



# CCI playing a key role in ensuring free and fair markets: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi: Ensuring free and fair markets is not merely an economic need but a democratic one and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) plays an important role against this backdrop, to keep the competition alive in the markets, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday. Addressing the 16th 'Annual Day Celebrations' of the market watchdog here, FM Sitharaman said that competition drives efficiency, nurtures innovation and benefits consumers. "For innovation, competition acts as a relentless nudge. In a monopolistic environment, there is no urgency to evolve. Whereas with competition, the fear of being outpaced forces organisations to innovate — in technology, in design, in service, in delivery," she told the gathering. According to the minister, free and fair markets ensure that no single player can corner resources, suppress choice, or distort price discovery.

"This benefits our consumers," she added. The enactment of the Competition Act in 2002



was a landmark reform in India's journey from a centrally planned regime to a market-driven economy, and the Commission has emerged as a key institution in safeguarding the spirit of liberalisation while checking its excesses. "The mandate of the CCI under the Competition Act is threefold: To promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade, and to prevent practices having an adverse effect on competition," the Finance Minister said. In today's interconnected and fast-paced global economy, delays in regulatory clearances can lead to uncertainty, disrupt com-

mercial timelines, and potentially erode the intended value of transactions. "It is, therefore, imperative that regulatory frameworks, while maintaining rigorous oversight, also facilitate swift and seamless approvals for combinations that pose no harm to competition," FM Sitharaman emphasised. In addition to the traditional challenges, recent years have seen the emergence of new challenges. Artificial Intelligence technologies raise novel questions about market power, transparency, data access, algorithmic biases, and the scope of competitive harm. "Free and fair digital markets are challenged by the emergence of gatekeeper

platforms, asymmetries in data access and cross-border implications of digital business models. The rise of cross-border digital monopolies demands global cooperation and agile regulation," according to the minister. India's ongoing structural reforms -- asset monetisation, disinvestment, and digital public infrastructure -- are all geared towards unlocking market potential and deepening competition. "In this year's Union Budget, I had mentioned the importance of a light-touch regulatory framework based on principles and trust to unleash productivity and employment. In the same vein, regulators must be guided by the principle of 'minimum necessary, maximum feasible' in order to balance regulatory vigilance with a pro-growth mindset," the Finance Minister highlighted. The government had also announced that the requirements and procedures for speedy approval of company mergers will be rationalised, and the scope for fast-track mergers will also be widened, and the process made simpler.

## AP cabinet addresses farmers' concerns, sets up sub committee to resolve issues



The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to address pressing issues affecting farmers. The meeting culminated in an extensive discussion on agricultural challenges, during which officials highlighted an increase in yields for various crops this year compared to the previous year. However, they noted that the prices of crops such as chilli, tobacco, aqua, cocoa, sugarcane, and mango have been negatively impacted by international developments and ongoing domestic circumstances. In response, Naidu assured farmers of the government's commitment to support them. To tackle these issues more effectively, a cabinet sub-committee, comprising six ministers, has been established to focus on agricultural yields, remunerative prices, and the pricing of essential commodities. This committee is tasked with the ongoing monitoring of measures aimed at ensuring that farmers receive fair prices for their produce. During the cabinet meeting, which lasted for 45 minutes, ministers deliberated on the agricultural sector, the challenges faced by food producers, and marketing. The Chief Minister emphasised that the government will take concrete steps to provide relief to farmers and ensure tangible results on the ground.

## AP CM Chandrababu pays tribute to Tanguturi Prakasam on his death anniversary

In remembrance of the esteemed freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Andhra State, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, numerous celebrities have come forward to honour his legacy on the occasion of his death anniversary. Among them, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu took to social media to express his tribute. CM Naidu reflected on Pantulu's remarkable journey, stating, "I pay tribute to the famous freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Andhra State, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, on his death anniversary. Born into a poor family, he emerged as a prominent figure in politics and became renowned as 'Andhra Kesari'. His courage during the anti-Simon Commission demonstration in Madras, where he bravely faced British gunfire, will forever remain in our memories. The sacrifices made by Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu are exemplary, and I extend my heartfelt tribute to him once again."



## Experts dismiss rising Covid cases in Southeast Asia as seasonal trends of flu

New Delhi: With media reports citing cases of Covid-19 infections surging in Southeast Asia, bringing fresh fears about the disease that affected millions of people and the global economy, health experts on Tuesday dismissed them as seasonal trends of flu. As per media reports, the weekly Covid-19 infections in Singapore surged by 28 per cent from 11,100 in late April to 14,200 in the first week of May, with hospitalisations also rising 30 per cent. Hong Kong recorded 31 virus-related deaths in the week ending May 3, the city's highest weekly toll in a year. New infections in Hong Kong rose to 1,042 in the week ending May 10, up from 972 the previous week. "Rising Covid cases in Southeast Asia are attributed to seasonal trends of flu cases. Most of the cases are mild and do not need any hospitalisation," Dr. Harshal R Salve, Additional profes-



sor at, the Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, told IANS. India also is seeing a slight uptick in cases. A review held on Monday by the Ministry of Health concluded that the current situation in India is "under control," with just 257 active cases reported nationwide as of May 19. "Covid-19 is a cyclical disease, which means that cases will rise every few months. The intervals can range from six to nine months. As with other Asian countries, we are seeing Covid

cases in India too. But they are not overwhelming hospitals and are not any more severe than they used to be. In fact, most cases are so mild, they are being treated as outpatient," said Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Convener, Research Cell, Kerala State IMA. "Due to widespread immunity due to prior vaccination and from surviving past infections, Covid-19 is no longer the destructive force it used to be. There is no indication of any major genetic shift having occurred in the virus that could alter the character of the disease it causes," he added. China and Thailand have also reported a notable increase in new infections. The surge is being largely attributed to the spread of new Omicron sub-variants, including JN.1 and its related descendants -- LF.7 and NB.1.8, which make up over two-thirds of sequenced cases.

## Six-member panel formed to probe Hyderabad fire accident

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has constituted a six-member committee of senior officials to probe fire accident near Charminar, which claimed 17 lives. The committee has been asked to conduct an investigation and submit a report on the cause of the fire and the action taken by various departments for rescue and relief. The government has also asked the panel to suggest measures to be taken to prevent such accidents in future. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, who is in-charge minister for Hyderabad, on Tuesday announced the committee. It comprises Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHM)



Commission R. V. Karnan, Hyderabad Collector Anudeep Durishetty, Hyderabad Police Commissioner C. V. Anand,

Director General of Fire Services Nagi Reddy, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner A. V. Ranganath, and Chairman and Managing Director of Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) Musharraf Ali Faruqi. After receiving the committee's report, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka will hold a review meeting with top officials to decide on measures to be taken to prevent such accidents. The Chief Minister on Sunday ordered a thorough probe into the fire in a building at Gulzar Houz near Charminar. CM Reddy

stressed that preventive measures should be taken to prevent such fire accidents in the future, and awareness should also be created among people. The fire broke out in the building, which had shops on the ground floor, while the family of the trader was staying on the two upper floors. Deputy Chief Minister Vikramarka and Ponnam Prabhakar visited the accident site the same day. Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao, who consoled the family of the deceased on Monday, found fault with the Chief Minister for neither visiting the accident site nor holding a review meeting following the tragedy.

# 'Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 designed to capture properties', petitioners in Supreme Court

**New Delhi:** The petitioners challenging the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, argued before the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the contentious amendments introduced to the waqf law are designed to "capture" properties through an executive and non-judicial process. "The 2025 Waqf (Amendment) Act has been framed for purposes of 'protection of waqfs', but, in reality, it is designed to capture waqf through a process which is non-judicial and executive," submitted senior advocate Kapil Sibal before a bench of CJI B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih. Explaining the nature of waqf properties, Sibal said that it is an endowment to Allah (the god) by private individuals, incapable of further transfer in line with the principle that "once a waqf, always a waqf". However, under the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, if an encroacher raises a dispute, the waqf property will lose its very nature till the dispute is decided, he added. "The 2025 Waqf (Amendment) Act is a complete departure from the past legislations on waqf. It is for the first time, under the 2025 Amendment Act, in case of non-registration, the property will not be regarded as property," contended Sibal, adding that though



previous legislations required registration of waqfs, but did not mandate any adverse consequences in cases of non-registration except for removal of mutawalli. The senior counsel highlighted that legislations like the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, etc., were introduced for better protection of waqf properties but did not interfere with their waqf status. "For example, say, Jama Masjid or any other place of worship.

The government can say it intends to preserve the property and declare the property an 'ancient monument'. But the property won't lose its character, and it doesn't mean that you can go and pray there. No ownership was transferred to the government. You couldn't stop the user of the waqf property for the purposes of dedication," said Sibal. Sibal argued that before the enactment of the recent amendment to the Waqf Act, the right to religious worship was preserved even under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act,

1904. He reiterated that the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, is meant for "complete takeover" of the waqf properties, including ownership. He further questioned the validity of the recently introduced provision providing the requirement of five years of practice as a Muslim before the creation of a waqf. "This requirement is per se unconstitutional. This (creation of waqf) is a right guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution," argued Sibal. He highlighted that the majority of members in the Central Waqf Council could be non-Muslims if the Union government so chooses under the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. "The balance of convenience is in our favour, and irreparable injury will be done if these provisions are activated. If I cannot create a waqf, unless I satisfy the 5-year Muslim requirement, it is an immediate injury and irreparable," submitted Sibal. The CJI Gavai-led Bench is hearing the arguments of the parties on the question of the interim stay on the implementation of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. In an earlier hearing, after the apex court hinted at passing a stay order, the Union government had assured the top

court that it would not de-notify provisions related to 'Waqf by user' or include non-Muslim members in the Waqf Board. It had granted a week to the Centre and state governments and the Waqf Boards to file their preliminary reply. The apex court decided to treat five writ petitions as lead cases, apart from ordering the registry to rename the cause titles of the proceedings as "In Re: The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025". The petitioners have contended that the amendments introduced to the Waqf Act are discriminatory and infringed upon the fundamental rights of the Muslim community. Conversely, six BJP-ruled states have backed the Union government, supporting the amendments as constitutionally valid and necessary. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, received presidential assent from President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 after it was passed in both Houses of Parliament following intense debate. The Centre, in a preliminary affidavit, has urged the Supreme Court to reject the petitions, arguing that the impugned law does not infringe upon constitutional guarantees.

## Jr NTR vs Hrithik Roshan: 'War 2' teaser looks electrifying



One of the most eagerly awaited releases of 2025, War 2, has just dropped its teaser—and it packs a punch. Directed by Ayan Mukerji and backed by Yash Raj Films, the action thriller marks Jr NTR's highly anticipated Bollywood debut. Sharing the screen with Hrithik Roshan, the film is set in the sprawling YRF Spy Universe and is gearing up for a grand global release on August 14 in Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil. Unveiled as a birthday treat for Jr NTR fans, the teaser sets the tone for a high-voltage face-off. It opens with a gripping voiceover from NTR: "Kabir was RAW's best agent... But not anymore." What follows is a quick montage of slick action sequences featuring Hrithik Roshan returning as Agent Kabir and NTR making a powerful entry. The chemistry and tension between the two stars are electric, offering a glimpse into the explosive dynamics of the film. Also making an impression is Kiara Advani, who appears in a glamorous avatar, adding to the film's stylish aesthetic. Though the background score doesn't scream for attention like typical South Indian teasers, it complements the visuals effectively. The cinematography, showcasing exotic foreign locales and well-choreographed stunts, is a major highlight. War 2 promises everything a commercial blockbuster demands—an A-list cast, gripping action, foot-tapping music by Pritam, and dazzling visuals. With such a potent mix, the film is poised to be a pan-India box office storm.

## 'Proxy promoter of Pak propaganda', Rahul Gandhi draws fire from NDA

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has come under sharp attack from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies after he questioned the government over the number of Indian aircraft allegedly "lost" during Operation Sindoor. Taking to social media platform X, Gandhi wrote on Monday, "EAM Jaishankar's silence on 'informing' Pakistan isn't just telling -- it is damning. So I'll ask again: How many Indian aircraft did we lose because Pakistan knew? This wasn't a lapse. It was a crime. And the nation deserves to know." The remark, coming days after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated that India had warned Pakistan before launching the military operation, triggered widespread political uproar. Congress has accused the government of committing not just a strategic lapse but an "unpardonable crime", a charge that has been categorically denied by the Ministry of External Affairs. Reacting strongly, BJP national spokesperson Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi told IANS, "These people are acting as proxy promoters of Pakistani propaganda. Sometimes he raises questions on the Parliamentary proceedings, sometimes on the Constitution, and now he is targeting the armed forces. This is in very bad taste." Speaking to IANS, Maharashtra Minister



Yogesh Kadam also slammed Gandhi, stating, "The entire world has seen the strong response our armed forces have given to Pakistan with unmatched efficiency. Despite this, Rahul Gandhi has chosen to question the Indian Army." "First, he tried to wear a mask, claiming that the Opposition stands with the government. But now his true face has been revealed. As the Leader of Opposition, he should not politicise the matter and must appreciate the forces. Raising questions on the Indian Army is very wrong," he added. "If you raise a finger against our Indian Army, then you are definitely taking Pakistan's side," Kadam further asserted. Uttar Pradesh Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar also

lashed out at Gandhi, and told IANS, "With Rahul Gandhi, this isn't just about Operation Sindoor. Every time he goes abroad, he ends up putting India in the dock. This seems to have become a habit. He needs to reflect on his own behaviour, and the Congress party must also seriously introspect." UP Minister Danish Azad Ansari echoed similar sentiments and questioned the Congress party's intent. "What exactly is Congress trying to prove? In the name of opposing the BJP, Congress now seems to be opposing India itself. The bravery of Indian soldiers is being praised worldwide. Major global powers have acknowledged the strength of our armed forces," he told IANS. "Our soldiers have

brought pride and honour to the country. At such a time, the kind of statements Congress leaders are making clearly shows they are pursuing politics driven by personal gain," Ansari said. "If Rahul Gandhi seeks proof of our army's valour, then it is clear he is not speaking in the national interest. The Congress leadership is showing selfish political motives, which is unacceptable in today's prosperous and powerful India," he said. As the political row escalates, the Congress party continues to defend its stand, asserting the need for accountability and transparency in matters of national security, while the BJP maintains that questioning the military's action and intent is tantamount to endorsing Pakistan's narrative.

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### समय क्या है?

समय एक ऐसी शक्ति है जो हमारे जीवन को आकार देती है। यह एक अमूल्य संसाधन है जो हमें अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने और अपने सपनों को पूरा करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है। समय पर काम करना, समय के साथ सोचकर जुड़े रहना, और समय का सदुपयोग करना हमारे जीवन में सफलता की कुंजी है।

समय पर काम करने से हमें अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में मदद मिलती है। जब हम अपने समय का सदुपयोग करते हैं, तो हम अपने कार्यों को अधिक कुशलता से पूरा कर सकते हैं और अपने उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। समय पर काम करने से हमें अपने समय का सदुपयोग करने में भी मदद मिलती है, जिससे हम अपने जीवन में अधिक उत्पादक और सफल हो सकते हैं।

समय के साथ सोचकर जुड़े रहने का महत्वपूर्ण समय के साथ सोचकर जुड़े रहने से हमें अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में मदद मिलती है। जब हम समय के साथ सोचते हैं, तो हम अपने भविष्य की योजना बना सकते हैं और अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठा सकते हैं। समय के साथ सोचकर जुड़े रहने से हमें अपने समय का सदुपयोग करने में भी मदद मिलती है, जिससे हम अपने जीवन में अधिक सफल हो सकते हैं।



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समय एक अमूल्य संसाधन है जो हमारे जीवन को आकार देता है। समय पर काम करना, समय के साथ सोचकर जुड़े रहना, और समय का सदुपयोग करना हमारे जीवन में सफलता की कुंजी है। जब हम समय का सदुपयोग करते हैं, तो हम अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त कर सकते हैं और अपने सपनों को पूरा कर सकते हैं। समय का सदुपयोग करें और अपने जीवन को सफल बनाएं।

डॉक्टर: मुकुंद रव जाधव  
(हिंदी अध्यापक)  
जड़ पी एव एस बैजूरा

### STOP AND PROCEED!

ಯೆ ಭಾಯ್ ಜರಾ ದೆಕ್ ಕಲಿ!  
ಅವಿ ಕುಾವಿ ಅದುಗು ವೆಯುಂಡಿ!

STOP AND PROCEED!  
Language may differ!  
Generate single meaning!

Setting any task easy!  
Reaching the goal a difficult one!  
More haste less speed!  
Pros and cons be observed!  
Firm determination is must!

Obstacles to cross more!  
Discouraging people are there!  
Wrong suggestions come across!  
May hear all, do not leave effort!  
Follow Stop and proceed



dure  
Principle!

Will power is key for success!  
Failures are steps for victory!  
Fear not face with mental strength!  
Those laughed praise your winning!  
None gained any within one day!  
Aspire, never despair, goal is near!

Composed by:  
B.Satyanarayana Rao,  
(Ba. Sa. Raa.)  
Vijayawada.

### We, the Indians

They look at us and falter  
maps cant define us,  
their lenses blur when  
turned our way.  
We are not the children  
of their conquests,  
nor the followers of their  
ideologies.  
We are the untamed  
script they couldnt write,  
the riddle they never  
solved.

We are Indians  
not a monolith,  
but a million truths walk-  
ing together.  
We rise not in silence,  
but in the roar of contra-  
dictions  
faith and physics,  
ritual and rebellion,  
scripture and code.

They cannot digest our  
existence.  
We are the people who  
pray before a tree,  
then crack theorems  
under its shade.  
We walk barefoot to  
Shrines,  
then fly machines into  
space.  
They wanted us broken  
but Indians are not  
made of glass.  
We are fire-hardened  
clay,  
scorched by time,  
shaped by Soul.

Our chaos is not confu-  
sion  
it is civilization arguing  
with itself  
and still moving forward.  
We are the Worlds loud-  
est democracy  
and the only one still  
breathing truth into its  
lungs.  
We are Indians,  
born of struggle,  
but not born to kneel.

We did not rise from  
their blueprints.  
We rose from memory  
from the Vedas and the  
village wells,  
from broken backs and  
unbroken wills,  
from mothers who car-



ried history in their  
songs  
and fathers who never  
stopped believing.

They fear us because  
we remember.  
And we rebuild.

We are not echoes of  
the West.  
We are the original  
sound.  
The hymn before the  
hymn.  
The idea before the  
Empire.

They still try to fit us into  
headlines  
too spiritual, too poor,  
too crowded, too  
strange  
but we are too infinite  
for their ink.  
Because Indians dont  
need approval.  
We need only air—and  
the will to walk into the  
wind.

Let them frown.  
Let them doubt.  
We dont need their  
claps,  
only the drumbeat of our  
ancestors  
still echoing in our  
 chests.

We are Indians.  
We werent supposed to  
rise  
but we did.  
Not to conquer.  
But to remind the World  
that the fire they feared  
was never theirs to con-  
tain,  
and the future now  
speaks in our voice.

- Smt. Latha Murthy

### सत्य एक ऐसी शक्ति है जिसे लाख चाहकर भी कोई हरा नहीं सकता। इस बात में शक नहीं के सत्यमार्ग पर चलने वालों को तकलीफ का बहुत सामना करना पड़ता है लेकिन अंत में जीत सत्य की ही होती है। ... (शकील उवाचा -365)

हम सभी एक बात को हमेशा दोहराते रहते हैं, वह बात है "सत्यमेव जयते"। यह एक संस्कृत वाक्य है, जिसका अर्थ होता है "सत्य की ही विजय होती है"। यह "सत्यमेव जयते" का वाक्य हमारे भारत देश का राष्ट्रीय आदर्श वाक्य है। यह वाक्य अपने भारत के राष्ट्रीय प्रतीक के नीचे लिखा गया है। इस वाक्य को "मुंडक उपनिषद्" से लिया गया है लेकिन यह वाक्य सारे ही धर्मग्रंथों का सार है। सारे संतो ने इस वाक्य के सत्य पर ही बोले हैं।

पंडित मदन मोहन मालवीय के आनंद मठ में भी मौजूद यह वाक्य, भारतीय स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के समय नारे के रूप में प्रयोग में लिया गया, "सत्यमेव जयते" का यह वाक्य भारतीय संविधान की उद्देशिका में भी शामिल किया हुआ है। हम सब इस वाक्य को दोहराते तो हैं लेकिन जब सत्य और असत्य के बीच फैसला लेना है तो सत्य का साथ देने से कतराते हैं और खामोश होकर बैठ जाते हैं।

सत्य एक ऐसी शक्ति है जिसे लाख चाहकर भी कोई हरा नहीं सकता। इस बात में शक नहीं के सत्यमार्ग पर चलने वालों को तकलीफ (कष्ट) का बहुत सामना करना पड़ता है लेकिन अंत में जीत सत्य मार्ग पर चलने वाले की ही होती है। इसका कारण सत्य के साथ ईश्वर का साथ होना ही है। पवित्र कुरान अध्याय क्रमांक 09, सुराह अत तौबा, आयत क्रमांक 119 में ईमानदार याने सच्चे धार्मिक लोगों



को उपदेश देते हुए कहा गया है ईश्वर की (अवज्ञा करने) से डरो याने ईश्वर के प्रति अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करने का ध्यान रखो और सत्संग को अपनाकर सच्चे लोगों के साथ हो जाओ।

पूरी सृष्टि में ईश्वर ने सत्य को बिखेर दिया है। यह सत्य जिसने देखलिया और उस सत्य को जिसने स्वीकार कर लिया वही बुद्धिमान भी है और धार्मिक भी। कुरान में आया है के, "क्या ये लोग रू ए जमीन (पृथ्वी थल) पर चले फिरें या नहीं चले फिरें हैं? ताकि उनके ऐसे दिल होते जिनसे (ये सत्य को) समझते या उनके ऐसे कान होते जिनके अध्ययन से (ये सच्ची बात को) सुनते क्योंकि आँखें अंधी नहीं हुआ करती बल्के दिल जो सीने (वक्ष) में है वही अंधे हो जाया करते हैं"। (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक 22, सुराह अल हज, आयत क्रमांक 46)।

ऐसे दिल के अंधे लोग अपनी बुद्धि का प्रयोग नहीं करते और स्वार्थ में आकर सत्य को छुपाते हैं और लोगों को धर्म के नाम से मूर्ख बनाते हैं। परमात्मा के द्वारा दी गई दौलत से ज्यादा खुद की होशियारी से दौलत कमाना चाहते हैं। ऐसे लोगों को इस सांसारिक जीवन का सामान और अस्थाई दौलत और उसकी चमक-दमक उन्हें अंधा कर देती है। फिर यही अंधे पाप कर्म करते हुए ईश्वर की ओर से मिलने वाली बेहतर और अधिक स्थायी पुरस्कारों से वंचित रह जाते हैं।

पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, "और तुम लोगों को जो कुछ दिया हुआ है वह तो दुनिया की (थोड़ीसी) ज़िंदगी का फायदा और उसीकी आराइश (शोभा) है। और जो कुछ ईश्वर के पास है। बस उससे कहीं बेहतर और पायादार (मजबूत, सदैव रहनेवाला) है। क्या तुम इतना भी नहीं समझते?" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक 28, सुराह कसस, आयत क्रमांक 60)।

-डॉ. मोहम्मदशकील ताजमोहम्मद जाफरी (शकील मंतरी), मंतरी, पुणे (महाराष्ट्र) भारत

## Shivangi Joshi celebrates her birthday in the 'most meaningful way' with underprivileged kids

Mumbai: Television actress Shivangi Joshi turned her birthday into a heartfelt celebration by spending the day with underprivileged children. Rather than a lavish party, the actress chose to distribute essentials, play games, and share moments of joy with the kids, calling it the "most meaningful way" to mark her special day. Taking to Instagram, Joshi shared a video from the celebrations and wrote, "I started my birthday in the most meaningful way surrounded by little bundles of joy and wise, gentle souls. We shared cake, smiles, quiet moments and in between, so much laughter, strength, and love..." The actress added, "To the beautiful children and resilient elders who

made this day unforgettable...thank you for the warmth in your eyes, the strength in your smiles, and the joy you so freely gave me. Being with you was a gentle reminder of how much happiness lives in the simplest things... in just being present, in just being there for one another. I prayed for each of you for your health, your dreams, your hearts and for love to keep finding you, always.. My heart feels full. Grateful beyond words." The 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' actress posted a series of snapshots from her birthday celebration alongside underprivileged children and senior citizens. In the photos, she's smiling for selfies, helping to slice the birthday cake, and

sharing moments of laughter with kids. Shivangi Joshi celebrated her 27th birthday on May 18. The actress rose to prominence with her stint in the show, 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' and went on to star in 'Balika Vadhu 2' and 'Barsatein - Mausam Pyaar Ka.' She'll next appear opposite Harshad Chopda in 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 4.' The upcoming series will delve into the twists and turns of modern relationships. 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 4' is reportedly set to premiere next month in the 8 p.m. slot on Sony Entertainment Television, taking over from Tejasswi Prakash and Gaurav Khanna's Celebrity MasterChef once IPL 2025 concludes in May.



# Pant looked tentative from start of season, never really got going, says Varun Aaron

Former India pacer Varun Aaron shared his insights on skipper Rishabh Pant's struggling season after Lucknow Super Giants were knocked out of the playoffs race, losing to Sunrisers Hyderabad by six wickets in a must-win match, saying that the wicketkeeper-batter appeared tentative right from the beginning and was unable to find his rhythm throughout the season. Pant, who was signed by LSG for Rs 27 crore in the mega auction, has struggled miserably this season with only 135 runs in 12 games. In Monday night's game against SRH, he was dismissed for a mere score of seven in six balls. "LSG were relying on him, especially in the middle-order. Except for Marsh, nobody scored. Pant looked tentative from the start and never really got going this season. It's a sign of a player out of form. A prime Pant would've launched that shot into the stands. Today, he chipped it straight to the bowler.



He's a quality player and will wake up," Aaron said on JioHotstar. Aaron added that Pant needs to reassess and adjust his approach moving forward to regain form. "He just needs to adjust his approach slightly. This year, he hasn't scored behind square—bowlers aren't letting

him play those shots. At Arun Jaitley (stadium), those 45-degree angles worked for him. On bigger grounds, they haven't," he said. Former cricketer Aakash Chopra commented on Pant's learnings from the innings, and said, "Success might teach you a few things. Failures, however, truly change your mindset—and often for good. He isn't a regular in the Indian T20 side, so this season was crucial. A chance to make a mark, to build a strong unit. It hasn't gone that way. His own form has been inconsistent—another lesson in itself. "Does he stick to this approach in T20s or adapt? When you're in a bad patch, it feels like nothing works. The nights seem longer, the days even more so. That's when you learn—and bounce back. This has been a nightmare. The good thing about nightmares is that you eventually wake up," he added. In the match, after LSG posted

205/7, SRH star Abhishek Sharma spearheaded the chase with his 20-ball 59 while the rest of the SRH batters put on a collective effort to comfortably reach 206/4 - the highest successful chase in the IPL in Lucknow. Speaking about Abhishek's impact on SRH, Chopra said the youngster emulates his hero and mentor Yuvraj Singh when he bats. "It's the flamboyance—he brings that to the table. Like Mitchell Marsh, he holds the bat at the top, has a lovely down-swing, and has a beautiful backlift—he's clearly emulating his hero Yuvraj Singh. You see shades of Yuvi when he bats. That's why you invest in Abhishek Sharma." "If he gets going, he can make the match one-sided. A 59 off 20 balls today—he gave others time to settle in. Very strong through the off-side and down the ground. I think he finished Ravi Bishnoi as a bowler tonight—

one over, four sixes. That was that," he said. He further shared his opinion on SRH batter Heinrich Klaasen's knock against LSG and said, "SRH were in the driver's seat at the halfway mark. It didn't require bravado—just common sense and a steady partnership. That's what they did. People talk about Pant going for Rs 27 crore, but Klaasen was retained for Rs 23 crore, more than Rohit, Bumrah, or Kohli. That's big money. You expect returns. "While he's scored runs this season, they haven't always been meaningful. But tonight, he showed why you want Klaasen in your XI—he calmly steered them to victory." LSG will play their next game against table-toppers Gujarat Titans on Thursday in Ahmedabad, while the Sunrisers Hyderabad play their penultimate game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Friday in Bengaluru.

## MI sign Bairstow, Gleeson & Asalanka as replacements for Jacks, Rickleton and Bosch



Mumbai: Mumbai Indians (MI) have picked Jonny Bairstow, Richard Gleeson and Charith Asalanka as replacements for Will Jacks, Ryan Rickleton and Corbin Bosch, who are all set to leave for national duties after MI's last league game on May 26. The replacement players will be available from the playoffs stage onwards, subject to the Mumbai Indians' qualification for the knockouts, the statement from the IPL read. Jacks, who returned to India last week ahead of MI's last two group-stage games, will not be available for the final stages of the season due to international duty, as he has been named in England's limited-overs set-up for the West Indies series, clashing with the rearranged knockout stage. The English all-rounder, who featured in 11 of their first 12 matches, contributed 195 runs across nine innings while also chipping in with five wickets through his off-spin. He will be replaced by his England teammate wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow, who will join MI for Rs 5.25 crore. Bairstow went unsold at November's mega-auction, and has not played for England in any format since June 2024. He is coming to India after captaining Yorkshire against Surrey at The Oval in the County Championship. He has made 50 IPL appearances across five seasons, previously representing Sunrisers Hyderabad (2019-21) and Punjab Kings (2022 and 2024). With Rickleton is also set to exit before the playoffs for ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia, Bairstow can also offer MI a wicketkeeping option. Rickleton is MI's second-highest run-scorer this season behind Rohit Sharma, with 336 runs at 30.54 and a strike rate of 153.42 in his 12 innings. English pacer Gleeson, who made his IPL debut last year when he played two matches for Chennai Super Kings as a replacement player, will replace Rickleton at a reserve price of Rs 1 crore. Meanwhile, Charith Asalanka will come in at a reserve price of Rs 75 lakh for Corbin Bosch, who's also named in South Africa's squad for WTC final at Lord's.

## Aadhya Anand reveals How 'Knock Knock Kaun Hai' tested her mentally and emotionally

Mumbai: Actress Aadhya Anand has opened up about the intense journey she underwent while filming 'Knock Knock Kaun Hai,' describing the role as her most mentally and emotionally demanding to date. The actress revealed that inhabiting her complex character pushed her beyond her comfort zone at every turn. Stepping away from her familiar teenage, romantic parts, Aadhya tackles a role that's deeply nuanced, startlingly unpredictable, and packed with emotional intensity. Speaking about the transition, she shared, "Someone with a strong background in sports and athletics, I've always been drawn to roles that are high energy and dynamic. While I enjoy playing sweet romantic characters, I felt it was time to explore something more intense and layered. Knock Knock Kaun Hai? is a complete rollercoaster, mystery, thriller, romance, murder that keeps you guessing. Preparing for this role pushed me mentally and emotionally. It was growth as an actor, and a



transformative journey." The series also features Kush Jotwani and Arjun Deswal in key roles. With the backdrop of college life, 'Knock Knock Kaun Hai' explores themes of danger, intrigue, and hidden truths. The series will be available to stream on Amazon MX Player from May 22. Aadhya is known for her roles in

"Bombay Begums," "Crushed," "Friday Night Plan," and "Bravehearts," and now she steps into a riveting new persona in the psychological drama "Knock Knock Kaun Hai?"

Aadhya Anand, born in Coorg, India, and raised in Singapore, is an Indian actress, model, and dancer whose career spans both film and digital platforms. She made her on-screen debut at just nine years old in the Singaporean feature 'A Yellow Bird,' which premiered at the International Critics' Week during the Cannes Film Festival in 2016.

That same year, she appeared in the social drama 'Utter 2016: One Hour to Daylight', set against the backdrop of Singapore's cultural tensions. In March 2021, Aadhya broke into the streaming world as Shai Irani—the youngest of the five 'begums'—in Netflix's original series 'Bombay Begums,' a contemporary drama that explores desire, ethics, and ambition across generations of women.

## Raashii Khanna: Some roles don't ask, they demand your body and bruises

Mumbai: Actress Raashii Khanna shared her latest behind-the-scenes glimpses from her upcoming project and said that some roles demand everything. Raashii took to Instagram, where she shared a slew of images. In the photographs, the actress appeared bruised, bloodied, and intensely focused. She could be seen in a simple T-shirt and black pants, with the visible injuries on her nose and hand. For the caption, she wrote: "Some roles don't ask. They demand. Your body. Your breath. Your bruises. And when you become the storm, you don't flinch at the thunder. Coming soon..." Raashii has undergone rigorous physical training and stunt preparation for this project.



Most recently, she took on the role of a determined journalist in The Sabarmati Report, a political drama film, based on true events, with direction by Ranjan Chandel, later replaced by Dheeraj Sarna. It is based on the Godhra train burning inci-

dent of 27 February 2002, involving Sabarmati Express train. It also stars Vikrant Massey and Riddhi Dogra. In other news, the actress recently featured in Farah Khan's YouTube vlog, where she shared she was initially 'not interested' for 'Madras

Cafe', which marked her debut in cinema in 2013. "I ran away from the first audition. There were a lot of people. It was an ad. It was a lip gloss ad. I was scared seeing so many people. I was always very shy," Raashii said. To which, Mukesh replied: "It wasn't Mukesh Chhabra?" "No. They sent me to small auditions," said Raashii, who added: "There were auditions. But they didn't call a lot of people. There were no open auditions. I got an ad. I got a call from casting director Jogi Ji. Jogi Ji said Madras Cafe casting is happening." "I said 'I am not interested in films. I don't want to do it. I am here for a time pass'. I refused twice. The third time I said out of respect," Raashii said.