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Modi Urges Calm, Forgives 'Misguided' Student Protesters

NEW DELHI: Reeling under mounting pressure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a late night attempt on Friday to reach out to the agitating students, saying that although some had used "filthy language" against him and even his late mother, it was time to "embrace them."

Describing the students' outbursts as the "mistake" of a few "misguided children," Prime Minister again took to Instagram to appeal for calm and strike a conciliatory note amid simmering unrest. The Prime Minister's late night address was also being viewed as an attempt to steal the thunder from the Opposition, which has been relentlessly targeting him for the "police brutality" against the protesting students on July 20.

Modi said that some children used very abuses

and it directed at him and his late mother as well.

The Prime Minister said that while society's anger was understandable, particularly over the language allegedly used by young women, the focus should be on showing them the right path rather than pushing them into legal battles.

"They are misguided children, and showing them the way is our duty and we will not be able to change circumstances by punishing them, making them run around the courts, or harassing them in society," he said, adding that he wish to forgive these students and urged society to do the same.

He stated that just as people do not break their teeth after accidentally biting their tongue, society

should not abandon its own children for their mistakes.

"Sometimes our tongue comes under our teeth and blood comes out, but we do not break our teeth—because the teeth are ours, and the tongue is ours too. The children are also ours," the Prime Minister said, called on the students to move on from the episode.

He invited students to contribute to nation-building.

"Children, come, let us move forward together for the country. Let us learn something new, let us learn even from mistakes. I live for you, I toil for your bright future, so come, let us together take the country forward."



Modi Urges Calm, Forgives Misguided S

Revanth flags Middle East job scams targeting Telangana workers

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday, July 31, expressed concern that a large number of workers from North Telangana who seek employment in the Middle Eastern countries are often falling prey to fraud by agents.

He asked Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM) officials to enter into agreements with manpower agencies in the destination countries to assist the workers, besides helping the aspirants in obtaining passports.

Reddy said such agreements would enable TOMCOM to intervene, hold discussions, and ensure justice for the workers in case they face any difficulties abroad, an official release said.

Reddy, who held a meeting on the Skill, Human Capital and Knowledge Training Initiatives (SHAKTI) department, said TOMCOM would help the aspirants in providing training, organising job fairs, facilitating passport services and securing good job opportunities abroad.

He directed officials to collect the details of agents who facilitate overseas migration of workers and to register the particulars of every individual sent abroad by them.

A former IFS officer would be appointed as the CEO of TOMCOM to oversee these operations, the release said.



Jaishankar Urges Iran to Avoid Attacks on Ships in Call with Araghchi

New Delhi: India on Friday strongly urged Iran to avoid attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers under any circumstances with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveying to his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi that New Delhi condemns any such strike by any party.

Jaishankar said this during a phone conversation with Araghchi.

"Conveyed our deep concerns at the ongoing hostilities in the region. Strongly urged that attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers be avoided under any circumstance," the external affairs minister said on social media.

"India condemns any such attack by any party."

Jaishankar said he was apprised of Iran's perspective of current developments and discussions which are underway.

"India is always supportive of dialogue and diplomacy," he said.

The phone conversation between the two foreign ministers came amid increasing hostilities between Iran and the US.

India has been voicing serious concerns over attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh told Rajya Sabha on Thursday that 16 Indian nationals, including 10 seafarers, have been killed and another 75 injured in the West Asia conflict since February.

"Since the outbreak of the conflict in the Middle East in 2026, 16 Indian nationals, including 10 seafarers have lost their lives in the Middle East (one in Saudi Arabia; two in Kuwait; eight in Oman; one in Iraq; and four in UAE), and 75 Indians have been injured (32 in UAE; 24 in Oman; four in Qatar; 13 in Kuwait; one in Saudi Arabia; and one in Israel)," Singh said.

He was replying to a question.

"In a separate accident not related to attacks, 12 Indian nationals have lost their lives in Ras Laffan Gas Facility in Qatar," Singh said, referring to an explosion and fire at an energy complex in June.

Commonwealth Games: Neeraj Chopra wins javelin throw silver in CWG, Yashvir bags bronze -

Glasgow, July 31

The 28-year-old Tokyo Olympics champion produced a season's best throw of 85.83m in his second attempt, which was good enough for a second place finish. His effort on Friday was just a shade better than the 85.69m he had come up while finishing fourth at the Doha Diamond League on June 19, his only other event this season.

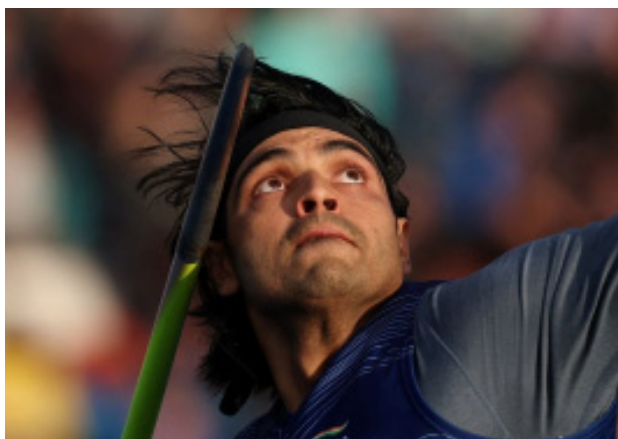
The 24-year-old Yashvir on his debut at Games stunned one and all with a personal best 85.41m throw in his sixth and final attempt as Indians finish 2-3 on the podium. His earlier personal best was 83.72m. He was at seventh spot after the penultimate round with his third attempt measuring 81.33m before producing a memorable 85.41m throw to join Chopra on the podium.

The near-90m throw was noteworthy as the athletes were competing under cold and windy conditions. He is the lone javelin thrower this season to have breached the 90m mark. He has a personal and season best throw of 92.62m which he had recorded while winning the Rome Diamond League title in June.

Chopra had returned from a lower back injury that has troubled him since September last year. The injury delayed his return until the Diamond League in Doha. It was his second Commonwealth Games, having won a gold in the 2018 edition in Gold Coast.

He indicated that he was still not at his full fitness but slowly getting there.

"I can't say fitness is like before. But I'm getting there slowly. There is still time for the Asian Games. I will compete in Diamond League before that. There will be more improvement. Will improve slowly," Chopra said after his



event.

Chopra said his comeback from injury has been satisfactory.

"Although we always want the national anthem to play but I did my season best and comeback is going okay, there are other competitions as well. I am happy," he said.

"The weather was better than yesterday. It was good in the starting but later it became cold and there was wind.

"I also had a one go throw only, I thought it will go further but it didn't fly. I thought I could have pushed myself further. I'm trying to get into my rhythm. I am not

able to do that well in these conditions, I like hot weather ... (I'm) Indian blood." For Yashvir, sharing the podium with Chopra was a happy moment for him.

"I am happy that I could do my personal best and also get a medal in such conditions," he said.

The third Indian in the fray, Rohit Yadav finished seventh with a best throw of 81.56m.

Interestingly, athletes from the Indian subcontinent swept all the men's javelin throw medals in the Games.

However, Pakistan's defending champion and reigning Olympic gold medallist was eliminated after three rounds with a best distance of 77.41m.

Reigning world champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago finished sixth with 82.55m.

Chopra opened with a 80.97m before his second round throw of 85.83m which was his best of the day. His third and fourth attempts measured 81.29m and 80.73m respectively while his last two throws were fouls.

He led the 12-athlete field briefly but Pathirage sent his spear to 89.75m, just one-fourth of a metre short of the coveted 90m mark, in his second attempt to snatch the lead, which he held till the end. Ironically, all of his five other attempts were fouls.

The 23-year-old has been in tremendous form, as he has won title seven times out of eight competitions he participated so far in the season. He has won the Diamond League titles in Doha and Rome and finished second in Rabat, Morocco.

'No firing' claim sparks privilege motion against MoS Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, July 31

Congress MP and Public Accounts Committee Chairman K C Venugopal on Friday moved a privilege motion against Union Minister of State (PMO) Jitendra Singh, accusing him of deliberately misleading Parliament by falsely claiming that no firing had taken place during the recent protests by students.

In a notice submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla under Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Venugopal sought privilege proceedings against the minister, alleging that he had knowingly placed incorrect facts before the House during his reply to the discussion on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, on July 29.

The Congress leader objected to Jitendra Singh's statement in the House that no firing had taken place and that only tear gas had been used, saying the minister had categorically denied any use of bullets while asserting that the question of issuing firing orders did not arise.

Calling the statement "directly contrary to the facts on the ground", Venugopal said firing had indeed taken place and that one of the injured students was still undergoing treatment. He claimed evidence of the incident was available in the public domain.



From Uttar Pradesh to Canada: Alberta gets its first woman Sikh sheriff



Gagandeep Kaur Grewal, from the Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, has become the first Sikh woman to be appointed a sheriff in Alberta, Canada. Her appointment, widely welcomed across the Sikh diaspora, adds to a growing list of Sikh women entering policing and public safety roles in Canada over the past two decades. In Alberta, sheriffs serve as provincial peace officers, responsible for court security, prisoner transport, highway patrol, and security at major events. Their role is set to expand further under Bill 15, introduced in February 2026, which proposes the creation of an independent Alberta Sheriffs Police Service, opening pathways for sheriffs to transition into full policing roles.

Grewal's appointment comes amid broader efforts to improve diversity in Canadian policing. A key mile-

stone was in 1991, when Baltej Singh Dhillon became the first turbaned Sikh to serve in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), following a national debate over uniform rules. The decision marked a turning point in accommodating religious identity within law enforcement. Today, women make up about 22 per cent of police personnel in Canada, while visible minorities account for roughly 8 per cent. Sikh communities, especially in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario, have played a role in this shift, with Punjabi language skills and cultural familiarity seen as valuable in community policing. Among the early Sikh women to gain prominence in uniformed service was Corporal Rupinder Kaur of Surrey, British Columbia. In 2017, she joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police after completing university training in Regina, Saskatchewan, and went on to serve in Richmond on general duty, later becoming a School Liaison Officer, a detective, and eventually a Corporal and Road Supervisor in Surrey. More recently, Constable Puneet Deol became the first South Asian female police officer in the Ottawa Police Service in October 2022. In October 2025, Rajbeer Kaur Brar, 35, also referred to as Rajbir Kaur, became Canada's first turbaned woman constable in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Originally from Thandewala village near Muktsar in Punjab, Rajbir Kaur holds a master's degree in information technology from Chandigarh. She moved to Canada in 2016 after marriage, worked at Walmart, briefly served in the Canadian Army Reserve, and was later selected for RCMP. She is currently posted in Milestone, Saskatchewan.

47 FIRs, 9 murder charges, but only 4 convictions, confidential dossier on Lawrence Bishnoi shows

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi has been named in 47 FIRs in Punjab over the past 16 years, facing charges including murder, attempt to murder, extortion, criminal conspiracy, and armed violence. However, he has been convicted in only four cases so far. Data accessed by The Indian Express on the First Information Reports filed against Bishnoi from 2010 onwards shows that 19 of these cases, around 40.4 per cent, have ended in acquittal, discharge, cancellation, or remain untraced. Another 24 cases are still pending. Bishnoi, who is lodged in high-security Sabarmati jail in Gujarat, has been in the news lately after the Punjab Police wrote to the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to stop the airing of a docuseries, Lawrence of Punjab, based on his life on an OTT platform. Acting on the state's cyber cell's request and concerns about possible law-and-order implications, the ministry directed the broadcaster not to air the series on April 27. A confidential Punjab Police dossier on Lawrence Bishnoi shows that of the 47 FIRs across the state over the past 15 years, 16 are under trial and eight are still under investigation. This means nearly half the cases remain unresolved, while most disposed cases have resulted in acquittal or dismissal rather than conviction.

The conviction rate stands at a mere 8.51 per cent, raising questions about the effectiveness of prosecutions against him. Bishnoi has been convicted in FIR No. 77 dated October 2, 2010, (Phase-8, SAS Nagar) under sections 452, 324, 34 IPC, FIR No. 37 lodged on March 5, 2015 (Sadar Fazilka) under the NDPS Act, FIR No. 22 on January 18, 2015, (Sohana, SAS Nagar) under multiple Indian Penal Code sections, including 223, 307, 224, 225, and 232, and FIR No. 209 register on September 13, 2016 (Faridkot city) under IPC Section 420 and the Prison Act. In the 19 cases, he was acquitted, discharged, untraced, or cancelled, spanning from 2011 to as recently as October 2024. Several older FIRs were cancelled by the police or resulted in full acquittal, including one acquittal delivered on October 24, 2024. This large number of non-conviction outcomes stands in sharp contrast to the gravity of the charges, which frequently involve serious offences. The remaining 24 cases against Bishnoi



are still active, with 16 under trial and 8 under investigation. Recent FIRs filed in 2024 and 2025, including two under the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, indicate that fresh cases continue to be registered against him. Bishnoi has been repeatedly charged under grave IPC sections in 47 FIRs registered at various police stations in Punjab, primarily in SAS Nagar, Fazilka, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Amritsar, Bathinda, Moga, and Faridkot.

In many cases, the Arms Act, NDPS Act, and, more recently, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) have been invoked against Lawrence Bishnoi. The charges point to a pattern of alleged gang violence, targeted attacks, extortion, and organised criminal conspiracy. The dossier also includes Bishnoi's photograph and personal details, including information about his village, Dutaravali, under the Bahawala Police Station in Fazilka district, and highlights the Punjab Police's sustained monitoring of the gangster, who remains lodged in the high-security prison. Despite the sheer volume of cases and the severity of the allegations, the exceptionally low conviction rate and high proportion of acquittals or discharges have once again brought the challenges of securing convictions in high-profile gang-related prosecutions into sharp focus.

US-based doctor's Rs 1-cr gold stolen from locked room at Bengaluru wedding hall



A US-based doctor lost gold ornaments worth approximately Rs 1 crore after they were stolen from a locked room at a Bengaluru wedding hall on April 22, the police said. Dr Siruvella Sridevi, 52, travelled from the United States to Bengaluru on April 18 to attend the wedding of her sister's son. She stayed at her brother's home in Ganganagar on Ballari Road and brought her gold jewellery along with her, according to the police.

The police said she arrived at SDP Palace on Old Madras Road in Bidarahalli, the wedding venue, around 11.30 am on Wednesday. By 6.30 pm, her brother handed over a box containing the gold ornaments to her in the hall. Dr Sridevi wore a few pieces for the reception and locked the remaining jewellery inside the room before joining the celebration. When she returned between 7.30 pm and 11.30 pm, the ornaments were missing, despite the room door appearing locked and the key remaining in her possession throughout. Dr Sridevi filed a formal complaint the next afternoon at the Avalahalli police station, also mentioning that a worker from the wedding hall had visited her room while she was getting ready. "We have not ruled out the involvement of someone known to the victim or her family besides the suspect, given that the key was with her at all times. We have reviewed CCTV footage to determine whether anyone entered the room using a duplicate key. Family members and individuals who had access to the room are also being questioned," a police officer said. The police said the wedding hall's manager, Prabhu, denied any staff involvement in the theft and was cooperating with the investigation. Saidulu Adavath, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Whitefield Di-

vision, told reporters that the investigation was underway in the case.

FTII entrance exam cancelled in Delhi after candidates breach strong room over question paper delay

The strong room at the Delhi centre for the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) entrance test was breached on Sunday after a delay in distributing question papers led to a law and order situation, a senior FTII official said, adding that the test was cancelled for the centre in both the first and second shifts.

"During the first shift today at FTII's entrance exam centre in Delhi, a delay in paper distribution in one building led to a law and order issue, and a few candidates entered the strong room, manhandled staff, and caused destruction. In an emergency meeting with the exam agency and the centre in charge, the FTII administration has decided to cancel the exam for candidates in that specific building. Police were on site, and an FTII observer was also present... Exams at all other centres proceeded peacefully," the official of the Pune institute said in a statement. The FTII Students' Association accused the administration of failing to follow examination protocol, stating that the integrity of the entrance test was compromised across multiple centres. Candidates who reached their exam centres at 8.15 am could not be accommodated in their respective exam halls even at 10 am, the stipulated starting time of the exam. Question papers were either delivered late or not delivered at all in some exam centres. The candidates were not given compensatory time for the delay in the start of the exam in the centres where the papers eventually got delivered.

Sun Pharma chairman calls Organon deal both happy and anxious moment



New Delhi: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries' acquisition of US-based Organon & Co at USD 11.75 billion enterprise valuation is both a "happy" and "bit anxious" moment, considering the large nature of the transaction and debt required to fund it, its Executive Chairman Dilip Shanghvi said on Monday. Addressing a media conference in Mumbai, Shanghvi asserted that although the company is "debt-averse", it is "not risk-averse" and the acquisition opportunity, despite coming at a turbulent time globally, "generally would be difficult to get if all times are normal". Apart from other synergies, two of the main gains for Sun Pharma from the Organon acquisition are entering the Chinese market and getting a foothold in the global biosimilars business.

"I am happy, excited, (and) also a little bit anxious. It's a large transaction that we are entering into," he said. Noting that the Organon acquisition reminds him of the Ranbaxy transaction, Shanghvi said, "At that point of time we were a much smaller company, but at that time also we were buying another company which was almost 80 per cent of our company in terms of size." He further said, "We did not pay for that acquisition through cash, but we paid for that acquisition through a much more expensive currency. We paid through our stock and dilution to Sun Pharma shareholders was close to 20 per cent." Organon in terms of size, he said, "is more or less the same as that of Sun Pharma. In terms of profitability, it is maybe even a little bit higher than Sun Pharma, however, the transaction values Organon at less than 25 per cent of the Sun Pharma valuation." The key difference, he said, is the difference in the growth trajectories of the two companies, adding that while "Sun has been consistently growing, Organon has not been growing". Sun Pharma said the acquisition will be financed with USD 2-2.5 billion of cash on hand and the balance USD 9.25-9.75 billion to be funded through committed financing from banks. Referring to the debt, Shanghvi acknowledged some of the concerns that people have expressed were "related to the large size of debt that we might have to raise to pay for the company". "This debt, even though large in terms of the overall size, is still going to be 2.3 times the combined company EBITDA, and we have a focused effort towards finding a way to minimise the debt by repaying it as early as possible," he asserted.

Stressing that Sun Pharma has been "either a low-debt or maybe a certain cash-positive company for a long time", he said, "Even the debt that we got as a result of the Ranbaxy acquisition, we found a way to repay it in the shortest possible time". Similarly, for the Organon acquisition, he said, "That would be our effort, that would be our focus, but we will still have the ability to do business

Watermelon, vomiting and sudden deaths: Mumbai family tragedy under probe

Hours after hosting a dinner party for relatives at their home Saturday night, four members of a family in South Mumbai died under mysterious circumstances. The police said food poisoning is suspected as a possible cause, and that they have sent the watermelon consumed by the family for forensic testing to check for toxins. The local J J Marg police have registered an accidental death report and are investigating the matter. According to the police, Abdullah Dokadia, 40, and his wife, Naseem, 35, and their two daughters, Ayesha, 16, and Zainab, 13, residents of the Moghul Building at Pydhonie, died Sunday.

Pravin Mundhe, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone 1, said the family had invited five relatives, including Abdullah's brother and sister, to their house Saturday night. All nine of them ate dinner at around 10.30 pm, following which the five guests returned home. Mundhe said the relatives did not eat the watermelon that the family ate around 1-1.30 am after the guests left. Around 5.30-6 am on Sunday, all four began experiencing vomiting and loose motions. They were first attended by the family doctor and then referred to J J Hospital. While the younger daughter, Ayesha, died at 10.15 am Sunday, the elder one and Naseem also passed away later that day. Abdullah, who owned a mobile accessories shop in

development deals, and we will focus on investing our investable surplus into products which are close to market, and products in therapy areas of our interest."

On the rationale behind taking a huge debt for the acquisition, especially at a time when there is turbulence globally, he said, "As a company, we ourselves are debt-averse. However, we are not risk-averse. At some point of time when we think that the debt will help us scale the business and change the trajectory of the business, we are comfortable with debt." He further said, "Whatever challenges that we have, if we manage risk properly, it should be possible for us to progress and in this turbulent time, you have an opportunity to do things which generally would be difficult to get if all times are normal." Citing the company's internal assessment of the future cash flow and its ability to repay the debt, Shanghvi expressed confidence in its ability to bring its debt ratio down to a much more reasonable level. "It's not a very high debt ratio, even though the amount of debt would be significant, but we should be able to repay the debt within a reasonable period of time. We have been disciplined about repaying debt in the past, and we will continue to be disciplined post the closing of the transaction," he asserted. Shanghvi also said the decision for the acquisition, despite the large debt requirement, was taken while keeping his family members informed. "I keep my family involved in that decision, because many of the implications of the decisions they have to live with, as I may possibly not be there at some point. It is a decision that we have entered into consciously," he noted. On the possibility of impact of the transaction on dividend payouts, he said, "As on today, when we have done the cash flow calculations and our desire to repay the debt, I think we have kept a provision so that we will continue to maintain the dividend."

Noting that for those who invest in emerging markets, dividend is one of the attractions for them to invest, he said, "What decision we will take on the future dividend policy, we will factor in this preference and liking of our shareholders while taking a decision, and we will keep people informed." Shanghvi said the Organon acquisition gives Sun Pharma a global presence. "It gives us the ability to licence products globally, also launch many of the products that we already have in our pipeline in many geographies where we are not currently present, and those are interesting geographies for us," he added. He further said, "It gives us opportunity in new markets where we are currently not present. We are not present in most of the countries in South America, Korea, Taiwan, China. We get direct presence in the Middle East, even Turkey, and many countries there where we have no presence through the Organon acquisition." Stressing the need to have a presence in China, Sun Pharma Managing Director Kirti Ganorkar said, "Any pharmaceutical company which wants to become global must be present in China, because China has become the world's second biggest market today. It is USD 150 billion, growing at 5-7 per cent." Organon's presence in China is substantial and FY25 revenues stood at over USD 800 million, he added. The deal also enables Sun Pharma's entry into biosimilars as a top-10 global player. Shanghvi said initially Sun Pharma was not in the biosimilar segment due to lack of regulatory clarity on "substitution as well as interchangeability", and now with greater clarity, it justifies the investments. "We will continue to look out for opportunities to in-licence products from people who have the ability to bring these products to market,



Andheri, succumbed at 10.30 pm. The police also examined the other five guests, but none showed any symptoms. As a result, the dinner shared with the family is not currently suspected of causing the illness. Rais Shaikh, Senior Inspector, J J Marg Police Station, said they had recorded the statement of Abdullah before he died. Shaikh said he told them that they had a watermelon before going to sleep. An officer said they had sent the leftover dinner and half a watermelon to the forensic science laboratory in Kalina for testing for any toxic substances. The post-mortem examination was conducted at JJ Hospital, which has reserved its opinion pending the histopathological report.

A Surat dietician murdered by husband, her body hidden in cement

Surat Police have uncovered a chilling attempt to hide a murder. Shilpa Salve, a local dietician, was allegedly killed by her husband on April 20. Surat Police have uncovered a chilling attempt to hide a murder. Shilpa Salve, a local dietician, was allegedly killed by her husband on April 20. A 39-year-old dietician in Gujarat's Surat was murdered, allegedly by her husband; her body was put in a wooden box and covered with mud and cement in an attempt to hide it, police have found. Shilpa Salve's husband, Vishal, has been taken into custody as police delve deeper into the grisly murder that has shocked the city.

Shilpa, who worked as a dietician at the Surat Municipal Institute of Medical Education and Research earlier, had now set up her own clinic. Vishal earlier worked with a diamond polishing factory but had been jobless for about eight years. Last week, he filed a complaint with the police, saying that Shilpa was missing. He then left home, leaving behind a chit with his confession. According to police, Vishal and Shilpa used to quarrel regularly and he suspected her of having an affair. Shilpa refused to let him check her mobile phone, and this led to frequent altercations. The couple have two sons, aged 13 and eight. According to the police, Vishal wrote in the letter, "After a pleasant marriage of several years, there was a change in the behaviour of my wife, our relations strained, and we used to quarrel frequently. Fed up with regular



quarrels and unable to bear any more, I have committed this crime, and no one else is involved or responsible. I committed the crime on April 20 and hid her body in my ancestral home at Salabatpura." Kosta has told police that Shilpa and Vishal married in 2010. Vishal worked in the diamond industry but had been unemployed for the past couple of years. This led to frequent quarrels between him and Shilpa, who had to run the household alone. Kosta, who lives in Chhattisgarh, has told police that he travelled to Surat multiple times to mediate between them. On April 21, he called her, but the phone was switched off. Vishal told him that Shilpa had not returned from the hospital.

19-year-old student killed on her way to college in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi



A 19-year-old college student was allegedly killed by a bike-borne assailant in the Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh Monday morning. The victim was identified as Siya Guleria, a resident of Nain village near Sarkaghat. According to reports, the woman was on her way to college when she was attacked in the Gopalpur town of Sarkaghat subdivision. Sources said the assailant allegedly slit her throat and stabbed her on the neck and arm before fleeing the spot around 9.30 am. Police sources said the assailant has been apprehended and is being

‘My salary increased by Rs 39 last year’: Voices from Noida’s angry garment workers

As a four-day-long protest by garment workers in Noida Phase 2 took a violent turn on Monday morning, with incidents of stone pelting, vandalism and arson being reported, several protesters had just one thing to say: their salaries are barely enough to meet living expenses. The protests started on Friday. Workers who took part in it are engaged in the industry and export business. From an 18-year-old from Sambhal to a 28-year-old from Bihar, The Indian Express speaks to three workers who were part of the demonstrations: Kashyap pointed out that salaries of workers in Manesar, near Gurgaon, have been increased to Rs 20,000 for eight hours of work. "So why not ours?" "I earn Rs 13,000, pay rent of Rs 4,000... a gas cylinder now costs Rs 400, how should we manage?" he asked. He also said the target set by his employer is very unrealistic. "They set a target for 70 pieces an hour and if we don't supply, they humiliate us. For years, they have given a mere Rs 320 hike... They force us to work at night... If we're unwell, they say don't come next time. And if we don't work on Sunday, they threaten to fire us." (Left to right) Surender Kashyap, Muhammad Noor Alam, Rahul. (Drishti Jain) (Left to right)



Surender Kashyap, Muhammad Noor Alam, Rahul. (Drishti Jain)Rahul has been doing the job since 2018. He is married, with two children aged three and one. "I earn Rs 13,500 — I do not save anything and can't send any money home. I have to pay Rs 5,000 for room rent, Rs 4,000 for ration. Some money is deducted for PF, so I'm only left with Rs 3,000 in the end to feed my family of 4. How can I manage? How do I educate my children?" said Rahul

ED carries out searches at Nashik, Shirdi and Pune against 'godman' Ashok Kharat

of senior party leader and former councilor Kashyap Shukla. Notably, Nehal's name had come up as BJP candidate for Ward No. 7 as a last minute change. In the list of candidates for the 72 post of corporators for the RMC declared by the party on Friday, his name was not there. However, at the last minute before filing of the nomination, Shailesh Jani, who was declared BJP candidate, was replaced by Nehal. In fact, Jani had reached the district Collector's office to file his nomination papers when he came to know that he was replaced by Nehal, who eventually filed his nomination papers as the BJP candidate. When asked about the nomination of the two 'dynast' candidates, a senior party office bearer from Rajkot said, "Both Anjanaben and Nehalbai have got elected as corporators earlier as well. They are nominated on their merits."

In Surat, at least four candidates nominated by the BJP for the elections of Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) are relatives of current or former office bearers of the party. Satish Maisurya has been nominated from Ward No. 14. In the outgoing elected body of the SMC, Maisurya's wife Rajshree was BJP corporator from the same ward. From Ward No. 29, Suhani Yadav has been fielded by the party. In the previous elected body of SMC, Suhani's father-in-law Banshu Yadav was BJP corporator from the same ward. Kamini Patel, wife of Surat BJP media convener Soham Patel, has been fielded by the party from Ward No. 28. In another instance, Anjali Upadhyay has been nominated by the party from Ward No. 27. Anjali's husband, Subham Upadhyay, is an elected member of the Surat Municipal Education Board. When contacted over the selection of candidates who are relatives of party leaders, Gujarat BJP spokesperson Anil Patel said, "They (such candidates who are relatives of party leaders) are those candidates who are active in politics for a long time. If a leader gets tickets for his sons who are doctors and not active in politics, then it could be called nepotism because none of them are active in the political field."¹⁴ Those (candidates who are relatives of party leaders and) who are politically active for a long time, we do not consider it as nepotism," he added.

Haryana municipal polls set for counting



Saturday. Currently, Pune commuters have limited and often inconvenient options for travelling to Bengaluru by train.



State Election Commissioner Devender Singh Kalyan announced that counting will take place on May 13. Nominations will be filed between April 21 and 25, with election symbols allotted on April 28. These elections will choose mayors and ward members in the three corporations, along with the president and members of the Municipal Council of Rewari, and the municipal committees of Sampla in Rohtak, Dharuhera in Rewari and Uklana in Hisar.

Haryana civic polls 2026 are scheduled for May 10 across seven municipal bodies, including Panchkula, Ambala and Sonipat, with nominations from April 21 to 25 and counting on May 13. Haryana civic polls 2026 are scheduled for May 10 across seven municipal bodies, including Panchkula, Ambala and Sonipat, with nominations from April 21 to 25 and counting on May 13. Haryana is heading into another round of civic polls with seven municipal bodies, including the corporations of Panchkula, Ambala and Sonipat, scheduled to vote on May 10 this year.

State Election Commissioner Devender Singh Kalyan announced that counting will take place on May 13. Nominations will be filed between April 21 and 25, with election symbols allotted on April 28. These elec-

der DCP Tejaswi Satpute to probe sexual harassment allegations against Kharat. Several cases related to the exploitation of women have already been registered. Following these complaints, financial fraud, illegal land deals, and other allegations also surfaced, prompting ED to register an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) earlier this month based on the First Information Report (FIR) filed by the Nashik police.

tions will choose mayors and ward members in the three corporations, along with the president and members of the Municipal Council of Rewari, and the municipal committees of Sampla in Rohtak, Dharuhera in Rewari and Uklana in Hisar. The reservation draw conducted in January set aside the Ambala mayoral seat for a backward class woman, while Panchkula and Sonipat remain open to candidates from all categories. In Rewari, the council president's post has been reserved for a Scheduled Caste woman, and Uklana's for a general category woman, while Sampla and Dharuhera posts remain unreserved.

The last municipal elections were held in December 2020, when the BJP and its ally JJP contested together but faced mixed results. Congress won the Sonipat mayoral seat, while BJP managed a narrow victory in Panchkula. Ambala went to the Haryana Jan Chetna Party (JCP), led by former minister Venod Sharma, marking the first time direct mayoral elections were held in these three cities. The BJP secured the Rewari civic body chief's post, while an independent backed by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda triumphed in Sampla. The JJP suffered setbacks in Uklana and Dharuhera. The political landscape shifted ahead of the October 2024 Assembly polls. Nikhil Madaan, then Sonipat mayor from Congress, joined the BJP and won the Sonipat Assembly seat. In Ambala, Shakti Rani Sharma, who had been mayor as a Haryana Jan Chetna Party leader, also joined the BJP and won the Kalka Assembly seat. These moves helped the BJP secure a third consecutive term in government. In March 2025, the BJP consolidated its dominance in municipal politics, winning nine of ten mayoral contests, with only Manesar going to an independent candidate. The party's candidates prevailed in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ambala, Hisar, Karnal, Rohtak, Panipat, Sonipat and Yamunanagar, defeating Congress rivals. That round of elections included contests in seven municipal corporations, while bypolls were conducted for the mayoral posts in Ambala and Sonipat.

EYE SECRETS Editorial

War with no end in sight

United States President Donald Trump appears clueless about how to end the Iran war he started, along with Israel, over two months ago. History is replete with instances of global powers starting wars that would soon spin out of their control, leaving them stranded in the midst of rubble and immense human suffering. And, lessons are never learned. As the rest of the world waits with bated breath for the pointless war to end, the situation on the ground is still in a state of flux. While the fragile ceasefire holds for now, the Strait of Hormuz — the lifeline of global oil supplies — remains closed. Backchannel talks, mediated through third parties like Pakistan, are no longer producing even incremental progress. By refusing to engage in prolonged, mediated discussions, the US is effectively forcing Iran into a narrower choice — either initiate direct contact on American terms or absorb the mounting pressure of isolation and military encirclement. The war began on February 28, when US and Israeli forces launched what the Pentagon code-named Operation Epic Fury, a blitzkrieg targeting Iranian military installations, nuclear infrastructure, and killing Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in the initial stage of the campaign. What the Trump administration presented as a decisive blow against the world's foremost state sponsor of terror has evolved, two months on, into something more familiar from American military history: a grinding, costly stalemate in which the opening victories are not translated into strategic resolution.

The ongoing conflict has already cost the American taxpayer over \$25 billion and is still counting, with no exit in sight. Iran's proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz — in exchange for lifting the American naval blockade but without nuclear concessions— was promptly rejected by the Trump administration. Pakistan-mediated talks in Islamabad collapsed after Trump abruptly cancelled the planned trip of his envoys. This episode is a reminder of the limits of middle-power diplomacy when major actors lose interest in the process itself. Facilitation is only as effective as the willingness of principals to engage. Also, the internal political dynamics in Tehran — often opaque — have further complicated the situation. There is a significant tension within the Iranian government itself, one that Western diplomats have watched with careful attention. President Masoud Pezeshkian, the reformist elected last year on promises of re-engagement with the world, has struck a markedly different note from the new supreme leader. Tehran is asking for reparations. It is asking for formal international guarantees against future military action. It is offering to reopen Hormuz in exchange for an end to the blockade, but it is emphatically not offering to surrender its nuclear ambitions — the one thing Washington insists upon. This war has demonstrated a key paradox of modern power: overwhelming military and economic force does not guarantee strategic success. Endurance, not firepower, may prove to be the decisive variable.

Heatwave meets thunderstorms: Punjab and Haryana brace for rare weather

In an unusual and sharply contrasting weather pattern, parts of Punjab and Haryana are set to witness a rare overlap of extreme conditions—heatwave in some districts and thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds and rain in others—beginning Tuesday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

District-wise forecasts issued by the IMD's Chandigarh centre indicate that while Monday remains largely dominated by heatwave conditions across both states, the weather will begin to fragment from Tuesday onwards. Several districts, particularly in southern and western belts, are likely to face heatwave or warm night conditions, even as northern and central regions brace for thunderstorms, lightning and winds reaching speeds of 40–60 kmph.



The forecasts suggest a striking geographical divide: on the same day, districts in one part of the state could be under an orange ("be prepared") alert for thunderstorms, gusty winds, lightning, and rainfall probability, while neighbouring regions may be under a yellow alert. This dual warning continues into Wednesday and Thursday, with fluctuating zones of impact across both states.Meteorologists point out that such a pattern typically emerges during transitional phases, when advancing western disturbances interact with already prevailing high temperatures over north-west India. "The coexistence of heatwave conditions and convective activity like thunderstorms is not very common on such a widespread scale, but it can occur during seasonal shifts," an IMD official said.Rainfall probability further reinforces this contrast, showing isolated to scattered rainfall activity in several districts even as others remain dry and heat-stressed. By May 1, however, conditions are expected to stabilise, with most districts returning to "no warning" (green zone).

The IMD has advised residents, particularly farmers and those working outdoors, to stay updated with local forecasts, as conditions may change rapidly within short distances.

over 130 picked up from homes as ‘Noida-style’ wage protests hit Sportking unit



Apparently taking a cue from the recent labour unrest in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, workers—mostly women—of Sportking India Limited at its unit in Punjab's Bathinda are demanding higher wages and better working conditions.The agitation began on April 19 when employees protested outside the factory, alleging low wages and poor increments. The management then sought a week's time to address the concerns, following which the protest was temporarily withdrawn. However, after a meeting between workers, management, and district administration failed to yield a resolution on Sunday, tensions resurfaced and employees sat on a dharna outside the unit in the afternoon.

The situation escalated when more than 130 workers, including members of Naujawan Bharat Sabha and Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan), were picked up from their homes and detained at three different police stations early on Monday. This triggered fresh protests, with remaining workers assembling on the Bathinda–Amritsar highway and demanding their release.Shingara Singh

From sugarcane fields to the courtroom: How Dnyaneshwar Chavan beat the odds to clear Maharashtra’s Civil Judge Exam



In Ganesh Nagar Tanda, a small village in Maharashtra's Parbhani district, Dnyaneshwar Chavan grew up in a house that was often empty. A member of the Banjara community, his childhood was shaped by absence — his parents spent most of the year travelling across the state as migrant sugarcane harvesters, moving from one village to another in search of work.With no one to look after him, Chavan, 27, studied through Class 8 in a Zilla Parishad school and later in an ashram school in Parbhani. He was enrolled in Shree Sant Dnyaneshwar Vidyalaya in Alandi, far from his village, because that was the only viable option his circumstances allowed.He was the first in his family to pass Class 10—a milestone that came with a promise. His parents told him they would work day and night to fund his education if he committed to studying further and building a life beyond theirs. He carried that promise with him.He recently cleared the Maharashtra Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) examination, conducted by the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC).After Class 10, Chavan steadily progressed through the education system — completing his BCom at Modern College in Pune. "After BCom, there were jobs, but they were very low-paying. Some friends had applied for LLB, so I joined too, hoping the legal career would make me financially stable," he recalls.

He pursued his LLB from Navalmal Firodia Law College and later completed his LLM from the University of Mumbai. It was only during his LLB that he first heard about judicial services — and something clicked.MPSC Dnyaneshwar Chavan (centre) is welcomed by family and villagers at Ganesh Nagar Tanda after securing Rank 12 in the MPSC Civil Judge and JMFC examination."I got the idea about judicial services only after completing LLB. I decided I wanted to achieve something big," he says.He began his preparation in 2022 with a clear goal: the Maharashtra Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) examination, conducted by the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC).The

Woman killed in celebratory firing during religious procession in Shimla; 2 held

The victim has been identified as Ritika Devi, 26, a resident of Bakora village, where the incident took place. Two suspects — Rajat Sohta, 28, and Amit alias Rohit Bapta, 32 — were later arrested for the firing. A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered at the Chirgaon police station.Devi was dancing in the religious function when a bullet hit her, and she succumbed to the injury on the spot, a police officer told The officer, who is not authorised to speak to the media, stated that the bullet was fired from a 12-bore gun.

Hundreds of people were participating in the function when the incident took place. A heavy police force rushed to the spot after getting the information about the incident. The Shimla Police were already on alert due to the visit of President Droupadi Murmu starting Monday.Meanwhile, local residents, along with the kin of the victim, staged a protest against the administration for allegedly not conducting a proper investigation. The protesters also raised objections when the body of the victim was transported in a private pick-up vehicle instead of an ambulance from the local government hospital. They raised slogans against the SDM and the district administration. Later, an ambulance was arranged to transport the body.Gaurav Singh, Superintendent of Police, Shimla, said, "A suspect managed to escape from the spot after the incident.

Mann, president of the BKU (Ugrahan) Bathinda unit, said the protesters lifted their dharna on Sunday afternoon after receiving an assurance of administrative intervention.

Adding to the protests, Lachhman Singh Sewewala, general secretary of Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union, said, "Workers also staged a dharna outside the Nandgarh, Killi Nihal Singh Wala, and Naiyanwala police stations, where the detained workers are being held."Workers are demanding a minimum monthly salary of Rs 26,000, alleging that many are paid on a per-piece basis and receive minimal annual increments despite years of service.Sources indicated that the factory is not operating at full capacity, with only a limited number of workers reporting for duty.

Responding to the allegations, company chairman Munish Awasthi said, "We are already paying salaries higher than what workers receive elsewhere in the state. Around 2,500 employees work here, and labour department officials have verified our records. Most employees have no issues; a few outsiders, like farmer unions, are instigating unrest. We are in talks with workers and have already offered a wage increase."Awasthi added that the administration was assisting in resolving the issue, and expressed hope for an early settlement.Factory sources, meanwhile, said that some workers willing to resume duty were being prevented from entering the premises by protesters—a charge denied by unions backing the agitation.Sportking India Limited, which set up its Bathinda unit in Jeeda village in 2010, operates multiple manufacturing facilities across Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh and has over 1,000 retail outlets nationwide with a group turnover exceeding Rs 1,500 crore, according to its website. The unit had not witnessed any major labour unrest in the past.

MPSC Civil Judge and JMFC examination is one of the most competitive judicial recruitment exams in the state, consisting of three stages – preliminary, mains, and a personal interview.In his first attempt in 2022, Chavan cleared all three stages and reached the interview round. But he narrowly missed the final merit list. It was a hard blow, but not a decisive one. He regrouped, identified where he had fallen short, and went back to replan.Just as Chavan was deep into his second attempt, life dealt him a severe blow — his father died in 2023. "I collapsed emotionally and financially," he says.The preparation that had demanded everything from him now felt impossible to continue. But the people around him stepped in. His close friends, Ajay Raut and Sanket Lonare, arranged his accommodation and shared their study material with him. His mentor, Ganesh Shirsath – who runs a coaching institute in Pune's Sadashiv Peth – allowed him to attend classes at no cost. Back home in Parbhani, his elder brothers took up farm labour to keep the household afloat."Without this support, I couldn't have withstood the challenges alone and might have veered off," Chavan says. "All the hard work and consistent efforts have paid off, but none of it would have been possible without them."

With grief on one side and a goal on the other, Chavan built a strict daily routine and stuck to it. He would be at the reading room by 7 am, study until 9 am, break for breakfast, and return to his books until 1 pm. After a short afternoon rest, the second session ran from 2 to 7 pm, followed by dinner and a final sitting until 11 pm."I stayed completely off social media from 2023 to 2025 – no distractions, no detours. Also, I had clarity that I had nothing to lose. So I put in all the hard work," he says.Even before the final result was announced, Chavan's consistency had begun to show results. In October 2025, he was selected as a Judicial Research Assistant at the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court, an early signal that his preparation was on the right track.On April 10, MPSC announced the final results of the Civil Judge and JMFC examination – the recruitment cycle that had been advertised in 2023. Dnyaneshwar Chavan's name was on the merit list. Rank 12.For the boy from Ganesh Nagar Tanda, whose parents harvested sugarcane so he could sit in a classroom, it was the culmination of everything.Chavan is clear that his journey does not end with his own success. He wants to guide future aspirants, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds who face the same resource constraints he once did."In the future, I will help aspirants navigate these exams, especially those from unprivileged backgrounds who need guidance but have limited resources," he says.His advice to those currently preparing is simple and hard-earned: "Be focused and consistent. There is cut-throat competition out there. Have clarity, have purpose – and put in the work."



Meanwhile, local residents, along with the kin of the victim, staged a protest against the administration for allegedly not conducting a proper investigation. The protesters also raised objections when the body of the victim was transported in a private pick-up vehicle instead of an ambulance from the local government hospital. They raised slogans against the SDM and the district administration. Later, an ambulance was arranged to transport the body.

'I stand firmly with AAP': Punjab minister Sanjiv Arora after Raghav Chadha exit



Punjab Power Minister Sanjiv Arora, who was raided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) two weeks ago, said on Monday that he is firmly with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and will continue to do so.Reacting to the exodus of Raghav Chadha and six other Rajya Sabha MPs to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Sanjiv Arora said, "Our national convener Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann have already spoken about them. Whatever they have said is exactly my view about them."

Addressing media persons in Chandigarh after returning from abroad, the AAP leader said, "I was not approached by anyone. I spoke to Raghav Chadha eight months ago."Asked whether he was scared of the ED, he said in jest, "I will seek the media's help in case they try to scare me."As Sanjiv Arora had not given any statement on the issue of AAP MPs joining the BJP, the Opposition in Punjab had claimed that he was also headed to the saffron party.SAD leader Bikram Majithia had written on X that both 'Aroras' in the AAP were quitting, referring to AAP state president Aman Arora and Sanjiv Arora. Aman Arora had also said that he was not headed anywhere.On ED raids on him, Sanjiv Arora said, "I was in flight when the ED raided my house. I had given my reaction on X. I had stated that I would cooperate with the probe."Speaking on the issue of power shortage in the state, Sanjiv Arora said, "This has happened due to a sudden rise in temperature. The demand has gone up by 4,000 MW. The consumption is 12,000 MW currently.""We are a power surplus state. But the demand is unprecedented. We have no dearth of coal supply. All our thermal plants have coal reserves to last 28 to 45 days. We are purchasing 1500 MW of power every day. Hence, the shortage will be taken care of," he added.

Mumbai's 15-minute Thane Borivali commute inches closer as last hurdle cleared

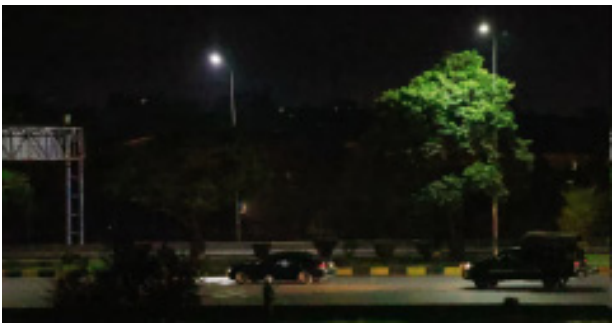


Mulund Metro, Mulund Metro parapet collapse, MMRDA, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Mumbai news, Maharashtra news, Indian express, current affairsMMRDA to begin eviction of remaining residents in Magathane from Tuesday, clearing the final hurdle for the Thane–Borivali Twin Tunnel project.

After months of negotiations and multiple rehabilitation offers, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) will begin eviction of the last 33 project-affected persons (PAPs) in Magathane from Tuesday, clearing the final obstacle for the Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel (TBTT) project.Officials said the remaining residents are part of 572 PAPs affected by the project and have refused to accept alternative rehabilitation despite repeated outreach.Last Monday, April 20, the MMRDA issued a final ultimatum to around 199 residents of the Trimurti and Tribhuvan cooperative societies."Four meetings have been held with the project affected people in February and March, and four options for rehabilitation were offered. But there has been no response from the residents," said the notice.Earlier, a notice on April 17 had offered temporary accommodation in Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) buildings in Borivali East, Dahisar East and Kandivli West, with unit sizes ranging from 269 sq ft to 300 sq ft. These were meant as interim housing for one year until permanent rehabilitation units are ready. However, officials said residents raised objections over unit size, building conditions and location. As per norms, PAPs are entitled to 305 sq ft homes."Enough homes of 305 sqft are not available, hence we had offered the residents temporary homes of lesser area or the option of rent of Rs 20,000 per month. But they refused to accept it," said an MMRDA official.Of the 199 residents, 86 accepted the offer, while notices were served to the remaining 113. Officials said only 33 now remain unwilling to relocate."Only 33 of the 113 residents have not accepted the temporary homes. As the project is of public importance and the PAP rehabilitation is delaying it, their eviction will start from Tuesday," said an MMRDA official.

Authorities have warned that eviction will be carried out with police protection if necessary. Those evicted will be issued allotment letters under the Shivshahi Rehabilitation Project in Kandivli. A deputy collector associated with the process estimated the number of remaining occupants to be between 30 and 40.The delay in clearing the Borivali site has stalled key construction activity for the ambitious twin tunnel project. While two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) have already arrived and are being assembled at the Thane end, deployment at Borivali remains blocked due to pending encroachments.Contractor Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd has already ordered two additional TBMs from German firm Herrenknecht AG, but dispatch has been held up as the site is not yet ready. Once operational, all four TBMs will simultaneously excavate from both ends, eventually meeting midway before being withdrawn.

Pakistan still seeks to bridge US, Iran gaps despite failure of face-to-face talks



WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD, July 31 Work has not halted to bridge gaps between the United States and Iran, sources from mediator Pakistan said, despite the failure of face-to-face diplomacy after Donald Trump ?called off a trip by his envoys and said Iran should phone when it wants a deal.Iranian sources disclosed Tehran's latest proposal, which would first seek to end the war and resolve ?the stand-off over Gulf shipping, while pushing wider talks about Iran's nuclear programme until later. That suggestion is unlikely to satisfy Washington, which says nuclear issues must be resolved from the outset.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.Hopes of reviving peace efforts have receded since the U.S. president scrapped a visit on Saturday by his envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, where Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi shuttled in and out twice over the weekend.Araqchi, who also visited Oman, arrived on Monday in Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin, a longstanding ally.With the warring ?sides still seemingly far apart on issues including Iran's nuclear ambitions and access through the crucial Strait of Hormuz, oil prices resumed their upward march when trade re-opened on Monday. Brent crude was up around ?2.5% at around \$108 a barrel."If they want to talk, they can come to us, or they can call us. You know, there is a telephone. We have nice, secure ?lines," Trump told "The Sunday Briefing" on Fox News."They know what has to be in the agreement. It's very simple: They cannot have a nuclear weapon; otherwise, there's no reason to meet," Trump said.

Senior ?Iranian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the proposal carried by Araqchi to Islamabad over the weekend envisioned talks in stages.A first step would require ending the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and providing guarantees that Washington cannot start ?it up again. Then negotiators would resolve the U.S. blockade and the fate of the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran aims to reopen under its control.Only then would talks look at other issues, including a longstanding dispute over Iran's nuclear programme, with Iran still seek-

ing some kind of U.S. acknowledgment of its right to enrich uranium for what it says are peaceful purposes.In a sign that no face-to-face meetings are planned any time soon, streets reopened in Pakistan's capital Islamabad, which had been locked down for a week in anticipation ?of talks that never took place. The luxury hotel that had been cleared out to serve as a venue was again taking reservations from the public.Pakistani officials said negotiations were still taking place remotely, but there were no plans ?to convene a meeting in person until the sides were close enough to sign a memorandum."The draft will be negotiated remotely till they reach some consensus," said a Pakistani source familiar with the negotiations.Item 1 of 7 People walk past a billboard with a graphic design about the Strait of Hormuz on a building, amid a ceasefire between U.S. and Iran, in Tehran, Washington, which says its main war aim has always been ?preventing Iran ?from obtaining a nuclear weapon, has demanded Iran give up a stockpile of highly enriched uranium and forgo further enrichment, a step needed to make a bomb.Although a ceasefire has paused the U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran that began on February 28, no agreement has been reached on terms to end a war that has killed thousands, driven up oil prices, fuelled inflation and darkened the outlook for global growth.Both sides could be settling in for a test of wills to see who can endure economic pain before making concessions.Iran has largely blocked all shipping apart from its own from the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz since the war began. This month, the United States began blockading Iranian ships, which Iran ?says must be halted as a condition for talks.

With his approval ratings ?falling, Trump faces domestic pressure to end the unpopular war. Iran's leaders, though weakened militarily, have found leverage in negotiations with their ability to stop shipping in the strait, which normally carries a fifth of global oil shipments.While Araqchi met Pakistani officials, Trump, speaking in Florida on Saturday, said he cancelled his envoys' visit due to too much travel ?and expense for what he considered an inadequate Iranian offer. Iran "offered a lot, but not enough," he said. Iranian officials had already played down any suggestion that Araqchi ?might meet Americans while in ?Islamabad.Fighting has intensified in Lebanon, where Israeli strikes killed 14 people and wounded 37 in the south on Sunday, according to the health ministry, making it the deadliest day since a U.S.-brokered ceasefire was agreed in mid-April.Iran says it will not hold talks on the wider conflict unless a ceasefire also holds in Lebanon, which Israel invaded in March in pursuit of the Iran-backed group Hezbollah, which fired across the border in support of Tehran.Israel and Hezbollah blame each other for violating the truce, which ?was agreed between Israel and the Lebanese government in Washington and extended last week.Israeli forces have ordered hundreds of thousands of people out of ?their villages and have been bulldozing homes where they say Hezbollah fighters operated.

Suspect in Washington dinner shooting set to appear in court

WASHINGTON, J 0The man accused of shooting a U.S. Secret Service agent as he tried ?to breach security at a Washington dinner where President Donald Trump was present is expected in ?court on Monday to face criminal charges.Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, California, is scheduled to make his first appearance in Washington federal court, two days after authorities said they foiled an attack at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, an annual black-tie gathering of ?journalists and politicians.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.Charges have not yet been formally filed, but U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro, the top federal ?prosecutor in Washington, said Allen would be charged with assault on a federal officer ?and using a firearm during a crime of violence. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said other charges, including attempted ?assassination, were possible, but that the investigation remains ongoing.Allen left a manifesto with family members referring to himself as ?the "Friendly Federal Assassin" and discussing plans to target senior Trump administration officials, who were present in the hotel ballroom. Blanche said his targets likely included Trump himself.Allen booked a room at the Washington Hilton hotel, where the dinner took place, and traveled from California to Washington ?by train, officials said.The shooting on Saturday rattled the press dinner, a prominent event on Washington's social calendar, sending ?attendees scrambling under tables and prompting law enforcement to whisk senior officials out of the room. Trump, who was set to deliver ?remarks ?later in the evening, was rushed off the stage by security personnel after shots were fired.The proceeding on Monday is expected to be



brief. A judge will advise Allen of his legal rights and prosecutors are expected to seek his detention while the case moves forward.Allen has not yet responded to the allegations. It was not immediately clear ?if he had a lawyer.The ?suspect allegedly fired a ?shotgun at a Secret Service agent at a checkpoint inside the hotel before being tackled and arrested, according to authorities. Video footage Trump posted online showed the suspect sprinting ?through a hallway outside the ballroom.U.S. officials have said the suspect was subdued just ?inside a security ?perimeter and have touted his takedown as a law enforcement success.

But the incident has revived concerns about the safety of Trump, who survived two assassination attempts during his 2024 presidential campaign, and other U.S. officials.The Secret Service agent was struck ?but a ?tactical vest stopped the shot, and the agent was released from a ?hospital hours later.Allen, who authorities said was armed with a handgun and multiple knives, in addition to the shotgun, was also taken to a local hospital to be evaluated following the shooting.

Bangladesh police fail to complete 90% of July 2024 protest cases:

Dhaka: Bangladeshi police have failed to complete investigations in more than 90 per cent of the 1,855 cases filed over killings and violence during the July 2024 protests, even after nearly two years of the incidents, according to a report.The delay has intensified concern and frustration among victims' families and those alleging false implication in the cases.Citing the Police Headquarters (PHQ) data, Bangladesh's leading newspaper, The Daily Star, reported that among the cases filed across the country, 799 were lodged over murders and the remaining 1,056 on other charges, including attempted murder.Citing legal experts, the report said that the slow pace in investigations reflects the complexity of the cases and exposes the weaknesses in the country's criminal justice system."Filing of a large number of cases immediately after a mass uprising is not unusual, but investigations must be conducted with due diligence and completed within a reasonable timeframe," The Daily Star quoted Ishrat Hasan, a lawyer at the Supreme Court, as saying."If probes remain stalled for years, both the victims and those falsely accused suffer, ultimately undermining public confidence in the justice system," she noted.Ishrat noted that the presence of a large number of unnamed accused in many cases has significantly complicated and slowed down the investigative process."Ensuring accountability for the killings and safeguarding those wrongly accused are equally important



for upholding the rule of lawâ•† If the authorities fail to ensure transparent, impartial, and timely investigations, the justice process will become ineffective," she added.The Daily Star report mentioned that thousands of people, including dozens of journalists, continue to await the disposal of the cases, with many claiming that they had no role in the killings or acts of violence during the demonstrations.It cited court records, which documented that at least 24 cases have been registered with various police stations in Dhaka city against 77 journalists on different charges, including murder, attempted murder, and unlawful assembly in connection with the July 2024 protests.Speaking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, a journalist said he was shocked after being named in a murder case with Jatrabari Police Station over alleged

China blocks Meta's acquisition of AI startup Manus



Hong Kong: China on Monday blocked Meta's acquisition of the artificial intelligence startup Manus, which has Chinese roots but is Singapore-based. In a short statement, China's National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top planning agency, said it was prohibiting a foreign acquisition of Manus and had required all the parties to withdraw from the deal. It did not specifically name Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram.The decision was made by the commission's Office of the Working Mechanism for Security Review of

Foreign Investment in accordance with Chinese laws and regulations, the statement said. It came after Chinese authorities said they were looking into the deal earlier this year. The commission did not elaborate on the reasons for the ban.

Meta first announced that it was acquiring Manus in December in a rare case of a major US tech group buying an AI company with strong links to China. Its deal with Manus, whose "general-purpose" AI agent can perform multi-step complex work autonomously, was expected to help expand AI offerings across Meta's platforms.Meta had said there would be "no continuing Chinese ownership interests in Manus" and that Manus would discontinue its services and operations in China. But China said in January that it would investigate whether the acquisition would be consistent with its laws and regulations. China's commerce ministry said at the time that any enterprises engaging in outward investment, technology exports, data transfers and cross-border acquisitions must comply with Chinese law.Meta had said most of Manus' employees were based in Singapore. Meta said on Monday in a response that the transaction "complied fully with applicable law." "We anticipate an appropriate resolution to the inquiry," the California-based company said in a statement.

Iran offers to reopen Strait of Hormuz if US lifts blockade



Cairo: Iran has offered to end its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for the US lifting its blockade on the country and an end to the war, while proposing that discussions on the larger question of its nuclear programme would come in a later phase, two regional officials said Monday.US President Donald Trump seems unlikely to accept the offer, which was passed to the Americans by Pakistan and would leave unresolved the disagreements that led the US and Israel to go to war on February 28.

With a fragile ceasefire in place, the US and Iran are locked in a standoff over the strait, through which a fifth of the world's traded oil and gas passes in peacetime. The US blockade is designed to prevent Iran from selling its oil, depriving it of crucial revenue while also potentially creating a situation where Tehran has to shut off production because it has nowhere to store the oil.The strait's closure, meanwhile, has put pressure on Trump, as oil and gasoline prices have surged ahead of crucial mid-term elections, and it has also pressured his Gulf allies, which use the waterway to export their oil and gas.The closure has also had far-reaching effects throughout the world economy, raising the price of fertiliser, food and other basic goods.The proposal would push off negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme to a later date. Trump said one of the major reasons he went to war was to deny Iran the ability to develop nuclear weapons.The two officials, who had knowledge of the proposal, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations between Iranian and Pakistani officials this weekend. The Axios news outlet first reported Iran's proposal.It came as Iran's foreign minister visited Russia, which has long been a key backer of Tehran. It is unclear what, if any, assistance Moscow might offer now.Strait of Hormuz remains blockedIran's ability to choke off traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf, has proved one of its biggest strategic advantages in a war that has often boiled down to which side can take more pain.

Oil prices have risen steadily since the war began and tankers full of crude became stranded in the Persian Gulf, unable to safely transit through the strait and reach global distribution points.On Monday, the spot price of Brent crude, the international standard, was trading at around USD 108 per barrel, nearly 50 per cent higher than when the war began.Iranian foreign minister holds talks as negotiations with US stallTrump last week indefinitely extended the ceasefire the US and Iran agreed to on April 7 that has largely halted fighting. But a permanent settlement remains elusive in the war that has killed thousands of people.Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi landed in St Petersburg on Monday morning ahead of a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin."It is a good opportu-

India-New Zealand FTA: First women-led trade deal boosts exports and jobs



New Delhi: The India-New Zealand FTA is India's first women-led Free Trade Agreement and a defining milestone in the bilateral economic journey of the two countries, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.The minister was referring to the fact that a majority of the negotiation team was composed of women, including the chief negotiator, deputy negotiator, and sectoral leads. The landmark trade deal, promoted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is seen as a milestone for both gender inclusivity in trade negotiations and a boost for domestic industries and international trade relations.

Signed under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and his New Zealand counterpart, Chris Luxon, the agreement was successfully concluded in a record nine months, with the steadfast efforts of New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay and both negotiating teams. This landmark agreement reflects deep mutual trust, shared ambition,

and a common commitment to prosperity, Goyal said."It grants 100 per cent duty-free access for Indian exports to New Zealand, opening significant opportunities for MSMEs, farmers, women, youth, professionals and job-creating sectors, while safeguarding India's sensitive interests through a balanced and calibrated framework," he said.

Goyal said that this forward-looking agreement will also facilitate \$20 billion of investment into India, deepening cooperation in trade, services, investment, innovation, mobility, agriculture productivity and education, and creating pathways for skilled talent and students."A truly win-win partnership that advances the vision of Viksit Bharat, strengthens India-New Zealand ties, and sets a new benchmark for inclusive and trusted global cooperation," he remarked.Besides, the FTA includes several provisions relating to the mobility of working professionals and students. New Zealand has signed an annex on student mobility and post-study work visas for the first time with any country. Under this, Indian students can work up to 20 hours per week while studying in New Zealand, with extended post-study work visas.Further, the agreement includes a quota of 5,000 visas for skilled Indians for a stay of up to three years in the sectors of interest to India, which include AYUSH practitioners, yoga instructors, chefs, and music teachers, as well as other key sectors such as IT, engineering, healthcare, education, and construction.Under the Working Holiday Visa programme included in the agreement, 1,000 young Indians annually can avail multiple entries in New Zealand for a period of 12 months.India has also managed to keep several items out of the FTA, including all dairy products such as milk, cream, whey, yoghurt and cheese as well as agricultural produce such as onions.

Rishabh Pant’s ‘too many minds’ comment threw LSG management under the bus, says Shaun Pollock



Former South Africa captain Shaun Pollock slammed Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant’s comments that had hinted at too many decision-makers in the camp following their sixth defeat of the IPL 2026 season on Sunday night. Pant’s men suffered yet another embarrassing defeat after they failed to chase down a 156-run target at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, handing Kolkata Knight Riders a pulsating Super Over win despite a sluggish start after being sent into bat.Post the defeat, a fifth in succession and an eighth consecutive loss at home, Pant hinted that there were too many opinions being fed to him from a vaunted coaching set-up. Reflecting on the deci-

sion to bowl spinner Digvesh Rathi in the final over, during which KKR batter Rinku Singh slammed him for four consecutive sixes, Pant said: “See, there are always times in cricket where you can turn a little bit of bowling at the same time. But sometimes bowlers have to bowl those hard overs.”And there will be time when I have to give him that in middle overs because I was looking for a wicket. I just didn’t get one. That was the thought process behind it. And too many minds doesn’t make it easy on the ground,” Pant said during the post-match presentation.Besides head coach Justin Langer, the LSG backroom staff also comprise of Tom Moody as the Director of Cricket, former Kiwi captain Kane Williamson as the strategic advisor, assistant coach Lance Klusener and Bharat Arun as the bowling coach.Pollock suggested that Pant’s comments threw the management group under the bus, suggesting that all wasn’t well around the leadership group.“It’s not really good that it is coming from the captain because he is basically saying there are too many people giving me information, and he is kind of under the bus-ing the management group that they have got. Maybe we don’t know how it works, that’s the problem. You don’t know who has the final call, you don’t know who sits with him and gives him the understanding of what they feel and has the discussions with him,” Shaun Pollock said on Cricbuzz.

‘I believe it’s not out. When he turned...’: Sehwa on Angkrish Raghuvanshi’s controversial dismissal

With his dismissal in the match against Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday evening, Kolkata Knight Riders batsman Angkrish Raghuvanshi became only the fourth batter in IPL history to be given out for obstructing the field.In the match, which KKR won eventually in a super-over, Raghuvanshi punched a Prince Yadav delivery towards mid-on and started to take a run only to be sent back by Cameron Green. With fielder Mohammad Shami aiming for the strikers’ end, the ball hit a diving Raghuvanshi, with the third umpire adjudging Raghuvanshi to be out. The KKR batter soon joined the likes of Yusuf Pathan (2013), Amit Mishra (2019) and Ravindra Jadeja (2024) to be adjudged out while obstructing the field.

Former India opener Virender Sehwa believes a harsh decision was made by the umpire in Raghuvanshi’s case, and the batsman was ‘not out’ in his eyes.

“Every batsman looks at the fielder when the ball goes to them. You take one run, you take two runs, and you see which end is safer. If the throw was coming to the bowling end, there was no need to dive. But when you know the throw is coming to your end, then you will dive. Your eyes will naturally go towards the fielder. It’s not that his eyes were on the fielder because he thought, ‘I am stopping something.’ He dived after that. So, I believe it’s not out. When he turned, he was looking at the fielder to see where the ball was coming from. But after turning, he ran and jumped. He wasn’t looking at the fielder anymore, nor was his attention in front. In my opinion, a slightly harsh decision has been made here,” Sehwa said on Cricbuzz.According to the IPL playing conditions, which include the MCC rulebook, clause 37.1.4 states about the dismissal mode being obstructing the field.“For the avoidance of doubt, if an umpire feels that a batter, in running between the wickets, has significantly changed his direction without probable cause and thereby obstructed a fielder’s attempt to effect a run out, the batter should, on appeal, be given out, obstructing the field. It shall not be relevant whether a run out would have occurred or not,” states the IPL 2026 rulebook.Former India batsman and coach Sanjay Bangar too said that Raghuvanshi was not out and his turnaround was intentional. “Yes, he did have a look when the ball was about to be released but it isn’t possible for a batter to make an abrupt turn there has to be a little bit of a curvature for a batter to turn. Now if he had turned on his left, he would have run on the pitch. So



it’s a very natural instinct for a batter to run away from the pitch. And that is what gets into our subconscious. Because having played for such a length of time for any player. I think he is hard done by because no batter at that point of time would have gone back immediately making that 90 degree turn and avoided being hit by that particular ball. I don’t think it was intentional,” said Bangar on ESPNCRicinfo.Former T20 World Cup winner Carlos Brathwaite added that: “I think the funniest part of it all is when he (Angkrish Raghuvanshi) went to the umpire and he kind of gesticulated like do you want me to just turn like that? It’s genuinely not possible. And if you watch the arc that he ran up, he has hit the ball over his hand, he is running as you are told to run the bowler if he is coming over the hockey. Then if you start to put on the brakes, then how are you going to run from there and then just stop? Like you will have a little bit of curvature and you are looking to see where the ball is. Because if the ball doesn’t come to your end, you just relax.”If it is coming to your end and you are in trouble. You have to put in the dive, which I did. I think it was a tough one and I feel sometimes umpires better understand and appreciate the rhythm of the game. So if you look at it, just square on and think, did he look at the ball before it was thrown and did he dive in the way of the ball? Yes but if you add some context, and add did he somewhere else to go in the natural motion, the answer is no. So he was doing what he was doing. I think that’s where some context could have been added and it should have been not out on the pre-text that he could not go anywhere else,” said Brathwaite on ESPNCRicinfo.

India drub Australia 5-0 in Thomas Cup; Shi Yuqi gives walkover to Canada’s energy-sapper Victor Lai



India’s Lakshya Sen who had lost his first time game, defeated Ephraim Stephen Sam of Australia 21-14, 21-16 to restore his confidence. (Badminton Photo)India’s Lakshya Sen who had lost his first time game, defeated Ephraim Stephen Sam of Australia 21-14, 21-16 to restore his confidence. Indians wrapped up their Thomas Cup Australia tie in just 153 minutes, as Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty all won in straight sets, to take the 3-0 lead against Australia. HS Prannoy and MR Arjun-Hariharan Amsakarunan tied up the ends, as all 5 matches were won in straight sets.

Shi Yuqi of China, the first singles player, interestingly gave a walkover to Canada’s energy sapper Victor Lai. India take on China Sen who had lost his first time game against Canada to Victor Lai, defeated Ephraim Stephen Sam of Australia 21-14, 21-16 to restore his confidence. He will be required to defeat Shi Yuqi in the China tie, though the Chinese 30 year old seems to have smartly given himself more rest, after what panned out at All England — a first round scalding loss for the Chinese World champion.Ayush Shetty took a mere 26 minutes to defeat Shrey Dhand 21-8, 21-6.Later, Satwik-Chirag won 21-14, 21-16 against Rizky Hidayat and Jack Yu. After pocketing the first, the Indians fell back 3-6. But they had had enough at 14-all and raced to a finish thereafter.HS Prannoy offered a third singles option for the China tie, with a 21-11, 21-17 win over Rishi Honda Boopathy, while Hari-Arjun

won 21-12, 21-10 against Andika Ramadiansyah and Ephraim Sam.Li Shifeng defeated Brian Yang 21,10, and Liang-Wang won 24-22, 21-14. Second doubles He-Ren won 21-15, 21-9, while Weng Hong Yang beat Timothy Lock 21-15, 21-5.Hong Yang can be a headache for Indians in third singles (MS3), where he leads both Kidambi Srikanth and Kiran George 3-1. He is 2-2 with HS Prannoy, but much will depend on the Indian’s fitness.

The year that broke him, and the knock that didn't

Rinku Singh waited. He waited till he struck his weightiest knock of the season; he waited till he took five catches of varying levels of strain; he waited till he thrashed the winning runs himself in the Super Over. And then he uncorked his emotions. He leapt and swiped the air, he kissed the Ekana turf, baring its grainy black soil. He gazed forlornly at the skies. If a drop of tear rolled down his cheek, it blended with the sweat dripping off his temple.It has been a tough year for him. He lost his father during the T20 World Cup; he lost his spot in India’s playing eleven; his IPL form wobbled after the bright start, his club tottered at the bottom; he was quietly slipping out of public imagination; critics breathed down his neck. He needed a knock that could put a smile back on his face, and those of his supporters, one of relevance and substance, perhaps not so much to prove the world that he is not a one-knock wonder, as to convince himself of his resounding virtues. “Sometimes the mind just doesn’t work when you’re struggling,” he admitted after his half-century against Rajasthan Royals.It’s an indescribably wretched feeling. The batsman knows his failings; he knows the solutions; he is sweating in the nets and trying to be the batsman he once was. Yet, he keeps failing. The 53 against Royals reinstated hope and belief, but something was still pulling him back, something invisible clutching at his throat.Sometimes the circumstances conspire; being part of a sinking ship doesn’t aid comebacks.

PV Sindhu gets voting rights on BWF Council after election as Chair of Athletes’ Commission



PV Sindhu started her term as a voting member of the BWF Council after being elected as Chair of the BWF Athletes’ Commission, starting her governance role.The former World Champion and Olympic medallist and World Champion assumed a full voting position after completing the formal vetting process. Sindhu officially entered the BWF Council at the end of 2025. She made her first appearance before the global badminton membership during the BWF Annual General Meeting in Horsens, marking the beginning of her tenure within the sport’s highest governing body.

Some of the pressing reforms Sindhu can look to push for are: prize money at World Championships and reducing the load of mandatory tournaments expected of top athletes, which will continue to cause injuries, be it in 15 points or 21. BWF has muscles through the 15-point system despite considerable opposition.The BWF Council plays a central role in guiding the strategic direction and governance of badminton worldwide. As a voting member of the Council, Sindhu will participate in discussions and decisions on matters that shape the future of the sport, bringing the perspectives and experiences of elite athletes directly into the heart of global badminton

KKR player fined 20% match fee for act committed during LSG match

Kolkata Knight Riders batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi was fined 20% of his match fee and accumulated a demerit point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL’s Code of Conduct for Players and Team officials during his team’s match against the Lucknow Super Giants.The incident took place on Sunday when Kolkata were batting first. Raghuvanshi was dismissed in a rare manner in the last ball of the fifth over. When attempting to take a run of a Prince Yadav delivery, Raghuvanshi was sent back by his partner Cameron Green. But the throw towards the wicket hit the Indian batter and when the play went up to the third umpire, it was believed that Raghuvanshi veered from his path to that of the ball and was given out via ‘obstructing the field’.

The batter got into a heated argument with the on-field umpires over the decision. It was clear that he and the KKR camp were not happy with the decision made. On his way back to the pavilion, Raghuvanshi took his bat and slammed the boundary rope and then threw his helmet away in frustration.KKR support staff Shane Watson and Abhishek Nayar were also seen protesting the decision, with Nayar getting into a heated discussion with the fourth umpire over the decision as well.“Angkrish Raghuvanshi has been fined 20% of his match fee and has also accumulated one Demerit Point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL’s Code of Conduct,” the statement

leadership.Her presence within the Council is particularly significant as she is an active athlete competing at the highest level of the sport to simultaneously hold a voting position within badminton’s global governance structure. In this role, Sindhu will help ensure that the voices, experiences and priorities of players are represented at the highest levels of decision-making.Speaking on the occasion, P. V. Sindhu said, “It is a true honour and privilege to take on this responsibility within the Badminton World Federation and to represent the voices of athletes from around the world. Badminton has given me so much, and I feel deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the sport in this capacity.I am especially grateful to BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul for her warmth and encouragement, and I look forward to working closely with the Council and the wider BWF community as we continue to strengthen and grow this wonderful sport across the world.”Sindhu’s presence on the BWF Council represents an important step in ensuring that the insights, experiences and perspectives of athletes remain central to the evolution of badminton, helping shape a stronger and more inclusive future for the sport globally.BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul welcomed Sindhu to the high seat, saying, “Over many years, P. V. Sindhu has demonstrated exceptional skill, grace and spirit on the court, and it is wonderful to now have such an outstanding role model representing the voice of our athletes. Athletes are the heart of our sport, and their voices must remain central to every decision we make. Through the BWF Athletes’ Commission, our global badminton community continues to be shaped by those who live and breathe the game.We very much look forward to working closely with Sindhu in the years ahead as we continue our efforts to grow badminton and strengthen its place among the world’s leading sports.”



read.“He was found to have breached Article 2.2, which relates to abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match,” it added.Despite how things panned out for Raghuvanshi on the field and off it, KKR picked up a Super Over win on Sunday. With seven runs required off the last ball, Mohammad Shami hit a six to take the game to the Super Over where KKR prevailed after both Aidan Markram and Nicolas Pooran lost their wickets to Sunil Narine and then Rinku Singh hit a boundary of the first ball to deliver the win for his team.

Sabastian Sawe runs 1:59:30 — the grandmother who won’t see it



He was in Seville, Spain, the night before his first competitive half-marathon. His job the next morning was to pace the elite field through 10km, then step aside. Instead, he made a decision. He would run — not for the clock, not for the contract, not for the agent who had never called back — but for Koko.The woman who had raised him in a mud-walled house in Cheukta with no electricity, who had told him, every time the world closed a door, that it would be okay.When the gun fired, he ignored the pacing brief entirely. By 7km, the elite field had collapsed behind him. A race director pulled alongside on a motor-bike: “Nobody’s with you. Just go.”He finished in 59:02. A course record by a minute and a half. Days later, he flew home to Kenya and buried her.She never saw what he became. On Sunday in London, in a time of 1:59:30, Sabastian Sawe became the first human being to run a legal marathon in under two hours — and his first thought, he told Diario AS in the moments after crossing the finish line, was of his family. Of home. Of the people who had told him, when nothing else was certain, that it would be okay.Sawe was born in Cheukta, a remote village in Kenya’s Rift Valley — the region that produced generations of the world’s greatest distance runners. (Reuters Photo) Sawe was born in Cheukta, a remote village in Kenya’s Rift Valley — the region that produced generations of the world’s greatest distance runners. (Reuters Photo)He ran to school — everyone did, a ten-minute run. A teacher, Julius Kemei, spotted something and refused to let him hide. “Running is not just talent,” Kemei told him. “It’s your fortune and your future.”His uncle, Abraham Chepkirwok, set Uganda’s 800m national record in 2008 with 1:43.72 — a mark that still stands. Sawe watched him line up at the Olympics on a generator-powered TV in the barn. “That image I did not forget,” he told Runner’s World.In 2017, he took a bus to Iten to chase the dream. He trained. Recognition didn’t come.Then came March 2020: a ruptured tendon. Then Covid. Then his family, watching siblings settle into stable jobs, began to ask the question plainly. Family contacts could get him into the police force. A wage. Security. He was about to be a father. Wasn’t it time?His uncle Abraham called. “Why didn’t you tell me?” When Sawe confessed everything, Abraham asked him directly: “Is this what you want?”Abraham called an old rival — Abel Mutai, Olympic steeplechase bronze medallist, now assistant coach at the 2Running Club in Nandi County, founded by Italian

coach Claudio Berardelli. In two days, they took Sawe from Iten. “Closed that chapter,” Mutai told Runner’s World.

At 2Running, Sawe found structure — treatment machines, recovery protocols, a coach who spoke of loading phases and cellular adaptation. He healed. The tendon flared again. Berardelli pulled him aside: “Patience. You must accept setbacks. Don’t give up.”By early 2021, Berardelli had seen enough. “Sabastian is really something special,” he told Runner’s World’s Toby Tanser. “This one... he can run like nobody I’ve seen before.” From a man who had coached world and Olympic champions, those words carried weight.With his earnings, he could live in luxury. He shares a bunkbed — a spartan camp room, three others, his wife Lydia seen only twice a month. On the morning of the race, he had two slices of bread and honey tea for breakfast. His only physical vulnerability, his physiotherapist Shadrack noted, was a slightly thickened Achilles insertion — literally, his Achilles heel.Then came Valencia in 2024 — a 2:02:05 debut, the second fastest in history. Then London, won by a quarter mile after skipping water at 30km. Then Berlin in 25-degree heat, where he ran 2:02:16 and called it “tough,” the understatement of a man who rates a 2:40 final kilometre at altitude as “four out of ten.”Berardelli, watching that session: “Forty to fifty seconds faster than his London prep. We are seeing something.”Kelvin Kiptum was 23 years old when he ran 2:00:35 in Chicago in 2023 — the fastest marathon ever run, the record that made sub-2 feel not just possible but imminent. And then, on a dark rural road in February 2024, he was gone — his car skidding off loose gravel into a tree. The Rift Valley grieved. “It was not if Kelvin would be the first man to break two,” his compatriot Benson Kiprotto told Runner’s World. “It was by how much he would do it.”The mantra has proved itself before. When Abraham and his wife struggled a decade to conceive, Koko told him on her deathbed that all would be well. A daughter was born — on the anniversary of Koko’s death.On Sunday, the world saw it too. Sawe crossed in 1:59:30. Behind him, Ethiopian debutant Yomif Kejelcha finished in 1:59:41 — also under two hours.“I prepare well,” he told Diario AS after finishing. “For what has come today, it shows I prepare much better than last year.” He was asked if he could have run 10km more.

‘Hamza more challenging than Khilji’: What Ranveer Singh told Superyou co-founder, said Dhurandhar took ‘so much out of me’



Actor Ranveer Singh has surely set a benchmark with his performance in Dhurandhar. While his role in the Aditya Dhar film is said to be his career best, in the past, Ranveer has also played various other challenging roles. Until Dhurandhar, Ranveer Singh’s performance as Alauddin Khilji in Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s Padmaavat remained his most challenging role, for which the actor had famously said that it sent him in a dark place and impacted him personally. However, his character in Dhurandhar precedes that now. In a conversation with Men’s XP, Ranveer Singh’s business partner Nikunj Biyani recalls their conversation where Ranveer said playing Hamza and Jaskirit Singh Rangri in Dhurandhar was more challenging than playing Alauddin Khilji.

In his recent interview, while Nikunj praised Ranveer Singh’s Dhurandhar, he shared, “I saw Dhurandhar first day first show for both the movies, I loved the film. Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge, for me, was the best film of all time. I enjoyed part one as well, but part 2 was something else. We were chatting with him once, and we asked him if he would do something that would be as demanding as Khilji, and he said, ‘This character has been way more challenging for me, as an artist; it has taken so much more out of me. I have had to go deep and give it 300 percent; it has been very demanding.’”

In 2019, Ranveer Singh spoke to India Today about locking himself in a room for weeks to prepare for his role as Alauddin Khilji. He had shared how he avoided meeting people, moved to a new apartment closer to the set, and read many books about Khilji. “I took 21 days and

locked myself up in my Goregaon house. I was completely isolated. I kind of isolated myself, marinated into the character because I can’t relate to Alaudin Khilji, I can’t relate to that level of manipulativeness, greed and ambition. I had to tap into dark experiences but his world view is not something I can relate to also,” he continued. Khilji took Ranveer Singh to a dark place. He added that the process became ‘dangerous’ for him. “Stuff that I have buried in my conscience, that I had to dig out in order to play this character. And it was not always pretty, which validates my apprehension. I knew how deep I had to go into this rabbit hole. I would have had to go into this dark, black space. This abyss that could be dangerous for me. And it was.” In 2018, Ranveer had said, “When I was offered Padmaavat, most people thought that a hero should not play the anti-hero. But I believed otherwise. I saw Khilji as a challenge for me, as an actor. And I wanted to take the challenge up. I went with the vision of Sanjay Leela Bhansali and my instinct of what I could achieve with Khilji.” He had also shared, “I took a big risk with this character, and it’s wonderful to see my gamble pay off. This kind of validation gives one the confidence to take bigger and bigger risks, challenge stereotypes, and continue to push the envelope in the realm of mainstream Hindi cinema. I feel very happy and very fulfilled today.”

Ranveer Singh as the co-founder of Super YouNikunj, who is the co-founder of Super You, also spoke about Ranveer Singh’s creative genius and involvement in the brand. He said, “We get to see the other side of Ranveer Singh. The world has seen this one side of him, which is an insanely talented actor or superstar. They have seen him in his public appearances as an extremely high-energy person. We also get to see his other side, where he is so detail-oriented about everything. He is so thoughtful about anything that goes out. He is very well aware of what’s happening and anything that he is doing. He is that extreme energy guy all the time, whenever you meet him, but he is also the person who goes very deep into everything.” Nikunj further added, “He will want to know the smallest of details, and then he absorbs everything, activates his creative muscles, and then come these sharp creative insights. When we started, he told me that my background was business, product, and operations. I trust you fully with it. I understand content and how to land a certain narrative or story, and you trust me with it. As long as that is there, we have nothing to worry about. He has never gotten involved in things that he will not have valuable input into. He was clear with this from the get-go. He has known everything that has been going on.” Recalling Ranveer Singh’s detail-oriented approach in their first brand film, Nikunj shared, “The first brand film that we did, he has literally taken screenshots frame by frame and given feedback himself. He said which shot can be better, if we can alternate one option with the other, and I don’t know what kind of memory he has. He will remember something from 20 years ago about you that you did not know, it’s scary. He has a crazy memory.”

Michael Jackson’s estate went from \$450M debt at the time of his death to a \$3.5 billion empire

One would imagine Michael Jackson would be swimming in money when he died of drug overdose in 2009. But the reality tells a different story. The King of Pop was, in fact, in great financial peril, thanks to a debt of at least \$450 million at the time. But things were looking up before his sudden demise, as he was all set to go on one of his biggest global tours — This Is It. But unfortunately, Jackson passed away barely a month before the opening concert in London. Michael Jackson began earning lucratively in the late 1980s, when his earnings bumped from \$37 million a year to \$125 million. This was aided by the groundbreaking success of his 1987 album Bad, its ancillary tour, his 1988 autobiography Moonwalk, and the acquisition of the ATV Music catalogue (including songs by The Beatles). The earnings continued well up to the late 1990s across the 400 million records sold by the popstar throughout his career.

However, this tremendous cash inflow was subset by an equally draining cash outflow. As per Forbes, every year, he’d spend around \$50 million on luxuries like jewellery, art, amenities, animals, and travel. He’d also donate liberally towards charitable organizations and medical facilities, including treatment of burns, having encountered a traumatic burning accident himself in 1984 while shooting for a Pepsi commercial.

The \$450 million debt at the time of his death also included \$40 million paid by This Is It promoter AEG Live. There was also a loan of \$270 million. Creditors lodged as many as 65 claims against Jackson across the US and abroad. To add to the trouble, his estate would also have to pay for the mounting legal fees involved in settling these claims. Micheal Jackson was in 0 million debt at the time of his death. Micheal Jackson was in 0 million debt at the time of his death.

How did Michael Jackson estate bounce back?

Michael Jackson’s estate put his unparalleled legacy to the best use and eventually made him one of the highest earning dead celebrities ever. Since the much-anticipated This Is It tour could never really take over, the estate put together the rehearsal footage for Jackson’s new tour and released Michael Jackson’s This Is It, a 2009 documentary. The posthumous love and fandom for Jackson led to the documentary earning over \$265 million at the global box office, aided by another \$100 million+ gathered through the sale of DVDs, soundtrack, and merchandise sale. The estate went on to earn \$200 million from the documentary, thus paying off a significant chunk of the debt. Up next, Jackson’s ATV catalogue, consisting of over 4,000 songs, was sold to Sony Music for \$750 million. Sony also acquired half of Jackson’s own music rights for \$600 million in 2024. Jackson’s legacy was further encashed through new albums with unreleased music, touring shows, stage productions including Cirque du Soleil, and now, a Hollywood biopic.

Although Jackson rented out a lot of properties across the globe, including a luxurious apartment in Trump Towers, his beloved Neverland ranch on the outskirts of Los Angeles, California was paid to his friend and billionaire Ron Burkle in 2020 for \$22 million. All the above

earnings were used to pay off the debt, legal expenses, and taxes. After all the settlement, the current net worth of Michael Jackson estate stands at a whopping \$3.5 billion, making this the most profitable career phase of Jackson, over 15 years after his death. A still from Michael Jackson’s This Is It. A still from Michael Jackson’s This Is It.

Michael: Make or break?

Taking a cue from how Michael Jackson’s This Is It changed the course for them, the estate then invested in Michael, a Hollywood biopic, in which Michael’s nephew Jafar Jackson essays the King of Pop. The estate carefully considered its bets, renegotiating its terms with Sony over Jackson’s music catalogue in order to benefit from the spike in his music post Michael’s release. And they weren’t entirely wrong to presume that, since seven of Michael Jackson’s tracks, from “Billy Jean” to even “They Don’t Care About Us” (which isn’t even in the film), have started dominating music charts just three days after the biopic’s global release. They also roped in Billy Graham, who previously backed another musician’s biopic, Bryan Singer’s Bohemian Rhapsody (2018), which fetched Rami Malek an Oscar for his portrayal of Queens lead singer Freddie Mercury. That film earned over \$940 million globally, also leading to a spike in Queen’s music across charts. Mercury’s estate and the surviving Queen members, who had a profit sharing in the film’s business, saw their revenue increase from \$24 million in 2017 to \$94 million in 2019, followed by a dividend of over \$85 million over the next four years. The soaring popularity also enabled Queen to sell their catalogue in 2024 to Sony Music for more than \$1.2 billion. Now, Michael has opened at \$217 million worldwide, including \$97 million in North America and Canada alone. This is \$45 million more than the opening weekend of Bohemian Rhapsody (\$52 million) at the domestic box office. However, unlike the latter which was made on a budget of \$55 million, Michael’s reported budget is as high as \$200 million. It was already one of the most expensive biopics to be made in Hollywood, on a budget of \$150 million.

‘She belongs to Tara Singh’: How an angry crowd didn’t let Bobby Deol hug Ameesha Patel



Ameesha Patel and Sunny Deol’s 2001 blockbuster Gadar: Ek Prem Katha won hearts for their characters Tara Singh and Sakeena. The iconic duo, who reprised their roles in the latest 2023 release, Gadar 2, have gained a massive following. Now, in a recent interview, Ameesha revealed an interesting anecdote, when a serious climax shoot of Humraaz with Bobby Deol, turned into a funny moment. She also opened up about Sunny’s huge fanbase, sharing a BTS story from Gadar’s shoot.

During a conversation with Bollywood Bubble, she recalled the shoot of Humraaz with Bobby Deol, and revealed that the crowd couldn’t accept her in Bobby’s arms, calling the actor his brother Singh’s ‘property’. “Some characters etch in people’s heart and memories so much, that they blur the difference between real and reel life. Gadar was newly released, and Tara and Sakeena were receiving a lot of love from everyone. I was shooting for Humraaz

at Jaipur fort. It was the climax scene, in which I had to shoot Akshaye Khanna with a gun and Bobby Deol had to hug me.” The excited crowd turned the serious scene into a laughing moment. “A crowd had assembled to watch the shoot. There were ropes to control the people, cops were present, and people weren’t able to cross and reach the set. But, there was so much public during the shoot, all three actors were there, so it was very exciting for them. However, when Bobby came to hug me, public started shouting loudly, ‘Leave her. Yeh toh Taara Singh ki amaanat hai, tere Bhai ki amaanat hai. Vo Pakistan se leke aaya hai usse, chorr Sakeena ko (Leave Sakeena, she is your brother’s partner, he brought her from Pakistan),” she shared. The actor further added, “It was a bittersweet and happy feeling also, that people loved Tara and Sakeena so much that they couldn’t digest someone else coming in her life. But, it was laughable also, because after all it was a film, not real life. It was quite funny. We all were serious, crying during the scene, but we all started laughing, including the directors and actors. I joked with Bobby, ‘I won’t hug you now, mai aapke bhai ki amaanat hu, yeh samajh lo aap (I belong to your brother).”

Recalling another instance from Gadar’s shoot with Sunny Deol, she shared, “Sunny ji loves dhaba food – raw milk etc. We were driving from Dalhousie to Pathankot for the shoot. He asked me to sit in his car, so we can listen to music and travel. We were crossing a dhaba and he said that he will make me try all these things,” she said. Ameesha continued, “So, we stopped at the dhaba and were sitting in the car. A cute boy came to give our food and tea in a tray. When Sunny rolled down the window to receive it, the boy was in a state of shock. Sunny ji was a big star. That boy was looking at the TV and then looking at him live, his film was showing. He said, ‘Sunny ji kaise do-do jagah?’ The tray fell from his hands, the entire food fell on us.” The 50-year-old has worked with both Deol brothers extensively in the past. She has shared screen space with Sunny Deol in the hit films, Gadar and Gadar 2. With Bobby Deol, the actor has starred in Humraaz and Humko Tumse Pyaar Hai. Meanwhile, on the professional front, Ameesha Patel was last seen in the rom-com Tauba Tera Jalwa. The actor hasn’t announced any upcoming projects yet.

TDP supporters disrupt Bengaluru comedy show, force comedian Sarat Uday to apologise for two-year-old jokes

A stand-up comedy show by Hyderabad-based comedian Sarat Uday was cut short at a club in Koramangala on Saturday evening after a group of men claiming to be Telugu Desam Party supporters walked onto the stage, abused him, and demanded he chant party slogans in front of a paying audience. Sarat was performing a solo show at Ministry of Comedy when the disruption began within minutes of him taking the stage. Around 7 pm, a man from the audience walked up, and told the stand-up comedian, “I’m your fan, you do comedy very well. But in one show, you insulted our leader.” Before Sarat could respond, two more individuals joined the first man on stage. Within a short while, a group of five to six others had gathered near the stage as well, turning what began as a confrontation into something far more hostile.

The video had already faced backlash at the time it was posted. Sarat had received a wave of abusive messages and threats, and he subsequently issued a public apology in 2024, acknowledging that viewers had found the jokes hurtful and saying he would step back from political comedy. On Saturday night in Bengaluru, he reminded the group of this. However, it didn’t stop the group. The men on stage demanded he apologise again, in person, in front of the audience, using abusive language while doing so. Sarat Uday complied, addressing his apology directly to Naidu, Lokesh, and TDP workers, but the group did not leave. They raised slogans of “Jai Telugu Desam Party” inside the venue and pushed the comedian to repeat their chants, specifically “Jai TDP,” “Jai Lokesh Anna,” and “Jai Chandrababu Naidu.” He refused, pointing out that since his original video had covered multiple parties, he was not going to publicly align himself with any single one. One member of the group questioned how Sarat had dared to joke about the Naxalite assassination attempt on Naidu in 2003. Another said the comedian had hurt Hindu religious sentiment with his ref-



erences to the Tirupati laddu adulteration episode. A warning was issued openly: “If you make such a mistake one more time, mark my words.” CCTV footage from the venue captured the group explicitly calling it a “final warning” and telling Sarat to be careful going forward. After the apology, the group demanded refunds for their tickets before eventually heading for the exit. The incident is the third of its kind involving Telugu comedians within the space of a month. Earlier in April, comedians Anudeep Katikala and Rafiq Muhammad were arrested by Andhra Pradesh police over separate videos in which they made jokes about state Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan. Katikala was picked up from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh and taken to Kakinada, while Muhammad was arrested in Vizag and taken to Machilipatnam. Both cases were registered following complaints from Jana Sena leaders.

Suriya meets singer Dhee in Colombo; calls her single ‘Vari Vari’ a “timeless song”

Chennai: Actor Suriya, who recently met singer Dhee in Colombo, Sri Lanka, has now called her latest single ‘Vari Vari’ “a timeless song”. Music director Santhosh Narayanan, who has jointly produced the song with Dhee, posted a video clip of Dhee’s meeting with Suriya on his X timeline and thanked Suriya for the love he expressed for their song. He wrote, “Thank you, dearest @Suriya_offl sir, for your love for #VariVari. Eternally grateful for this and for the unforgettable moments we spent making music together.”

In the video that Santhosh Narayanan posted, Suriya is seen telling Dhee that he was coming to Colombo after 24 years. The actor went on to thank the singer for taking the time to come and meet him and also show him her song. Commenting on the recently released single of



Dhee, Suriya said, “It’s a lovely song” and urged viewers to check the song out.

“I’m a big fan of her work always and I was very happy to hear such a song again. I think it will be a timeless song. Everybody will love it,” he said, speaking about the number, youthful

number that has just been released. The actor on the occasion was also seen making a request to Dhee. He said, “In fact, I have a request now. Is this song only in your album or is it in a film? Can I have this song?” For the unaware, ‘Vari Vari’ is a single that has music by Santhosh

Narayanan and lyrics by Vivek. It has been sung by Dhee, who has a huge fan following. While describing the number, its makers said the song was about “someone or something that’s gone and isn’t around anymore, something that’s been lost.”