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Massive transfer in Madhya Pradesh Police: New posting orders issued for 10 senior officers



Bhopal, 01 June 2025: The Madhya Pradesh government has issued orders for the transfer and new posting of 10 senior police officers, making major reshuffle in the state police force. These orders have become effective from 01 June 2025.

According to the order, Shri Pramod Verma (2001 batch) has been made Inspector General of Police, Sagar Zone to Inspector General of Police, Jabalpur Zone. Shri Sushant Kumar Saxena (2005 batch) has been transferred from Inspector General of Police, Chambal Zone, Morena to Inspector General of Police (ATC/T), Police Headquarters, Bhopal. Shri Chandrashekhar

Solanki (2006 batch) has been appointed as Inspector General of Police, Sagar Zone and Additional Incharge Director JNPA, Sagar from Inspector General of Police, Indore.

Similarly, Shri Sachin Kumar Atulkar (2007 batch) has been appointed as Deputy Inspector General of Police/Inspector General of Police, Chhindwara and Additional Charge, Jabalpur Zone, Director General of Police, Chambal Zone. Shri Kumar Saurabh (2007 batch) has been appointed as Deputy Inspector General of Police, Chambal Range, Morena from Deputy Inspector General of Police (AJAK), Police Headquarters,

Bhopal. Shri Sunil Kumar Jain (2009 batch) has been appointed as Deputy Inspector General of Police, Chambal Range, Morena from Deputy Inspector General of Police, Sagar Range.

Shri Virendra Kumar Mishra (2012 batch) has been transferred as Assistant Inspector General of Police, Police Headquarters, Bhopal from Superintendent of Police, Datia. Mr. Suraj Verma (2013 batch) has been appointed as Superintendent of Police, Datia from Senani, First Battalion, Indore. Mr. Abhijeet Ranjan (2014 batch) has been made Assistant Inspector General of Police, Police Headquarters, Bhopal from Superintendent of

Police, Katni. Finally, Mr. Amitabh Vishwakarma (2019 batch) has been appointed as Superintendent of Police, Katni from Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-2), City Police District, Indore.

This transfer order has been issued by the Madhya Pradesh Government, Home Department, a copy of which has been sent to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, Additional Chief Secretary, M.P., and Secretary (Confidential) M.P. Government, General Administration Department. This transfer move is expected to bring new vigor and efficiency in the police administration.

Crucial READ

GST Collections Above Rs 2 Trillion For Second Straight Month

New Delhi (Agency): Gross GST collections remained above the Rs 2 trillion mark for the second month in a row, rising 16.4 per cent in May to over Rs 2.01 lakh crore. Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection had touched a record high of Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April. In May, 2025, gross revenues from domestic transactions rose 13.7 per cent to about Rs 1.50 lakh crore, while GST revenue from imports grew 25.2 per cent to Rs 51,266 crore.

Senior IRS officer arrested for accepting ₹25 lakh bribe

New Delhi (Agency): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a 2007-batch Indian Revenue Service Officer named Amit Kumar Singhal. Singhal was presently posted as the Additional Director General in the Directorate of Taxpayer Services, New Delhi. Along with him, another individual identified as Harsh Kotak, was charged with demanding and accepting ₹25 lakh as a bribe. This ₹25 lakh was a part of the payment of the total ₹45 lakh in bribe demanded from the complainant. Earlier on Saturday, a case was registered by the CBI against the accused.

Police officer's charred body found on NH 26

Odisha (Agency): The charred body of an assistant sub-inspector was found lying on National Highway 26 in Odisha's Kalahandi district on Sunday, an officer said. The deceased was identified as Pabitra Golapi, a native of Borigumma area in Koraput district. He was attached to Bhawanipatna reserve police office. His motorcycle, gutted in fire, was also found near his body in Banamalipur area under the jurisdiction of Junagarh police station, its inspector-in-charge Sesadev Behera said. According to eyewitnesses, the motorcycle Golapi was riding rammed into a stationary truck and caught fire, Behera said.

Number of devotees visiting Uttarakhand's Kedarnath Dham crosses 7 lakh



New Delhi (Agency): Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that Shri Kedarnath Dham Yatra has become the axis of faith and culture of Uttarakhand. The government's goal is not only to provide facilities to the pilgrims, but also to economically empower the local youth, women and traders. CM Dhami said, "We are trying to take every possible step towards making the journey safe, smooth and prosperous. Shri Kedarnath Dham Yatra is setting new records every year. On the one hand, while the number of devotees arriving from the country and abroad to visit Baba Kedarnath is setting new records, the employment of local people is also getting continuous benefits from the increasing travel." "On the other hand, the government is also getting huge revenue from the facilities being provided by the government administration to the devotees arriving on the Yatra. One month has passed since Baba's doors opened, and in this one month, from government facilities to local traders, they have done business of more than two billion. Since the beginning of the month of

June, the number of devotees has started increasing continuously, which will benefit the local traders and women self-help groups," he said. For the year 2025, the doors of Baba Kedarnath Dham were opened for the devotees on May 2. One month has passed since the doors of Baba were opened. On Sunday, June 1, the number of devotees visiting Baba Kedarnath Dham has reached Kedarpuri for Baba's darshan every day. Shri Kedarnath Dham Yatra is one of the most difficult religious pilgrimages in the country. After crossing a difficult walking route of about 20 kilometres, one can have darshan of the 11th Jyotilinga situated in the lap of the Himalayan mountains. Horses and mules play a very important role in this difficult religious journey on foot. Inevitable and elderly devotees often travel through them, while food items and other essential items are transported to the Yatra route and Kedarpuri by these horses and mules. Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Ashish Rawat said that till May 31, 1,39,444

pilgrims have reached for darshan through horses and mules, through which an income of more than 40 crore 50 lakhs has been received. He said that this year, due to the infectious disease equine influenza virus, horse mule operation was also affected for a few days.

Heli services have an important role in the Shri Kedarnath Dham Yatra. Through heli services, devotees who are unable to travel on foot in any condition get a chance to see Baba. At the same time, heli services are playing an important role in the rescue operation. Every day two to three people facing medical emergencies are rescued to higher centers on time through heli services. District Tourism Officer and Nodal Heli Service Rahul Chaubey said that this year, eight heli companies are operating from nine helipads. Till May 31, about 33,000 devotees have reached Baba Kedarnath Dham through heli services, due to which an income of about ₹35 crore has been received. Chaubey appealed to the devotees to book heli booking from the official website of IRCTC. The operation of dandi-kandi is as important as the operation of horses and mules on the Shri Kedarnath Dham foot journey route. Many devotees who are unable to walk prefer to travel by dandi-kandi instead of dandi-kandi. It is also considered safer for small children. Apart from this, many devotees travel on foot themselves and reach Kedarpuri with the help of only similar dandi-kandi.

Monks meet Amit Shah, raise issue of 'violence against Hindus' in Bengal, cross-border infiltration

New Delhi (Agency): During home minister Amit Shah's visit to West Bengal, monks from several organisations met him raised their concerns regarding alleged "violence against Hindus" in the state after an uptick in cross-border infiltration.

As per reports, the monks cited the violence in Bengal's Murshidabad and Malda districts.

During a meeting at Swami Vivekananda's ancestral home, the monks added that they raised their concerns while underlining the spiritual and cultural legacy of India. "We have raised the atrocities on Hindus in



Bengal's Malda and Murshidabad districts and infiltration from Bangladesh but Shah did not respond to specific queries or any incident cited by monks," a monk, who was part of the meeting, "A central theme of the discussion was what is needed for collective effort.

Participants reached a consensus emphasising the importance of working together as a single unit. Working together was the shared sentiment. This unified approach is aimed at benefiting the general public, specifically by exploring how spirituality can be

applied in daily life for the welfare of people," During his visit to the eastern state, the Union Home Minister accused the TMC government and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of "opposing" Operation Sindoor.

"Under Operation Sindoor, we conducted a deep strike 100 kilometers into Pakistan, targeting their headquarters. Numerous terrorists were killed, but this seems to trouble Mamata Ji" Shah said while addressing party leaders and workers. The BJP leader also accused the Bengal CM for "favouring" Pakistani terrorists.

"Troubling": Bar Body Chief Seeks Release Of Influencer Sharmishta Panoli



New Delhi (Agency): Bar Council of India (BCI) chairman Manan Kumar Mishra on Sunday called for immediate release and fair trial for Sharmishta Panoli, the Instagram influencer who was arrested by Kolkata Police for allegedly making a post claiming the Hindi film actors were silent on Operation Sindoor. The senior advocate and Rajya Sabha member said that he was standing firmly with Panoli, whose arrest and judicial custody for a now-deleted social media video despite her immediate apology represented "an absolute failure of justice and a blatant assault on freedom of expression". The 22-year-old influencer, a resident of Kolkata and enrolled in Pune's Law University, was arrested from Gurugram on Friday night. She was on Saturday produced before a Kolkata court, which sent her in judicial custody till June 13.

Over 1,500 rescued From Manipur By Army, Assam Rifles Amid Flood Crisis

Imphal (Agency): As heavy rains continued to lash parts of Northeast India, the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, and Manipur Fire Service launched extensive rescue operations in flood-affected areas, rescuing over 1,500 people across various districts.

Visuals from the ground showed officials using boats and even carrying stranded residents on their backs to ensure safe evacuation. Engineer Task Force Commander Colonel Gunavrat Bhivgade said the teams were monitoring the situation closely and were prepared in advance. "We were closely monitoring the situation as soon as the rains started becoming severe. We were adequately prepared; we had carried out joint training and



coordinated with the civil administration. As the news of waterlogging and emerging floods reached us, we quickly responded along with the Assam Rifle Columns. "It has been raining continuously for 48 hours... More than 1,000 people have been rescued so far. Today, our focus remains on reaching more affected residents. The Imphal River has risen above the danger level, flooding several areas around Imphal," he added.

Soldiers taking training in a country adjacent to China

India's first military exercise begins after Operation Sindoor

New Delhi (Agency): The annual joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2025' between the armies of India and Mongolia has started in Ulaanbaatar from May 31. This first international joint exercise of the Indian Army after Operation Sindoor against Pakistan is also important in the sense that despite having good relations with China, Mongolia considers its friendly and strategic relations with India very important.

Amid the ups and downs in relations with many of India's closest neighboring countries, Mongolia is a

trusted strategic and economic ally of India in Asia. The depth of relations between India and Mongolia can also be gauged from the fact that this is the 17th edition of the joint military exercise Nomadic Elephant of the two countries.

On the occasion of the start of the joint exercise at the Special Forces Training Center in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, Indian Ambassador Atul Malhari Gotsurve and from the Mongolian side Major General Lkhagvasuren Gunsalam extended their best wishes to both the participating soldiers. They

also expressed hope that this exercise will promote greater



cooperation and mutual understanding between the armed forces of the two countries. Both the countries also

emphasized that this joint exercise will not only

enhance the operational preparedness of both the armies, but will also contribute to strengthening the permanent defense

relations between India and Mongolia.

Apart from strategic relations, Mongolia, which is known for following Buddhist culture and tradition, has a natural cultural connection with India, while the cooperation between the two countries is also increasing continuously on the economic front.

India had recently increased the limit of loan given to Mongolia for the construction of petroleum refinery to one billion dollars, while Mongolia is a reliable trading partner for India to meet its copper and coal needs. According to the

Indian Army, a wide range of activities will take place during the joint exercise which will continue till June 13, reflecting the growing defense cooperation between India and Mongolia. In particular, the joint exercise will include anti-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous areas. Anti-terrorism operations have become an important part of the military's combat skills, given the security scenario of recent terrorist incidents like Pahalgam. In the joint exercise, soldiers will also rehearse activities related to the context of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

'Did you make Op Sindoor deal out of fear of loosing trade': Congress's Pawan Khera

New Delhi (Agency): Congress leader Pawan Khera on Saturday sought clarification from Prime Minister Narendra Modi over US President Donald Trump's recent statement, in which he claimed that trade diplomacy helped de-escalate tensions between India and Pakistan after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.



Staff Reporter

Banda: A head-on accident between two vehicles in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot district killed two people and badly wounded seven others on Sunday afternoon, according to authorities. Arun Kumar Singh, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Chitrakoot, stated that in the afternoon, a jeep traveling from Karvi to Prayagraj crashed head-on with a truck at the Bhakharwara bend in Bandhi village in Raipura police station area.

In this tragedy, nine individuals in both vehicles were hurt. He stated that two of the injured died from their injuries while being treated at the hospital, while the remainder are being treated at Ramnagar's government hospital. According to the SP, the truck driver fell asleep, which appears to be the cause of the collision. The inquiry into the accident has begun. Police stated the deceased's remains had been transferred for post-mortem examinations.

'Growth in productivity, real incomes not happening as fast; leading to queuing for govt jobs': NITI Aayog vice chairperson



New Delhi (Agency): The growth in labour productivity and real incomes is not happening “as fast as people’s aspirations”, which has led to them “queuing for government jobs”, NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery said on Thursday. In his remarks at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) summit, Bery noted the real challenge facing India is raising productivity in both manufacturing and services, and urged the private sector to create “better jobs”. “A particular dimension of Viksit Bharat is the urgency of raising labour productivity. This is very much an area where the private sector has an important role to play,” Bery, who also chairs the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), said. Bery observed India’s GDP in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms stood at \$15 trillion, compared with \$29 trillion for the United States. Highlighting the difference in labour productivity in the two countries, Bery said, “We’re roughly half the size of the US economy. Our labour force currently is approximately three times the size of the US labour force.” The eminent economist said rising productivity leads to faster growth in real incomes and improved standards of living. “The fact that that has not been happening as fast as people’s aspirations is what is leading to (them) queuing for government jobs, etc. What is really important is that those better jobs be generated by the private sector,” Bery said. The Economic Survey 2024-25 said real monthly wages for both male and female salaried and self-employed workers in 2023-24 were lower than pre-pandemic levels in 2017-18. It also noted that while corporate profitability soared to a 15-year high in 2023-24, growth in wages has “lagged”.

Indian economy to sustain its position as fastest growing major economy in 2025-26: RBI annual report

New Delhi (Agency): The Indian economy is poised to remain the fastest-growing major economy in 2025-26 driven by its sound macroeconomic fundamentals, robust financial sector and commitment towards sustainable growth, the Reserve Bank of India said in its annual report for 2024-25. It, however, said that uncertainty about global trade post-protectionist measures, protracted geopolitical tensions and global financial market volatility pose

downside risks to the growth outlook and upside risks to the inflation outlook. “The Indian economy is poised to sustain its position as the fastest growing major economy during 2025-26, supported by pickup in private consumption, healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates, easing financial conditions and the government’s continued thrust on capital expenditure,” the annual report said. For 2025-26, the Reserve Bank of India has projected real gross domestic product

(GDP) growth at 6.5 per cent and consumer price index (CPI) inflation at 4 per cent.

agricultural production on the back of a likely above-normal south-west monsoon augur



The easing of supply chain pressures, softening of global commodity prices and higher

well for the inflation outlook in 2025-26, the report said. In the financial year 2024-25,

headline inflation eased by 73 basis points (bps) to 4.6 per cent in 2024-25. The report said that with inflation falling below the target in February and March 2025, supported by a sharp fall in food inflation, there is now greater confidence about a durable alignment of headline inflation with the target of 4 per cent over a 12-month horizon. “The benign inflation outlook and moderate growth warrant monetary policy to be growth supportive, while remaining watchful about the rapidly evolving global

macroeconomic conditions,” it said. Prolonged geopolitical uncertainties, excessive global financial market volatilities, trade fragmentation and restrictive trade policies pose upward risks to the inflation trajectory, it said. On financial markets, the report said during 2025-26, markets will closely track the implications of tariff policies of the US and reciprocal measures by others, as an uncertain policy environment may instil volatility in global financial markets.

Domestic, Asian markets rise after US court rules against Trump’s reciprocal tariffs

Mumbai (Agency): Domestic equity market indices Sensex and Nifty and most Asian markets rose on Thursday after a US court invalidated President Trump’s reciprocal trade tariff orders. The BSE’s 30-share Sensex rose 0.34 per cent, or 278.71 points, to open at 81,591.03. The index surged 0.62 per cent during the intraday trades. The Nifty gained 0.3 per cent, or 72.65 points, to open at 24,825.1. Among the Asian market indices, Japan’s Nikkei 225 surged 1.67 per cent, the Shanghai Composite was up 0.72 per cent high and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng gained 0.88 per cent on Thursday. A panel of three judges at the

US Court of International Trade on Wednesday found that Trump had overstepped his executive authority by invoking the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to justify a broad array of global tariffs announced last month. “The Worldwide and Retaliatory Tariff Orders exceed any authority granted to the President...to regulate importation by means of tariffs,” the court wrote in its decision. The Trump administration filed a notice that it was appealing the court ruling. Global markets faced high volatility after Trump announced to impose tariffs on various trading partners

on April 2. “Trump’s tariff-related news continues to impact markets. The US Federal court striking down the reciprocal tariffs is a clear message that the maverick president cannot ride roughshod over markets and economy with his questionable decisions,” said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited. The court ruling is the second big setback for President Trump after the blow delivered by the bond market which forced the Trump administration to pause the tariffs for 90 days. From the market perspective, this is a positive development. In the domestic market, all

broader market indices were trading in green. Nifty Auto was up 0.62 per cent, Nifty IT gained 0.81 per cent and Nifty Metal rose nearly 1 per cent in the morning trades. All the action is in the mid and small-cap space in response to the results. Investors should not chase mid and small-caps without any concern for valuations. Quality mid and small-caps have the potential to outperform, said Vijayakumar. Among the NSE companies that gained the most included Eternal Ltd (1.66 per cent), JSW Steel (1.63 per cent), Trent Ltd (1.38 per cent) and IndusInd Bank (1.23 per cent).

As Indians look to travel more in 2025, overseas holidays likely to pick up further



New Delhi (Agency): After crossing the 3-crore mark for the first time in 2024, the number of Indians travelling overseas appears set for another increase in 2025, with as many as 85 per cent of respondents in a survey saying they plan to more than double the frequency of their holidays — both domestic and overseas — this year to four-six from two-three. According to Thomas Cook India and SOTC Travel’s India Holiday Report 2025, which was released Wednesday, not only are Indians planning to go on more holidays, they are also looking to spend more, with around 84 per cent of respondents considering spending anywhere between 20 per cent and 50 per cent more on travel this year 2025. “The survey... reflects a significant shift driven by rising disposable incomes and the growing aspirational value of travel, including experiential holidays,” the report said. Indians are travelling overseas like never before, with international departure numbers recovering rapidly since the pandemic ebbed, and now at record levels. Among other factors, driving this surge is the growing international footprint of Indian airlines and various countries offering simplified and hassle-free visas to Indians. The number of countries offering visa-free entry to Indian citizens has also grown over the past three years. In 2024, Indian nationals’ departures to foreign countries rose 8 per cent to 3.02 crore after 2023 saw a 29 per cent year-on-year jump to 2.79 crore, crossing the pre-pandemic peak of 2.69 crore that was achieved in 2019, as per Ministry of Tourism data. In the first two months of 2025, 50.9 lakh Indians travelled abroad, up 6 per cent from the corresponding period last year, tourism ministry data showed. According to the report, 44 per cent respondents are more likely to visit countries offering simplified visa processes like e-visa or visa-on-arrival options such as Thailand, Malaysia, the UAE, Sri Lanka, while countries that issue long-term visas—like Australia, Japan, and the US—are also seeing an uptick. More international trips, while indicative of premiumisation in travel preferences, does not necessarily mean that Indian travelers have become spendthrift. As many as 39 per cent of the 2,500 survey respondents said that they actively seek promotions, discounts, and special offers while making their travel decisions.

Elon Musk checks out after taking the chainsaw to US government: why it was just a matter of time

New Delhi (Agency): In less than five months, Elon Musk is leaving US President Donald Trump as one of his top advisers after spearheading the efforts to cut the American government’s federal staff strength. Musk’s exit, announced late Wednesday, marks the end of a tumultuous chapter that saw thousands of layoffs, a hollowing out of key government agencies and multiple lawsuits. Musk accomplished far less than he’d started out to do, when he took charge at the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE. And this follows a pattern. Just 69 days after Trump announced the DOGE team, Vivek Ramaswamy, who was to share the burden at the helm with Musk, abruptly quit.

“As my scheduled time as a Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President @realDonaldTrump for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending,” Musk wrote on X Wednesday. “The @DOGE mission will only strengthen over time as it becomes a way of life throughout the government.” Incidentally, Musk’s announcement came a day after the news channel CBS released part of an interview in which he criticised Trump’s tax cut bill – the centrepiece of the President’s legislative agenda – by saying he was “disappointed” by what Trump calls his “big beautiful bill.” The legislation includes both tax cuts and stricter immigration enforcement. Musk had earlier voiced his dissenting views on

immigration action, especially on H1B visas. “I think a bill can be big or it could be beautiful,” Musk said. “But I don’t know if it could be both.” Musk’s role



at DOGE was seen as somewhat temporary, but the unceremonious exit has got tongues wagging. The main reason for this is being attributed to Musk’s signalling in recent weeks that would be shifting his attention back to running his businesses, especially

electric automaker Tesla. His role at DOGE had, however, led to multiple run-ins with key personalities in Trump’s cabinet, including Secretary of State Marco

“Manhattan Project” (the World War II project led by the US to produce the first nuclear weapon) saying “this will send shockwaves through the system, and anyone involved in Government waste, which is a lot of people!” The prediction indeed turned out to be true, and Musk became a bugbear for many inside Trump’s cabinet and those laid-off, including many in Trump’s voter base in the heartland states. There were also multiple contradictions in the symbiotic relationship between Trump and Musk, which both sides had to work with – or around, right from the start. · China: Trump started by increasingly filling his incoming administration with China trade and security hawks while Musk had a cordial

working relationship with high-ranking officials in China, where he established Tesla as the country’s first fully foreign-owned automaker in 2018. Chinese state media has often cited Tesla as an example of successful trade cooperation between Beijing and Washington. China is Tesla’s second-largest market only after the US and the Tesla Gigafactory in Shanghai, which started production in 2020, is the carmaker’s largest production centre in the world. Tesla sold some 600,000 EVs in China last year. As the developing trade war between the world’s two biggest economies intensified, Musk found himself in an increasingly difficult position to firewall his interests in China and justify his position as one of Trump’s top advisors.

India weighs Trump tariff ruling as US trade negotiators head to Delhi on June 5

New Delhi (Agency): Indian trade negotiators are “studying the implications” of the US Court of International Trade that has significantly curbed US President Donald Trump to impose sweeping tariffs as US trade negotiators are set to arrive in India for two-day talks on June 5 and 6, a senior government official said on Thursday. The US negotiator’s visit to India comes following a major loss of leverage that was driving major US trade negotiations globally since Trump took over White House. However, government officials said that the long term basis of an India-US trade deal remains strong and that negotiations are in their final phase. Trade experts have warned that US trade deals under the second Trump administration are one-sided as was evident in its trade deal with the UK and that India should guard against any adverse long term commitment under Trump’s

pressure. Experts have also stressed that several of Trump’s tariffs and trade maneuverings are not WTO-complaint. “The court holds, for the foregoing reasons, that IEEPA does not authorise any of the Worldwide, Retaliatory, or Trafficking Tariff Orders. The Worldwide and Retaliatory Tariff Orders exceed any authority granted to the President by IEEPA to regulate importation by means of tariffs,” the US court of international trade ruled on Wednesday. Giving the order a far-reaching political and economic impact, the court stated that if the challenged tariff orders are “unlawful for the plaintiffs, they are unlawful for everyone”. However, the Trump administration immediately filed an appeal, meaning clarity on Trump’s authority will come from higher courts—but only after a protracted legal battle.

That said, the ruling does not affect tariffs imposed by the Trump administration under separate legal provisions—including the 25 per cent duty on steel, aluminium and automotive parts—where Indian exporters will continue to face elevated tariffs. The court order offers a temporary breather for India, as Trump had on April 2 announced a steep 26 per cent reciprocal tariff, despite India and the US having agreed to begin negotiations for a trade deal. The tariffs were paused till July 8. Ignoring the surplus in services and the substantial profits earned by US companies in India, Trump repeatedly criticised the trade deficit in goods to seemingly pressure New Delhi into signing an early agreement. The court order temporarily grants India more flexibility in handling US demands during ongoing negotiations. A section of officials in the

Ministry of Commerce and Industry had raised concerns about India’s willingness to open up most sectors to avoid reciprocal tariffs. These concerns stem from the fact



that granting market access to one country typically invites similar demands from other partners in subsequent trade agreements, complicating negotiations. During the talks, Trump officials pushed Indian negotiators to open up several politically sensitive areas—such as agriculture—which has traditionally been kept out of trade deals and accorded high protection.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) even cited India’s restrictions on genetically modified (GM) corn and soybean imports as non-tariff barriers, ignoring

India’s concerns over food security. In a bid to appease Trump, New Delhi had already announced several duty cuts—such as on bourbon whiskey and motorbikes—during the Union Budget presentation. The pressure to conclude a trade agreement with the US remains high, especially as India agreed to a Terms of Reference (ToR) to kick-start formal trade negotiations just

prior to the April 2 reciprocal tariff deadline. Despite progress in trade talk, Trump has continued his tariff rhetoric targeting India. After Apple announced that a majority of iPhones to be sold in the US would be produced in India, Trump said that Apple would have to pay a 25 per cent tariff if it sold iPhones in the US that are built in India or elsewhere. Trump also stated that he had told Apple CEO Tim Cook he does not want the company to expand its manufacturing operations in India unless it is to serve the Indian domestic market. US negotiators have also sought various regulatory changes to favour US corporate interests in India, ranging from relaxed data localisation rules to reforms in the patent regime—particularly in the pharmaceutical sector. In 2025, the US placed India on the Priority Watch List, claiming that India maintains high customs duties on IP-

intensive products such as medical devices and pharmaceuticals. “In the pharmaceutical sector, the United States continues to monitor the restriction on patent-eligible subject matter in Section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act and its impacts. Pharmaceutical stakeholders also express concerns as to whether India has an effective mechanism for the early resolution of potential pharmaceutical patent disputes,” the US report on IPR released last month said. The US push for better patent protection in India comes despite India being a key source of low-cost generic medicines for many countries, including the US. India has consistently resisted pressure from free trade agreement (FTA) partners to allow the “evergreening” of drugs—a strategy used by pharmaceutical firms to extend patent lifespans and maintain market dominance.

However, trade experts said that India is facing repeated demands for years, both in WTO as well as bilateral trade deals. While Trump advocated for freer data flows and expanded access for big tech firms in India, a 2018 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report, Power, Platforms, and the Free Trade Delusion, highlighted how control over data has become a major source of market power and a barrier to new entrants. A Standing Committee on Finance (2022-23), investigating anti-competitive practices by Big Tech, also noted that Google Play—being the dominant app distribution platform on Android—mandates the use of its payment system for paid apps and in-app purchases. “It appears that Google controls a significant volume of payments processed in this market,” the report said.



EDITORIAL

Justice Delivered?

The recent sentencing of two men in Minnesota for their role in the deaths of an Indian family of four attempting to cross illegally into the United States from Canada is a stark reminder of the tangled roots of global human trafficking ~ where personal aspiration meets systemic failure, and profit is drawn from human desperation. This was not just a crime committed by traffickers; it was a tragedy born from a family's dream. The Patel couple, both schoolteachers from Gujarat, were parents chasing what millions across the world desire ~ a better life for their children. It is this aspiration that fuels a global migration crisis, and in the United States, it has primarily played out along the southern border. But as enforcement has tightened there, a quieter, colder, and deadlier route has emerged ~ across the vast and often underestimated northern border



with Canada. The Patel family's 2022 journey was harrowing. They had made it from India to Toronto, possibly under the illusion of legitimacy, before being shuffled into a smuggling network that promised

them entry into the US. They died just 12 metres short of the American dream ~ frozen in a field under a minus 38°C sky, alone and separated from the group they began with. Two children ~ aged 11 and three ~ paid the ultimate price for a journey they did not choose.

We must be clear: this is not simply a border issue. It is an aspiration issue. The myth of the West as a land where all dreams come true, combined with the social prestige attached to foreign settlement in many Indian communities, creates powerful internal pressure. When these aspirations collide with economic stagnation and limited opportunity at home, people often take perilous routes, entrusting their futures to smugglers who view them as cargo. The United States continues to grapple with illegal immigration but tragedies like this show that the crisis is far more complex than often acknowledged. The northern border may seem less dramatic, but it proved just as deadly for the Patels ~ and used to be exploited by transnational networks skilled in navigating visa loopholes and exploiting vulnerable migrants till the crackdown on illegal immigration under the Trump Administration. The sentencing of two traffickers ~ 10 years and 6.5 years respectively ~ is a legal outcome. But it is not justice. Justice would mean dismantling the networks that promised the Patels a new life while delivering death. Justice would mean governments acting together to stop the pipeline of exploitation, and communities recognising that dignity cannot be outsourced to geography. The Patel family's frozen bodies must haunt every policy meeting, every embassy desk that issues a dubious visa, and every village agent spinning tales of success abroad. Their deaths are not an isolated tragedy. They are the price we pay for turning aspiration into a commodity, and migration into a gamble only the traffickers ever win.

Tug-of-War

The battle over US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs has taken a sharp turn. Just a day after a federal trade court ruled that the President had overstepped his authority, a federal appeals court hit pause ~ allowing the tariffs to stay in place for now. The legal rollercoaster is far from over, but one thing is clear: the constitutional struggle over who holds the reins of US trade policy is heating up. The lower court had issued a strong rebuke, finding that Mr Trump's broad use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose import taxes ~ on everything from Chinese toys to Italian wine ~ stretched the law far beyond its original intent. Meant for national emergencies and hostile foreign actors, the IEEPA was never designed as a blunt-force trade tool. The court's message was pointed: presidents can't unilaterally redefine trade policy by declaring economic conditions an emergency. But that message has been temporarily muted. The appeals court's stay means the tariffs, including the blanket 10 per cent baseline duties announced on April 2, will remain in effect while litigation continues. The next hearing is scheduled for June 5, and the issue is widely expected



to reach the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, businesses remain caught in the crossfire, forced to navigate a trade landscape riddled with volatility. This moment underscores just how precarious the balance of power has become. For years, successive administrations have pushed the boundaries of executive authority in trade. Mr Trump took that expansion to new heights, triggering the biggest trade war since the Great Depression. His legal team now argues that courts have no place in policing the President's economic discretion ~ an argument that challenges core principles of checks and balances. Even if the IEEPA pathway is ultimately shut down, Mr Trump has other legal levers at his disposal, including Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act (used for national-security tariffs on steel, aluminium and cars), Section 301 (targeting unfair foreign trade practices), and even the long-dormant Section 338, which allows tariffs on nations that "discriminate" against US trade.

The legal chessboard is complex, and the President has no shortage of moves. What remains unchanged is the economic chaos unleashed by erratic tariff policymaking. Importers face impossible planning scenarios. Supply chains whiplash. Foreign allies recoil. The global response has been equally unsettled. Long-time allies like the EU and Canada have protested the unpredictability of US tariff policy, while China has doubled down on countermeasures. This diplomatic mess erodes trust, weakens alliances, and leaves multilateral trade frameworks more vulnerable to nationalist agendas and tit-for-tat escalation. Regardless of who wins in court, this saga reveals the urgent need for Congress to reassert its authority ~ clarify the statutes, reaffirm its constitutional role, and provide clear rules for trade governance. Until then, America's global trade stance will remain at the mercy of court calendars, partisan rhetoric, and presidential whimsy.

As another monsoon unleashes its fury on Mumbai, the case for building a coastal forest

Ramvilas Sharma

Historically, we have been adept at reclaiming land; now, we must reclaim our city, our sense of public consciousness, and the public good. By creating a coastal forest, we can transform Mumbai's coastline into a resilient, vibrant, and equitable space for all



Mumbai stands at a crucial crossroads, presented with a once-in-a-generation opportunity on its west coast to redefine its public spaces and build a resilient future. Traditionally, open areas in our densely populated city have meant parks, maidans, and promenades. But as we navigate the escalating challenges of climate change, we need a 21st-century public space ~ a coastal forest that could be rooted in our ecological past and address the climate realities of our future.

A couple of centuries ago, Mumbai's coastline was a different world. It was fringed with paddy fields and coconut groves, mangroves and mudflats, fishing boats and salt pans. The relationship between the city and its coast was reciprocal and harmonious. This wasn't merely a picturesque past; it was a living blueprint for resilience. Amidst the city's chaos, the coast offered tranquillity and calm.

But over the last century, land reclamation hasn't just transformed our coastline ~ it has also narrowed our collective imagination of what public space can be. We've moved from valuing living ecosystems to constructing static, concrete structures or beautification initiatives where nature is often incorporated solely for

its cosmetic value. This shift hasn't just physically changed our environment; it has limited our public consciousness. In the process, we've lost more than land ~ we've lost possibilities. As the unprecedented rainfall and flooding this month have painfully indicated, today, Mumbai is facing a growing climate emergency. We will also be confronted with numerous additional hazards and challenges associated with a heating world ~ urban heat islands, deteriorating air quality, rising sea levels, frequent extreme weather events, and declining biodiversity. We risk losing the rich habitats that support the barbets, bulbuls, and bee-eaters that make our city vibrant. Furthermore, the reduction in green spaces exacerbates these issues. So, what does it mean to build public space in a warming age? The answer, in part, could lie in a citizen-led proposal to reimagine our coastline through the creation of a coastal forest. This proposal is not just about planting trees; it's about creating a thriving ecosystem with immense ecological benefits. Unlike a more conventional garden that requires maintenance and upkeep, a native forest, populated with trees and plants indigenous to our coastal region, would be a self-sustaining ecosystem

that can lower ambient temperatures, reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, and mitigate flood risk. Importantly, reclaimed land is particularly vulnerable to flooding, making this intervention essential.

This living landscape would become richer, greener, and more resilient with age, acting as a public asset appreciating over time. Its cooling capacity, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration capabilities would increase as it matures. This approach aligns with and draws from existing official initiatives, including the Mumbai Climate Action Plan and MCGM's Urban Greening Handbook, ensuring it complements the city's broader environmental strategies.

Importantly, this proposal is not without precedent. Mumbai is already quietly crafting a new vocabulary for how both people and nature can thrive together. From the restored trails of Sanjay Gandhi National Park to the thriving mangrove belts that line our estuaries, these green spaces demonstrate the power of ecological integrity in an urban setting. More recently, new efforts like the Marol Urban Forest along the Mithi River and the Malabar Hill Forest Trail have shown how restoration and recreation can co-exist. These are spaces where native vegetation regenerates while citizens find shade, quiet, and connection ~ proof that public space can be designed to serve the climate, the community, and the city simultaneously. Critics might argue that climate-smart solutions like forests may not be people-friendly, that open parks and promenades are more inclusive.

Hunger is an enemy we must tackle

Hunger is a common physiological phenomenon. It is measured by the prevalence of undernourishment i.e. an individual's habitual consumption of inadequate food

Ramvilas Sharma

Hunger is a common physiological phenomenon. It is measured by the prevalence of undernourishment i.e. an individual's habitual consumption of inadequate food. The disturbing feature is that 13 per cent of India's population, i.e. about 19 crore people, goes to bed every night with unfilled stomachs. Poverty and inequality can be identified as the chief causes for a person's inability to procure sufficient quantity of nutritious food. Absence of essential nutritional elements in food results in deterioration of physical growth and health conditions.

It reduces the working capacity of adults which translates into low productivity and reduced earning capacity, which further results in poverty. Thus, the vicious cycle of poverty goes on. Perpetual existence of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and under-nourishment in citizens is a major concern in India. It is therefore critical to the development and well-being of the nation. The existence of large numbers of hungry people for a long time in society must have an impact on the economy of the nation. The presence of these hungry men and women in society cannot be recognized distinctly. However, their numbers can only be assessed with various estimations and research analysis. The number of people undernourished in India has gradually decreased over the years but at a slow pace. The concern is the considerable extent of human resources and tal-

ents that are continuously being wasted. Hunger limits human development.

The World Bank suggests that to monitor progress and understand better ways to reduce poverty, it is important to measure poverty regularly. The mission is to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity on a liveable planet. The international extreme poverty line is set by the World Bank at \$2.15 (Rs 181) per person per day at 2017 prices. SBI Research defines a new estimated poverty line in India in 2023-24 at income levels of Rs 54 per day for rural areas and Rs 65 per day for urban areas. Both these amounts are abysmally low and cannot fulfil the basic needs of an adult person.

However, this basis presents a rosier picture of poverty. SBI projects only 5 per cent, i.e. seven crore people, are now living below the poverty line. The poverty line in India is also considered by daily consumption expenditure. It is based on the idea that what people actually spend or consume is a better measure of their well-being than just their income. SBI Research shows monthly average per capita consumption expenditure (MCE) for 2023-24 stands at Rs 4,122 for rural areas and Rs 6,996 for urban areas. This translates into daily expenditure of Rs 137 and Rs 233 respectively. Still, living on these amounts is a real challenge. There are several opinions, ways and methods of computing the poverty line among scholars. It is worth not-

ing that no single measure captures the full complexity of poverty, and different methods may yield different results. Even if the number of people under the poverty line decreases over time, it does not necessarily mean that the rest of the people are economically sound and can afford sufficient nutritious food.



There are different magnitudes of poverty ~ each signifying certain economic features. However, an accurate measure of poverty is necessary to have a comprehensive policy for poverty alleviation. The economy produces sufficient food grains to feed every citizen. Economic growth has also reached an admirably high peak. But despite all these, the extremely poor people do not have economic access to an adequate diet with full nutritional requirement. The Government has to take responsibility to feed its more than 50 per cent citizens. This implies that fruits of economic development are not shared equitably. There is large scale poverty and

inequality.

The Central government will provide free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for a period of five years with effect from 1 January 2024 at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore. The Government

ishment 2. Child Stunting 3. Child Wasting and 4. Child Mortality. India's score in GHI in 2024 was 27.3 point, which is 'serious' in a 100-point scale. Zero is the best possible score defining 'no hunger' while '50 and above' defines an 'extremely alarming' situation. The GHI score for the world as a whole was 18.3. Worldwide, one person out of nine does not have enough to eat. The first Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations i.e. 'No Poverty' and 'Zero Hunger' by 2030 are significant and correlated. NITI Aayog is the nodal institution for achieving SDGs in India. There should be obligatory and immediate accelerated initiatives by the governments to eradicate extreme poverty and thereby to reach the target of no hunger simultaneously. Poverty and hunger are interlinked and the two words are used almost synonymously. The market-driven economy may not be able to eradicate extreme poverty on its own.

The market's power only values the price of the produce and delivers it to those who can pay for it. Further, market cannot deliver essential public goods from education to health, transport etc. Growth was portrayed as a cure for many social ailments and a route to tackle poverty. However, no direct correlation can be established between economic growth and reduction of poverty. Therefore, the government has to step in. Since independence, Indian governments have undertaken various social schemes and

International Organization for Mediation under the leadership of China

China's challenge to the United Nations

China is rapidly making strides in global politics with great power. China is no longer just an economic power, but is becoming an important pillar of an alternative global order. The latest example of this is the establishment of the International Organization for Mediation under the leadership of China. This is a new multilateral platform started in Hong Kong under the leadership of China. The main objective of this organization is to resolve global or inter-country disputes in a peaceful manner, it is sure to have serious and far-reaching consequences regarding its political and economic implications. In view of the inactivity, bias and political pressure of established global institutions like the United Nations, China has tried to set up a parallel global institution. This institution has emerged at a time when the role of the United Nations is under question on issues like the long-running war between Russia and Ukraine, the Israel-Gaza crisis, Taiwan tensions and the South China Sea dispute.

The whole world is standing on the brink of economic recession. Most of the countries of the world are struggling with debt and inflation. The whole world is changing rapidly due to technological development. At such a time, China becoming powerful at the global level is a big challenge for India. America and Russia are the weakest at this time. The current activities of the United Nations have created distrust among the countries of the world about its credibility and working system. At such a time, China has presented a new claim of global leadership among the countries of the world by making Hong Kong the center of mediation. 85 countries have participation in this organization. 33 countries have founder membership. In the current context, it reflects China's diplomatic, political and economic success. The special thing about this organization is that many of these countries are countries of the Global South. Developing or backward nations around the world are looking for new partners to free themselves from Western influence. The new organization is confirming this search. Democratic countries like India, America, Britain and France are not included in it. Developed nations have not joined themselves? It is clear from the absence of developed and developing nations that now the world is going to be divided into two factions. This also proves that China's influence in the world has grown rapidly. China is now emerging as a major economic and strategic power at the global level. The headquarters of this organization in Hong Kong is also symbolically important. This is the same Hong Kong, which was once a laboratory of democracy. Now it is under the political control and influence of China. Laying the foundation of New World Order in Hong Kong is a clear message from China. The new system will be based on the strategy of democracy as well as financial and strategic control. This is a big warning for India. If India keeps distance from such organizations, then India will keep getting out of global discussions and business. China has challenged the countries and superpowers of the world by creating an international organization and getting the support of 85 countries in it. China has also challenged the United Nations in a way.

projects to reduce and ultimately to eradicate poverty. However, it seems that more needs to be done for a sustainable and complete eradication of poverty and hunger.

Governments should help create an enabling environment to generate productive employment and job opportunities for the underprivileged and the marginalized. It is important to ensure that the poor and vulnerable have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services like education, health and information. People who fell into the vicious cycle of poverty sometimes need external help to move out of the poverty trap. A little boost by providing local job opportunities or other assistance may increase their earnings. A little extra income for these people will definitely act as a stimulus to their livelihood. However, identification of these vulnerable people by a household survey is vital. Societies can be deeply undermined by the presence of extreme poverty and inequality. Inequality and poverty damage the social fabric of society.

Persistent hunger among a large section of population is also a social disgrace. Creating sound policy frameworks and robust implementation at the national, regional, state and local levels, based on pro-poor development strategies will support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions and to achieve the 'No Poverty' and 'No Hunger' benchmark by 2030. Time is the constraint.

Israel attacks starving Palestinians at aid distribution site, kills at least 31; UN calls Gaza 'hungriest place on earth'

NEW DELHI: Israel on Saturday attacked starving Palestinians who gathered near aid distribution points set up by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, killing at least 30 people in Rafah and one person in the Netzarim Corridor. The attack also wounded more than 120 Palestinians.

In a statement, the Government Media Office in Gaza said the killings "reflect the nature of these areas as mass death traps, not humanitarian relief points."

"We confirm to the entire world that what is happening is a systematic and malicious use of aid as a tool of war, employed to blackmail starving civilians and forcibly gather them in exposed killing points, managed and monitored by the occupation

army and funded and politically covered by the occupation and the US administration, which bears full moral and legal responsibility for these crimes," the statement read.

The GMO said that at least 39 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's attacks on the newly established US-backed aid sites in less than a week. This does not include the updated death toll of 18 more people killed later on Saturday.

Condemning "the new massacre of the starving people in Rafah," the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said it was "a genocide with international complicity and American participation."

"What happened constitutes a full-fledged war crime," the leftist group said.

"We demand urgent international and Arab intervention to stop this ongoing massacre and impose strict accountability mechanisms on the criminal occupation, in addition to immediately breaking the siege," it added.

The PFLP had earlier warned the desperate Palestinians that aid points set up by Israel and US were "death traps."

On the other hand, the 'Palestinian Center for Missing and Forcibly Disappeared Persons' on Friday raised an alarm regarding Palestinians vanishing from the aid sites set up by the Israeli army after Israel's three-month long blockade of humanitarian assistance pushed the entire population of Gaza into a famine like situation, starving at least 57 people to death, mostly children



including infants. The centre echoed GMO's and PFLP's remarks that the Israeli army's aid distribution points are a "deliberate trap for civilians" as they are placed deep inside

dangerous military zones.

"These areas are death zones," the centre said in a statement, describing the strategy as a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

United Nations and multiple aid agencies have refused to corporate with the US-backed foundation, saying it has been helping Israel in its genocidal war against Gaza.

Meanwhile, the UN on Friday issued a stark warning regarding the crisis in Gaza, calling it the "hungriest place on earth" and repeated that Palestinians are facing a famine.

The UN also said its mission to help starving Palestinians is the most obstructed in recent history. Israel has been accused of weaponising starvation, which amounts to a war crime.

According to the UN, tonnes of aid are waiting at the border but only a trickle of it is being allowed inside by Israel. The UN had earlier stated that Israeli army's restrictions have made it difficult for the aid workers to reach the Palestinians, even after aid entering the territory.

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza has so far killed at least 54,381 Palestinians, mostly women and children. This includes at least 60 people killed in different airstrikes across Gaza in less than 24 hours on Saturday in Israel's intensified genocidal operations in the territory.

Israel has also killed aid workers, healthcare workers and journalists in targeted attacks. More than 200 journalists have been killed by Israel in Gaza since October 2023.

Two dead, hundreds arrested in France as PSG fans celebrate Champions League triumph

PARIS (Agency): Two people died and hundreds were arrested in France overnight as football fans celebrated Paris Saint-Germain's stunning Champions League final victory, the interior ministry said on Sunday.

The epicentre of the euphoria was in Paris, which was a theatre of car horns, cheers, singing in the street and fireworks throughout the night following PSG's 5-0 triumph over Inter Milan in Munich. The ministry said 491 people were arrested in the capital when crowds converged on the Champs-Elysees avenue and clashes

broke out with officers. Across France as a whole, including Paris, a total of 559 people were arrested, it added. The two deaths occurred as the celebrations took place. A man riding a motor scooter in Paris died after being hit by a car in the city's southern 15th arrondissement located just a couple of kilometres (1.3 miles) away from the Champs-Elysees.



In the southwestern town of Dax, a 17-year-old boy was fatally stabbed at a gathering feting the PSG victory, prosecutors said. His death occurred shortly after the match and "during

the celebrations", but the prosecutor's office said it did not know whether it was related to the Champions

League final. It added that the perpetrator was "on the run". The PSG team were to hold a victory parade on the Champs-Elysees on Sunday, with tens of thousands of supporters expected to gather to catch a glimpse of their returning heroes.

Overnight, though, AFP journalists saw police on the famed thoroughfare using a water cannon to stop a crowd reaching the Arc de

Triomphe that sits at the top of the Champs-Elysees.

"Troublemakers on the Champs-Elysees were looking to create incidents and repeatedly came into contact with police by throwing large fireworks and other objects," police said in a statement.

Elsewhere, police said a car careered into fans celebrating PSG's win in Grenoble in southeastern France, leaving four people injured, two of them seriously. All of those hurt were from the same family, police said. The driver handed himself in to the police and was placed under

arrest. A source close to the investigation said it was believed the driver had not acted intentionally.

The public prosecutor's office said the driver had tested negative for alcohol and drugs. The majority of fans celebrated peacefully, but police in Paris said scuffles broke out near the Champs-Elysees avenue, and around PSG's Parc des Princes stadium, where 48,000 had watched the 5-0 win on giant screens.

Most of those arrested in the capital were suspected of illegally possessing fireworks and causing disorder, police said.

Hamas says US's ceasefire proposal deviated from agreed text after Israeli intervention; Witkoff calls it 'unacceptable'

NEW DELHI: Palestinian group Hamas has sought amendments to the latest ceasefire proposal by US envoy Steve Witkoff, claiming the initial text it had agreed upon was different from the one presented to the group now. According to a media reports, citing senior Hamas official Basem Naim, the new agreement presented to them after suggestions from Israel was a "completely new text" and "had nothing to do with" what they agreed upon.

Hamas claimed that the new proposal did not guarantee a 60-day truce as agreed earlier and also failed to ensure the inflow of much-needed humanitarian aid into the war-ravaged territory.

The latest agreement also provided no guarantees for negotiations to end the war, or a permanent ceasefire or a total withdrawal of troops from Gaza. "It also only talks about the redeployment of Israeli forces inside Gaza, and requires negotiations from the beginning about the new redeployment plans



within the 60 days," Al Jazeera quoted Naim as saying. According to Hamas, the US proposed agreement also legitimised the US-backed aid distribution system, which has been slammed by the UN and other aid agencies as helping Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. "Hamas has sought changes to the proposal, to find a way to guarantee the minimum of the needs of our people," Naim said.

In an earlier statement, Hamas had said that the proposal aimed for a permanent ceasefire, a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and an ensured flow of aid. It said 10 living hostages and the

bodies of 18 others would be released "in exchange for an agreed-upon number of Palestinian prisoners."

Meanwhile, Steve Witkoff called the Hamas response "totally unacceptable" and described a 60-day ceasefire deal that would free half the living hostages in Gaza and return half of those who have died. He urged Hamas to accept the framework proposal as the basis for talks that he said could begin next week.

The UN on Friday issued a stark warning regarding the crisis in Gaza, calling it the "hungriest place on earth" and repeated that Palestinians are at risk of a famine.

Iran warns of retaliation if Europeans make 'political' use of UN nuclear report

TEHRAN (Agency): Iran on Sunday warned it would retaliate if European powers "exploit" a UN report showing it has stepped up production of highly enriched uranium. The report by the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran had sharply increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to up to 60 per cent, close to the roughly 90 per cent level needed for atomic weapons. Iran's total amount of enriched uranium now exceeds 45 times the limit authorised by a landmark 2015 agreement with world powers, and is estimated at 9,247.6 kilograms, according to the confidential IAEA report seen by



AFP. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a statement he had told IAEA chief Rafael Grossi in a phone call that "Iran will respond to

any inappropriate action by the European parties" to the 2015 agreement, referring to Britain, France and Germany.

The European trio have warned they could reimpose sanctions if Iran's nuclear programme threatens the continent's security.

Araghchi urged Grossi in their Saturday call to stop "parties from exploiting" the nuclear watchdog report "to advance their political objectives", according to the statement. Iran rejected the IAEA report, the latest move in years-long efforts to restrict its nuclear activities over fears that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

The Islamic republic has denied seeking nuclear arms and says it needs the uranium for civilian power production.

Hasina charged with crimes against humanity over crackdown that killed 1,400 in Bangladesh uprising



DHAKA (Agency): Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina orchestrated a "systemic attack" to try to crush the uprising against her government, Bangladeshi prosecutors said at the opening of her trial on Sunday.

Up to 1,400 people were killed between July and August 2024 when Hasina's government launched its crackdown, according to the United Nations.

Hasina, 77, fled by helicopter to her old ally India as the student-led uprising ended her 15-year rule, and she has defied an extradition order to return to Dhaka.

The domestic International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is prosecuting former senior figures connected to Hasina's ousted government and her now-banned party, the Awami League. "Upon scrutinising the evidence, we reached the conclusion that it was a coordinated, widespread and systematic attack," Mohammad Tajul Islam, ICT chief prosecutor, told the court in his opening speech. "The accused unleashed all law enforcement agencies and her armed party members to crush the uprising." Islam lodged charges against Hasina and two other officials of "abetment, incitement, complicity, facilitation, conspiracy, and failure to prevent mass murder during the July uprising".

Hasina, who remains in self-imposed exile in India, has rejected the charges as politically motivated.

As well as Hasina, the case includes ex-police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun -- who is in custody, but who did not appear in court on Sunday -- and former interior minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who like Hasina, is on the run. The prosecution of senior figures from Hasina's government is a key demand of several of the political parties now jostling for power. The interim government has vowed to hold elections before June 2026. The hearing is being broadcast live on state-owned Bangladesh Television.

Prosecutor Islam vowed the trial would be impartial. "This is not an act of vendetta, but a commitment to the principle that, in a democratic country, there is no room for crimes against humanity," he said.

Investigators have collected video footage, audio clips, Hasina's phone conversations, records of helicopter and drone movements, as well as statements from victims of the crackdown as part of their probe.

The ICT court opened its first trial connected to the previous government on May 25. In that case, eight police officials face charges of crimes against humanity over the killing of six protesters on August 5, the day Hasina fled the country.

At least seven dead after Russian bridge collapses onto railway



MOSCOW (Agency): At least seven people were killed and dozens injured after a bridge collapsed onto a railway in a Russian region bordering Ukraine late Saturday, officials said, in an incident the railway operator blamed on "illegal interference".

A train travelling from the Russian border town of Klimovo to the capital Moscow was derailed in the incident, authorities said, without giving details.

Videos posted on social media showed rescuers working at the site of a large mound of rubble covering what appeared to be a train belonging to national operator Russian Railways, while another showed people shouting in distress.

"There are seven dead as a result of the collapse of a bridge onto railway tracks," Alexander Bogomaz, the Bryansk region's governor, wrote on Telegram.

At least 66 others were injured, including three children, he said, giving a revised toll. Moscow Railways, a state-owned subsidiary, said a passenger train derailed "between Klimov and Moscow due to the collapse of a road bridge span, as a result of illegal interference in the operation of transport".

The incident happened at 10:44 pm (1944 GMT) between the Pilshino and Vygonichi stations in the Bryansk region, the national railway operator said on Telegram.

The incident did not affect other train traffic, the firm added.

In one video posted on social media, someone can be heard screaming as

eyewitnesses rush to find help.

"How did the bridge collapse? There are children there!" a woman can be heard shouting in the video.

Photos published online by Russian authorities showed a collapsed section of the bridge and damaged vehicles, as rescue workers were deployed overnight. The disaster area is around 100 kilometres (62 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

Russia's emergency ministry said a team was on site, while Russian Railways said it had dispatched repair trains to the scene.

An AFP reporter in central Moscow saw ambulances parked at Kievsky railway station awaiting the arrival of injured passengers.

Prosecutors said they had opened an investigation.

Authorities did not explain how the incident happened and what the railway operator meant by "illegal interference".

Ukraine, which Russia has blamed for previous incidents, did not immediately comment.

Russia has been hit by dozens of sabotage attacks since Moscow launched its offensive against Ukraine in 2022, many targeting its vast railroad network.

Kyiv says Russia uses railroads to transport troops and weaponry to its forces fighting in Ukraine.

The incident came just two days before a possible meeting between Russian and Ukrainian officials in Istanbul, amid a US-led diplomatic push to end the three-year conflict.

‘Ye Madhavan hai ki James Bond’: When R Madhavan’s pre-acting life as a Royal Army trainee and debate champion left Saurabh Shukla awestruck



Actor, filmmaker, and FTII President R Madhavan wears many hats, but even before entering the world of entertainment, Madhavan was a multi-achiever. Recently, an old clip of the actor from the 90s went viral, where he is seen talking about his qualifications beyond acting. Before stepping into showbiz, Madhavan was a Royal Army trainee in England, a nationally recognized debater, an NCC cadet, and much more. The viral clip is from Shekhar Suman’s old talk show Movers and Shakers. It shows Shekhar getting awestruck by Madhavan’s qualifications as he reads out his dossier, “Scholarship to Canada as a cultural ambassador, then Japan, then teaching in Kolhapur, graduation in electronics, best cadet in NCC, training with the Royal Army in England, national championship in public speaking. Then you come to Bombay to teach public speaking and personality development for 20 days and then somehow you become an actor.” Saurabh Shukla, who was also a guest on the talk show, quipped, “Ye Madhavan hai ki James Bond.” Being his humble self, Madhavan simply responded, “It seems impressive on paper but I just lived it. I just went from one place to another.” Then Madhavan recalled how he became an actor. He shared, “My student came to me and said that if you act in films you will get money and you can set up your office here. I had a few photos of myself and dropped them at Zee TV office. I got a call later to play a role and they asked me to play the role of a convict. I was like, ‘Is there no other role?’ But they said that they will give me Rs 2500 per day and I didn’t know acting at that time but I agreed to do it.” R Madhavan started his career in television and then moved on to Tamil films. Hits like Alai Payuthey (2000) catapulted him to stardom. In Hindi cinema, he made a successful debut with Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein, which became an instant hit and later became a cult classic. He went on to make a name for himself in the Hindi film industry with films like Rang De Basanti (2006), Guru (2007), 3 Idiots (2009), and more.

Ranveer Singh can’t get enough of Hans Zimmer concert in Abu Dhabi; AR Rahman asks when he’s coming to India

Oscar-winning music composer Hans Zimmer performed in Abu Dhabi for the first time on Saturday. He brought his ‘Hans Zimmer Live’ concert to the UAE capital and performed compositions from his most iconic soundtracks, including Interstellar, The Lion King, Dune, and more. Several Indian celebrities

flew to Abu Dhabi to attend Zimmer’s historic concert. Among them was actor Ranveer Singh. In videos shared on the Instagram Stories of Abu Dhabi Events, Singh can be seen sitting in the audience and keenly engaging with Zimmer’s performance on stage. Singh looks all charged up by Zimmer’s renditions and even shakes his head in



disbelief at the composer’s talent unravelling before him and thousands others in Abu Dhabi. Meanwhile, India’s own Oscar- and Grammy Award-winning music composer AR Rahman also attended Hans Zimmer Live in Abu Dhabi. He took to his Instagram handle and shared a photo of Zimmer getting a wide round of applause after his performance in Abu

Dhabi. The German composer, 67, was also seen running towards a teammate in excitement on the stage. “Watched the spectacular @hanszimmer show at Abu Dhabi... when is he coming to India? (heart eyes emoji)?” Rahman wrote in the caption. Zimmer and Rahman will collaborate to score Nitesh Tiwari’s adaptation of the Ramayana.

Kamal Haasan’s effigy burnt in Bengaluru, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce threatens Thug Life release

Kamal Haasan’s comment on the root of Kannada language has ignited a huge controversy. Associations like Kannada Rakshana Vedike and various politicians have demanded a public apology and threatened to ban the release of his upcoming film Thug Life in Karnataka. Videos of members of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike burning Kamal’s effigy and posters in different parts of the state have also surfaced online. The controversy got even bigger when Kamal, at another event, refused to issue an apology and said, “Love will never apologise. I will apologise only if I am wrong, if not, I will not.” Kamal Haasan’s ‘no apology’ statement irked minister Shivaraj Tangadagi as he immediately wrote to KFC (Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce). In his letter, the minister wrote, “If Tamil film actor Kamal Haasan does not apologise to the people of the state/Kannadigas, the

films in which he has acted should be immediately banned in Karnataka.” While speaking to ANI, KFC president M Narasimhalu said that people in Karnataka are upset with the veteran actor for his comment. He said, “People of Karnataka are angry with Kamal Haasan. We have also sent a message to the South Film Chamber. The distributors have decided that if he does not apologise before the release of his film on the 5th, it will not be allowed to release here”. The backlash also extended to Kannada actor Shiva Rajkumar as he was also present at the event.

controversy intensified when Shiva Rajkumar spoke in Kamal Haasan’s support. At another event he said, “I am a huge fan of Kamal sir. People may ask why should I admire someone else when I have my own father (Dr Rajkumar) to look up to. My father is family while I have great respect for

Kamal sir. I am inspired by him. Kamal sir knows what he has said, and he will give an appropriate response.” Shiva Rajkumar’s statement angered many of his fans, who reached outside his home in protest. Visuals of people throwing stones outside his home have also surfaced online. Meanwhile, Kannada actor Ramya aka Divya Spandana also spoke about the issue and said that calling for a ban was an overreaction. “I think Kamal sir has made a factually incorrect statement. Kannada is not derived from Tamil. All South languages come under the same umbrella. Nobody is superior. But, having said that it is bit much boycotting his film. We are all adults and should engage in constructive conversation. We as South Indians have a bigger problem to deal with. We need to battle the Hindi imposition.

After Shiva Rajkumar, actress Divya Spandana spoke in favour of Kamal Haasan. Meanwhile, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce has threatened Thug Life's release in the state.



Squid Game season 3 trailer: Fans say, ‘our mental health isn’t ready’ as Netflix teases twisted games, traitors, and a tortured Gi Hun

Squid Game season 3 trailer drops with brutal showdowns, old fears returning, and Gi Hun haunted by loss.

The Squid Game season 3 trailer has arrived, and fans are already scared to tune into the final season after it teased a brutal faceoff between the Front Man and Gi Hun. Still haunted by the death of his friend Jung Bae, who died in season 2, Player 456 keeps asking, “Why did you let me live?” only to be met with an even more irritating, sly smile. Now, the survivors from season 2 face deadlier new games—Netflix even confirms the return of the fear of heights, a thrill missing last season. Im Si Wan’s role will likely steal the most screen time, with his unborn baby set to be the game changer. Characters who didn’t get much screen time before, like Seon Nyeo, will have bigger roles, while favourites like Hyun Ju and Jang Geum Ja are coming back with more depth. The first scene in the trailer shows a new take on the famous game Red Light, Green Light. Next, we see the main

character, Gi Hun, confronting the guards, demanding to know why they kept him alive. He repeats, “Why didn’t you kill me? Why did you keep me alive?” before coming face to face with the Front Man (Lee Byung Hun). “Player 456, do you still have faith in people?” Lee asks. One detail that stands out is the giant creepy doll from the first two seasons, Young Hee, who’s still around but seems to play a different role this time. The trailer also hints at the return of the old Tug of War game from season 1, though the rules look a bit twisted this time. A brutal showdown takes place in the same children’s room as teased in the posters, its walls marked by paintings that look like they were drawn by a kid, hinting that the baby born in hell has finally arrived to test how low humanity can sink. One of the biggest moments teased: Gi Hun sitting down for a talk with the Front Man. Season 2 ended on a cliffhanger where Gi-hun led a group of players against the Front Man but failed miserably as his best friend was killed right before his eyes by the supervising Front Man. What Gi-hun doesn’t know is that the Front Man is

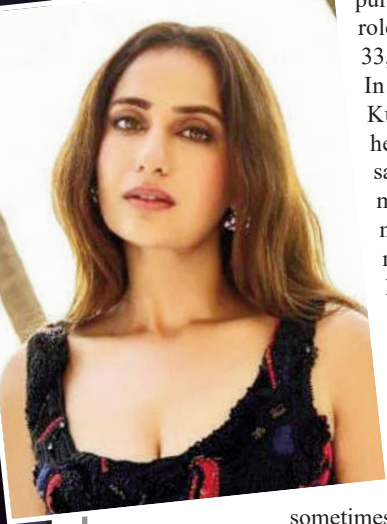


‘At 33, I was offered roles of 50 year old aunties’: Kusha Kapila says she isn’t ‘answerable to anyone’ commenting on her body

Kusha Kapila made headlines after a recent public appearance, when people on the internet couldn’t stop commenting on her appearance. Her body transformation sparked discussions around her weight loss journey, diet and speculation about her possible use of Ozempic. Now, Kusha has shared a vlog discussing her weight loss journey and the buzz around it. She said she

lost weight as she wants to pursue acting. “I used to get roles of 50 year old aunties at 33,” said Kusha. In a casual GRWM video, Kusha spoke in length about her weight loss journey. She said, “Sab janna chahte hai maine weight kaise ghataya, mai apko bataungi kyu maine weight ghataya (I know all of you want to know how I lost so much weight, but I would rather tell you why I lost so much weight).” “I have watched so many body transformation Reels about me,

sometimes I feel I am not even in my body anymore. I am constantly feeling that someone else is talking about my body more than I am so I thought I should talk about it myself,” she said. Kusha revealed this is not the first time she has lost a significant amount of weight. Sharing pictures from her school and college days, Kusha recalled, “I first gained weight when I was 10. When I was in the 10th grade, my mom put me in a gym and I lost weight, eventually became the head girl of my school. I loved the attention and validation it brought me.” However, Kusha’s transformation was short-lived. “In college, I started to gain that weight all over again. I didn’t really know what exactly is body image issues. Instead of working on my body, I started to work on my humour. This made me famous. My teachers also didn’t care to focus on my academics, they just loved to hear me talk. At 22, I gained a lot of weight again and after my friend sent me a picture of me and told me, ‘Kusha, what’s up?’ it changed me. In six months, I lost weight in the most unhealthy manner possible. I consumed less than 800 calories a day.” She added, “By this time, body image issues were so rooted in me that I didn’t even know why I lost the weight in the first place. Was it for health reasons or for my need for validation. I kept skipping my meals, and got fevers that stayed for 12 days. Doctors said it might be TB. I got abdominal TB because of eating less. My immunity was compromised. I started to lose more weight as a symptom of TB and weirdly, I was happy about it.



Samay Raina says ‘parents have failed’ if young children are watching his content: ‘Parents need to be responsible if 8-year-olds are watching me’

Samay Raina faced severe backlash when an episode from his YouTube show India’s Got Latent went viral for the wrong reasons. The controversy also forced Samay Raina to remove all the episodes of his show from his YouTube channel. He also assured that he will be co-operating with the authorities regarding the investigation. Now, it seems like Samay has

put the past behind him as he has announced a new set of shows internationally. Now, in a new podcast which was recorded in January this year, Samay can be heard talking about people failing as parents if their young children are watching his show. In the podcast, the comedian was seen taking part in a discussion discussing the responsibilities of internet



personalities for their viewers. Samay asked Food Pharmar aka Revant Himatsingka, “Do you think

a person like me has a responsibility to not drink Coke and to not be myself? I drink Coke at home, do you think I should fake it in public places and promote drinking water instead?” When the podcaster said, “Yes, I think it will leave an impression on kids 8-10 years of age”, Samay quickly replied, “If someone as young as eight-ten years old is watching me, then their parents have

failed.” He explained, “When I was that age, my father would beat me if I watched television. I didn’t watch television then. I never got influenced by all this and I really think he did a great job as a father. So the parents are the ones who need to be responsible and not me. I have to be myself. If I want to influence people to do something, it is just to be honest.”

PSG fans unfurl banner calling for end to Gaza genocide during Champions League final

MUNICH (Agency): Paris Saint-Germain supporters displayed a banner saying "Stop genocide in Gaza" during the Champions League final on Saturday. They raised it shortly after Achraf Hakimi opened the scoring in a 5-0 rout of his former side Inter Milan. Some PSG fans also held Palestinian scarves and flags during the game. PSG fans are known for their stance against Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. They previously displayed a giant banner saying "Free Palestine" in November during the Champions League match against

Atlético Madrid. The latest banner was likely to lead to disquiet among local authorities in Munich. Munich's city hall displays an



Israeli flag as well as a Ukrainian one, and German support for Israel is strong for historical reasons. PSG could

also face a fine. UEFA bans the use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a provocative message that is judged not fit

Financial penalties are typical for a first offense — 10,000 euros (\$10,700) for a political banner or disturbances. Israel's nearly three-month blockade on Gaza has pushed the population of over two million to the brink of famine. The UN on Friday issued a stark warning regarding the crisis in Gaza, calling it the "hungeriest place on earth" and repeated that Palestinians are facing a famine. The UN also said its mission to help starving Palestinians is the most obstructed in recent history. Israel has been accused of weaponising starvation, which amounts to a war crime.

Rise and rise of RCB captain Rajat Patidar

AHMEDABAD (Agency): As Rajat Patidar got down on one knee and smashed Musheer Khan into the New PCA Stadium stands, leading Royal Challengers Bengaluru into the 2025 IPL final, he had become a part of an elite club of captains to achieve the feat. Patidar joined Anil Kumble, Daniel Vettori and Virat Kohli — they are the ones to have led RCB to previous IPL finals — in taking the franchise with a massive fan base to their fourth summit clash in 18 years.



At this point, it is well established that RCB Director Mo Bobat asked Patidar whether he would be interested in taking the leadership role and from coming back into the team as an injury replacement in 2022 to leading the franchise to the 2025 IPL final, he has had a meteoric rise. And so is the fact that he was all set to get married during the IPL season before being called in as an injury replacement for Luvnith Sisodia. However, it wasn't the first time Patidar was asked if he wanted to be captain. In fact, when the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association and head coach Chandrakant Pandit offered Patidar the Ranji captaincy four years ago, he wished to focus on his performance. "Initially, when we offered Ranji captaincy, Chandu sir asked him, and he was reluctant. He said, 'No, I want to concentrate on my batting',"

well, he shouldn't be disturbed.' When Chandu sir offered him T20 captaincy, he readily accepted," says Rao. As fate would have it, things fell into place for Patidar and MP. He led the state side to the final of the domestic T20 tournament — the knockouts were played in Bengaluru. Patidar smashed 428 runs at 61.14 average and 186.08 strike rate, taking the team to their fourth IPL final. However, they fell short in the final hurdle against the Shreyas Iyer-led Mumbai. During these knockout games, Patidar and Bobat spent a lot of time talking about captaincy and his leadership. Bobat, too, gave him confidence that he could succeed as captain.

Cut to present, Patidar has become the captain who led RCB to their fourth IPL final. The road to this point was not easy; he had injury concerns, played a couple of games as just an impact player, but when the playoffs came, Patidar brought his best with bowling changes and captaincy. His numbers — 286 runs at 23.83 average and 142.28 strike rate — might not be as good as his teammates, but Patidar, the captain, has only gotten better as the tournament progressed. Understandably, much like the millions of RCB fans, Patidar's father Manohar, too, is a happy man. For Manohar, it had always been about supporting Patidar's dream of playing cricket.

Man United agree deal for Wolves' Brazil forward Matheus Cunha



New Delhi (Agency): Manchester United have agreed a deal to sign Matheus Cunha from Wolverhampton Wanderers, the two Premier League clubs said on Sunday, with the Brazil forward joining on a five-year contract. United triggered the 26-year-old's release clause, which was worth around 62.5 million pounds (\$84.12 million), a team source said. The Old Trafford club also have the option of extending his contract by a year. Cunha has scored 33 times and provided 15 assists in 92 appearances for Wolves, with 15 of those goals coming in the Premier League this season. He becomes United's first summer signing. "Manchester United has reached agreement with Wolverhampton Wanderers for the signing of Matheus Cunha. The Brazilian forward's signing is subject to visa and registration," United said in a statement. The transfer is a record sale for Wolves, eclipsing the 53 million pounds (\$71.33 million) they received from Manchester City for midfielder Matheus Nunes in 2023.

PSG achieve UCL dream Led by the exciting Kvaratskhelia-Dembele-Doue trio, Luis Enrique could be building a dynasty

New Delhi (Agency): When the ticker-tape cannons exploded in Munich and the fireworks wormed into the night sky, PSG's delirious footballers clung onto the giant ears of the trophy, felt its curves and contours, and celebrated with joyous hysteria. This night was a dream and obsession, since the Qatari acquisition scaled up their ambitions. But rather than the realisation of a dream, the night breathed the vibes of a new beginning, the start of an era, the rise of a powerhouse in European football. The 5-0 thrashing of Inter Milan felt not so much as a triumph as a coronation. Paris, the city of arts and cafes, can now take pride in being the home of the strongest football club on the continent as well. Paris has abundant

footballing riches. The city and its les banlieues have produced more talented footballers per square kilometre than most other metropolises in the world.

over the Alps, past Mont Blanc, producing iconic footballers like Thierry Henry and Kylian Mbappe, its flag-bearers. But it did not have one of its own. It did not wield



Yet, absurdly, in the glitzy stage of European clubs, Paris was an afterthought, a comma or a semicolon to be paused and passed over. For decades, it has nourished football empires across the English Channel, in the Iberian peninsula and Bavaria, or

the awe and aura of Milan or Madrid, Amsterdam or Barcelona, Manchester or Liverpool. Paris has stormed into this rarefied space. The seeds of ambition were sown in 2011, when the Qatari state acquired the club, a competitive but not an elite

side, their last title achieved in 1994. But the real journey began in 2023, when the vanity of the club owners had waned after staging the World Cup in their homeland. Then, they began to build a team, rather than stud the club with superstars. The ascent began in the summer of 2023 when Lionel Messi and Neymar left the club for America and Saudi Arabia, continued in 2024 when Kylian Mbappe departed, and gathered impetus this season, when the ideals of its visionary manager, Luis Enrique began to assume a bewilderingly brilliant form and shape. Superstars and their vestiges swept aside — centre back Marquinhos and Gianluigi Donnarumma remain their only link to the chaotically underperforming era — they invested wisely.

India A vs England Lions

Mukesh 3-for, Sarfaraz blinder the highlights on an otherwise day of struggles for Indians

New Delhi (Agency): It was a day of hard toil for India A in their unofficial Test as three batters from England Lions crossed the three-figure mark to post 527/7 at stumps. Mukesh Kumar, after leaking runs on Day 2, was the bright spark as he picked up three wickets in a late first-session burst with the old ball. But what would concern Indian selectors is the general lack of sting from Shardul Thakur and Nitish Kumar Reddy, the two seam bowling allrounders in the Test scheme of things, who combined for 32 overs and conceded 147 among them, with the former accounting for Lions' top-scorer Tom Haines on 171. The day started off in shaky fashion for the visitors as wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel dropped Haines. On Day 2, he had put down a chance due to the known struggle that visiting keepers often face, with the wobbling ball. But this one didn't and Harshit Rana was left disappointed, as he could have used a break after going

for plenty for runs. Jurel was unlucky short after when Anshul Kambhoj squared up Max Holden; there was a clear edge and the first replay showed the ball clearly



carried. But it wasn't given out, and Holden went on to complete his ton off 99 balls. Jurel would have that catch finally as Mukesh drew an edge off Holden from around the wicket from a good length delivery. Mukesh would soon double his tally with a ripper of a delivery to yet another left-hander, the England Lions lineup swarming with them. Again around the wicket, this was a touch closer to the stumps than the one that made Holden nick one.

James Rew, the captain, missed it this time and was trapped in front. It seemed a relatively straightforward LBW decision. After waiting for a wicket for so long, Mukesh had two in the space of four overs. Finally, for the first time after 72 overs, the Indian bowlers had a right-handed batter to bowl at, but that wouldn't last long. It was once again Mukesh who struck, a short of length ball in the channel outside offstump tempting Rehan Ahmed to slash at it and the outside edge was sharply taken by Sarfaraz Khan. The ball stung his palms but he held on and winced in pain later. Just before lunch, the Mukesh burst had reduced Lions from 312/2 in the 68th over to 326/5 in the 74th over. Lions went through the second session without losing a wicket as Haines and Dan Mousley frustrated Indian bowlers. After a lot of toil with no rewards, came a moment of brilliance early in the third session in the 100th over of the Lions' innings.

Final charge: Punjab take on MI might



NEW CHANDIGARH (Agency): SHORTLY after Punjab Kings went down to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on what was one of the most seaming surfaces in the ongoing Indian Premier League season, their captain Shreyas Iyer said that they have to go back to the drawing board and think about the batting approach. Having played an aggressive brand of cricket throughout the season, PBKS were all out for 101 at the New PCA Stadium in New Chandigarh on Thursday. "We were befuddled and lost a lot of wickets. Something to go back and study. Not doubting my decisions in terms of planning. Outside of the ground, it was on point. Couldn't execute, can't blame our bowlers. It was such a low total. Got to work on our batting, on this wicket," he had said.

It was a tad bit in contrast to what fast bowling coach James Hopes said later in the press conference. The Australian said that the batters had got tremendous success playing the way they have for more than two months. The last thing Punjab and Shreyas would want to do on Sunday in the Qualifier 2 against Mumbai Indians at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad is to take a step back and bat cautiously. Unlike New Chandigarh, Ahmedabad has been one of the most high-scoring grounds throughout the season. In fact, the lowest first innings total at the venue this year was when Gujarat Titans posted 196/8 against Mumbai Indians. Punjab, when they played at the venue, smashed 243/5 and went on to beat Titans by just 11 runs. As much as they would want to not repeat the same mistakes from Qualifier 1, Punjab will have to ensure they stick to the template and approach that brought them thus far while still respecting the occasion. It is even more significant considering their opponent is a five-time champion who are on a roll. The toss might also play a crucial role, with the team that bats first winning six of the seven games played at the venue this year. The bottom line might come down to whether Punjab can replicate the kind of performance they put up in their last game against Mumbai.

French Open How Iga Swiatek roared back from a nightmare start to keep her Roland Garros streak alive



New Delhi (Agency): It was a tense exchange on Friday in a press conference with Amelie Mauresmo, the tournament director of the French Open that opened a debate about whether Roland Garros had been unfair in their showcasing of women's tennis. No women's matches have been scheduled for the single-match night-session on the showpiece Court Philippe-Chatrier since 2023. Mauresmo defended the tournament's position resolutely, claiming it was not a case of discrimination but merely an attempt to give the spectators their money's worth with a longer match: with the men playing best-of-five sets as opposed to the women's best-of-three.

It can be left to the opinions of a discerning French crowd, who have watched Grand Slam tennis for generations, over which is the superior entertainment product — Novak Djokovic's processional straight-sets win over Austria's Filip Misolic, played in the night session on Saturday, or the high-stakes, high-wire victory of three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek over 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, played on Sunday afternoon in front of a slow-filling crowd, that lasted longer and went to the wire. At any rate, the Parisian crowds that did make it into Chatrier early on Sunday were treated to two thrillers — Elina Svitolina beating last year's finalist Jasmine Paolini after saving two match points in the first match — and Swiatek's comeback triumph of 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 over Rybakina in the second.

New Delhi (Agency): Punjab Kings (PBKS) lost three wickets early on in their chase of 204 against Mumbai Indians (MI) in Qualifier 2 at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. MI skipper Hardik Pandya delivered a crucial breakthrough, dismissing Josh Inglis, who was looking dangerous with a quickfire 38 off 21 balls. Trent Boult and Ashwani Kumar have also picked up a wicket each to keep MI in control. Earlier, MI put up a competitive total of 203 after a shaky start against PBKS. The innings began on shaky ground with Rohit Sharma falling early, but Tilak Varma and Jonny Bairstow anchored the innings before Bairstow was dismissed in the seventh over, caught by Josh Inglis. Tilak Varma and Suryakumar Yadav looked set for big scores but both were dismissed for 44, falling just short of their half-centuries. Varma was removed by Kyle Jamieson, while Suryakumar was trapped by Yuzvendra Chahal, providing a much needed break for PBKS and halting MI's momentum

midway. Hardik Pandya failed to make a big impact, scoring only 15 off 13 deliveries. But it was Naman Dhir's explosive knock - 37 off just 18 ball - that lifted MI beyond the 200 mark. His

IPL 2025

MI dent PBKS top order as they chase 204 in Qualifier 2



late knocks helped MI push past the 200 mark. Despite his efforts to stay on until the end, Dhir was caught out with just three balls of the innings remaining. The match started over two hours late due to rain, but no overs were lost. Earlier, PBKS won the toss and opted to bowl against MI. "We've recovered pretty well. Everyone is in high spirits. Environment is top

notch. Chahal back," said PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer following the toss. "We would have bowled as well. It [the pitch] has gotten flatter over the last couple of years. Playing a crucial game after a one day break is

second time, and the start has been delayed. Earlier, a light drizzle in Ahmedabad had prompted the ground staff to cover the entire square. But with five minutes to go for the scheduled start, the covers

those encounters, while PBKS have claimed victory in 15. This season, the teams are evenly matched, with one win each in their head-to-head meetings. Punjab will be boosted by the return of experienced spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who missed the last three matches due to injury.

Playing XI
Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma, Jonny Bairstow(wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya(c), Naman Dhir, Mitchell Santner, Raj Bawa, Trent Boult, Jasprit Bumrah, Reece Topley
Punjab Kings: Priyansh Arya, Josh Inglis(wk), Shreyas Iyer(c), Nehal Wadhwa, Marcus Stoinis, Shashank Singh, Azmatullah Omarzai, Kyle Jamieson, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal
Impact players:
MI: Ashwani Kumar, Krishnan Shrijith, Raghu Sharma, Robin Minz, Bevon Jacobs
PBKS: Prabhsimran Singh, Praveen Dubey, Suryansh Shedge, Xavier Bartlet, Harpreet Brar

CM Mohan Yadav's action, removed Katni-Datia SP along with Chambal Range IG-DIG

Bhopal (Agency): 4 field level IPS officers including Superintendents of Police of Katni and Datia, Inspector General of Police (IG) of Chambal Range and Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) have been transferred. MP CM Mohan Yadav himself has given this information in a post on 'X'. The CM said that the Superintendents of Police of Katni and Datia and IG, DIG Chambal Range behaved in a way which is regrettable. For this reason, instructions have been given to remove them with immediate effect.

CM Dr. Mohan Yadav told on social media that Katni SP Abhijeet Ranjan, Datia SP Virendra Kumar, Chambal Range IG Sushant Kumar

Saxena and DIG Kumar Saurabh have been removed. Police sources said that in Katni district on Saturday night, the police allegedly scuffled with the relatives of a tehsildar and his CSP wife over a family dispute. Due to this, Katni Superintendent of Police Abhishek Ranjan has been transferred. Sources said that there was a ruckus at the women's police station in Katni late on Saturday night. CSP Khyati Mishra's husband Shailendra Sharma, who is a tehsildar in Ghatera in Damoh district, made very serious allegations against Katni SP Abhijeet Ranjan. He says that the SP has been plotting to break his family for a long time. He has also been

threatened with death. He claimed that the incident that has happened was a conspiracy to kill him. On Saturday, when Katni CSP Khyati Mishra has been transferred to the post of Amarpatan SDOP of Maihar district. After the transfer, Khyati Mishra's husband Shailendra Sharma, who is a tehsildar in Ghatera in Damoh district, along with his son and family members of both sides, reached Khyati's bungalow to collect the goods. As soon as Shailendra Sharma's family reached Khyati Mishra's government residence, the Mahila Thana and Kotwali police reached the spot and took everyone to the police station. When Shailendra

himself reached the bungalow, he found no one there. Later he got

that the police forcibly drove him away from there. Along with this, he also said that the



information that his family has been taken to the women's police station. On reaching the police station, Shailendra Sharma alleged

women police station police beat up and misbehaved with his family members, children and Khyati Mishra's maternal family. He alleged

that his uncle was coming to Katni from Jabalpur, but he was made to meet with an accident near Tewari. He says that if he had been on the spot, he could have also been killed. Last night, Tehsildar Shailendra Sharma gave a written complaint about the entire matter to the Kotwali police station. Kotwali in-charge Ajay Singh said that the entire matter has been sent to the higher officials. An investigation will be conducted on their orders. Tehsildar Shailendra Sharma had written a letter to the Chief Secretary of MP on March 5. Along with this, on March 14, he also wrote a letter to Madhya Pradesh DGP Kailash Makwana and complained about Katni SP

Abhijeet Ranjan. He alleged that SP Abhijeet Ranjan was threatening to kill him. He also talked about terminating his wife's job. He demanded that his wife CSP Khyati Mishra be transferred to Sidhi, Satna or Rewa. On the other hand, during the arrangements at the inauguration program of Datia airport on Saturday, the SP and IG, DIG had an argument with each other. The information about the dispute in front of BJP workers and the public reached the CM. Taking cognizance of this, the CM has removed all three officers. It is being told that BJP workers also went inside the airport to flag off the bus. The IG expressed

displeasure with the SP due to the crowd not being controlled. DCP Indore Abhinav Vishwakarma has been made the new SP of Katni. Katni SP Abhijeet Ranjan and Datia SP Virendra Kumar Mishra have both been attached to the Police Headquarters Bhopal as AIG. IG Chambal Sushant Kumar Saxena and DIG Chambal Kumar Saurabh have been sent to the Police Headquarters. Sachin Kumar Atulkar, IG, Chhindwara has been appointed as the new IG of Chambal in place of Sushant Kumar Saxena. DIG Sagar Sunil Kumar Jain has been appointed as the new DIG of Chambal in place of Kumar Saurabh.

BRIEF NEWS

Delivery boy killed for resisting robbery

Delhi (Agency): The miscreants fled after robbing four thousand rupees and a phone from the youth. Incident of Ajmal Khan Park, police is investigating the matter. New Delhi, Chief Correspondent. The miscreants stabbed the delivery boy to death near Ajmal Khan Park late Saturday-Sunday night when he resisted robbery. The attackers fled after robbing four thousand rupees and a phone from the youth. Currently, the police is investigating by registering a case under sections of murder and robbery. According to the information, Dharmendra lived in Narayana village and was originally a resident of Kamaldeepu village of Raebareli. He used to work as a food delivery boy. He was going to his home at around 2 o'clock on Saturday-Sunday night. When he reached Ajmal Khan Park, two youths riding a scooter were standing there. Seeing Dharmendra, they stopped the scooter on the way. After this, a boy took out four thousand rupees and a phone from Dharmendra's pocket. When Dharmendra protested, the youth stabbed him several times on the stomach with a knife. After the attack, both the miscreants fled. The police admitted the injured to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The police registered a case under sections of attempt to murder and robbery. But when the youth died during treatment, the police added the section of murder. The family has been informed about the incident.

More than 300 huts of Jangpura Madrasi Camp demolished

Delhi (Agency): More than 300 huts were demolished on Sunday in Madrasi Camp of Jangpura, Delhi, while taking action against illegal construction and encroachment. On the orders of the Delhi High Court, the Special Task Force (STF) started the demolition process between 5 and 6 in the morning. Departments like PWD, DDA, Delhi Municipal Corporation, Electricity Department, Delhi Police were included in this STF. Many teams of Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) were also deployed throughout the day to control the situation during the action. After this, the action continued for nine hours till 3 pm with the help of six bulldozers and other heavy machines. The department also brought 10-15 trucks to help the slum dwellers who had to shift their belongings.

Winds will blow at a speed of 50 in MP; Yellow alert for heavy rain

Bhopal (Agency): There will be stormy and rainy weather in Madhya Pradesh for 3 days. The Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for heavy rain with thunderstorms in different parts of MP during the next 24 hours. Strong winds are likely during this period. The Meteorological Department has also predicted bad weather on 2, 3 and 4 June. On all these three days, a yellow alert has been issued for rain with thunderstorms and stormy winds in different parts of Madhya Pradesh. The Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for rain and thundershowers in different parts of Narmadapuram, Betul, Harda, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Kargone, Barwani, Alirajpur, Jhaba, Ratlam, Mandsaur,

Neemuch, Guna, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Sheopurkalan, Singrauli, Sidhi, Rewa, Mauganj, Satna,



Chhindwara, Seoni, Balaghat, Panna, Damoh, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Maihar, Pandhurna districts of MP during the next 24 hours. During this time, winds are expected to blow at a speed of 40 to 50 km/hour. The

Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for rain and thundershowers in Bhopal, Vidisha, Raisen, Rajgarh, Narmadapuram, Betul, Alirajpur, Jhabua,

Dhar, Indore, Ratlam, Ujjain, Dewas, Shajapur, Agar Malwa, Mandsaur, Neemuch, Guna, Ashok Nagar, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Sheopurkalan, Satna, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Dindori, Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur,

Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat, Panna, Damoh, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Maihar and Pandhurna districts on June 2, 3 and 4. During this time, the wind speed can be seen from 40 to 50 kilometers per hour. The Meteorological Department has also issued a yellow alert for rain with strong winds and thunderstorms in Narmadapuram, Betul, Harda, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Kargone, Barwani, Alirajpur, Jhaba, Dhar, Indore, Ratlam, Ujjain, Dewas, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Sheopurkalan, Rewa Mauganj, Satna, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Dindori, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Maihar and Pandhurna districts on June 5.

These passengers will get special convenience in the checking in Delhi Metro, what new arrangement has DMRC made?

Delhi (Agency): Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has started giving priority in security check (frisking) to some category of passengers at all metro stations in collaboration with Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Passengers included in this category such as Divyangjan, pregnant women, women with

newborns, senior citizens and injured persons will get a lot of convenience by getting priority in security check while entering the metro station. The objective of this initiative is to provide a comfortable and convenient travel experience to these passengers so that they can go through the security check process comfortably. By

implementing such a priority search system, DMRC has once again tried to show that the metro system is committed to providing highly accessible, inclusive and empathetic facility to all. In case of any doubt or dispute regarding eligibility for this facility, security personnel can request the passengers to show relevant documents for checking.



DMRC is working closely with CISF and security personnel to implement initiatives like priority frisking and issue necessary guidelines to facilitate specific passengers. DMRC has always given priority to providing all kinds of convenience from start to destination in the Metro system including reserved seats for Divyangjans and

senior citizens. All DMRC premises are passenger friendly with facilities like tactile paths, wheelchairs and other support systems to provide a seamless travel experience. With this move, DMRC has further strengthened its commitment towards social responsibility, setting an example for public transport systems across the country.

Disabled girl kidnapped and murdered in Delhi, body found in empty slum



Delhi (Agency): A sensational incident of kidnapping and murder of a disabled girl has come to light in Madanpur Khadar area of Delhi. According to the information shared by the police, a PCR call was received at Kalindi Kunj police station at 1 pm on Sunday. This call was made from Madanpur Khadar Extension. It was said that a

disabled girl has been kidnapped. Police investigation revealed that a 22-year-old girl living in Madanpur Khadar has been kidnapped from her house. This incident happened when she was sleeping on the roof of her house with her parents. Meanwhile, the body of a woman was found in an empty slum in the same street, which was identified

as the kidnapped girl. The police investigated the spot. Also, CCTV cameras installed in the surrounding area and nearby streets were searched. A suspect was identified with the help of the victim's family as well as other residents. After inspection by the Delhi Crime Branch team, the girl's body has been sent to AIIMS hospital. Police said that prima facie it is a case of murder and kidnapping. Police have formed teams to nab the suspected accused. A case has been registered against the accused under Section 103(1)/140(1) BNS. Doctors who conducted the post-mortem have found the possible cause of death to be suffocation due to strangulation. However, this is a preliminary conclusion. Police are waiting for the final post-mortem report.

Delhi's storm left people breathless; plane jolted, pilot postponed landing

Delhi (Agency): The weather changed in Delhi NCR on Sunday evening due to heavy storm and rain. The strongest storm on Sunday was seen in Palam area. The storm blew at a speed of 96 km per hour in Palam area. The storm also affected an Indigo flight flying in the air. Due to bad weather, the landing of Indigo flight from Raipur to Delhi on Sunday evening had to be postponed. The pilot of Indigo flight number 6E 6313 going from Raipur to Delhi had to circle in the air till the situation improved. Due to the storm, the people sitting in the plane felt jolts. Due to this, the pilot had to take the plane up again while the plane was about to land at Delhi airport. After

circling several times in the air, when the weather improved, the plane landed

Meteorological Department, the speed of stormy wind was recorded at 96 kmph in



safely at Delhi airport. The pilot said that the speed of the wind was up to 80 km/hour. According to the latest update shared by the

Palam area. The maximum wind speed at Pragati Maidan was 81 and at Safdarjung it was 80 kmph. The storm that came on

Sunday was the strongest in the last 30 days. Earlier, the wind speed on May 25 was recorded up to 82 kmph. Earlier reports had reported the wind speed to be somewhat less. A video recorded by a passenger sitting in the plane is going viral on social media. In this, turbulence has been captured while the plane was moving in mid-air. The jolts being felt by the plane are clearly visible in the video. The plane was finally able to land safely at Delhi's IGI Airport after the Air Traffic Control (ATC) allowed the plane to land. The Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert of storm and rain in Delhi NCR for two more days.