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Closer Than Ever

Iran on Agreement

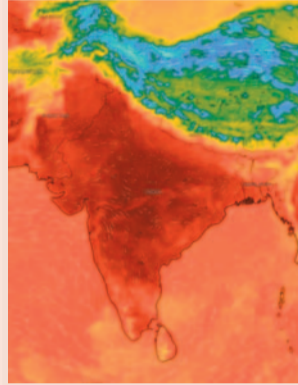


Tehran: Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has indicated that a landmark agreement with the United States could be finalized soon, saying a deal to extend the ceasefire, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and resume negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme "has never been closer." In a statement posted on social media, Araghchi urged observers to avoid speculation about the contents of the proposed agreement until it is officially concluded,

stressing that details would be made public at the appropriate time. The comments come amid growing optimism from both sides. Senior U.S. officials have also acknowledged that negotiations are nearing completion, with reports suggesting the agreement could be signed within days if remaining issues are resolved. Pakistan, which has played a mediating role in the discussions, also expressed confidence about the progress. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stated that an agreed draft had been reached and that efforts were underway to complete the remaining formalities. Despite the positive signals, differences reportedly remain over key provisions, particularly the timeline for releasing Iran's frozen assets and the sequencing of nuclear-related commitments. While Iranian sources have suggested that funds could be unfrozen immediately, U.S. officials have maintained that any economic relief would depend on Iran fulfilling its obligations under the agreement. President Donald Trump welcomed the latest remarks from Tehran as encouraging but warned against misinformation regarding the proposed terms, insisting that public reports circulating in Iranian media did not accurately reflect the negotiated text.

El Nino Arrives

IMD Officially Confirms



New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has officially confirmed the onset of El Nino conditions over the equatorial Pacific Ocean, warning that the climate phenomenon is expected to strengthen during the ongoing southwest monsoon season. In its latest ENSO and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) bulletin for June 2026, the IMD reported that sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific have crossed the

threshold required to classify El Nino conditions. The atmospheric response has also aligned with the warming, indicating that the ocean-atmosphere system is now firmly in an El Nino phase. According to the IMD, model forecasts suggest that the warming will intensify over the coming months, with moderate to strong El Nino conditions likely to prevail through much of the monsoon season. The latest Nino 3.4 index—a key measure used to track the phenomenon—has risen above the critical +0.5°C mark. The department also noted the presence of unusually warm subsurface waters across the equatorial Pacific, signalling that additional heat is likely to rise to the surface and reinforce El Nino in the weeks ahead. El Nino is a naturally occurring climate pattern characterised by above-normal sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. In India, it has historically been associated with weaker monsoon rainfall, extended dry spells, higher temperatures and, in some cases, drought-like conditions. However, the IMD emphasised that El Nino is only one of several factors influencing the monsoon. It observed that neutral Indian Ocean Dipole conditions currently prevail and are expected to continue, meaning they are unlikely to significantly offset.

Musk Becomes

World's First Trillionaire



New York: Elon Musk has become the world's first trillionaire after shares of SpaceX surged on their market debut following the largest initial public offering (IPO) in history. The company's blockbuster listing raised more than \$75 billion, with SpaceX shares jumping over 20 percent in early trading on the Nasdaq. The rally pushed the company's valuation close to \$2 trillion and propelled Musk's personal fortune beyond the trillion-dollar

mark. Celebrating the milestone at SpaceX's Starbase facility in Texas, Musk reiterated his long-term vision of making humanity a multi-planetary species. "SpaceX wants to take people to the Moon, Mars and ultimately beyond," he said, expressing confidence that the company's technological ambitions would become reality. The IPO has generated enormous excitement on Wall Street and is widely expected to pave the way for a wave of major public offerings by artificial intelligence companies in the coming months. Trading under the ticker symbol SPCX, the company combines its space launch business, satellite internet operations and artificial intelligence ventures. Investors responded enthusiastically, with reports indicating the offering was oversubscribed several times over. The successful listing has also created substantial wealth for thousands of current and former employees and early investors, many of whom benefited from stock allocations. Despite revenue growth, SpaceX continues to invest heavily in expansion and AI infrastructure, posting losses as it pursues ambitious projects ranging from satellite broadband to advanced computing capabilities, future Mars missions. Milestone cements Musk's position as world's wealthiest individual.

CM Revanth's Flight Diverted

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy faced an unexpected travel disruption on Friday night after his IndiGo flight from New Delhi to Hyderabad was diverted to Bengaluru due to adverse weather conditions. The flight, which was scheduled to land at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport around 9:15 p.m., could not receive landing clearance as heavy rain and poor visibility affected operations at the airport. Hyderabad witnessed widespread rainfall on Friday evening, with several parts of the city recording moderate to heavy showers accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds.

DoT Clears Self-Driving Tech

New Delhi: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has removed licensing requirements for spectrum used by short-range automotive radar systems, paving the way for wider adoption of advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) and self-driving technologies in India. Under the new policy, automakers can use the 77-81 GHz frequency band for radar-based safety applications and the 5.9 GHz band for vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communications without obtaining separate government licences. The 77-81 GHz band supports technologies such as collision avoidance, adaptive cruise control, blind-spot monitoring and emergency braking, while the 5.9 GHz



spectrum enables vehicles to communicate with each other and with roadside infrastructure, enhancing road safety and traffic management. The decision aligns India with international standards followed in markets such as the United States and Europe, allowing manufacturers to deploy globally standardised hardware instead of developing India-specific systems. This is expected to reduce costs and accelerate the rollout of advanced safety features. Global luxury brands such as Mercedes-Benz and BMW could introduce their existing radar-based assistance technologies more easily in India, while domestic manufacturers including Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra may be able to expand ADAS

features across a broader range of vehicles. Radar sensors play a crucial role in autonomous driving by measuring distances, detecting obstacles and enabling safety functions such as automatic emergency braking and adaptive cruise control. V2X technology further enhances safety by allowing vehicles to exchange information about road hazards, sudden braking events and approaching emergency vehicles. The DoT has also prescribed technical operating limits for exempted equipment. The maximum average equivalent isotropic radiated power (EIRP) has been capped at 50 dBm, the peak EIRP at 55 dBm, and the maximum emission bandwidth at 4 GHz.

Heavy Rains Lash Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Several parts of Hyderabad experienced moderate to heavy rainfall on Friday evening, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue a yellow alert for the city and nearby districts. The showers, accompanied by gusty winds and thunderstorms, led to concerns over waterlogging and traffic disruptions. Areas including Koti, Suchitra, Rajendranagar, Attapur, Manikonda, Nampally, Shamshabad, Tarnaka, Miyapur and Madinaguda recorded intense rainfall. Thunderstorms were also reported from multiple localities across the city. According to IMD forecasts, moderate to heavy rain is expected to continue through the night, with showers likely to persist until around 1 a.m. Residents have been advised to remain cautious while travelling, as slippery roads and reduced visibility could affect traffic conditions. The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) said its Disaster Response Force (DRF) and Monsoon Emergency Teams (MET) have been deployed across the city to address complaints related to waterlogging, fallen trees and other rain-related issues. Officials said teams are actively working to clear blocked roads and drain accumulated water. An orange alert has been issued for Rangareddy, Medak, Rajanna Sircilla, Jagtial and Nizamabad districts, where thunderstorms with wind speeds of 50-60 kmph are expected.

Jaishankar Slams Europe

Helsinki: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar strongly criticised what he described as Europe's double standards on security and foreign policy during an interaction in Finland, arguing that several European countries have supplied weapons that were later used against India. Speaking at the Kultaranta Talks during a panel discussion on emerging geopolitical competition, Jaishankar responded to questions regarding India's ties with Russia and its continued purchase of Russian oil. He remarked that while India has never posed a security threat to Europe, European-made weapons have, for years, found their way into the hands of countries that have targeted India. "No European country has been attacked with Indian weapons. I wish I could say the



same about European weapons being used against India," Jaishankar said, adding that India has never taken actions that endangered European security. Defending India's decision to import Russian crude oil, the minister said the purchases were driven by economic necessity and energy security rather than ideology. According to him, India buys oil

based on cost and availability, and market conditions following the Ukraine conflict made Russian supplies a practical option. Jaishankar also argued that Europe's increased procurement of Middle Eastern energy had reduced supplies available to traditional buyers like India, pushing New Delhi to diversify its sourcing strategy. Addressing criticism from Western nations, he suggested that policies on sanctions and tariffs have often been inconsistent, noting that measures imposed over Russian oil purchases were later relaxed. India has consistently maintained that its energy decisions are guided by national interest and the welfare of its citizens while continuing to advocate dialogue and diplomacy as the preferred path toward resolving international conflicts.

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EDITORIAL

SIR: Strengthening
Electoral Accountability

The integrity of a democracy rests on the credibility of its electoral rolls. An election can be considered truly free and fair only when every eligible citizen has the opportunity to vote and ineligible or duplicate entries are effectively removed. In this context, the process of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls assumes significant importance as a tool for strengthening accountability within the democratic system. SIR is designed to update voter lists through systematic verification of entries, correction of errors, inclusion of newly eligible voters, and deletion of deceased, duplicate, or otherwise ineligible names. In an era marked by rapid urban migration, changing residences, and increasing population mobility, periodic and intensive revisions help ensure that electoral databases reflect ground realities. From the perspective of democratic accountability, accurate voter rolls reinforce public confidence in election outcomes. They reduce the possibility of impersonation, electoral fraud, and administrative lapses that could undermine the legitimacy of elected governments. Political parties and candidates are also held to a higher standard when elections are conducted on the basis of transparent and verified electoral records. However, the success of SIR depends not merely on administrative efficiency but also on fairness and inclusiveness. Verification drives must avoid inadvertently excluding genuine voters due to documentation gaps, migration, or procedural complexities. Election authorities should provide ample opportunities for citizens to verify their details, submit claims, and raise objections through accessible online and offline mechanisms. Public awareness campaigns and cooperation from local administrations can further minimize errors. Technology can play a transformative role in this process. Digital databases, geographic mapping, and secure data-sharing between government agencies can improve accuracy while reducing duplication. At the same time, safeguards for privacy and data security are essential to maintain public trust. Critics often express concerns that large-scale revisions may create confusion or lead to wrongful deletions if implemented hastily. Such concerns underscore the need for transparency, independent oversight, and robust grievance redressal systems. Every deletion or correction should be backed by due process and open to review. Ultimately, democracy is not sustained merely by conducting elections but by ensuring that every legitimate vote counts equally. A well-executed Special Intensive Revision serves this objective by making electoral rolls cleaner, more reliable, and more representative. When carried out impartially and with adequate safeguards, SIR strengthens electoral accountability, enhances institutional credibility.

India's Exports Double in 12 Years

Telangana Urged to Tap Global Markets

Hyderabad, June 12 (PIB): The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with APEDA, organised an interaction programme in Hyderabad highlighting 12 years of export-led growth and encouraging Telangana businesses to seize emerging global opportunities. Speaking at the event, Economic Adviser Priya P. Nair said India's total exports have nearly doubled from around USD 468 billion in 2013-14 to over USD 860 billion in 2025-26, driven by policy reforms, market diversification, digital trade initiatives and strong growth in both merchandise and services exports. She noted that sectors including engineering goods, electronics, pharmaceuticals, marine products, textiles, agriculture, spices and gems and jewellery have recorded significant expansion despite global economic challenges. Digital

platforms such as Trade Connect and targeted support for MSMEs have also improved trade facilitation. N. Bhavanisri, IAS, Secretary of the Trade & Commerce Department and National Turmeric Board, highlighted India's dominance in the spice sector, noting that the country produces nearly 12 million metric tonnes annually but exports only about 13 per cent, indicating vast untapped potential. She also pointed to the success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), particularly in Telangana, as engines of exports in pharmaceuticals, IT, aerospace and defence. Pharmexcil Director General K. Raja Bhanu said Indian pharmaceutical products now reach more than 190 countries, reinforcing India's reputation as a global healthcare supplier. Representing APEDA, R.P. Naidu underlined Telangana's contribution of



₹8,000-10,000 crore to India's non-basmati rice exports and highlighted the state's emergence as a confectionery export hub through companies such as Ravi Foods and Karachi Bakery. He also spoke about support for GI-tagged Banganapalli mango exports and organic trade initiatives. Officials from ECGC and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) explained credit insurance

mechanisms, digital export services, Free Trade Agreement benefits and government schemes aimed at helping exporters, especially MSMEs, expand into international markets. The speakers jointly urged businesses to make greater use of government support programmes, improve quality standards and certifications, and strengthen Telangana's role in India's growing export economy.

Revanth Defends
Denial of PK Meeting

New Delhi: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has defended the government's decision to deny permission for Pawan Kalyan to hold a public meeting on Telangana Formation Day, stating that the move was based solely on law-and-order considerations. Addressing the media during an informal interaction in New Delhi, Revanth Reddy clarified that Pawan Kalyan was welcome to visit

Telangana, participate in political activities, or even contest elections in the State. However, he said the government could not ignore intelligence and security inputs warning of potential law-and-order challenges linked to the proposed gathering. The Chief Minister pointed out that governments must act responsibly whenever security agencies flag concerns, adding that similar restrictions had been imposed in the past by the Andhra Pradesh government on the tours and public meetings of former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Revanth Reddy also renewed his criticism of Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, questioning the Centre's financial support to Telangana and demanding clarity on allocations for key infrastructure projects. He alleged that delays in projects such as the Regional Ring Road and other development initiatives were hurting the State's growth. The Chief Minister further accused sections of the BJP leadership of allowing political considerations to delay major projects, including the proposed Metro Rail expansion in Malkajgiri. He maintained that public welfare should take precedence over political rivalry and urged greater cooperation between the Centre and the State on pending development issues.

KTR Blames Congress
for Natarajan Setback

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao has accused the Congress of being responsible for the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination, alleging that internal betrayal and conspiracy within the party led to her setback. KTR claimed that instead of blaming political rivals, the Congress should investigate who allegedly leaked information

about the legal proceedings involving Natarajan and enabled BJP leaders to challenge her nomination before the Returning Officer. He asserted that party insiders were responsible for undermining her candidature and urged Rahul Gandhi to identify those working against the party from within. At the same time, KTR maintained that Natarajan had been treated unfairly, arguing that the Election Commission's decision was inconsistent with similar cases in other states. He also alleged that factional politics and internal rivalries have long plagued the Congress and contributed to the controversy. Meanwhile, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy rejected claims of internal sabotage and instead blamed the BJP and the Returning Officer for Natarajan's disqualification. He alleged that the nomination was rejected through procedural misuse and described the episode as an attack on democratic values. Following the dismissal of her plea by the Supreme Court, Meenakshi Natarajan said the issue was larger than her individual candidature and vowed to continue the legal and political fight, describing the controversy as a setback for democratic processes rather than a personal defeat.

Trump Blames Iran
Over 'Indian Ships' Attack

Washington: US President Donald Trump has accused Iran of carrying out a drone attack on vessels he described as "Indian ships" near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, calling the alleged incident "totally unacceptable" and warning that such actions threaten regional stability. Trump's remarks came amid heightened tensions in the Gulf and ongoing diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran. He alleged that the reported drone strike on Indian-linked vessels could derail attempts to reduce hostilities and reopen vital shipping lanes in the region. The US President also criticised Iran for what he described as misleading claims about the status of negotiations between the two countries, insisting that attacks on commercial shipping are incompatible with efforts to reach a broader understanding. The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, handling a significant portion of global oil shipments. Any disruption to navigation in the area raises concerns for international trade and energy security. According to available reports, the vessels targeted were linked to India, though officials have not released detailed information regarding the extent of damage or casualties. The alleged incident adds to a series of maritime security concerns that have affected commercial shipping in the Gulf region. India has previously voiced concerns over attacks on merchant vessels carrying Indian crew members and has sought stronger measures to ensure the safety of maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz and adjoining waters. Trump maintained that diplomatic efforts with Iran were continuing but stressed that incidents targeting commercial ships would complicate progress toward any agreement aimed at easing regional tensions.

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Williamson Walks Away

New Zealand batting great Kane Williamson has announced his retirement from international cricket, saying it “just feels like the right time” to step away after a distinguished 16-year career. The 35-year-old revealed that the decision came after New Zealand’s first Test against England at Lord’s, where he reflected on his future while sitting on the iconic balcony. Following discussions with his family and close members of the team management, Williamson informed teammates of his decision. “I didn’t want to continue unless I could fully commit,” Williamson said, adding that he believes a new generation is ready to take the team forward. “When I look at the dressing room and see the talent, it feels like the right time for me to step away.” His retirement comes despite New Zealand being in the middle of a three-Test series against England and with major home assignments against India and Australia on the horizon. However, Williamson stressed that the decision was made in the best interests of the team. Head coach Rob Walter described the veteran’s departure as a significant loss, calling him “a legend” whose commitment to the team remained unwavering until the very end. One of Williamson’s proudest memories remains leading New Zealand to victory in the 2021 World Test Championship final against India, a milestone he described as the culmination of years of growth and resilience. Having already stepped away from a central contract to balance family life and cricket, Williamson said he leaves international cricket with gratitude and no regrets. While he has not ruled out coaching or franchise cricket in the future, he plans to spend time with his family before deciding on the next chapter. Widely regarded as one of New Zealand’s finest cricketers, Williamson said he hopes to be remembered as someone who “cared deeply about the team” and remained committed to his craft throughout his career.



Nora Ignites Canada’s FIFA Opener

Bollywood star Nora Fatehi delivered a dazzling performance at Toronto’s BMO Field, officially launching Canada’s leg of the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a vibrant opening ceremony that celebrated music, culture and football. The Canadian-born, Moroccan-origin performer debuted her official FIFA anthem, “Siir Siir,” created in collaboration with Vegeedream and Sanjoy. Blending Moroccan Darija, Arabic, French and English, the energetic track draws inspiration from a popular Moroccan football chant meaning “go, go” and aims to unite fans across nations. For Nora, the event marked an emotional homecoming. Born and raised in Canada before finding fame in Bollywood, she returned to perform on one of the biggest sporting stages in front of her hometown audience. The performance followed her appearance at the closing ceremony of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The music video for “Siir Siir,” shot in Morocco, highlights street football and celebrates the sport’s grassroots origins, showcasing children playing in neighbourhoods before dreaming of the global stage. Nora’s performance adds her to an impressive lineup of artists associated with the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The tournament’s celebrations began in Mexico City with performances by Shakira, Burna Boy, J Balvin and Tyla before the opening match.

Larin Rescues Canada

Substitute Cyle Larin came to Canada’s rescue with a late goal as the FIFA World Cup co-hosts fought back to earn a 1-1 draw against Bosnia and Herzegovina in their Group B opener at BMO Field. Canada dominated possession and created several chances but found themselves trailing after Bosnia struck first in the 21st minute. A well-worked corner routine saw Sead Kolasinac flick the ball across goal for Jovo Lukic, who converted from close range to give the visitors the lead. The hosts increased the pressure after the break and came close to equalising when Richie Laryea’s effort was brilliantly cleared off the line by Kolasinac after beating the goalkeeper. With time running out, coach Jesse Marsch introduced Canada’s all-time leading scorer Cyle Larin, and the move paid immediate dividends. Just minutes after coming on, Larin received a pass from Promise David, turned smartly inside the box and fired a low shot into the bottom corner in the 78th minute to level the scores. Larin nearly completed a dramatic comeback in stoppage time, but Bosnia defender Tarik Muharemovic produced a crucial block to preserve the draw. Despite missing injured captain Alphonso Davies, Canada showed resilience and attacking intent throughout the match, controlling long spells and creating the better opportunities.

Sindhu Storms Into Australian Open Semis

India’s PV Sindhu powered into the semifinals of the Australian Open with a commanding straight-game victory over Chinese Taipei’s Chen Su Yu at the Quaycentre in Sydney. The third seed needed just 27 minutes to register a one-sided 21-6, 21-9 win, controlling the contest from start to finish. The victory marks Sindhu’s second

semifinal appearance of the 2026 season after her run to the last four at the Malaysia Open. Sindhu now faces a tough challenge against top seed and three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan. The upcoming clash will be their 29th meeting, with Sindhu holding a narrow 15-13 head-to-head edge, although Yamaguchi has won four of

their last five encounters. Meanwhile, India’s young sensation Tanvi Sharma saw her impressive campaign come to an end in the quarterfinals after losing 21-14, 21-14 to Yamaguchi. Despite the defeat, Tanvi’s strong performances and notable upsets during the tournament highlighted her growing potential on the international stage. In men’s

doubles, the Indian pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun were forced to retire during their quarterfinal match against opponents from Chinese Taipei after advancing through the earlier rounds. Sindhu’s dominant form has boosted India’s hopes of securing a title at the tournament as she prepares for another high-profile showdown.



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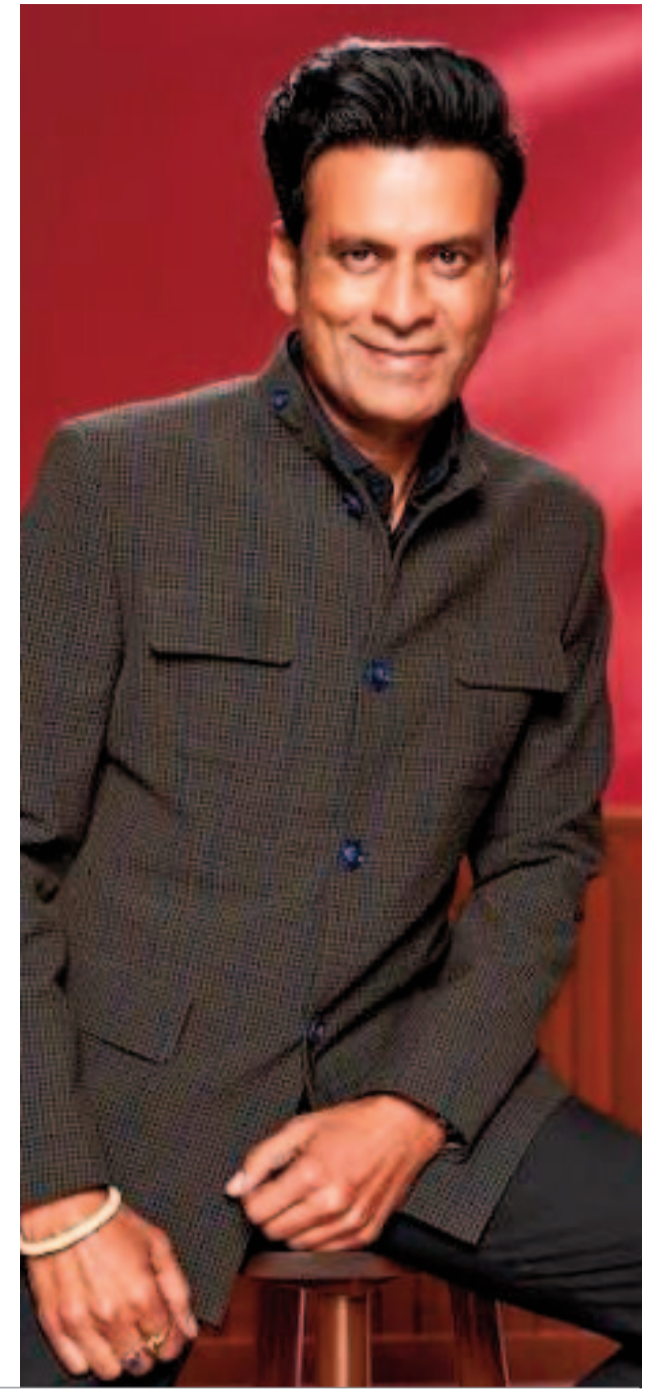




Sakshi Malik

Manoj Bajpayee Recalls Yash Chopra's Blunt Remark

Acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee has shared a memorable anecdote about legendary filmmaker Yash Chopra, recalling the director's candid remark that he "didn't make films for actors like" him. Despite the blunt comment, Bajpayee said Chopra's honesty and generosity made the experience unforgettable. Speaking on Shekhar Tonite, Manoj revealed that Yash Chopra approached him for a role in Veer-Zaara after watching his performance in Pinjar. Eager to work with the iconic filmmaker, he accepted the offer without even wanting to hear the script. "I just wanted to be directed by Yash Chopra," Bajpayee said, adding that he told the director to simply inform him about the character and shooting schedule. However, Chopra insisted that he first listen to the narration, which was later conducted by his son, Aditya Chopra. After hearing the script, Manoj jokingly requested Yash Chopra to cast him in a bigger role in the future. The veteran filmmaker responded with complete honesty: "Beta, main tere jaise actors ke liye kahan film banata hoon" ("Son, I don't make films for actors like you"). According to Bajpayee, Chopra explained that his films generally featured characters and stories that might not align with the kind of roles the actor preferred. "He didn't make false promises. That's what I admired most about him," Manoj said. The actor also disclosed that he initially refused payment for his appearance in Veer-Zaara, considering it an honour to collaborate with Chopra. The filmmaker, however, insisted on compensating him and reportedly paid him the same amount he would have earned as a lead actor. "He told me, 'I will pay you,' and he kept his word. He sent me a cheque equivalent to what I charged for leading roles at the time," Bajpayee recalled. Reflecting on his career choices, Manoj said that after the success of Satya, he deliberately avoided repetitive villain roles despite lucrative offers. Instead, he chose story-driven films such as Shool, Zubeidaa and Pinjar, decisions that helped shape his career as one of Indian cinema's most respected performers.



Bhumi Salutes Armed Forces



Actress Bhumi Pednekar says her recent visit to the Sikkim border has left her with a renewed sense of gratitude and admiration for India's armed forces, describing the experience as both humbling and inspiring. Currently on a three-day visit to Sikkim, the actor interacted with military personnel stationed near the border and learned about the region's strategic significance and history. Reflecting on the visit, Bhumi said it reinforced her belief that civilians can never fully comprehend the sacrifices made by soldiers. "I'm a very patriotic person. Visiting the border made me realise how much our armed forces do for us, while we as civilians rarely have the opportunity to give back," she

said. Bhumi added that every interaction with members of the armed forces leaves her feeling "deeply indebted and full of gratitude." Standing at the border and witnessing the challenging conditions in which soldiers serve filled her with a profound sense of national pride, she noted. The actor also described the Sikkim landscape as breathtaking despite the harsh weather, saying the experience of speaking with officers and understanding the history of the region made the visit even more meaningful. On the professional front, Bhumi was last seen in Mere Husband Ki Biwi and continues to balance commercial and socially driven projects across film and streaming platforms.

Kriti Sanon Sells Mumbai Flat



Actress Kriti Sanon, along with her mother Geeta Sanon and sister Nupur Sanon, has sold four apartments in Mumbai's Andheri West for a combined ₹8.9 crore, according to property registration documents reviewed by Square Yards. The buyer of the properties is filmmaker and casting director Mukesh Chhabra. The transac-

tions were registered on April 24, 2026, through four separate sale deeds. Two of the larger apartments, each measuring around 654 sq ft and accompanied by one parking space, were sold for ₹3.23 crore each. The remaining two units, each spanning approximately 246 sq ft, fetched ₹1.21 crore apiece. The Sanon family had acquired the four properties between 2013 and 2017 for a total investment of about ₹4.31 crore. With the latest sale valued at ₹8.9 crore, they reportedly realised a capital appreciation of nearly 107%, earning an estimated gain of ₹4.6 crore over the holding period. On the professional front, Kriti Sanon is gearing up for Cocktail 2, directed by Homi Adajania and featuring Rashmika Mandanna and Shahid Kapoor in key roles.

Kriti Kharbanda Impresses

Kriti Kharbanda is receiving widespread appreciation for her portrayal of Alia Oberoi in Rana Naidu's Season 2, with audiences and critics highlighting the role as a significant departure from her previous screen image. Known largely for her performances in romantic comedies and commercial entertainers, Kriti takes on a more serious and emotionally layered character in the latest season of the crime drama. Her portrayal of Alia Oberoi has been praised for its restraint, subtlety and emotional depth. Unlike overtly dramatic roles, Alia's character leaves a lasting impact through understated expressions and quiet intensity, fitting seamlessly into the show's gritty narrative.



Anna Lezhneva: I Felt Alone

Anna Lezhneva, wife of actor-politician Pawan Kalyan, has shared an emotional reflection on the challenges her family faced during his political journey, revealing that there were times she felt "alone" and "scared" while supporting him. Posting on Instagram, Anna looked back at Pawan Kalyan's 2024 swearing-in ceremony and described the years leading up to it as a period marked by uncertainty, criticism and emotional hardship. She said that while the public witnessed the celebrations, few understood the struggles behind the scenes. According to Anna, Pawan endured repeated insults, ridicule and setbacks but remained committed to his principles. At home, she focused on supporting their family and raising their children, often while dealing with her own fears and anxieties. "There were days I wanted to break down too. Days I was scared. Days I wondered how much more one person could endure for what he believed in," she wrote, adding that the family continued to persevere because they believed in staying true to their convictions. Anna described Pawan Kalyan's eventual political success as a deeply emotional moment rather than merely a political victory. She recalled becoming overwhelmed with tears during the swearing-in ceremony, saying the occasion represented years of sacrifice and resilience finally being recognised. Expressing her admiration for her husband, Anna concluded by saying she was proud of the man who "refused to give up" despite years of challenges. Pawan Kalyan, who founded the Jana Sena Party, currently serves as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh after his party secured a decisive victory in the 2024 Assembly elections.



Parvathy Says Advocacy Cost Her Major Films

Actress Parvathy Thiruvothu has spoken candidly about the personal and professional challenges she faced after raising her voice on issues related to women's safety in the Malayalam film industry, saying she has no regrets about taking a stand. In an interview, Parvathy revealed that her advocacy for women's rights and support for survivors of harassment resulted in her losing several major film opportunities. Despite the setbacks, she said she remains committed to speaking out against injustice. The actress credited her family and close friends for standing by her during difficult times, recalling that they provided emotional support when she received threats following her public interventions.

Gadar Is Bigger Than Dhurandhar

As Gadar: Ek Prem Katha nears its 25th anniversary, actor Ameesha Patel has reflected on the film's enduring popularity, claiming that the combined theatrical footfalls of Gadar and Gadar 2 surpass those of the Dhurandhar franchise. Speaking in a recent interview, Ameesha recalled the extraordinary response the film received not only in India but also across the border in Pakistan. She revealed that many Pakistani fans reached out to express how deeply they were moved by her portrayal of Sakina. "I had women from Pakistan calling and saying, 'Sakina made us cry.' Some parents even told me they named their daughters Sakina after watching the film," she said. The actress described Gadar as an instant blockbuster, saying it achieved full-house collections across single-screen theatres from its opening day. At the time, however, she was busy juggling multiple film projects and did not fully realise the magnitude of its success. Reflecting on the franchise's legacy, Ameesha said, "Twenty-five years later, the films are still iconic. Gadar 2 created a tsunami at the box office and added another remarkable chapter to the franchise."

