

In Brief

At the Mahabir tea farm in Dibrugarh, a newborn leopard cub was spotted

Dibrugarh: The Mahabir Tea Estate in Dibrugarh saw a newborn leopard cub on Friday, which prompted the estate managers to act quickly. Concerns regarding the cub's wellbeing were raised when witnesses reported seeing it struggle in the intense heat and searing sun. Although this has not been formally verified, it is believed that the cub was separated from its mother. The management of the tea estate promptly notified the Forest Department of the sighting. Locals were advised not to approach the cub or congregate in the vicinity because the mother leopard might be close by.

In flood-affected Dhemaji, IAG spearheads a quick needs assessment

Jorhat: On June 28, a devastating flash flood struck the Murkongselek Development Block in Dhemaji district, Assam, destroying villages in Jonai subdivision. Triggered by heavy rains in Arunachal Pradesh, the floodwaters surged unexpectedly, leaving residents unable to escape. In response, the Dhemaji District Inter Agency Group conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment in the most affected areas to identify urgent humanitarian needs and assess the disaster's impact, aiding efforts by government and humanitarian organizations in coordinating relief strategies.

As the weather improves, Arunachal Pradesh's flood problems lessen

Itanagar: Following a period of clear weather, the flood situation in Arunachal Pradesh showed signs of improvement on Friday, with a decrease in both the population and number of affected villages over the past 24 hours. Despite ongoing restoration efforts in several districts affected by landslides and heavy rain, only West Siang and Papum Pare districts reported new incidents of flooding. In Papum Pare, seven villages were still impacted, while West Siang saw twenty-four villages affected. Although rescue and restoration activities continue in sensitive areas, officials noted an overall improvement due to better weather conditions. Restoration efforts include the removal of road barriers on the Nyodu-Sibe Siru NLCPR road in Lepa Rada district and work to reopen the Potin-Hoj road in Keyi Panyor district.

The first MEMU train service in the Northeast between Agartala and Karimganj is launched by the chief minister of Tripura



• On Saturday, Manik Saha, the chief minister of Tripura, launched the first MEMU train in the Northeast between Agartala and Karimganj. The service adds capacity, safety features and fresh energy to Tripura's overall rail growth goals.

allowing smooth travel between Bangladesh and India. The Chief Minister stated the state government has suggested a double railway line between Chandranathpur and Sabroom. The 263-kilometer project's final site survey is finished, and the detailed project report (DPR) is nearing completion. Saha claims that more trains will be able to go to and from Agartala thanks to the double-line project. The administration has also suggested new train services connecting Agartala with towns such as Jammu, Gaya and Puri.

According to Tripura Transport Minister Sushanta Chowdhury, the state now operates 18 trains, including five DEMU trains and 13 express services. In order to achieve inclusive development, he reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing public infrastructure and increasing connectivity.

Itanagar, July 05: An important milestone in the region's railway connectivity was reached on Saturday, July 4, when Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha launched the inaugural Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train

service between Agartala and Karimganj. To improve passenger safety and comfort, the new MEMU train, which can accommodate 3,600 passengers, incorporates GPS tracking systems and CCTV cameras. Saha complimented Union

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bolstering the frontier state's railway infrastructure during her speech at the Agartala inauguration ceremony. The Chief Minister described the launch as

the first MEMU service in the Northeast and claimed that by connecting Agartala and Karimganj, it would enhance regional connectivity. Saha also emphasized the extension of Tripura's railway system to the southernmost subdivision of the

state, Sabroom. He stated that after the Maitri Setu connects Sabroom with Ramgarh, it will become a gateway to Bangladesh. He further mentioned that it is anticipated that the Agartala-Akhaura railway link will soon be operational,

Three districts in Tripura have their health services evaluated by the MoHFW Joint Secretary

Itanagar, July 05: During a three-day official visit that started on July 1, Meera Srivastava, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), examined the execution of national health programs and public health services in three districts of Tripura. The visit's main objectives were to evaluate healthcare services, the state of existing health projects, and the execution of several national health initiatives in the districts of Unakoti, South Tripura, and Sepahijala. Srivastava visited the Latiyapur and Deorachhara sub-centers after meeting with the Chief Health Officer and District Magistrate Megha Jain at Unakoti. In order to evaluate grassroots healthcare delivery, she interacted with medical professionals and ASHA workers while reviewing



mother and child health services, immunization coverage, and the National Health Mission (NHM). The Joint Secretary was accompanied by senior officials from the National Health Mission (NHM), Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) division and the World Health Organization (WHO) state office.

On July 2, the delegation visited South Tripura, where Srivastava chaired a review meeting with

district officials to assess healthcare services, vaccination coverage, malaria control and the implementation of national health programmes. The team also inspected the Bashkadua Ayushman Arogya Mandir under the Matai Primary Health Centre, reviewed immunisation and frontline health services, and interacted with ASHA workers. The delegation later visited the India-Bangladesh border area to assess healthcare delivery in remote locations before

inspecting facilities at the Belonia Sub-Divisional Hospital. Additionally, the group discussed healthcare services in the Sepahijala district with medical personnel from Sonamura Sub-Divisional Hospital and Kathalia Community Health Center as well as district health officials. Srivastava assessed vaccination coverage and other public health measures while visiting Bashpukur Sub-Centre and interacting with frontline health workers. She valued the work that field-level employees and district health authorities did to provide healthcare services. The tour ended with recommendations to expand access to high-quality healthcare services throughout the state, strengthen healthcare delivery systems, and better implement national health programs.

At Jonai Nam-Kirtan, 58 persons were admitted to the hospital due to suspected food poisoning

Dibrugarh, July 05: After consuming prasad during a traditional Nam-Kirtan held as part of a birthday celebration, at least 58 residents of Jonai in the Dhemaji district were admitted to the Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) in Dibrugarh due to suspected food poisoning. Reports state that the religious event took place on June 30 and that locals and devotees were given prasad, which included fruits, moong, gram (boot), bundiya, and bhujiya. According to reports, nobody reported feeling sick right away after the incident. But starting on July 1, over 12 hours later, a number of participants started to experience symptoms like severe vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach discomfort. Men, women, and children who were impacted were first brought to the



Jonai Primary Health Centre (PHC) for emergency medical care. On July 2, health authorities referred patients to Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh due to the growing number of patients and the fact that several of them needed specialized care. Emergency medical teams were put on alert to handle

the crisis, and ambulances were sent to convey the patients who had arrived in Dibrugarh at night.

According to hospital sources, every patient is receiving care while being closely monitored by doctors. No fatalities have been reported thus far, and the most are said to be in stable condition. An inves-

tigation into the occurrence has been started by the district administration and the health department. In order to identify the precise source of the alleged food poisoning, officials are likely to gather samples of the prasad and other food items provided during the religious event for laboratory analysis.

Hokato Hotozhe Sema of Nagaland rises to the top of the men's Shot Put F57 rankings worldwide



Kohima, July 05: According to the most recent World Para Athletics Rankings, Nagaland's Paralympian Subedar Hokato Hotozhe Sema has risen to the top of the men's Shot Put F57 category. Subedar Sema, a member of the 9 Assam regiment, achieved another significant milestone in his illustrious career as a para-athlete by taking first place in the rankings. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio congratulated the athlete, say-

ing that the accomplishment had made the state and the country proud. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Subedar H. Hokato Sema, AVSM, on his recent ranking as the World No. 1 in the Men's Shot Put F57. Nagaland and the country are proud of this remarkable accomplishment. Rio posted on X, saying, "I wish him continued success in the years ahead." Sema just received the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), making his-

tory as the first Paralympian to do so.

In addition, he received the Arjuna Award and took home the bronze in the men's Shot Put F57 competition at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris. With other para-athletes Rana Soman and Juyal Shubham taking second and third places, respectively, India swept the most recent ranks in the competition, demonstrating the nation's increasing prowess in para-athletics.

The chief minister of Meghalaya promises better education while laying the foundation stone for a school in West Jaiñtia Hills

Shillong, July 05: On July 3, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma reaffirmed the state government's commitment to improving educational facilities throughout Meghalaya while laying the foundation stone for a new building at Sohkhra Government Higher Secondary School in West Jaiñtia Hills. The chief minister joined the All Sohkhra Development Committee in celebrating deserving pupils during his visit



to Sohkhra under the Amlarem Block. Later, he opened Sohkhra Mission Village's Children and Adolescent

Library and Digital Infrastructure. Speaking to the crowd, Sangma emphasized the government's efforts over the last eight years to enhance the education sector. According to him, the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) pass rates have significantly improved as a result of the state's more than 2,000 refurbished schools and large investments in teacher preparation and school infrastructure. The chief minister ac-

knowledgeed that there are still issues and stated that the government will keep trying to solve them methodically while strengthening the educational system for all Meghalayan kids. Additionally, he gave locals the assurance that the government would keep improving school infrastructure, give Sohkhra Government Higher Secondary School more amenities, enhance road connectivity, and guarantee balanced growth in the area.

PMAY-G benefits 22 lakh Assamese families; Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrates housing milestone

Guwahati, July 05: On July 4, Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister of Assam, emphasized the state's advancements under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), noting that over 22 lakh families have benefited over the previous ten years from the premier rural housing program. The Chief Minister provided an update on

X, stating that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction, Assam's progress toward realizing the "Housing for All" vision has established new standards. He claimed that during the past ten years, PMAY-G has given almost Rs 27,730 crore, assisting lakhs of rural families in realizing their dream of owning a permanent home. Sarma added that As-

sam is ranked second in the nation for PMAY-G money releases, which is indicative of the state's effective execution of the centrally supported housing program. The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's dedication to rural development, stating that the program continues to improve the general standard of living throughout the state and



guarantee that every qualified family in rural Assam

has access to safe, secure, and respectable housing.

Lakhipur Pineapple from Cachar Gains National Market Prominence at Buyer-Seller Meet

Silchar, July 05: A buyer-seller meeting gave the renowned pineapple of Lakhipur, Cachar, a boost on the national market. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in partnership with the Cachar district administration, organized the Post Harvest Management Programme and



Buyer Seller Meet on Cachar Pineapple, which brought

tutional buyers from all over the nation. The minister and local MLA Kaushik Rai launched the program, stating that agriculture is still one of the main drivers of the Barak Valley's economy. He claimed that Cachar's naturally grown pineapple should have more access to both domestic and foreign markets because it has gained respect for its flavor and quality.

together farmers, exporters, agri-entrepreneurs, and insti-

Mridumudra Deka, severely hurt in the Nalbari Gangapur attack, passes away

Shillong, July 05: Mridumudra Deka, a Gangapur resident and the second victim of the vicious attack at Chamata Rupiabathan-Gangapur in Nalbari district on May 31, died on Friday while receiving medical attention. The incident has reportedly been characterized as a "love jihad" attack, purportedly executed by Roz Ali. Student leader Madhurjya Barman, a resident of Bhakatpara in Rupiabathan and the victim's cousin, was slain on the scene during the incident. The entire Nalbari district is experiencing a new wave of mourning following Mridumudra's passing. Hospital sources reported that Mridumudra's numerous wounds were progressively healing. She was cognizant again,

could converse with guests, and had even started eating again. However, the severe stab wound that had pierced the left side of her back and reached her lung became infected, finally evolving into septicemia. Her condition thus abruptly became critical. She had two heart arrests on Friday morning and eventually died, despite the physicians' best attempts. The day following the event, Roz Ali, the accused, was slain in a police operation. The fatal remains of Mridumudra Deka were sent to Gangapur after the post-mortem examination at Gauhati Medical College & Hospital. Thousands of mourners witnessed her final rituals in an emotional setting.

On the first day of the SIR exercise in Meghalaya, more than 1.19 lakh enumeration forms were given

Shillong, July 05: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) BDR Tiwari stated on July 1 that Meghalaya had a good start to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral registers, with over 1.19 lakh enumeration forms distributed on the first day of the process, covering 5.07% of the state's electorate. During the house-to-house campaign that began on June 30, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) distributed 1,19,129 enumeration forms, according to the CEO. The 23,49,645 registered voters in the state are included in the exercise. Meghalaya has seen the deployment of 3,551 BLOs, each of which covers an average of 662 voters. 60 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 166 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), and 410 BLO Supervisors—all of whom have received training for the exercise—are supporting them. With 20.49 percent of forms delivered, South West Garo Hills made the most progress among the districts, followed by North Garo Hills (10.25 percent), South Garo Hills



(6.67 percent), and West Garo Hills (6.50 percent). As of 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 28,006 forms had been issued in East Khasi Hills, which has the largest electorate in the state, representing 4.43 percent of voters. Up until July 29, house-to-house verification and form collection will take place. Tiwari explained that during the enumeration stage, no supporting documentation is needed. The forms will be distributed in duplicate by BLOs, who will pick up one completed copy and acknowledge the second. The BLO will leave the form behind and conduct three follow-up visits to retrieve it if a house is discovered to be locked. Additionally, voters can use the Election Commission's

Voter Services Portal or the ECINET mobile application to submit their completed forms online. Election rolls created at the most recent SIR in 2005 have been posted on the Chief Electoral Officer's website, district administration portals, the ECINET app, and the Voter Services Portal to make the revision easier. Voters who migrated to Meghalaya after 2005 can access their prior electoral information via the internet portals, while those whose names were on the 2005 rolls are encouraged to use those facts when filling out the forms. To guarantee an accurate and current electoral roll, the CEO advised all eligible voters to work with BLOs and turn in their completed forms by the deadline.

Under India's Act East Policy, the Assam-Bhutan rail link will increase trade and tourism

Guwahati, July 05: Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister of Assam, stated on July 4 that the state is becoming a major force behind India's Act East Policy and that improved connectivity is essential to opening up new economic prospects. The Chief Minister emphasized the planned 69.05-km Kokrajhar-Gelephu railway link in a post on X, calling it a historic initiative that will improve relations be-

tween India and Bhutan and create new opportunities for trade, tourism, and regional development. The proposed railway project, which is expected to cost Rs 3,456.36 crore, will link Gelephu Mindfulness City in Bhutan, a premier urban development project of the neighboring Himalayan monarchy, with Kokrajhar in Assam. According to Sarma, the rail connectivity project would strengthen Assam's strategic role

in India's interaction with Southeast Asia and neighboring nations under the Act East Policy by turning the state into a gateway for cross-border trade and tourism. The Chief Minister went on to say that the project is yet another important step in strengthening the long-standing friendship between Bhutan and India while opening up new avenues for regional connectivity and economic development.

Ankita Konwar of Assam is the first Northeastern woman to cross the English Channel



Guwahati, July 05: Ankita Konwar, an endurance athlete from Assam, made history by being the first woman from Northeast India and the first Assamese to successfully cross the English Channel, one of the hardest open-water swimming courses in the world. Konwar finished the fa-

mous swimming cross from Dover, England, to Calais, France, in 13 hours and 5 minutes as a member of an international relay team. The swimmers received medals for their accomplishment after the relay team entered the water at 1:30 am and finished the passage at 2:35 pm (London time). The English

Channel is renowned for its frigid temperatures, strong currents, erratic tides, and quickly shifting weather, making it one of the world's most difficult endurance tasks. Given that Konwar only started to swim three years ago, her achievement is even more amazing. Since then, she has become one of India's top endurance athletes, finishing an Ironman in Barcelona, competing in the T100 Triathlon in Dubai, and now crossing the English Channel. Konwar added that carrying the Indian flag while representing Assam and the Northeast was an honor she will always treasure, characterizing the accomplishment as a journey

of perseverance and cooperation. "The English Channel is much more than just a swim; it's a voyage of perseverance, cooperation, and self-confidence when nature puts your character to the test. "Anything is possible with consistency and courage if someone like me, who was never even a swimmer, can stand here today," she remarked. Konwar expressed optimism that her experience would encourage many young athletes and women to set lofty objectives and go above and beyond what is thought to be possible. Additionally, she disclosed that she is already getting ready for her upcoming endurance competition.

Farmers in Chaygaon face significant losses as lumpy skin disease develops

Shillong, July 05: An outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) has spread throughout various villages of Chaygaon under the Palasbari Legislative Assembly Constituency, sparking alarm among cattle rearers and farmers. Numerous cattle have apparently contracted the extremely contagious viral disease, and some animals have died from it in various locations, resulting in significant financial losses for livestock owners. Cattle are the main source of income for many rural people in the area, as they produce milk and engage in agricultural activities. Farmers, many of whom have put their entire life savings into raising livestock, have thus suffered greatly as a result of the outbreak. A number of impacted cattle owners reported that they are currently finding it difficult to



deal with the cost of treatment and the loss of priceless animals. The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department was accused by locals and livestock owners of failing to take prompt preventive action prior to the outbreak. They said that the disease spread quickly among villages because vaccination campaigns were either postponed or did not sufficiently reach susceptible areas. The locals claim that the outbreak's effects could have been much lessened if prophylactic vaccinations had been ad-

ministered much earlier. Concerns about the purported lack of veterinary care in isolated villages were also voiced by residents of the impacted areas. Many cattle owners, they said, had to wait for veterinary care, and some had trouble getting medications and treatment for animals that were infected. The scenario, they said, had created dread among livestock owners as more cases continue to emerge. The residents called on the State Government and the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department to step

up vaccination campaigns, send out more veterinarians, make sure medications are available, and compensate or financially support farmers who have lost cattle to the disease. They also advocated for awareness efforts to educate cattle rearers about preventive measures and early indicators of the disease. Dr. Manashjyoti Thakuria, the veterinary officer at Chaygaon Block Veterinary Dispensary, told this correspondent that the department was actively keeping an eye on the issue and treating the afflicted animals. Additionally, Dr. Thakuria recognized that field-level activities were impacted by the veterinary institution's manpower shortfall. He did, however, reassure them that despite their limited resources, the department was doing everything in its power to address the impacted areas.

Over Rs 1,000 crore in revenue, the Meghalaya government prioritizes two lakh lives

Shillong, July 05: The government's decision to waive about Rs 850 crore to Rs 1,000 crore in dues under the One Time Settlement (OTS) plan was justified by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Wednesday, claiming that it put the wellbeing of almost 16,000 truckers and their families ahead of revenue considerations. Sangma stated that the initiative demonstrated the government's people-centric approach to governance while speaking at a felicitation event hosted by the Joint Action Committee. Despite the considerable financial sacrifice involved, he claimed that the decision

was made after acknowledging the financial strain on the transportation community. Sangma stated that the government is still dedicated to resolving long-standing public issues in addition to pursuing significant development projects, and that progress should be evaluated based on how it affects people's lives rather than just infrastructure. Additionally, he appreciated the contribution of Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong to the proposal's advancement and declared that the government will keep bolstering institutional frameworks while putting the people at the center of decisions.

K. T. Parnaik, the governor of Arunachal Pradesh, congratulates the new army chief

Itanagar, July 05: Lt Gen (Retd) K. T. Parnaik, the governor of Arunachal Pradesh, congratulated General Dhiraj Seth on taking over as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) on Wednesday. He expressed confidence that the Indian Army will continue to protect the nation's territorial integrity and improve its operational readiness under his leadership. On behalf of the State's citizens, the Governor sent his best wishes and expressed confidence that, under General Seth's leadership, the Indian Army will continue to uphold its great traditions of professionalism, bravery, and steadfast dedication to the country. According to Parnaik, new aspects of warfare and the changing security landscape necessitate creativity, flexibility, and strategic vision. He expressed optimism that the Army would keep improving its skills in order to successfully confront upcoming challenges with excellence and dedication. The Governor expressed his confidence that the Indian Army would further improve its operational preparedness, safeguard the nation's territorial integrity,



and secure every inch of its boundaries under General Seth's leadership, stating that the country had great faith and pride in its armed services. Additionally, the governor expressed hope that prosperity, peace, and stability would persist throughout the nation, especially in strategically significant frontier areas like Arunachal Pradesh. General Seth is from a well-known military family. He is the son of Lieutenant General (Retd) Krishna Mohan Seth, who led the III Corps and the XXI Strike Corps before retiring in 1997.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma urges immediate preparation for El Nino



Shillong, July 05: Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Friday called for swift and coordinated action to strengthen the state's preparedness against the potential effects of El Niño after Meghalaya recorded an alarming rainfall deficit of more than 80% in June. He warned that climate change has become an immediate reality requiring sustained

efforts to safeguard food and water security. Speaking at a workshop on "Developing State Response for El Niño Preparedness: Strengthening Food and Water Security," the Chief Minister emphasized that despite shifting weather forecasts, preparedness must continue to be the government's top priority. He described the emerging

climate situation as an existential challenge requiring coordinated action across all sectors. "Climate change is a current fact, not a problem for the future. Forecasts may vary, but being ready is essential, according to Sangma. He called the state of affairs a "existential crisis" and called on institutions, communities, and government agencies to take a flexible, data-driven, and adaptable strategy to lessen the effects of climate uncertainties. "We can't wait for flawless planning. Now is the time to take action. Future generations' resilience will be shaped by every action we take today," he stated. The Chief Minister also emphasized Meghalaya's efforts to support

natural farming, pointing out that the Prime Minister has expressed gratitude for the initiative and that it has garnered national recognition. "A viable and sustainable strategy to lessen the effects of climate change is through natural farming. But we need to develop and modify methods that are appropriate for Meghalaya's particular circumstances," he continued. He emphasized that integrated strategies including water conservation, spring revitalization, and the building of water retention infrastructure like check dams and reservoirs are necessary to enhance climate resilience. "Success should be measured by the real difference we make in people's lives, not just by schemes," he stated.

Manipur CM Promotes Viksit Bharat@2047 Organic Farming Vision and Opens Biofertilizer Plant

Imphal, July 05: One of the main elements of the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision, according to Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, is the use of biofertilizers to promote total organic farming. He emphasized that sustainable agricultural practices are crucial for guaranteeing healthier people and a healthier environment. The Chief Minister spoke during the opening of a Bio-reactor Unit for Biofertilizer Production at the North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST) Branch Laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Lamphelpat, Imphal. Speaking to the crowd,

Singh stated that in order to realize the goal of Viksit Bharat@2047, the Indian government has started a number of initiatives in many fields under the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He claimed that by encouraging sustainable farming methods, the use of biofertilizers in agriculture would greatly benefit in creating a healthier India. The Chief Minister issued a warning, stating that overuse of chemical fertilizers is detrimental to soil fertility and long-term agricultural output in addition to being bad for human health. He emphasized that in order to achieve sustainable agricultural development, farmers must be encouraged to

adopt eco-friendly choices. Singh highlighted Sikim's accomplishments in organic farming, pointing out that the state was designated as India's first entirely organic state in 2016 and has been able to sustain its organic status ever since. He pointed out that Manipur has also made consistent strides in this area, having already converted about 400 hectares of agricultural land to organic farming. He added that the state Agriculture Department is working hard to reach the goal and broaden the scope of organic agriculture throughout Manipur, and that an additional 400 hectares would soon be converted to organic cultivation.

Following the success of pineapples, Tripura plans to produce mangoes on a large scale

Agartala, July 05: The Tripura government is currently planning to increase mango output and cultivate 342 Kanis of land, particularly in Gandacherra Sub-division in Dhalai District, as a result of the recent success. Ratan Lal Nath, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, made this announcement at the Monsoon Mango Festival 2026's last day program at Narikel Kunja. "While Tripura's Queen Pineapple is already well-known worldwide, the Dumbor region's mango varieties are equally exceptional and will soon gain international recognition," He uttered those words. The expectations were echoed by local MLA Nandita Debbarna Reang, MLA Promod Reang, MDC Khatrajoy Reang, former MP Rebati Tripura, former MDC Bhumikananda Reang, and other dignitaries in attendance. They also urged the improvement of road communication so that the cultivators could easily market their product. "We have seen many kinds of mangoes, but the varieties grown in Dumbor are truly unique," the minister stated.



On this day in 1972, India signed the Simla Agreement

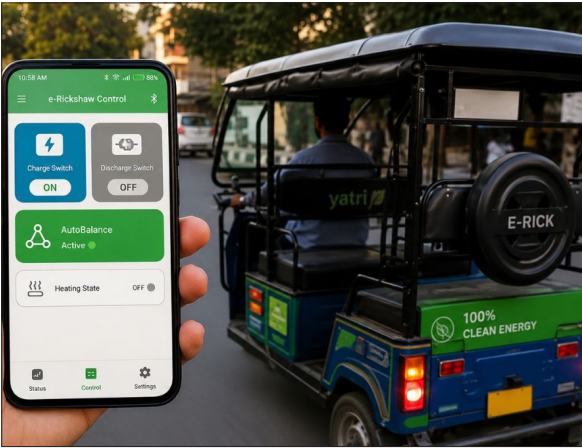


New Delhi, July 05: In an effort to undo the effects of the 1971 war, India and Pakistan signed the Simla Agreement, also known as the Shimla Agreement, on July 2, 1972. The agreement, which recognizes the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, is a comprehensive framework for friendly relations between India and Pakistan. However, there has been ongoing discussion about how to interpret the pact ever since then-prime minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani president Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signed it. Pakistan believes that different UN resolutions should be used to resolve the Kashmir problem. India claims that any alternative strategy is unsuitable since the Shimla Agreement expressly calls for a bilateral settlement of all disagreements between the parties. But this isn't the complete picture. Although treaties are defined by their wording, it is important to consider how the states that signed them behave and uphold their ideals. Regarding Pakistan, the country's media warfare and cross-border terrorism have caused more harm than specific Shimla Agreement clauses. The basis of the entire agreement has been steadily undermined. The Shimla Agreement envisioned more than just bilateral conflict resolution. Furthermore, both sides committed to fulfilling specific duties in order to foster amicable relations. As a result, they promised not to engage in any activities on their territory that may jeopardize amicable relations. Additionally, they pledged to oppose propaganda and support information sharing that advances cordial ties. Following the 14-day conflict in 1971, the aforementioned commitments were required to rebuild trust

between the nations. Unfortunately, Pakistan's behavior has completely changed during the last few decades. Lashkar-e-Taiba, responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, is a Pakistan-based terrorist organization recognized as such by the United Nations. Another group, Jaish-e-Mohammed, also operates from Pakistan. From 2018 to 2022, Pakistan was blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force for inadequacies in addressing terror financing. On April 22, 2025, The Resistance Front, a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba, killed 26 tourists in Jammu and Kashmir. The U.S. labeled the organization a terrorist group, and India's National Investigation Agency traced the conspiracy to Pakistan. In retaliation, India launched Operation Sindoor in May 2025 against terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Pakistan responded with disinformation campaigns, claiming attacks against Indian military and infrastructure, despite these actions violating the Shimla Agreement aimed at fostering bilateral relations. Pakistan's attempts to internationalize the Kashmir issue reveal contradictions, particularly in its diplomatic reliance on the Shimla Agreement while simultaneously engaging the UN for support. This selective implementation indicates a lack of full commitment. India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty post the Pahalgam terror attack reflects a principle that cooperation is contingent on treaty compliance. The ongoing terrorist activities linked to Pakistan have undermined the Shimla Agreement more than legal disputes, suggesting that its irrelevance stems from Pakistan's breach of its foundational spirit rather than the interpretations of its terms.

Chinese apps used to prevent e-rickshaws are ordered to be removed by the center

New Delhi, July 05: Following allegations of their misuse to disable e-rickshaws in Delhi, the Center ordered the removal of two mobile applications from the Apple App Store and Android Play Store: BAT BMS and Epoch Li-ion. BAT BMS and Epoch Li-ion are battery management apps that connect over Bluetooth and aid in remotely turning down lithium-ion batteries. The apps are being used to carry out a "prank" and disable moving automobiles. The two apps have now been ordered to be removed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India (MEITY). MeitY Secretary S Krishnan said the government will take up



this issue with the app retailers to ensure any dangerous software don't come up in the public domain. Krishnan stated, "That is right...there are a couple of apps, which came to our notice yesterday and

both of them have been taken down from the app stores." He was giving a speech outside of a CII Cybersecurity Summit. Chinese smartphone applications are being used to remotely shut down e-rick-

shaws, locally called tiris. The process is simple: open the mobile application, connect to the nearest battery via Bluetooth, and activate the discharge switch. A single tap switches off the vehicle. The driver is left confused and stranded. The driver can restart the e-rickshaw only when it is switched back on through the same application. For e-rickshaw drivers, what may seem like a joke is actually a nightmare since it stops their car in the middle of the road. An Instagram video that went viral depicts a distraught driver whose car has been disabled by an unknown person. He needs to restart his car before he can drive to get money. Instead, he will

lose his day's salary attempting to get the vehicle mended from a local mechanic. Not all drivers have cellphones or the technical know-how to use the new software. In certain instances, drivers have been able to escape the situation thanks to the generosity of strangers. Social media star Amaan Siddiqui shared a devastating interaction with an impaired driver. "I saw a man tying up his rickshaw to another in order to move it," Siddiqui said. "I thought this app would be the culprit. I brought my vehicle behind it and attempted linking my app to the rickshaw. I assured him that his rickshaw will now restart after I requested him to halt. The driver re-

portedly lost Rs 400 to Rs 500 throughout the day." He broke down and informed me that he had missed a full day of earning. He had rented the rickshaw, and it had been parked there all day. A top Delhi government official claims that although the app's main purpose is to track battery characteristics like voltage, temperature, and current in real time, its control features could be abused on devices with insufficient authentication. "Neither authentication nor a password are present. As a result, limiting the power output and bringing the vehicle to a sudden halt becomes straightforward," the official stated.

A political slugfest in Tamil Nadu is sparked by an alleged plot to overthrow the Vijay government



Chennai, July 05: With the TVK and its allies exchanging accusations with the opposition DMK and AIADMK, the purported conspiracy to overthrow the TVK administration in Tamil Nadu has escalated into a full-fledged political brawl. Based on an allegation from a TVK MLA who said he was given Rs 35 crore by a consulting business to support a move against the Assembly Speaker, Chennai Police detained three people on Wednesday. Senthil Balaji, a DMK MLA, and his brother Ashok are reportedly linked to one of the three detained. Agencies claim

that the plan was to overthrow the Vijay-led administration by manipulating the simultaneous resignations of fifteen TVK MLAs. Balaji's brother Ashok has now been charged with trying to bribe TVK MLA N Elaiyaraja. The DMK was accused by the TVK of "buying out MLAs" in an attempt to undermine the administration. The party stated that the DMK has contacted a number of TVK MLAs within the past 40 days. Senior TVK leader and Tamil Nadu Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar claimed that the DMK had been "red-handed" and accused the party of engaging

in "horse-trading." DMK is attempting to steal our MLAs. Police have now apprehended it. For Rs 35 crore, they attempted to buy our MLA.

For the past forty days, the DMK has been attempting to steal our MLAs. MLAs from our partner party were also contacted, according to Nirmal Kumar. He immediately accused Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi and former chief minister MK Stalin of attempting to create a crisis. "Our MLA was threatened by a close friend of Senthil Balaji.

This is the work of Udhayanidhi and Stalin. They are accusing TVK of horse-trading in order to conceal this. We never engage in horse-trading. We are at ease with the backing of our allies," he continued. The TVK was retaliated against by the opposition DMK and AIADMK. Vijay has not fulfilled his commitments, according to the DMK, and the TVK is fabricating accusations to cover up its shortcomings. "Vijay has not kept any of his

commitments. The TVK alliance is now engaged in horse trafficking. With such a worthless chief minister in office, why should MK Stalin retire?"

TKS Elangovan, a DMK leader, stated. The AIADMK criticized the Vijay-led TVK for allegedly poaching MLAs from rival parties, including their own members who have recently switched. AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami questioned the ethical implications of this "horse-trading." Meanwhile, TVK allies, particularly the Congress, censured the DMK, accusing it of fearing opposition status and attempting to destabilize the Vijay government. Congress MP Praveen Chakravarty expressed concerns about the DMK's intentions. Additionally, VCK, which shifted allegiance from the DMK to the TVK, affirmed its five-year commitment to support the TVK government amidst concerns about MLA resignations being detrimental to political stability.

Maharashtra Will Prohibit Sting Energy Drink Sales Near Schools



New Delhi, July 05: Following concerns about specific elements in the beverage that are deemed improper for youngsters, the Maharashtra government stated on Friday that the sale of "Sting" energy drink and other intoxicating substances will be banned within a 500-meter radius of schools. Food and Drug Administration Minister Narhari Zirwal responded to a query posed by BJP MLA Vikram Pachpute in the legislative assembly by stating that the decision was made due to worries about the effects of energy drinks on kids. The minister said the FDA has been directed to enforce the restriction. He also said schools have been asked to conduct

awareness programmes to educate students about the health risks associated with the consumption of energy drinks. According to health experts, energy drinks are often high in caffeine and sugar. "The concerns raised by the honourable member regarding the sale of 'Sting' energy drink in and around school premises are valid to some extent. If the sale of such energy drinks or any other intoxicating substances is found within 500 metres of a school campus, immediate action will be taken against those responsible," said Zirwal. Pachpute also asked whether the government would introduce a rule prohibiting the sale of the energy drink to children below 18 years of age. MLAs Rahul Kul and Varun Sardesai encouraged the government to enact stronger regulations to stop youngsters from having easy access to these drinks during the conversation. Zirwal said the government would boost awareness campaigns at the school level while guaranteeing effective execution of the planned ban.

Channi Loyalists Push for Punjab Congress Chief Post Despite Warring's Continuation

New Delhi, July 05: Former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi's supporters gathered at his residence in Morinda, Punjab, on Friday, with several former MLAs demanding that he be appointed the state Congress chief. The development comes after the party's central leadership decided to retain Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as the Punjab Congress president. The announcement to retain Warring was made on Wednesday, alongside the unveiling of the party's various committees for the 2027 Assembly elections.

Before supporters began gathering at Channi's residence in Morinda, some former party MLAs who had reached the venue told reporters that if the Congress was to return to power in Punjab in next year's Assembly elections, the former chief minister should be appointed state unit president. Channi is said to be miffed at not being appointed to the post and is learnt to have not even made the customary call to thank the party leadership

following the new appointments. The former chief minister's supporters have expressed disappointment over his not being given the post, for which the former Punjab chief minister had been lobbying. Those who reached Channi's residence included former deputy chief minister OP Soni, former ministers Bharat Bhushan Ashu and Gurpreet Singh Kangar, former MP Mohd Sadiq, sitting MLA Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, and former MLAs Nazar Singh Manshahia, Gurkirat Singh Kotli, Lakhvir Singh Lakha, Darshan Singh Brar and Tarsem Singh. Before the meeting, several of Channi's supporters, including former MLAs, backed his candidature and demanded that the party hand over the reins of the Punjab Congress to the former chief minister. Former MLA Darshan Singh Brar said, "If Channi is not made the state president, the Congress cannot form its government in Punjab. Under Warring's leadership, the Congress cannot come to power". Gurpreet Kangar said, "We have to go

to people to seek votes and people want Channi as the state chief." Amid speculation over a change in the leadership of its Punjab unit, the Congress decided to retain Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as the state unit president. Jalandhar MP Channi, a Dalit leader who was seen as one of the main contenders for the post of Punjab Congress chief, has been appointed chairperson of the campaign committee, a key position responsible for strategising and planning the party's poll campaign. The party also retained Partap Singh Bajwa as the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Gurdaspur MP and former deputy chief minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has been appointed chairperson of the core committee. In a bid to check factionalism, the party accommodated several leaders in different committees for the Assembly elections due next year in the state.

Channi and Randhawa were seen as the main contenders for the post of state unit president.

Inside the BJP's Thoughtful Approach to Uttar Pradesh's Uniform Civil Code

New Delhi, July 05: One of the BJP's main promises, the Uniform Civil Code, or UCC, has turned into a political hot potato. At the end of the Rajya Sabha's 2024 discussion on the Constitution's 75th anniversary, Home Minister Amit Shah pledged that the BJP would implement a Uniform Civil Code in every state under its control, just as it had done in Uttarakhand. The controversial law, which attempts to create a single, secular set of personal laws covering marriage, divorce, and inheritance for all Indian residents regardless of religion, was introduced by the BJP over the course of the last 12 years. The BJP insists that the code promotes gender justice and national integration, critics fear it threatens the distinct customs of minorities. Article 44 in the Directive Principles of State Policy, found in Part IV of the Constitution, states that "the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India". The state can only "endeavour" to create a common code among its residents, not enforce it, according to the Constitution. The BJP-ruled state of Uttarakhand was the first in independent India to enact the Uniform Civil Code in 2024. The creation of a committee led



by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai to review the draft Uniform Civil Code was approved by the Suvedu Adhikari-led Bengal Cabinet this week, moving the BJP government's main social reform agenda one step closer to becoming state law. So far, measures have been initiated in eight states: Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Assam. The question remains: why has no step been taken yet in Uttar Pradesh - the country's largest state - where the BJP has been in power for the last nine and a half years? According to BJP leaders, the party decided to implement it first in a smaller state like Ut-

tarakhand to study its impact, the public reaction, and the legal aspects. The central leadership expected a court challenge to the Uttarakhand law. Before moving forward in other states, they thought it wise to watch the court posture. In fact, the High Court has previously heard a challenge to the Uttarakhand law. The central government believes that it is appropriate to proceed only following judicial review. The BJP's future plan was to observe and wait while taking small steps. The BJP did not promise the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in its 2022 election manifesto, nor has the Yogi Adityanath-led government made significant moves towards its implementation.

Although Adityanath has made impactful statements regarding the UCC, including linking it to women's rights and social justice, the party cites practical, social, and political reasons for the delay rather than internal disagreements. With the UCC not mentioned in the manifesto, the BJP feels no electoral obligation, and it has initiated UCC discussions in smaller states to gauge reactions. The government's strategy appears focused on waiting for a potential national UCC legislation instead of implementing separate laws at the state level. Currently, priorities are directed towards maintaining law and order and implementing new criminal laws from the central government.

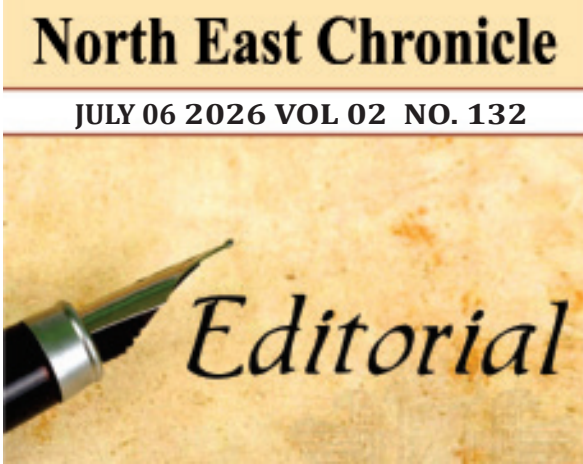
Nalbari Administration Issues 15-Day Notice Ahead of Fresh Eviction Drive

Nalbari, July 05: The Nalbari district administration has begun preparations for a fresh eviction drive in the Barkhetri Revenue Circle by issuing a 15-day notice to more than 150 families allegedly occupying around 322 bighas of government grazing land in Velakhaiti, Sabhamari and Baramara villages. According to an official notice issued by the Barkhetri Revenue Circle Office, the administration has directed the removal of alleged encroachments from Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) land. The notice states that around 286 bighas of the 870 bighas, 1 katha and 15 lechas of grazing land under Dag No. 212 at Velakhaiti are



under alleged illegal occupation. It also identifies 12 bighas under Dag No. 46 at Sabhamari and 24 bighas under Dag No. 93 at Baramara as encroached, taking the total land proposed for eviction to nearly 322 bighas. The administration cited

the Supreme Court's January 20, 2011 judgment in Civil Appeal No. 1132/2011 arising out of SLP (C) No. 3109/2011, which mandates the removal of illegal encroachments from government land. The notice directs all alleged encroachers to vacate the land within 15 days, failing which eviction proceedings will be initiated under the provisions of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886. The administration has also asked anyone possessing valid land allotment or ownership documents related to the notified land to submit the records to the concerned Revenue Circle Office within the stipulated period for verification.



The North East: India’s Mosaic of Diversity and Resilience

The North East is not merely a geographical appendage to India — it is a civilisation in itself, woven from extraordinary diversity. Eight states, over 200 ethnic communities, and a multitude of languages and dialects co-exist within a relatively compact landmass, making the region one of the most culturally rich pockets of South Asia. Geographically, the Northeast straddles the Himalayas, the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys, and dense rainforests, giving it a biodiversity profile unmatched elsewhere in the country. It is part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, home to species found nowhere else on earth, from the one-horned rhinoceros of Kaziranga to rare orchids of Arunachal Pradesh. Its strategic location, bordering five countries, lends it geopolitical significance that few other Indian regions possess. The “Act East Policy” has only reinforced its role as India’s gateway to Southeast Asia. Yet what truly sets the Northeast apart is its spirit of syncretism — tribal traditions, Vaishnavite influences, Buddhist heritage, and indigenous faiths have long coexisted with remarkable harmony. As India looks to the future, recognising and nurturing this uniqueness — rather than flattening it into uniformity — must remain central to the region’s development narrative.

Are you wondering what Andy Burnham may do if he were elected? Analyze his history

Britain is in a condition of both certainty and uncertainty one week after Keir Starmer’s departure. Unless there is an unexpected scandal or meteorite, Andy Burnham will almost certainly be prime minister by the end of the summer. Nevertheless, whether Burnham receives his anticipated coronation or not, the briefness of his return to Westminster and the rapidity of Starmer’s departure schedule have produced an amazing scenario: a person who was not even an MP until two weeks ago may soon take office without anyone knowing what policies he will enact aside from the required catchphrase of “change.” We are witnessing the real-time development of a political project as the main unions in the country quarrel over Burnham’s chancellor and, consequently, his economic agenda before he is even named prime minister. This does not imply that Burnham’s intentions won’t become more apparent. He made the first of what is expected to be a series of speeches outlining his priorities on Monday, starting with devolution and his promise to establish a “No 10 North” in Manchester with the aim of transferring authority and development to “every postcode.” But it is a sign of the scale of the political and social turmoil of

the past decade, and deep-seated displeasure with Starmer, that it seems quite normal – rational, even – to take a punt on someone to run the country who hasn’t even had to pitch for the job, all on a vague feeling that he will be a bit better than the last guy.

The Burnham wave is effectively an act of collective projection. Various groups are putting their – often competing – hopes on to the former Greater Manchester mayor, on the possibility he might just deliver them. To know what a Burnham premiership could really look like, it’s worth spending less time imagining the future and more digging through his past. With a 16-year career in Westminster before his mayorship, Burnham’s former ministerial briefs and voting records cover almost every major issue he will now face as PM. Consider welfare reform. Burnham obeyed the directive of then-interim Labour leader Harriet Harman to abstain from voting on the welfare reform measure back in 2015, when George Osborne was implementing broad austerity policies. Burnham claimed at the time that the legislation was “unsupportable,” but he refrained from rebelling as a cabinet member because, if he were in charge, he would de-

mand collective accountability from his MPs. Ten years later, Burnham faces new pressure to reduce “the bloated welfare bill” from the right-wing media and a group of Labour backbenchers who successfully opposed Starmer’s proposal to reduce personal independence benefits last summer. What may the new management do? Burnham stated during the Makerfield campaign that he was “not squeamish” about cutting benefit payments, but that he preferred a “preventative” strategy to help individuals return to the workforce rather than making “crude cuts.” He might be held to that by Labour MPs. Think about social services. When Burnham was the health secretary in 2009, he suggested a free-at-the-point-of-use care service in England that would be funded by a 10% levy on all estates and the elimination of inheritance tax.

However, the Conservatives called this a “death tax.” He seems prepared to try again. Burnham told the Guardian last month that he “wouldn’t flinch” from tax rises to finance a social care service in England. He also expressed his desire for the Casey review of adult social care, which is currently scheduled for 2028, to be released as soon as the year is out. Will he, however,

hesitate to back the migrant caregivers required to staff the system? The real question is whether Burnham would retain Shabana Mahmood as home secretary, given the ongoing controversy surrounding a minister who unilaterally wrote an article for the Times supporting care worker visas. If so, how will his social care measures align with her strict views on immigration?

The expense of life is another. Burnham’s much-discussed Bee Network of buses and trams throughout Manchester provides a sense of how his premiership may go, bringing some everyday necessities under public control and, as he stated in his Makerfield victory speech, making “life more affordable for people.” However, there is currently little clarity regarding the rumors of nationalization of utilities. It’s notable that Burnham appears to not just mean the basics – say electricity bills or the weekly food shop – but the small pleasures that make life worth living. As he remarked in his speech: “People need to be able to look forward to a night out or a holiday with the kids. People need hope.” Will decreasing family expenses and increasing wealth taxes be necessary to achieve that? Burnham criticized Ed Miliband’s house tax in 2015 during

his unsuccessful Labour leadership campaign, calling it “a kind of good principle” but equating it with “the 1970s politics of envy.” He is unquestionably a longtime supporter of taxing wealth more than income, regardless of the language used. Burnham has been proposing a land value tax to replace stamp duty and council tax since 2010, and the right-wing media is already freaking out that he will increase capital gains tax as part of a “radical new economic agenda.” All we can do is hope. Because that is the nature of a Burnham premiership: being marginally better than the previous player won’t be sufficient. Whether it’s fair or not, voters always have higher expectations of a Labour government, and Burnham’s load is even higher.

His leadership follows broad dissatisfaction with Starmer, and a right-wing press ready to support Reform UK is waiting in the wings. But perhaps it should be seen as a form of release rather than a burden. Burnham can now make a clear break from both Starmer’s failing program and the decades of social and economic dogma that have resulted in Britain’s current situation, following two years of Labour towing the center-right line on the false promise of electability.

Burnham’s proposals for youth employment will determine whether he succeeds or fails; he must prioritize the next generation

A new initiative to assist the million young people without jobs who are not enrolled in school, training, or employment (Neets) begins today. It coincidentally begins on the day Andy Burnham set out to construct a vision of his horizons with plans that prioritized the young, closely echoing Alan Milburn’s biting critique of the fate of a “lost generation.” As of right now, any firm can apply for a youth jobs award of £3,000 to hire an individual between the ages of 18 and 24 who has been on universal credit and seeking employment for at least six months. Burnham’s devolution revolution will be a great complement to that financial incentive for firms. The Burnham cure is a significant transfer of authority, money, and taxes from Whitehall to local mayors since jobs are located locally, education and higher education are either successful or unsuccessful locally, and disadvantage frequently

plagues children’s prospects in local communities. Burnham’s belief that local approaches to unemployment are the most effective stems from the success of his Manchester “working well” program, which has surpassed national initiatives. However, labor programs are challenging. Some claim that the £3,000 bribe is “not enough for the trouble.” Others warn of an expensive deadweight in subsidizing businesses who would have hired them anyhow, calling it “too much.” The Resolution Foundation’s answer today was not exactly a resounding endorsement: according to the organization, this subsidy might employ an additional 2,800 young people annually at a cost of £36,700 per. If it prevents young people from being permanently unemployed due to inexperience, saving a lifetime of benefits and depression, it might be worth the expense. A higher rating is given to the new employment

guarantee that will begin on Tuesday. Employers who take on a young individual who is difficult to hire and has been unemployed for more than 18 months will receive full compensation and benefits. The youth are put on “intensive work search” after 13 weeks of unemployment, marking the start of the three-year £2.5 billion program. An apprenticeship, work experience, vocational training, further education, or a Swap (sector-based work academy program) that provides up to six weeks of vocational training in a college with practical work experience and a guarantee of an interview for a real vacancy will now be guaranteed by a personal coach. The Resolution Foundation claims that at a cost comparable to the youth jobs award, that will generate 17,500 additional jobs annually. The history of back-to-work programs is replete with old arguments and acronyms that de-

note incentives, threats, bribes, and frequently broken promises. There have also been pilots and trials, some of which were poorly funded and others of which were excessively harsh. However, Labour’s centerpiece New Deal for young people, which was introduced in 1998, was the only notable success; in just two years, it had surpassed its goal of employing 250,000 under-25s. According to the National Audit Office, the initiative had assisted 339,000 people in finding employment by October 2001. Is Labor capable of doing it once more? The tone and positivity of recently trained work coaches were the key to success last time. Back then, I sat in on many of the interviews and watched their enthusiasm spread to suspicious and frightened young people who had received too many rejections. Positive news quickly spread that job centers were providing real options rather than hu-

miliation. Accepting an option or forfeiting the entitlement to benefits was always a necessary fallback. However, the New Deal never intended to deprive individuals of benefits by deceit and animosity, in contrast to the later punitive penalties regime under Iain Duncan Smith and George Osborne. Work coaches have been receiving additional training in anticipation of the new youth guarantee; up until now, many had heavy caseloads and little preparedness. I chatted with a recent hire at Severn Trent Water in Coventry who, since graduating from De Montfort University with a business degree, had applied for hundreds of jobs, both high-paying and low-paying. She discovered that her job coach didn’t know much about the programs that were available; she only learned about an eight-week placement by chance, which is currently preparing her for a graduate HR program. As part of a pi-

lot program run by the Department for Work and Pensions, Severn Trent also accepts a large number of unqualified applicants and says that 100% of them pass their GCSE in arithmetic and English. Away from negative school experiences, learning is more effective. However, Andy Burnham is focusing on the causes why people become Neet, going much beyond the workings of employment schemes. He is under tremendous pressure to reduce the welfare budget, but he declines “crude cuts” in favor of a “preventative” strategy. Taking up Milburn’s review, he delves deeply into the generational, regional, socioeconomic, racial, and unintentional injustices that stand in the way, combining early childhood education with local health and housing, where support is most crucial. In his Manchesterism, issues broken up in Whitehall silos are better resolved collectively.

Expanding World Cup Reveals a Shift in Global Power

The expanding World Cup has delivered more than just unexpected results; it has revealed a changing balance of power in international football. In a remarkable span of five hours, across Boston and Monterrey, two of Europe’s most decorated football nations were eliminated from the tournament by ambitious challengers. Four-time world champions Germany and three-time finalists Netherlands were both knocked out in the Round of 32, with Paraguay and Morocco producing performances that reflected the growing competitiveness of the global game. For decades, European and South American giants dominated football’s biggest stage. Nations such as Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Italy, France and the Netherlands carried a reputation built on history, talent development and tactical excellence. But the latest World Cup has shown that the traditional hierarchy is becoming less predictable. Smaller football nations are no longer participating merely to gain experience; they are arriving with belief, organisation and the ability to defeat established powers. Germany’s defeat was particularly symbolic.

The country has long represented efficiency, discipline and tournament consistency. For generations, German football carried the expectation of reaching the latter stages of major competitions. Former captain Joshua Kimmich captured this feeling when he reflected that while growing up, Germany’s presence in the semi-finals or final almost felt guaranteed. That era of certainty, however, appears to be fading. The loss to Paraguay exposed deeper issues within the Ger-

man football system. The image of Germany as a football machine capable of producing elite talent year after year has weakened. The fact that goalkeeper Manuel Neuer was still required to carry responsibility at the age of 40, more than a decade after being part of Germany’s 2014 World Cup-winning team, highlighted concerns about the next generation. While Neuer remains a legendary figure, relying heavily on veterans suggests that the country has struggled to produce replacements at the same level. Germany’s younger attacking generation arrived with significant expectations. Players such as Kai Havertz, Leroy Sané, Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala represented the hope of a new era. Yet on the biggest stage, that promise failed to translate into consistent performances. Their technical ability was never in doubt, but international football demands more than individual brilliance. It requires tactical balance, mental strength and the ability to handle pressure. The struggles of Germany also raise questions about the Bundesliga’s ability to develop players ready for global competition. The league remains one of Europe’s strongest domestic competitions, but producing exciting talents is different from creating a complete international team.

A successful national side requires depth, competition for places and players who can perform under different tactical conditions. Germany’s recent difficulties suggest that the development pipeline may need reassessment. The Netherlands’ elimination from the tournament highlights a departure from its historically creative and ambitious football, epitomized by

“total football” and Johan Cruyff. Under coach Ronald Koeman, the squad’s cautious tactics hindered the full expression of their attacking talent, leading to struggles in decisive play against a more intense Morocco. Morocco’s win signifies a paradigm shift in international football, showcasing the rise of teams with strong tactical discipline and innovative approaches, signifying that success is no longer guaranteed for historically dominant nations. Paraguay’s victory over Germany echoes this trend, indicating that outsiders now frequently adopt advanced strategies and experience from top leagues, narrowing the gap with traditional powers.

The World Cup’s expansion facilitates exposure for emerging football nations, contradicting critics who argue it dilutes quality; rather, it offers developmental opportunities. As smaller nations shed psychological barriers against giants, confidence is reshaping the landscape of international football, bolstered by investments in infrastructure and player development outside of Europe. Established European powers face the challenge of evolving their systems in the face of this changing environment. The modern game mandates a combination of technical skills, physical preparedness, and tactical adaptability. The recent defeats of Germany and the Netherlands serve as a warning: past traditions alone cannot guarantee future success. The World Cup’s new dynamic prioritizes ambition alongside historical reputation, marking a significant transformation in global football where innovative approaches and belief are pivotal for success.

A potentially more deadly US pharmaceutical agreement is Starmer’s farewell gift to Britain

British democracy is a straightforward sport, despite all the boisterous spectators and in-depth match commentary. We elect politicians to serve our interests. They oversee the essential services, including healthcare and education, that support our families and communities. The fundamental tenet of the entire political system is that they serve us. Believe it, as I do, then this week is one of huge democratic failure. Keir Starmer and his ministers are working against us, not for us. They have pushed a broad measure through parliament that will hurt the public, according to impartial experts, and they have done it without even disclosing the expenses or repercussions. Even worse, neither the press nor MPs have examined this. Using eye-glazing language to make everything appear as dry as possible is one way this has occurred. I will thus attempt to stay away from acronyms and complexities whenever possible. In December, Starmer and Donald Trump struck a deal on medication. Downing Street agreed it would spend more on branded medications, in return for the White House not jacking up tariffs on British pharmaceutical exports to the US. The deal stank, as I noted at the time. Our National Health Service (NHS), which was established to save lives and is one of the greatest accomplishments of British democracy, was used to maintain face with Trump. Our healthcare system was now under the control of the most voracious president in American history. Wes Streeting and his Department of Health and Social Care gave almost no detail about how much this would cost, or what that meant for patients. They created a black hole of information, then tried their damndest to present defeat as victory. Look! ministers said: we get to buy these whizzy new drugs from America. Truth was, we always could, if we wanted to – except now the choice was no longer ours. MPs never got to examine these vast changes. They had no chance to debate the great erosion of our independent system for providing medicine. No awkward backbenchers or querulous lords or scribbling hacks or public information for Starmer and Streeting. Using a statutory instrument, they smuggled the entire thing into law. The government only released its headline statistics and facts after the agreement went into effect, sneaking them out right before the Easter bank holiday. According to Labour backbencher Rachael Maskell, MPs were only given the opportunity to discuss the revisions this week, “long after the horse has bolted.” We received the first comprehensive cost study for you, me, and our NHS this morning. Three prominent health professionals, including a former senior consultant to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice), the organization that determines how much we pay for our medications, carried out the investigation. It was published in the Brit-

ish Medical Journal and implies widespread public deception. Streeting made three pledges to voters during the negotiations with Trump. First, “the NHS is not on the table” in any discussion. Second, “we’re not going to cut NHS services to fund the pharma deal”. Lastly, the arrangement would cost “around £1 billion” annually over the following few years. All three of these pledges now look totally bogus. In the face of Trump’s bullying, the government will double how much it spends on pharmaceuticals as a share of national revenue, climbing from 0.3% currently to 0.6% in a decade. It also acknowledges that the NHS budget will provide the funding. According to the BMJ research, the NHS will need to find nearly three times the amount that Streeting promised over the course of the next few years. The authors estimate that the overall cost will be £44.7 billion by the end of the decade. For comparison, a plan for the government to find an additional £15 billion for defense has dominated this week’s news. Due to a deal led by its own health minister, the NHS may need to find three times that much only to pay for medications. The additional funds will be transferred from British taxpayers to investors in international pharmaceutical corporations. Additionally, based on the assumption that it will be funded by the NHS budget, the study indicates that it will result in a significant death toll. More money spent on branded medications translates into less money spent on statins, diabetes medications, doctors, nurses, and cancer scans. The authors’ model predicts that this will result in an additional 229,000 deaths by 2036 based on years of data on the relationships between NHS spending and patient health. This is a “conservative” estimate, according to the researchers, yet it is almost twice as many as the preventable fatalities that occurred in Britain during the Covid pandemic. You may refer to this as a massacre carried out in Whitehall at Trump’s White House’s request in order to increase shareholder profits. After the pandemic, Starmer and Streeting rightfully led the effort in pushing for lessons to be learnt. The government was compelled to start an investigation. Here is a trade arrangement that appears more dangerous than Covid, yet which has been exposed to almost zero democratic scrutiny. The Department of Health and Social Care told me it does not recognise these figures, but despite many requests from MPs and others, it has not published its own impact assessment. Indeed, the basics of parliamentary democracy have failed. No inquiry by the select committees working on health or trade or science. No Commons debate until this week, at which a junior minister was put up to catch the flak and was told by one MP that “everything [she] is saying is in the press release”. Regarding the media, there has been a near-silence.

As tensions in West Asia lessen, Bernstein and Macquarie reposition their portfolios of Indian stocks



Mumbai: As geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which have kept the world's financial markets on edge since February, have subsided, foreign research firms Bernstein and Macquarie have reorganized their India portfolio.

According to experts at Bernstein under the guidance of Venugopal Garre, their managing director and head of research for India, the cur-

rent climate is undoubtedly one of the most difficult for producing returns, with several major industries facing fundamental problems and no clear future. As a strategy, Bernstein has exited IndusInd Bank and ICICI Bank following their outperformance on YTD basis within the financials space. While retaining HDFC Bank, the research and broking house has added Axis

Bank to its portfolio amid hopes of an improvement in asset quality and a more favourable trajectory for credit costs."We are introducing Zy-dus in the healthcare industry after our previous overweight move. The company's growing position in the wellness sector and contributions from its innovation pipeline underpin its credible growth profile. Since IT is currently more of a bottom-up choice, we eliminate our IT index allocation (following its underperformance), Garre noted.

While HomeFirst is witnessing a recovery in disbursement growth coupled with better asset quality, Bernstein believes that Larsen & Toubro (L&T) should profit from a normalization in West Asia. In the hopes of a reduction in import taxes on gold, Titan Company is still on hold. "Our preferred utility exposure is still NTPC. Given its stance in low-cost basics within metro regions, where demand is comparatively more resilient, DMart remains our primary consumer play. In the absence of more ideas, we also keep

PFC, Nuvama Wealth, and cash allocation," Garre of Bernstein noted.

In contrast, those at Macquarie have reorganized their assets and strategy into three main categories: stars, rising stars, and tactical ideas.

Macquarie has left Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) and added TVS Limited to the large-cap space under the stars theme. JSW Steel and Titan have been kept. "We are gradually becoming more optimistic about Bharti Airtel (higher tariffs around Jio listing)." In a coauthored note, Macquarie analysts lead by Aditya Suresh, their head of India Equity Research, stated, "We continue to like the fundamental outlook and believe negativity is in the price, even though HDFC Bank has been a major detractor."

Macquarie has included Phoenix Mills and Lenskart in the rising stars category. "For this rising stars group, we note a median revenue CAGR of 17% (FY26-28E) with margin expansion driving a stronger 40% EPS growth outlook alongside a 20% ROE," Macquarie analysts noted.

Softer crude causes Goodyear, CEAT, and other tire stocks to rise 7%



Mumbai: As crude oil prices continued their recent downward trend, tire company shares were rising today. Following Qatar's announcement that Iran and the US had made "positive progress" in indirect negotiations centered on the Strait of Hormuz, oil prices dropped to their lowest points in over four months on Thursday. The biggest gainer was Good-year India, which was up 7.2% at ₹811 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) at roughly 10 AM. CEAT was up 4% at ₹3,779. Additionally, Tolls Tyres shares increased by 6% to ₹110. Shares of TVS Sri-chakra and JK Tyre both increased by almost 3% to trade at ₹4,320 and ₹411, respectively. Balkrishna Industries (₹2,191), Apollo Tyres (₹441), and MRF (₹1,31,370) all saw increases of one to two percent. This occurs while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) declined 1.21 percent to \$67.75 and Brent crude slid 1.02 percent to \$70.84 per barrel. Notably, crude-linked raw materials like carbon black and synthetic rubber account for over 70% of tire production costs, making the sector extremely vulnerable to changes in oil prices. US and Iranian negotiators met in Doha for two days to discuss unfreezing Iran's cash and maritime commerce in the Strait of Hormuz. US Vice President JD

Vance stated that oil flows through the canal have recovered to pre-war levels, but he did not provide specific numbers. Tanker traffic in the strait has begun to rebound. Sources told Reuters that OPEC+ oil-producing nations will probably agree to a further increase in their output objectives starting in August when they meet on Sunday, adding to supply during a period of declining oil prices. "Crude oil has erased the gains recorded during the US-Iran conflict as concerns over supply disruptions have eased," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said, adding that sectors with high fuel, energy, and crude-linked raw material costs are likely to benefit the most from easing oil prices. Tyres companies, he said, could see margin improvement due to lower input and transportation costs. "The rally in tyre stocks is primarily being driven by expectations of margin expansion rather than a sudden improvement in demand." At the same time, the domestic demand outlook remains healthy, the analyst said, while noting that the replacement demand continues to be resilient. Also, recovery in commercial vehicle sales, improving rural sentiment, and steady passenger vehicle volumes provide additional support for the sector. Ponmudi stated that he prefers MRF, Apollo Tyres, and CEAT among the listed players since these businesses are still in a solid position because of their growing profit profile and robust domestic franchise. If the earnings recovery continues, JK Tyre may provide better operating leverage to investors who are prepared to assume greater risk.

JSW Infra completes a QIP for Rs 7,503 crore and receives high institutional demand

Mumbai: On Wednesday, JSW Infrastructure (JSW Infra) announced that it has finished a qualified institutional placement (QIP) for Rs 7,503 crore. This is the first time in India that a primary issuance and an offer for sale (OFS) by a promoter selling shareholder are combined into a single QIP structure. JSW Infra made a primary issuance of Rs 6,555 crore as part of the QIP, and the promoter sold shareholders to obtain the remaining funds through an OFS. Investors, including domestic mutual funds, insurance firms, and international institutional investors, mostly long-only and pension funds, submitted bids totaling approximately Rs 50,530 crore to the QIP, which was subscribed almost 6.7 times. The business stated that participation from domestic mutual funds like HDFC Mutual Fund and SBI Mutual Fund, as well as international investors like FMR, Capital Group, and BlackRock, among others, demonstrated a strong belief in the company's growth plan and long-term prospects.

According to the company, the deal will help JSW Infra comply with minimum public shareholding requirements, raise growth capital to support its multi-year capital expenditure program worth Rs 39,000 crore, and greatly expand its institutional shareholder base by bringing in a number of notable domestic and international investors. "The successful completion of this QIP reflects strong investor confidence in India's structural growth story and in our

resilient business model," stated Rinkesh Roy, joint managing director and chief executive officer. The level of involvement from both domestic and international institutional investors demonstrates confidence in our strong port expansion pipeline and the continuous development of our logistics platform. "Roy went on to say that the money raised would put the company in a position to follow its growth trajectory, which includes increasing port capacity to 400 million tonnes annually by FY30, bolstering its logistics network, and pursuing specific strategic opportunities, all while solidifying its standing as a top supplier of ports and logistics solutions that support India's trade expansion." The capital raised positions us well to fund our growth projects while maintaining financial strength," stated Nagarajan J, chief financial officer. We are very happy to welcome a number of top domestic and international institutional investors to our shareholder group, which should increase the breadth and depth of our investor base."

The QIP's book-running lead managers were JM Financial, Avendus Capital, Citigroup Global Markets India, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India), SBI Capital Markets, and Jefferies India. Khaitan & Co. served as the company's and the selling shareholder's legal counsel, while Trilegal and Linklaters Singapore served as the book-running lead managers' legal counsel.

Renfra Energy India submits a DRHP to Sebi in order to fund Rs. 430 crore through an IPO

Mumbai: Renfra Energy India Ltd., a provider of integrated solar and wind energy solutions for commercial and industrial (C&I) clients with its headquarters in Tamil Nadu, has submitted its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in order to raise money through an IPO.

The DRHP claims that the planned IPO includes an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 4.7 million equity shares by current shareholders and a new issue of equity shares



valued up to ₹430 crore. The OFS is not being attended by promoters Jayendran, executive director, and Muthuraj Periyasamy, chairman and

managing director. Renfra Energy intends to use the net proceeds from the new issue for general corporate purposes, working capital

requirements of ₹170 crore, and the redemption of non-convertible debentures totaling ₹160 crore. Renfra Energy was established in 2017 and serves utility-scale, commercial, and industrial clients in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in the turnkey engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) and renewable project execution sectors. Solar energy solutions, wind energy solutions, and operation and maintenance services comprise the company's three business segments.

Prior to submitting the red herring prospectus to the Registrar of Companies, the business may also engage in a pre-IPO placement of equity shares valued up to ₹50 crore. The amount raised through the pre-IPO placement will be subtracted from the size of the new issue if it is finished.

In FY26, Renfra Energy recorded operating revenue of ₹1,013 crore, a compound annual growth rate of 54.38% since FY23.

Profit after tax stood at ₹156.8 crore in FY26. By

May 15, 2026, the company had completed 462.35 megawatts (MW) of installed renewable energy projects, including 49.5 MW of wind and 412.85 MW of solar.

Additionally, it had ongoing projects with a total capacity of 139.1 MW, comprising 56.1 MW of wind projects and 83 MW of solar projects in various stages of development.

The DRHP lists KPI Green Energy, K.P. Energy, Solarworld Energy Solutions, and Zodiac Energy as listed peers.

Tepid Q1 results are priced in; Indian markets are not fragile: Radhika Gupta

Mumbai: The markets have experienced significant volatility in the first half of 2026.

In an in-person interview with Puneet Wadhwa in New Delhi as the second half of 2026 approaches, Radhika Gupta, managing director and chief executive officer of Edelweiss Mutual Fund, stated that markets are usually depicted as either extremely fragile or unstoppable, but the reality usually lies somewhere in between. We anticipated that India would be a relative outperformer at the beginning of 2026. There were growing expectations

that earnings growth would resume, and the first quarter (January–March 2026) showed early indications of this. Around February, foreign institutional investor (FII) flows also began to improve. Then came the crisis in West Asia.

The price of crude oil surpassed \$100 per barrel, which is bad news for India. Because they would have reflected the effects of high oil prices, I don't anticipate first-quarter earnings to be that robust. Nevertheless, I think that in terms of corporate results, the market has mostly priced in a quiet first quarter. One of India's

major concerns has decreased since crude prices have returned to about \$70 per barrel. Although there is always risk in the markets, the existential anxiety surrounding the steep increase in oil prices seems to have passed.

The government's measures, including those related to FCNR deposits, have been positive and should help attract meaningful capital inflows. Hopefully, the worst is behind us, second-quarter earnings improve, and the earnings recovery that we expected earlier this year materialises in the second half.

Sensex in July: The index's 23-year history indicates it can produce a strong return

Mumbai: In June 2026, the Sensex reached a high of 77,803 levels with a small gain of 3%. If history is any indication, July might be another month of strong gains for the index. However, the index ended June 1.7% behind its June high of 76,479.

According to data gathered from the BSE, the Sensex has produced positive returns in July in 18 of the previous 23 years, averaging 4.5% annually. In contrast, the BSE Sensex has only produced negative returns of 4.9% and 2.9%, respectively, in July 2019 and July 2025 over the previous 12 years. Out of 18 instances, when the Sensex reported positive return, in 9 instances it has given returns over 5 per cent to the investors. Sensex's highest return in July was in the calendar year 2022 (CY22), when it rallied 8.6 per cent. In July 2009, the Sensex surged 8.1 per cent, followed by 7.8 per cent in July 2004 and 7.7 per cent in July 2020, data shows.

Analysts noted that the start of the April–June (Q1) corporate result season was a major factor in the good returns in July. They stated that investors consider investing in stocks of businesses that provide positive outcomes together with sound advice. Aside from that, the monsoon's



development and its effects on rates and inflation also affect how the markets behave starting in July. The bullish momentum in the markets is expected to continue, according to Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research at HDFC Securities. "I think the worst is over, even though the peace in West Asia is still fragile." The monsoon back home is the only issue, and I believe it will pick up speed in the coming weeks. In the face of declining oil prices and a stable currency, FIIs will return to Indian stocks, he stated. If there are no significant negative developments both domestically and internationally, Vakil anticipates that the Nifty will reach 25,000 levels in July, up over 5% from the present levels of 23,866.

At 24,200, the index encounters resistance. I anticipate that the Nifty would rise by at least 1,000 points in July if that level is crossed," he stated. Ad-

ditionally, foreign inflows have historically been favorable in July, which has improved market performance. In nine out of twelve years, FIIs have been net buyers of Indian stocks, according to data gathered by the NSDL. According to research, domestic mutual funds (MFs) were net buyers for ten years in July. Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research at Kotak Securities, said traders are waiting for a breakout on either side based on the flow of news.

The Sensex's 77,000 level would serve as a critical barrier on the upward. "The market might rise to 77,500–77,700 levels if a breakout over this is effective. Conversely, selling pressure is anticipated to increase if the Sensex drops below the 50-day SMA (Simple Moving Average), or 76300. The index might retest between 75,800 and 75,500 levels below this, he stated.

Jana Small Finance Bank is unlikely to be impacted by the downgrade of Jana Capital

Mumbai: According to sources, Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB) is unlikely to be impacted by India Ratings & Research's (Ind-Ra) downgrade of Jana Capital after the maturity date of its non-convertible debentures (NCDs) was extended because there is no cross-default linkage between the SFB's debt and Jana Holdings or Jana Capital. Jana Capital is a systemically significant core investment firm that owns 16.95 per cent of Jana SFB and has a fully owned subsidiary, Jana Holdings, a non-operating financial holding company. Over time, Jana Holdings, which previously owned 44% of the bank, has decreased its ownership. In order to pay back debenture investors like TPG Asia, which owns a stake in the business, Jana Holdings in-



tends to sell more shares in the bank. It is anticipated that Jana Holdings would eventually reduce its ownership of the bank to less than 10%, at which point the business will no longer be considered a promoter entity. Since June 2022, Jana Holdings has not made any capital contributions to the bank. Over the last four years, the bank has raised

₹1,268 crore; however, Jana Holdings has no board members on the bank's board, and vice versa. The rating agency stated, "The rating downgrade reflects Jana Capital's and Jana Holdings' confirmation to Ind-Ra that the debenture holders have agreed to extend the maturity of the rated NCDs—originally due on June 30—to December 31."

Repayments totaling around ₹4,200 crore (principal + accrued interest) are due on June 30 for Jana Holdings and Jana Capital. The NCDs have been postponed, according to sources, to give the corporations additional time to sell their bank shares. In April, Jana Holdings sold TVS Venu Group a 4.9% share in the SFB for ₹193.3 crore, which was supposed to be used to partially settle future debt. Both Jana Holdings and Jana Capital, according to Ind-Ra, are non-functioning companies with no cash flows of their own. They were to pay these NCDs either by refinancing or by selling a portion of their operating company, Jana SFB. On the BSE, Jana SFB shares ended the day at ₹467.9, a slight decline of 0.19%.

Sebi prohibits 222 people and organizations for "manipulation" in five businesses

Mumbai: Due to alleged pump-and-dump schemes in five companies—Mauria Udyog, Vishal Fabrics, 7NR Retail, GBL Industries, and Darjeeling Ropeway—the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has prohibited 222 people and organizations from the market for four to seven years. Additionally, the businesses have been fined a total of ₹47.7 crore by the market regulator. The market regulator also prohibits operators, offloaders, volume generators, price influencers, and, in some situations, promoters and related businesses. Additionally, Sebi has mandated the disgorgement of any unlawful or improper profits made by the manipulators in the extensive scam that lasted for a number of years. In June 2023, the regulator issued an interim order. The architect and ultimate beneficiary of the price and volume manipulation scheme, according to Sebi's 394-page final ruling, is Hanif Sheikh. Shekh was ordered to pay a penalty of ₹10 crore and was prohibited for seven years.

The regulator observed that the scrips had no notable liquidity, significant corporate announcements, or performance



improvement prior to the start of the manipulation. However, the scrips had unusual price and volume swings between 2017 and 2020. For example, Mauria Udyog saw a notable price increase despite a loss and fall in income. The strategy involved linked companies trading with one another to create false volume. In order to give the idea of legitimacy and entice further investors, "buy" suggestions were then delivered by mass SMSes with headers that mimicked the names of well-known stock brokers. Recommendations to "buy" the scrips were also shared on some websites. The offloaders

were able to leave at inflated prices due to the momentum and consequent price spike. Additionally, the offloaders sent the profits to the trades' financiers or, in some situations, to promoters and related organizations. The market regulator pointed out that the promoters and controlled organizations were found to be the ultimate beneficiaries of the illegal profits obtained through the manipulation in the Mauria Udyog case. Additionally, 62 firm employees participated in the plan and subsequently sent the promoters their selling revenues. It was also discovered that Goenka Business Finance, an NBFC registered with the RBI, was heavily involved in manipulating prices and creating artificial volume.

In the instance of Darjeeling Ropeway Company, the plan allowed Himanshu Shah, the company's promoter, to leave the business at a premium. Shah had only been in charge of the business for a year prior to his false departure. Amarjeet Singh, a full-time member of Sebi, stated in the ruling that "a promoter using his own company to perpetrate a fraud deserves a higher quantum of penalty."

In the president’s most recent setback, a US judge rejects Trump’s attempt to restrict mail-in voting



Washington DC: A federal judge challenged Donald Trump’s election crackdown by blocking a proposed ban on mail-in voting nationwide.A US Postal Service (USPS) plan to withhold ballots to voters in states that do not turn over their voter registers to the federal government was rejected by Judge Emmet Sullivan of the US District Court for the District of Columbia.The US president’s proposal to limit mail-in voting was defeated in court for the second time in recent weeks.Sullivan’s ruling prohibits the

postal service from carrying out Trump’s executive order from March, which called for significant changes to the way elections are conducted around the country.

In compliance with the directive, the postal service published a proposed rule on June 2 that would mandate that states establish new voting procedures and provide voter lists to the US Department of Homeland Security and other agencies prior to the mail agency making deliveries. USPS would refuse to deliver the ballots if states did not cooperate.The

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a civil rights organization, argued that the new rule would violate a 2021 legal settlement that required USPS officials to take “extraordinary measures” to ensure timely delivery of ballot mail. Sullivan was appointed to the bench by Democratic former President Bill Clinton.

In that case, the NAACP sued the postal service in 2020 after delayed mail service threatened election access for voters during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since the most recent order is intended to uphold an agreement that bound the postal service as an agency until 2028, it seems to extend this injunction country-wide.”This ruling is a critical step in protecting the rights of voters who rely on the timely delivery of mail-in ballots to participate in our democracy,” stated Anthony Ashton, senior assistant general counsel of the NAACP. The USPS’s requirement to prioritize election mail would have been directly violated by the proposed amendments, which would

have created needless and illegal obstacles.Sullivan’s decision follows a ruling by US district judge Indira Talwani last week, in which the NAACP had also challenged the executive order. Talwani blocked the administration’s plan for mail-in voting across 23 states and the District of Columbia, which sued the administration to stop the proposed rule.

Due to long-standing disparities in access, Black voters are more likely to rely on mail-in ballots, therefore those obstacles may have disproportionately hurt them.

Simply put, mail-in voting lessens election day dirty tricks and voter intimidation at the polls, Ashton continued.According to Allison Zieve, head of Public Citizen Litigation Group, “the court today correctly recognized that USPS’s plan to create obstacles to mail-in voting was inconsistent with its commitment to timely delivery of election mail.” “Millions of voters rely on mailed ballots to participate in our democracy, and USPS’s plan was foolish, illegal, and dangerous.”

The US Supreme Court consents to consider arguments against assault weapon prohibitions

Washington DC: The constitutionality of prohibitions on AR-15 rifles and other comparable semiautomatic weapons will be examined by the US Supreme Court.The court said on Tuesday that they will consider cases contesting prohibitions in the Chicago region and Connecticut during the upcoming term.Following two recent wins for second amendment lawyers and activists, the supreme court made its announcement. On July 18, the court ruled in favor of a prospective gun owner from Texas who claimed that laws prohibiting marijuana users from owning firearms violate the second amendment. The following week, the court’s conservative majority struck down a Hawaii law that prohibits people from bringing a gun on to private property without the consent of the property’s owner.

According to Hayley Lawrence, executive director of the Center for Firearms Law at Duke Law School, the forthcoming cases represent the court’s most recent attempts to clarify the theory established by the 2022 Bruen ruling, which mandates that gun regulations undergo a “history and tradition test.””Bruen was this huge sea change in how the constitution was interpreted. The Supreme Court justices don’t like how lower courts are using the standard they developed because it bakes in judicial discretion, she said. “[These cases] are an opportunity to further clarify the history and tradition test’s methodology and application.” AR-15s are categorized as assault weapons in many states. This legal phrase refers to

firearms that lawmakers conclude are intended to be used offensively rather than defensively based on features like magazine capacity and weapon size.

These kinds of weapons are prohibited in some states, including California, New York, and Delaware. A national prohibition was implemented by the federal government in 1994, however the US Congress permitted it to lapse in 2004. In reaction to several major shootings, Democrats have backed its renewal. States have continued to enact their own restrictions, including recent ones in Virginia and Rhode Island, although those efforts have yet to result in a new nationwide ban.It is anticipated that arguments will take place in the fall. After a mass gunman at Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012 killed 26 students and teachers with an AR-15, the Connecticut law was passed. According to the authorities, the firearms might be outlawed since they resemble military-grade weapons and are a popular weapon of mass shooters.According to Janet Carter, managing director of second amendment litigation at the gun-control organization Everytown Law, “these laws are critical public safety measures and they are consistent with the second amendment.”On the other side, gun rights organizations contend that banning semi-automatic rifles—which millions of Americans lawfully possess—is unlawful. “The second amendment protects arms in common use for lawful purposes, and it’s hard to argue that a type of rifle that potentially outnumbers Ford F-150

trucks in America doesn’t meet that standard,” said Adam Kraut, the executive director of the Second Amendment Foundation.Four conservative justices on the nine-member court, enough to grant review of a case, had signaled that it was only a matter of time before the court took up the issue. The challengers stated, “It is difficult to see how the Second Amendment protects any firearms at all, aside from handguns kept in the home, if it does not protect the most popular rifles in the country.”In Cook County, Illinois, the prohibition was initially enacted in 1993. Both legislation have been affirmed by lower courts. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the first second amendment challenge to the ban, which was submitted in 2021 by the Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC).

The organization applauded the court’s ruling in Viramontes v. Cook County, Illinois, on Tuesday.

The FPC Grassroots Army released a statement saying, “The time has come to march forward and reclaim the rights that were immorally taken from us. We have fought hard for years to bring this question to the Supreme Court.”

However, Cook County attorneys assert that the proposal is constitutional. They added, “The trauma that assault weapon massacres have inflicted on the public at large has been astounding.”Another second amendment case involving prohibitions on the sale of firearms to individuals between the ages of 18 and 20 was rejected by the court.

Diplomats from the US and Europe are still at odds about the top position in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Washington DC: In a standoff that has turned into a transatlantic test of wills over dominance in the Balkans, diplomats from the US and Europe have been unable to settle their differences and agree on a new chief international envoy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.In a dispute that has weakened western unity in the area during the Trump administration, a conference in Sarajevo to choose a new high representative—a position with broad authority—ended without a compromise. On Tuesday, it was decided that the incumbent high representative, Christian Schmidt, a politician from Germany, should step down immediately, as the United States has been requesting, and that his American deputy would fill the position for two weeks while a successor is chosen. The steering board of the Peace Implementation Council declared on Tuesday night that it was “committed to reaching agreement on the selection of a new high representative as soon as possible, with the goal of completing the appointment no later than 14 July 2026.”US policy has prioritized the pursuit of advantage for US companies in recent months, especially a company run by Donald Trump associates. Meanwhile, European powers have so far refused to comply with US demands, even though Washington has threatened to cut off funding and participation in the international presence in Bosnia if its demands are not met. As a result of recent geopolitical dynamics, Bosnia has become a focal point for international tensions, particularly reflecting Europe’s response to US foreign policy under the Trump administration. Since the war concluded over 30 years ago, Bosnia has been under international protection, which has simultaneously curbed local political and economic progress. A meeting involving ambassadors from multiple countries sought to resolve the contentious position of the high representative after the previous representative’s ousting, influenced by US demands.The US had initially reached a com-



promise for the high representative to resign after elections, but subsequently pushed for an immediate departure, indicating a shift in strategy. Despite efforts, selecting a replacement has been problematic, with US support notably for Antonio Zanic Landi, who lacks significant expertise in Bosnia. Observers suggest this push is connected to broader US aims regarding a \$1 billion gas pipeline deal, positioning American corporate interests over traditional diplomatic initiatives. Jim O’Brien, a former US diplomat, criticized this approach, asserting it undermines long-established peace and the integrity of international institutions. The EU raised alarms about the implications of the pipeline agreement for Bosnia’s European integration, further complicating the situation. Landi, facing scrutiny as the preferred candidate and ambassador to the Vatican, maintains that his agenda aligns with European standards, although he acknowledges the contentious political landscape influences these discussions. His manifesto commits to prior high representatives’ decisions and emphasizes collaboration with the Peace Implementation Council, amidst growing concerns over the future of Bosnia’s governance.

Before the July 4th celebrations, the US experiences extremely high temperatures due to a heat dome

Washington DC: Sultry weather moved east just before Fourth of July celebrations in an area that takes pride in its status as a historic center of US independence, prompting multiday warnings of extreme heat to land in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia on Wednesday.The Northeast was expected to see temperatures in the mid 90s Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius); by Thursday, Philadelphia and Boston might reach 100 degrees. The National Weather Service stated that when humidity is added, the real-feel heat index may occasionally be considerably higher. A heat dome high-pressure systems above a region that trap heat and humidity - has been smothering parts of the U.S., from the Midwest to the East Coast. It will add much discomfort amid 250th anniversary parades, ship flotillas, outdoor concerts and, in Boston, a popular public reading of the Declaration of Independence from a historic balcony Saturday.New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani advised residents to stay cool inside and avoid “extraordinary temperatures.””To be breaking into triple digits over the course of these many next days - it is of immense concern given that too often the heat is something that is underestimated,” Mamdani said. Several heat-related ailments were caused by a bus carrying Junior



ROTC cadets in Hamptonburgh, New York, when the air conditioning failed, according to Orange County authorities. As a precaution, some cadets were transported to hospitals.In the Northeast, humidity is not unusual. However, high air temperatures and humidity are a deadly mix, according to Dr. Alexander Azan of NYU Langone Health in New York. Heat exhaustion and, in more extreme situations, heat stroke can occur at much lower temperatures than we see in people who live in the South because their bodies lack the level of acclimatization necessary to react to the heat effectively, according to Azan.“The concentration of concrete, asphalt, steel, all of those materials help to retain heat,” stated Natural Resources Defense Council climate

scientist Vijay Limaye. “The number on your phone may actually not reflect the true temperature profile that you’re going out into.”More than 200 groups of volunteers and government employees will check on the homeless and urge them to enter, according to New York City. There will be hundreds of cooling locations, including vans, outdoor areas with misting fans, and the convention hall at the Javits Center.Dogs are welcome to cool off at the American Kennel Club’s Museum of the Dog in New York through Sunday. Christopher Bromson, the executive director, claimed that the inspiration came from seeing his own Newfoundland spread out on the chilly floor of the museum.”I felt that this should be available to all dogs,” he remarked.As they waited in line for the Ferris wheel on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., where the high temperature was 95 F (35 C), thirsty kids reached for cold bottles of water from U.S. Park Police. Meanwhile, heat hazards persisted in the Midwest. With breaks, water, and electrolyte drinks, Taylor Hamist, whose Cincinnati company installs and fixes air conditioners, said he was attempting to keep his staff comfortable. “You get an attic job when it’s this hot, we do them but it’s strenuous,” Hamist stated. “It’s so hot the attics will reach temperatures of 145 degrees.”

In the Strait of Hormuz, a ship using an unapproved route in Iran runs aground

Tehran: Iranian state media said on Wednesday that a ship that was traveling a route not authorized by Iran ran aground in the Strait of Hormuz. All that was known about the ship was that it was a foreign container ship.The study seemed to be intended to highlight Tehran’s assertions of authority over the strait, which has traditionally been regarded as an international waterway. In times of peace, it handled one-fifth of all natural gas and oil.Iran has exploited its power to block the canal as a major source of pressure since the US and Israel began the war on Iran on February 28, upsetting international markets for vital goods like petroleum. The television story was broadcast when US President Donald Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff were in Doha, Qatar, for negotiations aimed at a lasting settlement to the conflict. Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran’s chief negotiator, also made a team trip to Qatar.According to two regional officials



who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversations, technical negotiations between diplomats started in Qatar on Wednesday. Although disagreements over the strait and Lebanon are a major obstacle, negotiators want to settle details so that senior officials may finalize an accord. As part of an interim agreement, Iran and the US agreed to let ships pass for 60 days without paying fees. However, Tehran claimed that it must regulate the ships’ move-

ments and subsequently impose taxes for passage, upending decades of custom in the strait.Many Gulf Arab nations, including the United States, insist they will not accept the accusations. Last weekend, attacks throughout the Middle East were triggered by an attempt by Oman and a UN agency to establish a new route close to Oman’s coast, underscoring the tensions.The ship “ran aground with its cargo because of shallow waters along the route it

had chosen and was unable to continue sailing,” according to Iranian state television on Wednesday. “Any entry or exit through routes other than the Route of Authority’ in the Persian Gulf could lead to irreparable incidents,” the Guard’s navy has warned on numerous occasions.The two ships that Iran bombed recently for daring to cross the strait without Tehran’s approval—including one that was transporting crude oil from Qatar—were not mentioned in the article.

According to a statement from the Qatari government, Witkoff and Kushner met with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the country’s ruling emir, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, its foreign minister, on Wednesday. Discussions on traffic through the Strait of Hormuz involved US Vice President JD Vance expressing concerns about nuclear issues. Iranian officials, including Gharibabadi, engaged in talks mediated by Pakistan, focusing on Lebanon and the return of frozen assets, without direct talks with the US. Lebanon remains contentious, with Iran demanding an end to fighting involving Hezbollah and Israeli forces and the return of occupied land. Vessel traffic decreased following recent attacks, but many ships, including Thai-flagged vessels, have departed safely. In a separate incident, a US Navy helicopter made an emergency water landing in the Arabian Sea, with one crew member missing; however, there was no indication of hostile action.

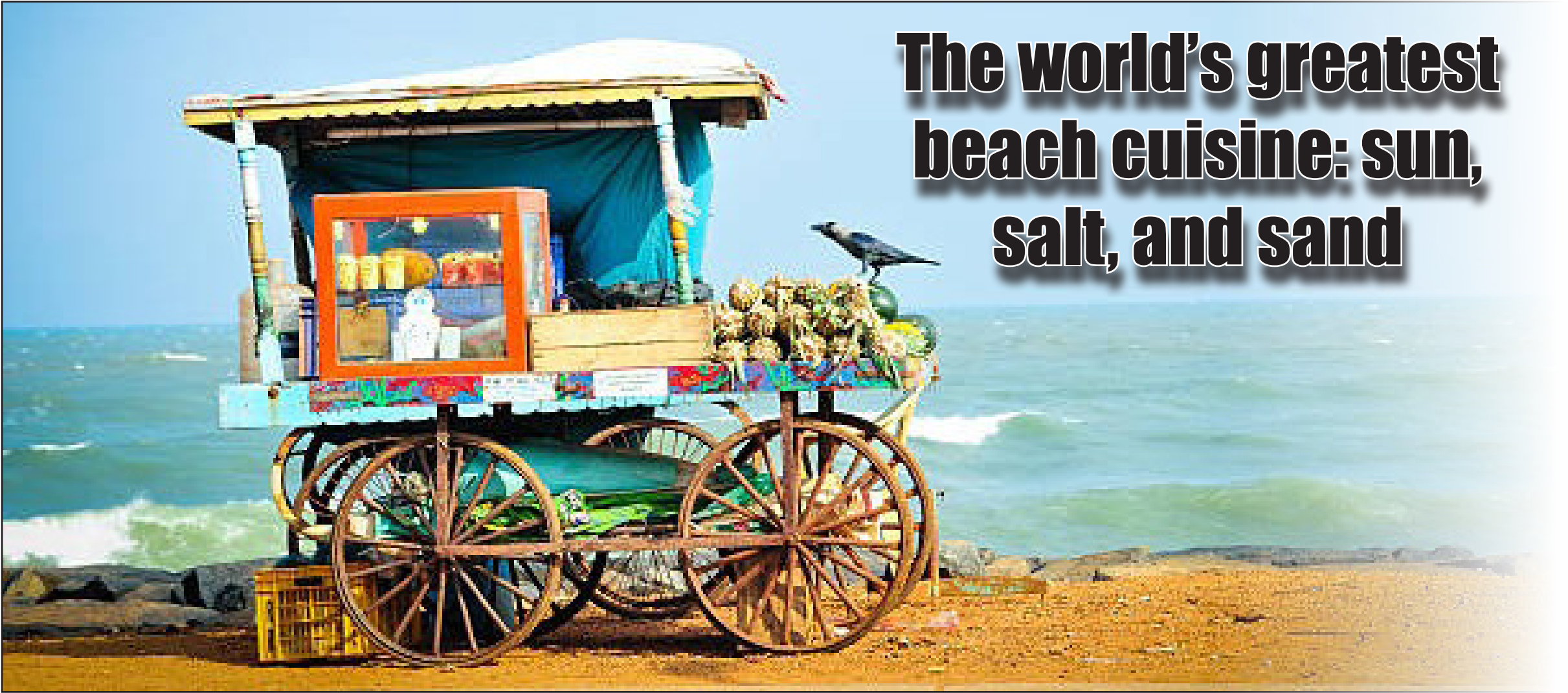
Candace Owens is under fire for a recent claim regarding Charlie Kirk’s funeral

Washington DC: A videotape from conservative pundit Candace Owens’ interview on the Shawn Ryan Show started making the rounds online this week, drawing new criticism. Owens’ remarks of what happened after Turning Point USA (TPUSA) founder Charlie Kirk was assassinated in September 2025 are at the heart of the controversy. Opponents contend that Owens made a contentious assertion regarding Kirk’s widow, Erika Kirk, as fact before subsequently admitting that some of the date was unclear. An X user posted a video accusing Owens of making big claims and then changing specifics when questioned, which sparked the most recent criticism. Owens, Erika Kirk, and TPUSA spokesperson Andrew Kolvet are once again at the heart of a dispute that has split the conservative movement. Owens stated in the interview that Erika Kirk left Charlie Kirk’s funeral to participate in a phone conversation between Andrew Kolvet and the surgeon who treated Kirk following the shooting. Because it implied strange behavior during a time of grief, the assertion immediately attracted atten-



tion.Kolvet publicly contested the timing. Owens later replied, “Which part of this SPECIFICALLY are you saying is false, Andrew?” according to screenshots and videos posted online. I am positive that Erika was on the phone when you spoke to Dr. Trotter, so don’t back down from this one. ”My best guess with the way you lie is that you’re going on some technicality like ‘we didn’t step out of the funeral, although it was on his funeral day,’” she continued. Andrew, be more precise. One of the main points of criticism was that reaction. Opponents contended that while Owens continued to defend the more general accusation, he seemed less clear about the time of the conversation. Nearly a year has passed since Kirk was shot and killed during a

TPUSA event at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. Tyler James Robinson has been charged by the authorities in this case, and the prosecution is pursuing the death penalty. The lone gunman case has been repeatedly supported by tangible and digital evidence, according to investigators.Owens has published material centered on Erika Kirk and TPUSA since Kirk’s passing and has questioned several aspects of the official story. While detractors charge her with encouraging conjecture without sufficient proof, supporters claim she is posing valid questions. In the past, Erika Kirk has refuted conspiracy theories pertaining to her husband’s passing. “Stop,” she responded in a widely circulated answer. That’s all. All I have to say is that. Quit.



The world’s greatest beach cuisine: sun, salt, and sand

Imagine a far-off beach on a hot summer’s day: the faint patter of lapping waves, the wafting cloud of suncream aroma, and the sound of a food vendor coming as they make their way across the molten sand. What would you like to see them selling? The street snacks and seashore cuisine that we yearn for differ greatly between nations and cultures, despite the fact that cold beverages, fresh fruit, and strangely unmelted ice cream feel common.

So what, everywhere in the globe, goes best with a seaside breeze and open water? When you go on vacation this summer, what should you watch out for? What should you stay away from? Here, five chefs represent the culturally unique, freshly made beach foods that they yearn for throughout the year, from flash-fried red mullet in Cyprus to chilli-spiked Mexican coconut pulp and custard doughnuts in Portugal.

INDIA:
Mumbai is a coastal metropolis that was actually formed by the union of seven islands. The sea plays a major role, however there are beaches, which are typically fairly busy and not really places to sunbathe. Whether I’m in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Thailand, or India, I always return once or twice a year to gain that clarity because it somehow resets me. For me, when I think of food by the water, I always go to sweetcorn in monsoon season. Near Marine Drive, a curved coastal road that’s one of the most iconic in Mumbai, you’ll find a small beach and these weird, giant tripod rocks that dot the sea-line. People walk there in the evening, sit in front of the water and, during monsoons, you’d have these ladies sitting at small, charcoal stoves, almost squatting down with umbrellas over them, and they’d have a big heap of corn that they’d peel and roast to order. Now it’s often imported corn, but back in the day it would be local and seasonal. To finish it off, the ladies take a piece of lime that has been cut and dipped into a salt and chilli mix, and they’d scrub that lime across the hot corn. These days, some of them will provide you versions with butter and cheese because things have become a little more westernized. However, the traditional method just consists of freshly grilled corn on the cob with lime and chili. Even



though it’s the most basic dish, it quickly transports me back.

BRAZIL:
Brazil is a large country with a variety of beach dining customs. In Rio, you can get platters of grilled prawns and oysters, milho, which is steamed corn in a cup, and guys using tiny grills to skewer queijo coalho, a curd cheese that resembles halloumi.

In my opinion, eating a hot stick of cheese on a scorching day is not appealing, and I wouldn’t want to eat oysters or seafood that had been exposed to the sun. As a result, I usually look to Salvador, which is located in the country’s northeast and has very different customs and a greater African impact. One is called pamonha, which is a bit like a tamale: cornmeal filled with meat or cheese, wrapped in corn husks or banana leaves, and steamed. It’s got that sticky, chewy, gently steamed texture and the fragrance of the corn husk or banana. If there’s someone selling pamonha on the beach, with some hot sauce, then I’m going straight for that. But one of the things I really love is pastel, which are almost like fried pasties filled with meat or cheese. One of the most delicious things I can remember eating last year, when I was at a beach bar in Brazil, was a crab and banana pastel. Banana is commonly eaten with savoury food in Brazil and that combo was sensational. That, plus some hot sauce and a Guarana, the cherry-flavoured national soft drink of Brazil, is unbeatable.”

PORTUGAL:
“Eating bolas de berlim, or egg custard doughnuts, at the beach seems like a bad idea. For example, on a hot day, who would want a large doughnut? However, as you swim for the first time on the beach, you see these Portuguese

guys with enormous bags yelling, “Bolas de berlim! Try “bolas de berlim!” and you’ll be addicted. They’re so sugary, fluffy, and eggy, and I believe that part of the salinity on your lips from the water only makes it all the more logical. The backstory is that after World War II, a large number of German Jews immigrated to Portugal, and one of these families began producing the same type of pastries they had back home. The term, bola de berlim, or “Berlin doughnut,” originates from the fact that it’s actually a German-style doughnut. These days, you may see them across Portugal, but particularly along the coast close to Lisbon. If we ever had one, it would have only been shared by the four of us because I came from a very modest background.

They used to be filled with creamed eggs, sugar, and milk, a sort of egg sauce, but these days they’re filled with chocolate and other goodies. Egg cream bolas de berlim and possibly slurping on snails with a lot of garlic and oregano are the things that bring back memories of the beaches back home in Portugal. I frequently ponder what happens to those who sell Bolas de Berlim for the remainder of the year. They will be working on sunny beaches, carrying very fresh doughnuts, and walking on sand with heavy objects from May to September. From where do they originate? How do they accomplish this? It’s mysterious even

to me, but that only heightens the thrill.

MEXICO:
Everywhere you go in Mexico, we eat a wide variety of foods at the beach, such as empanadas, fruits, and prawn skewers. Whether you’re on the east or west coast, you may frequently get ceviche at little stands and eateries in various forms. Fresh coconut pulp is probably my favorite dish to eat on the beach in Mexico, however you might occasionally see oysters served with a Valentina-style chili sauce and a few drops of lime. You can find it on most beaches, but it’s particularly common along the Pacific coast in locations like Jalisco.

You’ll find these women selling coconuts on the beach in the sweltering heat, sometimes walking barefoot while holding their children. When you’re done, they break the coconut in half, scoop up the pulp, ask if you

want salt or lime, and gauge how spicy you want it. First, they make a hole in the top, and you drink the water via a straw. Occasionally, it will be a homemade hot sauce or chilli powder, which you can pick up with your fingertips or a toothpick. That’s all: you devour this sweet, spicy, acidic pulp while gazing out to sea. Since you can’t find it anywhere, it’s the kind of thing I really want when I’m in the UK. It’s quite straightforward but incredibly fresh—just what you want when it’s warm.

ANTIGUA

normally market to visitors, and I grew up near to a fishing hamlet. Locals are the target audience.

The true Antiguan experience is a dish we call seasoned rice, even though I could send you to buy some fresh coconut water or anything. It’s a one-pot seafood rice meal, but salted pork is the only ingredient that makes it properly seasoned.

I’ve tried it with octopus, cockles, and pigeon peas previously. Some people add salt fish, while others add beans. However, without the pork, it becomes cook-up rice instead of

seasoned rice. These meals are available if you search for them, so I would advise tourists visiting Antigua to try them.

The chewiness of the octopus, the fluff of the rice, the wilted local spinach, and the distinct flavors of the spice peppers all stick in my memory of one particular cook-up rice. It’s the kind of food you could find at a restaurant or beachside vendor, presented in a Styrofoam container with a plastic fork that seems like it might melt in the heat. It’s not right if it’s on a platter! This is the real way we eat in Antigua, but let me tell you, it’s a nap right after. Something authentic, as opposed to a performance.

CYPRUS:
“Mackerel sandwiches by the Bosphorus in Istanbul come to mind when I consider dining by the water in Turkey and Cyprus. The way your other senses enhance your taste buds—the sea wind on the air, the mountains of fresh mackerel, watching these men cook on rocking, moored boats, and that particular, oily fish smell of the mackerel as it renders on the plancha—is what I believe really makes it so remarkable.

A warm piece of crusty

bread, the oil from the mackerel seeping into chopped lettuce and onions; being invited to drink pickle juice and decorate how you wish. I remember when I first ate one, there was this moment of serenity, as if all the commotion and street vendors had stopped, and I just enjoyed the food.

When it comes to Cyprus, it’s a difficult one because growing up dual nationality [Semay has both British and Turkish-Cypriot heritage], I had a dad whose whole thing was that everything revolves around Cyprus – the best olive oil, the best tomatoes, the best everything all comes from Cyprus. But there are things that remind me of going back there as a kid, covered in salt water, with fresh, peeling sunburn on my shoulders and going to a backside restaurant for fresh red mullet.

The fish came from a man selling them out of a bucket – they were lightly coated in semolina or cornmeal, and you could either get them grilled or deep-fried. Red mullet can be expensive if you visit a restaurant with a Michelin star, but it’s reasonably priced in these establishments where the fish swims in the sea beside you. Additionally, I believe it’s one of the few fish that, when fried or grilled, has the flavor and aroma of prawn shells smoking over a barbecue. All I can think of are those red mullet chunks, piled on top of one another and practically hissing from the grill, served with a quarter of an onion, rocket, salt, and lemon juice.

And I picture my dad moaning with delight as he devours this plate of fried fish, his hands and face covered in lemon juice and fish grease.



ENTERTAINMENT

Alia Bhatt, Sharvari urge fans: ‘no spoilers, no piracy’ ahead of Alpha

Mumbai : There’s massive excitement among fans for the release of Alia Bhatt and Sharvari’s upcoming film Alpha, which is set to hit the theatres tomorrow, on July 3. Meanwhile, the actresses have made a special appeal to fans a day before the release of their film, urging audiences to watch the film only in theatres and avoid piracy. They also requested fans to refrain from sharing spoilers from the film on social media as it can take away from the excitement of watching the film for the first time in theatres. In a video message shared by Yash Raj Films (YRF), the actors addressed viewers with a light-hearted yet firm request, urging them to avoid piracy. Alia Bhatt and Sharvari expressed their excitement about the film’s release on 3rd July, while requesting fans to support the big-screen experience. “Our film Alpha is releasing in theatres on 3rd July. We hope you are excited to watch it, but we have a small request. Please watch Alpha only in theatres. Do not watch or share pirated links, and please avoid giving out any spoilers of the film. Thank you, and see you in theatres,” they said. YRF shared the video message on social media along with a caption



that read, “Your mission is to keep the secrets safe! Say no to spoilers and piracy. Watch #Alpha only in theatres.” Check out the video below! Directed by Shiv Rawail, Alpha has been cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with a UA 16+ certificate. The film is scheduled to release in theatres worldwide on July 3 and marks Alia Bhatt’s first full-fledged action role. The CBFC listing has also confirmed the film’s runtime. Alpha will run for 140 minutes, which is 2 hours and 20 minutes long. The film stars Alia Bhatt and Sharvari in the lead, with Bobby Deol and Anil Kapoor playing pivotal roles. It is the seventh film in the YRF Spy Universe and the fourth standalone title after Ek Tha Tiger, Tiger Zinda Hai, War, Pathaan, Tiger 3 and War 2. Alpha also introduces Alia as the franchise’s first female spy.

Raveena Tandon Says Modern Comedy Is a Tightrope Walk, Recalls 90s Era Freedom

Mumbai : Raveena Tandon, who has been part of some of Bollywood’s most loved comedy films, believes the genre has changed drastically since the 90s. The actor says humour back then had a certain uninhibited madness, but today filmmakers often have to be far more cautious because one never knows what might trigger outrage or a social media debate.

Raveena, who recently returned to comedy with Ahmed Khan’s Welcome To The Jungle, said that making people laugh without offending anyone has become one of the toughest challenges for actors and filmmakers. Raveena Tandon On Comedy In The 90s Speaking to PTI, Raveena said, “Making people laugh without someone getting offended is probably the ultimate tightrope walk today, it is tough... In the 90s, there was an uninhibited, innocent, and totally unapologetic madness to our films. Chi Chi (Govinda) and I would react purely on instinct. We weren’t overthinking how a joke would look on a 15-second internet clip or if a line would trigger a social media debate.” The actor added that the



free-flowing, loud and instinctive humour of the 90s is rarely seen today because filmmakers are constantly second-guessing themselves. “That raw, purely character-driven, loud-and-proud humour of the 90s is rare now because filmmakers are constantly second-guessing themselves. We’ve become a bit too cautious, and comedy desperately needs freedom to breathe,” she said. Raveena has appeared in several popular comedies over the years, including Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, Aunty No. 1, Dulhe Raja and Pardesi Babu. She credits these films as an important part of her career in Bollywood. Raveena Tandon On Returning To Comedy With Welcome To The Jungl Raveena said comedy taught

her spontaneity, improvisation and the importance of letting go of inhibitions in front of the camera. For her, returning to the genre with Welcome To The Jungle felt deeply familiar and comforting. “Comedy taught me spontaneity, improvisation, and the importance of losing all inhibitions on screen. It is an incredibly giving genre; if you can successfully make people laugh, they keep you in their hearts forever. Returning to it now with Welcome To The Jungle feels like coming home to a room full of old friends,” she said. The film also reunites Raveena with her Mohra co-stars Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty, adding to the nostalgia around the project. About Welcome To The Jungl Welcome To The Jun-

gle is the third instalment in the Welcome franchise. The series began in 2007 with Welcome, starring Akshay Kumar, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar and Paresh Rawal. Its sequel, Welcome Back, released in 2015 and featured John Abraham along with Anil and Nana. Both earlier films were directed by Anees Bazmee. The new instalment is directed by Ahmed Khan and has been performing well at the box office. The film has already crossed Rs 100 crore worldwide since its release last Friday. Welcome To The Jungle features a massive ensemble cast that includes Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Johnny Lever, Rajpal Yadav, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor, Shreyas Talpade, Aftab Shivdasani, Jackie Shroff, Daler Mehndi, Mika Singh, Lara Dutta, Jacqueline Fernandez, Disha Patani, Urvasi Rautela, Farida Jalal, Krushna Abhishek, Mukesh Tiwari, Yashpal Sharma, Vindu Dara Singh, Kiran Kumar and Zakir Hussain. For Raveena, the film marks not just another comedy outing, but a return to a space that shaped some of the most memorable years of her career.

Kangana Ranaut Slams Ram Kapoor on lock upp 2



Mumbai : Kangana Ranaut will grace the upcoming episode of Lock Upp 2 as a special guest. Recently, the makers of the reality show dropped a promo in which she was seen confronting Ram Kapoor and lashing out at him for his attitude. Kangana asked Ram if he thinks he is too big for the show and said, “Ramji, you shouldn’t have taken the game so seriously. And if you think that you are too big for this jail, then why did you come here? To show your stupidity?” However, Ram defended himself by saying, “When the time comes, I will own my truth as well as, or better than, anybody here.” This seemingly irritated Kangana who then gave a warning to Ram and stated, “Don’t defend yourself if you want to improve.” Kangana Ranaut was the host of Lock Upp 1. However, season two is being hosted by Riteish Deshmukh and Farah Khan.

Recently the Bollywood actress-turned-politician talked about returning on the show and said, “This show has always been about owning your truth, no matter how uncomfortable it is. Joining Farah and Riteish as the jury or the Janta Ki Awaaz this weekend for Lock Upp: Sach ya Sazaa’s very first termination, all I can say is every choice has a price!” Previously, producer Ektaa Kapoor also revealed why Kangana Ranaut isn’t hosting Lock Upp 2 and said, “The entire format of the show, the whole vision changed and the demographic, the kind of jailer-judge format we had. Nothing of the original show has been kept. Neither the jailer nor the host, so keeping anything of the old would not bring the fresh presentation of the branding. So I am sure Kangana would have understood.” Lock Upp premiered in June this year. It streams on Netflix.

Stebin Ben Reacts to Kriti Sanon Wedding Buzz Amid Kabir Bahia Dating Rumours



Mumbai: As rumours continue to swirl about Kriti Sanon’s relationship with businessman Kabir Bahia, the actress has received support from singer Stebin Ben, who is also her brother-in-law. Addressing the ongoing speculation around her personal life, Stebin said that choices related to marriage or relationships should never be made under societal pressure. He also praised Kriti’s journey in the Hindi film industry, commending her

hard-earned success and growth as an actress. Recently, while speaking to Galatta India, Stebin Ben, who is married to Nupur Sanon, reacted to the ongoing discussions around Kriti’s marriage and her relationship buzz. The conversation gained momentum after her younger sister Nupur got married earlier this year. Stebin shared that he is frequently asked about when Kriti intends to get married, but stressed that the decision

should be entirely hers, without any outside expectations or pressure. He said, “I don’t know why people keep asking this. After her younger sister got married, everyone started saying, ‘Now it’s Kriti’s turn.’” Commending Kriti’s inspiring rise from a small-town girl to one of Bollywood’s top actresses, he said that someone who has worked so hard to build her career should never feel compelled to hurry such a significant life decision. Stebin added, “She is doing exceptionally good in her career. A girl coming from a small town who did well for herself and has grown on her own... Give her time. Until Kriti feels that she has found the best boy and is sure about marriage, she should not take that decision. Until you get that certainty, why do you have to rush into marriage? There is no hurry. Life is not running away.” Stebin further shared that he sees several similarities between his own journey and Kriti’s, noting that she carved her own path in the industry through hard work and determination. He praised her for

achieving stardom on her own while remaining humble and deeply connected to her family. Expressing confidence in her future, he said her career looks exceptionally promising, adding that she has an impressive slate of films lined up until 2030 and continues to deliver back-to-back hits. According to him, Kriti has evolved significantly as an actor over the years, with audiences increasingly recognising her talent. He also noted that her fan base continues to grow and said he is certain she will accomplish even greater milestones, adding that he is immensely proud of her achievements. The conversation around Kriti’s marriage comes amid continued speculation about her rumoured relationship with Kabir, with the actress frequently making headlines over reports linking the two. Recently, their breakup rumours surfaced on social media after a picture of Kabir with an unknown woman went viral. However, Kriti rubbished the claims by sharing an adorable picture with Kabir in her recent photo dump post.

Creator Says Ranbir Kapoor Glimpse Was Incomplete

Ramayana First Look Row



Mumbai: Ramayana’s VFX have once again become the centre of discussion after a content creator claimed the version of the film’s promotional glimpse released online was purposely toned down. The claim comes days after the glimpse drew criticism from some viewers over its visual effects, despite the film being backed by Academy Award-winning VFX studio DNEG. Content creator Dhruv Parikshit, who attended a special event hosted by the makers, made the claim in an Instagram com-

ment that was later deleted. Screenshots of the comment have since been shared on Reddit, where users have been discussing whether the VFX work on the film is still unfinished. Replying to a user who asked whether the VFX were incomplete, Dhruv wrote, “Yes, it was incomplete. But the vision they have... I genuinely can’t put it into words. The scenes I witnessed there were on the level of AVATAR. I’m not exaggerating, they’re truly cooking something WONDERFUL. The character designs and the world of Ramayana feel incredibly immersive.” He went on to add, “Bhai Mai literally pagal hogya tha characters ko dekh kar, (I literally went crazy after seeing the characters) especially Parshurama, Indra and his Airavata. I also got a chance to talk to one of their VFX artists. He told me that the creators deliberately uploaded a nerfed version of the Rama glimpse. They already had better versions of those scenes, yet they intentionally chose to release the incomplete one. Why? Because discussions, debates and criticism across the internet translate into free marketing.”

Ameesha Patel Opens Up on Unexpected Fan Reaction During ‘Humraaz’ Scene



Mumbai: Actress Ameesha Patel recalled a hilarious incident from the sets of ‘Humraaz’, revealing how the phenomenal success of ‘Gadar: Ek Prem Katha’ had almost disrupted the shoot. She revealed how Gadar had left such a deep impression on audiences that fans refused to let Bobby Deol hug her during a crucial scene in Humraaz. Appearing as a special guest on ‘India’s Best Dancer Season 5’, Ameesha shared a memory while filming the climax of Abbas-Mustan’s

2002 thriller ‘Humraaz’ at Jaipur Fort alongside Bobby Deol. She revealed how an enthusiastic crowd interrupted the shoot after mistaking her on-screen identity for Sakeena from ‘Gadar’. Recalling the incident, Ameesha said, “Jab main ‘Humraaz’ ki shooting kar rahi thi Bobby ji ke saath Jaipur Fort mein, toh climax shot mein Bobby had to come and hug me. Action hote hi wahan jama hua bheed zor-zor se chillane lagi, ‘Chhod de! Yeh toh tere bhai ki amanat hain! Tara Singh isko Pakistan

se leke aaya hain, chhooona mat isse!’ Hum log wahan dekhne lage ki guys, calm down yeh film ki shooting hain! Akhir mein crowd ko dispatch karke humne bina logo ke sentiments hurt kiye shot poora kiya. So, it’s very nice to work with the Deols, they are lovely people. (When I was shooting for ‘Humraaz’ with Bobby ji at Jaipur Fort, Bobby had to come and hug me in the climax shot. As soon as ‘action’ was called, the crowd started shouting, ‘Leave her! She belongs to your brother! Tara

Singh brought her back from Pakistan, don’t touch her!’ We kept telling them to calm down as it was only a film shoot. Eventually, after the crowd dispersed, we completed the scene without hurting anyone’s sentiments. It has always been wonderful working with the Deols. They are lovely people.” Talking about ‘Humraaz’, the movie directed by Abbas-Mustan, released in 2002 and starred Bobby Deol, Akshaye Khanna, Ameesha Patel, Johnny Lever and Suhasingi Mulay. The movie, even after 24 years, is remembered for its powerful and thrilling storyline and performances. Songs like ‘Bardasht Nahi Kar Sakta’, ‘Aankhein Band Karke’ and others went on to become chartbusters. Just a year before Humraaz, Ameesha had become a household name with Anil Sharma’s blockbuster ‘Gadar: Ek Prem Katha’. The actress essayed the female lead, Sakeena opposite Sunny Deol’s iconic Tara Singh. The film went on to become one of the biggest hits in Indian cinema and created an unprecedented fan frenzy. Sunny and Ameesha reunited more than two decades later for ‘Gadar 2’, which also turned out to be a massive box-office success.

Ranveer Singh Calls Dhurandhar ‘Biggest Indian Movie Of All Time’ Amid Don 3 Controversy



Mumbai: After ruling the Indian box office, Ranveer Singh’s Dhurandhar is now set to release in Japan. The film has been dubbed in the language and will hit theatres there on July 10. Recently, Singh recorded a special message for Japanese audiences and introduced them to the Dhurandhar franchise. The actor called Aditya Dhar’s directorial the ‘biggest Indian movie of all time’ and urged everyone to watch the film in Japan. “A warm hello to every-

one in Japan. Dhurandhar will be releasing in Japan, bringing with it an immersive cinematic experience packed with drama, intensity, scale, emotion and storytelling at its thrilling best. I warmly invite you to come and experience the biggest Indian movie of all time on the big screen. Lots and lots of love, and I hope to see you at the movies,” he said. Released in India in December last year, Dhurandhar emerged as one of the biggest box office blockbusters. The

film collected an impressive Rs 1,307 crore worldwide. Headlined by Ranveer Singh, the ensemble cast also includes Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, R. Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Rakesh Bedi, and Sara Arjun. Dhurandhar 2 also hit theatres in March this year and earned around Rs 1800 crore. Interestingly, Dhurandhar’s Japan release comes at a time when back here in India, Ranveer Singh has been making headlines for his controversial exit from Don 3.

According to multiple online reports, Singh exited the film due to creative differences with the makers. Several reports also suggested that Ranveer was unhappy with repeated delays in production and the absence of a locked final script. What initially appeared to be a routine casting change has now escalated into a legal matter, with Akhtar’s Excel Entertainment demanding Rs 45 crore in compensation and the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) issuing a non-cooperation directive against the actor, which has now been revoked. Recently, Variety India shared details of one of the most important moments during the discussions between Excel Entertainment producer Ritesh Sidhwani and Ranveer Singh. People present at the meeting told the publication that Sidhwani asked the actor whether he would have walked away from Don 3 if Dhurandhar had not turned into a blockbuster. The report stated that Ranveer replied that he would not have left the project under those circumstances.

Supreme Court Refuses to Interfere in HC Order Extending Manipur Panchayat Poll Deadline



New Delhi, July 05: The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to entertain a plea challenging the Manipur High Court’s decision extending the deadline for holding panchayat elections in the state until October 16, 2026. A partial working-day Bench comprising Justices N. Kottiswar Singh and N. V. Anjaria dismissed the appeal filed by Pheiroijam Heramani and others, who had contested the High Court’s

May 19, 2026 order that granted additional time for completing the local body polls. During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Manipur government, submitted that the state was bound by the High Court’s directions and warned that failure to comply with the election timeline could expose authorities to contempt proceedings. After considering the submissions, the apex court found

no merit in the appeal and refused to interfere with the High Court’s decision, effectively upholding the extended timeline for conducting the panchayat elections. The High Court had earlier extended the deadline for holding the sixth general panchayat elections to October 16, 2026. It had also paved the way for the state to move ahead with the implementation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj system in accordance with recent legislative amendments. The order was passed by a division bench comprising Chief Justice M. Sundar and Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma while disposing of review petitions filed by the Manipur government against its earlier judgment delivered in August 2025. That judgment had directed the state to conduct panchayat elec-

tions within six months. The state government had argued that prevailing law and order challenges, along with the imposition of President’s Rule in February 2025, made it difficult to conduct elections within the original timeframe mandated by the court. Taking note of what it described as “extraordinary circumstances,” the High Court modified its earlier direction and granted additional time to the state government and the State Election Commission to complete the electoral exercise by October 16, 2026. With the Supreme Court now refusing to intervene, the High Court’s revised schedule remains in force, allowing the electoral process for rural local bodies in Manipur to proceed within the extended timeframe set by the judiciary.

Dissent buzz in Punjab Congress after Manish Tewari’s cryptic post on rejig

Chandigarh, July 05: A Punjab Congress reshuffle ahead of state elections next year seems to have widened discontent within the party with some leaders, mostly on condition of anonymity, expressing unease over the manner in which the changes were made. While retaining Amarinder Singh Raja Warring as the Punjab Congress president and Partap Singh Bajwa as the Leader of Opposition, the party high command on Wednesday also appointed chairpersons for key election-related committees and named three working presidents.

A public reaction came in the form of a cryptic post on X by Lok Sabha lawmaker Manish Tewari, whose name did not figure in any of the appointments. “Wish I had

an antidote for the insecurities of individuals and institutions!” Tewari said on Thursday, referring to his critics in the party.

“Hai bada koi avgun usme jise koi hunar aave (A person who possesses a skill often has a major flaw),” he added in his post in Hindi. According to a person aware of details, Tewari wasn’t consulted by the party at all, while all other MPs were consulted. The party claims that as he is a Chandigarh MP, it is part of a different set up and not Punjab’s organisation. However, Tewari’s supporters argue that as a former Ludhiana and Anandpur Sahib MP, he is very much a part of the Punjab unit. Tewari was included by the BJP in a parliamentary committee to reach out to

the international community in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor while the Congress tried to nominate other leaders. This, along with his history of having been one of the G-23 dissenters who called for an introspection in the party after the 2019 Lok Sabha election loss, remains a sore point in his relationship with the high command.

Tewari, in his tweet said, “Having said that @INCIndia has given me enough over the past 45 years and I have also devoted my entire adult life in the service of the Indian National Congress over the decades. Que sera, sera, Whatever will be Meanwhile, leaders owing allegiance to former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who was vying for post of PPCC president, have

expressed unhappiness with the announcements, people familiar with the matter said. Pro-Channi supporters are expected to meet at Channi’s residence to discuss the developments and draw up their future strategy, they added. Channi did not post any message on social media after being named chairman of the Campaign Committee or thank the party high command. Similarly, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who has been appointed chairman of the Core committee, also did not issue any public statement or social media post on his new responsibility. Party leaders pointed out that it has generally been the practice for leaders to thank the high command after being assigned organisational responsibilities.

Fadnavis being kept out of PM race, this will benefit Eknath Shinde: Aaditya Thackeray

Mumbai, July 05: Amid the ongoing defection wave in Maharashtra politics, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray has suggested that the rebellion is engineered to keep chief minister Devendra Fadnavis out of the PM race, a move he said will “benefit” former CM Eknath Shinde. Thackeray repeated the claims his father and UBT Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray earlier made: “Some elements in the BJP want Fadnavis in the Union cabinet to clip his wings.” He further added that doing so would favour deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde.

“They want to make sure he is not the party’s prime ministerial face in the 2029 polls. This benefits Shinde because his single-point agenda is to become chief minister again,”.

A similar claim was made by Uddhav last week, when he said that ‘Operation Devendra’ was at play to keep the chief minister “at a certain level” and in check. However, Fadnavis had rubbished these assertions, saying “I am a human being. I don’t have wings, so who can clip them? I have the blessings of Maharashtra’s 14 crore people and my senior leaders, so there is no need to worry”. Thackeray also cited the defections witnessed within the AAP in the Rajya Sabha a few months back, and the ongoing Parliament crisis in the Trinamool Congress, and said that the BJP wants to “crush the voice of Maharashtra”.

When asked about defectors’ allegations of inactivity within the Uddhav Sena, Aaditya said: “What about

Arvind Kejriwal, Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee? Don’t they meet their MPs? Still, there parties were split.

As MPs, MLAs, they are local leaders. Why didn’t they stage protests on ground over local issues? The truth is, that they put a price tag on themselves and sold out.”

His remarks come days after the six UBT Sena MPs defected to the Shinde Sena, considerably improving the NDA’s Parliament tally. In another blow to the UBT Sena, former MLA Sachin Ahir switched to the Shinde Sena earlier this week, and even got elected to the post of deputy chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

Ahir was considered a close aide of Aaditya Thackeray. Reacting to his deci-

sion to switch sides, Thackeray said: “When it comes to the MLC (Sachin Ahir), that was another business deal. The sad part is politics is now so commercialised that MPs and MLAs can be bought for a price.” Thackeray also alleged that not political ideology, but money played a role in the MPs’ decision to jump ship.

“They were bought out by Mindhe (Eknath Shinde) to empower the BJP to bring in the delimitation bill, which is against the interests of Maharashtra and to change Dr Ambedkar’s Constitution,” Thackeray said. He said that the endgame remains strengthening the tally of northern states in the Lok Sabha and crushing the voice of Maharashtra and that of the southern states.

Badminton: India’s Canada Open campaign ends after Aakarshi and Tanya crash out

Toronto: India’s campaign at the Canada Open 2026 came to an end after Aakarshi Kashyap and Tanya Hemanth suffered second-round defeats in the women’s singles event at the BWF Super 300 tournament in Markham, Ontario, according to Olympics.com. World No. 71 Aakarshi Kashyap put up a spirited fight against fourth seed and world No. 33 Beiwen Zhang of the United States before going down 20-22, 21-17, 21-17 in a contest that lasted one hour and seven minutes. Aakarshi made a bright start to the match, opening up a 10-6 lead in the first game. However, Zhang fought back to level the scores before edging a closely contested opening game. The Indian responded strongly throughout the match but was unable to capitalise on key moments. The second game saw Zhang surge into a commanding lead before Aakarshi mounted a late comeback. Despite narrowing the deficit, she could not prevent the American from forcing a decider.

The final game remained evenly poised until 17-17, after which Zhang won four consecutive points to seal the match.

The defeat marked Aakarshi’s third loss to Zhang in as many meetings, according to Olympics.com. In the other women’s singles second-round match, world No. 56 Tanya Hemanth was outclassed by Japan’s third seed and world No. 21 Riko Gunji, who registered a convincing 21-11, 21-11 victory in just 31 minutes. The result also marked Tanya’s second successive defeat to Gunji after the Japanese shuttler had eliminated her in the opening round of last week’s US Open. Aakarshi and Tanya were India’s last remaining representatives in the tournament after the rest of the contingent exited earlier in the competition, according to Olympics.com. Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth was forced to retire hurt during his match against Malaysia’s Olympic medalist Lee Zii Jia, while Devika Sihag, Rakshit Ramraj,

Anmol Kharb, Shriyanshi Valishetty, Saneeth Dayanand and Sankar Subramanian were all eliminated in the early rounds. India’s challenge in the doubles competition also ended on the opening day after Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu and Arjun Reddy Pochana were knocked out.

The Indian shuttlers will next be seen in action at the Japan Open 750, scheduled to begin on July 14. Puneeth Suresh and Deepti Raj Aditi were then taken the distance by Mustafa Malikzhan and Kuleshova but they managed to eke out a 11-10 win to take the score to 22-15. The Indians then dominated the next three categories to win the first set. The second set then turned out to be a cakewalk as none of the players conceded more than six points in any of the matches. Meanwhile, Thailand Masters winner Devika Sihag upset third seed Riko Gunji of Japan, while Rounak Chouhan continued his dream run to reach the semifinals of the US Open badminton tournament here.

India Calls for Unified Global Action Against Terrorism at UN

New Delhi, July 05: India has called on the international community to reject double standards in the fight against terrorism, stressing that there can be no justification for terror under any circumstances, regardless of political, strategic or ideological considerations. Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly during the adoption of the Ninth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) on Wednesday, India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, urged member states to strengthen collective efforts to eliminate what he described as the “murderous ideology” driving terrorism worldwide.

India highlighted its long-standing experience with cross-border terrorism, saying the country has repeatedly borne the human cost of a violent extremism. “India has been a victim of cross-border terrorism for decades. Our people have paid the price in lives lost, families scarred, and societies shattered,” Parvathaneni said, adding that this experience has shaped India’s uncompromising position that terrorism can never be justified. He further stated that terrorism in all its forms must be condemned unequivocally, and that perpetrators, financiers, organisers and sponsors of such acts must be brought to justice through co-ordinated international action. “A terrorist is a terrorist. We must work together to eliminate this ideology without attempting to justify it through grievances,” he said, urging stronger cooperation among member states. India also cautioned against politicisation of global counter-terrorism efforts, saying that false equiv-

alences or selective narratives weaken international responses. While acknowledging the importance of addressing conditions that contribute to extremism, India stressed that such context must never be used to justify terrorism. The Indian envoy also underlined the importance of disrupting terror financing networks, calling for enhanced financial intelligence sharing and stricter implementation of global standards such as those of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), to ensure that no jurisdiction becomes a safe haven for terror funding. Raising concerns over emerging threats, India expressed disappointment that the latest GCTS review failed to achieve consensus on preventing terrorist groups from exploiting new technologies. India also reiterated its long-standing proposal for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), arguing that the absence of a universal legal framework continues to hinder global counter-terror efforts. Parvathaneni said nearly three decades of delay in adopting the convention has weakened collective responses and called for renewed political will. Reaffirming its commitment to global initiatives, India cited contributions such as the Delhi Declaration on countering misuse of technology for terrorism and the No Money for Terror conferences, while stressing the need for transparency in sanctions and listings processes. Concluding his remarks, India said that only sustained political will, equal application of rules, and rejection of double standards can ensure meaningful global progress in the fight against terrorism.

Revanth Reddy: From Grassroots To Chief Minister Going Back to Your Political Birthplace

New Delhi, July 05: It is a sentimental return to his political birthplace. Revanth Reddy, the chief minister of Telangana, is on a thank-you trip of Midjil in the Mahabubnagar district, the location that gave his political career its first significant boost twenty years ago.

On Saturday, Reddy made his way back to Midjil to express gratitude to the voters who initially voted him to the local legislature in 2006, which signaled the start of an incredible political odyssey. Revanth Reddy’s ascent from first-time local representative to Telangana Chief Minister has been rapid and remarkable. He became an MLC, a two-time Kodagal MLA, a Malkajgiri MP, the president of the Telangana Congress, and finally led the Congress to power in 2023 before taking the oath of office as chief minister after winning as an independent Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) member from Midjil. “I’m going to the location that gave me my political identity. “As CM, I will announce welfare projects worth crores for every village, but I couldn’t do much for the area back then,” Revanth Reddy said in tears. Reddy, now 56, wants to express his gratitude to those who supported him during his formative years since he feels that Midjil’s help laid the groundwork for everything he accomplished in public life. Reddy has already traveled to the Mahabubnagar region



while serving as chief minister, but this is perceived as his first official thank-you trip to Midjil. It is more than just an official program to the chief minister. A close adviser stated, “It’s a return to the village that gave him his first political mandate and shaped a journey that eventually led to the state’s highest office.” Revanth Reddy has consistently reinvented himself during his political career. He started out in student politics with the ABVP, which was associated with the RSS. In 2006, he entered electoral politics as an Independent and won the Midjil ZPTC election. Before joining the Congress in 2017, he was a close confidant of party leader N Chandrababu Naidu, a member of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), an MLC, and a two-time Kodagal MLA. He became the face of the Congress in Telangana despite obstacles and scandals, like as the cash-for-vote case in which he was imprisoned for 31 days.

After leading the party to victory in the 2023 Assembly elections and taking the oath of office as Chief Minister, Reddy was elected president of the state Congress in 2021. Reddy has frequently made news as chief minister due to his caustic comments and political disputes. Both opposition parties and several Congress leaders have criticized him for his combative speeches. When he dubbed Prime Minister Narendra Modi his “Bade Bhai” (older brother) and asked the Center to promote Telangana’s growth, it was one of the most talked-about incidents. There have also been reports of internal differences in the Congress, with some senior leaders unhappy over his style of functioning. However, the party, including the AICC and the Gandhi family, have publicly backed him as chief minister. Reddy has also faced backlash for controversial remarks against political rivals and journalists. He drew criticism recently after saying he was inspired by Adolf Hitler while explaining the HYDRAA nomenclature for the state’s anti-encroachment agency. Reddy has been in office for two years and seven months. Delivering on the Congress’s welfare pledges while upholding budgetary restraint, finishing major infrastructure projects, managing ties with the Center, and fending off a rising opposition led by the BRS and BJP continue to be his toughest concerns.

PM Modi opens the Rs 480-crore airport terminal in Jodhpur

New Delhi, July 05: On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the updated UDAN Scheme and opened the new terminal building at Jodhpur airport. Governor Haribhau Bagade, Union Minister and Jodhpur MP Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma met Modi at the airport upon his arrival. The prime minister toured the new terminal building and used a remote button to reveal the inauguration plaque. The Modified UDAN Scheme was also introduced by him.

The program intends to expedite the next stage of aviation-led growth with an allocation of Rs 28,840 crore over the next ten years. The redesigned plan emphasizes several key elements to provide all-encompassing and long-term air connectivity. The construction of the new terminal building at the airport in Jodhpur cost a total of Rs 480 crore. It is built to accommodate up to 20 lakh passengers a year and spans

more than 23,000 square meters. Modern passenger amenities are available at the terminal to ensure a smooth and comfortable flight experience. The terminal’s architecture combines traditional features like arches and jharokhas with modern design, drawing inspiration from Rajasthan’s royal past. Folk artistes offered cultural performances during the prime minister’s visit to the new terminal.

According to officials, the terminal would stimulate tourism, increase air connectivity, develop the state’s aviation infrastructure, increase economic activity, and generate new job possibilities. The occasion also showcased the UDAN scheme’s advancements and successes. “The opening of this state-of-the-art terminal would guarantee improved passenger services and greatly improve Jodhpur’s air connection. An official stated that this initiative will be crucial to the state’s social and economic advancement.

Delhi Court Reserves Order on Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam Bail Pleas in 2020 Riots Case

New Delhi, July 05: A Delhi court on Saturday reserved its order on the bail applications of activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the larger conspiracy case linked to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai reserved the matter after hearing arguments from both the prosecution and the defence. The court is expected to pronounce its order later in the day. Khalid and Imam sought bail on the ground that their continued incarceration without the commencement of trial violates their fundamental right to personal liberty.

According to a report by news agency PTI, Khalid argued that although the Supreme Court had rejected his earlier bail plea on January 5, subsequent judicial developments amounted to a “change in circumstances”, making his fresh application maintainable. He referred to the apex court’s observations in a May

order in another case, where it reiterated that “bail is the rule” even in cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). His plea also cited Supreme Court judgments, including Union of India vs K A Najeed and Vernon Gonsalves vs State of Maharashtra, to contend that statutory restrictions on bail under the UAPA cannot override constitutional protections when trials are unlikely to conclude within a reasonable time.

Khalid further submitted that he has spent nearly six years in custody without charges being framed and argued that the trial is unlikely to begin soon given the large number of accused, witnesses and prosecution documents, reported. Imam, in his application, said there had been no “significant development” in the proceedings even six months after the Supreme Court denied him bail. He also contended that he has remained in custody

for nearly six years without trial and that charges are yet to be framed in the case, according to the report. The fresh bail pleas were filed after the Supreme Court, on January 5, refused bail to both Khalid and Imam in the UAPA case while granting relief to co-accused Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Mohammad Saleem Khan and Shadab Ahmad.

At the time, a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria held that there was a prima facie case against Khalid and Imam under the UAPA and observed that all accused could not be treated alike because of the “hierarchy of participation.” Khalid, Imam and several others have been charged under the UAPA and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being part of a larger conspiracy behind the February 2020 northeast Delhi riots.

Praggnanandhaa Holds Joint Second After Grand Chess Tour Croatia Opening Day



Zagreb: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa began his campaign in the Zagreb leg of the Grand Chess Tour with a victory over top seed Vincent Keymer of Germany before drawing his next two games to finish the opening day of the rapid section in joint second place. Praggnanandhaa held France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and compatriot and world champion D Gukesh in hard-fought draws to end the day on four points, here on Wednesday. Alireza Firouzja of France emerged sole leader on five points after winning his first two games and drawing with Anish Giri of the Netherlands in

the third round. With each rapid win worth two points, Firouzja moved ahead of Praggnanandhaa, Giri, Vachier-Lagrave and Keymer, who recovered from his opening-round defeat with two victories. After winning the Norway chess classic ahead of Magnus Carlsen, Praggnanandhaa went on an attacking spree against Keymer in what will be hailed as a masterclass in the future. The fury of white pieces was there for everyone to see as Praggnanandhaa launched his forces right at the opponent king and cashed in on the full two points in a mere 26 moves. In the second round of the day, the

Indian ace drew with Vachier-Lagrave who had started off with a finely crafted victory over World champion Gukesh.

For Gukesh the rhythm came back immediately after losing to his French counterpart as he made light work of Ivan Saric of Croatia in the second round. The youngest ever world champion is set to defend his title in the forthcoming match against Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan. While he was outplayed in the opener, Gukesh showcased his skills as the master craftsman while defending an attack against his king in the second round. Gukesh is next in line along with Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania on three points and these two are a full point ahead of Nodirbek Abduturov of Uzbekistan. Jordan Van Foreest of the Netherlands is on one point, while Saric is yet to open his account. The nine rounds of rapid will be followed by an 18-round blitz marathon and the winner will be decided with cumulative points in both sections.

Djokovic Pranks Ball Girl, Outclasses Tsitsipas to Reach Round Three

New Delhi: Novak Djokovic mixed mischief with mastery as he booked his place in the third round of Wimbledon 2026, leaving Centre Court smiling with a light-hearted prank on a ball girl before delivering another clinical victory. The seven-time Wimbledon champion created one of the lighter moments of the Championships during a changeover against Stefanos Tsitsipas. With the Greek off court for a comfort break, Djokovic asked a ball girl to help remove the tag from the back of his shirt. Moments later, the Serbian jokingly pretended she had accidentally cut him, clutching his neck and briefly leaving the youngster horrified before revealing it was all in jest. The incident quickly went viral on social media, with fans praising Djokovic's playful personality. Speaking after the match, the 24-time Grand Slam champion admitted the joke probably came because he was comfortably ahead. "I guess these kind of things surface when you're two sets to love up rather than two sets to love down," Djokovic said with a smile. "Stefanos went to change so I had some spare time. I'm sorry. I don't know if she's around. Sorry if I scared her. It probably wasn't that great of a joke, I guess." Djokovic, however, insisted



there were no hard feelings, adding that the ball girl enjoyed the exchange as well. "It made me a bit more relaxed. She was laughing. It was a good moment for her as well," the Serbian said. Djokovic then ensured the entertainment continued with his racket, brushing aside Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in a dominant second-round performance that lasted under two hours. Chasing a record-equalling eighth Wimbledon crown and a historic 25th Grand Slam singles title, the Serbian barely put a foot wrong as he extended his remarkable winning streak over Tsitsipas to 12 matches. After edging past Wu Yibing in four sets in the opening round, Djokovic looked significantly sharper against the Greek, dominating behind his

serve and repeatedly exposing Tsitsipas' one-handed backhand with his trademark depth and accuracy. The 39-year-old won an astonishing 82 per cent of points behind his first serve and converted his chances at crucial moments to snuff out any hopes of a comeback. The victory keeps Djokovic firmly on course for another deep run at the All England Club. Seeded seventh this year, he is projected to meet defending champion Jan-nik Sinner in the semi-finals if both continue their winning runs. Djokovic will next take on France's Arthur Rinderknech in the third round as he continues his quest to add another Wimbledon trophy to his glittering collection. Novak Djokovic reached Wimbledon 2026's third round by defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, extending his winning streak to 12 matches against the Greek. During the match, Djokovic playfully pranked a ball girl, creating a viral light-hearted moment that entertained fans. The seven-time Wimbledon champion showed clinical dominance on court, winning 82% of first-serve points. Seeded seventh, Djokovic aims for an eighth Wimbledon title and a 25th Grand Slam, facing Frances Arthur Rinderknech next with potential semis against Jannik Sinner.

Lamine Yamal Returns to Full Training, Boosting Spain's Hopes

New York: Spain will be without two key wingers for their FIFA World Cup Round-of-32 match against Austria in Los Angeles on Thursday, although rising star Lamine Yamal is expected to play an increasingly important role as he regains full fitness.

Nico Williams and Yeremy Pino have both been ruled out of the knockout fixture following injuries sustained in Spain's final group-stage match against Uruguay. Williams suffered a groin injury after a heavy challenge from Nicolas de la Cruz, while Pino picked up a shoulder problem following another strong tackle. While neither injury is believed to be as serious as initially feared, both players are unlikely to recover in time for the Austria clash and remain doubtful for a potential Round-of-16 appearance if Spain progress.

The setbacks come as a blow to coach Luis de la Fuente, who now faces a reshuffle in wide attacking positions ahead of the knockout stage. However, Spain have been boosted by the steady return to full fitness of Lamine Yamal. The teenager has gradually increased his playing time throughout the tournament, featuring for 19 minutes in the opening group match against Cabo Verde, 45 minutes against Saudi Arabia, and 76 minutes in the win over Uruguay. His recovery follows a hamstring injury sustained at the end of last season.

With Williams and Pino unavailable, Alex Baena is expected to start on the left wing after scoring the winner in the previous match. Spain are also likely to retain their defensive structure, which has yet to concede a goal in the tournament, with Aymeric Laporte and Pau Cubarsi at centre-back and Marcos Llorente and Marc Cucurella in the full-back roles in front of goalkeeper Unai Simón. In midfield, Pedri, Rodri, Fabian Ruiz and Hernandez are expected to continue, providing stability and creativity. Mikel Merino, also returning from fitness concerns, remains an option off the bench. Victor Munoz could also be available after recovering from a calf issue and may offer additional pace in wide areas if required during the match.

Shreyas Iyer's Wait for First India Captaincy Win Prolongs After Durham Washout



Mumbai: Rain had the final say as the opening T20I between India and England at the Riverside Ground in Durham on Wednesday was abandoned without a ball being bowled in England's chase, despite impressive knocks from Abhishek Sharma and Shreyas Iyer. The washout also meant Shreyas Iyer is still searching for his first win as India's T20I captain. Having begun his tenure with a 0-2 series defeat to Lorcan Tucker's Ireland, the skipper would have hoped to kick off the England series with a victory before the weather intervened. India posted a competitive 189 for 7 after being asked to bat, with Abhishek blasting 59 off 24 balls and Iyer anchoring the innings with a fluent 68. Shivam Dube's late cameo

provided the finishing flourish, while Saqib Mahmood was England's stand-out bowler with a three-wicket haul. Abhishek continued his rich vein of form with a breathtaking assault, shifting gears spectacularly in the powerplay. The left-hander took the attack to Saqib Mahmood in the fourth over, smashing two towering sixes and a boundary in a 21-run over that swung the momentum firmly in India's favour. During his explosive knock, he also became the fastest batter to reach 100 sixes in T20 internationals, eclipsing West Indies opener Evin Lewis' record. Iyer, meanwhile, produced a captain's knock, rotating the strike smartly before accelerating through the middle overs to keep England's bowlers under

sustained pressure. Dube then provided the finishing touches with some clean hitting at the death, although Mahmood and the experienced Adil Rashid pulled things back with disciplined spells to prevent India from crossing the 200-run mark. England never got the opportunity to begin their chase as persistent rain continued to lash Durham. The umpires waited until the 9 pm local cut-off time for a possible five-over contest, with England's revised DLS target set at 64. The target would have risen to 74 in six overs, 85 in seven overs and 94 in eight overs. However, the weather showed no signs of relenting and the players eventually emerged only to shake hands as the match was officially abandoned. England were also handed an injury scare after Phil Salt jarred his shoulder while fielding, although the hosts later confirmed it was an external blow and that the opener would have been fit to bat. With the series getting off to an anti-climactic start, both teams will now turn their attention to the second T20I at Old Trafford in Manchester on July 4, with four matches still left to determine the winner. The 1st T20I between England and India in Durham was abandoned due to persistent rain before England could bat. India scored 189/7 in 20 overs, powered by Shreyas Iyer's 68 and Abhishek Sharma's explosive 59. Abhishek became the fastest to 100 T20I sixes. England's Saqib Mahmood took three wickets.

Bielsa Bids Fiery Goodbye to Uruguay With Massive Press Conference



New Delhi: Former Uruguay head coach Marcelo Bielsa said that his message never resonated with the national team as he reflected on the side's FIFA World Cup exit in a lengthy farewell press conference on Tuesday. Speaking in Montevideo after stepping down from the role following Uruguay's group-stage elimination, Bielsa delivered a blunt assessment of his tenure, saying he felt the players never truly embraced what he was trying to teach. "What I have absolute certainty of is that nobody cares what I know," Bielsa said during the 100-minute press conference. "I know when someone cares what I know. Nothing I tried to transmit was important, at any level. That was never important from my point of view. I don't see anything bad in it - other people aren't interested in learn-

ing what I know. Case closed." Bielsa, who took charge of Uruguay in May 2023, also took responsibility for the disappointing campaign and refused to blame his players for the result. "My responsibility for what happened is very clear. I cannot justify the position we finished in," Bielsa said. "My management of the players I had was insufficient. We did our best, both my colleagues and I, and the players, and it wasn't enough." Uruguay's World Cup campaign ended in disappointment after they failed to win a game in Group H. They opened with a 1-1 draw against Saudi Arabia before surrendering a second-half lead in a 2-2 draw against Cape Verde. Needing a positive result against Spain in the final group match to advance, Uruguay lost 1-0 following a goalkeeping error.

Senegal's Inspiring Night of Promise Ends in Bitter Heartbreak as Belgium Pull Off the Great Escape

Seattle: If football can be cruel, it seems to reserve its harshest lessons for Senegal. Just when the Lions of Teranga looked set to script one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history, history repeated itself. After watching a two-goal lead disappear, Senegal were left devastated by a contentious VAR-awarded penalty that handed Belgium a dramatic 3-2 extra-time victory and a place in the Round of 16. Youri Tielemans converted from the spot in the 125th minute after a VAR review ruled that Lamine Camara had fouled him inside the area, completing Belgium's astonishing fightback from two goals down. The victory sent the Red Devils into the last 16, where they will face the winners of the United States' clash against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Seattle on July 6. For Belgium, it was one of the great escapes of the tournament. For Senegal, it was another crushing chapter in a story that has become painfully familiar. The final score will show Belgium progressed, but for more than 80 minutes Senegal looked every bit the better side. Pape Thiaw's men played with intensity and conviction, pressing high, defending with authority and repeatedly exposing Belgium's vulnerable back line. They should have been ahead inside the opening quarter-hour when Ismail Jakobs' dangerous cross was spilled by Thibaut Courtois, only for Ismaila Sarr to stretch and steer the loose ball against the post. The warning signs continued and the breakthrough finally arrived in the 25th minute. Sadio Mane's teasing cross found Sarr, whose header crashed back off the upright before Habib Diarra reacted quickest to turn the rebound home from close range. Belgium's only meaningful response before the break came through Maxim De Cuyper, whose curling strike was brilliantly tipped over by Mory Diaw as Senegal deservedly carried a 1-0 lead into half-time. The Lions of Teranga tightened their grip six minutes after the restart with one of the goals of the tournament. Moussa Niakhate's inch-perfect long pass dropped over the Belgian defence and Sarr brought it down exquisitely on his chest before shrugging off two defenders and smashing an unstoppable finish beyond Courtois. At 2-0, Belgium looked beaten. Even as the Red Devils dominated possession, Senegal remained disciplined without the ball and dangerous on the



counter, limiting Belgium to speculative efforts while appearing to cruise towards a famous place in the Round of 16. Belgium manager Rudi Garcia rolled the dice at half-time, replacing the ineffective Charles De Ketelaere with Romelu Lukaku in search of inspiration. For much of the second half, the substitution appeared to have little effect. Senegal's defensive organisation frustrated Belgium at every turn, while Courtois was still the busier goalkeeper whenever the African side broke forward. Then, almost out of nowhere, the match turned. Thomas Meunier burst down the right and drilled a low cross into the six-yard box, where Lukaku darted ahead of his marker to turn home in the 86th minute. The goal transformed the atmosphere inside the stadium. Barely three minutes later, Leandro Trossard floated an inviting delivery into the area and Tielemans rose highest to power a header beyond Diaw, completing an extraordinary comeback and dragging Belgium into extra time from a position that had looked beyond rescue only moments earlier.

Naomi Osaka Conquers Her Wimbledon Nerves, Keeping Daughter's Birthday Plans Intact

New Delhi: Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka wore a broad smile after booking her place in the third round of Wimbledon, but it was not just the tennis that was on her mind. Moments after brushing aside Russian qualifier Anastasia Gasanova 6-3, 6-2 on Court 2 on Wednesday, Osaka revealed that her biggest source of nerves was her daughter Shai's birthday, which falls on Thursday. When asked during her on-court interview whether she had been nervous before the match, Osaka immediately replied, "Yes!" She then explained the emotional reason behind her anxiety. "Tomorrow's my daughter's birthday. I just wanted to be here for longer. I don't wanna make her get on a plane on her birthday," Osaka said with a laugh, before adding that she was "really happy" to have extended her stay at the All England Club. The Japanese star also shared her birthday plans, saying tennis would still come first before family celebrations. "Obviously I have to practice in the morning but maybe after we'll go around the park and stuff. She loves making friends so yeah, probably do that," she said. The heartfelt exchange drew warm applause from the Wimbledon crowd and showed how motherhood has become a central part of Osaka's life since returning to the tour. The victory ensured she could celebrate Shai's special day in London instead of heading home early, while also keeping alive her hopes of producing her best-ever Wimbledon run. Osaka has reached the third round



at the grass-court major on multiple occasions but is yet to progress beyond that stage. She is now set to face Australia's Daria Kasatkina for a place in the last 16. Osaka looked in complete control throughout her one-hour, five-minute victory over Gasanova. The 14th seed broke serve early in the opening set and dictated play with her trademark powerful groundstrokes, sealing the set 6-3 with an ace. Although Gasanova briefly threatened to make the second set competitive, Osaka quickly raised her intensity. A thunderous overhead winner helped her secure the decisive break for a 4-2 lead before she comfortably closed out the match 6-2. The former world No.1 struck the ball cleanly from both wings, served efficiently and rarely allowed her opponent to settle into long rallies. Fresh from her opening-round win over Elsa

Jacquemot, Osaka has now reached the Wimbledon third round once again and appears increasingly comfortable on grass. With confidence building and family providing extra motivation, the Japanese star will hope to finally break new ground at the All England Club. Naomi Osaka, four-time Grand Slam champion, secured a straight-sets win over Anastasia Gasanova to reach Wimbledon's third round. Her nerves were heightened by her daughter Shai's birthday, which she plans to celebrate in London while prioritizing practice. Osaka, a 14th seed and former world No.1, dominated with powerful strokes and efficient serving. She aims to surpass her previous Wimbledon best by advancing further. Next, she faces Australia's Daria Kasatkina, driven by growing confidence and motherhood's motivational role.