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# Chronicle

## The Current Scenario

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IPL 2025 Highlights: Top Performances, Emerging Players, and Controversial Moments

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## Operation Sindoor – A Mission of Hope, Dignity, and National Resolve



Over the past few weeks, a quiet yet deeply emotional mission has unfolded—one that speaks volumes about India's growing strength, sensitivity, and commitment to its citizens abroad. The Government of India recently carried out Operation Sindoor – Mission Evacuation, a special humanitarian initiative aimed at rescuing Indian women and children trapped in distressing conditions overseas. The name "Sindoor" was thoughtfully chosen. In Indian culture, sindoor is a symbol of womanhood, identity, dignity, and love. Through this mission, the government wanted to underline its commitment not only to bring these women back home but to restore their dignity, their peace, and their rightful place in society. The operation focused on rescuing Indian nationals—especially women—who were caught in situations of forced marriage, human trafficking, illegal confinement, domestic abuse, and even conflict zones. Many of them had left India with dreams of a better life, only to find themselves victims of exploitation, abuse, and neglect in foreign lands. Some had their passports seized by employers or spouses, some were physically abused, while others were made to work under inhumane conditions without pay or rest. A few were even living in fear near war zones, unable to communicate with family or get help.

This mission was driven by humanity, not headlines. It wasn't a show of military might, but of moral strength. Working behind the scenes, teams from the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian embassies, the National Investigation Agency, and the Indian Air Force worked in seamless coordination. These agencies tracked the whereabouts of vulnerable Indian women, negotiated diplomatically with foreign authorities, planned safe extraction points, and ensured that each mission remained discreet, timely, and safe.

One of the most emotional rescues involved a young pregnant woman stuck near the Syrian border, surrounded by shelling and uncertainty. She was airlifted out of the zone in a quiet midnight operation and brought to Delhi, where she was given immediate medical care. In Kuwait, four Indian women who had been living in an illegal shelter after fleeing from abusive

households were brought back home after months of suffering. In Dubai, two teenage girls who had been trafficked for labor were rescued after a tip-off and days of digital tracking by Indian intelligence. These women and children were not just brought home—they were embraced. Upon arrival in India, they were met with warmth, medical teams, psychologists, and social workers who provided comfort and guidance. For many of them, it was the first time in months—or even years—that they felt truly safe.

Speaking about the mission, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah called Operation Sindoor a symbol of India's soul. He said it reflects a nation that believes in justice, compassion, and collective responsibility. According to him, India's daughters are the pride of the nation, and their pain is the pain of the entire country. Their rescue was not just an act of policy—it was an act of love and duty. What made this mission even more commendable was its quiet strength. There were no press releases during the operations, no photographs leaked to the media, and no fanfare. The focus remained on the well-being of those rescued and the safety of those yet to be reached. It is this humility in action that sets such missions apart.

The success of Operation Sindoor also reminds us of the power of coordination. While diplomacy handled sensitive negotiations, intelligence agencies mapped out threats and plans. Air Force pilots flew at odd hours through complex routes. Embassies worked overtime to verify identities and process emergency documentation. Volunteers, NGOs, and local Indian communities in other countries also played a major role by informing authorities and extending shelter to victims. As the rescued women begin the long journey of healing, the Government of India is not stepping back. Rehabilitation efforts are already underway—counselling, legal support, temporary housing, and help with employment and education are being arranged to help these women start afresh. Some have even spoken about using their experience to raise awareness and help others who might be in similar situations. Operation Sindoor has touched the hearts of millions. It is a powerful reminder that no matter how far from home someone may be, the nation is watching, listening, and ready to help. The courage shown by the rescued women and the selfless service of the officers involved are a true reflection of India's values. In the end, Operation Sindoor is not just about bringing people back—it's about bringing back their confidence, their smile, their belief that they matter. It's about proving that every citizen counts, especially those whose voices are lost in the noise. It is a celebration of womanhood, a reaffirmation of justice, and a salute to the enduring strength of the Indian spirit.

Let this mission serve as a message to the world: India takes care of its own. Always.

By Muskan, BMM, Sem V

## Operation Black Forest: India's Largest Anti-Naxal Offensive

On April 21, 2025, Indian security forces launched Operation Black Forest—a 21-day counter-insurgency operation aimed at eliminating Maoist strongholds in the Karreguttalu Hills along the Chhattisgarh–Telangana border. This marked a major escalation in the government's mission to make India "Naxal-free" by 2026. The operation involved over 20,000 personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), CoBRA units, District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), Border Security Force (BSF), and the state police forces of Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Maharashtra. The strategic control center for the mission was the Ghalgam Forward Operating Base, established in 2022.

The core objective was to dismantle critical Maoist infrastructure—especially the headquarters of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion Number 1, the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC), the Telangana State Committee (TSC), and the Central Regional Committee (CRC). These hubs were key centers for planning, arms training, and manufacturing used by Maoist rebels. During the operation, security forces eliminated 31 hardcore Maoists, including senior commanders. One of the most significant casualties was Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basavaraju, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), who was killed in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh. Rao had a bounty of ₹1.5 crore and was linked to several deadly attacks, including the 2010 Dantewada massacre.



The operation also led to the arrest of 54 Maoists and the surrender of 84 others across Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Forces recovered 450 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), two tonnes of explosives, and a large cache of rifles, grenades, and ammunition. Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the operation as a "historic breakthrough", reaffirming the government's determination to root out left-wing extremism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also praised the security forces, stating that the operation demonstrated India's unwavering resolve to protect its internal security. However, the operation did not go without criticism. Certain left-leaning groups, especially from Tamil Nadu, raised concerns over alleged excessive use of force and claimed that the nationwide death toll from such anti-Maoist actions had reached nearly 350 casualties. Still, Operation Black Forest stands as a landmark moment in India's ongoing battle against Maoist insurgency—representing a decisive shift toward stronger, intelligence-driven counter-insurgency efforts.

By Sneha kumara, BMM Sem III

### India Boycotts Turkish goods amid diplomatic



In recent months, India has seen a significant movement to boycott Turkish products. This movement is driven by public sentiment and supported by various organizations. The reason behind this boycott is Turkey's actions, which many Indians see as unfriendly.

#### Why the Boycott?

The boycott started after Turkey allegedly supported Pakistan during a tense time between India and Pakistan. Turkey sent drones and military help to Pakistan, which India saw as interference in its sovereign matters. This led to a surge in nationalist sentiments across India, prompting calls for economic retaliation.

#### What's Being Boycotted?

The boycott includes a wide range of Turkish products, such as: Food items like apples, jams, and chocolates. Fashion brands like Trendyol, LC Waikiki, and Koton. Major e-commerce platforms like Myntra and AJIO have removed Turkish brands from their listings. The Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FJCCI) has also stopped trade with Turkey and Azerbaijan.

#### Impact on Trade and Tourism

The boycott has had a significant impact on

trade relations between India and Turkey. India's exports to Turkey decreased from \$6.65 billion in 2023-24, and imports also went down. The overall trade between the two nations decreased by 63% in 2024-25.

In the tourism sector, travel bookings to Turkey fell by 60%, and cancellations increased by 250%. The Travel Agents Association of India has stopped promoting Turkish destinations.

#### Government's Role

The Indian government hasn't officially ordered the boycott, but businesses and organizations are following public sentiment. Diplomatic meetings have been affected, and the credentials ceremony for the Turkish ambassador to India was postponed.

#### Conclusion

The boycott of Turkish goods shows how public opinion can influence international trade and diplomacy. While the government isn't directly involved, businesses and citizens are taking action to support India's interests. This highlights the importance of national interests and public opinion in shaping international relationships.

*By Aarchi Pradhan, BMM Sem III*

environmental crises in recent history. This prolonged period of extreme heat is not just a seasonal anomaly but a stark reminder of the growing impacts of climate change across South Asia.

#### Impact on India

In India, states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and parts of Maharashtra and Delhi have recorded extreme temperature spikes. Hospitals have reported an increase in heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke, dehydration, and exhaustion. The elderly, children, outdoor workers, and those without access to clean drinking water or shelter are particularly vulnerable. The demand for electricity has surged due to increased use of air conditioners and coolers, placing immense pressure on power grids and leading to frequent blackouts in both urban and rural areas. Water shortages have become a common complaint, with drying reservoirs and low groundwater levels worsening the crisis.

#### Situation in Pakistan

Pakistan too is battling similar conditions. Sindh and Punjab provinces have seen prolonged heat spells with temperatures hovering dangerously above safe thresholds. The cities of Jacobabad and Sibi, already known for being among the hottest places on Earth, have become virtually uninhabitable during the peak afternoon hours. Health services are stretched, and authorities have advised citizens to remain indoors during the daytime. However, for labourers, farmers, and daily wage workers, staying indoors is not an option, leading to rising health casualties. Agriculture has taken a massive hit, as heat stress has damaged crops, affected yields, and accelerated evaporation from canals and irrigation systems.

#### A Shared Regional Challenge

The joint climate crisis being experienced by India and Pakistan this year is a tragic example of how shared geography comes with shared vulnerabilities. Despite decades of political tension, the environmental challenges faced by both nations are remarkably similar and call for a coordinated regional response. Experts from both sides of the border have pointed out that increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves in the region are directly linked to global warming, deforestation, unplanned urbanization, and the widespread loss of green cover. Concrete landscapes, glass buildings, and vehicle emissions are all contributors to the urban heat island effect, making cities hotter than ever before.

#### Delayed Monsoon and Meteorological Warnings

Meteorologists have confirmed that the current heatwave has been exacerbated by the delayed onset of the southwest monsoon. Typically, the monsoon brings relief by early June, but this year, its late arrival has prolonged the dry and scorching weather. The Indian Meteorological Department and the Pakistan Meteorological Department have both issued warnings of continuing heat in the coming weeks, urging people to take precautions, stay hydrated, and avoid unnecessary outdoor activity. In addition,

state and provincial governments have opened temporary cooling centers, distributed water bottles and oral rehydration salts, and launched awareness campaigns, but the scale of the problem far exceeds the reach of these temporary measures. Socio-Economic Inequality in the Heat wave. The crisis has also highlighted the deep socio-economic inequalities that exist within and between communities. While affluent neighbourhoods have access to air conditioning, regular power supply, and backup water resources, low-income families and slum dwellers are left to bear the brunt of the heat without adequate protection. In many areas, school exams and public activities have been postponed or cancelled, and workplaces have shifted to flexible hours, yet the informal sector workers continue to suffer without relief or income security. Migrant labourers, often residing in poorly ventilated shelters or open spaces, face heightened risk.

#### Environmental and Agricultural Impact

Apart from the human toll, the environmental impacts are equally alarming. Forest fires have become more frequent in the Himalayan foothills and central Indian forests. Wildlife is struggling to find water, and bird deaths due to heat exhaustion have been reported. Rivers have receded significantly, and fish populations are dwindling due to low oxygen levels in overheated water bodies. Urban green spaces, already limited, are showing signs of heat damage, with dried trees and sun-scorched plants becoming common sights. The agricultural sector is reeling under pressure, as rising temperatures reduce soil fertility, increase pests, and disrupt the seasonal cycles of sowing and harvesting. Climate Change and the Urgency for Action. Scientists have warned that unless urgent action is taken to curb emissions and invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, such extreme weather events will become the new normal. Climate change models have long predicted increased heatwaves in South Asia, but the speed and scale at which they are now manifesting have taken even the experts by surprise. The current heatwave has also reignited debates on international climate commitments, the need for cleaner energy, and the importance of regional cooperation.

#### Stories of Resilience and Hope

Despite the grim situation, there are stories of resilience and community action. In rural parts of Rajasthan and Punjab, villagers have started setting up community water stations using traditional water-cooling techniques. NGOs are working on heat-resilient shelters for slum areas. Urban planning departments are being pushed to adopt more green architecture practices, including cool roofs, vertical gardens, and rainwater harvesting systems. Young volunteers in both countries are distributing hydration kits and spreading awareness on how to stay safe.

#### Global and Policy-Level Responses

International organizations have offered support, and climate activists are using the moment to call for immediate policy reforms. There is a growing realization that climate change is no longer a distant concern but a present danger affecting millions of lives every single day.

### India-Pakistan Heatwave Crisis 2025: A Regional Climate Emergency



The summer of 2025 has brought with it an intense and widespread heatwave that has gripped large parts of India and Pakistan, causing significant distress to millions of

people. With temperatures consistently crossing 45 degrees Celsius in many regions and even nearing 50 degrees in some, the subcontinent is facing one of its most severe

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Governments, civil society, private sector, and citizens must all come together to build systems that can withstand such shocks. Strengthening healthcare systems, improving water management, expanding renewable energy use, and investing in climate-smart agriculture are essential steps in this direction.

### The Need for Regional Cooperation

The heatwave of 2025 is a humanitarian, environmental, and developmental emergency that India and Pakistan must address not as isolated nations but as neighbours sharing the same fate. In the face of rising temperatures, shrinking resources, and growing vulnerability, cooperation—not competition—will pave

the way for survival and sustainability. The lessons from this crisis should lead to actionable policies that prioritize human life, environmental preservation, and regional harmony over short-term gains and political rivalries.

### A Wake-Up Call for the Future

As the temperatures continue to rise, so must our commitment to change. The urgency of the moment demands that we recognize the heatwave not just as a weather event, but as a wake-up call from nature. This is not just about summer; it is about the future we are creating. And unless we act decisively now, the heat of today may become the firestorm of tomorrow.



activists, scientists, and business leaders assemble to discuss the mounting climate crisis and foster international cooperation for a more sustainable and green future.

The focal point of the summit was to assess what has been accomplished since the Paris Agreement and to establish more ambitious post-2030 and 2030 climate goals. Most countries presented mixed outcomes—some have decreased carbon emissions through investment in renewable sources and conservation, but others continue to lag behind due to economic, political, or technological issues.

The summit highlighted several alarming scientific findings. According to the latest UN climate report presented during the event, global temperatures have already risen by 1.3°C compared to pre-industrial levels. If immediate action is not taken, the world could surpass the 1.5°C threshold within the next decade, leading to catastrophic impacts such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity.

Throughout the discussions, world leaders called for urgent global action. The French President urged a "climate solidarity fund" to support developing countries in shifting towards green energy and constructing climate-proof infrastructure. Likewise, the Indian Prime Minister called for technology

sharing and fair climate finance, maintaining that "developing countries cannot be left behind in the green transition."

One of the big takeaways of the summit was the signing of a new "Green Development Pact," which binds member countries to cut methane emissions by 40%, prohibit deforestation by 2035, and have 70% of its energy derive from renewable sources by 2040. The pact is also dedicated to prioritizing sustainable development goals (SDGs), such as clean water, sustainable agriculture, and economic growth.

Young climate activists also took center stage at the summit, insisting that world leaders own up to their responsibilities and call for action now, not later. Through them, the world was reminded that climate change is not just an environmental crisis but a matter of generation.

In summary, the 2025 Climate Change Summit was an essential forum of discussion, commitment, and collaboration. Though challenges still exist, new commitments and collective sense of urgency provide a glimmer of hope. The world now pauses to observe if intentions made are turned into effective action—before it's too late.

*By Priyanka Singh, BMM, Sem III*

## JN.1 Variant: The New Covid 19 threat



The JN.1 variant of COVID-19, a descendant of the Omicron lineage, has recently emerged as a significant concern globally, including in India. First identified in August 2023, it has since spread rapidly, prompting health authorities to monitor its impact closely.

### What Is JN.1?

JN.1 is a subvariant of Omicron, known for its ability to spread quickly and evade immunity to some extent. While it is more transmissible than earlier strains, current data suggest it does not cause more severe illness. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified JN.1 as a "variant of interest," indicating that it warrants close monitoring but does not pose an immediate global health threat. Individuals infected with JN.1 may experience symptoms similar to those of other respiratory infections, including: Fever, Runny nose or congestion, Sore throat, Cough, body aches, Headache, Shortness of breath.

It's important to note that these symptoms overlap with those of the common cold or flu. If you experience mild symptoms, self-care at home may be sufficient. However, seek medical attention if symptoms worsen or if you belong to a high-risk group.

To protect yourself and others from JN.1, consider the following precautions:

**Vaccination:** Stay current with COVID-19

vaccinations, including booster doses if eligible. Vaccines remain effective in preventing severe illness.

**Mask-Wearing:** Wear masks in crowded or enclosed spaces, especially if you are at higher risk of severe disease.

**Hand Hygiene:** Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use hand sanitiser.

**Social Distancing:** Maintain physical distance from others, particularly if they are unwell.

**Stay Home When Sick:** If you exhibit symptoms, avoid contact with others to prevent spreading the virus.

### Treatment and Outlook:

Most individuals with JN.1 recover at home with rest and supportive care. Antiviral medications may be prescribed for those at higher risk of severe illness. The fatality rate remains low, and the majority of cases are mild.

### Conclusion

While the JN.1 variant is more transmissible, it does not appear to cause more severe illness than previous strains. By adhering to preventive measures and staying informed, we can manage the spread of this variant effectively. Continued vigilance and public health efforts are essential to safeguard community health

*By Aarchi Pradhan, BMM, Sem III*

## India Emphasizes Environmental Sustainability and Clean Energy



India, home to the world's largest population and a fast-growing economy, is now placing more emphasis on environmental conservation and renewable energy. This is a fight against climate change, against dependence on fossil fuels and for a greener future. Given increasing temperatures across the globe, growing pollution in our air and increasing demands

for energy, India recognises the need for sustainable development for its future growth and the welfare of its people.

Sustainability is a key focus of India and the country is deeply committed to renewable energy. The nation has very ambitious targets, through its National Solar Mission and National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). India is targeting 500 GW of non-

## Climate Change Summit: World Leaders discuss climate action and sustainable development

In a major move towards addressing one of the most daunting challenges of the day, leaders from across the world assembled at the 2025 Climate Change Summit to discuss

climate action and the future of sustainable development. The gathering of the summit, in Geneva, Switzerland, saw representatives of more than 190 nations, environmental

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fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030, mainly through solar and wind. India is now one of the world's top five countries in terms of renewable energy capacity, including solar. Solar parks, wind farms and green hydrogen projects are mushrooming across the country. The government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for high efficiency solar modules and other incentives has drawn significant cross-border and domestic investment in the renewable sector. And the International Solar Alliance (ISA) – jointly launched by India – demonstrates its leadership in the global effort to expand solar power. India is also committing to sustainable practices in other areas. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has taken the baton of sanitation and waste management from Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan and Jal Shakti Abhiyan is promoting water conservation and optimal use of water. Promotion of e-mobility such as programmes like FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles) is another step to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels. India's green approach includes reforestation and protection of biodiversity. The government has also promised to boost area under forest and tree cover, and also upgrade the quality of degraded

forests. India is one of a handful of countries likely to meet its promises under the Paris Agreement, the agreement that has challenged participating countries to restrain the rise in temperature by reducing their emissions intensity by 45 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030. And yet, the problems remain. Quick urbanization, industrial contamination, and rapid introduction of coal for a large part of energy supply are still posing threat to achieving sustainability aims. Nevertheless, these challenges are being addressed due to greater awareness, advances in technology and international cooperation. In summary, India's commitment to environmental protection, clean renewables is a sign of recognizing the need to reconcile economic growth with environmental protection. With policy changes, adoption of new technology and growing global partnerships, India is slowly but steadily steering its way towards a greener sustainable future. These initiatives not only would help the world meet its climate goals but also would provide healthier lives, more energy security and greater economic resilience for the country.

**By Shallu, BMM, Sem III**

given rise to new opportunities, especially for the youth and in rural areas. At the same time, India is continuing to attract foreign investment, thanks to its large consumer base and improving ease of doing business. Social welfare remains a key part of the growth model. Whether it's through direct benefit transfers, food security schemes, or rural employment guarantees, the aim is to ensure that economic progress does not leave anyone behind. Inclusive growth is becoming a guiding principle, where development is not just about numbers but about improving the quality of life for all. Of course, challenges persist. Unemployment, especially among the youth, needs more targeted interventions. Climate change is beginning to affect agriculture and water resources. Education and healthcare systems need continuous improvement to support a growing population. These are issues that require long-term commitment and careful planning. Despite all these challenges, there is a strong sense of determination. India is positioning itself as a key player on the

global stage, participating in international forums and trade partnerships. It is also taking steps to diversify trade routes and energy sources to reduce dependence on any one region. This strategy not only ensures economic security but also strengthens India's role in shaping a more balanced global economy. The path India is following today reflects both confidence and caution. It acknowledges the risks of the global environment but chooses to focus on building strength from within. By staying committed to reforms, investing in its people, and embracing innovation, India is laying the foundation for long-term, sustainable growth. In these uncertain times, India's story offers a message of hope. It shows that even in the face of adversity, careful planning, strong leadership, and community spirit can help a nation move forward. The journey may be challenging, but with the right vision and effort, India is set to emerge stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient than ever before.

**By Muskan, BMM, Sem V**

### India's Focus on Sustaining Economic Growth amid Global Challenges

In a world filled with economic uncertainty, India is striving to remain steady and continue its journey toward economic growth. As global markets face turbulence due to inflation, geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and fears of recession, India finds itself at a crucial crossroads. The nation is working hard to shield its economy from global headwinds

industries alike. Exports can suffer when demand in Western countries declines, and global interest rate hikes can affect capital flows into emerging markets like India. These are real concerns, and India is not immune to them. However, the country is trying to respond with a balanced mix of caution and ambition.



while ensuring that the benefits of growth reach every corner of the country. India's economy, one of the fastest-growing in the world, has shown resilience in the past, bouncing back after the COVID-19 pandemic with renewed energy. While many countries are still trying to stabilize, India has managed to sustain a relatively strong growth rate. This is largely due to its expanding domestic market, growing middle class, and strong policy support from the government. Yet, the road ahead is not without hurdles. Global economic challenges have made it difficult for any country to operate in isolation. Rising costs of energy, food, and raw materials affect Indian consumers and

The Indian government has been investing heavily in infrastructure, digital technology, green energy, and manufacturing. These investments are not only aimed at boosting GDP but also at creating jobs and modernizing the economy. With flagship programs like Make in India, Digital India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, the focus remains on self-reliance and building a robust domestic ecosystem that can withstand external shocks. Small and medium enterprises, which form the backbone of the Indian economy, are also being supported through credit schemes and digital tools to help them adapt and grow. The push toward digital payments, e-commerce, and startups has

### Mumbai Experiences Earliest Southwest Monsoon



Mumbai experienced the earliest southwest monsoon in every 75 years. On May 26th, 2025, Mumbai was covered by heavy clouds leading to rainfall, winds, and disrupting daily life. The monsoon arrived 16 days earlier than its usual date. It marks the earliest onset since 1950, according to the India Meteorological Department. The city was covered with heavy rainfall, with Colaba recording 105.2 mm of rain and followed by Bandra 68.5 mm and Juhu airport 63.5 mm. Due to the rain, The waterlogging situation was seen in other areas like Dadar, Kurla, Siyan due to which trains and road traffic got affected. Flight operations were also impacted, with airlines like SpiceJet and Air India issuing advisories to the passengers. The IMD already placed 8 weather stations in Mumbai under a red alert, while Navi Mumbai, Thane and Kalyan were put on orange alert. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation urged people to stay inside the house for safety measures. The train and road traffic were significantly affected, with suburban areas both central and Western railway lines facing delays. The heavy rainfall and strong wind caused expensive damage to the infrastructure leaving many struggling to commute. The IMD warned of continued heavy rainfall

in coming days and it urged the residence to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions accordingly. The BMC and the local authorities work tirelessly to mitigate the impact of the monsoon. The teams were deployed to clear the drains, and provide relief to the effective areas, by cleaning the road and surrounding for smooth functioning. As the city struggled to cope with the unexpected monsoon, the residents were advised to prioritise their safety and avoid taking unnecessary risk and stay at their home following the guidelines. The early onset of the monsoon served as a reminder of the city's vulnerability to extreme weather events and also hinted at the people to be prepared for the future with all the essential precautions. Mumbai infrastructure and emergency services were put to the test, and while there were some challenges, the response from the authority and citizens was commendable. As the monsoon continues to impact the city it is essential for residence to stay informed for the safety guidelines and support each other during the challenging time.

**By Bhumi Bhola, BMM, Sem III**

### World Leaders Unite in Canada to Tackle Middle East Crisis and Climate Change



The escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, including reciprocal military strikes, dominated the summit agenda. German Chancellor Merz highlighted preventing Iran from nuclear advancement, supporting Israel's right to self-defence, and urging diplomacy. Embattled U.S. President Trump departed early—reportedly on June 16—after tough talks and a stern warning to Tehran to evacuate. Trade Tensions with Trump. Trump's "America First" tariffs hovered over discussions. Leaders aimed to persuade him to ease up, especially on steel and aluminium duties. Prime Minister Keir Starmer leveraged bilateral discussions (e.g. with Trump and Israel) to seek de-escalation in the Middle East. Canada's Mark Carney abstained from issuing a final communique to avoid exposing internal fractures—especially regarding U.S. trade policy and Mideast positions. Climate & Environmental Advocacy Marginalized.

Despite Canada facing severe climate impacts—such as wildfires—environmental concerns were notably downgraded in the agenda to focus on avoiding conflict with Trump. Environmental groups like Greenpeace and Oxfam heavily criticized

the summit for its "morally indefensible" climate inaction and deep aid cuts plans. Canada's Leadership Test Canadian PM Mark Carney, just months into office, faced his first major global test. He managed a delicate balancing act: keeping Trump engaged while forging constructive ties across Europe, Mideast, and emerging nations. Invitations extended to leaders from India, Ukraine, Brazil, South Africa, South Korea, Australia, Mexico, and the UAE underscored efforts to broaden dialogue. The Kananaskis G7 Summit was defined by geopolitical urgency—an intensifying Israel-Iran conflict and U.S. trade volatility overshadowed both climate concerns and long-standing cooperative frameworks. While leaders avoided total breakdown, the lack of consensus (no communique) and sidelined climate agenda signaled deep ideological rifts—especially between Trump's U.S. and other G7 members. Canada's Carney managed to keep talks afloat and broaden participation, though substantive action on climate remains elusive.

**Nidhi Sharma, BMM, Sem III**

### NATO 2025 Hauge Summit: Allies Commit to Strategic Unity And Heightened Military Expenditure



A strong E.U., a strong NATO, and a true strategic partnership between them is profoundly in our interest. In its Hague Summit 2025 conducted in between 24 -26

June 2025, marked a decisive inflection point, as alliance leaders embraced an unprecedented commitment to elevate defence spending to 5% of GDP—3.5% for

### Rath Yatra Preparations Begin in Puri and Ranchi, This Time with a Green Twist



With Rath Yatra just around the corner, the cities of Puri and Ranchi are buzzing with activity — sounds of hammers, chants of bhajans, and a sense of sacred excitement in the air. But this year, something feels different. Along with the usual preparations for Lord Jagannath's grand procession, there's a growing movement toward making the celebrations more eco-friendly.

In Puri, the heart of the Rath Yatra tradition, carpenters and artisans are hard at work building the iconic wooden chariots of Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra. These giant structures, made using centuries-old techniques and sacred neem wood, are as awe-inspiring as ever. But behind the scenes, there's a quiet but firm push for sustainability.

Plastic use around the temple and Grand Road has been strictly banned this year. Volunteers are going door to door handing out cloth bags, and awareness camps have been set up near the main procession routes. Even vendors are being encouraged to serve prasad in leaf bowls instead of plastic. "We've been celebrating this for generations, but it's time we start thinking about what we're leaving behind," says Subrat Nayak, one of the veteran craftsmen working on the chariots.

core military readiness and 1.5% for strategic resilience. Urged by U.S. President Donald Trump, who asserted, "The free-ride is over—NATO must stand on its own feet," the alliance moved toward a more autonomous and assertive defence posture. Secretary-General Mark Rutte proclaimed, "This is not an incremental change; it is a paradigm shift. We must adopt a wartime mindset." With plans to bolster troop readiness, expand missile defences, and accelerate defence industrial output, NATO signalled a renewed unity in the face of Russian aggression. Though Spain secured an exemption, citing socioeconomic priorities, the broader consensus was unyielding. As Rutte concluded, "We are not merely adapting—we are fortifying the future of transatlantic security."

Despite divergent fiscal capacities among members, the summit underscored a powerful collective will. Germany pledged to expand its active forces by up to 60,000 troops, while Poland neared the 5% threshold ahead of schedule. Even among

Meanwhile, over in Ranchi, where Rath Yatra has become a major spiritual and cultural event in recent years, the preparations carry the same festive spirit — with a green twist. The ISKCON temple is leading the charge here, pushing for a "clean and conscious" Yatra. They're planning to use electric vehicles for support staff during the procession and are asking devotees to carpool or use public transport to reduce congestion and emissions.

Decorations this year are made mostly from reusable and natural materials. What's more heartening is that youth groups and local NGOs have joined in, helping organize cleanup drives and tree plantation events around the city. "It's a small start, but it matters," says Rashi Verma, a 19-year-old volunteer. "Faith and nature can go hand in hand — they should."

As the final touches are being added and the city streets get ready to welcome the divine chariots, there's a deeper message riding along this time — one of responsibility, balance, and respect not just for the gods, but for the earth too. And maybe, just maybe, this shift toward an eco-conscious celebration could be the beginning of a new tradition in itself.

**By Kanushika, BMM, Sem III**

Spain's exceptions, NATO's strategic coherence remained intact. As Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged, "Strength deters aggression—solidarity secures peace," the alliance reaffirmed its enduring relevance in an increasingly unstable world.

Inference to be mentioned, the 2025 Hague Summit redefined NATO's strategic trajectory, replacing caution with conviction. With elevated defense pledges, reinforced industrial cooperation, and a sharpened military posture, the alliance declared its readiness to confront emerging threats head-on. As Secretary-General Rutte aptly stated, "The age of hesitation is over—NATO has chosen resolve." This summit did not merely reaffirm unity; it reinvigorated the alliance's role as the cornerstone of collective security in a fractured world.

**By Agamjot, BMM, Sem III**

### Hype vs Fact: The Role of Media in Fuelling



The relationship between India and Pakistan has been historically marked by conflict, mistrust, and political hostility. While diplomatic efforts and people-to-people connections occasionally show signs of improvement, media—both traditional and digital—often plays a polarizing role. In particular, the media in both countries has been accused of fuelling tension by prioritizing sensationalism over facts.

Unfortunately, the media landscape during the very recent conflict between India and Pakistan revealed the exact opposite. Journalism -- which should have served as a beacon of truth, context, and restraint -- instead descended into a pit of misinformation, war-mongering, and propaganda. Good journalism relies on facts, not fiction. It questions authority, investigates claims, and seeks to present multiple perspectives. In times of conflict, when emotions are high and the stakes even higher, the media's responsibility is not to add fuel to the fire but to seek clarity and reduce misinformation. It must try to obtain both sides of the story, particularly when misreporting can trigger panic, miscalculation, and catastrophic escalation. Now, see how Indian media compromised the truth. The incident of downing of fighter jets was totally absent in mainstream Indian media for 24 hours when the entire world was talking over the issue. The Hindu, reputed Daily posted it on its own but that vanished later.

Following Pakistan's reported air raids and the confirmed downing of Indian jets on May 8, Indian mainstream media was quick to spin the narrative. Before facts could even be verified, television channels had launched their "Breaking News" marathons, complete with explosive visuals, patriotic music, and hashtags like #IndiaStrikesBack and #PakistanPayBack. This wasn't journalism; it was drama.

Many media outlets appeared more interested in covering the loss of face associated with the downing of India's much-hyped Rafale fighter jet -- embroiled in domestic corruption scandals -- than in verifying what had actually occurred. Just as international reports were confirming the

shooting down of Indian jets, a tidal wave of Indian media content aimed to save face: through exaggerated victories, rhetorical aggression, and a whitewashing of military setbacks.

Moreover, media often gives a platform to extreme voices, while moderate perspectives are sidelined. Anchors and panelists who support aggressive stances get more screen time, reinforcing the "us vs. them" narrative. This form of journalism, driven more by hype than facts, results in the hardening of public opinion, making peaceful discourse increasingly difficult.

Social media adds another layer of complexity. Misleading content, fake news, and doctored images spread rapidly across platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and WhatsApp. Unlike traditional media, digital platforms lack stringent editorial oversight, making them fertile ground for misinformation. Bots and troll accounts, often state-backed, intensify this digital warfare, further straining bilateral ties.

However, it would be unfair to blame the media entirely. In both countries, some responsible journalists and platforms strive to provide factual, balanced reporting. They highlight stories of peace efforts, cultural exchange, and shared heritage. Unfortunately, these stories often get overshadowed by the more dramatic and polarizing narratives.

To mitigate the negative role of media in Indo-Pak relations, there must be greater emphasis on ethical journalism and media literacy. Viewers should critically evaluate the information they consume, while governments and media regulators should promote transparency and accountability.

In summary, while media has the power to inform and build bridges, it also holds the potential to inflame and divide. In the case of Indo-Pak relations, media hype often outweighs factual reporting, exacerbating tensions between two nuclear-armed neighbours. A more responsible and fact-based approach is essential for fostering mutual understanding and long-term peace.

*By Safiya Razi, BMM Sem III*

### Global Power Play: China, US, and the Indo-



The world is a complex web of relationships, and the dynamics between countries can be fascinating. In this article, we will break down the connections between China, the US, and the Indo-Pak equation in simple terms.

The global power play involves four key players: China, the US, India, and Pakistan. Each of these countries has its own unique strengths and weaknesses.

**China:** A rising global power with significant economic and military influence. China's growing presence in the region has made it a key player in international relations.

**US:** The world's largest economy and a dominant military force. The US has significant interests in the region and plays a crucial role in maintaining global stability.

**India:** A growing economy and a key player in the Asia-Pacific region. India's strategic location and large market make it an attractive partner for many countries.

**Pakistan:** A strategic location and a complex relationship with India. Pakistan's relationship with India is crucial for regional stability.

#### The Indo-Pak Equation

India and Pakistan have a long-standing rivalry, with tensions fueled by historical conflicts, territorial disputes, and security concerns. Both countries are nuclear-armed, making their relationship crucial for global stability. The Indo-Pak equation is a complex mix of cooperation and competition, with both countries vying for influence in the region.

#### China's Role

China has significant economic and strategic interests in both India and Pakistan. These are:

**Investing in Pakistan:** Through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China is investing heavily in Pakistan's infrastructure, potentially altering the regional balance. This investment has significant implications for the region and beyond.

**Competing with India:** China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean and its border disputes with India create tensions between the two nations. China's rise has significant implications for India's security and strategic interests.

The US has significant interests in the region, including:

**Strategic partnerships:** The US has strong ties with India, particularly in defense and security. This partnership has significant implications for regional stability and

security.

**Pakistan's role in Afghanistan:** The US relies on Pakistan in its efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. Pakistan's cooperation is crucial for the US to achieve its objectives in the region.

In this complex web of relationships, each country is watching the others closely.

**China watches India:** China's growing economic and military presence in the region makes India a key competitor. China is closely watching India's rise and its implications for the region.

**US watches China:** The US is cautious about China's rising power and its potential impact on global stability. The US is closely monitoring China's actions and responding accordingly.

**India watches Pakistan:** India's security concerns are closely tied to Pakistan's actions, particularly regarding terrorism and border tensions. India is vigilant about Pakistan's actions and responds accordingly.

**Pakistan watches India:** Pakistan seeks to balance its relationship with India, while maintaining its own security and strategic interests. Pakistan is closely watching India's actions and responding to protect its interests.

Each country is influencing the others in significant ways.

#### China influences Pakistan:

China's economic investments and strategic partnerships give it significant influence over Pakistan's policies. Pakistan's dependence on China gives China significant leverage.

**US influences India:** The US-India strategic partnership has a significant impact on India's foreign policy and defense decisions. The US is a key player in India's security and strategic calculations.

India and Pakistan influence each other: The rivalry between India and Pakistan drives their respective policies and actions. Each country's actions have significant implications for the other.

In conclusion, the relationships between China, the US, India, and Pakistan are complex and multifaceted. Each country has its own interests, priorities, and strategies, shaping the global landscape. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for navigating the intricacies of international relations. As the world continues to evolve, it is essential to monitor these relationships closely and respond accordingly.

*By Ananya Sharma, BMM, Sem III*

### Women in Command: Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh Lead Operation Sindoor



India's ongoing commitment to protecting its citizens and showcasing gender equality came to the forefront during Operation Sindoor, a high-risk rescue mission recently carried out to evacuate Indian nationals from conflict-hit regions. What made this mission even more historic was the powerful leadership of two remarkable women officers: Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh. Their presence at the command level not only ensured the mission's success but also inspired the nation with a strong message of determination, courage, and excellence.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, already well known for being the first woman to lead an Indian Army contingent at an international military exercise, took charge of the ground coordination during Operation Sindoor. With years of experience in planning and executing high-stakes operations, she was entrusted with the responsibility of managing logistics, security, and on-ground strategy. Her calm yet decisive leadership became the backbone of the evacuation effort, which involved navigating hostile environments, unpredictable situations, and the urgent need to safeguard human lives. In the air, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh was equally commanding. As an Indian Air Force officer with expertise in transport aircraft and emergency evacuation procedures, she played a crucial role in flying rescue sorties to bring stranded citizens back to safety. Her presence in the cockpit, leading the flight crew through complex air corridors and coordinating with ground control under immense pressure, was a moment of pride for the entire nation. Both officers worked closely with the Ministry of External Affairs and various diplomatic teams stationed abroad to ensure that Operation Sindoor ran smoothly. They also engaged with families of evacuees, providing reassurance and timely updates. The emotional weight of the mission was high, but both women showed unwavering commitment to their duty, proving that leadership knows no gender. Their participation in such a sensitive and critical mission has been widely praised across India. Citizens, fellow officers, and policymakers have celebrated their roles not just as military professionals, but as role models for the next generation of women who aspire to serve their country. The story of Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh is one of quiet strength and bold action. It reminds us that in moments of crisis, true leadership comes from those who are prepared, brave, and driven by a deep sense of service. As India continues to evolve on the world stage, stories like these show how empowering women in uniform strengthens the entire nation. Their leadership during Operation Sindoor has already started conversations across institutions—civilian and military—about the role of women in high-pressure, strategic decision-making environments. Schools, colleges, and public discourse are now citing their actions as examples of modern heroism, not defined by brute force alone, but by intellect, resilience, and collaboration. What also stands out is how both Colonel Qureshi and Wing Commander Singh carried out their roles without seeking the spotlight. Their humility and focus remained rooted in the mission's goals: to ensure the safety of fellow citizens and complete the operation successfully. In doing so, they have highlighted a new kind of leadership, one that is empathetic yet strong, structured yet flexible, and above all, driven by purpose. Their journey has not been easy. Like many women in the forces, they have had to overcome systemic biases, break stereotypes, and prove their capabilities time and again. But through their dedication and professionalism, they have not only overcome these challenges but turned them into stepping stones for future women officers. The success of Operation Sindoor under their leadership also emphasizes the need for institutional support for women in defence. From better training opportunities and equal postings to leadership grooming and recognition, the foundation of a more inclusive armed force is being laid. Their success is a testament to what happens when talent is given the right environment to thrive. In every sense, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh have emerged as symbols of hope and strength. As India moves forward, their leadership will continue to inspire change—encouraging young girls to dream beyond limits, and reminding society that courage and excellence are not bound by gender.

**By Muskan, BMM, Sem III**

### Parul Gulati aka malkin: Women entrepreneur to watch



guidance. Her authentic approach and founder led personal branding, a concept she calls "Maalkin Energy" have driven organic growth and engagement. She proudly supports her micro-creators and gives them the freedom to use her track "Marzi Ki Malkin" as a key content tool, which resulted in over 3,400 reels in just one week on World Music Day.

Parul's approach of community-centered storytelling is innovative. She showcases independent brands on her social media pages without charging a fee or having a commercial agreement for doing so, emerging trust and goodwill in the process. All of her product launches from clip-ins, scarves, and men's accessories, are anchored in a story versus ad focused campaign. Her 2025 Cannes debut was another unique fusion of the intersection of creative expression and brand purpose, when she wore hair based couture to amplify the message of Nish Hair on a world stage.

Outside of business, Parul mentors aspiring female entrepreneurs through her online

Support Women Businesses program, giving them free resources on branding, finance, and networking.

The criticism Parul receives on social media, and the occasional overbearing comments from fans, such as the Malkin branding being cringe, are just that criticism. But the visibility is rightly obvious.

Parul Gulati embodies founder-first storytelling, empowerment, and community-centric growth. As she expands her brand globally, she remains a compelling entrepreneur whose unconventional path challenges traditional marketing and celebrates content with purpose.

**By M. Tanushya, BMM, Sem V**

### Indian MMA Fighter and Actress Ritika Singh: Breaking Stereotypes



Ritika Singh is a talented Bollywood actress and trained mixed martial artist (MMA fighter). She has broken barriers in the male-dominated world of combat sports and the glamorous world of Indian cinema.

Ritika started training in martial arts at a young age, encouraged by her father, a professional kickboxer. She went on to compete at national and international levels, representing India in various MMA events. Her breakthrough moment came when director Sudha Kongara spotted her and cast her in the sports drama Irudhi Suttru (Tamil) and Saala Khadoos (Hindi).

#### A Strong and Real Performance

Ritika's performance in the film was raw, real, and strong. She played the role of Madhi, a young fish-seller who becomes a boxing champion. Her performance earned her several awards, including the National Film Award – Special Jury Award and Filmfare Awards in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi cinema.

#### Inspiring Young Girls

Ritika's story is an inspiration to young girls who want to pursue their passions, whether in sports, films, or any other field. She proved that women can be strong, successful, and appreciated for their talent

in multiple areas.

#### Career and Choices

Ritika has acted in several films, mainly in the South Indian film industry. She chooses roles that allow her to showcase her strength and individuality. She has also spoken out about women's safety in the entertainment industry, calling for better security and working conditions on film sets.

#### Breaking Barriers

Ritika Singh's story is about breaking the mold and proving that women don't have to fit into one box. She is a real-life role model, showing that with dedication, hard work, and courage, one can make a mark in multiple fields. Ritika's journey is a reminder that women can be tough and graceful, sporty and artistic, strong and sensitive – all at once.

Ritika Singh is a shining example of a woman who has broken barriers and achieved success in multiple fields. Her story is an inspiration to many, and her dedication to her craft is truly admirable. With her strong performances and commitment to women's safety, Ritika continues to make a mark in the entertainment industry.

**By Aarchi Pradhan, BMM, Sem III**

### IPL 2025 Highlights: Top Performances, Emerging Players, and Controversial Moments



The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 has been an exciting tournament so far, with thrilling matches, outstanding performances, and emerging talents. Here's a rundown of the highlights:

#### Top Performances

**Mumbai Indians vs Gujarat Titans:** Mumbai Indians won by 20 runs, chasing down Gujarat Titans' score of 208/6 in 20 overs. Mumbai Indians scored 228/5 in 20 overs, with a brilliant batting display. **Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Lucknow Super Giants:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru won by 6 wickets, chasing down Lucknow Super Giants' score of 227/3 in 20 overs. RCB scored 230/4 in 18.4 overs, showcasing their batting prowess.

#### Emerging Players

**Vaibhav Suryavanshi:** The 14-year-old sensation has been making waves in the IPL 2025, with his impressive performance at Khelo India earning him praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Yashasvi Jaiswal:** The young batsman has

been starring for Rajasthan Royals, helping his team clinch a convincing win over Punjab Kings.

#### Controversial Moments

**Ishant Sharma's Fine:** Gujarat Titans pacer Ishant Sharma was fined for breaching the IPL code of conduct, sparking controversy among fans and critics.

**IPL Controversies:** The IPL has been marred by controversies over the years, including banned players, worst bowlers.

#### Other Highlights

**Jasprit Bumrah's Record:** The Mumbai Indians' pacer scripted history by breaking Lasith Malinga's long-standing IPL record.

**Rohit Sharma's Retirement:** Sourav Ganguly praised Rohit Sharma's retirement from Test cricket, calling him a great player.

As the IPL 2025 progresses, fans can expect more thrilling matches, outstanding performances, and emerging talents. With the final match scheduled for June 3, 2025, the excitement is building up.

**By Rishika Tiwary, BMM, Sem III**

### Cricket vs Football: Which Sport is winning the Next Generation in India?



India has always been a country passionate about sports. But for decades, cricket has been more than just a sport here – it has been a religion. From children playing in narrow lanes to packed stadiums and millions watching on TV, cricket has ruled the hearts of Indians. However, in recent years, another sport has started gaining ground – football. Especially among the younger generation, football is slowly becoming a strong competitor. So, which sport is really winning the next generation in India? To begin with, cricket still enjoys a massive fan base. With the success of the Indian Premier League (IPL), cricket has become even more entertaining and glamorous. Young players get quick fame and money through this format, and many kids dream of becoming the next Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma. The IPL has also introduced international players to Indian fans, building a global connection. Cricket also enjoys more media coverage, corporate sponsorships, and government support.

However, things are slowly changing. Football, especially European football, has become very popular among Indian youth. Clubs like Manchester United, Real Madrid, Barcelona, and Liverpool have a large fan following. Matches of the English Premier League (EPL), La Liga, and UEFA Champions League are watched widely, even if they are broadcast late at night. The younger generation connects with football because of its fast pace, continuous action, and global appeal. The rise of social media has also helped football. Young fans follow their favourite footballers like Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, and Kylian Mbappé on Instagram, YouTube, and other platforms. They enjoy watching their skills, lifestyle, and behind-the-scenes content. This

creates a deep emotional connection, even though these players are from outside India. In India, the Indian Super League (ISL) was launched to promote domestic football. Though it hasn't yet reached the level of the IPL, it has helped create more visibility for Indian footballers. More kids are now joining football academies, and schools and colleges are supporting football in a more organized way. In urban areas, especially in cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Kolkata, football is becoming a serious sport, not just a hobby. Another factor is accessibility. Football is cheaper to play. You just need a ball and an open space. There is no need for expensive equipment or gear like in cricket. This makes it more popular among children from all backgrounds. That said, cricket still has a strong presence in Indian culture. It has more established infrastructure, legends who inspire millions, and a history of major international success. Football is still growing and developing its base.

Cricket remains the king in India, but football is definitely winning the attention and love of the next generation. While cricket dominates today, football is quickly catching up. The future may not belong to just one sport. Instead, India might become a country where both cricket and football thrive together, giving young fans more options and a richer sports culture.

**By Aarchi Pradhan, BMM, Sem III**

### Khelo India University Games 2025: How Young Athletes are rising



The Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025, set for November in Jaipur, Rajasthan, mark a special milestone in uplifting young athletes across India. Now in its fifth year, the Games have become a national stage where untapped talent from universities competes across twenty-plus sports, and athletics is emerging as a bright hotspot for rising stars. With over 4,000 student athletes representing more than 200 universities, KIUG 2025 promises fierce rivalries and thrilling performances. Athletics—running, jumping and throwing—is at the very heart of this transformation. Young sprinters, hurdlers, and jumpers are shining not just in university competitions, but also on national and Asian stages. Recent events like the Khelo India Youth

Games 2025 in Patna showcased this surge. In athletics alone, 26 new records were set, including those by young women in hurdles and weightlifting, and standout performances in relay and field events. Consider Shourya Ambure, a 15-year-old hurdler from Maharashtra. She smashed her own national youth record at KIYG, running the 100 m hurdles in 14.11 seconds—up from 14.55 seconds earlier this year. This record came just months after her bronze at the Asian Youth Championships. With only her fourth-ever race in the event, she shows extraordinary promise. Another example is Alka Singh from Bihar, who threw the shot put to 14.73 m, claiming the state's first-ever gold at KIYG and setting a new benchmark for young female athletes. Athletes in long jump, discus and hurdles have also rewritten history. Jithin Arjunan from Tamil Nadu broke the boys' long jump meet record three times in one competition. Meanwhile, Hansraj Dhayal of Rajasthan set a new discus throw record, and Saif Farooq Chafekar rewrote the boys' 110 m hurdles record at the same venue. These achievements

reflect more than individual grit—they embody the growing effectiveness of India's sports ecosystem. Initiatives under Khelo India, the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and collaboration with state and private partners are nurturing talent through improved infrastructure, coaching, and financial backing.

The result: more athletes emerging from diverse regions like Jharkhand, Bihar, Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and beyond.

The upcoming University Games in Jaipur, hosted by Poornima and Rajasthan Universities over 12 days, will extend these opportunities yet further. Athletes across about 25 disciplines—including athletics—will compete on newly upgraded tracks and fields developed under a talent-hunt scheme. This mirrors India's broader sports vision: identifying and

supporting future stars from grassroots all the way to elite international platforms. As these young athletes rise, their impact goes beyond medals. Every record broken and every story of triumph inspires the next generation—encouraging more students to take up sport alongside studies. University pitches and stadiums are becoming breeding grounds for tomorrow's Olympians, and athletics is leading this wave.

The Khelo India University Games 2025 will not just award golds—it will celebrate the surge of youthful energy, discipline, and dreams in athletics. And behind every leap, sprint and throw lies a promise: India's athletic future is bright, driven by new champions who are trained, supported and ready to make history.

**By Aarchi Pradhan, BMM, Sem III**

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