, gynaecology and laparoscopic surgery, the medical team performed an emergency caesarean section on May 7. “This was a highly sensitive pregnancy, not only medically but emotionally, given the patient’s previous pregnancy loss,” Dr Sinha said. “Our focus was to safely extend the pregnancy for as long as possible while continuously monitoring both mother and baby.”

Two die as car hits their bike: Three friends, two IPL passes, and a crash that changed everything

New Delhi.(Agency)
Childhood friends Ajay, Rohit and Hemant had reached the stadium on Friday evening to watch an IPL match, excited for a night of cricket. Rohit, who worked at a tours and travels agency, had arranged the passes. But as they stood at the entry gate, they realised there were only two passes instead of three.
While Rohit and Hemant stayed back to watch the match, Ajay decided to head back home. Hours later, Ajay received a call informing him that Rohit and Hemant had been killed after a car allegedly rammed their motorcycle from behind near Bhajanpura Metro station in Northeast Delhi while they were returning home early Saturday.

Rohit (31) and Hemant (33), both residents of Karawal Nagar, died in the collision. Police said the accused driver, Himanshu (27), has been arrested. This is the second fatal crash involving IPL spectators



in Delhi in the last 12 days, taking the toll in such incidents to four. Police said a team from Khajuri Khas police station rushed to the spot

after receiving information about the accident and found a damaged Bullet motorcycle and a Maruti Celerio car involved in the collision.
The two men suffered grievous injuries and were taken to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead, they added.
“A forensic team inspected the scene and collected evidence. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem. The driver of the car, Himanshu, has been arrested and the offending vehicle seized,” an officer said.
A case under sections 281 (rash or negligent driving) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been lodged.

Tragedy re-run: Returning from IPL match, 2 childhood friends die after car hits bike in Delhi

New Delhi.(Agency)
Two childhood friends were returning home on their Bullet motorcycle after watching the Delhi Capitals versus KKR IPL match on Friday night. The young men had come down the Signature bridge flyover in northeast Delhi’s Khajuri Khas around 11.30 pm.
A speeding car, a silver Maruti Celerio, rammed the bike from behind near the service lane close to the Bhajanpura metro station. While the impact flung both riders into the road, the pillion rider was thrown 15 metres away. The car reportedly spun around three times before crashing into a nearby divider. Doctors declared the two brought dead.
The accident bears similarities to a hit-and-run reported earlier last month when two cousins aged 20 and 14 were killed while returning home after watching an IPL match on a motorcycle in central Delhi’s Ashoka Road. The bikers who died in Friday’s accident were residents of Karawal Nagar. They were identified as Rohit



Kashyap (31), and Hemant Sharma (33).
The car driver, identified as Himanshu (27), a lawyer, was beaten up by locals. People said he was driving over 80 kmph and appeared intoxicated. DCP (northeast) Ashish Kumar Mishra said, “The accused driver has been arrested, and the offending vehicle has been seized.” His blood sample has been sent for testing. Police said the accused was going to a friend’s house in Dayalpur. When saw the seized car, it bore a Delhi High Court Bar Association sticker, and a band tie was hung on the rear-view mirror. Cops are verifying whether Himanshu, a resident of Holambi Kalan in northwest Delhi, is a practising lawyer. A 20-year-old local resident said, “Neither of the bikers were wearing helmets and had suffered severe head injuries.” Another resident, a 45-year-old woman, said, “One of the two men was still a little conscious when we saw him. He kept calling out to us.”

Central Ridge gets ‘reserved forest’ tag. ‘A milestone... move was pending for 3 decades,’ says Delhi CM

New Delhi.(Agency)
Central Ridge has been declared a ‘reserved forest’, giving stronger legal protection to 673.32 hectares of one of Delhi’s most important green zones.

In a significant move that gives stronger legal protection to one of the Capital’s most important ecological zones, the Delhi government has declared approximately 673.32 hectares of the Central Ridge area — that comes under the Western Forest Division and covers parts around Sardar Patel Marg and the President’s Estate — as ‘reserved forest’ under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. “The decision would prove to be a milestone in strengthening Delhi’s natural heritage, biodiversity, and ecological security,” Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was quoted as saying in an official statement by her office on Saturday. The move comes nearly 32 years after Delhi’s Ridge areas were first notified under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act on May 24, 1994. Section 4 is the preliminary notification that starts the process of constituting a reserved forest. Section 20 is

the final notification that gives the area its enforceable reserved forest status after the claims and settlement process is completed. In the statement, the CM was quoted as



saying, “The declaration completed an important process that had been pending for more than three decades.”
Other Ridge areas of the Capital would also soon be notified as reserved forests under Section 20 and that the process is being

expedited, the official statement underlined.
The Central Ridge is one part of the larger Delhi Ridge system, which the Forest Department divides into four main segments — Northern, Central, South-Central and Southern Ridge. Of these, the Southern Ridge is the largest, while the Central Ridge accounts for about 864 hectares in official records. According to the statement, an area spanning approximately 4,080.82 hectares of the Southern Ridge was declared ‘reserved forest’ on October 24 last year. With the present notification of 673.32 hectares, the current government has so far granted the status to 4,754.14 hectares of Ridge areas. The CM said, “The move would help prevent encroachments, illegal activities, and ecological degradation. It would also strengthen conservation and scientific management initiatives being undertaken by the Forest department in Delhi’s Ridge areas.”

NEWS BOX

Militia kill at least 69 in northeast of DR Congo

BUNIA. (Agency)
A militia attack killed at least 69 people in Ituri province in the troubled northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo, local and security sources told AFP Saturday.It was just the latest in a series of attacks in Ituri, a gold-rich province that borders Uganda which has suffered years of deadly conflict.Armed men affiliated with the Codeco militia (Cooperative for the Development of Congo) carried out the attack at the end of April, said the sources.The lack of security in the zone because of the continued presence of Codeco fighters delayed the recovery of the bodies for several days, they added.Security sources put the toll at 69 dead but a local civil protection official, Dieudonne Losa, told AFP that more than 70 people had been killed.
The Codeco militia claims to defend the rights of the mainly farming Lendu community, notably against the mainly pastoral Hema community.Another armed group active in the province, the Convention for the Popular Revolution (CRP), says it fights for the Hema community.They are just two of several armed groups active in the area, which also include the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a group formed by former Ugandan rebels that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group (IS).Local and security sources on Thursday said ADF fighters killed at least 36 people in two days of attacks in Ituri and North Kivu.Since 2021, the Ugandan army has, alongside the Congolese military, been deployed in the northern part of North Kivu and in Ituri to fight the ADF.
The Congolese army sometimes uses Codeco as an auxiliary force.Earlier on Saturday, the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo warned of a "deadly" wave of attacks in the country's restive east targeting civilians.

Faint Meow In Mississippi Tornado Rubble Leads To Stunning Rescue

Mississippi.(Agency)
As storm chaser Ashton Lemley picked his way through a tornado-ravaged Mississippi trailer park, he heard the unmistakable meow of a kitten pierce the predawn darkness.The homes were flattened just hours earlier as storms spawned at least three tornadoes across the bottom half of Mississippi, injuring a dozen at the trailer park in the rural community of Bogue Chitto.
Lemley had no idea where the kitten was, but he was determined to find it. After a few minutes, the meowing stopped, and Lemley feared the worst. Then, five minutes later, he heard it again.
“I said, ‘Oh, he's still alive!’” Lemley told The Associated Press on Thursday.Lemley quickly dug under insulation from a flattened wall until his flashlight beam found the kitten — wet, scared and hiding between two wooden posts.Lemley captured the moment on video: “Oh my goodness, I found him!” he says to the camera. "Are you OK? Come here – it's OK. ... We'll get you cleaned up, baby. Don't you worry.Lemley held the kitten in his arms for a few minutes before handing it off to the commander of the United Cajun Navy, a volunteer disaster-response group, who dried it off and took it to safety. Lemley marveled that it didn't appear to be injured.“I've been in these situations so many times,” said Lemley, who has been chasing storms since 2010. “I don't try to get overly emotional. But it is very heartbreaking to see any type of animal or human go through something like that.”

Israel Built And Defended A Secret Base In Iraq For Iran War: Report

World.(Agency)
Israel set up a clandestine military outpost in the Iraqi desert to support its air campaign against Iran and launched airstrikes against Iraqi troops who nearly discovered it, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday, citing people familiar with the matter including U.S. officials.
Israel built the installation, which housed special forces and served as a logistical hub for the Israeli air force, with the knowledge of the U.S. just before the start of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, the newspaper said. It also included search-and-rescue teams positioned to assist any downed Israeli pilots, the Journal said.
Reuters could not independently verify the report. There was no immediate response from the Israeli prime minister's office to a Reuters request for comment. The base was almost discovered in early March after Iraqi state media said a local shepherd



reported unusual military activity, including helicopter movements in the area.Iraqi troops were dispatched to investigate, but Israeli forces used airstrikes to keep them at a distance and prevent the site from being discovered, the paper said, citing one of the sources.The Journal cited a complaint filed with the United Nations later in March in which Iraq said the attack involved foreign forces and airstrikes and attributed it to the U.S. The WSJ cited a person familiar with the matter as saying the United States was not involved in the attack.

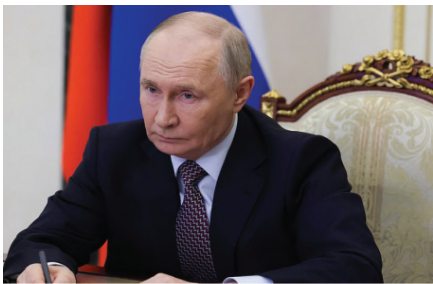
Putin says Ukraine war winding down, blasts West for backing Kyiv

Moscow and Kyiv traded accusations of violations, but no major strikes were reported, despite continued drone activity and civilian casualties on both sides.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (Agency)
Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday said the war in Ukraine was winding down, slamming Western support for Kyiv, as the first day of a US-brokered ceasefire was marked by mutual accusations of violations.Putin spoke after telling soldiers at the scaled-down parade in Moscow that they were fighting an "aggressive force" in Ukraine, backed by all of NATO and describing his war goals as "just".The Russian leader has made the memory of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War II a central

narrative of his 25-year rule and repeatedly invoked it to justify his Ukraine offensive.Russian authorities typically mark the Victory Day parade with pomp and grandeur. But a spate of Ukrainian long-range attacks in recent weeks prompted the Kremlin to ramp up security measures and downsize this year's celebrations.When asked after the parade whether the Western military aid to Ukraine had gone too far, Putin said: "They started ratcheting up the confrontation with Russia, which continues to this day."
"I think it (the conflict) is heading to an end but it's still a serious matter."
"They spent months waiting for Russia to suffer a crushing defeat, for its statehood to collapse. It didn't work out."
"And then they got stuck in that groove and now they can't get out of it," Putin said, referring to the Western countries.
Putin added he was ready to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a third country only once all conditions for a potential peace agreement were settled.Ceasefire violations

After two failed attempts at truces this week by both Russia and Ukraine, US President Donald Trump on Friday announced that a three-day ceasefire between both sides



would come into effect from Saturday.
Moscow and Kyiv traded accusations of violations, but no major strikes were reported, despite continued drone activity and civilian casualties on both sides.
"Hopefully, it is the beginning of the end of a very long, deadly, and hard fought War," Trump posted on his Truth Social network, adding the ceasefire would be accompanied by a prisoner exchange.

The Kremlin said that as of now there were no plans to prolong the truce.The warring sides also agreed to swap 1,000 prisoners each during the truce. But Putin said Saturday that Russia had not yet received any proposals from Ukraine on the exchange.Scaled-down parade
The parade was vastly smaller compared to previous years, with no military hardware on display for the first time in nearly two decades and only a handful of foreign dignitaries in attendance -- most of them leaders of Russia's close allies.
In an address to the parade, attended by Russian military units as well as soldiers from North Korea, Putin invoked the Soviet victory to rally support for his army in Ukraine."The great feat of the generation of victors inspires the soldiers carrying out the goals of the special military operation today," Putin said."They are confronting an aggressive force armed and supported by the entire NATO bloc. And despite this, our heroes move forward," he said."I firmly believe that our cause is just," he added later.

Car bomb attack on checkpoint kills at least 12 in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR.(Agency)
Militants detonated a car bomb at a checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan and opened fire on police, killing at least 12 and wounding five, officials said on Sunday."Last night in the Fateh Khel area of Bannu, a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a police checkpoint, after which multiple militants entered the post," Bannu police official Muhammad Sajjad Khan told AFP.He said that 12 officers were confirmed dead with one more missing, the latest attack in the border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during a wave of militancy that has strained ties between Islamabad and Kabul.

Gunmen stormed the police checkpost after the car blast, opening fire, according to officials who said they



also used small drones in the attack.
"During the assault, the militants used quadcopters along with heavy weaponry," a senior administrative

official in Bannu told AFP on condition of anonymity."In addition, while retreating, the attackers took police personnel and weapons from the station with them," he added.Bannu has been gripped in recent years by militant activity that has grown across Pakistan's border regions.The Taliban government in Kabul denies Pakistan's accusations that Afghan territory is a safe harbour for militants, but the frosty relationship has spiralled into deadly armed conflict, including Pakistani airstrikes on cities in Afghanistan in recent months.

Israeli drone strikes near Beirut kill four, southern airstrikes kill at least 13

BEIRUT.(Agency)
Three Israeli drone strikes on vehicles just south of Beirut on Saturday killed four people while a series of airstrikes on southern Lebanon killed at least 13, including a man and his 12-year-old daughter, state media and the Health Ministry said.The three drone strikes south of Beirut marked another escalation since a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah went into effect on April 17. Both Israel and Hezbollah have continued their daily attacks despite the truce.On Wednesday night, Israel's air force carried out an airstrike on a southern suburb in which Israel said it killed a senior Hezbollah military official. It was the first strike near the capital since the ceasefire was reached.Two of the strikes on Saturday took place on the highway linking Beirut with the southern port city of Sidon in which several people were wounded, while the third happened on a road leading to Lebanon's Chouf region killing three, the state-run National News Agency said.An Associated Press journalist at the scene saw a dead body on the highway in the town of Saadiyat.The Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on the southern village of Saksakiyeh killed at least

seven, including a child, and wounded 15. The ministry said this was an initial count.The agency reported strikes in southern Lebanon, including one on the village of Bourj Rahhal that killed three and another in Maifadoun that killed one.The Health Ministry, meanwhile, said three Israeli drone



strikes killed a Syrian man who was riding a motorcycle with his 12-year-old daughter in the city of Nabatiyeh.
The ministry said that after the initial strike, the man and his daughter managed to move away from the site only to be attacked again by the drone instantly killing the man. The girl then moved about 100 meters (yards) away and was hit again by the drone after she had been already wounded. The girl later died in a hospital, NNA said.
"The Ministry of Public Health

denounces this barbaric targeting and the deliberate violence against civilians and children in Lebanon," the ministry said in its statement added that the strike marks an ongoing series "of grave violations of International Humanitarian Law."The Israeli military said Hezbollah fired explosive drones into Israel near the border with Lebanon adding that three soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously, in one of the attacks. It added that Hezbollah fired drones inside Lebanon as well in which one hit an Israeli vehicle without inflicting casualties.
Hezbollah claimed several attacks inside Lebanon as well as firing a drone at an Israeli military post in the northern town of Misgav Am.The latest war between Israel and Hezbollah began on March 2, when Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel, two days after the United States and Israel launched a war on Hezbollah's main backer, Iran. Israel has since carried out hundreds of airstrikes and launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon, capturing dozens of towns and villages along the border.

Iran warns US against attacks on its oil tankers, other ships but ceasefire appears to hold

JAKARTA.(Agency)
Iran's Revolutionary Guard navy on Saturday warned that any attack on Iranian oil tankers or commercial vessels would be met with a "heavy assault" on one of the US bases in the region and enemy ships, even as a tenuous ceasefire appeared to be holding.
Iranian state TV reported the warning a day after the United States struck two Iranian oil tankers, casting doubt on the month-old ceasefire that the US has insisted is still in effect. The US military said the tankers were trying to breach its blockade of Iran's ports.Meanwhile Bahrain, which hosts the US Navy's regional headquarters, said it arrested dozens of people it alleged had links to Iran's Revolutionary Guard.
Washington awaits Iran's response to its latest proposal for a deal to end the war, reopen the Strait of Hormuz to shipping and roll back Tehran's disputed nuclear program. And Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow's proposal to take enriched uranium from Iran to help negotiate a settlement remains on the table.
Bahrain says arrests were linked to Guard funding attemptBahrain said it had arrested 41 people it said are part of a group affiliated with the Revolutionary Guard. The interior ministry said investigations confirmed they were in contact with the Guard and collected funds "with the aim of sending them to Iran" to support its "terrorist operations."
The small Persian Gulf island is led by a Sunni Muslim monarchy but, like Iran, has a majority Shiite population. Rights groups have said the kingdom has used the war between Iran and the US, which bases its Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, as an excuse to crack down on dissent.Iran issued a warning to Bahrain: "Siding with the U.S.-backed resolution will bring severe consequences. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital lifeline; do not risk closing it on yourselves FOREVER," Ebrahim Azizi, head of the national security commission of Iran's parliament, said on social media.
Iran has mostly blocked the critical waterway for global energy since the US and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28, causing a global spike in fuel prices and rattling world markets.The US has imposed its own blockade of Iran's ports. US Central Command said on Saturday its forces had turned back 58 commercial ships and "disabled" four since the blockade began April 13.Britain deploys warship to the Middle East
Britain's defense ministry said it was deploying a warship to the Middle East to join a potential mission to protect commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz once hostilities end.

Iran's Guards threaten US Mideast sites as Trump awaits Tehran response

TEHRAN.(Agency)
Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards threatened Saturday to target US sites in the Middle East if its tankers come under fire, Iranian media reported, as Washington was left waiting for Tehran's response to its latest negotiating position."Any attack on Iranian tankers and commercial vessels will result in a heavy attack on one of the American centres in the region and enemy ships," the Guards said, a day after US strikes on two Iranian tankers in the Gulf of Oman.US President Donald Trump had said on Friday he was expecting Iran's answer to Washington's latest proposal for a peace deal "supposedly tonight".But if Tehran sent Pakistani mediators a response, there was no public sign of it, and Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reportedly questioned the rliability of US leadership."The recent escalation of tensions by American forces in the Persian Gulf and their numerous actions in violating the ceasefire have added to suspicions about the motivation and seriousness of the American side in the path

of diplomacy," he said in a call with his Turkish counterpart, according to Iran's ISNA news agency.On Friday, a US fighter jet fired on and disabled two Iranian-flagged tankers that Washington accused of challenging its blockade of Iran's ports. An Iranian military official told local media the navy had responded with strikes.That incident followed another flare-up the night before in the Strait of Hormuz, the vital international sea lane that Iran is seeking to control in order to extract tolls and wield economic leverage over the United States and its allies.The US says it is unacceptable for Tehran to control the key oil route.Washington has sent Iran, via Pakistani mediators, a proposal to extend the truce in the Gulf to allow for talks on a final settlement of the conflict, launched 10 weeks ago with US-Israeli strikes on Iran.A reporter for French broadcaster LCI, Margot Haddad, said Saturday that Trump had told her in a brief interview he still expected to find out Iran's answer "very soon".Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said Friday the proposal was

still "under review".Oil slickTop US diplomat Marco Rubio met Saturday with the leader of Qatar, a key intermediary for



Washington in dialogue with Iran, discussing "continued close coordination to deter threats and promote stability and security across the Middle East," the State Department said.Qatar's Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met the previous day with US Vice President JD Vance to discuss the

Pakistani-led efforts to broker a permanent peace.Iran has attacked sites in Qatar during the war, pointing to the wealthy emirate's role as host of a major US air base.Meanwhile, satellite images have shown an apparent oil slick spreading off the coast of Iran's Kharg Island, a key oil export terminal for the Islamic republic.It was not immediately clear what caused the apparent spill, which was off the island's west coast and appeared to cover more than 20 square miles (52 square kilometres), according to global monitor Orbital EOS.A UK-based non-governmental organisation, the Conflict and Environment Observatory, told AFP that by Saturday the slick was "much reduced", and may have been caused by leaking oil infrastructure.Kharg Island is at the heart of Iran's oil export industry, a lynchpin of its battered economy, and lies in the Gulf far north of the narrow Strait of Hormuz.Following the start of the war on February 28, Iran largely closed the strait, throwing global markets into turmoil and driving up oil prices.

NEWS BOX

Sanju Samson puts full stop to CSK captaincy noise: Don't go to new home with demands

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sanju Samson seems to have put a full stop to the Chennai Super Kings captaincy rumours with a simple message. Samson was traded in from the Rajasthan Royals ahead of the IPL 2026 season in a trade deal worth Rs. 18 Crore, with many feeling he would come into the team as the new skipper, replacing Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Pundits have commented on the possibility of Samson getting the CSK captaincy in the future, with R Ashwin saying that the wicketkeeper will be the skipper of the five-time IPL champions in a few years time.

"I'm no astrologer, but I do see Sanju captaining CSK at some stage. I don't know when, but I feel it could happen," said Ashwin.

Now, Samson himself has talked about all the chatter around him and CSK captaincy. In the latest episode of the Super Kings podcast, Samson told Abhinav



Mukund that he didn't want to come to a new home with a lot of demands

"I already had a team. I was already settled in a place. So I wanted to come out of there and join another team. In that kind of transaction, you can't actually have demands. Honestly, when you are trying to get into a new home, you don't go there with demands — that's what I've learned, to be very honest."

"You go there and try to prove your worth. You try to behave the way you are, perform to the maximum, and then take things forward from there," said Samson.

THE MALAYALI ETHOS

Samson pointed out to his Malayali roots and the work ethic of the people from Keralam, who work in different places around the globe for many years.

"And there's another thing as well. Like in Chennai, there are a lot of people working from different places. There are many Malayalis here."

Carried Dhoni's Boost bottle cutout: When long-haired Mahi left young Samson in awe



Sanju Samson said sharing the CSK dressing room with MS Dhoni feels like living a childhood dream. Samson recalled as a kid he was starstruck by a long-haired Dhoni and shared how he carried the cutout of the CSK legend in his personal diary.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sanju Samson said he is living every kid's dream, sharing the CSK dressing room with MS Dhoni and recalled being left in awe of the Indian legend during his childhood. Samson has been an ardent fan of Dhoni for a long time and has openly talked about coming to CSK and spending time with the former Indian captain.

During the latest episode of the Super Kings podcast, Samson revealed the story about how his fandom of Dhoni started.

The wicketkeeper said he was a young kid when he first saw Dhoni play while sporting his iconic long hair look.

"I was in 4th or 5th standard, very small then. I remember seeing this guy with long hair walking out to bat for India. He would get out in a couple of games and then suddenly score a hundred against Pakistan. He scored 183,

then he kept scoring big runs after that. From that moment, I became a huge fan of his," said Samson.

Samson revealed that he became such a big fan of Dhoni, that he started carrying the cutout of the legendary wicketkeeper from popular kids drink, Boost, on his personal diary.

"He was everywhere after that — posters, media, advertisements. He used to feature in Boost ads. At home, we used to drink Boost and there was a sticker on the bottle. I remember cutting Mahi bhai's face out from that sticker and sticking it on my diary," said Samson.

FEEL FORTUNATE TO BE HERE'

The CSK star revealed that he frequently chats with Dhoni and the IPL legend advises him constantly.

"From that moment to where I am now, what more can I say? I sit with him, talk with him, play games with him, go to his room and ask him anything I want. He advises me as well. It's been a dream, actually more than a dream. I think any kid would dream about this and I feel very fortunate to be here," said Samson.

Samson has scored 402 runs in 10 matches while Dhoni is yet to feature in a game for LSG.

RCB vs MI Preview: Bengaluru seek answers in Raipur as Virat Kohli looks to find form

New Delhi. (Agency)

The IPL playoff race enters a crucial phase on Sunday with a double-header that could significantly shape the points table, with several teams still fighting to secure their place in the top four.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will be looking to get their campaign back on track when they face the Mumbai Indians at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.

RCB remain firmly in the playoff hunt, but recent results have slowed their momentum at an important stage of the season.

Virat Kohli's lack of runs has added to their concerns, especially with Phil Salt's injury disrupting the balance at the top of the order.

Mumbai, meanwhile, appears to be finding rhythm at the right time and will see this as a chance to strengthen their own playoff push.

Earlier in the day, Chennai Super Kings will host Lucknow Super Giants at a packed Chepauk in another high-stakes contest.

Lucknow head into the clash with renewed confidence after ending their losing streak with a big win over RCB, while Chennai will know another setback could seriously dent their qualification hopes.

With playoff spots still up for grabs, Sunday promises two matches with plenty on the line.

CAN MI GET THEIR STARS FIRING TOGETHER?

Much has been said about the Mumbai Indians this season, but on paper, they still boast one of the strongest playing XIs in the competition.

The challenge has been turning bat.

Suryakumar Yadav's inconsistent returns remain a concern, even though he has shown in recent games that quick starts are not the issue.

The key may be giving himself a little more time rather than forcing the pace too early.

Captain Hardik Pandya, meanwhile, is yet to have the kind of influence he enjoyed during his Gujarat Titans stint.

Mumbai will need him to step up as both leader and all-round performer to keep their playoff hopes firmly alive.

But before all that he would need to prove that he is fit and ready to play.

IS ATTACK THE BEST DEFENCE FOR RCB?

Following their defeat in the previous game, Rajat Patidar said Royal Challengers Bengaluru did not want to adopt a defensive mindset.

While that intent reflects a positive approach, T20 cricket is not always about constant aggression.

There are phases in a game where soaking up pressure and waiting for the right moment to counterattack can be just as effective.

That is where RCB may need to reassess their approach, especially with Virat Kohli struggling for rhythm.

Kohli has never been a batter who needs to force the pace from ball one.

GT consistency better than Vaibhav Sooryavanshi destruction: Hayden's blunt take

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Matthew Hayden was one of the most destructive batters in world cricket during his playing career, but the current Gujarat Titans batting coach would prefer his top three's consistency over the Vaibhav Sooryavanshi carnage.

Hayden made the comments during the press conference after GT's thumping win over RR in Jaipur on Saturday, May 9.

During the game, Sooryavanshi scored 36 runs off 16 balls to give RR the initial take-off, but was dismissed in the third over.

At the same time, Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill scored fifties and put on a 118-run stand in 65 balls.

Gill batted till the 17th over, scoring 84 off 44 balls.

Hayden said that while it was exciting to see a talent like Sooryavanshi and his blistering cameos, in a 200-plus chase, batting deep is very important.

The GT batting coach praised the trinity of Gill, Sudharsan and Buttler for constantly going at a 150 strike-rate in the tournament and playing Test and ODI-type cricket rather than being swayed by the pull of explosive batting.

"Well, tonight was a good example, right, of an exciting young talent in Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. He batted, got 30 runs at a strike rate of 300. But when you're chasing 220 odd, you need to bat longer and deeper. So the advantage that we have is that we get players, like the top three that you mentioned, who are striking at 150."

"Let me tell you as a batter, that is really hard, and they're doing it for a long period of time, they're constantly getting into the back half of the game, not just batting inside the powerplay. They're going right through with their fitness and their ability to be able to really play Test match-type cricket, and ODI cricket in particular."

"So, I love the fact that we're going about constructing in innings. Tonight, where we're setting a target, which is a different challenge for us, we've had a number of totals in that sort of 160 range. Which I would back our batting to get through any day of the week, so it was nice tonight to have that bit of a challenge against an X factor team like Rajasthan Royals, and to come out on top was really important for us," said Hayden.

teenage sensation Kumkum Mohod overcame the home side 5-4 after prevailing 28-26 in the tie-breaker following a fiercely contested final that ended 4-4 after regulation.

The triumph carried extra significance for the Indian side, which had earlier knocked out powerhouse South Korea — winners of 10 Olympic gold medals in the discipline — in the semifinals.

It marked India's first women's recurve team title at a World Cup event since 2021.

Deepika, a veteran of India's successful World Cup campaigns in Guatemala City and Paris in 2021, added another milestone to her decorated career, claiming her seventh World Cup team gold medal overall.

The medal also ended a three-year wait for the Indian women's recurve team at the World Cup level, with their previous podium finish coming in Paris in 2023.

India's medal tally in Shanghai had already begun on a positive note after compound archer Sahil Jadhav secured bronze a day earlier.

The country also remained in the hunt for another medal, with Simranjeet Kaur reaching the recurve semifinals and moving within touching distance of her first individual World Cup podium finish.

DEEPIKA SHINES FOR INDIA

Competing without a permanent national coach due to the ongoing uncertainty around appointments, the Indian women relied heavily on Deepika's leadership and experience throughout the contest.

While designated coach Prafull Dange stayed mostly on the sidelines, Deepika constantly encouraged and guided the team during crucial moments against a partisan crowd and an energetic Chinese support staff.

China fielded a young lineup featuring Zhu Jingyi, Huang Yuwei and teenage archer Yu Qi, all relatively new to the World Cup circuit.

India started strongly and narrowly captured the opening set 54-53, with Deepika leading the way through consecutive 10s.

Ankita and Kumkum, however, showed signs of inconsistency early on.

The momentum shifted in the second set.

Although India briefly held an advantage midway through the round, China responded with a superb finish to register 55 points.

India faltered at the end, and Deepika's final arrow landed in the 7-ring, allowing the hosts to level the scores at 2-2.

China then edged ahead in the third set after a successful review upgraded one of their arrows from an 8 to a 9, giving them a slender 57-56 set win and a 4-2 overall lead.

Daniel Dubois shakes off knockdowns, stops Fabio Wardley to become two-time heavyweight champion



MANCHESTER. (Agency)

Daniel Dubois showed up late, got knocked down early and still beat Fabio Wardley to become a two-time heavyweight champion on Saturday.

Dubois stopped Wardley in the 11th round to win the WBO heavyweight title at the Co-op Live arena after reportedly being delayed by traffic on his arrival.

Wardley dropped Dubois (23-3, 22 KOs) just 10 seconds into the bout with an overhand right, and again in the third round, but the former IBF champion rebounded both times and dominated from there by landing heavy rights that produced swelling and bleeding on Wardley's face.

"I know I've got heart, bundles of heart, I'm a warrior in there," said Dubois, whose resolve had been questioned in the past.

"What a great fight, what a great battle. I'm No. 1 again."

Wardley absorbed blow after blow without going down before referee Howard Foster halted the bout early in the 11th.

It's the first professional loss for Wardley (20-1-1, 19 KOs). He was making his first title defense.

He's a durable guy... a great warrior," Dubois said.

"It was an honor to be in the ring with him."

"Dubois lost his IBF belt to Oleksandr Usyk via a fifth-round knockout at Wembley Stadium last July. It was his second loss to Usyk.

Dubois could be on a collision course with rising star Moses Itauma, who was ringside.

WBO president Gustavo Olivieri has said after Itauma's demolition of Jermaine Franklin he'll recommend the British southpaw become the WBO mandatory challenger.

Frank Warren, the promoter for both Dubois and Wardley, said in the ring, however, that there's a rematch clause in the contract.

Usyk holds the WBA, WBC and IBF belts.

The 39-year-old Ukrainian's next bout is against former kickboxing champion Rico Verhoeven on May 23 at the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

Chelli stuns Morrell on undercard

London light heavyweight Zak Chelli scored a big upset by stopping Cuban southpaw David Morrell in the 10th round.



Nora Fatehi

To Perform At FIFA World Cup
2026 Opening Ceremony In Toronto,
Joins Star-Studded Lineup

Nora Fatehi is set to perform and sing at the FIFA World Cup 2026 Opening Ceremony, which will take place on 12th June 2026 at BMO Field in Toronto, Canada marking another major milestone in her international journey. The appearance further cements her growing presence on one of the world's biggest and most-watched entertainment and sporting platforms.

Nora Fatehi Among Star-Studded Lineup for FIFA World Cup 2026 Opening Ceremony

The star-studded lineup was officially announced today, on May 9. Nora will join an exciting global lineup featuring Alanis Morissette, Alessia Cara, Elyanna, Jessie Reyez, Michael Bublé, Sanjoy, VegeDream, and William Prince. Meanwhile, the USA opening ceremony lineup includes global music icons Anitta, Future, Katy Perry, Lisa, Rema, and Tyla, making FIFA World Cup 2026 a spectacular blend of international music, culture, and entertainment. Her inclusion in the lineup highlights her rising stature as an internationally recognised performer with a strong cross-cultural appeal.

Having previously delivered a memorable showcase during FIFA World Cup celebrations in 2022, Nora's return to the global stage reflects the increasing demand for her as a performer who seamlessly blends music, dance, and stage spectacle.

Over the years, Nora Fatehi has built a strong association with international stages and global sporting events, including appearances linked to the T20 World Cup. Her upcoming act at the FIFA World Cup 2026 Opening Ceremony is expected to be another defining moment in her global career.

As she takes the stage in Toronto alongside internationally celebrated artists, all eyes will be on Nora Fatehi as she brings her signature energy, music, and performance power to one of the grandest spectacles in the world.

Meanwhile, Nora Fatehi is also gearing up for the release of her I-Pop track 'Body Roll' featuring Honey Singh, dropping today. With its global appeal, the track has already created massive anticipation among audiences worldwide.



Neetu Kapoor Reveals Raha Kapoor Is 'Scared' Of Her Mom Alia Bhatt, Calls Ranbir Kapoor Her 'Friend'



Veteran actress Neetu Kapoor is currently enjoying rave reviews for her performance in Daadi Ki Shaadi. The film, also starring Kapil Sharma, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, and Sadia Khateeb, hit theatres on May 8, and it has been receiving positive reviews from the audience. Recently, while promoting the film, Neetu Kapoor candidly opened up about her granddaughter Raha Kapoor. The veteran actress also showered praise on Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor for the way they are raising their daughter. During her appearance on Soha Ali Khan's podcast, Neetu Kapoor spoke about Raha's bond with Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor. She said, "Raha listens to Alia and she is a great mother, but Ranbir is like a friend to her. He does all the fun and masti with her, but she is very scared of her mother because Alia is a disciplinarian." Praising Alia's parenting style, Neetu Kapoor shared that the actress is extremely good with her daughter and is focused on teaching her the right values, including limiting television and avoiding unnecessary distractions.

The veteran actress also humorously revealed that she often has playful disagreements with Alia over pampering Raha too much. She added, "I am always fighting with her, saying, 'Alia, at least let me give her one chocolate.' But she says, 'No, can't you understand sugar is not good for her?'" I tell her, 'It's okay, I am the grandmother, let me spoil her.'"

When asked whether children are generally closer to their maternal grandmothers than their paternal grandmothers, Neetu shared her perspective on the subject. She explained that mothers often speak more about their own mothers, which naturally helps build a stronger bond. However, Neetu added that she feels fortunate because the family lives together, allowing her to share a close relationship with Raha Kapoor, who affectionately calls her "Dida." Ranbir and Alia, who dated each other for quite some time, tied the knot in April 2022. Later in the same year, in November, they welcomed their little bundle of joy, Raha.

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai: Varun Dhawan And Pooja Hegde Chemistry Shine In Tera Ho Jaun Song



The makers of Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai have finally released the romantic track Tera Ho Jaun, and fans are already loving the sizzling chemistry between Varun Dhawan and Pooja Hegde. Packed with dreamy visuals, lyrics and music, the song offers a glimpse into the film's romantic side and has quickly become viral. Recently, Varun Dhawan shared a behind-the-scenes video of the romantic track. Taking to his Instagram handle, Varun Dhawan shared the BTS video and wrote, "@stenben so excited for first song, You and @jonitamusic have taken the song to another level.. song out tomorrow." Saif Ali Khan also was seen promoting the song wow. The actor shared the video in which Saif was seen praising the song.

Initially scheduled to hit theatres on June 5, the film's release date went through multiple changes. It was first pushed to June 12 after Yash announced Toxic for a June 4 release to avoid a clash with Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar 2. Later, the makers surprised fans by preponing the release to May 22, weeks ahead of its original date. However, on April 29, Varun Dhawan dropped a new poster confirming that Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai will now release on June 5 after all. The reshuffle came after Yash shared a detailed note on social media announcing that Toxic would no longer arrive on June 4, prompting the team behind the Varun Dhawan starrer to revert to its initial release plan.

Made under the direction of David Dhawan, "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai" will feature Varun in the lead role, along with Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde as the female leads. Additionally, Rakesh Bedi, Mouni Roy, Chunky Panday, Jimmy Shergill, and Manish Paul will also be a part of the movie's ancillary cast.

On the work front, Pooja was last seen in Retro, alongside Suriya Sivakumar. She has an exciting lineup ahead. The actress will feature in Jana Nayagan starring Thalapathy Vijay. She is also set to appear opposite Dulquer Salmaan in DQ 41, the tentative title marking his 41st film. In Bollywood, she is gearing up for Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, directed by David Dhawan and co-starring Varun Dhawan and Mrunal Thakur, slated for a June 5 release.

Kriti Sanon

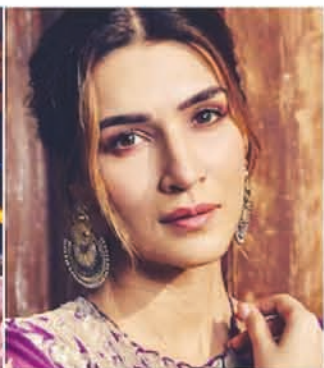
Says She Would Love To Star In Rekha's Biopic: 'She's The Ultimate Baddie'

Kriti Sanon has expressed her admiration for veteran actress Rekha, saying she would love to portray her in a biopic if given the chance. In a recent interview, Kriti called Rekha the 'ultimate baddie', and said that she admires her personality, intelligence, and life journey. While she admitted that she looks nothing like the veteran actress, she said that she would love to portray her.

Kriti Sanon On Wanting To Play Rekha In Her Biopic

In an interview with GQ India, Kriti Sanon was asked whose biopic she would love to star in.

She replied, "Rekha. She's the ultimate baddie. I know I look nothing like her, but I love



her. Her heart, her guts, her aura. She's warm, intelligent, and has lived life on her own terms."

Meanwhile, in the same interview, Kriti also opened up about the ups and downs she faced in her acting journey. She recalled going through phases of frustration and wanting to do better roles before starring in

'Mimi'. "There were roles I came very close to that eventually went to star kids, something that was beyond my control. When you don't come from a film background, there's a great amount of uncertainty you have to deal with. It has been a process of gradual growth, with me taking risks and making more intentional choices. I have earned every opportunity; nothing has been handed to me," she said.

She also revealed making mistakes, and doing films because they seemed significant, despite knowing they didn't offer much for her as an actor. "There was a phase where nothing was working, and it felt confusing. However, I am grateful for that period, because it gave me clarity on what I do not want to pursue. Failures teach you far more than success does," she said. On the work front, she is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming film Cocktail 2, alongside Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna. The film is set to release on June 19.

