

समाचार सार

बोड़ाम में अज्ञात युवक की हत्या कर जंगल में फेंका शव

JAMSHEDPUR : पूर्वो सिंहभूम जिले के बोड़ाम थाना क्षेत्र के मिजाडीह गांव में कुलटांड टोला स्थित जंगल-झाड़ी से सोमवार को एक अज्ञात युवक का शव बरामद किया गया। शव सड़क से लगभग 30 फीट अंदर झाड़ियों के बीच पड़ा मिला। सूचना मिलने के बाद पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और शव को कब्जे में लेकर जांच शुरू कर दी। माना जा रहा है कि युवक की हत्या कहीं और कर शव यहां फेंका गया है। पुलिस के अनुसार शव काफी क्षत-विक्षत अवस्था में है। इससे मृतक की पहचान नहीं हो सकी है। प्रारंभिक जांच में मृतक की उम्र लगभग 30 वर्ष है। आशंका जताई जा रही है कि उसकी मौत करीब 6 दिन पहले हुई होगी। मृतक का चेहरा पूरी तरह खराब हो चुका है, जिससे पहचान करना मुश्किल हो रहा है। उसका कद करीब 5 फीट 2 इंच बताया गया है। युवक के दहिने हाथ में लोहे का कड़ा था। वहीं कलाई के पास अंग्रेजी में लव लिखा टैटू बना है, जबकि उसी हाथ की कोहनी के पास एक डिजाइननुमा टैटू भी है। मृतक के शरीर पर नेवी ब्ल्यू या आसमानी रंग की टीशर्ट है। इस पर अंग्रेजी में प्यूचरलिखा हुआ है। नीचे काले रंग का लोवर है। बोड़ाम थाना प्रभारी नीरज कुमार ने लोगों से अपील की है कि यदि इस हुलिये या विवरण से मिलता-जुलता कोई व्यक्ति किसी भी थाना क्षेत्र से लापता हो, तो इसकी सूचना तत्काल बोड़ाम थाना को दें, ताकि शव की पहचान कर आगे की कानूनी प्रक्रिया पूरी की जा सके।

टीवी नरेंद्रन से मिले बन्ना व सुधा गुप्ता

JAMSHEDPUR : राज्य के पूर्व मंत्री बन्ना गुप्ता व मानगो नगर निगम की मेयर सुधा गुप्ता सोमवार को टाटा स्टील के एमडी टीवी नरेंद्रन से मिले। इस दौरान दोनों ने मानगो नगर निगम के सर्वांगीण विकास एवं नागरिक सुविधाओं के विस्तार को लेकर चर्चा की। इन्होंने बताया कि

मुद्दों पर एमडी ने मानगो के विकास में सहमति दी है, जिसमें मानगो के विभिन्न चौक-चौराहों पर सीसीटीवी कैमरे लगाने, मानगो चौक से डिमना चौक तक मुख्य सड़कों पर नाली निर्माण एवं नियमित सफाई व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करना प्रमुख है। इसके अलावा मानगो के पृथ्वी पार्क एवं नेचर पार्क का सौंदर्यीकरण होगा तथा दोनों जगह ओपन जिम का निर्माण अब टाटा स्टील के सहयोग से किया जाएगा।

ब्रह्मर्षि समाज के शिविर में 194 यूनिट रक्तदान



JAMSHEDPUR : ब्रह्मर्षि विकास मंच की टेलको-बिरसानगर इकाई ने सोमवार को टेलको के राम मंदिर परिसर में डीपी सिंह की पुण्यतिथि पर रक्तदान शिविर का आयोजन किया, जिसमें 194 यूनिट रक्तदान हुआ। इससे पहले अतिथियों ने भगवान परशुराम, स्वामी सहजानंद सरस्वती व डीपी सिंह के चित्र पर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की। शिविर का उद्घाटन मंच के वरिष्ठ पदाधिकारियों और स्व. डीपी सिंह के पुत्र अरुण कुमार सिंह ने संयुक्त रूप से दीप प्रज्वलित कर किया। इस अवसर पर मंच के जिला अध्यक्ष राम नारायण शर्मा ने स्व. डीपी सिंह को नमन करते हुए कहा कि उनके आदर्शों पर चलना ही उन्हें सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि है। शिविर को सफल बनाने के लिए टेलको-बिरसानगर इकाई के अध्यक्ष मृत्युंजय, केबुल इकाई के अध्यक्ष मनोज ठाकुर सहित पूरी टीम सक्रिय रही। इस दौरान 61 वर्ष की उम्र में आदित्यपुर से आकर ब्लड डोनेशन करने वाले सुनील कुमार चौधरी को विशेष रूप से सम्मानित किया गया।

जिला परिषद सदस्य के दो बेटों पर किया गया जानलेवा हमला

PHOTON NEWS CHAIBASA :

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के मुफरिसल थाना क्षेत्र स्थित बिरुवा नगर में रविवार की रात जिला परिषद के सदस्य जवाहर बोईपाई के दो बेटों पर अज्ञात युवकों ने हमला कर दिया। हमले में दोनों गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। घटना के बाद इलाके में सनसनी फैल गई। जानकारी के अनुसार, घटना बिरुवा नगर स्थित होरा प्ले स्कूल के पास जवाहर बोईपाई के किराए के मकान में हुई। रात के समय 8 से 10 की संख्या में पहुंचे युवकों ने जवाहर बोईपाई के पुत्र विजय सिंह बोईपाई और पारिंग बोईपाई पर लाठी-डंडे और धारदार हथियार से हमला किया। हमले में दोनों भाई घायल हो गए। घायलों ने बताया कि हमलावरों के हाथों में धारदार चाकू थे। घटना के



घायल विजय सिंह बोईपाई व पारिंग बोईपाई

● फोटोन न्यूज

दौरान एक हथियार की तस्वीर भी ली गई है। हमले के बाद सभी युवक मौके से फरार हो गए। सूचना मिलने पर जिला परिषद सदस्य जवाहर बोईपाई गांव से चाईबासा पहुंचे। उन्होंने दोनों घायल बेटों को इलाज के लिए सदर अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया। डॉक्टरों के अनुसार दोनों की हालत स्थिर है। शरीर पर कई जगह चोट के निशान हैं। फिलहाल हमले के कारणों का

पता नहीं चल पाया है। पुरानी रंजिश या आपसी विवाद की आशंका जताई जा रही है। मुफरिसल थाना की पुलिस मौके पर पहुंचकर जांच में जुट गई है। पुलिस आसपास के लोगों से पूछताछ कर रही है। हमलावरों की पहचान के लिए सीसीटीवी फुटेज भी खंगाले जा रहे हैं। पुलिस ने बताया कि जल्द ही मामला दर्ज कर आरोपियों की गिरफ्तारी की जाएगी।

PHOTON NEWS CHAIBASA :

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के सोनुवा रेलवे स्टेशन के पास रविवार की रात ट्रेन की चपेट में आने से मरे युवक और युवती की पहचान हो गई है। दोनों सोनुवा प्रखंड के भालुरूंगी गांव के निवासी थे और प्रेमी युगल बताए जा रहे हैं। पुलिस ने मोबाइल के सिम से उनकी शिनाख्त की। घटना के बाद इलाके में सनसनी फैल गई। जानकारी के अनुसार बीती रात रेलवे ट्रैक के किनारे दोनों के शव मिले थे। पास से एक बैग बरामद हुआ। बैग में कपड़े और ट्रेन के तीन टिकट मिले। टिकट सोनुवा से राउरकेला, राउरकेला से पुरी और टाटा से चक्रधरपुर के थे। युवक की जेब से एक बंद मोबाइल फोन भी मिला। पहचान न होने से मामला उलझा था। पुलिस ने मोबाइल से



घटनास्थल से शव उठाते मजदूर

● फोटोन न्यूज

सिम निकालकर दूसरे फोन में डाला। तभी युवक के परिजनों का कॉल आ गया। कॉल के जरिए मृतकों की पहचान अर्जुन महतो और खुशबू महतो के रूप में हुई। दोनों भालुरूंगी गांव के रहने वाले थे। परिजनों ने बताया कि अर्जुन और खुशबू 21 मई को घर से निकले थे। शाम को ट्रेन से राउरकेला पहुंचे। उसी दिन राउरकेला से पुरी जाने के लिए टिकट कटायी थी। वापसी में टाटा से चक्रधरपुर होते हुए सोनुवा

पहुंचे थे। सोनुवा थाना और रेलवे पुलिस मामले की जांच कर रही है। पुलिस ने बैग, टिकट और मोबाइल जब्त कर लिया है। कॉल डिटेल भी खंगाली जा रही है। थाना प्रभारी ने बताया कि शुरूआती जांच में मामला प्रेम प्रसंग से जुड़ा लग रहा है। लेकिन यह आत्महत्या है या हादसा, पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ही स्पष्ट होगा। फिलहाल शवों को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेजा गया है। परिजनों से पूछताछ जारी है।

मनोहरपुर में हथियार के साथ दो युवक गिरफ्तार

CHAIBASA : पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के आनंदपुर थाना क्षेत्र में पुलिस ने सोमवार को हथियार के साथ दो युवकों को गिरफ्तार किया। सूचना है कि दोनों लेवी वसूलने की फिराक में थे। तलाशी के दौरान एक युवक के पास से हथियार और कारतूस बरामद हुआ है। पुलिस को आशंका है कि दोनों किसी बड़े गिरोह के लिए लेवी वसूलने का काम करते हैं। एसपी अमित रेनु ने बताया कि इन युवकों के तार किस गिरोह से जुड़े हैं, इसकी जांच की जा रही है। पुलिस सूत्रों के अनुसार पकड़े गए युवक क्षेत्र में ठेकेदारों और कारोबारियों से लेवी मांगने की योजना बना रहे थे। गुप्त सूचना के आधार पर छापेमारी कर इन्हें दबीबा गया। एसपी ने बताया कि जिले में अपराधिक गिरोहों पर लगातार नजर रखी जा रही है। लेवी वसूली और अवैध हथियार रखने वालों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई होगी। पुलिस मंगलवार को पूरे मामले को खुलासा करेगी। आनंदपुर थाना क्षेत्र में पिछले कुछ समय से लेवी वसूली की शिकायतें मिल रही थीं।

आयोजन झारखंड स्टेट योगासना स्पोर्ट्स चैंपियनशिप का हुआ समापन, दिव्यांग व माताओं को मिला विशेष सम्मान

रांची की प्रियांशु व देवघर के गौतम बने ‘चैंपियन ऑफ चैंपियंस’

PHOTON NEWS JSR :

कदमा स्थित आंध्रा एसोसिएशन स्कूल के सभागार में आयोजित तृतीय झारखंड स्टेट योगासना स्पोर्ट्स चैंपियनशिप का समापन रविवार को पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह के साथ हुआ। इस आयोजन का संचालन वर्ल्ड फिटनेस फेडरेशन ऑफ योगासना स्पोर्ट्स (डब्ल्यूएफएफआईएस), झारखंड चैप्टर और सरकार योगा एकेडमी के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में किया गया। समारोह में प्रतिभागियों, अभिभावकों और खेल प्रेमियों की बड़ी उपस्थिति देखने को मिली। समापन समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में मुकुल चौधरी मौजूद रहे, जबकि विशिष्ट अतिथि के तौर पर पूर्व विधायक कुणाल षाड़ंगी और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता इंद्रजीत घोष शामिल



कार्यक्रम में मंच पर विजेताओं के साथ अतिथि व आयोजक

● फोटोन न्यूज

हुए। अतिथियों ने विजेताओं को अलग-अलग वर्गों में पुरस्कार और प्रमाणपत्र देकर सम्मानित किया। मुख्य अतिथि मुकुल चौधरी ने कहा कि योगासना अब केलवेल पारंपरिक अस्थाय तक सीमित नहीं रह गया है, बल्कि यह एक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक खेल के रूप में तेजी से अपनी पहचान बना रहा

है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस तरह की प्रतियोगिताएं युवाओं को शारीरिक और मानसिक रूप से मजबूत बनाने में अहम भूमिका निभाती हैं। प्रतियोगिता में पांच वर्ष से लेकर 60 वर्ष से अधिक आयु वर्ग तक के प्रतिभागियों के लिए कुल 12 ग्रुप बनाए गए थे। इसके अलावा दिव्यांग बच्चों के लिए स्टार

कैटेगरी और महिलाओं के लिए माॅस कैटेगरी विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र रही। कार्यक्रम का संचालन अंतरराष्ट्रीय योगगुरु अंशु सरकार और स्मिकी सरकार ने किया। वहीं, पश्चिम बंगाल से आए प्रसाद नंदी मुख्य निर्णायक और गौरांग सरकार मुख्य पर्यवेक्षक की भूमिका में रहे। इस चैंपियनशिप का

प्रमुख विजेता	
मॉॅस कैटेगरी	जूनियर (गर्ल्स)
प्रथम – प्रियांका प्रसाद	प्रथम – प्रियांशु कुमारी
द्वितीय – सुमन वर्मा	द्वितीय – पायल कर्माकर
तृतीय – रचना देवी	तृतीय – नंदिनी राॅय
स्टार कैटेगरी	सीनियर (वीनेन)
प्रथम – अविनाश कुमार सिंह	प्रथम – लकी कुमारी
द्वितीय – गौरव प्रसाद	द्वितीय – रिया कुमारी
तृतीय – कुशल शाह	
चतुर्थ – पंकज मंडल	सुपर सीनियर (मेन)
पंचम – रायन फ्रांसिस	प्रथम – शत्रुंजय कुमार
सब- जूनियर (बॉयज)	द्वितीय – आशीष कुमार
प्रथम – सिद्धार्थ सनम एवं रक्षित चंद्र झा	तृतीय – सतीष कुमार
द्वितीय – हर्ष मुंडा	मास्टर्स (मेन)
तृतीय – आदर्श कुमारी	प्रथम – जगदीश सिंह
	द्वितीय – श्याम सुंदर
	तृतीय – देवीलाल महतो

सबसे बड़ा आकर्षण चैंपियन ऑफ चैंपियंस प्रतियोगिता रही, जिसमें रांची की प्रियांशु कुमारी

और देवघर के गौतम कुमार ने शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हुए विजेता बनने का गौरव हासिल किया।

करती थीं दिखीं। महिलाओं ने आरोप लगाया कि सरकार और जिला प्रशासन ने सत्यापन प्रक्रिया के लिए पर्याप्त इंतजाम नहीं किए, जिससे उन्हें काफी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। वहीं भाजपा नेता अभय चौबे ने भी जिला प्रशासन पर सवाल उठाते हुए इसे प्रशासनिक विफलता बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि महिलाओं को सत्यापन के नाम पर भीषण गर्मी में परेशान किया जा रहा है। मौके पर न पानी की व्यवस्था है और न ही छांव की सुविधा। उन्होंने मांग की कि महिलाओं की परेशानी को देखते हुए स्थानीय नगर निकाय, नगर निगम और प्रज्ञा केंद्रों में भी सत्यापन केंद्र बनाए जाएं, ताकि दूर-दराज से आने वाली महिलाओं को राहत मिल सके।

जादूगोड़ा में बाइक-ऑटो की टक्कर, एक युवक की मौत

JAMSHEDPUR : पूर्वो सिंहभूम जिला अंतर्गत जादूगोड़ा थाना क्षेत्र में नरवा पहाड़झादगुोड़ा मुख्य सड़क के किनारे जादघुटू के पास रविवार को देर रात सड़क हादसा हो गया। इस हादसे में बाइक सवार एक युवक की मौत हो गई, जबकि दूसरा गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गया। जानकारी के अनुसार, रात करीब साढ़े नौ बजे जादूगोड़ा से नरवा पहाड़ की ओर जा रही एक बाइक पर दो युवक सवार थे। इसी दौरान विपरीत दिशा से आ रही एक ऑटो से उनकी जोरदार भिड़ंत हो गई। टक्कर इतनी तेज थी कि दोनों युवक गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। मृतक की पहचान जादूगोड़ा थाना क्षेत्र के राजदोहा स्थित खुर्शा टोला निवासी सुरेंद्र हांसदा (30) के रूप में हुई है। वहीं, पोटका के राजदोहा निवासी दशमत हांसदा गंभीर रूप से



घायल है। उसका इलाज यूरिनियम कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड कंपनी के अस्पताल में चल रहा है। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही जादूगोड़ा थाना की पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और दोनों घायलों को तत्काल यूसिल अस्पताल पहुंचाया। वहां डॉक्टरों ने जांच के बाद सुरेंद्र हांसदा को मृत घोषित कर दिया, जबकि घायल दशमत हांसदा का इलाज जारी है। फिलहाल पुलिस मामले की जांच में जुटी है और हादसे के कारणों का पता लगाया जा रहा है।

ओएलएक्स पर चोरी की बाइक बेचने वाले गिरोह का भंडाफोड़, दो आरोपी गिरफ्तार

PHOTON NEWS JSR:

साकची थाना क्षेत्र में करीम सिटी कॉलेज के पास हुई बाइक चोरी मामले में पुलिस ने बड़ी सफलता हासिल की है। वादी की सूचना के आधार पर फौरन कार्रवाई करते हुए पुलिस ने दो आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया है। इनके कब्जे से चोरी की पांच बाइकें बरामद की गई हैं। दोनों आरोपियों को न्यायिक हिरासत में जेल भेज दिया गया है।



मानले की जानकारी देते सिटी एसपी ललित मीणा

● फोटोन न्यूज

नगर पुलिस अधीक्षक के निर्देश पर विशेष छापेमारी टीम गठित की गई। इसी दौरान रजनिकांत ने सेकेंडहैंड बाइक खरीदने के लिए ओएलएक्स पर सर्चिंग की। उन्होंने एक गाड़ी पसंद की। विक्रेता ने उन्हें चेपा पुल के पास बाइक की एक दुकान पर बुलाया। रजनिकांत ने वहां अपनी चोरी गई बाइक पहचान ली और आजादनगर थाना की पुलिस को बुलाकर आरोपी को अरेस्ट कराया।

बाइक भी बरामद कराई। इसके बाद साकची थाना की पुलिस पहुंची और आरोपी को साकची थाने लाई। पूछताछ के बाद पूरे गिरोह का भंडाफोड़ किया। पुलिस ने शमशाद आनम को गिरफ्तार किया था। पूछताछ में उसने चोरी की घटना में अपनी सलिप्तता स्वीकार की और अपने साथी अरुण मुखर्जी का नाम बताया। उसकी निशानदेही पर पुलिस ने चोरी की गई चार अन्य बाइकें भी

जेल में बंद अपराधी बनकर मांग रहा था रंगदारी, पुलिस ने पकड़ा

SERAIKELA : सरायकेला-खरसावां जिले की पुलिस ने एक ऐसे अपराधी को गिरफ्तार किया है, जो खुद को जेल में बंद बताते हुए रंगदारी मांगता था। वह मोबाइल फोन के जरिए रंगदारी नहीं देने पर जान से मारने की धमकी भी देता था। इस तरह की लगातार शिकायत मिलने पर जिला पुलिस ने उसे सोमवार को जमशेदपुर के मानगो बस स्टैंड के पास से गिरफ्तार कर लिया। गिरफ्तार आरोपी बंटी गुहा जमशेदपुर के परसुडीह थाना क्षेत्र के गोलपहाड़ी का रहने वाला है। हालांकि अभी वह पश्चिम बंगाल की राजधानी कोलकाता स्थित भवानीपुर में रहकर एक प्राइवेट कंपनी में जाँव कर रहा था। पुलिस ने उसके पास से मोबाइल फोन भी बरामद किया है, जिसका इस्तेमाल वह रंगदारी मांगने के लिए करता था। कांडा थाना की पुलिस ने सोमवार को पूरे मामले का खुलासा करते हुए बताया कि इस



पुलिस गिरफ्त में आरोपी

आरोपी ने 22 मई को कांडा स्थित झारखंड ग्रामीण बैंक के शाखा प्रबंधक को कॉल कर रंगदारी मांगी थी। उसने खुद को सरायकेला जेल में बंद अपराधी रवि लोहार बताते हुए जमानत के लिए वकील की फीस के नाम पर 50 हजार रुपये मांगे थे। इसके बाद बैंक मैनेजर ने 24 मई को कांडा थाना में शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी। पुलिस ने बताया कि पूछताछ के दौरान बंटी गुहा ने बताया कि उसने 21 मई को चाँडिल थाना क्षेत्र के रूचपन निवासी एक व्यक्ति को फोन कर रंगदारी मांगी थी।

Securities Markets Code | Don't leave adjudication open to discretion

The proposed Securities Markets Code consolidates the three existing laws into a single legislative framework. There are good reasons for such a rationalisation.Consider this. The Securities and Exchange Board can initiate three types of proceedings—under Section 11B of the Sebi Act, resulting in preventive and remedial directions; enquiry proceedings, which could lead to suspension or cancellation of registration; and adjudication proceedings, which could culminate in the imposition of monetary penalties. Comparable provisions exist under the other two securities enactments as well.In practice, the same case often triggers parallel proceedings before different authorities within Sebi. Although these proceedings are legally independent, authorities lower in the institutional hierarchy generally tend to arrive at findings similar to those reached at higher levels. Conflicting findings remain possible, too. More fundamentally, the nature of the sanction is determined at the stage of initiating proceedings, before the gravity of the contravention is fully established.The SMC seeks to address these concerns by consolidating the multiple enforcement tracks into a single adjudicatory proceeding. An adjudicating officer, who may be anyone from a division chief or the chairperson, may determine the contravention first and then impose appropriate outcomes. The framework embeds proportionality and deterrence by requiring consideration of factors such as intent, duration and frequency of the contravention, unlawful gains, investor harm, impact on market integrity, conduct of the noticee before and after the contravention, precedents, and aggravating or mitigating circumstances.This is a significant improvement. Yet, the consolidation of proceedings also concentrates discretion in ways that may create new risks for consistency, predictability and credibility.

Under the earlier framework, monetary penalties could be imposed by a division chief, while more severe sanctions such as cancellation of registration or market restraints were generally imposed by a whole-time member. There was, thus, a broad correspondence between the seriousness of the contravention, the severity of the sanction and the rank of the authority imposing it. The SMC may enable subordinate legislation to prescribe the level of officer who may act as AO, depending on the case's gravity. Such calibration would strengthen institutional credibility and reinforce confidence in the outcomes.The SMC also departs from the earlier model under which adjudication procedures were prescribed through rules framed by the government. It instead proposes that procedures be specified through Sebi regulations. This risks collapsing the distinction between rule-making and enforcement, since the same authority would frame the norms, initiate proceedings, appoint AOs, and prescribe the adjudicatory process. Retaining government-made procedural rules would preserve a healthier institutional separation.

The more serious concern, however, lies in the architecture of enforcement discretion. Under Clause 20, the AO may impose one or more of five broad categories of measures: suspension or cancellation of registration, cease-and-desist directions, monetary penalties, disgorgement, and other appropriate directions. The code does not indicate when one remedy should be preferred over another, or when multiple remedies should be imposed.

India returns to its geopolitical centre

THE GREAT GAME: Challenges are enormous because the straying has accentuated fractures, distended relationships

REPORTS that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin are coming to India in September to attend the BRICS summit are welcome — especially in the wake of the Quad foreign ministers’ meeting this coming Monday, when US Secretary of State Marco Rubio plus the foreign ministers of Japan and Australia arrive in the capital.An India-Africa summit slated over the next few days has had to be unfortunately put off because the Ebola virus is rearing its head.At long last, India is returning to its own geopolitical centre. It may have taken Donald Trump’s irrepressible fondness for Pakistan, the war in West Asia’s knock on the economy and the potentially doomsday US-China cinch to focus the mind. At last it’s happening — notwithstanding the lecturing by senior MEA official Sibi George about India’s ancient civilisational heritage to a young Norwegian reporter because she asked a question that he entirely disapproved of.Fact is, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin and Lula da Silva and Cyril Ramaphosa and Narendra Modi are all going to be in the same room a few months from now — all leaders of China, Russia, Brazil, South Africa and India, the founder members of BRICS. The Quad foreign ministers’ meeting is an indication that the long-delayed Quad summit could materialise soon.

It’s a measure of how things have changed if only to remain the same, is the real story of India’s foreign policy in the last 12 years, since PM Modi won power. India has deepened friendships with the US (these days on a bit of a roller-coaster), Israel and UAE, faced off with China on the cold, icy heights of Galwan, made friends with Pakistan and then punished it for continuing cross-border terrorism, sought to reinvent other parts of its neighbourhood (like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) and gone Dutch in the Netherlands. As for Norway, we know by now that it’s a six-letter Wordle you can rearrange nicely when you drop the 18th letter in the alphabet.

Not that a new international realignment is in the offing just because India is hosting the BRICS summit. The Trump visit to Beijing last week told us that China will continue to refuse to confront the Americans, because

America remains its largest trading partner. While Putin’s visit to Beijing this week tells us that in the fourth year of his stalemated war with Ukraine, and with the help of leaky Western sanctions, Russia will continue to seek the stabilisation of key relationships, such as China and India. (Russia is keenly aware that China’s economic ties with the US will limit Beijing’s feelings for Moscow, no matter how much the two agree on other matters.)Let’s call this the Age of Seeking New Friends and Influencing Peoples — even elites, who live on the right side of the railway track and are in the business of managing nations will understand the spirit that infuses multi-alignment. This is not a withdrawal from the world, like non-alignment was, but an even greater engagement. As India enters the 80th year of its



independence, it has understood that as a regional power that must make the best use of its circumstances, it is best suited to the pursuit of multiple relationships.

Not that India has not spoken its mind even when the tie with the former Soviet Union resembled an alliance. When Boris Pasternak won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1958 for Doctor Zhivago, it was Jawaharlal Nehru who led the charge for allowing him to travel to Sweden to receive the medal. (The Soviets didn’t listen.) So many other examples come to mind. From Indira Gandhi’s smiling retort to an American journalist who asked if India leant Left or Right, and she said “we stand

upright;” to Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s invitation to Bill Clinton to India in 2000, only two years after the US had sanctioned India for going nuclear — the former US President spent five glorious days in India, being feted everywhere he went (and about five hours in Pakistan in a security bubble), enjoying himself so much that it didn’t matter anymore who had punished whom and who had offered forgiveness.That’s why the “coat-tail school of diplomacy”, which proposes that you ally with a powerful power so that you avail of the benefits that come with being in its shadow — much like what Japan and ASEAN nations have done these past several decades — cannot work with India. The country is too vast, too different, too diverse, too messy to fit into one regimented framework. That’s why the One District, One Cuisine policy in Uttar Pradesh (none of which are non-vegetarian), is bound to come a-cropper. To take the food allegory a bit further, the BJP has understood that its beef bans in the North Indian states it rules cannot be imposed on its allies in North-East India.

That’s why the return of PM Modi’s foreign policy to its own geopolitical centre is welcome. The challenges are enormous because the straying has accentuated some fractures, distended some relationships and broken off others. It is equally true that the straying has taught us a valuable lesson, which is to trust, but verify. RSS leader Dattatreya Hosabale’s exhortation to PM Modi to normalise ties with Pakistan — keep your borders stable, remain watchful, he is saying — is an essential part of the “trust, but verify” doctrine first enunciated by that all-time guru, Chanakya. (Like Vajpayee and Mammoohan Singh, stabilising borders was the first touchstone of Deng Xiaoping’s foreign policy in the early 1980s; these gentlemen understood that a calm periphery is a recipe for peace within.)

The return of both BRICS and Quad is a good sign, because both are centres of stability. Sending a political player to Bangladesh is an expansion of that idea. Sweetening ties in Sonia Gandhi’s mother country, Italy, was a tiny gesture worthy of that Italian philosopher, Machiavelli.

Now to restart the hard work of fixing the house within. Sending Sibi George home for an all-expenses-paid trip to Kerala to relook at how communities as different as Syrian Christians and Moplah Muslims and Malabar Hindu Nairs look at the same story might be a good beginning.

Limiting dams: Ecology finally shapes Himalayan policy

The Ganga, in particular, is an ecological, cultural and spiritual lifeline

INDIA’s Himalayan policy may finally be catching up with geological reality. The Centre’s decision to oppose new hydroelectric projects in the upper reaches of the Ganga basin marks a significant departure from the long-held belief that every river can be engineered into an energy asset. After years of ecological warnings and repeated disasters, the government has acknowledged that the fragile Alaknanda-Bhagirathi region cannot endlessly absorb the burden of aggressive infrastructure expansion. The shadow of the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy still looms large over Uttarakhand. Since then, the Himalayas have witnessed recurring landslides, glacial bursts, tunnel collapses and ground subsidence. Each calamity has reinforced what environmentalists and geologists have long argued: the young Himalayan ecosystem is inherently unstable and highly vulnerable to reckless construction activity. Hydropower may qualify as renewable energy, but in ecologically fragile mountains, it cannot automatically be called



sustainable.The Centre’s affidavit before the Supreme Court reflects a welcome recognition that rivers are

more than channels of electricity generation. The Ganga, in particular, is an ecological, cultural and spiritual lifeline. Excessive damming disrupts sediment flow, biodiversity and the natural rhythm of the river, while tunnelling and blasting weaken already fragile slopes. The emphasis on maintaining environmental flows is therefore both scientifically sound and environmentally necessary.

This does not mean India can abandon its renewable energy ambitions. But climate goals cannot be pursued through projects that intensify ecological vulnerability and disaster risks. Uttarakhand’s development model must move towards safer, decentralised and less intrusive alternatives rather than large-scale interventions that repeatedly test nature’s limits. The Centre’s shift offers an opportunity to redefine development in the Himalayas —as a commitment to balance energy needs with ecological survival. The mountains have issued enough warnings already.

The cockroach has spoken. India should listen

India’s establishment has a habit of waiting for inconvenient energies to dissipate. But the cockroach is among the most resilient creatures

LET me tell you something about India that most people in positions of authority still refuse to accept: this country’s youth is neither stupid nor silent. They are, in fact, ferociously, brilliantly, devastatingly articulate and when you insult them from the highest Benches of the land, they don’t sulk.They organise. They satirise. And they may make you look like a fool in ways that no editorial, no press conference, and no prime-time debate ever could.Chief Justice Surya Kant, in an open court hearing, declared that "parasites" were attacking the system and then, with perhaps rightful and breathtaking condescension, compared unemployed youngsters to cockroaches —those who "don't get any employment or have any place in the profession" and who "start attacking everyone." Now, one presumes that a man who has presided over some of the most consequential constitutional matters in recent memory would possess, at minimum, the political instinct to avoid comparing an entire generation of struggling young Indians to insects.

The clarification that followed — that the CJI had been misquoted, that he was referring to those with fraudulent degrees, not the youth at large — landed with the grace of a courtroom adjournment that nobody asked for.The damage, as they say in South Delhi drawing rooms, had been done. But something rather magnificent had also begun.

Within six days of its launch on May 16, the Cockroach Janta Party had amassed over 16 million followers. Let

that number sit with you for a moment. Sixteen million. The CJP's founder Abhijeet Dipke told the Associated Press quite plainly: "It is the younger people who were actually very frustrated. They didn't have any outlet. They were really angry at the government." That sentence is worth printing on the front page of every newspaper in this country — not because it is revelatory,



but because it is so obvious and yet so consistently ignored by those who govern us.

India has a youth employment problem that is not a secret but is treated like one. Government data reveals an unemployment rate of nearly 10% among those aged 15

to 29, climbing to 13.6% in urban areas. More than half of Indian Gen Zs have reportedly postponed major life decisions— buying homes, starting families — because of economic anxiety. These are not abstract statistics. These are the young men and women who crammed for competitive exams only to discover that the papers had been leaked. Who graduated to find that the job market had moved on without them. Who scroll Instagram at midnight not for entertainment, but because there is genuinely nothing else to do.

And what did their Chief Justice call them? Cockroaches.

Well. You reap what you sow.

The genius of the Cockroach Janta Party is not merely that it is funny, though it undeniably is.Its genius lies in the alchemy of reclamation. The party calls itself the "Voice of the Lazy and Unemployed." Its satirical manifesto demands a ban on post-retirement Rajya Sabha seats for chief justices, 50% reservation for women in Parliament, and a 20-year ban on defecting legislators. These are not the demands of nihilists. These are the demands of people who have been paying attention — who understand the architecture of how power perpetuates itself in this country and who, in the language of memes and irony, are demanding accountability.Anurag Kashyap, Dia Mirza, Sonakshi Sinha, Kunal Kamra and the usual suspects have followed the CJP's Instagram page. You may roll your eyes at celebrity endorsement, and normally I would join you. But this is different. This is not brand

ambassadorship. This is a signal: that the sentiment animating the CJP resonates well beyond the campus and the hostel room.Predictably, the establishment's first instinct was suppression. The CJP's X account, which had gathered around 2,00,000 followers, was withheld in India. The response from Dipke? A new account, a poster reading "Cockroach is back," and the immortal line: "You thought you can get rid of us? Lol." If you needed any further evidence that this generation has absorbed India's political theatre and is now writing its own script, there it is.Now, before the usual brigade of credentialed commentators rushes to dismiss this as mere social media froth, let me offer a counter. Every significant political realignment in recent Indian history has had a cultural precursor. The Anna Hazare movement lived on social media before it hit the streets. Movements do not arrive fully formed; they gather energy from precisely these kinds of cultural flashpoints.

The CJP may never file a nomination paper. It may never contest an election. But it has done something arguably more important: it has given a name, an identity, and a vocabulary to a generation's rage.Dipke — who is Dalit, and has faced casteist attacks online since that identity became public — has spoken of wanting the CJP to guide supporters towards concrete activism: filing RTIs, becoming politically engaged, refusing to be invisible. That is not the language of a meme page. That is the language of a movement.India's establishment has a well-practised habit of waiting for inconvenient energies to dissipate. Sometimes that strategy works. But the cockroach, as biology will confirm, is among the most resilient creatures on the planet. It survives conditions that would obliterate lesser species.

Oil prices fall over 5% on hopes for Iran deal

TOKYO, Japan.,(Agency)
Oil prices plunged over five percent and Asian markets ticked up early on Monday on hopes of a deal to end to the US-Iran war despite President Donald Trump downplaying its imminence.
As of around 2300 GMT Sunday, the price of North Sea Brent crude slipped 5.1 percent to \$98.22 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate fell 5.2 percent to \$91.57 a barrel before recovering slightly. Japan's Nikkei share index rose more than 2.5 percent as of around 0030 GMT. Sydney crept slightly higher, while Hong Kong and Seoul were closed for public holidays. Trump tempered expectations of an agreement to end the war, saying in a Sunday social media post that he had "informed my representatives not to rush into a deal in that time is on our side".The conflict erupted after the United States and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, and the Islamic republic responded with missile and drone attacks across the region.The United States and Iran have observed a ceasefire since April 8 while mediators push for a negotiated settlement, although Tehran has imposed controls on Gulf shipping and Washington has blockaded Iran's ports.

Stock markets rally in early trade as crude oil drops below USD 100 per barrel

Kolkata .(Agency)
Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged in early trade on Monday supported by a sharp correction in crude oil prices and arally in global markets amid improving sentiment surrounding the US-Iran negotiations.The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 908.98 points to 76,317.85 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 262.65 points to 23,977.70.From the 30-Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Larsen & Toubro, and InterGlobe Aviation were among the biggest winners.
Tata Consultancy Services and Sun Pharma were the laggards.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, tanked 5.58 per cent to trade at USD 97.76 per barrel. "We are starting the week on a positive note. Crude has dipped USD 5 to below USD 100 on expectations that US and Iran are close to a deal. The market will wait and watch for clarity and certainty since many similar expectations have been belied since the start f the war.
If this expected deal holds and crude drifts down, that can turn out to be turning point for the market," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.
In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index were trading higher.Markets were closed in South Korea and Hong Kong due to holidays. US markets ended in positive territory on Friday.
Crude oil prices have corrected sharply, marking a significant pullback from recent highs above the USD 100-105 zone, Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. "The decline in oil prices is being viewed as a meaningful positive for India's macroeconomic outlook, as softer energy prices help ease concerns around inflation, import costs and corporate profitability," he added.Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,440.47 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. On Friday, the Sensex climbed 231.99 points, or 0.31 per cent, to settle at 75,415.35. The Nifty edged higher by 64.60 points, or 0.27 per cent, to end at 23,719.30.

Rupee on recovery track: Currency jumps 40 paise to 95.2 against US dollar amid Middle East peace hopes

New Delhi.(Agency)
Rupee began the week in green, gaining 40 paise to 95.20 against the US dollar in early Monday trade. The currency was driven by optimism in global markets over hopes of a potential peace deal between the United States and Iran.In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.36 against the US dollar before strengthening to 95.20 in early deals, marking a gain of 40 paise from its previous close.On Friday, the domestic currency had already gained momentum, rising 75 paise to settle at 95.60 against the US dollar. The recovery comes after rupee had fallen 6% since the Middle East crisis began on February 28, when US and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran.“The trade deal will be beneficial to both the US and India,” said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. He added that as Monday is a US holiday, dollar cash demand is expected to remain lower, although month-end demand could emerge, while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to remain watchful of dollar movements. The currency strengthened after signs that the US and Iran have “largely negotiated” a peace pact aimed at ending the nearly three-month-long conflict. However, uncertainty persists at the leadership level.US President Donald Trump told negotiators “not to rush into a deal” and that “both sides must take their time and get it right”.In parallel developmnts on the trade front, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US and India are close to finalising an interim trade agreement, following progress in discussions with the US Trade Representative, who is expected to visit India soon.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.20% at 99.04.In commodities, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 5.43% to \$97.92 per barrel in futures trade.Dalal Street also reflected the positive sentiments, with benchmark indices surging over 1% in early trade. BSE Sensex jumped 908.98 points to 76,317.85, while the Nifty rose 262.65 points to 23,977.70.

India's ethanol success story may be heading for an oversupply crisis

India's ethanol boom helped the country hit E20 early. Now distilleries, oil companies and policymakers are confronting a new question. Has India already built more ethanol capacity than it needs?

New Delhi.,(Agency)
For years, India's ethanol push was projected as one of the country's biggest clean-energy success stories. The goal was to cut crude oil imports, support farmers, boost sugar mills and reduce vulnerability to global oil shocks. The government pushed aggressively. The industry expanded even faster. Distilleries came up rapidly across states. Sugar companies diverted more cane toward ethanol production. Grain-based plants scaled up as India accelerated its ethanol blending programme and raced toward its E20 target.Now the industry is

starting to worry about something else: whether the country may have already built more ethanol capacity than it currently needs.A recent industry outlook report by Infomeries Ratings estimated that India could soon have nearly 24 billion litres of ethanol production capacity against annual demand of roughly 11-12 billion litres under the current E20 blending regime.That is nearly double the current blending requirement. The report itself warned that the industry could face “suboptimal capacity utilisation”, potentially hurting the financial viability of recently commissioned distilleries. Which may also explain why, even before India has fully settled into the E20 era, the conversation inside the industry has already started shifting toward E30, E85 and even E100. INDIA'S ETHANOL GOLD RUSH India's ethanol blending programme accelerated sharply after the government advanced the E20 target from 2030 to

2025-26.The policy transformed ethanol from a relatively small blending exercise into one of India's biggest clean-energy projects.According to the report, ethanol procurement rose from 67.4 crore litres in



helped drive the push. India imports nearly 85% of its crude oil requirements and remains heavily exposed to global oil price swings and supply disruptions. Ethanol blending was projected as both an energy-security strategy and a rural-income programme. The industry responded accordingly. Sugar companies invested heavily in distilleries. Grain-based ethanol production surged. New plants came up rapidly across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The entire ethanol boom was built on one expectation: blending targets would keep rising and oil companies would keep buying more ethanol.But even as blending levels rose, another trend quietly started appearing in the numbers. THE PROCUREMENT SLOWDOWN Blending levels rose to 18.36% in 2024-25. But ethanol procurement itself slowed sharply to 391 crore litres up to March 2025, down from 707.4 crore litres in ESY 2023-24.

Who could become billionaires after SpaceX IPO? Meet Musk's inner circle

New Delhi.(Agency)
Elon Musk may already be the world's richest man, but SpaceX's expected stock market debut could create a fresh group of billionaires around him. As the rocket company prepares for what could be one of the biggest public offerings in history, some of Musk's closest allies stand to see their fortunes soar.If SpaceX reaches a valuation of around \$2 trillion during its much-awaited IPO, several senior executives and early backers could join the billionaire club or see their wealth multiply dramatically, reported Bloomberg. While Musk would remain far ahead of everyone else, the company's top insiders are also likely to enjoy massive gains.According to reports, SpaceX is expected to go public in June and could be valued at nearly \$2 trillion. Such a valuation would make Musk even wealthier, potentially pushing his fortune closer to the trillion-dollar mark.However, Musk will not be the only winner. A small group of executives, investors and long-time supporters who helped build

SpaceX from its early days could also see life-changing wealth. GWYNNE SHOTWELL: THE WOMAN BEHIND SPACEX OPERATIONS

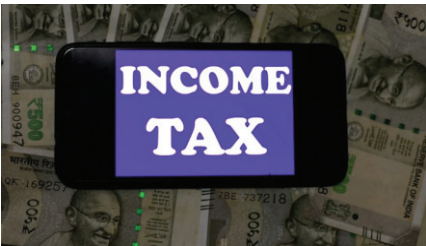


sales for the company's early rockets. Over the years, she became one of the most important faces of SpaceX, especially while Musk focused on his other companies.At present, her stake in SpaceX is estimated to be worth around \$1 billion. If the company reaches a \$2 trillion valuation, that figure could jump to nearly \$2 billion. Shotwell studied mechanical engineering and applied mathematics before working in the aerospace industry. She has often spoken positively about working with Musk, describing him as someone who gives her the freedom to do her job.BRET JOHNSEN: THE FINANCE MAN BEHIND SPACEX Another executive expected to cross the billionaire mark is Bret Johnsen, SpaceX's Chief Financial Officer. Johnsen joined the company in 2011 after working in finance roles at major technology firms. Since then, he has played a major role in handling SpaceX's finances and maintaining relationships with investors.

Not sure how to e-verify your ITR? Here are 5 easy ways to do it

New Delhi.,(Agency)
The filing process for Assessment Year (AY) 2026-27 is now underway, and many taxpayers are getting ready to submit their Income Tax Returns (ITRs). But while most people focus on filing their return before the deadline, not everyone realises that the process does not end there.After filing an ITR, taxpayers must also e-verify it for the return to be treated as complete. The good part is that there is not just one way to do it. In fact, there are five different ways to e-verify your ITR, allowing taxpayers to choose whichever option feels easiest and most convenient.For salaried taxpayers who are not required to undergo an audit, the deadline to file returns for the financial year 2025-26 is generally July 31, 2026, though timelines may differ depending on the category of taxpayer.Why E-Verification Is

Important Many people believe that once the 'submit' button is clicked, the tax filing process is over. However, the Income



AADHAAR OTP: A QUICK AND POPULAR OPTION One of the easiest ways to e-verify an ITR is through Aadhaar OTP. Taxpayers can choose this option if their Aadhaar is linked with their PAN and registered mobile number.After selecting the Aadhaar OTP option on the income tax portal, a one-time password is sent to the Aadhaar-linked mobile number. Entering the OTP completes the verification in just a few minutes. VERIFICATION THROUGH BANK OR DEMAT ACCOUNT Taxpayers can also choose to verify their return through a bank account or demat account.For this, the account must first be pre-validated on the income tax portal. Once selected, an OTP is sent to the registered mobile number or email linked to the account, helping complete the verification smoothly.

What kept India's petrol and diesel price hike lower than many nations?

As fuel prices surged across several countries during the global oil crisis, India saw relatively smaller increases in petrol and diesel rates. So, what helped keep prices in check despite rising crude oil costs? Let's have a look.

New Delhi.(Agency)
As fuel prices shot up in several countries during the recent global oil crisis, India saw a relatively smaller increase in petrol and diesel rates. While prices did go up, government sources say a mix of delayed hikes, tax cuts and financial support measures helped keep the increase lower than in many parts of the world.Petrol and diesel prices in India remained mostly unchanged for 78 days despite rising tensions in global oil markets. A phased increase started later, with prices revised on May 15, 19, 23 and 25, taking the overall rise to nearly Rs 7 per litre.

INDIA COMPARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES Government sources said many countries witnessed much steeper fuel price rises during the crisis.According to the comparison shared by sources, petrol prices in Myanmar increased by as much as 89%, while diesel prices rose by 112%. Countries such as Pakistan, the UAE, the US and the Philippines reportedly saw fuel prices climb by more than 40-50%.In Europe, petrol prices were said to be in the range of Rs 180 to Rs 235 per litre.In comparison, petrol in Delhi is priced at around Rs 102 per litre, while diesel costs nearly Rs 95 per litre. Sources claimed that among countries where fuel is not subsidised, India remains one of the lowest-priced markets. CENTRE AND STATES TRADE BLAME OVER TAXES The fuel price debate has also turned political, with government sources pointing to state taxes as a major reason for price differences across India.According to sources, the Centre charges a uniform excise duty across the country, while states impose their own



Value Added Tax (VAT), leading to different fuel prices in different regions. Government sources alleged that some opposition-ruled states have imposed higher VAT, adding to the burden on consumers.As per the figures shared by sources, Telangana has some of the highest petrol prices at around Rs 118 per litre, followed by Kerala at Rs 114, Karnataka at Rs 110 and Tamil Nadu at Rs 107 per litre.Meanwhile, BJP-ruled states such as Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Assam, along with Delhi, were said to have relatively lower petrol prices, ranging between Rs 101 and Rs 104 per litre. DIESEL PRICES ALSO UNDER POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT

Diesel prices have also become part of the political debate. Government sources claimed that some opposition-ruled states levy higher taxes on diesel, pushing prices above Rs 100 per litre in states such as Telangana and Kerala. In comparison, BJP-ruled states were said to have relatively lower diesel prices.Meanwhile, sources said the Centre has reduced excise duty several times since 2021 to offer relief to consumers. In March 2026, the government reportedly provided relief of up to Rs 10 per litre. Officials also claimed that fuel prices were kept under control during major global disruptions, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Hormuz crisis. OIL BONDS AND FINANCIAL BURDEN Government sources also targeted the previous UPA government, alleging that oil bonds were issued during its tenure to manage fuel subsidies.According to the current government, the financial burden is now directly borne through the Budget. Sources claimed that more than Rs 1.3 lakh crore has been paid towards oil bond liabilities since 2021.

Divorced daughter better than a dead one: MP government on Twisha Sharma case

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Supreme Court on Monday underscored the need for a "fair and impartial" probe into the death of former actor-model Twisha Sharma, while backing the Madhya Pradesh government's decision to recommend a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe amid allegations of institutional bias and mounting public scrutiny over the case.Hearing the matter suo motu, a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said an "independent agency" should take over the investigation in the interest of all parties involved.

The top court also referred to an report published on May 18, saying it had raised concerns about alleged institutional bias and discrepancies in the investigation.

Twisha Sharma, 33, was found hanging at her matrimonial home in Bhopal on May 12. Her family has accused her in-laws of

dowry harassment and abetment to suicide, while the in-laws claimed she was battling drug addiction.

TOP QUOTES FROM SUPREME COURT

"A news article published by India Today on May 18 raised questions of institutional bias and discrepancies. The reason that was reported for the alleged lack of impartiality was that the husband of Twisha Sharma is a practising lawyer and the mother is a former district judge," the Chief Justice observed.The court noted that questions had been raised over whether "undue influence" could be exercised during the investigation because of the background of the accused family.

"A narrative was also created that fair investigation was denied due to the



involvement of the judiciary. That is why suo motu proceedings were initiated," the bench said, while noting that the High Court had meanwhile directed a second post-mortem.

Appreciating the state government's move to hand over the case to the CBI, the Chief Justice said, "We appreciate the state's decision to recommend a CBI

investigation"."At this stage, in the interest of all, an independent agency should take over," the bench observed, while adding that it had "no doubt" over the functioning of state agencies."We have no doubt that agencies will investigate properly. But a narrative is being created, so an independent agency should take over," the Chief Justice noted.The Supreme Court repeatedly urged both sides and the media to avoid making public statements that could prejudice the investigation.

"We request media friends, don't give out statements about the families. Let the investigation go on," the bench said.Referring to the public discourse around the case, the Supreme Court observed, "Mother-in-law is a former district judge, so the media is unfortunately saying that the judiciary is not allowing a

fair trial".The court added that statements should be made "before the agency, not at other places".

"Whatever unfortunate incident has taken place, it should be ensured that a fair and impartial investigation is taking place," the court said.

"We request both sides don't make statements like this," the bench added.

The Supreme Court further said it did not need to pass any directions at this stage since the state government had already proposed transferring the case to the CBI.

Responding to the emotional dimension of the case, the court observed, "The kind of agony it causes for family, near and dear ones, we all have sympathy. But there is a procedure under law".

During the proceedings, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted Madhya Pradesh's government's side, saying that "a divorced daughter is better than a dead one".

From ‘au revoir’ to adieu: Delhi Gymkhana Club’s uncertain fate

New Delhi.(Agency)
Amid the hustle and bustle of Partition, on a poignant evening on August 6, 1947, a large gathering of military officers who had fought side by side in the British Indian Army met one last time in New Delhi. Some among them were preparing to move on and serve in the armed forces of the newly created nation of Pakistan. The occasion was a farewell party hosted by "The Officers of the Armed Forces of the Dominion of India" and the venue was the Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club on Safdarjung Road--now known as the Delhi Gymkhana Club (DGC), the property is now on the verge of extinction.

Narrating details of the send-off party in their book "Freedom at Midnight", American historian Larry Collins and French author Dominique Lapierre described the event as the "most touching farewell".

Invitation was by engraved cards sent by "The Officers of the Armed Forces of the Dominion of India" inviting guests to a 'Farewell to Old Comrades Reception in honour of the Officers of the Armed Forces of the Dominion of Pakistan", they wrote."The most touching farewell of all took place on the lawns and in the grand ballroom of an institution that once had been one of the most privileged sanctuaries of India's British rulers, the Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club...An air of 'overwhelming sadness and unreality' overlaid the evening, one Indian remembered...In the ballroom the flashing rainbow colours of their women's saris sparkled through the dim lights," the author duo noted.

Their book chronicles in detail the series of events surrounding the Partition of India during the final years of British rule.The military officers reminisced about the ordeals and joys of careers spent together in uniform.Field Marshal Cariappa at the farewellAs the evening drew to a close, then Brigadier Kodandera Madappa Cariappa, who later became the Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) of the Indian Army, addressed the gathering.According to the book, Field Marshal Cariappa, who was the first Indian officer to command a battalion--the 1st Battalion of the 7th Rajput Regiment-- climbed to the raised.

36 families in Harsh Vihar get power connections after eight-year wait

New Delhi.(Agency)
After waiting nearly eight years for regular electricity supply, 36 families living in Harsh Vihar's A-3 block in northeast Delhi's Gokulpuri area have finally started receiving power connections following the intervention of CMRekha Gupta, officials said.

The issue was raised by residents during a public grievance hearing, where they informed the CM that several families had been awaiting regular power connections since 2018. Taking note of the matter, Gupta directed the concerned officials to act immediately and ensure coordination among all agencies to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Officials said around 50 to 60 houses had been constructed in the locality by 2018 and many families had already moved in. However, regular electricity supply could not be provided as land was not available for the Electric Sub-Station (ESS) required for power infrastructure. As a result, most residents lived without electricity connections, while some depended on temporary arrangements.

Following the CM's intervention, the required land for installation of a transformer was made available and coordination was established among all stakeholders. The power distribution company subsequently installed the transformer and expanded the electricity network across the area on a mission mode. Electrification work has now been completed and electricity meters are being installed for eligible applicants. Most demand notes have already been issued, officials said.

On Sunday, Gupta met the 36 beneficiary families at Jan Seva Sadan. The residents thanked her, saying the resolution of the long-pending issue had brought relief and renewed hope to their lives.

Provide electricity to remaining eligible families: CM

The CM reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring that basic services, including electricity, water, roads and sewerage, reach every resident and directed officials to provide connections to the remaining eligible families within the stipulated timeframe.

Was this toughest UPSC Prelims ever? Even bureaucrats struggled to solve GS 1 paper

New Delhi.(Agency)
It's a question Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services aspirant Anubhav Gupta posed on X, right after walking out of his Preliminary Examination centre on Sunday. Having prepared for the exam since 2022, with four attempts behind him, Gupta says he is wondering whether it was finally time to give up on the dream. Gupta is not alone.Candidates coming out of their examination centres on Sunday described the paper as one of the most confusing, exhausting and unpredictable Civil Services preliminary examinations in recent memory. Many said the General Studies (GS) Paper I was too tough.

"One of the toughest UPSC Prelims ever," Chandigarh-based UPSC

mentor and Sleepy Classes founder Shekhar Dutt posted on X.

Speaking to India Today Digital, Dutt said, "The challenge was not just knowing the facts, but also



understanding how they were connected to one another and applying that understanding under severe time pressure."

Raipur-based IAS officer Awanish Sharan on X said, "UPSC Prelims 2026: The toughest ever."Even as

toughness is subjective, Dutt told India Today Digital that "even some selected candidates (rank-holders) told him the paper was one of the toughest they had ever seen".

Unpredictability has always been part of the UPSC's identity. Every year, candidates enter examination halls knowing that the commission is capable of springing surprises. Yet many aspirants felt that this year's General Studies paper pushed that unpredictability to a different level altogether.

Though unpredictability has been a constant, the UPSC has outdone itself this year."Unprecedented Public Service Commission," Dutt said on X, substituting the Union in UPSC with unprecedented.

India moves closer to mega Rafale fighter jet deal, finalises request letter

New Delhi.(Agency)
India has finalised the Letter of Request (LoR) for the acquisition of 114 Rafale fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force and is expected to send it to France within the next few weeks, sources said.

Under the proposed deal, nearly 90 of the 114 fighter jets are planned to be manufactured in India through a partnership between French aerospace company Dassault Aviation and an Indian firm. The remaining aircraft are expected to be delivered in fly-away condition.

Sources told that once France responds to the LoR, India will move ahead with issuing the formal Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement. The LoR is a formal government-to-government communication used to



initiate defence procurement under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) or Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) framework.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has already cleared the procurement proposal for the Indian Air Force. After the LoR is sent, France is expected to respond with details related to pricing, availability and logistical support, following

which negotiations between the two sides will begin.

The final contract will require approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) before it can be signed.

The Indian Air Force already has 36 Rafale fighter jets in service, while the Navy is preparing to induct 26 Rafale M aircraft for carrier-based operations in the coming years. Acquiring more Rafales is also expected to reduce logistics, maintenance and training expenses due to the existing operational ecosystem.Meanwhile, New Delhi has also pressed the French side to expand the role of Indian companies in the Rafale production ecosystem, seeking up to 50 per cent indigenous content in the fighter jets proposed for India.

Tribal groups rally in Delhi, seek removal of converted tribals from ST list

Lakhs of tribal community members gathered in Delhi for the Janjati Sanskritik Sangam and called for converted tribals to be delisted from the Scheduled Tribe category. The event paired cultural celebrations marking Birs Munda's 150th birth anniversary with demands to review constitutional safeguards linked to tribal identity.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Lakhs of tribal community members from across India gathered in the national capital for the Janjati Sanskritik Sangam, where participants celebrated indigenous culture and raised demands for the "delisting" of converted tribals from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category.

The event, organised by the Janjati Suraksha Manch affiliated to the RSS, marked the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birs Munda. Representatives from more than 550 tribal groups from different states took part in the gathering near Delhi Gate.

Participants dressed in traditional attire performed cultural programmes, marches and public demonstrations highlighting issues related to tribal identity, constitutional rights and preservation of indigenous customs.

A key demand raised during the event was the amendment of Article 342 of the Constitution to remove ST status from individuals who convert to religions other than traditional tribal faiths. Protesters argued that converted tribals continue to avail reservation benefits meant for Scheduled Tribes while also receiving benefits available to minority communities.

Several speakers at the gathering said religious conversion leads to a gradual loss of tribal traditions, customs and cultural identity, and called for a review of the existing constitutional framework governing ST status.

Organisers and participants maintained that the demand was linked to the protection of tribal heritage, community rights and preservation of indigenous culture rather than targeting any particular religion.The event combined cultural celebrations with political messaging as tribal groups from across the country came together to press for policy changes concerning tribal identity and constitutional safeguards.

Delhi Gymkhana goes to High Court against government's eviction order, hearing today

New Delhi.(Agency)
Delhi Gymkhana Club has moved the Delhi High Court challenging a central government directive asking it to vacate its 27.3-acre premises in Lutyens' Delhi by June 5. The matter was mentioned before Justice Avneesh Jhingani by Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who sought an urgent hearing in the case. The court agreed to hear the matter on May 26.

On May 22, the Land and Development Office (L&DO) directed the Delhi Gymkhana Club to vacate and hand over its 27.3-acre property at 2, Safdarjung Road. The order cited Clause 4 of the original lease agreement, which empowers the government to reclaim the land if it is required for a "public purpose".

According to the government, the land, situated close to the Prime Minister's residence and several high-security

establishments in Lutyens' Delhi, is needed for strengthening defence infrastructure, governance-related facilities and other critical public security requirements.

"Upon such re-entry, the entire plot of land measuring 27.3 acres, along with all buildings, standing erections, structures, lawns, and fittings thereon, shall vest absolutely in the Lessor, i.e., the President of India, through the Land & Development Office," the government notice read.It had further added that the premises shall be taken over by the Land & Development Office on June 5.

CLUB SOUGHT CLARITY AFTER REVIEW MEETING

Following the Centre's directive, the General Committee of the Delhi

Gymkhana Club convened an emergency review meeting and resolved to seek urgent clarification from the government on multiple concerns related to its members and staff.

In a statement, the Delhi Gymkhana Club said its General Committee met on an urgent basis and, after detailed discussions, decided to immediately



write to the Land and Development Office (L&DO) seeking clarity on several issues concerning the interests of the club's members and employees.

The club further stated that the committee had requested an urgent meeting with officials of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to discuss the matter.It added that the immediate priority of the General Committee was to ensure that the functioning and operations of the club continue without disruption.Established on July 3, 1913 as the Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club, the institution primarily served British civil servants and military officials during the colonial era. After India gained Independence in 1947, the word "Imperial" was dropped from its name, while a majority.

NEWS BOX

Truck overturns in central Bangladesh, killing at least 15 people

DHAKA. (Agency)
A truck carrying iron rods and extra passengers overturned on a major highway early Monday in central Bangladesh, leaving at least 15 people dead and 10 others injured, police said. The crash happened after the driver lost control around 5 am at Soratoil area in Tangail district, 83 kilometers (52 miles) northwest of the nation's capital, Dhaka, said local police chief Fuad Hossain. Hossain said the truck was carrying hitchhiking passengers and travelling from Dhaka to the northern region as vacationers began traveling ahead of the Islamic festival Eid al-Adha on Thursday. The truck overturned and killed them at the scene, he said. The official said most of the passengers were day laborers and were traveling to join their families for the festival. Witnesses told TV stations that they rushed to the scene after hearing noise and started rescuing passengers who got trapped. Road accidents kill thousands every year in the nation of more than 170 million people because of lax oversight of traffic rules, bad road conditions and unskilled driving.

Jet2 Pilot Suffers "Heart Attack" At 30,000 Ft, Plane Makes Emergency Landing In Portugal

world. (Agency)
A Jet2 flight from Tenerife to Birmingham was forced to divert to Portugal after the captain suffered a suspected heart attack while the aircraft was cruising at 30,000ft, Metro.UK reported. The incident occurred on Flight LS1266 in the early hours of Friday (May 22). The plane, carrying 220 passengers, suddenly descended and made an unscheduled landing at Porto's Francisco Sa Carneiro Airport. Passengers described a tense scene as cabin crew rushed down the aisle, asking if anyone onboard had medical training. The report also mentioned that lights flickered during the rapid descent, and several children began crying as the plane lost altitude quickly for the unscheduled landing. The aircraft touched down in Porto at 2:11 am (local time), with the emergency services boarding immediately, and medical staff attended to the pilot in the cockpit before he was taken to the hospital. "My partner and I were asleep when we were woken by chaos," a passenger told The Sun on Sunday. "Lights began flashing and hostesses who were visibly upset, seeking a doctor. Our two-year-old began crying like many other children on board because the aircraft was dropping so quickly for an emergency landing." Airline said pilot had suffered a "heart attack" The passengers reportedly remained onboard for over an hour before disembarking. They then spent around 13 hours in the terminal while Jet2 arranged a replacement crew. The airline flew in a new pilot from Manchester, and travellers continued to Birmingham later on a different aircraft. "We were stranded in Portugal for over 13 hours without accommodation. They wouldn't let us off the plane itself for over an hour," a passenger said as quoted. "Then we were just left to wander around. There was nowhere to stay. They said accommodation was too expensive."

China Launches 3-Crew Space Flight As Part Of Moon Ambitions

World. (Agency)
China launched its Shenzhou-23 mission on Sunday, which will see a Chinese astronaut spend a full year in orbit for the first time, a crucial step in Beijing's ambition to send humans to the Moon by 2030. The Long March 2-F rocket blasted off in a cloud of flames and smoke on time at 11:08 pm (1508 GMT) from the Jiuquan launch centre in China's northwestern Gobi Desert, video from state broadcaster CCTV showed. The spacecraft separated from the rocket around 10 minutes later and entered orbit, the Chinese space agency (CMSA) said on social media. "The astronauts are in good condition, and the launch has been a complete success," it added. The mission marks the first spaceflight ever undertaken by an astronaut from Hong Kong: 43-year-old Li Jiaying (Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese), who previously worked for the Hong Kong police. Other crew members include 39-year-old space engineer Zhu Yangzhu and 39-year-old Zhang Zhiyuan, a former air force pilot, who is travelling into space for the first time. Cheering crowds waved Chinese flags at a farewell ceremony ahead of the launch, while a band played and the three astronauts saluted on stage. The crew is set to carry out numerous scientific projects in life sciences, materials science, fluid physics and medicine. A key experiment of Shenzhou-23 will be the full-year stay in orbit by one of the crew in order to study the effects of a long stay in microgravity. Year-Long Experiment The experiment is part of China's preparations for future lunar missions, as well as missions to Mars. The astronaut selected for this one-year mission will be named at a later date, depending on the progress of the Shenzhou-23 mission, a spokesperson for the CMSA said on Saturday. The main challenges will be long-term effects on humans, including bone density loss, muscle wasting, radiation exposure, sleep disturbances, behavioural and psychological fatigue, said Richard de Grijs, an astrophysicist and professor at Macquarie University in Australia. He also underlined the importance of reliable water and air recycling systems, as well as the ability to manage potential medical emergencies far from Earth. China is "steadily" building operational experience for "sustained occupation" of its Tiangong space station, and year-long missions are an important step towards future lunar and potentially deep-space ambitions, de Grijs told AFP.

Southern California officials trying to prevent explosion or leak from damaged chemical tank

World. (Agency)
A damaged chemical tank in Southern California cracked over the weekend but the interior temperature rose as authorities worked to reduce the risks of a powerful explosion that has led to the evacuation of some 50,000 residents. The tank overheated Thursday and began venting vapors, leaving local and state officials scrambling to evade a worst possible scenario at a company site in Garden Grove, a city of roughly 170,000 about 40 miles (60 kilometers) south of downtown Los Angeles. No injuries have been reported. Firefighters have repeatedly sprayed the tank with water in an attempt to cool the chemicals. The tank's interior reached 100 degrees (37.7 Celsius) Sunday, an increase of 10 degrees Fahrenheit (5.5 Celsius) since Saturday, according to Democratic state Sen. Tom Umberg. Fire officials over the weekend discovered the tank had cracked, lowering the potential for a devastating blast, and it did not appear any of the highly volatile chemicals had

leaked, Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Wayhowe Huang said. "There's still the danger of a possible explosion," he said. Officials working to prevent a disaster Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency Saturday and said he asked President Donald Trump to issue an emergency declaration to bolster federal support for local and state officials. The tank at GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems, which makes parts for commercial and military aircraft, holds 6,000 to 7,000 gallons (22,700 to 26,500 liters) of methyl methacrylate used to make plastic parts. Monitoring tests found air pollution around the evacuation zone was within normal limits and specialized equipment is being used to ensure gas is not released, state and federal environmental officials said Saturday. The first goal of firefighters is to cool off the chemical inside the tank to prevent a leak or explosion. Drones were monitoring temperatures at 10-minute

intervals to watch for any spikes. Containment barriers have been set up to prevent the chemical from getting into storm drains or reaching creeks or the nearby ocean in the event of a spill, Orange County Fire Authority division chief Craig Covey said on social media. As the interior temperature rises, methyl methacrylate converts from a liquid to a gas and increases the pressure, according to Purdue University engineering professor Andrew Whelton, who said the crack could mean product or pressure is being released,

reducing the chance of explosion. "Think of a soda can. If you leave it in a hot car it can explode," Whelton said. "But if you put a hole in the can, the product is released and the can itself doesn't explode." Firefighters are unlikely to consider making a hole in the tank, fearing a spark that might ignite the volatile and flammable gas. An explosion that could spread the chemical over a broad area and send shrapnel flying would be the worst-case scenario, he said. Dealing with displacement and health concerns Aerial photos taken by The Associated Press showed streets in the area were empty Sunday, while several evacuation shelters were open. At a high school in neighboring La Palma, people slept in cars or on mats and sleeping bags on the asphalt. Garden Grove is next to Anaheim, home to Disneyland's two theme parks, which were not under evacuation orders. Park officials said they were monitoring the situation.



US says Iran deal still possible, as Trump tempers expectations

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a deal to end the war with Iran could materialise on Monday, as President Donald Trump tempered expectations. The United States and Iran have observed a ceasefire since April 8 while mediators push for a negotiated settlement, although Iran has imposed controls on Gulf shipping and the US has blockaded Iran's ports. "We thought we might have some news last night, maybe today, I wouldn't read too much into it," Rubio said in New Delhi, referring to the potential agreement. "We have what I think is a pretty solid thing on the table in terms of their ability to open up the straits, get the straits open," he told reporters in the Indian capital, where he has been on an official visit. Rubio's remarks come after Trump said Sunday that he had told his negotiators not to "rush" the deal, while both Washington and Tehran signalled progress towards an agreement. "I have informed my representatives not to rush into a deal

in that time is on our side," a Truth Social posted to the US president's official account said Sunday. "The Blockade will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified and signed." In a separate post to Trump's Truth Social it read that the



deal "has been largely negotiated, subject to finalization between the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the various other Countries." Iran's Tasnim news agency said Sunday its information was that key clauses of a possible agreement remained "unresolved at this time," including the issue of frozen Iranian

assets. The war, which erupted after the United States and Israel attacked the Islamic republic on February 28 and saw Iran respond with missile and drone attacks across the region, has caused fluctuations in the market. But the hint of optimism caused oil prices to plunge close to five percent on Monday. The price of North Sea Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate slipped to USD 99.41 and USD 92.49 a barrel respectively. Nuclear issue Rubio told The New York Times that an agreement with Iran had gained regional support but a nuclear deal couldn't be achieved "in 72 hours on the back of a napkin." "Right now, we have seven or eight countries in the region that are endorsing this approach, and we're prepared to move forward on this approach," he said. Earlier, Rubio had said a bargain could be struck to end the regional war as early as Sunday, but Trump again reined in expectations. A post on Trump's Truth Social read: "If I make a deal with Iran, it will be a good and proper one."

Hezbollah chief Qassem says he hopes for Iran-US deal and that it includes Lebanon

TEGUCIGALPA. (Agency)
Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem expressed hope Sunday for an agreement between Iran and the United States and that Lebanon, where Israel and the Iran-backed group are at war, would be part of its terms. Hezbollah and Israel have clashed since the militants drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2 by firing rockets at Israel in retaliation for the killing of Iran's supreme leader in US-Israeli strikes. Iranian officials have said an understanding with Washington to halt the regional war will include Lebanon. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that US President Donald Trump had reaffirmed his support for Israel's right "to defend itself against threats on all fronts, including in Lebanon". "God willing, this agreement will be finalised and there

are signs of its completion, and accordingly that we too will be among those included in this agreement -- an agreement of a full cessation of hostilities," Qassem said in a televised address broadcast on Hezbollah's Al-Manar television channel. The speech marked the anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon in 2000 after around two decades of occupation and following persistent pressure from Hezbollah. Qassem said that Iran, which has provided Hezbollah with funding and weapons for decades, "is on top" and would emerge from the regional war "with its head high". Expectations of a Middle East deal come as Lebanon prepares for a fourth round of direct talks with Israel in Washington on June 2 and 3, preceded by a meeting between military delegations at the Pentagon on May 29 Existential threat'

Qassem again repeated his group's rejection of direct talks, charging that key Israel ally Washington "is not an honest broker". "Direct negotiations are completely unacceptable and are a pure gain for Israel," he said, addressing Lebanese authorities who last year committed to disarming Hezbollah and then banned its military activities after the latest war erupted. "Abandon the direct negotiations and do not give to America so that it gives to Israel... Return to the national understanding," he added. Don't be with them and stab us in the back. You won't gain anything, and it's better for you to stand with your country." Despite heavy losses in 2023-2024 hostilities with Israel and the current war, Hezbollah refuses to disarm, arguing that its weapons are an internal Lebanese matter and not up for discussion in Washington.

Three dead, 17 workers still missing in collapse of unfinished hotel in Philippines

ANGELES. (Agency)
Rescuers pulled out two workers early Monday from an immense pile of rubble that was a nine-story hotel which collapsed while under construction in a northern Philippine city, bringing the death toll to three with 17 others still missing, officials said. One of the workers emerged dead while emergency personnel struggled in the early morning hours to revive the other one in an ambulance near the pile of concrete slabs, twisted iron bars and aluminum scaffoldings that was all that remained of the building in Angeles City of Pampanga Province. They eventually gave up and drove away. The poignant scene was witnessed by a small group of journalists, including from The Associated Press, who stood by as hundreds of rescuers led by firefighters and police scrambled for hours to extricate the two workers, who were at the time alive but trapped under concrete slabs and iron bars. Rescuers tried to provide water and medicine intravenously to one of the trapped workers in the rubble in a desperate effort to keep him alive in the scorching summer heat, regional police chief Brig. Gen. Jess Mendez told the AP. "He never made it despite all the efforts," he said. The third dead victim was a Malaysian tourist trapped in a budget inn that was partly hit by the avalanche of debris from the collapsed building. Another guest at the inn was injured but managed to dash out, officials said. A day after the unfinished building collapse with a loud crashing sound after a fierce thunderstorm, Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin said rescue efforts would still not be shifted to a body retrieval operation. "My best hope is that we can rescue more people alive," Lazatin told the AP. "We don't want to give the families of the trapped workers any bad news." Nxiety and fear among relatives of the trapped workers, who are waiting in sheds near the rubble, have deepened. I'm losing hope because of what I see—slow rescue work," said Lea Mendoza Casilao, a 47-year-old sardine factory worker whose boyfriend, a mason, was among those still trapped in the rubble. She brought a week's supply of rice and sardines for him at the construction site, but she said they would never meet as scheduled over the weekend after the building where he was sleeping crumbled before dawn on Sunday. Lazatin said rescuers were moving carefully because huge slabs of concrete were being held up precariously by a tangle of aluminum scaffoldings and could crash down on rescuers. Twenty-six workers were either rescued or managed to run out of the collapsing building, where they slept on pieces of plywood on the ground floor. Of the 17 workers still missing, one has been located but has yet to be extricated from the rubble, officials said. National police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said his force will support an "ongoing investigation to determine the cause of the incident and possible violations of safety and building regulations."

When wars destroy heritage, women lose more than monuments — new research

The women we interviewed connected heritage destruction to fear, displacement and mistrust. One woman explained seeing heritage destroyed made her feel unsafe in her own hometown.

World. (Agency)
As conflict continues in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran and elsewhere, the cost is being recorded not only in deaths and displacement, but also in ruined libraries, mosques, churches, museums, archives and historic neighbourhoods. UNESCO has verified damage to 527 cultural sites in Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion; 164 sites in Gaza since October 7 2023; and damage to the World Heritage-listed Golestan Palace in Tehran following a nearby

airstrike. These losses are usually described as attacks on "history", "civilisation" or "the past" and sometimes as a "loss for all humanity". But as our new research details, such destruction can also negatively affect communities' sense of belonging and identity — and erode women's sense of safety and security amid conflict. Islamic State's campaign Islamic State's campaign across Syria and Iraq from 2013 involved mass violence, human rights abuses and forced displacement. The Islamic State committed genocide against the Yazidi minority, including systematic killings and sexual slavery. At the same time, Islamic State methodically targeted cultural and religious heritage, including museums, archaeological sites, churches, shrines, cemeteries, mosques and other historically significant and sacred places. UNESCO called this "cultural cleansing". There was an intentional strategy to destroy cultural diversity through attacks on people

identified by their cultural, ethnic or religious background, combined with attacks on their key cultural and religious centres. We spoke with Syrian and Iraqi women affected by the Islamic State's heritage destruction. We found such



destruction was experienced not only as cultural loss, but as a form of gendered harm. For the women we spoke to, heritage destruction was part of a wider campaign of domination: an attack on their memories, identities and personal safety.

Response to heritage destruction Since Islamic State's attacks, international responses to heritage destruction have become more extensive. In 2016, the UN Human Rights Council called on states to protect the right of everyone to take part in cultural life, including the ability to access and enjoy cultural heritage. That same year the International Criminal Court convicted a terrorist leader of the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against historic and religious buildings in Timbuktu, Mali. In 2017, the UN Security Council condemned the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, recognising it as a threat to global security. These developments helped to shift heritage destruction from a specialist conservation issue to a matter of human rights, criminal accountability and international security. But they say almost nothing about how women experience heritage destruction in distinctly gendered ways.

Because he broke the barrier under the event's wildcard rules, Gkolomeev earned a ridiculous 1,000,000 US Dollars world record bonus on top of his 250,000 US Dollars winner's purse. International swimming governing bodies won't touch this record with a ten-foot pole, but Gkolomeev likely won't care while cashing a 1.25 million US Dollars pay cheque.



Bhumi Pednekkar

Reacts To Viral Obscene Video, Demands Stricter Laws: 'We Are In A Pandemic'

Actor Bhumi Pednekkar has reacted strongly to a viral video showing some men allegedly making obscene gestures towards a woman's wall painting near a swimming pool. The actor shared the clip on social media and demanded stricter laws against crimes targeting women and children. The video, originally shared by the Instagram account Tube Indian, sparked outrage online. Bhumi reposted it on her Instagram Stories and spoke about what she described as a disturbing mindset among young people.

Bhumi Pednekkar Calls Out 'Disturbing Mentality'

Sharing the viral clip, Bhumi wrote, "This is the mentality of our youth. These are the same people who are going to sexually assault children and women. We are in a pandemic. Just words and showing shame isn't enough. Stricter laws, stricter laws, stricter laws."

Her reaction comes at a time when several incidents involving women's safety have triggered nationwide conversations. In recent days, reports related to alleged dowry harassment and mental torture cases have shocked people across the country.

One such case that recently drew attention involved the alleged dowry death of a 33-year-old woman in Bhopal.

Bhumi Earlier Reacted To Delhi Assault Case

This is not the first time Bhumi has publicly expressed anger over crimes against women and children. In January, the actor had reacted to reports about a six-year-old girl allegedly gang-raped by three boys aged 10, 13 and 14 in Delhi. Bhumi had then spoken about the environment children are growing up in and questioned society's response to such incidents.

The actor said, "Breaks my heart to see under age boys go through with something so heinous. Imagine the environments they are growing up in. We are punishing the voiceless in our country, and have sensationalised, dogs being a threat."

Debate Around Women's Safety Continues Actors Kangana Ranaut and Ridhi Dogra have also recently spoken about women valuing their independence and raising concerns around marriage-related pressures.

Bhumi Pednekkar's Recent Work

On the work front, Bhumi was last seen in Prime Video's series Daldal. Directed by Amrit Raj Gupta, the show is based on Vish Dhamija's bestselling book Bhendi Bazaar. In the series, Bhumi played DCP Rita Ferreria, a police officer investigating a serial killer who slits the wrists of victims.



Aayush Sharma Turns Trainer For Kids Ahil And Ayat, Shares Adorable Gym



Fitness and celebrity parenting came together on social media after Aayush Sharma shared a set of adorable workout videos featuring his children, Ahil and Ayat. The actor, who is married to Salman Khan's sister Arpita Khan Sharma, gave fans a peek into his family fitness time, with the clips quickly drawing attention online.

Aayush Sharma Turns Fitness Trainer For His Kids

In the videos, Aayush is seen guiding Ahil and Ayat through simple gym movements in a playful and patient manner. The clips capture him as a hands-on father, turning the workout session into a fun bonding activity with his children.

From basic movements to small exercise drills, the videos showed the kids enthusiastically following their father's instructions. Sharing the clips on social media, Aayush wrote, "Teach them young .. Watch them grow into Healthy and Wise." Aayush also appeared to have just finished an intense workout himself. The actor was seen shirtless in white boxers, flaunting his toned physique while helping his children with their exercises.

Internet Reacts To Aayush Sharma's Workout Videos With Ahil And Ayat

The videos sparked mixed reactions online. Many users praised Aayush for encouraging discipline, fitness and an active lifestyle from a young age. Others, however, questioned whether children should be introduced to gym-based training so early.

One user wrote, "♥ ♥ like father.. like daughter.. " Another commented, "Dear sir & ayat baby & ahil baba work hard with his lovely father ♥ . " A fan also praised the father-daughter moment and wrote, "BE strong daughter always bhai ♥ ♥ . "

Did Poonam Pandey Just Soft-Launch Her Boyfriend? Actress Shares Cosy Pictures With Mystery Man



Poonam Pandey has often grabbed headlines for her controversial posts, but this time she is in the news for rather happy news. Taking to her Instagram, Poonam Pandey shared a series of pictures with an evil eye emoji as the caption. The post looks like she is soft-launching the man in her life.

In the social media post that Poonam Pandey shared, she was seen with a guy whose face isn't visible in the pictures. The first picture in the post has Poonam looking away from the camera as a guy hugs her while she hides his face with her hands. Another picture in the carousel has Poonam Pandey clicking a mirror selfie as the guy holds her from behind, while Poonam hides his face with her phone.

About Poonam Pandey's previous marriage

Poonam Pandey was previously married to her longtime beau Sam Bombay. Reportedly, they met for the first time in 2019 and began dating. Their relationship gained attention through social media posts and public appearances. Sam, a filmmaker and ad director, often collaborated with Poonam professionally as well. In July 2020, the couple announced their engagement on Instagram. They shared romantic pictures, confirming they were ready to take the next step. On September 1 of the same year, the duo tied the knot in a private ceremony. However, their life took a drastic turn soon after their marriage. The then-couple was in Goa for their honeymoon when Poonam filed an FIR against Sam and accused him of molesting, threatening, and assaulting her. The Goa Police also arrested Bombay but was later released on bail.

Shortly after the incident, Poonam Pandey withdrew her complaint and decided to give another chance to Sam. She publicly stated that they had resolved their differences and were back together. Even though the couple continued their relationship, they remained in the news for frequent disputes. However, in 2021, Poonam Pandey once again accused Sam Bombay of physical assault. She filed a complaint against him after he allegedly hit her. Following this, Poonam decided to end her relationship with Sam.

Eva Longoria Hugs

Aishwarya Rai

Says 'Cannes Can Start Now'

One hug, one shout-out, and Cannes had its moment. After days of waiting for Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's appearance at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival, the actor finally stepped onto the red carpet and immediately became one of the biggest highlights of the evening. While her looks drew plenty of attention, it was her heartwarming reunion with longtime friend Eva Longoria that truly took over social media. Videos from the red carpet went viral soon after, showing Eva visibly thrilled on spotting Aishwarya. The two actors, who have shared a long friendship through their association as L'Oréal ambassadors, greeted each other warmly before posing together for the cameras.

Eva Longoria Hugs Aishwarya Rai At Cannes



In one of the viral clips, Eva can be seen excitedly walking towards Aishwarya and cheering for her in front of the photographers.

"That's my best friend! We have arrived, Cannes can start now," Eva exclaimed before hugging Aishwarya on the red carpet. Aishwarya greeted her with equal warmth, and the two posed together as photographers captured the reunion. Another video, later shared on Eva Longoria's Instagram Stories,

showed the two exchanging cheek-kisses and chatting happily on the red carpet. The clip, originally posted by Galafr, reflected the easy bond the two stars have shared for years.

Netizens React To Aishwarya And Eva's Reunion

The reunion quickly became one of the most talked-about moments from Cannes. Fans flooded social media with comments celebrating their friendship and red carpet chemistry.

One user wrote, "Eva Longoria + Aishwarya Rai friendship+ Timeless IT'S WORTH IT." Another commented, "OMG @aishwaryarai Bachchan_arb is looking Breathtaking. And here the Two Sweethearts meet again Aish and Eva."

