



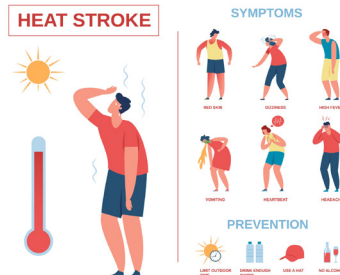
Inside News
Voice of the Jungle

Page 04



Inside News
Smriti Mandhana century drives
India to the final

Page 08



Inside News
Be careful in extreme heat:
How to recognize and protect
yourself from heatstroke?

Page 06

SENSEX → 81,205.03

NIFTY → 24,602.40

RS. VS. \$ 85.32

Gold → Rs. 86,970.00

Silver → Rs. 97.90

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 61.70

Operation Ploughing in Full Swing: Jammu Police, South Zone Seizes 7 Vehicles Involved in Illegal Mining Activities; Also Ensures Community Safety and Vigilance Through Visits to Religious and Public Gathering Places

MAY 18, 2025, JAMMU

VISHAL RAINA JAZZBAAT24



As part of its intensified action under Operation Ploughing, Jammu Police, South Zone has seized a total of 07 vehicles involved in illegal mining activities across its jurisdiction. The operation launched by SP South Sh. Ajay Sharma-JKPS and executed by SHOs and ICPPS of South Zone under the supervision of SDPO East Sh. Sheezan Bhat-JKPS, SDPO South Sh. Sunil Jasrotia, and overall guidance of SSP Jammu Sh. Joginder Singh-JKPS, carried out decisive enforcements and underscores South Zone's firm resolve to protect natural resources and enforce mining regulations.

Seizures by Police Post Belicharana:

Acting on specific inputs, police teams seized five dumpers found transporting mining material without valid permission:

1. JK02 DA 6672 – Loaded with bajri
2. JK08 H 6690 – Loaded with bajri
3. JK02 CW 1869 – Loaded with sand

4. JK02 BG 3782 – Loaded with stone
5. JK02 CR 0621 – Loaded with bajri

The District Mineral Officer (DMO), Jammu, was informed for initiating appropriate legal proceedings.

Seizures by Police Post Phallian Mandal:

Two additional dumpers were seized for illegal mining and violation of Form-A requirements:

- JK14 C 5285 – Loaded with bajri
- JK14 F 8193 – Loaded with bajri

These vehicles were engaged in unauthorized extraction and transportation of minerals, violating prescribed norms.

The Jammu Police, South Zone, continues its operations to dismantle illegal mining networks while promoting lawful environmental practices. The latest seizures are a part of ongoing efforts to prevent degradation of natural resources and maintain law and order.

Visits to Religious places and Gatherings:

In a bid to strengthen community relations and ensure public safety, all SHOs and ICPPs under Jammu Police, South Zone, visited key places of public gathering including Satsang Ghars, Gurdwaras, Temples, and other religious sites within their respective jurisdictions. These visits were aimed at reviewing security arrangements, identifying any potential vulnerabilities, and reassuring the public of the police's commitment to their safety. Officers also interacted with religious heads and local residents, encouraging continued cooperation and vigilance. The initiative reflects Jammu Police's dedication to maintaining a secure and peaceful environment through visible policing and community partnership.

Jammu Police appeals to the public to report any illegal mining or suspicious activities around the religious places. Active citizen participation is key to preserving ecological integrity and upholding the law.

“The Unseen Battle : Students and The Weight of Expectations”

KAMRAN TANTRAY

JAMMU, MAY 18



In the quiet corners of countless homes and hostel rooms, a silent war rages on—one that rarely makes headlines until it's too late. This war isn't fought with weapons, but with numbers, ranks, and expectations. It's a battle where students, armed only with dreams and sharpened pencils, struggle against a system that measures worth in marks and defines success by a single exam result. Behind every smiling report card and congratulatory post lies a harsher truth—of sleepless nights, paralyzing anxiety, and the fear of falling short. While society celebrates toppers, it often forgets those who stumble under the crushing weight of expectations. This article seeks to pull back the curtain on a crisis that has remained unseen for far too long—the psychological toll of competitive exams and the heartbreaking reality of student suicides in their wake.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in India, over 13,000 student suicides were reported in 2022 alone. These are not just numbers—they are lives lost, families shattered,

dreams extinguished. Competitive exams like NEET, JEE, and others are often regarded as gateways to a “secure future.” But for many, they become pressure cookers. The stakes are so high, and the competition so intense, that failure—even by a few marks—can feel like the end of the world.

Your child is not an extension of your unfulfilled dreams. Before suggesting a career path, take time to understand their interests, strengths, and fears. A conversation can be more powerful than a command. Not every child wants to be an engineer, doctor, or IAS officer—and that's okay. A passionate artist, teacher, writer, or even a chef can be just as successful and fulfilled. Let them choose what lights them up.

Forcing a student into a course they dread is like locking them in a room with no air. Consent is not a formality—it's a fundamental right. Ask them what they want, not just what you expect. Because when you force them to choose a specific stream or wing without their consent, they get overburdened by the studies, they try

to meet the expectations of their parents and teachers. They are scolded and have to suffer humiliation if they didn't get good grades this impacts their mind adversely. Many of them try to look for an escape, as they are unable to bear the stress. They use a variety of strategies to deal with this stress, and these strategies quickly develop into serious addictions. Some of them turn to drugs, while others attempt suicide, ultimately taking their own lives.

A child battling anxiety or depression due to academic pressure needs support, not more expectations. Don't ignore signs of emotional distress—your empathy could save a life.

In the race for success, we are losing our children. Not because they weren't capable, but because they were never heard, never understood, and never given the space to fail safely. Behind every topper's photograph is a line of silent sufferers whose stories we ignore. Let this not be just another article. Let it be the beginning of a collective awakening—a promise to choose empathy over ego, listening over lecturing, and love over expectations.

Bata

KEEP CHANGING.
KEEP STYLING.

SALE

UPTO **50% OFF***

*T&C Apply.

AATOMIZE
NEVER COMPROMISE

आटा चक्की खरीदने से पहले
वह सब कुछ जो आपको जानना चाहिए

- SAFETY
- HYGIENE
- ACCESSORIES
- CONVENIENCE
- QUALITY CONTROL
- POWER CONSUMPTION
- SPACE AND ECONOMICS
- A STAINLESS STEEL BODY

+91 87390 87390 | info@aatomize.com | www.aatomize.com | f i y t

Sakeena Itoo Conducts Extensive Tour of DH Pora Constituency

DANISHWAR HAMEED

KULGAM, MAY 18

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today undertook an extensive tour of the Damhal Hanjipora (DH Pora) Constituency, visiting several villages and hamlets to directly engage with residents and assess their concerns and development needs on the ground.

During the tour, the Minister interacted with local residents, community representatives, and Mohalla committees, gathering firsthand insights into issues ranging from healthcare and road connectivity to power and water supply.

Sakeena Itoo emphasized the government's commitment to grassroots governance and public service, underscoring the importance of being present and responsive to citizens' needs. "The present government is built on the vote and trust of the people. Our constant presence on the ground reflects our dedication to addressing public issues effectively," she said.

She reassured the public that all genuine



grievances and developmental demands will be taken up with urgency. "Public service is the core objective of this government, and every concern raised will be addressed promptly," the Minister affirmed.

The tour is seen as part of the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen direct communication with the people and ensure effective delivery of essential services across all regions.

India-Pakistan Truce to Continue Indefinitely, says Indian Army

PRATIKSHA GHOSH

SRINAGAR MAY 18, 2025

The Indian Army has affirmed that the ceasefire agreement with Pakistan, established on May 12, 2025, remains in effect without any specified end date. As per the media reports, ceasefire's expiration, the Army clarified that no such termination has been scheduled.

"As far as the continuation of the break in hostilities, as decided during the DG-MOs' interaction on May 12, is concerned, there is no expiry date to it," stated an official Army communiqué. Additionally, the Army confirmed that no talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan are scheduled for today.

This clarification follows a period of intense military engagement between the two nations, sparked by a militant attack in Pahalgam on April 22, which resulted in significant casualties and infrastructure damage on both sides of the Line of Control. The subsequent ceasefire was brokered with the assistance of international diplomacy, aiming to de-escalate tensions in the region.



While the ceasefire holds, Indian officials have indicated that its longevity is contingent upon Pakistan's adherence to commitments against cross-border terrorism. The Government of India has also empowered its military with emergency procurement capabilities under Operation Sindoor, signaling preparedness to respond to any future provocations.

Residents in the Kashmir region, having endured the brunt of recent hostilities, express cautious optimism. Many hope for lasting peace but remain wary, given the historical volatility of the area. As the situation develops, both nations' commitments to the ceasefire will be closely seen by the international community, with the hope that this marks a step toward sustained peace in the region.

Beginning on August 15, the Andhra government will provide free RTC bus transportation for women

JAZZBAAT DESK

MAY 18, 2025



One of the TDP-led NDA government's Super Six pledges, the free travel program for women in RTC buses, will go into effect on August 15.

Speaking at a public gathering in Kurnool district's Panyam Assembly constituency on Saturday, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu declared that the free RTC bus travel program for women would begin on August 15, Independence Day.

It's a people's government here. We are drawing significant investments to the state while guaranteeing the well-being of the impoverished and oppressed. 4.51 lakh people would be employed by the 76 projects we have already brought in, totaling Rs 4.96 lakh crore, he stated.

"We are offering social security pensions ranging from Rs 4,000 to Rs 15,000 to the eligible people, which is unparalleled in the country," Naidu remarked in reference to NDA welfare programs. We are feeding the underprivileged via Anna Can-

teens. We are providing three free LPG cylinders annually under Deepam 2.0. Mega DSC will be used to fill teacher positions. Under the Thalliki Vandanam plan, ladies with children enrolled in school would have Rs 15,000 paid to their bank accounts prior to the start of the new school year.

When Naidu visited C-Camp Rythu Bazaar, he spoke with sanitation workers and farmers.

"Cleanliness is essential for everyone," he remarked, highlighting the Swachh Andhra and Swarna Andhra project, which takes place on the third Saturday of each month. We have to maintain the cleanliness of our homes and surrounds. Clean thinking is fostered by a clean environment. In today's world, a lot of people have health problems. Everybody needs to do yoga every day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Visakhapatnam on June 21 in honor of International Yoga Day. From May 21 to June 21, we will have yoga classes throughout the state," he stated.

To emphasize the value of recycling, the CM told a tale about Gautama Buddha. A student requests a new robe from the Buddha in the story since his old one is ripped. He receives a fresh one from Buddha. When questioned later about what happened to the old robe, the disciple explains that he used it as a bedsheet, a curtain, and then a kitchen cleaning cloth. The disciple is commended by the Buddha for using it sensibly. We can learn from this story that nothing should be wasted. "Everything can be recycled or used again," he said.

"We want Andhra Pradesh to become an environmentally net-zero state. 8.5 million metric tons of trash were left in metropolitan areas by the previous administration. I have directed Narayana, the Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, to remove all trash by October 2. 5.5 million tonnes of garbage have been cleared thus far," he said.

Tasmac MD is questioned for ten hours as the ED raid proceeds

THE JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

18 MAY



On Saturday, the Enforcement Directorate carried out its second day of a search operation at ten locations in Chennai related to the purported Rs 1,000 crore Tasmac bribery scheme, which started on Friday morning.

Once more, Tasmac Managing Director S Visakan was brought to the Enforcement Directorate's Nungambakkam office for questioning, where he spent at least ten hours being questioned. According to sources, Deva, a well-known hotel owner, was also called to the agency's office to be questioned.

In the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case that it has registered, the ED is conducting the searches

in order to gather evidence regarding suspected money laundering. Based on 41 FIRs filed by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) about corruption in the state-owned liquor marketing corporation, the agency has scheduled the case.

Ongoing raids have not yet been officially noted by ED.

During the first week of March, Tasmac's Egmore office and the offices of many distilleries and bottling facilities that provide booze to the government company were searched.

The central agency searched properties connected to film producer Akash Bhaskaran of Dawn Pictures, AP Keshav Selvi

of KS Smart Solutions, a tech company that had secured contracts from several state government departments, Ratheesh Velu, a resident of Chennai who was close to high-ranking government officials, an executive of a bottling company associated with Tasmac, and a few contractors in addition to Visakan's Manapakkam residence. According to insiders, the searches are being conducted against organizations that are allegedly "conduits" for the bribe money's laundering. The ED has claimed that kickbacks in Tasmac were paid with unlawfully produced extra funds totaling Rs 1,000 crore. The agency has not yet released an official statement about the searches.

Police Attaches Property of Notorious Drug Peddler Worth Lakhs in Budgam

DANISHWAR HAMEED

MAY 18



In a significant move against drug trafficking, Police in Budgam have attached the immovable property of a known drug peddler in Nadigam area of Budgam.

The property, a single-storey residential structure built on land measuring 1 kanal and 11 marlas, is located at village Nadigam and belongs to Manzoor Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Kareem resident of Nadigam Narbal, Budgam. The estimated market value of the

property is approximately Rs. 40 lakhs.

This action was taken under Section 68-F of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in connection with FIR No. 464/2024, registered under Sections 8 and 20 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Budgam. The case pertains to the recovery of a substantial quantity of contraband (Charas) from the possession of the accused.

J&K Police remain steadfast in their

commitment to combating drug trafficking and will continue to pursue legal actions, including the attachment and confiscation of properties derived from the proceeds of drug-related activities, as per the provisions of the NDPS Act.

The general public is urged to support this initiative by sharing any information related to drug trafficking with the police. Together, we can work towards a drug-free society.

42 Unexploded Shells Destroyed in Poonch Border Areas: Army

DANISHWAR HAMEED

POONCH, MAY 18

In a significant safety operation, the Indian Army on Sunday destroyed 42 unexploded shells in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. The operation was carried out by the Army's Bomb Disposal Squad in close coordination with local police authorities.

According to an official statement, the shells were remnants of recent cross-border shelling and were located in the border villages of Jhulas, Salotri, Dharati, and Salani. The unexploded ordnance posed a serious threat to the safety and lives of local residents.

"The operation was executed with

utmost precision, strictly following standard safety protocols to ensure there was no risk to civilian life or property," the Army said.

Trained bomb disposal teams conducted the controlled detonation to safely neutralize all explosive remnants. The Army emphasized that this proactive effort underscores its commitment to protecting civilian populations and restoring normalcy in conflict-affected border areas.

Authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious objects to security forces, reaffirming ongoing efforts to secure the region.



Two brothers were detained in West Delhi for attempting to extort money

NEW DELHI, 18 MAY, 2025

THE JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

A 35-year-old man and his brother have been detained for allegedly trying to extort money from a friend in West Delhi after the guy reportedly lost Rs 80 lakh in his artificial jewelry company.

According to authorities on Saturday, the two wrote a threatening letter that included pictures of the victim's family and empty cartridges.

The defendants, Rohit Nagpal, 35, and his brother, Sagar, 30, who live on Rajan Babu Road in Adarsh Nagar, are accused of devising a scheme to demand money from their victim, a Punjabi Bagh-based businessman.

In addition, the letter threatened to harm the family if the cash was not received. When the victim received the letter, they filed a complaint.

Rohit, the complainant's close friend, admitted to orchestrating the extortion attempt while being questioned. He clarified that he and his brother were having difficulty repaying a Rs 80 lakh debt, said DCP (west) Vichitra Veer.



17 people, including 8 children, are killed in a massive building fire in Charminar

NEW DELHI, 18 MAY, 2025

THE JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

In addition to offering an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from the PMNRF to each deceased person's next of kin, PM Modi also offered his condolences to the fire victims.

A significant fire that started at a jewelry store in Gulzar House, close to the ancient Charminar, early on Sunday morning claimed the lives of at least 17 people, including eight children, and injured a number of others.

Officials said the incident was reported at approximately six in the morning. Twelve fire tenders were dispatched to the scene after receiving a distress call, according to Fire and Emergency Services staff. For several hours, efforts were made to contain the fire.

There are reportedly a number of children among the injured. For medical care, all of the casualties have been moved to surrounding hospitals. Some of the injured are said to be in critical condition.

A. Revanth Reddy, the chief minister, expressed sorrow over the event. "I have ordered officials to intensify rescue operations," he posted on social networking platform X. Additionally, he promised that the government will help the impacted families in any way possible.

G. Kishan Reddy, MP for Hyderabad and Union Minister for Coal, visited the location and assessed the situation. He spoke with authorities and asked them about the fire's origin and the current rescue operations.

In addition to expressing his sympathy to those who lost loved ones in the fire, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi declared that the next of kin of each deceased person would receive an ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF.

"Deeply distressed by the deaths brought on by a Telangana fire tragedy in Hyderabad."

To those who have lost a loved one, my condolences. I hope the injured get better fast. Each deceased person's next of kin would get an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF. In an X post referencing the Prime Minister, the PMO stated that the injured would receive Rs. 50,000.

According to preliminary findings, the fire might have been started by a short circuit. To determine the precise reason of the incident, a thorough investigation is being conducted.

Two FIRs were lodged after an Ashoka University professor was arrested for remarks made during Operation Sindoor

18 MAY

THE JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



Ali Khan Mahmudabad, an associate professor at Ashoka University in Sonapat, was given a show-cause notice by the Haryana State Commission for Women a few days ago for his comments regarding Operation Sindoor. The Haryana Police have since arrested him and filed two charges against him.

According to sources, the police opened two cases in response to accusations made by Haryana women's commission chairman Renu Bhatia and BJP Youth Morcha leader Yogesh Jathari, who is also the sarpanch of Jathari village. The associate professor was later taken into custody in Delhi.

Mahmudabad was detained in Delhi in relation to remarks he made about Operation Sindoor, according to Deputy Commissioner of Police Narendra Kadyan. Two FIRs have been filed against Mahmudabad at the Rai police station, he said.

According to him, "Yogesh Jathari's complaint under sections 196, 197, 152, and 299 of BNS prompted the first FIR to be filed, and Renu Bhatia, the chairperson of the Haryana women's commission, filed a complaint under sections 353, 79, 152, and 169 (1) of BNS to prompt the second FIR to be registered." The police will demand his remand for more investigation after he is produced in court.

"We have been informed that Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad was placed under police custody earlier today," Ashoka University said in a statement. We are still gathering information about the situation. The institution will fully collaborate with the local authorities and police during the investigation.

Asaduddin Owaisi, a member of parliament, responded to the arrest by writing on X, "Very

disturbing." If accurate, Haryana police allegedly violated the law by arresting him from Delhi. This attacks a person for his beliefs; his post wasn't sexist or anti-national. Haryana police acted after a BJP employee made a simple complaint.

The Haryana State Commission for Women sent Mahmudabad a show-cause notice on May 12 after taking suo motu cognizance of his social media posts after Operation Sindoor on May 7. He was called to appear before the Commission, and the remarks were included to the notice.

The Haryana State Commission for Women summoned me on May 12, 2025, regarding some of my social media activities, Mahmudabad claimed in a statement to the media on May 14. My attorneys represented me before the Commission today, May 14, 2025, and submitted a thorough response to these summonses. It is evident from the screenshots sent with the warning that my comments have been misinterpreted and that the Commission has no authority at all over the issue.

"The Women's Commission is a body that serves an important function, but the summons that I received do not explain how my post violates any laws protecting women or their rights," he continued. In contrast to the accusations, my piece praised the military's selection of Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sofia Qureshi for a press conference, emphasizing that the founders of our Republic's vision of an India unified in its diversity is still very much alive.

In reference to the Commission's actions, Mahmudabad declared, "This is a new form of censorship and harassment." "I trust the legal system and know that my constitutional, statutory, and fundamental rights will be upheld," he continued.

Union Minister Somanna states that Indian Railways and Konkan will unite

18 MAY

THE JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

On Saturday, V. Somanna, the Union Minister of State for Railways, promised to work toward the Konkan Railway's merger with Indian Railways.

"I took up the issue shortly after becoming MOS railways and held a meeting at Mangalore," the minister stated. I have asked Ashwini Vaishnav, the Union Minister of Railways, to allow Konkan Railways to combine with Indian Railways, and the process is on.

When questioned about the demands of the

state governments of Goa and Karnataka as well as Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis' request for the Center to merge the Konkan Railway Corporation with Indian Railways, Somanna stated that both governments must issue a NOC before the merger process can begin.

Development on the coast in particular and the state in general will be ushered in by the combination. He added that it was because to the efforts of former Defense Minister George Fernandes that the Konkan Railway Corporation came into existence.

PRESS RELEASE

Drug Peddler Nabbed with Approx. 9.55 Grams of Heroin (Chitta) Like Narcotics by Police Team Of P/S Hiranagar; 01 Motorbike Seized

KATHUA; 18 MAY

THE JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



Continuing its efforts against drug menace, J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP KATHUA SH. SHOBHIT SAKSENA -IPS today recovered approx. 9.55 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like narcotics near Shamsan Ghat area of P/S Hiranagar, 01 drug peddler arrested and seized one motorbike involved.

On 17-05-2025, acting on the intelligent input received through a reliable source, a Police team of P/S Hiranagar under the guidance of SDPO Border Sh. Dhceeraj Katoch & SHO PS Hiranagar Insp. Ashish Sharma laid down a special naka/ checking in its jurisdictional area near Shamsan Ghat Hiranagar and apprehend-

ed one person namely 1. Rana Mohd S/o Kaju R/o Manyari Rajbagh Tehsil Hiranagar enroute on Motorbike without any Reg. No. who was having 9.55 grams of heroin like substance in his possession. Thereafter the recovered narcotics alongwith said Motorbike was seized and the accused person was taken into police custody on spot. In this connection, a case under relevant sections of NDPS Act stands registered at PS Hiranagar and further investigation is underway.

Kathua Police again requests people of the area to come forward and share information about any such illicit activity with Police for the cause. Your identity will be kept confidential.



Voice of the Jungle

18 MAY
RIYA SARKAR



The fate of the Sundarbans has always been determined by the perspective of outsiders. But those who were actually born and raised on this land, whose lives and livelihoods are closely linked to this natural environment, have never been given importance. Chapal is one of them—a house of mud, a life at risk, but with deep confidence he said, “Our real home is inside the forest.”

The Indian part of the Sundarbans is spread over an area of about 4,000 square kilometers. Out of the 102 islands here, 54 are inhabited. The region is divided into six blocks in North 24 Parganas and thirteen blocks in South 24 Parganas. About 50 million people live here, who today face various crises such as cyclones, tidal surges, irregular rainfall, etc. caused by the impact of climate change.

Cyclone Aila in 2009 was a huge blow to the region. However, the previous major cyclone occurred in 1988. But in the last six years, five major cyclones, including Fani and Bulbul (2019), Amphan (2020), Yas (2021) and Remal (2024), have hit the region. Usually, we label such natural disasters as ‘natural’. But in reality, not everything is ‘natural’.

In fact, a distorted environmental policy and incompatibility with nature developed by humans over many years are the main reasons for today’s disaster. Not following the laws of nature, clearing mangrove forests, obstructing the natural flow of water, changing the hydrology of the land for monoculture agriculture—all of these things had laid the foundation for the current danger long ago.

In the colonial era, the Sundarbans were ‘jungles’—that is, ‘unused’ land—in the eyes of the British. In the 1780s, the East India Company encouraged the settlement of poor, marginalized people in the region for economic profit. The company’s financial crisis at the time, and the ‘mega corporate bailout’ of 1773—which is considered the first in history—had an impact on this decision. Their goal was to clear the mangrove forests to create land for rice cultivation.

In the 1880s, the British used the mangrove forests for timber extraction. The so-called ‘scientific forest management’ was introduced. This increased human-animal conflict. In 1883, the government announced that a reward of 50 taka would be given for killing a tiger and 10 taka for killing a tiger cub. Today, this figure may seem insignificant, but at that time it was a huge amount.

After independence, around 1980, the government focused on tiger conservation. Various laws were enacted to protect the mangroves. But as a result, the rights of local people to use the forest were reduced. Professions that had once been developed for colonial purposes were also banned.

The islands where people live now have almost no mangrove forests. The water flow

of the islands has been completely changed to make them suitable for agriculture. In other words, an agro-based system has been developed in a way that is incompatible with nature. Many people here work as fishermen or beekeepers during the monsoon, and then go out for a few months and work as daily wage laborers. But unfortunately, if the mangrove forests are brought back naturally, this agro-based economy will collapse. Therefore, the government is leaning towards protecting local livelihoods on the one hand and building concrete dams through ‘development’ projects on the other.

In this context, the author’s conversation with Chapal was a revelation. Sitting in a mud house, the author, somewhat surprised, wanted to know where they lived during storms. Chapal said that during Cyclone Amphan, they took shelter in the forest by boat. The author was stunned. Chapal laughs and says, “The forest is our second home, we go there every day to catch fish and crabs.”

This one sentence captures the real reality.

We know that mangrove forests are a powerful barrier against natural disasters—a coastal defense wall. But it is difficult for people who have grown up with an urban mindset and modern education to think of this forest as a ‘safe haven’. Yet for the people here, this forest is their protection.

The fate of the Sundarbans has been determined for centuries in the eyes of outsiders—sometimes by imagining it as a tiger habitat, sometimes by building dams, and sometimes by removing local people in the name of protecting and conserving the forest. Whether it is the ‘scientific’ theory of deforestation or economic exploitation—all decisions have been made from an outside perspective. Yet, none of the opinions of those like Chapal who have known this nature for generations have been given importance.

The world is now recognizing that mangrove forests are the birthplace and breeding ground for many marine species. They are a powerful shield against climate change—very effective in storing carbon, and resilient to cyclones, floods, and tidal surges. But the stakes in this complex reality in the Sundarbans are very high.

If appropriate policies and measures can be adopted, then it is possible to create a new economic model—using the knowledge of local, experienced people like Chapal—that works in harmony with nature, and improves local lives and livelihoods while keeping the mangrove forests intact.

If we walk this path, perhaps one day we will see that the people, forests, and economy of the Sundarbans—all can thrive, not at the cost of one another, but together.

India-Pakistan in one frame again

18 MAY
JAZZBAAT DESK



Two states were born on the same day—India and Pakistan. The British Empire was a single womb, from which two embryos emerged simultaneously. Politics, economy, culture—everything had a common tradition. Yet, eight decades after independence, India has come a long way, while Pakistan has fallen behind. India’s per capita income is now almost double that of Pakistan. While Pakistan lost East Pakistan in 1971 and broke up with the creation of Bangladesh, India has survived as one and the same state.

What is the reason behind India’s progress? Religious extremists may claim that the natural superiority of Hinduism is behind it. But this is not true. The real reason was the clear position of the framers of India’s constitution—a clear rejection of religious hatred, bigotry, and a sense of superiority.

After independence, India chose secularism, where the separation of state and religion is clear. Democracy was developed on the basis of one person, one vote. The traditional caste and gender discrimination was rejected and a modern, rational state was created. Science and education were given priority, which was not the case in Pakistan. Had Jinnah remained in power for much longer, it is doubtful whether institutions like the IITs or the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research would have been established in Pakistan.

However, this does not mean that India has always adhered to this ideal. The Emergency (1975-77) halted our democracy. State violence was at its peak in Kashmir and the Northeast. Attacks on minorities, xenophobia – these too happened. Yet these ideals remained intact to a sufficient extent that economic liberation was possible after 1991, and India continued to progress on its path of development for almost two and a half decades.

On the other hand, the influence of the military and the spread of religious fundamentalism in Pakistan reached such a level that they failed to keep pace with the world. Supporting terrorists, harboring Osama bin Laden, and nuclear proliferation further weakened their international standing.

There was a time when the ‘Indo-Pak question’ was at the center of international discourse. But the way India moved forward after 2000, it became meaningless to mention India and Pakistan together. Instead, the talk of ‘Chindia’—that is, the rise of China and India together—came up.

India was then seen by the world as an alternative face of democracy, pluralism, and economic potential. However, in recent times, especially with the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, and the subsequent government response, the ‘hyphen’ has returned—the tendency to see India and Pakistan as two similar ‘religious states’ is clear.

Former US President Donald Trump publicly commented that India and Pakistan are two ‘equally great’ countries. He said that under his mediation, both countries had agreed to a ceasefire, and that he hoped that he would be ready to do business with both countries if they behaved ‘politely’. He even offered to mediate on the “thousand-year-old Kashmir issue”.

No matter how arrogant Trump’s statement may be, he was the head of the most powerful country in the world, with which India has many important political and economic relations. Therefore, his statement cannot be completely dismissed.

Another proof of this ‘hyphen’ is found in a report in the influential British newspaper Financial Times, which says— “Two religious strongmen clash”. Here, Pakistan’s Army Chief Asim Munir and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are meant—one as a Muslim leader, the other as a Hindu leader. The same report also says that Modi has a ‘sore attitude’ towards ‘China-backed Pakistan’.

Such comparisons naturally hurt our patriotic mentality. We feel that we should not be compared with those who export terrorism—we are the world’s largest democracy, technology hub, and the country leading international organizations!

However, the reality says something different.

If we look at ourselves honestly, we have to admit—India has gone backwards a lot in the last decade. The elections are still being held, but questions are being raised about how free and fair the elections are. A section of the media has practically become the mouthpiece of the state. The role of investigative agencies and governors is very biased. Our federal structure is damaged today.

The huge personality cult built around the Prime Minister, which is built with the people’s tax money, is a bad sign for democracy.

While on one hand a female Muslim spokesperson is giving a message on behalf of India during a war, on the other hand a BJP leader’s ugly comments against

her, which are later refuted by an apology - this hypocrisy is against our pluralistic thinking.

The brave and talented journalist Mohamad Zubair, who has won everyone’s praise for his fact-finding, has also had to face death threats. The way houses have been demolished and arbitrary arrests have been made after the Pahalgam attack in Kashmir is worrying.

When the Prime Minister became the chief priest of the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the international media did not hesitate to describe him as a ‘religious strongman’.

Till now, the word ‘Chindia’ was a symbol of our confidence—two potential countries in the world economy. Today, that word has disappeared.

Our gap with China has widened to such an extent that now even small countries—like Vietnam—are taking advantage of the industrial and technological transfer of the Western world.

Against this backdrop, we have only one task—to return to the path of the future, to introspect.

Now the question arises, could we have adopted any other strategy in response to the barbaric terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam, Kashmir? The author (Ramchandra Guha) does not comment on this, because he is not an expert on terrorism or defense strategy. But we need to understand the reflection of this crisis in the international arena with importance.

Where the international press is seeing India and Pakistan together, where that ‘hyphen’ is coming back again—what can we do there?

The unconscious, emotional patriot might say that it is all a conspiracy—George Soros, urban Naxals, foreign media are tarnishing our image. Then they will try to find satisfaction in the slogan of ‘Vishwaguru’ again. But the conscious, rational patriot will ask—are we again entering the shadow of Pakistan as a result of the authoritarianism and majoritarianism that have reared their heads in the last decade?

We once separated ourselves from Pakistan through secularism, democracy and rationality. Shouldn’t we return to that path again?

Ask yourself—can’t we return to the values of our founders? Secularism, democracy, unity in diversity—this was our true identity.

Are we really ready to give that identity a place in our hearts again? Now is the time for introspection.

The Farewell of a University and the Untimely Death of Democracy

18 MAY
JAZZBAAT DESK

A friend and I were walking through the heart of Budapest. In front of the historic Gessam Palace, which was standing next to us, he suddenly said, “Netanyahu is here.” Hearing this, my body went cold. It was not so much the incredible fact that Netanyahu had come to Budapest, but rather the surprise that a man who is most responsible for the deaths of more than fifty thousand people and the deaths of more than fifteen thousand children in the Middle East in the past year and a half was now resting peacefully in the hotel next to us. Such a cruel reality made my heart freeze.

The visit had an impact on the entire city. Traffic was stopped for several days, because it was a state visit. By then, Hungary had decided to withdraw from the International Criminal Court — a well-planned move, because Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been indicted for war crimes by several countries in the European Union. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is a long-time friend of Netanyahu, and this friendship is not only diplomatic, but also a deep strategic alliance on the political stage.

The political rise of these two leaders has followed each other like shadows. Both secured electoral victories using a strategy developed by an infamous pair of American politicians — Arthur Finkelstein and George Bairnbaum. This strategy was called “rejection voting.” It is a political strategy that uses fear, hatred and lies to shape public opinion. Finkelstein first used this strategy during Netanyahu’s 1996 election campaign. That

campaign deliberately spread the idea that Shimon Peres wanted to give half of Jerusalem to the Palestinians. This lie misled voters and helped Netanyahu win the election.

Finkelstein and Birnbaum then used the same tactic to help the leaders of Romania and Bulgaria, and later met the young Viktor Orbán. Angered by his defeat in the Hungarian elections of 2002, Orbán used this evil tactic in the next election and won in 2010. What was needed was an ideal “face of the enemy” — someone who could be used as a symbol of hatred and mislead the public. George Soros, the Hungarian-American billionaire and philanthropist who founded the Central European University, stepped into this role.

This university was later exiled by Orbán’s regime. I myself came to this city as a fellow at a research institute affiliated with CEU. The emptiness, loneliness, and silence of this institution reminded me of Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University — once the country’s most prestigious institution, it was soon politically attacked as ‘anti-national’.

Soros founded this university to build a quality education system in Hungary after the fall of the communist regime. The university quickly gained popularity. At one point, Orbán himself even received Soros’s patronage. But later, Orbán’s neo-conservative, nationalist stance and Soros’s philosophy of free thought began to clash. Orbán gradually declared himself ‘anti-liberal’ and walked the path of a neo-communal, extreme nationalist politics.

The biggest victims of this politics are Hungarian universities. Where fees were

once nominal, studying in universities is now a nightmare for most ordinary Hungarians. The Hungarian university admission rate, once the highest in Eastern Europe, is now the lowest. Orbán’s government banned the subject of ‘gender and sexuality studies’ and campaigned against the practice as ‘the promotion of homosexuality and pedophilia’. At one time, control of state universities was handed over to private foundations — run by Orbán’s inner circle.

This picture of Hungary is not unfamiliar to any reader aware of the Indian education system. Changes in university curricula along with political changes, harassment of teachers, political victimization of students, physical and mental torture — are all familiar scenes today. However, much of what Orbán has done is cloaked in a mask of legitimacy. Canadian intellectual and former CAU rector Michael Ignatieff called the process “a unique example of legal ingenuity” — a kind of ‘legal robbery’ by which a world-class university was driven out of the country.

Orbán’s move was clever — he knew that CAU had a weakness. The university was accredited in New York, but operated in Hungary. Taking advantage of this dual position, he amended the higher education law and added rules that would be almost impossible for the university to meet. The government demanded that a government contract be required to operate a foreign university — a provision that neither the United States nor Hungary had. As a result, CAU was effectively forced to relocate to Austria.

This legal maneuver teaches us how perfectly an authoritarian government can assert its power under the guise of democracy. In the Western world, where the abuse of power is not direct, but hidden in the guise of ‘legal legitimacy’ and ‘policy’, this kind of ‘legal strategy’ is the most dangerous form of dictatorship. Orbán himself is a lawyer — so this plot was well-planned.

Looking back at the Indian context, it seems that perhaps our situation is a little ‘better’. Political interference here is direct — at least unmasked. Goons enter universities, the curriculum is disrupted, students are imprisoned — but these things happen so nakedly that people at least keep their eyes open against them.

Orbán’s style of politics is becoming popular in many countries today. The rulers want an ‘internal enemy’ — someone who will help them cover up their failures. Sometimes that face is Soros, sometimes someone else. But the goal is the same — to stifle intellectual pursuits, critical thinking, and free expression. Because these three are the lifeblood of a democratic society.

The story of the Central European University is not just a story of a university leaving its country. It is a warning — how a state can destroy all its institutions, silence the thinking of a people, and put on the mask of law. This tactic is spreading in many countries around the world — and we need the language of resistance that can unmask this silent dictatorship.



Balochistan's unrest and Mahrang Baloch

THE JAZZBAAT NESW DESK

BALOCHISTAN, MAY 18, 2025

The name comes to mind when you hear it, a peripheral region in South Asia, which borders Pakistan and Iran. The shadow of unrest has been looming here for a long time. The Baloch people have been going through a long struggle with the central government of Pakistan. They have been protesting for their rights, freedom and a fair share of natural resources for a long time. The Pakistani army's harsh repressive policies, suppression of separatism and allegations of human rights violations have made the situation in this region increasingly burdensome and critical.

One of the most talked about names in the story of Balochistan's unrest is Mahrang Baloch. 32-year-old Mahrang is not only a doctor, he is a courageous human rights activist and advocate for Baloch rights, who has spoken out against Pakistani rule on behalf of the Baloch people. Since completing his MBBS from Bolan Medical College, Quetta, Mahrang has been working as a human rights activist in addition to his profession.

Mahrang's family background is also full of war stories. His father, Abdul Ghaffar Langov, was long active in the Baloch rights movement. He was abducted by the Pakistani army in 2009, which has come to symbolize the state's oppression of the Baloch people. Although he was released after some time, he was abducted again in July 2011 and never returned alive. His body was found one night, with bullet wounds and signs of brutal torture on his body.

This incident led Mahrang to the path of resistance from an early age.

Mahrang began speaking out against the government at the age of 16 after the kidnapping and murder of his father. In the dark atmosphere of that time, many did not dare to speak out, but Mahrang has protested bravely on behalf of the Baloch people. He is trying to highlight the looting of Balochistan's rich mineral resources and the violence perpetrated against the Baloch people by the Pakistani government in the international arena.

In 2017, Mahrang's brother was also kidnapped, which intensified his struggle. He has also gone on hunger strike against discrimination in education. In 2020, Mahrang went on a hunger strike to protest the cancellation of the reservation policy for students from remote areas at Bolan Medical College, which eventually forced the Pakistani government to change its policy. International figures such as Greta Thunberg and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai have stood by him, which has brought Mahrang's movement to global attention.

However, the Pakistani government has maintained its strict policy of repression. Despite being named in the list of 100 young influential people by the international 'Time' magazine in 2024, Mahrang has not been allowed to participate in the international stage. He was harassed at the airport, his phone and passport were confiscated, and there were allegations of attempted kidnapping. Serious cases such as terrorism, money laundering, and fraud were filed against him, which were strongly



condemned by human rights organizations and UN human rights agencies.

Mahrang was arrested in March 2025 after taking part in a protest in Quetta. He was charged with inciting violence, but it is believed to be part of a political crackdown. From prison, he wrote to his family, "We have sacrificed our lives for Baloch rights, we are continuing that struggle after our father." His unwavering resolve has become a symbol of the Baloch rebellion.

The human rights situation in Balochistan is critical worldwide. According to statistics from Voice for Baloch Missing Persons, nearly 18,000 Baloch citizens have disappeared since 2000. Most of them have never been found. These disappearances and imprisonments bear witness to the on-

going state oppression of the Baloch people.

This struggle in Balochistan is now not just a regional or national issue, but has become an international human rights and peace issue. Brave leaders like Mahrang Baloch are the spokesmen of this struggle, fighting against oppression and tyranny. The ongoing conflict between Pakistan's harsh repressive policies and the struggle for the rights of the Baloch people has become an important aspect of world politics.

International and local human rights organizations are still vigilant, demanding the release of Mahrang Baloch, and it is expected that the unrest in Balochistan and the momentum of the Baloch rights movement will continue until he is released.

59 MPs on foreign visit, to give prominence to 'Operation Sindoor'

THE JAZZBAAT NESW DESK

MAY 18, 2025

The central government has made a strategic move to promote the success of India's recent counter-terrorism operation 'Operation Sindoor' at the global platform. Under this program, 59 MPs of the Parliament are being dispatched to various nations of the world, who will demonstrate India's security policy, its victory in counter-terrorism and the resilience of the democratic structure to the global community. These MPs would be split into seven individual delegations to various regions of the world. Interestingly, three MPs from the state of West Bengal have also been included in this list - Trinamool Congress's Sudip Banerjee, freshly elected sensation Yusuf Pathan and BJP's Shamik Bhattacharya.

Background of 'Operation Sindoor'

'Operation Sindoor' was a very significant military and strategic move in the border area, by which the Indian government simultaneously dealt with terrorism and gave a strong message to the world. Operation is being viewed as a testimony to the prevention of militant infiltration, internal security system's strength of the country and the proactive role of the Indian Army on the border. Multiple sources have said that some terrorist camps were found and eliminated in this operation and sleeper cells operating in many states

of the country were eliminated as well.

International Diplomacy and Parliamentary Strategy

In the recent era, the practice of sending parliamentary groups has become a new strategy in the diplomatic arena. The delegations are not just to bring India's stand to the forefront overseas but also to consolidate bilateral ties, engage directly with foreign parliamentarians, and facilitate global support for India. This 59-member MP visit is the extension of that vision, where 'Operation Sindoor' is turning into a core message.

Seven delegations - detailed travel plan

For making this visit effective, the MPs have been split into seven delegations, and for each delegation, there is a particular travel destination. Every delegation is accompanied by seasoned politicians, who will emphasize India's position in the given region.

Group 1: Baijayant Panda's group will travel to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Algeria. Indian energy security and regional migration policy will be discussed.

Group 2: Ravi Shankar Prasad's group of MPs will travel to England, France, Germany, Italy, Denmark and the European Union. India's strategic partnership and protection of democracy in Europe are likely to be discussed.

Group 3: Sanjay Kumar Jha's team will go to East and Southeast Asian nations. The area falls under India's 'Act East' policy.

Group 4: Shrikant Shinde's team will travel to Middle Eastern and African nations. Trade with Africa and counter-terrorism will be the topics of discussion.

Group 5: The MPs headed by Shashi Tharoor will go to various countries in America and Latin America. Tharoor's experience will contribute to making India known internationally.

Group 6: Kanimozhi will head a visit to Spain, Greece, Slovenia, Latvia and Russia. Historical relations with Russia, India's dialogue with the peripheral states of the European Union - all these matters are significant.

Group 7: Supriya Sule will take a group to Egypt, Qatar, Ethiopia and South Africa. India is keen on enhanced cooperation in agriculture, technology, health and defence in these countries.

Delegates from West Bengal

There are three MPs from West Bengal in three different groups among the seven groups. Sudeep Banerjee is not going due to physical health reasons, but his nomination is a testament to Bengal's significant role. The newly appointed Yusuf Pathan will be in a position to easily deliver India's message

on the global front through his known face and popularity. Secondly, Shamik Bhattacharya's political background and outspoken views will also add more strength to India's stand.

Importance of this move

India wishes to consolidate its place in the world not merely with military might, but also through sending diplomatic and democratic signals. Just as 'Operation Sindoor' is a military victory, similarly this MP's visit is its global interpretation. The collective involvement of all parties lends political neutrality and all-party consensus to this mission, which reflects the political maturity and national harmony of India in the world.

Conclusion

India aims to realize not only the success of 'Operation Sindoor' at the battlefield, but its global acknowledgement through this visit as well. The seven delegations will project India's role, the resilience of democracy and security measures across the globe. On the one hand, this will illuminate the nation's image, and on the other hand, foreign investment, diplomatic ties and security cooperation will open new vistas in these three fields. Political circles believe that the presence of Bengali MPs has given special importance to this mission.

Bloodbath in Gaza: The world is waiting for a ceasefire

THE JAZZBAAT NESW DESK

MAY 18, 2025



Israel-Hamas fighting, which commenced in October 2023, has grown more gruesome by the day. The killings have never ceased up to date, and the Gaza Strip has emerged as its major hub. The Palestinians who have been killed in this ongoing 19-month war already number more than 50,000, with most of them being women and children. The death toll is countless, who are forever reduced to battling with death because of no medical care. But still, there seems to be no way to declare an end to this bloodbath. Rather, it's becoming more complicated day by day.

On January 15, Israel and Hamas reached a temporary ceasefire facilitated by Qatar, America, and Egypt. Then, and the hope was that this ceasefire would lead to lasting peace. But such hope was lost in early March, when Israel launched renewed attacks on Gaza. Gaza was within days of the ceasefire again being burned by bombs, missiles, tanks and airstrikes. Millions of individuals who were displaced from their homes are again living in uncertainty.

The Israeli attack on Gaza has picked up steam in recent times. At least 48 people died overnight in an Israeli airstrike in the southern Gazan city of Khan Yunis, according to the AP news agency. Among them were 18 children and 13 women. This death march is all too familiar for the people of Gaza. The hospitals have no place for their patients, no ambulances, no medicine. Most of the bodies under the debris remain unrecovered till date. Each day is full of the sounds of death and wailing.

Even post this tragedy, no reaction was seen from Israel immediately. Rather, as usual, they say that they don't have anything to do with the deaths of civilians. The Israeli government contends that Hamas is conducting its military operations within civilian settlements, which has been killing innocent civilians in military attacks. Even if this is the case, international human rights agencies are labeling it a 'war crime'. Because under no condition does an attack on children, women, and unarmed civilians meet international law.

Conversely, Hamas has also time and again demanded a ceasefire. Recently, Hamas spokesman Taher al-Nono informed Reuters that new negotiations on a Gaza ceasefire have started in Doha, the Qatari capital. According to Taher, "We are cooperating fully with the mediators to stop the bloodshed in Gaza." Hamas asserts that they desire to end the war, but Israel's one-sided

attack is not allowing it. But it is positive that Qatar, Egypt, and the United States are still attempting to revive peace. Multiple rounds of negotiations are currently taking place in Doha, which is the capital of Qatar, where Israeli delegates are also sometimes taking part, sources say. Though Tel Aviv is yet to make any official statements regarding this matter. In all this uncertainty, Gaza people hold their hearts in hopes day by day, perhaps tomorrow will be a bit improved. But the reality is that 'tomorrow' is far, far away.

Responses to this war are diverse across the globe. The European Union, United Nations, and human rights bodies have constantly voiced their concerns regarding Israel's military actions. But because of political interests, defense policies, and diplomatic influences, the international community has so far not been able to take a strong stance against Israel. Rather, an effort is being made to provide some sort of legitimacy to Israel's actions by branding Hamas as a 'terrorist organization'. The common citizens of Gaza are in the greatest peril in this matter. Schools, hospitals, markets—nobody is safe from harm today. There is not a single atmosphere in which to take children to school. Day by day, we go without food. The crisis of drinking water is at its worst level. No electricity, no internet, and communication with the outside world is almost zero. Most families continue to hope to get back to normal life from under the rubble, but they realize that that hope is still a nightmare.

This war has nothing to do with Israel and Hamas, it's a human crisis. Children's wails, women's wails, the dead corpse of a child on a father's shoulder - all these views fill the eyes of the whole world with tears. But still, after all this, no practical move is observed. World leaders are occupied with political measures, and innocent lives in Gaza are being lost day by day. No one has any idea how long this death march will last.

But history tells us that all wars come and go. After every bloodshed, there is always a demand for peace. The only concern is - how many more lives will this peace claim? When will Gaza children smile again? That day could be very near, or very distant. But for the sake of humanity, this war has to end - now. Because there is no revenge, no justice for lives being extinguished every second. All that is left is a history of weeping and lamentation.



OPINION

Stop SIP or proceed? Learn when to take the actual decision

JAZZBAAT DESK

17 MAY

Today, one of the most favored schemes of periodic investing is SIP or Systematic Investment Plan. It is a method by which you have the option to invest a certain amount of money in equity or debt funds on a monthly basis. On one side, it creates a habit of investing, on the other side, it also supports creating a solid financial base in the long term. But numerous times, circumstances come when an investor wonders - should he stop SIP now?

To get the answer to this query, first, you need to look - what was the primary reason behind your investment. Most often, one tends to consider terminating SIP because of short-term market fall, low returns, financial strain or any unexpected risk. But, prior to decision-making, you must check whether the financial objective for which you had initiated SIP has been met. For instance, you initiated SIP to fund your child's education, secure your retirement years or purchase a home. If that target has been fulfilled now and you have received the needed amount, then halting SIP might be appropriate.

But if the target is still not fulfilled, halting SIP halfway is not a wise idea. Instead, continuing this

habit will be helpful for your future life. The character of SIP is such that it can provide good returns in the long term. One of the key reasons for this is the compound interest and rupee cost averaging effect. That means you purchase when the market is high, and you purchase when the market is low. By doing this, in the long term, you acquire units at a decent price on average, which has the potential to fetch more returns in the future. But here again another thing is greatly significant—how good the fund you have invested in is doing.

If you notice that your fund is continuously doing badly relative to other funds of the same type, then you must pause and think for some time. But there is no need to worry after experiencing a drastic fall for some months. Compare the fund's performance with the whole market. Often one can observe that the whole market has dipped temporarily, and your fund too is impacted by that. But eventually, it may change for the better. So performance must always be evaluated keeping in mind long-term outlook. One more vital question is - has the goal of your investment changed? At times certain fund houses alter the strategy of the scheme, like moving

to low-risk funds from high-risk areas. If this new strategy or goal does not align with your financial goals, then you might not be in that scheme. In this regard, it would be advisable to seek alternatives and consult.

Also, when considering closing SIPs, you should consider your whole investment portfolio. You should verify if closing SIPs is putting you in excess exposure to any specific asset class in your portfolio. Because, more or less equity exposure or debt exposure could lead to more risk. A diversified portfolio always aids in minimizing risk and giving stable returns.

The stock market is always full of fluctuations.

At times, there can be sudden declines in the market due to various types of geopolitical instability, international economy, inflation or war situations. As a result, many people think of closing SIPs. But it is important to keep in mind that even if the market decline is temporary, it tends to bounce back in the long run. Therefore, you should not sell out of panic or emotion. Instead, you must study the market to see how fleeting this fall has been and where the hidden opportunities might be. At times, some investors

suspend SIPs because of financial hardship.

Because of insufficient funds, sudden expenses or employment uncertainty, they might cancel all SIPs simultaneously. But the truth is that this might prove harmful to your future finances. Under such circumstances, you can suspend SIPs for a while rather than canceling them altogether. Most mutual funds allow suspension of SIPs for 3 to 6 months. You may resume again like before once the situation gets better.

SIPs are not lucrative in bringing huge profits within a day or a year, but it is more of a long-term financial practice.

It makes investors habitual in the market while simultaneously creating a solid capital for the future. So if you are considering closing out your SIP now,

Understanding Stock SIP



ask yourself some questions—what do you want to achieve, how is the fund doing, how is your overall portfolio doing, how bad is the market situation, and whether you will be able to reinvest in the future. Finally, a careful financial evaluation is the need of the hour before closing your SIP. Acting on your actual position instead of emotions, hearsay, or short-term market movements will prove to be the most lucrative step in the long term.

Acne problem on the face in summer? Understand its causes and solutions easily

JAZZBAAT DESK

Many people use too much sunscreen or makeup in the summer, but if they do not suit the skin, it can clog the hair follicles. This can also cause acne.

Also, if you sweat and do not wipe it off, the sweat dries and sits on the skin, bacteria can easily spread. Not washing your face regularly, using unclean towels or pillowcases can also cause acne.

HOW TO AVOID THIS PROBLEM?

You don't need to do anything complicated to get rid of acne. You just need to follow some simple habits and take a little care of your skin.

First of all, you need to keep your face clean. It is very important to wash your face at least twice a day. Especially after coming from outside, washing your face with lukewarm water keeps the skin clean.

Those with oily skin can use oil-free face washes. Face washes containing salicylic acid or tea tree oil work well at this time.

Many people think that applying moisturizer to oily skin will make it oilier. But this idea is not true. Oil-free, gel-based moisturizers keep the skin moisturized but do not allow excess oil to form.

It is necessary to use sunscreen when going out to protect yourself from the sun. However, you should choose a sunscreen that is not heavy on the skin and does not block the pores. Sunscreen should be applied 15-20 minutes before going out in the sun.

If you sweat, you should immediately wipe it off with a clean tissue or towel. If it dries, bacteria can easily grow.

Acne can also occur on the face from the hair. Therefore, it is important to keep your hair clean during the summer.

If you apply oil to your hair, you should be careful not to get it on your face.

Some home remedies also work very well. For example, applying tea tree oil, aloe vera gel or a mixture of gram flour and curd on the face keeps the skin cool, increases blood circulation and reduces bacteria. However, before using it, it is better to apply a little on one side of the skin to see if there is any problem.

PAY ATTENTION TO FOOD TOO

Not only external care, you have to keep your body in good shape from the inside as well. Eating too much fast food, excessive salt or fried food accumulates toxins in the body. This increases acne.

Drink plenty of water every day. You can eat foods with a cooling effect

like cucumber, watermelon, and tomatoes. These foods keep the body cool, reduce water deficiency, and increase the brightness of the skin.

Acne can also increase due to stress or mental pressure. So try to keep some time for yourself during the day. Rest, sleep well, and be mentally healthy—these simple habits will help you get acne-free skin.

Acne does not heal in a day. Only with patience and regular care will the skin remain good. It is not about covering it with cosmetics, but healing from within the skin that is most important.

Summer is not the enemy of your skin, if you are a little careful. Simple daily care can give you consistently acne-free, radiant skin. Take care of yourself, and your skin will reward you with its beauty.

COMMON SUMMER SKIN PROBLEMS



AC Warranty: What Smart Buyers Must Know

JAZZBAAT DESK

As the weather gets hotter, many of us start thinking about buying a new air conditioner. Then what we basically do is — find out where to get a good brand of AC at a low price or with a big discount. Of course, you should get a good thing at a low price, but it is also very important to pay attention to another thing — that is, what kind of warranty is available with the AC.

Buying an AC does not mean just buying a device, but it is a long-term investment. It will run every day for many years, and if any part of it breaks, the cost of repairing or replacing it is also not small. Therefore, knowing in advance about the different types of warranties available with ACs will be very useful for the future.

Many of us know that generally, a 1-year product warranty is given with ACs. But did you know that different and long-term warranties are available on not just one, but multiple parts of the AC? Many times, companies provide information about warranties in advertisements, but they do not explain everything in detail. So, in this article, we will understand in very simple terms, what kind of warranties you can get when you buy a new AC and how that warranty can save you from big expenses in the future.

The first thing that needs to be said is the general warranty of the product. This is the warranty that almost all companies give and it is valid for one year. If there is any problem with the AC during this period, it is repaired or replaced by the company. However, one thing to remember here is that this warranty is only applicable to mechanical defects, that is, if the problem is due to user error or any external damage, it will not be covered.

Now let's come to the most important and expensive part - the compressor. This device can be called the life of the AC. Once damaged, the AC's functionality stops completely and it costs a

lot to replace it. Most companies now give a 5-year warranty for the compressor. Some famous brands even give a warranty of up to 10 years. That is, if you face any problem with the compressor even after 4 years of buying the AC, the company will still take responsibility (if certain rules are followed). With this warranty, you can be sure that even if there is a major mechanical fault, your pocket will not be strained.

The next important part is the PCB or printed circuit board. Inverter technology is being used in modern ACs, and the main controller of this technology is the PCB unit. This is a component that, once damaged, stops the entire AC from working. It also costs a lot to replace. That is why many companies are now giving warranty on the PCB as well. Some brands are giving a 5-year warranty for the PCB. Suppose, after the one-year general warranty is over, the PCB suddenly breaks down - then you will get the opportunity to repair it free of cost for this additional warranty.

Moreover, some companies also give warranty on the first installation. Suppose, the company's service team came and installed the AC, but it is not working properly. Then you can get the facility of fixing it again under this installation warranty. Many brands also offer free service for one year—meaning you can also get the AC cleaned two to three times a year for free.

When you buy an AC online, all types of warranties are clearly written in the product description. For example, how many years of compressor warranty, PCB warranty, installation facilities, etc. Read them carefully and then order. Many times, products that are at a big discount have a shorter warranty—keep that in mind too.

If you buy offline or from a showroom, ask the salesman clearly—

- How long is the general warranty of the product?
- How many years of warranty is there on the compressor and PCB?

- Is there installation and free service facilities?

Buying an AC is not a one-day job—it is a big responsibility for the next 8-10 years. If you are a little aware today and decide by carefully examining the warranty aspect, you can save a lot of money and time in the future. There are many people who buy ACs just by looking at the price without understanding the warranty conditions—and after a few months, if any of the main components inside the AC get damaged, they get into trouble. Then the company does not take responsibility, you are deprived of the benefits of a good warranty for being cheap—this regret remains.

So do a small task before making a decision today—find out in detail how many days of warranty each part of the AC you are going to buy has, and which parts the company will support. By knowing the right information, you are not just buying an AC, but also ensuring your financial security and peace of mind.

Look at the warranty first, not the price—only then will you be a smart buyer.

If you buy offline or from a showroom, ask the salesman clearly—

- How long is the general warranty of the product?
- How many years of warranty is there on the compressor and PCB?
- Is there installation and free service facilities?

Be careful in extreme heat: How to recognize and protect yourself from heatstroke?

JAZZBAAT DESK

The temperature of the sun in summer keeps rising little by little. When the weather exceeds the tolerance limit, stress is created on the body and mind. For those who spend a lot of time on the road, in the office, on the train or outside the house, this harshness of the heat can be not only uncomfortable, but also life-threatening. This is when a terrible condition occurs - heatstroke.

Heatstroke is a condition when the body's ability to control temperature fails. Normally, the body reduces the temperature by sweating. But when sweat does not come out of the body, the internal temperature continues to rise. When the temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius) or more, it can become dangerous. If immediate action is not taken, damage to the brain, heart, kidneys and even death can occur.

How do you know that heatstroke is happening?

The symptoms of heatstroke usually do not start gradually - the body suddenly starts giving danger signals. At first, you may feel a little weak, dizzy or tired. But ignoring these minor symptoms can be a serious danger. Below are some common signs of heatstroke—

- Sudden dizziness, loss of balance
- Severe weakness, loss of walking ability
- The body becomes very hot, but does not sweat
- Dry and red skin
- Nausea or actually vomiting
- Difficulty breathing
- Very fast or irregular heartbeat
- Slurred or slurred speech
- Fainting

In many cases, heat exhaustion occurs before heatstroke—that is, the body becomes very tired, but still sweats. This can be a precursor to heatstroke. Therefore, it is necessary to take action while there is still time.

What to do to avoid this situation?

The biggest way to avoid heatstroke is to be careful in advance. By making some changes in your lifestyle little by little, you can protect yourself from many major dangers.

1. Drink plenty of water

In the heat, water is quickly lost from the body. So you should drink at least 8 to 10 glasses of water a day. Even if you are not thirsty, you should force yourself to drink water. Those who work hard or go out in the sun need to drink more water. Not only water, but also sherbet made of lemon, salt and sugar, ORS or coconut water are also very beneficial.

2. Stay away from the sun

On a hot day, the sun is most dangerous from 11 am to 4 pm. It is better not to go out during this time. If there is an urgent need, use an umbrella, wear light-colored loose cotton clothes and use sunglasses on your eyes. Wearing a cloth or hat on your head blocks the heat of the sun to some extent.

3. Keep your body cool

If you are at home, keep the room cool, use a fan, cooler or AC if necessary. Wash your face, hands and feet with cold water several times a day. Repeatedly wiping your body with a cold wet cloth reduces the temperature.

Those who sweat less have a higher body temperature. Such people need to be more careful, because they are more likely to get heatstroke.

4. Control the time of rest and exercise

It is better not to put excessive pressure on the body during summer. You can do light exercise in the morning or evening, but it is better to avoid walking, running, and playing sports when the sun is shining or in the heat. Take breaks between work. It is very important to get enough sleep.

5. Keep yourself light in food

Eating heavy, oily, and spicy food in summer puts pressure on the body. So, keep more vegetables, fruits, coconut water, and lemon juice in your diet. Eat more foods that keep the body cool, such as watermelon, cucumber, yogurt, and radish.

6. Keep extra watch on the elderly, children, and the sick

Young children, the elderly, and those with diabetes, heart problems, or high blood pressure are at higher risk of heatstroke. They should be given regular water, kept in a cool environment, and kept out of the sun as much as possible.

What to do if you have heatstroke?

If you suspect someone is having heatstroke, take the following steps immediately—

- First, take the patient to a cool, shaded place
- Remove their clothes so that the body can cool down
- Sprinkle cold water on the neck, armpits, forehead, and face
- Wipe the entire body with a wet cloth
- If you want, you can run a fan or use ice
- If they are conscious, give them ORS, water, or syrup
- If the condition worsens, take them to the hospital quickly

Lastly, heatstroke can be life-threatening, but it can be completely avoided if you are careful in advance. Many of us think, "Nothing will happen to me," and this confidence sometimes becomes a cause of danger. So, with a little caution, some small habits, and giving your body time to rest, you can stay safe from the scorching summer sun.

Keep an eye not only on yourself, but also on the people around you, especially the elderly and children. It is also our responsibility to make each other aware. No matter how terrible the heat is, a little care can conquer it.

HEAT STROKE

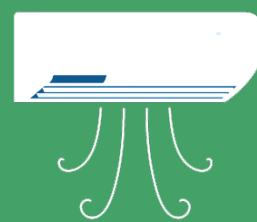
SYMPTOMS



PREVENTION

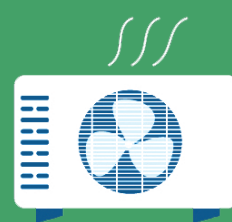


1 CHOOSE THE RIGHT TYPE FOR YOUR ROOM



SPLIT AC

Larger rooms, faster cooling



WINDOW AC

Smaller rooms, easy to maintain



PORTABLE AC

Multiple rooms, easy to install

Tom Cruise to share Shah Rukh Khan's empire! His Desire to Act in Bollywood

MAY 18

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

There is no end to the curiosity around Hollywood's eternal superstar, action hero and the ruler of the hearts of millions of fans, Tom Cruise. The man who left millions of viewers breathless as the ruthless agent Ethan Hunt in the 'Mission Impossible' series, has now publicly announced that he wants to be a part of the colorful world of Bollywood. The sincere confession of his love for India and Bollywood in his voice touched the hearts of millions of Indians.

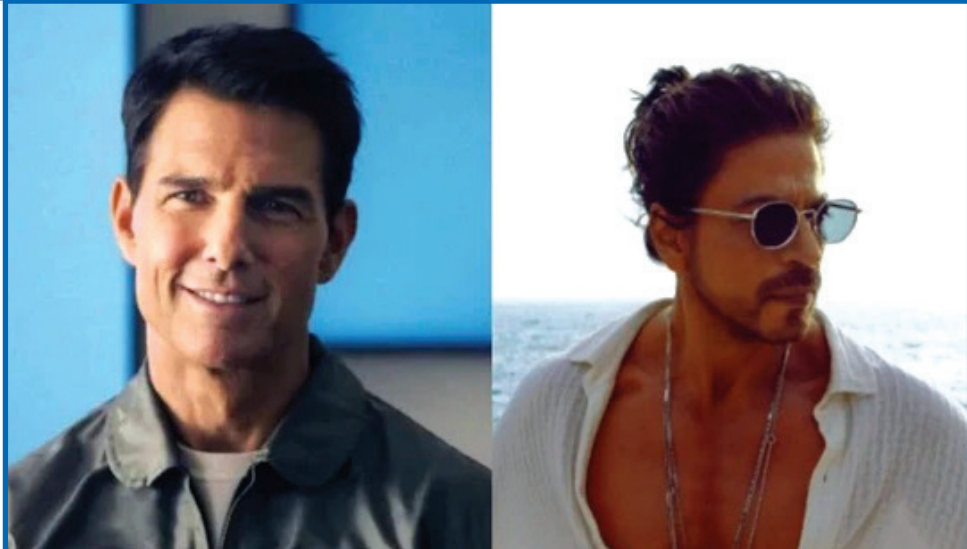
Recently, in an international interview, while reminiscing about old memories, Tom Cruise said, "I love India very much. The people here, the culture, the hospitality - everything touches my heart. Ever since I came to India in 2011 to promote the film 'Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol', I have felt a strange attraction towards India."

The actor said about his experience during that visit, "Standing in front of the Taj Mahal felt like I was in a dream. Seeing the beauty of the seventh wonder of the world in real life was one of the best moments of my life. The time spent in Mumbai was also very memorable. The warmth of the people, the joy of the fans, the atmosphere - everything is still etched in my mind." When all these words come out in Tom Cruise's voice, it is understood that India has taken a deep place in his heart.

A new side of these feelings was revealed in his recent comments, where he said that he wants to act in a Bollywood film. Not only that, he also wants to direct a Bollywood film in the future. This love and interest of his towards Bollywood is unique. He said, "The storytelling style of Hindi cinema, the emotional drama, the depth of characters fascinates me. And along with that, the kind of lively dance and singing that is there is really extraordinary."

At a time when Indian cinema is gaining recognition worldwide, the announcement of a Hollywood star like Tom Cruise to act in Bollywood is undoubtedly a groundbreaking moment. It is also a kind of honor for the Indian audience. As Bollywood's place in the international frame is getting stronger day by day, the importance of this industry is becoming clearer. Therefore, on the one hand, this interest of Tom Cruise is encouraging movie lovers, and on the other hand, it is also starting a possible meeting between Bollywood and Hollywood.

On the other hand, after this announcement, a new discussion has started in the Bollywood circles. Many are saying, "Is Tom Cruise trying to share the monopoly of the Khan-Kapoor in the Mumbai film industry?" Although such comments are made in jest, there is a big message hidden behind it. The arrival of various international faces in Bollywood is nothing new. Priyanka Chopra,



Deepika Padukone, Irrfan Khan or Ali Fazel - just as their presence in Hollywood is a matter of pride, if a Hollywood star like Tom Cruise comes to Bollywood, it will be a new chapter in the history of Indian cinema.

It is noteworthy in this context that Tom Cruise's new film 'Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning' was released in India on Saturday. The film has been released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu languages besides English. This multi-language release is a reflection of how important the Indian market is now for international producers. And at this very time, Tom Cruise's use of Hindi, appreciation of Bollywood and his desire to act are indicative of a well-organized effort.

When he says, "I am trying to learn Hindi," it is clear that he is not just talking words, but is preparing with faith in his words. Behind this desire lies sincerity and respect. When a world-class star like Tom Cruise expresses such interest in Bollywood, it becomes not only a personal but also an example of cultural union.

The question on many minds is, what kind of film is Tom Cruise interested in acting in? Will we be able to see an action hero like him in a Bollywood thriller or masala film? Or will he choose a film that has a deep touch of Indian culture? Although the answer to this question is still unknown, it is certain that his arrival can take any film to international heights.

Behind Tom Cruise's decision, there may not only be a professional decision, but also a deep emotional and memory pull. Standing in front of the Taj Mahal, he may have understood for a moment that there is a unique beauty in the tradition, history and culture of this country, which has

drawn him. He wants to appreciate that beauty more closely, and that is why he wants to associate himself with Bollywood this time.

The response from the Indian audience is also quite positive. Various posts, memes and greetings have already spread on social media. Some are writing, "Share the screen with Shah Rukh Khan," some are saying, "If Tom Cruise acts in a South film, how would he pair with Rajinikanth or Vijay?" These questions, fantasies and discussions are a reflection of the curiosity and excitement of the general audience about the possibility of Tom Cruise's arrival in Bollywood.

The Indian film industry has long been an industry full of diversity and emotion. Here, every film is not just for entertainment, but is a way to represent social messages, culture and create emotional connections. If Tom Cruise is a part of this world, he will not just come as a star, but will set a new example by tying two cultural forces together.

Finally, Bollywood and Hollywood—even though they are two different continents, good stories, emotions, and acting transcend language barriers and reach the hearts of audiences worldwide. This desire of Tom Cruise is not just a personal thought of a star, but is going to be a new chapter in the convergence of world cinema. Only time will tell how far this journey goes. But it can be said for sure—Tom's love for Bollywood has touched the hearts of Bollywood lovers.

His move can not only take Indian cinema to a new height, but also strengthen Bollywood's position in the international arena. The day is now waiting when Tom Cruise's name will shine on Bollywood movie posters—not in a 'special role', but as a full-fledged Bollywood actor.

Anil Sharma Questions Bollywood's Silence

MAY 18, 2025

JAZZBAAT DESK



Bollywood - the mere mention of it reminds one of a realm of fantasies, where there is just the perfect blend of music, dance, love and drama. But behind this shining screen, there lies a tough reality which remains concealed, and is not easily seen by the audience. There have been numerous Bollywood actors, filmmakers and artists taking courageously clear stands on all sorts of issues concerning the nation and patriotism through the years. But in recent times, it can be observed that even in the nation where Bollywood is the largest entertainment hub, there is no definitive voice against Pakistan and terror. Why? Why is Bollywood silent? This is the secret which has been unraveled by a behemoth Bollywood producer-director of 'Gadar' Anil Sharma.

The crux of this battle in Bollywood surfaces in a recent interview with Anil Sharma. He asserted, "The day Operation Sindoor started, I took a clear stand against terrorism on social media." His assertion is not one man's, but an expression of a collective agony and dilemma. Terrorism, regardless of the country, is the worst offense, many in Bollywood understand this, but are too afraid to speak out in public. Anil Sharma states, "A nation that promotes terrorism can never develop. Remaining silent against terrorism is actually supporting them directly."

Many in Bollywood understand this brutal reality, yet why are they afraid to speak? The current Bollywood crisis is concealed in Anil Sharma's answer. "There is a vast international market for our artists, particularly the massive popularity of Indian films in Pakistan." That is, most are keeping their remarks mute in order to guard this business-related market. This struggle between politics and business has led Bollywood into a severe crisis, where it is no longer easy to maintain a balance between working for the nation and professional security.

Embedded within this struggle lies another concealed agony of Bollywood—nationality vs. commerce tension. Born and brought up in the nation, wherever they reside, each artist entertains ideals and country pride, yet simultaneously fails to comprehend when to compromise for professional purposes. Anil Sharma noted that, "For me, the values of the country are higher than everything." We will all live as long as the country lives."

He also added, "Wherever we are in the world, our children will be called Indians, same

if they are grown and living abroad." This line of thought has a high level of nationalism, which should be found among most Indians. But the truth is that artists tend to withdraw from their social responsibilities as well as morality for ethical reasons, fearing loss of the business market, and even due to pressure and competition from social media. Anyhow, let us try to recognize and appreciate his contribution.

During the interview, Anil Sharma also talked about his upcoming film and shooting. He stated, "Turkey is a very good country, where there is an urge to shoot, but because of the present political and social scenario, it is not easy to shoot in Turkey." This indicates how the global politics and security situation are influencing the film industry directly.

This Bollywood crisis is not only a question of one or a single artist, but a bigger social and cultural problem. When the people of the country are clear and definite against terrorism, why is India's largest cultural platform, Bollywood, keeping mum? If we can't put our finger on the solution to this question, we can surely find an insight into the failure of a section of culture in our society. Bollywood's role in determining the face of the nation is colossal, so their silence would not be mere indifference, but it would be an indication that the divide between artists and the masses is increasing. Our time's call is for Bollywood creatives to take courage, make their stand clear and never compromise on their sense of responsibility to the nation. They'll then be able to regain their former glory, their position in people's hearts will remain unchanged. In the crisis of today, Bollywood needs to recast its social and political role, speak out fearlessly but never compromise on nationalism.

The initiative and determination of producers like Anil Sharma can be the beginning of this change. Our expectations from Bollywood artists will be - to survive on the soil of the country and spread the glory and identity of the country to the world through art. Because Bollywood is not just a place for entertainment, it is a cultural context, where brave voices and displays of ideals build the image of the country.

In this crisis hour, let Bollywood recover its lost courage, make a voice with a loud voice for the country's good from its position. And that is the true victory.

Aishwarya dances at wedding, Abhishek's eyes are filled with love

MAY 18

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



For years, speculations have been rife around the relationship of Bollywood's most talked about couple Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. At one time, their love, marriage, and child birth were the headlines of the media. Again, in the last few years, rumors of a breakup started as they were not seen together in public much. It was being said that there was a rift between the two. Some said that Aishwarya is not getting along with her mother-in-law Jaya Bachchan. Some said that there was a distance between Aishwarya and Abhishek. And that is why they were not seen together at many family or Bollywood events. Aishwarya has often appeared in public only with her daughter Aaradhya. Abhishek was absent. All this fueled the fire of speculation.

But recently, the three of them were seen together at a wedding in Mumbai, which seemed to put an end to those rumors. A video has gone viral on social media, where Rahul Vaidya is standing on stage singing the famous song 'Kajra Re' from the film 'Babli Aur Bunty' starring Aishwarya. Aishwarya herself got up on stage and danced to

the beat of that song. Their daughter Aaradhya was seen dancing along with her from time to time. And Abhishek was standing in front of the stage—whose eyes were filled with admiration, love, and a fixed gaze on his wife. He was clapping his hands while looking at Aishwarya, and when their eyes met, a shy but sweet smile appeared on both of their faces.

This moment is not just a part of a dance or a family event, it is like a silent yet deep message of their relationship.

This star couple tied the knot in 2007. Their daughter Aaradhya came to their home in 2011. But since a few years of marriage, various rumors about their relationship have been floating around the industry. There have been many headlines that they are getting separated. Their absence from various events has strengthened that idea.

However, time will tell the truth. A few days ago, Abhishek-Aishwarya posted a social media post on the occasion of their wedding anniversary, which many people said - "Maybe everything is going to be fine as before." And this wedding scene seems to have given a seal to that idea.

No relationship is perfect. Misunderstandings, differences happen in every relationship. But the most important thing is to stay by each other's side, respect each other and maintain the relationship. In this one moment, when Abhishek was staring at his wife's dance admirably, and Aishwarya was responding to that eye language with a sweet smile - it was understood that the depth of love is much deeper than rumors.

Bollywood fans have long wanted this couple to stay together, be well. Their recent moment seems to be the answer to that expectation.

Just as celebrity couples' relationships are the center of discussion, when they set an example of love, it also rekindles the faith of the common man. Abhishek and Aishwarya once again proved that love can survive even in the ups and downs of life.

Babil Khan Announces Acting Break Amid Struggles

MAY 17

JAZZBAAT DESK

Silence, tears, and a goodbye post - a weird, mournful chapter has opened in the life of Irrfan Khan's son Babil Khan. On the one hand, he is a good young generation actor, on the other hand, he is in constant struggle to forge his own identity in the shadow of memories about his father. But his recent emotional Instagram post and the declaration of taking a break from acting from the same have created new questions in Bollywood - what did he suddenly go wrong for Babil that he had to make this choice?

It all began with a tearful video he posted on Instagram. In the video, he is seen wiping away tears from his eyes, which everyone believes is a sign of mental breakdown. Though later reported by his influential family that the video has been misunderstood. It is said that even Babil is far healthier mentally than he was earlier, but he is undergoing some kind of internal turmoil and mental battle, which is continually impacting him. Though this theory is somewhat relieving, Babil's recent Instagram story indicates that the whole movie is yet to be unraveled.

On Saturday night, Babil posted a lengthy message on Instagram, in which he made it explicit that he is stepping away from acting for some time. This news automatically created a void among his fans. In his message, he said that he was attached to a film directed by Sai Rajesh, but was stepping away from the same for some reason. While there is no acrimony behind this move, instead, he emphasized his friendly relationship and his friendship with the director. He even went so far as to hope that they will collaborate once again in the future.

Ever since this news broke, several rumors have been born in Bollywood. There are many who say that this break-up is because of the mental state of Babil going down. The pressure of performing, the burden of breaking away from his father's shadow and forming his own identity, and the intangible burden of social media and the creation of a public persona - all these have exerted tremendous pressure on a young performer. Babil could perhaps not resist yielding to such pressure.

Thus, seeking a bit of respite and peace of mind, he has requested time, and has temporarily stepped out of acting.

But Babil's move cannot be regarded as mere weakness of mind. It is instead possibly a moment of reflection for a young artist. Where he is attempting to find a balance between his own life, the significance of mental health, and duty towards work.

In this current era when mental health gets overlooked, Babil's action can be labeled as some sort of courage. He realizes that unless he is at peace himself, art also loses its sense. So, he has chosen to take this hiatus to repair himself and discover himself once more.

There is another part of this episode seen here - his strong bond with his father's memory. Irrfan Khan was not just a legendary actor, he was a man of profound emotions. Babil has his father's shadow in each and every step of his life. It is not easy to bear this legacy. There was always that pressure to maintain that level. Maybe the pressure of this unseen competition and expectation has made it even more challenging for him to carry the load of his life.

Most of the young generation today are facing depression, anxiety, confusion of their identity or issues with adjusting to society. Maybe Babil's decision is a message for them also—"Taking a break does not mean losing, but a brave decision to love yourself." He penned, "See you again." There is hope in these words, a reassurance that he will come back, stronger, wiser.

So what we should do at the moment is be compassionate towards him, give him time and space without compelling him to open up. Because only then will time help him heal. And perhaps not very soon, but someday Babil will come back to the screen—in a new way, with new confidence, where his every line, every look will become a reflection of life.

There are numerous hopes for Irrfan Khan's son. But above all that, he must get back his health, peace and confidence. Today, when Babil is saying goodbye to the world of cinema, we look forward to his return—like a new sunrise. Because he has penned, "See you again soon"—this hope is the reason behind his infinite desires.

Dear Dimitri to stay with Mohun Bagan

JAZZBAAT DESK

MAY 18

A news item has gone on air from Mohun Bagan club of Pal Sarani, which has put the green and maroon fans in jubilation mood. The pet Australian footballer Dimitri Petratos is back to play for them. The club officials have placed the signatures on agreements for the upcoming season with not only Petratos, but Tom Aldred and others from the foreign brigade of the previous season.

Dimitri Petratos who wins the hearts of football fans with his look the moment he arrives on the pitch. As his flawless Stengun celebration at every score entrances the pitch, he also stirs the hearts of Mohun Bagan fans all over again. He has always been the darling of the green and maroon masses on the banks of the Ganges. His target, runs or assists on the field—anything and everything has turned ‘trust’ for Mohun Bagan fans. Even if Petratos did not get a regular chance in the first eleven last season, whenever he got a chance, he made an impact on the turf.

At times as a forward, at times in midfield, and sometimes as a cross from the wing—in all cases, he is like the ‘secret weapon’ of the team. Whether it was the former Mohun Bagan coach Antonio Lopez Habas or the current one, Manolo

Molina—both of them have used Dimitri optimally. Especially in big matches when the team has to be saved under pressure, Petratos has come at the opportune time, and has saved Mohun Bagan at the opportune time. His arrival in the current season is big news without any doubt.

Especially when the rivalry is so strong and the team lineups also stronger, having an old, tried-and-tested foreign striker by your side is a relief for any club. Club insiders leaked that the desire to retain Petratos was no longer there. Coach Molina did not wish to lose him as well. They were however interested in ensuring that the whole overseas squad remains as it is so that the team’s equilibrium is not lost. The Mohun Bagan management has also gone in that direction.

Other than Petratos, green-maroon regime has addressed Tom Aldred, Carl McHugh, Hugo Boumous and re-signed all three. If the team must sustain the last season’s rate in a competitive league like the ISL, then it was very important to retain this foreign core intact. And that is what the club has understood and done successfully well before

time without keeping anything at risk. Mohun Bagan this season is most likely to be on the field like a horse. Dimitri Petratos is at the centre of this expectation. He will be the foundation upon which the attack game is constructed. Young Indian stars such as Manvir Singh, Sahal, Ashish Rai, who had made a breakthrough last season, will play alongside him.

Petratos’ presence is not just about goals, it also translates to proper behavior on the ground, encouragement by teammates, experience and that winning attitude for the game, which becomes the prime driving force in a club’s trophy hunt. As the Indian youth have found brotherhood with him, the fan love on and off the ground around him is also increasing day by day.

The objective of Mohun Bagan this year is quite simple - trophies. Whether the Champions League or the ISL, or the Super Cup - they want the best out of all these. And for that reason, having a known and reliable warrior like Petratos on the side means staying ahead of the pack. As much as his game draws fans on the pitch, it also becomes a lesson for the young players.

The fans have also appreciated this surprising move by the club authorities. They feel, “This news

is like the best gift at the beginning of the new season. Dimi stays in our hearts, the Bagan team is not complete without him.” It is a reflection of how a foreign player has become a part of Kolkata in the decades gone by.

Dimitri Petratos himself is happy to have made the choice to stay back at Mohun Bagan. His love for the club, respect for the fans and sincere desire to become part of the Kolkata culture have turned him into a Bagan fan. As much a professional on the field as he is, he is also a very simple, humble person off it. And that perhaps is why he has become a ‘home boy’.

Mohun Bagan fans have started dreaming anew now. They hope the drought of that very coveted trophy to be over this time, for the green-maroon flag to fly high once more. Petratos is one of the horses of such a dream. His Stengun dance will be watched umpteenth times in Yuva Bharati, thousands will shout, “Let’s go to the garden!”

This feeling, this expectation, this fervor is Bengali football. Where a foreigner becomes almost a homebody, part of the family. And there are many who are sure that the decision to retain the boy from that house is Mohun Bagan’s initial target of the new season.

Sehwag’s remorse at Kohli’s retirement

JAZZBAAT DESK

MAY 18



Virat Kohli’s retirement has opened an emotional book in Indian cricket. With a career spanning 123 Tests, giving countless inspirational innings and helping win many matches for the Indian team, he retired from the Tests. Nevertheless, the majority of fans and pundits, along with former opener Virender Sehwag, could not accept his decision. Sehwag unequivocally clarified that Kohli could have played Test cricket for at least two more years. His body, dedication towards practice and passion for the game are not impacted at all. This sudden retirement of such a player therefore came as a shocker to Sehwag.

Kohli’s retirement from Tests was while he had just crossed the boundary of 10,000 runs. He was forced to depart after a fraction more than 8800 runs. With this number in mind, retirement has asked lots of fans’ questions - couldn’t he have done that special thing by playing a few series more? It would have been the thing to do for the greatest batsman of a generation like Virat Kohli. But he still decided to retire without looking back, and that seems to be the reason for Sehwag’s annoyance.

According to Sehwag, Kohli has the mental toughness and physical conditioning that makes him fit to keep playing international cricket for another two years at least. He further adds that at 36 years of age, Kohli is fitter than 90% of the team and continues to work out strenuously. Kohli’s fitness philosophy has set a new standard for Indian cricket. He not only enhanced his own game, but also the physical fitness and professionalism of the entire team as well. Many believe that the impact of his contribution will still be seen in Team India for years to come.

Sehwag also admits, however, that Kohli’s batting has been on the decline over the past few years. The way he played off-lengths, the balls which he played in the region outside the off-stump with a very unusual skill level, have been seen taking time to decide. That slight hesitation in reply could have placed him under some pressure. But the majority of analysts feel that the problem is temporary. They believe that a champion batsman like Kohli could have gotten back into his previous groove had he once been able to get himself together. But before that, he moved away from red-ball cricket. Kohli may have thought about this retirement independently. Players’ personal life, mental pressure, family responsibilities, or future plans also affect such major decisions. Kohli was an independent emotional player throughout his life. He knew when to stop and how to stop, perhaps he wanted to

retire with a good record so that people will never forget him as a quality player.

Although there were efforts made to pay their respects to him at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, the event was postponed due to rain. The way the fans were ready to pay their respect to him explains how deep Kohli’s influence is. On hearing the news of Kohli’s retirement, many had come to the stadium dressed in white, something not usual as a sign of respect. This shows how intense the feelings of the ordinary people are for him.

Kohli’s career is not just runs, centuries or games played. It is the dashing and aggressive cricket that India had a taste of under his leadership that puts him in a different class. Ahead of the opposition in their own ground, rattling the bowlers’ nerves or upholding the team’s fielding decorum - all these were facilitated under Kohli as captain. India has secured many historic victories under his leadership, especially away from home in Test cricket.

Though he will now only play white-ball cricket, his retirement from Tests signals the end of an era. His go-for-theory mentality, intensity with every ball, and on-field leadership style which gave Indian cricket its oxygen are now becoming even more nostalgic. Kids will certainly draw inspiration from him, but it still remains difficult to envision anybody as a Kohli replacement.

Sehwag’s comment is therefore less a personal complaint, but an expression of a kind of romantic affection for cricket. A legend, aware of the time and influence of another legend, says, “He could have played more”—it is as though it is something that cricket fans have to say. Sehwag himself was a cricketer who played his own game and also retired unobtrusively. And when he said that Kohli still had a right to be in the Test team, then after it, not only emotion, but also experience and deep understanding of the game dominated.

At the culmination of it all, while a player’s retirement is an extremely individualistic decision, it brings about the emotions and memories of the country’s cricket enthusiasts. It need not be said that Virat Kohli is at its very heart. He will not just be missed on the field, but also at every pivotal moment of the Test match, where an isolated standing batsman would have been a ray of hope for the team—that spot is left empty.

But a player like Kohli does not retire and disappear overnight. He remains an inspirational force, running in the veins of each budding player, and an inspiration to create new history. Virat Kohli may have retired from Test cricket, but he will remain in the heart of Indian cricket forever.



Kashmir Calling

Spend your holidays in peace and tranquillity away from hustle and bustle...

Yusmarg

Lush Green Meadows surrounded by mountains awaits you
47km from Srinagar, District: Budgam
Transportation: Taxi

Nearby Attractions
Char-i-Sharif Shrine - 13 km
Doodh-e-Pathri - 42 km
Nilnag - 5km

0194-2502512
www.jktourism.jk.gov.in