

SIT Submits Report on Ram Temple Donation Theft Case

Recommends FIR and reconstitution of trust; seeks more time for detailed probe

Ayodhya, Agency: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Tuesday submitted its report to the Uttar Pradesh government in connection with the alleged theft of donations from the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. According to sources, the report recommends registration of an FIR and reconstitution of the temple trust. It has also suggested appointing a senior officer as administrator of the temple.

The SIT has sought additional time for a detailed investigation. The report was submitted



to Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad. Officials said the preliminary report runs into 20 pages and includes details of questioning conducted with around 150 people. Sources said the SIT has also recommended an audit of temple donations received over

the past five years and proposed measures to prevent irregularities in handling offerings. The report reportedly raises questions about the role of certain trust officials. The state government is expected to forward the report to the Union Home Ministry, which will decide whether any trust members should be retained or removed.

So far, recovery worth ₹2 crore has been made based on information provided by five accused — Lav Kush, Avnish, Anukul, Karune and

SIT Formed on June 14:

The SIT comprises Lucknow Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Lucknow Range IG Kiran Shivkumar and Special Secretary (Finance) Neelratan Kumar of the UP Finance and Accounts Service.

Ramshankar alias Tinnu. Gold was also recovered from the residence of Tinnu, considered close to trust official Champat Rai. Preliminary estimates suggest the alleged theft may exceed 200 crore.

Death Toll in Lucknow Coaching Centre Fire Rises to 15

Lucknow, Agency:

The death toll in the coaching centre fire tragedy in Lucknow has risen to 15. On Tuesday morning, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and a forensic team reached the site to investigate the incident. The teams inspected the building and collected evidence. The SIT includes senior officials Praveen Kumar and Amrit Abhijat.

Post-mortem examinations continued for nearly seven hours before the bodies were handed over to family members. The mother of 30-year-old Anamika from West Bengal reportedly fainted upon seeing her daughter's body. Investigators



have found that the building where the fire occurred was allegedly illegal. Demolition orders had been issued in 2016 but were later revoked. Police have arrested Shukla and three others after registering a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Four officials of the Lucknow Development Authority have been suspended, while action may also be taken against 16 others.

Modi Says Naxalism Is Breathing Its Last

Those who now wave the Constitution remained silent when Naxal violence was at its peak, PM says

New Delhi, Agency: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a fresh attack on the Congress over decades of Naxalite violence in the country. Without naming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said



those who now display copies of the Constitution were silent when Naxal violence was at its peak.

Addressing a programme of Republic Bharat news channel on Monday, the Prime Minister said previous Congress governments had labelled Naxal-

affected regions as backward areas.

He said the NDA government accepted the challenge of transforming those regions, helped people overcome despair and instilled hope for development.

"Governments came and went, generations passed, and

it appeared that this cycle of violence would continue forever. But we moved forward with the resolve of 'Nation First' and changed the situation. Today, Maoist-Naxalism is counting its last breaths in the country," Modi said.

He added that such success was possible only through complete dedication and commitment.

Rahul Gandhi has often been seen carrying and displaying a copy of the Constitution. He also did so while taking oath as a Member of Parliament after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Iran Says Strait of Hormuz Will Never Be the Same Again

We will manage it in our own way America cannot be trusted, says Tehran

Tehran/Washington DC, Agency: Iranian Parliament Speaker and key negotiator in talks with the United States, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, has said that the Strait of Hormuz will not return to its pre-war status.

He said Iran would manage and monitor the strategically important waterway in its own manner, while continuing to abide by international regulations.

According to Iran's state-run Press TV, Ghalibaf reiterated after the first round of technical talks with the United States in Switzerland that Iran has no trust



in Washington.

"We never trusted the Americans, we do not trust them today, and it would be wise to remain cautious in the future as well," he said.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has claimed that Iran has agreed to international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Prime Minister Pays Tribute to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee on His Martyrdom Day



New Delhi, Agency: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tribute to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his martyrdom day, saying that his dedication to national interest, courage and ideals continue to inspire the country.

In a post on social media platform X, the Prime Minister described Dr Mookerjee as a great patriot, scholar and visionary statesman who devoted his entire life to India's development and national unity. He said Dr Mookerjee's unwavering commitment to public life, courage and devotion to national interests would continue to inspire future generations.

The Prime Minister stated that Dr Mookerjee's sacrifice would remain permanently etched in the nation's collective memory and that the country must renew its resolve to follow his ideals in building a developed and strong India. In another post, Modi shared a Sanskrit verse and said that Dr Mookerjee's ideas and ideals, rooted in selfless service to the nation and society, would continue to inspire every generation. Quoting the Sanskrit verse, the Prime Minister emphasized that immortality and the highest honour are achieved not through wealth, descendants or deeds alone, but through sacrifice and selfless dedication.

Tamil Nadu Ammonia Gas Leak Death Toll Rises to 9

Sixty-nine workers still battling for life and undergoing treatment

Chennai, Agency: The death toll in the ammonia gas leak incident at a private seafood processing and export company in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district has risen to nine. The state Health Department confirmed on Tuesday morning that another worker had succumbed to injuries, making it one of the worst industrial accidents in the state in recent years.



How Did the Accident Occur? The accident took place on the night of June 21 at a factory located in the Kannigaiper-Manjankaranai area near Periyapalayam.

Several workers were on duty when ammonia gas suddenly leaked, triggering panic across the facility.

Eighty Workers Affected: According to officials, a total of 80 people were exposed to the gas leak. Two workers died on the night of the incident, while the death toll rose to six by Monday evening. Three more workers died on Tuesday morning, taking the total fatalities to nine.

Sixty-Nine Workers Still Under Treatment: Authorities said two workers have fully recovered and returned home, while 69 others

are receiving treatment at hospitals in Chennai and Tiruvallur, including Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital, Stanley Medical College Hospital, Vels Hospital and Venkateswara Hospital. Several patients remain in critical condition and are under close medical supervision.

Majority of Victims Were Migrant Workers: Most of those who died were women migrant workers. According to officials, seven of the nine deceased workers were from Odisha, while two belonged to Assam.

Doctors said inhalation of ammonia gas caused severe breathing difficulties among the victims, along with intense irritation of the eyes and throat, persistent coughing and shortness of breath.

Aniruddhacharya on Bharat Encounter People Will Call the Government Sinful

It is a sin to kill a person who has surrendered

Patna, Agency: Questions continue to be raised over the police action in the June 17 encounter of Bharat Tiwari in Bihar's Bhojpur district. Spiritual preacher Aniruddhacharya has now criticized the Bihar government over the incident.

He said, "Killing citizens is a sin for any ruler. In such a situation, people will call you a sinful king. Bharat had not killed anyone. Had he committed murder, then an encounter could be justified. One should avoid the killing of cows and Brahmins. In fact, all killings should be avoided."



He further stated that Bharat's village was flooded every year and that he had repeatedly appealed to political leaders and officials for help in protecting the area.

Aniruddhacharya said leaders must remember that they are elected by the people. "If, after

receiving votes, the same people are suppressed and killed, it is not a good sign for democracy. The government is not doing the right thing," he said.

"He Did Not Take Up Arms for Crime": The preacher added that the youth had not taken up arms to commit crimes or kill anyone.

"He approached officials to get work done for his area and society, but nobody listened to him. He chose the path of protest, yet the police killed him. When people's voices are ignored, someone is bound to step forward," he said.



Mumbai, Agency: Shiv Sena leader Ramdas Kadam has claimed that apart from six MPs from the Uddhav Thackeray fac-

tion, another MP was also willing to join Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's camp.

Seventh MP from Uddhav Camp Also Wanted to Join Shinde Faction: Claim

Wanted a Cabinet berth; deal failed, says Shiv Sena leader

Speaking to the media in Mumbai on Monday, Kadam said the seventh MP had even signed the necessary documents but demanded a Cabinet ministerial post. Shinde reportedly refused, following which the MP backed out.

Refusing to reveal the MP's identity, Kadam said, "I will not name him, but he sits next to Uddhav

Thackeray." On Monday, six of the nine Lok Sabha MPs belonging to Shiv Sena (UBT) joined Shinde's Shiv Sena. With their induction, the number of Shiv Sena MPs loyal to Shinde in the Lok Sabha has increased from seven to thirteen.

Announcing the move at a press conference in Mumbai, Shinde said, "When we revolted in 2022

to save the party and the bow-and-arrow symbol, we had 40 MLAs. Now we have hit a six."

He added that the fight was to preserve Balasaheb Thackeray's ideology and that the six MPs had joined the "real Shiv Sena" founded on those principles.

This is the second major rebellion in the party within four years of Uddhav Thackeray's leadership.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann Hands Over Appointment Letters to 665 Youth Recruited in PSPCL

BATHINDA: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday said that Punjab continues to emerge as a preferred destination for government jobs, with even youngsters who had moved abroad now returning to the state to secure employment through the transparent and merit-based recruitment policy of his government. While handing over appointment letters to 665 newly recruited candidates in Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), the Chief Minister said that the state has created a record by providing 68,268 government jobs in just four-and-a-half years, completely ending the era of cash-for-jobs and recommendations.

The Chief Minister urged Punjabis working abroad to return to their motherland, assuring them that the state government would provide regular employment opportunities and make them active partners in Punjab's socio-economic progress. He said that the transparent recruitment process adopted by the government has restored the faith of youth in the system and

triggered a reverse migration, with many youngsters now choosing to return to Punjab instead of seeking opportunities elsewhere.

Sharing a few snippets from this, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated: "At the appointment letter distribution ceremony in Bathinda, several major decisions aimed at Punjab's progress and securing a bright future for its youth were shared. By completely eliminating the corrupt practices of bribery and recommendations followed by previous governments, your government has so far provided 68,288 government jobs to youngsters purely on the basis of merit. Owing to this transparent recruitment policy, even those youth who had moved abroad are now returning to Punjab."

The Chief Minister noted, "Thanks to historic reforms in the education sector, Punjab has today emerged as the number one state in the country in school education. In another major decision aimed at the welfare of government employees, especially women employees, it was announced that after completion of their probation period, they will be



posted within a 40-kilometre radius of their homes so that family cohesion and work-life balance can be maintained."

"Hard work, honesty and public service remain the guiding principles of our government. By providing equal opportunities to every deserving youngster, we are rapidly moving towards the creation of a vibrant and prosperous Rangla Punjab," the post concluded.

Addressing the gathering while handing over appointment letters to the youth, CM Bhagwant Singh

but to come back to Punjab and get jobs here," he added.

The Chief Minister said that it is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that the state government has provided around 68,268 government jobs to the youth of Punjab. He said, "The era of cash payments and favouritism has ended in Punjab. Today, youth are getting jobs solely on the basis of merit and eligibility. Government jobs can now be obtained purely on merit and due to the transparent recruitment process adopted by the state government, not even a single appointment has been challenged in court. The Chief Minister expressed hope that the newly recruited youth would use their positions to serve the needy and underprivileged sections of society. He said, "The newly recruited youth should ensure maximum welfare of the public so that every section of society benefits from it. These recruitments have been carried out through a completely transparent process and the youth have secured jobs after clearing examinations in tough competition."

Wishing the newly recruited officers success in life, the Chief Minister urged them to continue dreaming big and working hard to turn those dreams into reality. He said, "You should not feel proud merely because you have secured these jobs. Remain humble and continue working hard for greater success in life. Stay grounded even after attaining these positions and always believe in hard work because it is the sole key to success. You must utilize this platform to achieve greater success in life while also becoming fine human beings. The Chief Minister said that the state government has prioritised education and undertaken path-breaking initiatives in the sector to transform the lives of people. "No so-called 'freebie' or concession card can eliminate poverty or other social maladies in the state. Education is the key that can pull people out of this vicious cycle by improving their standard of living. Therefore, our government is tirelessly making efforts to improve the standard of education and empower the common people," he added.

BJP's Anti-Dalit Mindset Exposed in Nitin Nabin's Punjab Visit SC Leaders Humiliated at Party Event: Harpal Singh Cheema

CHANDIGARH: Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Punjab Cabinet Minister Harpal Singh Cheema asserted that the BJP's anti-Dalit mindset has been laid bare during its National President Nitin Nabin's recent Punjab visit. Referring to a recent BJP event, he revealed that senior SC leaders such as former Union Ministers Vijay Sampla and Som Parkash were made to stand among the audience while others were seated on stage, pointing to clear discrimination.

Harpal Singh Cheema pointed out that the BJP respects only an elite class while Dalits, workers and the poor are systematically sidelined and humiliated. He emphasised that the Scheduled Caste com-



munity, forming nearly 34% of Punjab's population, has witnessed this approach firsthand, and concluded that the BJP is anti-Punjab, anti-farmer and its anti-Dalit face has now been fully exposed, adding that the people of Punjab will respond firmly to such politics.

Addressing a press conference alongside AAP Punjab SC Wing Chairman Gurpreet Singh GP, Harpal Singh Cheema said,

"According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2024 data, nearly 65% of crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country were reported from four BJP-ruled states including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. This reflects the BJP government's failure to protect Dalits and demonstrates the party's deep-rooted prejudice against marginalized communities."

Highlighting discrimination against senior Dalit BJP leaders, he revealed, "During a recent party event in Punjab, senior SC leaders such as former Union Minister Vijay Sampla and former Union Minister Som Parkash were made to stand among the audience while top leadership was

seated on stage. This incident has exposed the BJP's real face before the people of Punjab. Leaders who have served the party for decades and represented the Scheduled Caste community were denied even basic respect. The senior AAP leader added, "The episode clearly demonstrates the BJP's discriminatory mindset towards Dalits, workers and economically weaker sections. The BJP only respects a privileged and elite class. Those who represent labourers, Dalits and the poor are sidelined and humiliated."

He further added that Punjab's Scheduled Caste community, constituting nearly 34% of the state's population, has witnessed this discriminatory approach firsthand.

Narcotics Anonymous Meetings Emerge as Key Pillar of Bhagwant Mann Govt's 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' Helping Recovering Addicts Stay Drug-Free

CHANDIGARH : To strengthen the post-treatment rehabilitation component of the Punjab government's anti-drug campaign, Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings are being conducted in 13 districts of Punjab under the Yudh Nashean Virudh initiative spearheaded by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann.

In close collaboration with the Leadership in Mental Health Programme (LMHP) fellows, Narcotics Anonymous through its Hospital and Institution (H&I) meetings is organizing regular awareness and recovery sessions at government-run de-addiction and rehabilitation centres. The initiative is currently running regularly in Muktsar, Ludhiana, Rupnagar, Mansa and nine other districts.

Under the programme, Narcotics Anonymous meetings provide recovering victims a non-judgemental space to share their experiences, struggles and achievements, giving strength to the belief that a recovering addict with their lived experience is the best person to help another.

Narcotics Anonymous is a global fellowship of recovering addicts that provides support through a 12-step programme and peer-led meetings to help victims go drug free. Founded in 1953, the organisation now functions across many nations and works on the precept that recovery takes place best through mutual support and sharing of experiences.

A person in recovery from Sri Muktsar Sahib who regularly participates in NA meetings at the government-run de-addiction centre said the sessions have played a key role in helping him remain sober. Not willing to be named, he said, "You can be drug-free for a week or even a month. But to ensure a drug-free life permanently, NA helps because the story of the peer group resonates with your story. If they can say no to drugs, why can't you? After I became sober, I even brought



along a friend I met at the de-addiction centre, who too has found this support to be of great help.

Jagpal Singh (name changed), a patient at the Ludhiana drug de-addiction centre, said, "Hearing fellow addicts speak had an impact on me. It created a positive chain reaction in me. When I narrated my story, suggestions came my way and I felt motivated. I recommend that, alongside treatment, NA meetings could really help victims of drug abuse in their recovery."

According to health experts, such peer-led support addresses one of the biggest challenges in addiction recovery — isolation. "Many patients fall into relapse because they feel isolated after leaving the de-addiction centre. NA gives them a support network and assures them they are not alone in their fight against drugs," said a health official associated with the programme.

Participation in NA meetings has risen steadily in recent months, with regular sessions now being organised in government-run facilities across the 13 districts as part of the campaign's emphasis on long-term rehabilitation. An H&I coordinator associated with Narcotics Anonymous in Mansa said the organisation works closely with district administrations whenever support is sought for conducting meetings.

Arrest of BJP Leader's Son with Huge Cache of Weapons Is Proof of BJP's Bid to Disturb Punjab's Peace & Communal Harmony: Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal

CHANDIGARH : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab Chief Spokesperson and MLA Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal directly called out the BJP for attempting to disturb Punjab's peace and communal harmony. He shared that nearly a month ago, when bomb blasts had taken place, he had openly stated that the BJP wanted to ruin the peace in Punjab. Today, the AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson said, that statement has been proven 100 percent true.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said, "The BJP has become deeply rattled by the historic pro-people work being carried out in Punjab by the government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. In this state of panic, the BJP is resorting to dangerous tactics to destabilise Punjab." He stated, "On June 19, the BSF (Border



Security Force) and the State Special Operations Cell arrested a young man named Rohan from Village Harar Khurd near Ajnala. One AK-47 rifle, a made-in-America bulletproof jacket, 25 pistols and 368 cartridges were recovered from him. This person is none other than the son of Shiv Kumar, District President of the BJP SC

Morcha in Amritsar. This is the same Amritsar city from where BJP National General Secretary and newly appointed Rajya Sabha member Tarun Chugh hails. Under his very nose, the son of a senior BJP leader is allegedly involved in large-scale arms smuggling." Citing investigation reports, the AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson added, "The arrested accused was in contact with a person named Anmol, who is based in Australia, and had previously delivered around seven to eight consignments of weapons and drugs to different parts of Punjab." Directly questioning Union Home Minister Amit Shah, he asked, "When the area extending up to 50 kilometres from the international border falls directly under the jurisdiction of the BSF and the Union Home Ministry, how are such huge quantities of weapons entering the country?"

100% interest waiver on outstanding property tax: availing the benefit by June 30, appeals Commissioner Vinay Kumar

Panchkula : The Haryana Government has launched a historic scheme granting a 100 per cent waiver on the interest accrued on outstanding property tax dues for the period from 2010-11 to 2024-25. Under this initiative, property owners are required to pay only the principal amount of the outstanding tax, while the entire interest liability will be waived. To avail of this special benefit, citizens must deposit their pending property tax dues and complete the self-verification of their Property ID or before June 30, 2026. Appealing to citizens to make the most of this opportunity, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Panchkula Sh Vinay Kumar described the scheme as an excellent chance to settle long-pending property tax liabilities. He said that the Municipal Corporation is organizing special Property Tax Camps and Mega Camps to facilitate taxpayers and ensure maximum convenience.



Punjab's Villages Will Be Most Developed in Country; Sarpanches Must Lead Transformation: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

BATHINDA : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday called upon Sarpanches to lead the transformation of rural Punjab, asserting that the state's villages must emerge as the most developed in the country to realise the vision of making Punjab the nation's most developed state. Interacting with Sarpanches and Panchs from Rampura Phul and Talwandi Sabo, the Chief



Minister reiterated that the Punjab Government is fully committed to the holistic development of villages and will never allow any shortage of funds for this purpose. He urged Panchayats to utilise public funds in a manner that benefits every section of society, while prioritising education, rural infrastructure and sustainable development.

During the interaction, dis-

cussions were also held on the government's achievements, including providing jobs purely on merit and strengthening education, both of which were widely appreciated. Deliberations further focused on rural development initiatives and ensuring canal water supply for farmers, with the Chief Minister affirming that Punjab's journey of development and progress will continue unabated.

Protest to continue until Dharmendra Pradhan resigns: CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke

New Delhi, Agency : The protest, organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), entered its third consecutive day on Monday, drawing students, job aspirants and activists despite being a working day. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said the agitation would continue through the night and would not end until accountability was fixed.

Candles were lit in memory of students who allegedly died by suicide following the paper-leak row, while NEET aspirants who appeared for the re-test on Sunday spoke about the stress of preparing for an exami-



nation twice. One participant from Bihar said the cancellation of the examination after allegations of irregularities had left students mentally exhausted. Dipke questioned why students who

reached examination centres minutes late were denied opportunities while those allegedly responsible for paper leaks had not faced similar consequences. He described Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as

the "bare minimum" and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to meet students at the protest site.

Earlier in the day, Dipke was also found accusing security forces and the Delhi Police people of allegedly checking Aadhaar Card of the supporters and protesters at the gates.

The demonstration also drew support from Left student groups and youth organisations, including SFI, AISA, AISF and KYS. As part of its "Fight for Education with Education" initiative, the AISF set up a free library at the venue using nearly 100 books donated by students, parents and supporters.

Every protester has a story

Away from the stage, individual stories reflected the mood of the gathering. Three friends travelled from Uttarakhand without informing their families, while a volunteer from Uttar Pradesh returned for a second phase of the agitation. Among the protesters was Babita Anjali, a liver cancer patient from Odisha, who attended with her 13-year-old son, saying she had come for the future of every student in the country.

The protest continued under police security arrangements, with barricades placed around the site.

Time-bound delivery for factory approvals, food business licences, 21 other services;

New Delhi, Agency : As part of its ease of doing business initiatives, Delhi govt has brought 23 additional services under the Delhi Right of Citizen to Time Bound Delivery of Services Act, 2011. The move aims to ensure faster approvals, licences, registrations and no-objection certificates (NOCs) for citizens and business establishments while strengthening transparency and accountability.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta said the decision would benefit not only citizens but also sectors such as industry, trade, hospitality, tourism, construction and services.

"The govt's objective is to ensure that citizens and businesses receive govt services within a defined timeframe. Important approvals, licences, registrations and NOCs issued by various departments will now be delivered within stipulated timelines. This will reduce unnecessary delays and the need for repeated visits to govt offices.

Delhi: Two Nigerians arrested for evading court proceedings

New Delhi, Agency : The Delhi Police have arrested two Nigerian nationals for allegedly evading court proceedings in criminal cases.

One of the accused had been declared a proclaimed offender in a commercial quantity heroin case, officials said on Monday.

According to police, the arrests were made during a verification drive launched to trace habitual narcotics offenders released on bail but failing to appear before the courts.

Somadina Hilary Augustin of Anambra State in Nigeria, one of the accused, had been booked under the provisions of the NDPS Act, IPC and the Foreigners Act at the Vikaspuri police station.

The police said the case involved the seizure of a commercial quantity of heroin. He had been declared a proclaimed offender by a Delhi court on April



6, after he allegedly failed to appear during trial.

The second accused, Stainly Anekwe, a resident of Delta State, Nigeria, was wanted in a case registered at the Nihal Vihar police station under the Foreigners Act. The police said proceedings under Section 84 of the BNSS had already been initiated against him for not appearing before the court.

The two were apprehended from the Uttam Nagar area during a verification drive conducted by a team of the Anti-Narcotics Cell. No recovery was made during the operation.

Man, two daughters fall off Geeta Colony flyover in Delhi; one critical

New Delhi, Agency : A 35-year-old man and his two minor daughters fell off the Geeta Colony flyover in Delhi's Shahdara district after their motorcycle lost control on Monday afternoon, leaving the younger girl critically injured.

The injured have been identified as Ashish (35), his elder daughter Ruby (12), and his younger daughter Mansi (11). While Mansi is on ventilator support at GTB Hospital after sustaining a severe head injury, Ashish and Ruby also suffered injuries in the accident.

According to police,



passersby immediately rushed the victims to Chacha Nehru Hospital following the accident. After receiving initial treatment, they were referred to GTB Hospital for advanced medical care.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) RP Meena said they received information around 1.46 pm on Monday. By the

time officers reached the spot, the injured had already been shifted to the hospital.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Ashish, a resident of Fifth Pushta in Sonia Vihar, was heading with his two daughters to Daryaganj. He had taken the Geeta Colony flyover loop towards Rajghat via Gandhi Nagar when the accident occurred on a sharp curve.

The police said initial findings do not indicate that the motorcycle was hit by another vehicle. Senior police officers, along with the Crime Team and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)

experts, inspected the scene.

Investigators noted that the accident took place on a sharp bend of the flyover where a speed breaker has been installed to regulate vehicle speed.

The police suspect that the motorcycle may have bounced over the speed breaker, causing the rider to lose control before the vehicle plunged off the flyover.

A case of rash and negligent driving has been registered and further investigation is underway. Police are examining CCTV footage and recording statements of eyewitnesses.

Bike seized over 107 unpaid challans worth Rs 2.36 lakh

The Gurugram traffic police impounded a motorcycle carrying 107 pending traffic challans with unpaid fines amounting to Rs 2.36 lakh. The vehicle was seized during a special enforcement drive on NH-48 on Monday.

A senior traffic police officer said the Gurugram traffic police has been continuously conducting special drives against motorists violating traffic rules. Under the campaign, strict action is being taken under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, against vehicle owners who have failed to clear traffic challans pending for



more than 90 days. At the same time, motorists are being informed about their pending challans and encouraged to pay them within the stipulated period.

On Monday, Traffic Inspector Mahabir Singh and his team were carrying out a special checking drive on NH-48 to enforce

lane discipline. During the operation, a motorcycle bearing registration number HR-36 AR-8308 was stopped for inspection as it was being driven without a High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) and the rider was not wearing a helmet.

Upon verification, it was found that the motorcycle had 107 pending challans issued under various provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The total outstanding penalty amount was approximately Rs 2.36 lakh. The rider was asked to produce the vehicle-related documents but

failed to do so. Consequently, the Gurugram traffic police took immediate action and impounded the motorcycle, which was later shifted to the designated impound parking facility," the officer said. A spokesperson for the Gurugram traffic police appealed to motorists to strictly follow traffic rules, keep vehicle documents updated and ensure timely payment of pending challans. Compliance with traffic regulations is essential not only for personal safety but also for the safety of all road users, the spokesperson added.

Nangal Thakran road named after wrestling icon Chhattar Singh:

New Delhi, Agency : In a tribute to one of Delhi's most celebrated wrestlers, Mayor Pravesh Wahi on Monday named the road linking Kanjhawala Road and Nangal Thakran village after Chaudhary Chhattar Singh Pehalwan and inaugurated a memorial gate in his honour in the Narela Zone.

The event was attended by North West Delhi MP Yogendra Chandolia, Delhi Social Welfare Minister Ravinder Indraj Singh, Leader of the House Jai Bhagwan Yadav and other civic representatives. It also drew a large number of local residents and wrestling enthusiasts.

Describing Chhattar Singh as a symbol of dedication and sporting excellence, Wahi said the wrestler's legacy would con-



tinue to inspire future generations. "The memorial gate and the road named after him will serve as a lasting reminder of his contribution to the sport and the values he upheld," the Mayor said.

The programme also provided a platform for highlighting the BJP-led administration's development agenda in Delhi.

11-year-old Delhi girl Kidnapped, raped and murdered near Mehrauli-Gurgaon border; 1 held

New Delhi, Agency : In a harrowing incident that has shocked the national capital region, an 11-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped, brutally raped, and murdered after being abducted from a footpath in South Delhi's Mehrauli area.

The local police have arrested one suspect in connection with the heinous crime following a swift investigation.

According to police offi-



cials, the harrowing ordeal began early on yesterday morning. The young victim, who lived with her family on

a footpath in Mehrauli, was allegedly abducted by perpetrator at around 5 am while she was asleep.

Indira Gandhi arts centre brings Northeast India's living heritage to Delhi through traditional utensils

New Delhi, Agency : In an age dominated by machine-made products and mass production, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is set to open a unique exhibition on Tuesday that celebrates the artistry, traditions and everyday lives of communities in Northeast India through objects often taken for granted-household utensils.

Titled 'Living Heritage in Metal, Bamboo and Clay: Traditional Utensils of Northeast India', the exhibi-



tion will showcase a diverse collection of handcrafted utensils made from natural materials that have remained an integral part of life in the region for generations.

Organised by the National Mission on Cultural Mapping

(NMC) in collaboration with the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC), the exhibition seeks to tell the stories behind these objects and the communities that continue to preserve traditional ways of living.

From intricately crafted bamboo containers and baskets to clay vessels and bell-metal utensils, the exhibit highlights generations of inherited craftsmanship, ecological knowledge and cultural practices.

We are still lagging behind in car safety standards

(Mukesh Tiwari)

In terms of car sales, this year saw 15% more cars sold than last year. The startup boom has increased demand for luxury cars in smaller cities, but their numbers have declined in major cities worldwide. This is largely due to customer concerns about parking space and safety standards. Today's customers want technology in their cars that makes their lives convenient and also enhances safety, such as hybrid technology. While cars from some renowned car manufacturers have passed the NCAP test, many Indian car manufacturers' cars have failed the NCAP

test. It's worth noting that for the past few years, international agencies have been testing the safety standards of Indian cars.

In fact, NCAP, an independent UK-based organization, is responsible for assessing car safety standards. Based on a customer-centric vehicle safety initiative, NCAP conducts four tests, each with a rating from 1 to 5. The more stars, the better the rating, and the fewer stars, the worse the rating. However, safety testing has revealed that most cars are more likely to cause fatal injuries in a frontal collision. Furthermore, these cars

scored zero on a scale of 1 to 5.

Max Moseley, Chairman of Global NCAP, believes that India has now become a major global market for small car sales and production, making this level of safety a significant concern.

The most serious issue is that it lags behind the standard 5-star standards of North America and Europe by nearly two decades. He clearly believes that the shortcomings of car structures and the lack of airbags pose a risk to the lives of Indian customers.

Amid growing demand for vehicles in smaller towns and cities and the wide-

spread popularity of utility vehicles, passenger vehicle sales in India reached record levels last fiscal year.

In our country, low-cost cars are particularly prized. To produce low-cost cars, car manufacturers often neglect safety standards. Because cars with more safety features cost more, they sell less because they are expensive. This is why our country has a large market for affordable cars. It's believed that this is why many foreign companies have launched affordable cars in our country.

In our country, customers pay the most attention to mileage when pur-

chasing a car. Cars with higher mileage tend to sell the most. To achieve a high mileage, cars need to be lightweight. Naturally, to maintain weight, more fiber materials are being used in cars these days. However, the truth is that our country lacks a clear policy regarding car safety standards. This is why car manufacturers ignore safety standards. Only the required standards are implemented in vehicles. Air bags and anti-lock braking systems are being used only in expensive cars. Global NCAP is a UK-based organization that promotes the worldwide availability of independent consumer

information on motor vehicle safety. Global NCAP was established to help meet the goals of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety, which aims to reduce road deaths by 50 percent by 2020. Euro NCAP was launched in 1997, and its results are now recognized across Europe. The program was jointly launched in 1996 by Swedish and international testing organizations. The first results were released in 1997. Initially, many car companies strongly criticized NCAP's frontal offset, side impact, pedestrian, and pole tests, but now the rating is considered authoritative worldwide.

Editorial

Now a fire tragedy in Lucknow—will the system ever improve

It was about 20 days ago that 21 people lost their lives in a fire at a hotel in Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. That incident has likely faded from most people's memories by now. However, the death of 15 people in a fire at a three-story building in the Aliganj area of Lucknow—the capital of Uttar Pradesh—has once again brought that horrific tragedy to mind. People were jumping from upper floors amidst the flames, desperate to save their lives. Just like the Delhi hotel, there was a single entry and exit point, a basement, and dozens of air conditioners with their associated wiring. There were complaints about the fire brigade's delayed arrival, government ministers visiting the site, the wailing of parents and guardians, post-mortems, the formation of inquiry committees, announcements of compensation, and a flood of condolence messages. It is as if such tragedies have become routine occurrences. Following an incident, the government makes various claims, while the media spends day and night highlighting the flaws and shortcomings. Grand discussions take place, and the government takes cognizance of the matter. Ministers and high-ranking officials issue statements; directives are released, and officials are suspended. The building owner is arrested, and promises of strict action are made—only for everyone to forget about it eventually, perhaps while waiting for the next tragedy. The fire at the Delhi hotel occurred on June 3, and now, on June 22, a fire broke out in a commercial building located in a residential area of Lucknow. That means two massive fire tragedies in North India within a single month.

Violations of regulations have also come to light regarding the building in Lucknow where this fire occurred. It has been reported that the building was designated for residential use but was being utilized for commercial purposes. An animation training center was operating there, and 30 students were present at the time the fire broke out.

Following this tragedy, the state government took swift action against the officials involved; however, had those very officials inspected the building in time to verify compliance with established regulations, it is possible that these fifteen people would still be alive today. Yet, whether in the capital, Delhi, or in Lucknow, the administrative system shows no inclination to step out of air-conditioned rooms or even set foot outside air-conditioned vehicles. The government machinery operates this way across the country, and the saddest part is that those responsible for specific duties often shy away from fulfilling them.

Beyond the ceasefire: Will the world move towards non-violence

(Lalit Garg)

The recent ceasefire between the US, Israel, and Iran comes at a time when West Asia has become engulfed in the flames of war, posing the greatest threat to global stability. The weeks-long conflict had transformed the region into a volcano, with each explosive event shaking the global economy. Oil markets were in dire turmoil, investors were growing nervous, and fears of a global recession were deepening. While the ceasefire has brought immediate relief to the world, the pressing question remains: will this agreement lay the foundation for lasting peace or merely prove a temporary pause before another war? History shows that ceasefires and peace agreements are only sustainable when they are backed not only by strategic compulsion but also by political will, mutual trust, and a commitment to humanity. Otherwise, they simply become interludes between conflicts. The history of West Asia bears witness to countless agreements that were signed on paper but failed to materialize.

Analyzing the consequences of this war, Iran appears to be the biggest beneficiary. Despite US and Israeli military pressure, economic sanctions, and international isolation, Tehran not only succeeded in preserving its political structure but also forced its opponents to the negoti-

ating table. Iran can now boast to its citizens that it has not surrendered to the world's most powerful military forces. The Iranian leadership will present this as a victory of resistance. On the other hand, this conflict has also challenged America's image of invincibility. After Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, this is another occasion that makes it clear that military power alone cannot ensure political results. Washington exerted pressure and demonstrated its military might, but ultimately had to resort to negotiations and compromise. This sends the message that the twenty-first century world will no longer be governed solely by the balance of power, but by dialogue, diplomacy, and multilateral cooperation.

This situation is politically uncomfortable for Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long described Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities as an existential threat to his country. Israel hoped that war would decisively weaken Iran's strategic capabilities. But after the ceasefire, Iran is presenting itself as the victor. This could intensify the debate within Israel about whether the superpowers prioritized their strategic interests over regional security concerns. This agreement holds special significance for India. India is heavily dependent on West Asia for its energy needs. In the event of war, the fear

of disruption of oil supplies, disruption of maritime trade routes, and price increases had increased India's concerns. A ceasefire will ease pressure on oil prices, control inflation, and reduce security concerns for millions of Indians working in Gulf countries. But India's importance is not just as a consumer nation; it is also emerging as a moral advocate for global peace.

In fact, this war raises a major question: can human civilization build its future through war? Today, superpowers have acquired such devastating military capabilities that even a small mistake by any country can push all of humanity towards destruction. In an age of nuclear weapons, biological weapons, and artificial intelligence-based warfare systems, war is no longer just a question of borders; it has become a question of the very existence of human civilization. This is why the world today needs a politics of peace, not power. Violence, war, terrorism, and the competition for armaments have plunged humanity into fear, distrust, and insecurity. If the world is to be saved, it must move forward towards disarmament, non-violence, co-existence, and dialogue.

In this context, India's role becomes extremely important. India has always given the world the message of peace, compassion, and non-violence. Mahatma

Gandhi said, "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind." Today, this statement is more relevant than ever. India's cultural consciousness is based on the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which considers the entire world as one family. This is why India has always supported dialogue over war and consensus over conflict. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also clearly stated on various global platforms that "this is not the era of war." At the United Nations, G-20, BRICS, and other international forums, India has repeatedly emphasized that the solution to any problem lies not in war, but in dialogue. If countries ultimately have to return to the negotiating table, then what is the need to pay the terrible price of war?

India's foreign policy is emerging in a new form today. Be it the Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Palestine conflict, or the current crisis in West Asia, India has adopted a policy of balance, dialogue, and peaceful resolution rather than blindly supporting any particular party. This balanced approach can lead India to play the role of a global mediator in the future. But governments alone cannot establish peace. The foundation of peace is built within societies, cultures, and individuals. As long as nationalism continues to manifest as

aggression, as long as the arms industry exploits war for profit, and as long as political leadership uses war as a tool to gain popularity, the dream of lasting peace will remain unfulfilled.

Today, the need is for the world community to take concrete steps: control the nuclear and strategic arms race, strengthen the United Nations' role, develop permanent dialogue mechanisms for resolving international disputes, and incorporate the values of peace and non-violence into education systems. Furthermore, a development model based on human welfare should be prioritized over a war economy.

The ceasefire between the United States, Israel, and Iran is certainly a moment of relief, but its transformation into lasting peace remains to be seen. If it remains merely a phase of strategic realignment, it could pave the way for even more destructive conflicts in the future. However, if the world community seizes this opportunity for introspection and cultivates a new global culture of non-violence, dialogue, and coexistence, this ceasefire could also mark the beginning of a new chapter in human history. The world today needs the light of peace, not the darkness of war. This is humanity's greatest challenge and its greatest opportunity.

The Bharat Tiwari Encounter: A Brazen Killing

(Shrigopal Narsan)

Police personnel convicted in the fake encounter case of Ranveer—which took place in Uttarakhand several years ago—are currently serving life imprisonment. Yet, the police failed to learn from that incident; recently, they shot and killed 28-year-old Bharat Tiwari from Bihar, even though he had surrendered by discarding his weapon. Faced with public outcry over the encounter—which went viral on social media—Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary announced the suspension of the police personnel found prima facie guilty and ordered an inquiry into the matter by a retired High Court judge. Bharat Bhushan Tiwari, a res-

ident of Belauti village under the Shahpur police station area in Bihar's Bhojpur district, was killed by the police in an encounter on June 17. He was known in his village and the surrounding areas as someone who consistently raised his voice against local issues and corruption; however, his aggressive nature had put him on the police's radar.

Bharat was actively working on the rehabilitation of people displaced by Ganga riverbank erosion in the Joainiya area. He also held considerable sway among the youth. Describing himself as a revolutionary, Bharat used to carry a weapon.

On June 15, Bharat Tiwari posted on Facebook stating that the country

needed a revolutionary war; during this time, he allegedly threatened to kill the Jagdishpur SDM. Consequently, the police visited his home, but he was not found there.

Sharp remarks from BJP leaders following the Bharat Tiwari encounter have left the Bihar government in an uncomfortable position. Union Minister Satish Chandra Dubey, former Union Minister Ashwini Choubey, National Secretary Rituraj Sinha, Education Minister Mithilesh Tiwari, and Minister Vijay Sinha have all condemned the encounter.

Along with the opposition, members of the ruling coalition are also questioning the police action.

On June 16, a photograph of

Bharat holding a weapon had gone viral on social media. When the police arrived at his home regarding the matter, he started a Facebook Live stream during his interaction with the officers, accusing the police and administration of attempting to kill him in an encounter; however, the police later defended their actions by describing Bharat as mentally unstable. A confrontation ensued when the police team reached the village. The police claim that Bharat attacked their team; although attempts were made to de-escalate the situation through dialogue, he refused to yield and continued firing. However, no video footage of Bharat Tiwari actually firing a weapon has surfaced, making

the police's claim that they had to open fire in self-defense difficult for anyone to accept. The live stream clearly indicates that the police shot Bharat after he had already laid down his weapon. Had being struck by police gunfire and sustaining critical injuries, he was initially admitted to Ara Sadar Hospital and subsequently referred to PMCH, where he passed away. Shortly after the encounter, Bihar's Education Minister Mithilesh Tiwari issued a stern statement; while acknowledging that the young man's behavior and brandishing of a weapon were wrong, he asserted that the police should have first investigated his criminal history and the full context of the situation.

BRICS security meet in Delhi:

Ajit Doval discusses ties with China FM
Middle East war with Iranian official

New Delhi, Agency: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Monday held a series of high-level bilateral meetings, including talks with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and senior Iranian security official Ghadir Nezamipour, as New Delhi hosted the BRICS National Security Advisers' conclave amid growing geopolitical tensions and shifting regional dynamics. India is hosting the two-day security meeting in its capacity as the current chair of BRICS, bringing together top security officials from the expanded grouping for dis-



cussions on regional and global security challenges.

In one of the most closely watched engagements, Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the conclave. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the two sides reviewed recent

developments in bilateral ties and noted progress towards the gradual normalisation of relations.

Sharing details of the meeting on X, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "The two sides reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations

and noted progress towards gradual normalisation. NSA underlined that stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations contribute to building trust and better understanding between the two sides. The discussions were constructive and forward-looking."

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Ambassador Vikram Doraiswami and Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai were among the Indian officials present during the talks. The meeting comes as India and China continue efforts to rebuild ties following years of tension triggered by the 2020 border clashes.

NMC to end PG
diploma courses, shift seats
to MD/MS programmes

New Delhi, Agency: The National Medical Commission (NMC) will end admissions to PG diploma courses after 2026-27 academic year and convert existing seats into MD/MS programmes, aiming to bring all specialist medical training under a single degree framework, reports Anuja Jaiswal. NMC on Monday directed all medical colleges and institutions offering PG diploma courses to apply for conversion of these seats into corresponding MD/MS seats through the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB).

The move is expected to affect diploma seats across specialties such as child health, obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthesia, ophthalmology, psychiatry and public health currently offered by medical colleges. According to NMC, several institutions currently run both diploma and degree programmes in the same specialty, while others offer only diploma courses despite having the infrastructure, faculty and clinical material required for degree programmes.

The regulator said converting diploma seats into MD/MS seats would help standardise post-graduate training, improve the quality and recognition of specialist qualifications and make better use of existing institutional capacity. MARB president Prof M K Ramesh said diploma courses have increasingly become redundant, often putting diploma holders at disadvantage. Originally meant to



train specialists for district and subdistrict facilities, diploma courses have lost relevance as degree-qualified specialists are available at those levels.

He said diploma holders face limited career growth, are generally ineligible for teaching positions and promotions, often leaving them at a disadvantage compared to MD/MS graduates. With no new diploma seats sanctioned for years and only about 400 seats remaining in a few specialties, maintaining a parallel diploma stream serves little purpose, he added.

The decision follows provisions incorporated in Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023, which state that no new applications for starting or increasing diploma seats would be allowed and that institutions may instead seek conversion of diploma seats into degree seats. Medical education experts said the move was to increase the pool of doctors holding recognised specialist degrees, though states and colleges will need to ensure a smooth transition so that training capacity is not disrupted during conversion process.

SC pulls up CARA for 'obstructionist' approach

New Delhi, Agency: After a 12-year-old girl lost her mother, her US-based maternal aunt and her husband adopted her by performing 'Datta Homam' rituals under Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA). That was two years ago. They have since struggled to take their adopted daughter to the US because of conflict between inter-country adoption frameworks of the US and India, leading Supreme Court to frown on India's Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) coming in the way of a better future for children who have been adopted by their close relatives based overseas.

The adoptive parents had completed the legal requirements for inter-country adoption of the child through a US govt agency but were told that a clearance in this regard would be needed from India's CARA under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.



Odisha bank manager suspended 2 months after man brings sister's skeleton as death proof

New Delhi, Agency: A bank branch manager in Odisha Grameen Bank has been suspended, and all 28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) across India have been directed to provide more compassionate and transparent customer service. The directive comes in reference to the infamous incident of a tribal man carrying his sister's skeleton to a bank as proof of her death in a bid to access money from her savings account. The action was confirmed by Union minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a letter to Odisha assembly leader of opposition Naveen Patnaik.

In his June 12 response to Patnaik, Chaudhary said the department of financial services had taken a serious view of the incident and issued an advisory to all RRBs on May 29 to prevent similar occurrences, particularly among customers from rural, tribal and other vulnerable communities. "However, the incident has been viewed seriously by the Department of Financial Services.

'Mocked as actor's party': Tamil Nadu CM Vijay's 'reel' to real speech in assembly; Karur stampede, CAA in focus

New Delhi, Agency: Tamil Nadu chief minister Vijay on Tuesday pushed back against critics who had dismissed the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as merely an "actor's party", arguing that its rise to power was built on years of activism and public engagement. In a wide-ranging assembly speech, Vijay brushed aside claims that he had moved straight from film sets to politics as a "reel" narrative, recalled the party's opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and referred to the Karur stampede controversy as he reflected on the challenges faced during TVK's political journey.

"Some people say that I came directly from a film shooting set to become Chief Minister. In their own lan-



guage, I would say that is just a 'reel,' Media quoted him saying. "Most people start a political party first and then go to the people. We went to the people first and only then started our party. Those who fail to understand this are the ones who dismiss us as merely an actor's party. In the 2026 election, we contested alone without any alliance," he added. Defending his party on allegations regarding

Karur stampede, he said, "In Karur, 41 people lost their lives, and the blame was placed on us. Is this how politics should be conducted?"

Vijay then listed a series of social and political causes that he said he and his supporters had championed long before launching TVK.

"In 2011, we organised a public meeting in support of fishermen and voiced our concerns on their behalf. We extended our support to the Jallikattu protest. We personally visited and supported the Sterlite protest. We provided scholarships and incentives to meritorious students in education. After all this, we launched the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). We also issued statements opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)," he said.

CDSCO flags 159 drug samples as sub-standard in May one found spurious

New Delhi, Agency: India's drug regulator has flagged 159 drug samples as not of standard quality (NSQ) during routine surveillance in May, while identifying one spurious drug sample in Assam, according to the latest monthly alert issued by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). Of the total, 46 samples were declared NSQ by central drug laboratories and 113 by state drug testing laboratories. Drugs are categorised as NSQ when they fail one or more prescribed quality parameters during testing.

CDSCO clarified that the findings relate only to the specific batches tested and do not imply that other batches of the same products available in the market are defective.



The regulator also identified one spurious drug sample in Assam that was allegedly manufactured by an unauthorised entity using a brand name owned by another company. The case is under investigation and action will be taken under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules, CDSCO said. The regulator said the monthly surveillance exercise is carried out in coordination with state drug authorities to identify and remove sub-standard and spurious medicines from the market.

CBI arrests former CEOs of RCFL
RHFL in Rs 7,623-Cr bank fraud

New Delhi, Agency: The CBI arrested former CEOs of Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL) and Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) on Monday in connection with separate cases pertaining to an alleged fraud of Rs 7,623 crore in multiple public sector banks, officials said. The CBI has arrested former RCFL director and chief executive officer Devang Mody and former executive director and CEO of RHFL Ravindra Sudhalkar, they said. "In RCFL case, the accused have caused a loss of Rs 4,097 crore to 13 Public Sector Banks (PSBs), whereas in RHFL, the loss amount is Rs 3,526 crore to 10 PSBs," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. The CBI probe has shown that Mody, who was the CEO of RCFL from April 2017 to December 2018, "was a key decision-maker" responsible for managing the operations of the company, the agency said. "He approved loans to intermediary and conduit companies despite being aware that such lending was contrary to RBI guidelines and the sanction conditions governing borrowings from Public Sector Banks," the statement



said. Sudhalkar served as the ED and CEO of RHFL from October 1, 2016, to March 31, 2022, it said. "He was a key decision-maker responsible for managing the operations of Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL). He approved loans to intermediary and conduit companies despite such lending being contrary to the company's lending policies, NHB/RBI guidelines and the conditions governing borrowings from Public Sector Banks," the statement said. The agency alleged that the accused diverted funds borrowed by RCFL and RHFL to Reliance ADA Group companies, including Reliance Capital Limited, Reliance Infrastructure Limited and Reliance Power Limited, thereby causing a combined wrongful loss of Rs 7,623 crore to the lending banks and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves and related entities.

Four fertiliser ships exit Strait of Hormuz, head to India

New Delhi, Agency: Four ships carrying around 1.8 lakh tonnes of urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and sulphur have crossed the Strait of Hormuz and are now heading to ports in India, the fertiliser department said on Monday.

The ships crossed the conflict-hit sea channel last week. Media has learnt they sailed through the strait on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.



Three oil tankers also crossed the critical sea route Saturday. Officials said the seven India-bound ships

crossed the strait just before Iran announced its fresh closure.

While two ships loaded with fertilisers are carrying 91,750 tonnes of urea, another vessel is transporting 55,000 tonnes of DAP and the fourth one has 33,251 tonnes of sulphur. They are likely to reach ports in Krishnapatnam, Kakinada (Andhra), Paradeep (Odisha) and Mundra (Gujarat) soon.

'Deeply saddened': EAM Jaishankar condoles death of 12 Indians in Qatar blast; assures assistance

New Delhi, Agency: External affairs minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Tuesday condoled the death of 13 lives, including 12 Indians in an explosion in the Ras Laffan incident in Qatar last night.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives and injuries, including of Indian nationals, in the explosion at Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City. As further details emerge, our Embassy continues to be in touch with Qatari authorities, and is reaching out to



render assistance to the families of Indian nationals affected by this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families," he said in a post on X.

The Indian embassy in

Qatar informed that those who got injured in the incident were in stable condition and receiving appropriate medical treatment.

"Qatari authorities have confirmed that 12 Indian nationals have unfortunately passed away in the Ras Laffan incident yesterday night. We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the departed souls. Qatari authorities have also confirmed that all those who got injured in the incident are in stable condi-

tion and are receiving appropriate medical treatment. Our Embassy is working in close contact with the Qatari authorities to extend all possible help to the Indian nationals and their families affected by this incident, including ensuring that mortal remains of the deceased are sent to India at the earliest," it said. Qatari authorities said an internal explosion and subsequent fire occurred after a technical malfunction during operations at a factory in Ras Laffan Industrial City.

Diarrhoea and constipation at the same time? It could be a warning sign of colon cancer, doc explains

Ever found yourself wondering whether it's diarrhoea or constipation? It may not be the most comfortable topic, but your bowel habits can reveal a great deal about your overall health. Watery diarrhoea followed by days of constipation is a confusing symptom. It can feel as though you are dealing with both at the same time. But this unusual symptom certainly deserves your attention. According to Dr Joseph Salhab, a board-certified gastroenterologist trained at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, this confusing symptom could signal a serious health issue that requires immediate medical attention. **The confusing symptom could be overflow diarrhoea** In a video shared on Instagram, Dr Salhab described this confusing symptom. "You can have diarrhoea, but actually be constipated." The condition responsible for this paradoxical symptom is known as overflow diarrhoea. Despite its name, overflow



diarrhoea is actually a form of constipation, not true diarrhoea. The doctor breaks down the reason behind this confusing bowel symptom: "This is when you have so much hard stool in your colon that

hasn't moved, and the only thing that's actually making its way out and around that stool is water. Because this water has no form to it, it comes out feeling like diarrhoea, and this can happen after days of no bowel movements. Then all of a sudden, you feel like you have watery diarrhoea." **Talk to your doctor** Dr Salhab emphasises that the symptom should not be dismissed. "You should always talk to your physician if you have this problem," he said. This symptom can be accompanied by abdominal pain, bloating, nausea, leakage and frequent loose stools. This condition requires proper evaluation, as severe stool build-up may require supervised treatment. "In some cases, people require hospital evaluation, physical examination, abdominal X-rays, CT scans, blood work, enemas, bowel regimens, or even manual disimpaction, depending on severity and risk factors," the gastroenterologist said. "What this is going to entail is clearing out your

colon of impacted stool with either some enemas or laxatives, and then getting on a bowel regimen, which includes a high-fibre diet of about 25 to 30 grams a day, supplements like psyllium that can promote bowel movements, and scheduled toilet time," he explained. **Colon cancer can cause this symptom** Colon cancer can sometimes manifest as overflow diarrhoea. One may experience alternating bowel habits; hence, this symptom should never be disregarded. "Colon cancer can sometimes masquerade as constipation or overflow diarrhoea by causing narrowing or blockage within the colon. That's why persistent symptoms, weight loss, blood in the stool, anaemia, severe pain, vomiting, or worsening constipation should NEVER be ignored," the doctor cautioned. He also emphasised that one should not self-treat this symptom. Always seek proper medical guidance, especially if symptoms are severe or

Sleep well, cut belly fat to reduce breast cancer risk

Breast cancer cases among Indian women are rising by 6% a year, according to a recent ICMR study. Poor sleep, chronic stress and rising central obesity are the key risk factors. Dr Shubham Garg, director of Surgical Oncology at Dharamshila Narayana Hospital, Delhi speaks to Anuja Jaiswal about how lifestyle and metabolic shifts are reshaping risk, why younger women are getting affected, and what they can do to minimise risk

How strong is the evidence linking disrupted sleep to breast cancer risk in Indian women? The evidence is steadily strengthening. Recent findings from National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research add Indian data to global research linking disrupted sleep and circadian rhythm disturbance to breast cancer risk. Poor sleep affects melatonin secretion, estrogen regulation, immune surveillance and DNA repair. While it is not a stand-alone cause, it increases vulnerability when combined with obesity, chronic stress, sedentary behaviour and urban lifestyles — factors now common among Indian women, especially in cities.

Is poor sleep now a risk factor on a par with family history or age? Poor sleep does not match non-modifiable factors like age or genetic predisposition, which remain the strongest predictors. However, it is emerging as one of the most important modifiable risk factors. Clinically, many women without a family history present with breast cancer after prolonged sleep deprivation, night-shift work, high stress and metabolic dysfunction. It now forms a crucial part of comprehensive risk assessment. **Why does central obesity raise breast cancer risk more than overall body weight, especially after menopause?**

Central obesity reflects excess visceral fat, which is biologically more active than peripheral fat. It produces inflammatory cytokines, promotes insulin resistance and increases estrogen production. After menopause, adipose tissue becomes the primary source of estrogen, fuelling hormone-receptor-positive breast cancers. Waist circumference correlates more strongly with risk than overall weight and signals chronic inflammation and metabolic stress.

Sleep well, cut belly fat to reduce breast cancer risk



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IST Sleep well, cut belly fat to reduce breast cancer risk Breast cancer cases among Indian women are rising by 6% a year, according to a recent ICMR study. Poor sleep, chronic stress and rising central obesity are the key risk factors. Dr Shubham Garg, director of Surgical Oncology at Dharamshila Narayana Hospital, Delhi speaks to Anuja Jaiswal about how lifestyle and metabolic shifts are reshaping risk, why younger women are getting affected, and what they can do to minimise risk

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Can lifestyle changes actually reduce breast cancer risk? Lifestyle changes cannot eliminate risk but can significantly reduce it. Better sleep restores circadian rhythm, melatonin levels and immune function. Stress control lowers prolonged cortisol exposure, which otherwise drives inflammation and hormonal imbalance. Reducing central obesity lowers estrogen production, improves insulin sensitivity and decreases inflammatory markers. These changes also improve outcomes and reduce recurrence risk in women already treated.

How does chronic stress affect tumour biology? Chronic stress raises

cortisol levels, suppressing immune surveillance and reducing the body's ability to eliminate abnormal cells. It promotes systemic inflammation, alters glucose metabolism and disrupts estrogen pathways — factors that support tumour initiation and progression. Over time, this creates a biological environment favourable for cancer development.

Why is breast cancer appearing at younger ages in India? Do risk drivers differ from western countries? Breast cancer is increasingly being diagnosed in women aged 35–50 years. This shift is linked to sedentary lifestyles, central obesity, poor sleep, chronic stress, delayed childbirth and reduced breastfeeding, which are also breast cancer risk drivers in the West. While genetics still matter, these modifiable factors are accelerating risk at younger ages, highlighting the need for earlier awareness and risk-based screening. Besides, Indian women often face delayed diagnosis. Prevention must, therefore, go beyond mammography to include lifestyle education, metabolic health, stress management and sleep hygiene, supported by community-level counselling.

How should women delaying childbirth interpret these findings? With perspective, not fear. Delayed childbirth slightly increases lifetime estrogen exposure, which may modestly raise risk but cancer is not inevitable. Many women delay pregnancy for valid personal and professional reasons.

Struggling with diabetes, blood pressure, or heart issues? Here are some simple exercises that can help



Exercise lowers blood sugar, eases blood pressure, and strengthens the heart for people managing diabetes, hypertension, or heart risks. Regular movement improves insulin use, opens blood vessels, and cuts inflammation without needing fancy equipment or gym time. Simple habits like walking, yoga, or bodyweight strength work deliver real results backed by science.

Brisk walking for blood sugar levels

Thirty minutes of daily brisk walking allows your muscles to use blood glucose effectively, without needing high insulin production. The process helps type 2 diabetes patients to lower their A1C levels by 0.5% to 1% during their initial three months of focused practice. Walking helps you lose visceral fat, while it also helps your body fight insulin resistance and maintains your energy levels at a consistent level throughout the entire day. Studies that involved big groups of people showed that adding one hour of walking to your weekly routine, would decrease your risk of developing diabetes by 12%, which provides the same health advantages as performing more intense gym workouts. The best results will be achieved through walking at a speed which allows you to maintain a conversation but prevents you from singing, while you swing your arms completely and strive to reach 10,000 steps each day. The addition of hills or stairs during two sessions per week, results in significant blood sugar level decreases. The exercise provides low-impact benefits which make it suitable for people who have knee pain, and who need to exercise during their limited free time. Walking after meals also helps to control blood sugar levels while providing relief for achy knees.

Yoga lowers Blood Pressure naturally

Regular practice of yoga poses including child's pose, legs-up-the-wall and cobra pose, held for five breaths each can lower systolic blood pressure by 10 to 15 points during an eight-week period. The practice of deep breathing during these poses helps to reduce stress hormones, while it relaxes your arteries and slows down your heart rate to create enduring cardiovascular advantages. Research studies show that practicing yoga for 45 minutes three times weekly, produces better blood pressure results than medication treatment for people with mild hypertension, who achieve lower systolic and diastolic pressure readings. The best results will occur when you breathe through your nose at a slow pace, while you complete a full exhalation to activate your body's relaxation response.

'Father's Day' and 'World Music Day'

Pashmina shares a childhood video with her father, Rajesh Roshan

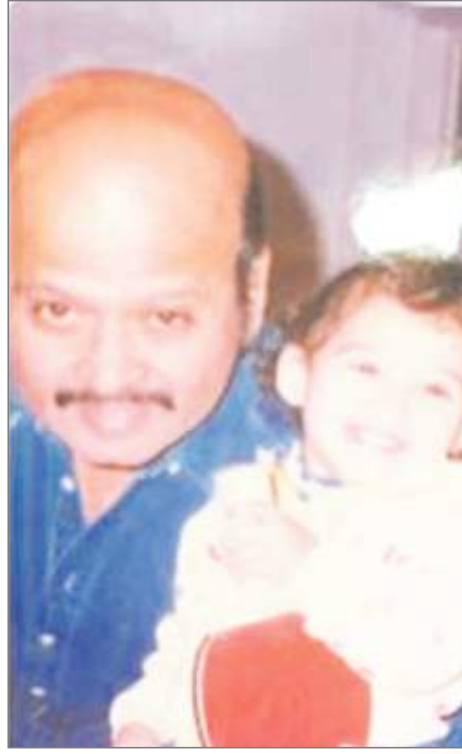
She has shared a heartwarming video from her childhood on social media, capturing beautiful and precious moments between father and daughter. The video exquisitely portrays her love for both family and music. This throwback video shared by Pashmina offers several memorable glimpses of her childhood.

throwback video offers glimpses of cherished childhood memories. To make the post even more poignant, she used her father's evergreen hit song, "Chhookar Mere Man Ko Kiya Tune Kya Ishara," as the background score, adding a sweet, emotional touch to the memories.

Along with the video, Pashmina wrote, "Happy Father's Day and World Music Day to my favorite person. How could I miss out on this trend? After all, it is your song." Her emotional message clearly reflects her love, respect, and pride for her father. Consequently, Pashmina's post is receiving immense love from fans on social media. In the comments section, people have showered affection on this beautiful father-daughter duo, describing the post as one of the most heartwarming tributes of 'Father's Day.



On the special occasion of 'Father's Day' and 'World Music Day,' actress Pashmina Roshan paid a deeply emotional tribute to her father, the legendary music composer Rajesh Roshan, hailing him as both the best father and the best musician. She shared a heartwarming childhood video on social media, capturing beautiful and precious moments shared between father and daughter. The video exquisitely portrays his love for both family and music. This



Sanjay Dutt gave a special surprise to his daughter Trishala Dutt in New York on Father's Day

Trishala Dutt, the eldest daughter of Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt, has shared glimpses of this year's Father's Day celebrations on her social media account. She posted several photos from New York, where she and her father celebrated the occasion together. Captioning the post "Father's Day Weekend," Trishala shared a series of images capturing candid and heartwarming moments of the father-daughter duo spending quality time together. In one photo, Sanjay and Trishala were seen posing outdoors on a sunny day, while another showed them seated together at a restaurant. Sanjay wore a black polka-dotted shirt, and Trishala looked stunning in a beautiful floral off-shoulder outfit. A third photo featured the two posing against the backdrop of the New York City skyline at night. Trishala also shared a photo on her social media story, describing it as the "best Father's Day surprise." Trishala is the daughter of Sanjay Dutt and his first wife, actress-model Richa Sharma. Sanjay and Richa married in 1987, and Trishala was born in 1988. Richa passed away in 1996 after battling a brain tumor.



Trishala also shared a photo on her social media story, describing it as the "best Father's Day surprise." Trishala is the daughter of Sanjay Dutt and his first wife, actress-model Richa Sharma. Sanjay and Richa married in 1987, and Trishala was born in 1988. Richa passed away in 1996 after battling a brain tumor.

Do yoga, stay healthy

Swami Vivekananda gave it worldwide recognition. This is the 12th edition of International Yoga Day, it is being celebrated in front of the BJP party office in Bengaluru. Students, elders and Gen-Z youth like us are participating in large numbers in this program. Everyone is a part of this celebration and it is good to see so much enthusiasm among people, because in recent times many people are more attracted towards going to the gym.' She talked about the role of yoga in her everyday life and said, 'I meditate for 20 minutes every morning and 20 minutes before sleeping at night. It is essential for me.

Yoga events were organized across the country to mark the 12th International Yoga Day. A large number of people—including students, the youth, the elderly, and individuals from various walks of life—participated in yoga sessions, conveying a message of healthy living. Several film personalities also took part in events held in Bengaluru and Mumbai, highlighting yoga as a vital part of a healthy lifestyle. Speaking at the Yoga Day event in Bengaluru, Tollywood actress Karunya Gowda said, "I feel immense pride in being part of this yoga event and in being an Indian citizen. Yoga originated around 5,000 years ago, and Swami Vivekananda brought it global recognition. This is the 12th edition of International Yoga Day, and it is being celebrated here in Bengaluru, right in front of the BJP party office. Students, the elderly, and Gen-Z youth like us are participating in large numbers. Everyone is part of



this celebration, and it is heartening to see such enthusiasm, especially at a time when many people are increasingly drawn to the gym." She also spoke about the role of yoga in her daily routine, stating, "I practice meditation for 20 minutes every morning and another 20 minutes before going to bed; it is essential for me. I also perform *Surya Namaskar* (Sun Salutation) about 20 times. I am not particularly fond of going to the gym. If you ask me, despite spending over a decade in the industry, there hasn't been a single year where I went to the gym regularly; however, I practice yoga every day. So, I can proudly say that I have made yoga an integral part of my life." Meanwhile, a special event was organized in Mumbai to mark Yoga Day, featuring the participation of over 1,000 children of deceased farmers and students from Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) schools.

Yoga is not just about touching your toes; it is about connecting with yourself

Kubbra's message beautifully captures the spirit of International Yoga Day. Through her post, she has also inspired people to embrace consistent effort and self-acceptance rather than striving for perfection. Whether it is finding balance, building strength, calming the mind, or spending a few moments with oneself through yoga, every small step counts.

On the occasion of International Yoga Day, actress Kubbra Sait shared an emotional video and an inspiring message, explaining that for her, yoga is not mere-



ly a means to gain physical flexibility or master difficult *asanas*, but a journey of connecting deeply with oneself. Kubbra writes, "People think yoga is

about touching your toes. For me, yoga means connecting with myself and turning inwards." Her message reminds us that yoga is as much a path to mental and emotional balance as it is a physical practice. Sharing her personal experience, Kubbra candidly admits that not every day is the same. She writes, "Some days I feel completely at ease. Other days, my balance wavers. Especially after turning 40, it often feels like I have to have a conversation with every single muscle in my body." Kubbra adds that the goal of yoga is not perfection, but simply showing up for oneself every



day, regardless of how the body feels. Kubbra's message beautifully captures the spirit of International Yoga Day. Through her post, she inspires people to embrace consistent effort and self-acceptance rather than striving for perfection. Whether it is finding balance, building strength, calming the mind, or spending a few moments with oneself, every small step counts. Expressing gratitude for being part of the global yoga community, she writes, "I feel fortunate to be part of this beautiful family. Yoga is our heritage, and we must cherish it." Kubbra Sait's inspiring message serves as a reminder that the true success of yoga is not measured by how far you can bend, but by how deeply you connect with your inner self.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Norway beat Senegal 3-2 to reach the knockout stage

New York/New Jersey, Agency: Norway secured their place in the last 32 of the FIFA World Cup 2026 on Monday (Tuesday Indian time) by defeating Senegal 3-2 in a thrilling match. The hero of Norway's victory was Erling Haaland, who scored two goals in the second half.

The match started brilliantly for Norway. Marcus Pedersen gave the team an early lead. Erling Haaland then played aggressively in the second half, scoring two consecutive goals to put Norway in a strong position.



However, Senegal did not give up. Ismaila Sarr made the match exciting by scoring two goals before and after Norway's third

goal. Senegal tried to equalize in the final moments, but Norway's defense held on to the lead, securing the victory and a ticket to the knockout stage.

With this win, Norway secured passage to the next round, while Senegal's situation has become more difficult. Senegal sits third in the group, without points from two matches.

Now, to keep alive Senegal's hopes of advancing to the next round, it must win its final match against Iraq and rely on other results as well.

Messi scored twice as Argentina defeated Austria to reach the knockout stage



Dallas, Agency: Argentina maintained the confidence of its fans in the FIFA World Cup 2026, securing a place in the knockout stage by defeating Austria 2-0 on Tuesday (Indian Standard Time). Captain Lionel Messi scored both goals to lead the team to victory, once again proving his worth on the big stage.

The city of Dallas was awash in Argentine colors before the match. Thousands of supporters participated in the traditional Banderazo ceremony, decorating the city in blue and white. The stadium was also filled with tremendous enthusiasm on the day of the match.

Argentina had a major opportunity early in the match when a penalty was awarded after a video review.

However, Messi failed to convert the opportunity, his shot going wide. This was his first penalty miss for the country since his missed penalty against Poland in the 2022 World Cup.

Austria then pressured Argentina for some time and kept the match in balance. However, in the 39th minute, Argentina took the lead.

Thiago Almada cleverly missed Facundo Medina's pass, and the ball reached Messi. Messi, with a composed finish, gave Argentina a 1-0 lead.

Austria attempted a comeback in the second half and created a dangerous opportunity, but goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez made a brilliant save.

Argentina had several chances to extend their lead, but the second goal came in the final moments. In extra time, the Austrian defense failed to clear the ball, and Messi capitalized on the opportunity to score a second goal from close range, sealing the match.

With this victory, Argentina secured passage to the knockout stage and gave thousands of supporters in Dallas a chance to celebrate a memorable victory.

FIFA World Cup 2026: France beat Iraq 3-0 to reach the knockouts

Philadelphia, Agency: France on Tuesday beat Iraq 3-0 to secure their place in the last 32 of the FIFA World Cup 2026. The most talked about aspect of the match was Kylian Mbappe's brilliant performance and the long interruption in the match due to bad weather.

France's captain Kylian Mbappe played a key role in the team's victory by scoring his second double goal in the tournament. There was a gap of about three hours between his two goals, as the start of the second half had to be postponed for about two hours due to heavy storm and rain in the area.

With these goals, Mbappé's total goals in the World Cup reached 16, equaling the record held by former German striker Miroslav Klose. Previously, Argentina's star player Lionel Messi had reached a new World Cup record of 18 goals by scoring two goals against Austria.

Mbappé has now scored four goals in this World Cup and is just one goal behind Messi in the race for the

Golden Boot.

France dominated the match from the start. Mbappé scored the first goal in the 14th minute. After receiving a pass from Michael Oliseh, he unleashed a brilliant strike from outside the box, which Iraq goalkeeper Ahmed Bassil failed to stop.

The start of the second half was delayed due to weather, but even after a comeback, Iraq failed to regain momentum. In the 54th minute, Ousmane Dembélé capitalized on an Iraqi defensive error, giving Mbappé an easy opportunity, and he scored his second goal.

Then, in the 66th minute, reigning Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele scored, extending France's lead to 3-0. Dembele controlled a brilliant pass from Michael Oliseh and headed the ball into the net.



The weather was also a topic of discussion during the match. Heavy rain and a storm began near the end of the first half, forcing spectators to evacuate to safer parts of the stadium. After approximately an hour and 40 minutes, the players returned for warm-ups, and the game resumed after the water accumulated on the field was cleared.

FIFA World Cup: Germany suffers major setback as star defender Nico Schlotterbeck ruled out of the tournament



Boston, Agency: Germany has suffered a major setback in the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Star defender Nico Schlotterbeck has been ruled out of the tournament due to a serious ankle injury. He suffered the injury during a group stage match.

Schlotterbeck had to leave the field before halftime. A subsequent medical examination confirmed a serious ligament tear in his left ankle, which could keep him out for an extended period.

Germany head coach Julian Nagelsmann described the injury as a major loss for the team. He said that Schlotterbeck was not only a key defensive player, but his playmaking ability and on-field leadership were also crucial to the team. The coach also stated that the player's

positive attitude is inspiring to the team and that he will remain with them for the time being. According to him, Schlotterbeck's presence will also help boost the players' morale in the dressing room.

However, Germany has the relief of having already topped its group and advanced to the knockout stage.

The team also has other experienced defensive options, who are expected to shoulder responsibility in the upcoming matches.

Germany is now preparing for its final group stage match, after which its focus will shift to the knockout stages. The four-time world champions have reached the knockout stage after a long gap and are considered among the title contenders.

Ireland's T20 Squad for the Series Against India Has Been Announced, with Lorcan Tucker Named Captain



Ireland, Agency: Ireland's T20 squad against India announced; Lorcan Tucker named captain - Cricket News in Hindi/Belfast. Ireland has announced its squad for the T20I series against India. Lorcan Tucker will captain a 14-member team, with several senior players ruled out due to injury. The two countries will play a two-match series on June 26th and 28th. Lorcan Tucker has served as vice-captain since 2025. He has previously served as captain twice, but now he is taking over the captaincy from Paul Stirling. With this, Ireland now has different captains across all three formats. Matthew Holland and Jay Mundhra have been called up to the senior team for the first time, while young bowler Reuben Wilson has been called up to the T20I squad for the first time since his Test debut against New Zealand last month.

Major changes have been

made to Ireland's T20I squad. Six regular players are out with serious injuries, including Josh Little (stress fracture), Mark Adair (rectus muscle tear), regular white-ball star Paul Stirling (calf muscle tear), Curtis Campher (hand fracture), Barry McCarthy (complete ACL tear), and Jordan Neal (shoulder and foot injuries).

Tucker, who has played 159 international matches, said of his leadership philosophy, "My approach to captaincy is to be amongst the team and lead by example.

I feel I have a good relationship with all the staff and players and can work with integrity and empathy.

I feel my job is to get the best out of them and give them the opportunity to do wonders for themselves and for us as a team. If I ask them to do something, I want it to be clear that I've asked myself to do the same things first."

Mushfiqur Rahim Named ICC Men's Player of the Month for the Second Time



Dubai, Agency: Veteran Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for May 2026. Mushfiqur won the award for the second time in his career, beating out compatriot Taijul Islam and Nepal all-rounder Dipendra Singh Airee. He previously won the title in May 2021. Mushfiqur played a key role in Bangladesh's 2-0 Test series win against Pakistan as part of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle. The 39-year-old scored 253 runs in two Tests at an average of 63.25, helping Bangladesh move up the

World Test Championship standings. Mushfiqur scored 71 runs in the first innings of the first Test against Pakistan, followed by a 22-run knock. He then scored 137 runs in the second innings of the second Test in Sylhet.

After receiving the award, Mushfiqur said, "It's a great honor to be named ICC Player of the Month again. I'm very happy to receive this recognition for my performances in Test cricket. My teammate Taijul played a key role in our memorable series win against Pakistan. This victory will be remembered by all of us for a long time. Our victory also helped us move up the ICC World Test Championship standings, making this achievement even more special for the team. I thank my teammates and support staff for their support. I look forward to contributing further to Bangladesh's success in the coming months."

Mushfiqur Rahim's consistent performances, leadership, and ability to play under pressure earned him the Player of the Series award, leading Bangladesh to a resounding 2-0 victory.

This new honor highlights Mushfiqur's importance to Bangladesh cricket. Despite being in the twilight of his international career, Mushfiqur continues to play a key role in the team's success. His performance against Pakistan not only led to a memorable series win but also strengthened Bangladesh's hopes of reaching the World Test Championship final.