

Meghalaya Reports 84.77% Enumeration Form Distribution Under SIR 2026

Shillong, Jul 14: The Government of Meghalaya has announced that 84.77% of enumeration forms under the Statewide Integrated Registration (SIR) 2026 have been successfully distributed across the state. This milestone reflects significant progress in the ongoing exercise aimed at strengthening demographic data collection and improving governance outcomes. Officials confirmed that the distribution drive has reached households across both urban and rural areas, ensuring broad participation in the survey. The initiative is designed to gather accurate information on population, socio-economic indicators, and household structures, which will serve as a foundation for policy planning and welfare programs. The Directorate of Census Operations highlighted that the achievement was made possible through co-ordinated efforts between district administrations,



local bodies, and field enumerators. Special attention was given to remote and hard-to-reach regions, with mobile teams deployed to guar-

antee coverage. Meghalaya's Health and Family Welfare Department noted that the SIR 2026 exercise will also support public health planning by

providing updated data on households, enabling better resource allocation for medical services, nutrition programs, and preventive care. State of-

ficials emphasized that transparency and accountability remain central to the process. Regular monitoring, digital tracking of form distribution, and community feedback mechanisms are being employed to ensure accuracy and prevent duplication. The government has urged citizens to cooperate fully with enumerators and complete the forms promptly. Public awareness campaigns are being conducted to highlight the importance of participation, stressing that reliable data is essential for effective governance and equitable development. With nearly 85% of forms already distributed, Meghalaya is on track to complete the enumeration phase within the stipulated timeline. Authorities expressed confidence that the SIR 2026 initiative will provide a robust database to guide future planning, strengthen welfare delivery, and enhance the state's administrative efficiency.

CM Manik Saha unveils ₹93.24 crore Udaipur projects

Agartala, July 14: In a significant boost to Tripura's infrastructure and public service delivery, Chief Minister Prof. Dr. Manik Saha on Tuesday inaugurated, launched and virtually laid the foundation stones for a series of development projects worth ₹93.24 crore in Udaipur, Gomati district. The projects span the health, education, connectivity, sports and administrative sectors, marking a major step in the state's development journey. During the programme, the Chief Minister formally launched the second phase of the Mukhyamantri Niramay Arogya Abhiyan, along with the Niramay Lab Network and a special diarrhoea prevention initiative aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery, particularly in rural areas.

Highlighting the government's commitment to quality education, Dr. Saha inaugurated the new permanent building of Udaipur English Medium School, constructed at a cost of ₹7.82 crore, and virtually inaugurated the Bhagini Nivedita English Medium School building built at ₹1.48 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for



infrastructure development at Hariyananda English Medium Higher Secondary School, a project worth ₹14.74 crore. To promote sports among youth, the Chief Minister virtually inaugurated a synthetic football turf at the Ramesh English Medium School ground, developed at a cost of ₹5.80 crore. Highlighting the government's commitment to quality education, Dr. Saha inaugurated the new permanent building of Udaipur English Medium School, constructed at a cost of ₹7.82 crore. He also virtually inaugurated the Bhagini Nivedita English Medium School building, built at ₹1.48 crore, and laid the foundation stone for infrastructure development at Hariyananda English Medium Higher Second-

ary School, a project worth ₹14.74 crore. These investments aim to provide modern facilities and enhance learning environments for students across the district. To promote sports and youth engagement, the Chief Minister virtually inaugurated a synthetic football turf at the Ramesh English Medium School ground, developed at a cost of ₹5.80 crore. The facility is expected to encourage sporting talent and foster a culture of fitness and teamwork among young people. Connectivity and administrative projects were also part of the ₹93.24 crore package, with new roadworks, office infrastructure, and service delivery enhancements announced to improve governance efficiency and accessibility.

Meghalaya health minister urges HIV testing, stresses early treatment

Shillong, July 14: Meghalaya Health Minister Wailadmiki Shylla has called for greater awareness and proactive measures in the fight against HIV, urging widespread testing and emphasizing the importance of early treatment. His remarks highlight the state government's commitment to tackling the health challenge and ensuring that affected individuals receive timely care. Speaking at a public health program, Minister Shylla underscored that HIV testing is the first critical step in prevention and treatment. He noted that early detection allows patients to access antiretroviral therapy (ART), which significantly improves health outcomes and reduces the risk of transmission. "Testing and treatment must go hand in hand. We cannot afford delays when lives are at stake," he stated. The Minister emphasized that stigma and misinformation remain major barriers to HIV prevention. He urged communities, schools, and civil society organizations



to actively promote awareness campaigns that encourage testing and normalize conversations around HIV. By fostering openness and education, Meghalaya aims to reduce discrimination and ensure that individuals feel safe seeking medical support. Officials from the Health Department highlighted ongoing initiatives, including mobile testing units, awareness drives in rural areas, and partnerships with NGOs to reach vulnerable populations. The gov-

ernment is also working to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that ART centers are accessible and adequately staffed across districts. Minister Shylla stressed that Meghalaya's border location makes vigilance particularly important, as mobility and cross-border interactions can increase vulnerability to HIV transmission. He reiterated that empowering youth with knowledge and encouraging responsible practices are key to safeguarding the state's

future. The Health Minister's appeal reflects a broader vision of integrating public health with community participation. By prioritizing testing, early treatment, and awareness, Meghalaya is taking decisive steps to combat HIV and protect its citizens. This initiative underscores the state's determination to build a healthier society, where prevention, compassion, and timely medical intervention form the foundation of its public health strategy.

NSCN-IM condemns Nagaland IED blast, search operations underway

Kohima, July 14: Security forces have stepped up search operations in Nagaland's Chumoukedima district following a deadly IED blast that claimed the life of an Assam Rifles jawan and left four personnel along with a civilian injured. The attack occurred near Sukhovi on Monday afternoon when an improvised explosive device targeted a paramilitary vehicle. Havildar Mohd Iqbal, hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, lost his life in the explosion. On Tuesday, additional columns of Assam Rifles and Nagaland Police were deployed to intensify combing operations in the affected area, according to a Defence PRO. The National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) strongly condemned the incident, describing it as a "cowardly terrorist act." The blast has heightened tensions in the region, with security forces maintaining a tight vigil to prevent further attacks and ensure the safety of civilians. Havildar Mohd Iqbal, hail-



ing from Jammu and Kashmir, lost his life in the explosion. On Tuesday, additional columns of Assam Rifles and Nagaland Police were deployed to intensify search operations in the affected area, according to a Defence PRO. Security forces are maintaining a tight vigil to prevent further attacks and ensure the safety of civilians. The National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) strongly condemned the incident, describing it as a "cowardly terrorist act." The organization's statement underscored

the gravity of the attack and its destabilizing impact on peace and security in the region. Officials noted that the blast has heightened tensions in Chumoukedima and surrounding areas. Security forces are conducting coordinated patrols, road checks, and surveillance to track down those responsible. Intelligence inputs are being closely analyzed to identify possible militant involvement and prevent recurrence of such incidents. Community leaders expressed concern over the violence, urging authorities to prioritize

civilian safety and restore confidence among residents. Civil society groups have called for transparent investigations and stronger measures to protect vulnerable communities from insurgent activities. The incident highlights the continuing challenges faced by security forces in Nagaland, where sporadic militant attacks threaten stability and public safety. Authorities reiterated their commitment to maintaining law and order, assuring that every effort is being made to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Capital Police crack ₹13 lakh robbery, arrest three accused

Itanagar, July 14: The Capital Police have successfully cracked the ₹13 lakh robbery at Neelam Traders, arresting all three accused after an intensive three-week manhunt. The breakthrough marks a significant achievement in law enforcement's fight against organized crime and reinforces public confidence in the city's policing system. According to officials, the robbery took place last month when armed assailants targeted Neelam Traders, escaping with cash and valuables worth ₹13 lakh. The incident sparked widespread concern among the business community, prompting police to launch a coordinated investigation involving surveillance, intelligence gathering, and field opera-



tions. Police Commissioner stated that the accused were tracked through meticulous analysis of CCTV footage, mobile records, and local informants. The arrests were made in separate operations across the city, with recovery of critical evidence linking the suspects to the crime.

Authorities confirmed that the stolen amount has been partially recovered, and efforts are underway to trace the remaining assets. Ministerial representatives praised the police force for their dedication and swift action. "This case demonstrates the effectiveness of

our law enforcement agencies and their commitment to protecting citizens and businesses," said a senior official. The successful resolution of the case has reassured traders and residents, who had expressed concerns about rising incidents of theft and robbery. Police have pledged to strengthen patrols, enhance intelligence networks, and deploy advanced technology to prevent similar crimes in the future. This press release underscores the Capital Police's determination to uphold law and order. By cracking the Neelam Traders robbery and arresting all three accused, the force has sent a strong message that criminal activity will not be tolerated and offenders will be brought to justice.

Uripok Apunba Lup demands arrests over Leimakhong arson case

Imphal, July 14: Uripok Apunba Lup (UAL), a confederation of clubs in Uripok, has submitted a formal complaint to the Superintendent of Police, Imphal West, seeking immediate legal action over the arson incident at Leimakhong on July 11, in which six houses belonging to Meitei families were set on fire.

In the complaint, the organisation alleged that the houses were deliberately burnt by Kuki militants in broad daylight. It further claimed that the incident occurred in a highly sensitive area where Army personnel and Central security forces were reportedly present, raising serious concerns over alleged security lapses and the failure to prevent the violence. UAL also alleged that local villag-



ers who attempted to extinguish the fire were obstructed and subjected to force, including the use of tear gas and firing, resulting in injuries to several civilians. The organisation stated that the affected houses belonged to displaced Meitei families and described the attack as a deliberate act that has threatened public

safety and law and order. The organisation urged the police to register an FIR against those responsible, conduct a fair and thorough investigation, identify and arrest all accused persons, examine possible security lapses leading to the incident, and provide adequate protection to the affected villagers to

prevent further violence. Describing the matter as one of grave public concern, Uripok Apunba Lup called for urgent intervention to ensure justice for the victims and uphold the rule of law. The complaint urged police authorities to register an FIR against all those responsible, conduct a fair and thorough investigation, and identify and arrest the accused. It also called for an inquiry into possible security lapses that allowed the incident to occur and demanded adequate protection for the affected villagers to prevent further violence. Describing the matter as one of grave public concern, UAL stressed that urgent intervention is necessary to ensure justice for the victims and restore confidence in law enforcement.

The Chief Minister of Mizoram has inaugurated the Zo Fair to enhance tribal craftsmanship

Aizawl, July 14: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma opened the week-long Zo Fair, also known as Aadhi Bazaar, at the Dawrpui Multipurpose Hall this Monday. The event unites artisans from across the North East to display traditional expertise. The fair is a joint effort between the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India and the Mizoram Cooperation Department.

The exhibition hosts 25 stalls. There are 13 from various North Eastern states and 12 from Mizoram. These include two tribal food cuisine stalls, alongside vendors selling bamboo goods, handwoven textiles, forest produce, and natural items. The goal is simple: facilitate direct trade between producers and buyers, cutting out middlemen. Addressing the crowd, the Chief Minister emphasized that



traditional skills served as the historical record for regional identity long before written documents existed. He praised the generations of inherited craftsmanship on display. "While technology has enabled mass produc-

tion of goods, traditional handcrafted products continue to require painstaking manual effort," Lalduhoma said. He urged the artisans to retain their pride and resist undervaluing their work. He noted that outside demand

for these unique goods is steadily rising. Rural Development and Administration Minister Lalmilawma also spoke, pointing to the potential of the cooperative movement. He cited a recent Horti Fair in Aizawl that saw Rs 20 lakh in sales in one day. He linked this commercial success to the state's broader goal of reaching self-reliance under the Viksit Mizoram 2047 initiative. P.S. Thuingaleng, the TRIFED Regional Manager for the North East, highlighted that Mizoram's Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are currently the best-performing in the region. He issued a clear directive for future growth: artisans must improve their product packaging to remain competitive. The Chief Minister encouraged all visiting participants to explore local households and experience Mizo hospitality as one family.

Subansiri Project Moderates Major River Surge After Early Warnings



Itanagar, July 14: A surge of water rushed down the Subansiri River on July 13. Heavy rain upstream drove the flow up rapidly after midnight. Warning systems at Daporijo and Tamen triggered alerts nearly six hours before the crest. District authorities acted fast. They blared sirens along the riverbanks to clear residents out of harm's way. The discharge jumped from 7,000 cumecs to a peak of 13,000 cumecs by 10:45 am. The river's safe limit is only 7,000 cumecs. Project managers used the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project reservoir to dampen the blow. They choked the outflow to 12,000 cumecs at 11 am. This move bought critical time and cut the peak flood force. The water eventually slowed. Levels dropped to 7,500 cumecs by Monday evening and hit 5,200 cumecs by 9:30 am on July 14. Project officials noted that early warning systems and reservoir control worked. According to a statement issued by the project authorities, the measure "helped delay and reduce the downstream flood peak." Local news reports confirmed that these preparations significantly softened the impact for communities living near the water.

Mizoram Police Burn Narcotics Worth Rs 70 Lakh in Serchhip

Aizawl, July 14: Mizoram authorities burned Rs 70.70 lakh worth of confiscated narcotics on July 13. The disposal happened at the Serchhip Police Station. It cleared seven cases from the 2025-26 financial year. Gavit Gogna, chairman of the Serchhip District Drugs Disposal Committee, oversaw the process. He confirmed all legal steps were finished before the destruction began. The fire consumed 220 grams of heroin and 89 grams of crystal methamphetamine. Officials note that methamphetamine is a highly addictive psychostimulant. It is commonly referred to as the "crazy drug" and is strictly prohibited under Indian law.

Mizoram police are turning up the heat. They have seized Rs 414.66 crore in narcotics during the first six months of 2026. These operations led to 312 arrests. This total includes 57 foreign nationals caught



in the drug trade. The state shares borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Traffickers use this geography to move contraband into India.

Police data shows the scale of the crisis. Officers recovered 315.903 kg of methamphetamine valued at Rs 252.72 crore. This resulted in 62 arrests, including 16 foreign nationals. Heroin seizures totaled 34.923 kg worth Rs 69.85 crore, netting 211 arrests with 39 foreign nationals

among them. Other notable hauls included 20.628 kg of crystal meth worth Rs 61.88 crore and 22.286 kg of morphine valued at Rs 22.29 crore.

Additional seizures included 141.492 kg of opium worth Rs 7.07 crore, 60.681 kg of ganja worth Rs 30.34 lakh, 214.4 kg of codeine valued at Rs 25.22 lakh, and 30 kg of alprazolam worth Rs 30 lakh. Law enforcement agencies vow to keep up the pressure on smuggling networks.

Manipur home minister vows arrests, hostages murder, Meitei arson cases

Imphal, July 14: Manipur home minister Govindas Konhoujam on Monday said that operations are still underway to apprehend those involved in the killing of six Liangmai Naga hostages in Kangpokpi district and the recent arson of six Meitei houses at Kanto Sabal in Imphal West district. Speaking to reporters at the New Secretariat, Imphal, the minister expressed hope that more arrests would be made within the next couple of days.

He stated that security forces are actively pursuing all individuals connected to the abduction and subsequent murder of six Naga hostages. On May 13, eighteen Liangmai Naga members were detained at Leilon, a Kuki village in Kangpokpi district. Six of them were held hostage by Kuki groups, and their mutilated bodies were recovered on June 10. The discovery came two days after Naga groups released 14 Kuki members following

negotiations led by the United Naga Council (UNC) and the state government. In protest against the killings, Naga groups have imposed an indefinite economic blockade along national highways and inter-district roads, cutting off essential supplies to Kuki-dominated areas in Kangpokpi.

Under mounting pressure, a joint team of Manipur Police, National Investigation Agency (NIA), and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) arrested a couple for their alleged involvement in the killings. The arrests followed Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh's statement that five suspects were evading capture by hiding in dense forests. Konhoujam confirmed that two culprits have already been arrested and reiterated that more arrests are expected soon.

Addressing another query, the home minister said that operations are also in progress to nab those responsible for the burning of six



abandoned Meitei houses at Kanto Sabal. On Saturday, nearly 600 people from Kangpokpi district descended from the hillside and torched the houses near a Meitei locality adjoining an Army cantonment. Security forces detained around 20 villagers in the aftermath, with three confirmed arrests. Konhoujam stressed that the government is treating the incident seriously given its proximity to a high-security Army camp and has directed security forces to remain vigilant to prevent recurrence.

A high-level security meeting chaired by the chief minister on Sunday evening reviewed the recent incidents.

Health Officials Launch World Population Campaign

Kohima, July 14: Health officials in Kohima and Wokha marked World Population Day with a week-long campaign aimed at curbing unintended pregnancies. Programs organized by District Health Societies under the National Health Mission kicked off on July 11 and run through July 18, 2026. Kohima hosted its primary session at the Chief Medical Officer's conference hall on July 11. Dr. Khrievillhou Nakhro discussed family planning options and the Mission Parivar Vikas initiative. He highlighted the SAARTHI on Wheels program, which brings contraceptive services directly to residents. Advocacy efforts include distributing condoms, promoting IUCD and warned that short gaps between births trigger nutritional deficits. She noted, "Citing World Health Organisation recommendations, she said at least two years of spacing was necessary to safeguard maternal health."

Mizoram CM for preserving indigenous craftsmanship, promoting market

Aizawl, July 14: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Monday emphasised the need to preserve indigenous craftsmanship and promote better market access for tribal artisans.

Inaugurating the week-long Zo Fair in Aizawl, Lalduhoma said the history and identity of the people of the North East have long been preserved through traditional attire, crafts and indigenous skills, even before they were recorded in written form.

Jointly organised by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Mizoram Cooperation department, the fair brings together artisans from across the North East and different parts of Mizoram to showcase traditional handicrafts, handwoven textiles, bamboo products, forest produce and indigenous food items.

The chief minister said that the products displayed at the fair reflect generations of inherited craftsmanship and cultural traditions.

Lalduhoma noted that while modern technology has enabled mass production of goods, handcrafted products

continue to require painstaking manual work.

He urged artisans to take pride in their traditional skills and avoid undervaluing or abandoning them, saying growing appreciation from outside the region has created new market opportunities for indigenous products.

These crafts, he said, are an integral part of the identity of the people and serve as a living record of their history and culture.

The CM lauded the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, TRIFED and the departments involved for their efforts to conserve and promote tribal and forest-based products. Welcoming participants from outside Mizoram, Lalduhoma invited them to experience the state's hospitality and interact with local communities beyond the fair.

Rural Development and Administration Minister Lalmilawma, who attended the event, also said the cooperative movement has transformed economies in many parts of the world and expressed confidence that Mizoram could achieve similar suc-

cess.

Referring to the recent Horti Fair at Aizawl's Lammual, he said that sales of around Rs 20 lakh were recorded in a single day, demonstrating the market potential of locally produced goods. He said that achieving the vision of 'Viksit (developed) Mizoram 2047' requires every village in the state to become self-reliant, and added that efforts in that direction have already begun.

TRIFED Regional Manager (North East) P S Thuingaleng said that Mizoram's Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are among the best-performing in the North East. He, however, stressed the need for improved product packaging to enhance marketability. The fair features 25 stalls, comprising 13 from various North Eastern states and 12 from Mizoram. Two stalls are dedicated to tribal cuisine, while the others display handicrafts, textiles, bamboo products, food items and natural produce.

Organisers said the event is designed to facilitate direct interaction and trade between producers and buyers without intermediaries.

According to the Chief Minister, there are 91,385 D-voters listed in the electoral

Guwahati, July 14: Assam has over 91,000 'doubtful voters' or 'D-Voters' in the state's electoral rolls at present, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma informed the assembly on Monday.

Replying to a question by Congress MLA Nurul Islam, Sarma said that out of the 91,385 D-voters in the electoral rolls, the highest number was reported in Sonitpur at 13,719. Barpeta has 8,081 D-voters, while Udalguri

and Nagaon also have over 7,800 names of such doubtful voters in the electoral rolls. The chief minister stated that the process of marking 'D' against the names of voters with disputed or doubtful citizenship credentials has been implemented in the state since 1997, according to Election Commission directives. Responding in his capacity as the Home and Political department minister, Sarma said 56,728 D-voters were

declared as foreigners by Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs), whereas 831 of those who appeared before the high court were branded as foreigners by the court.

Besides, 65,171 D-voters were declared as Indians by FTs, with the Gauhati High Court and the Supreme Court declaring another 42 and three D-voters as legitimate citizens of the country, he added. Replying to another question by the Congress's

Wazed Ali Choudhury, Sarma said the number of D-voters in the state was 1,99,596 when the exercise was first carried out in 1997. He said 2,44,144 cases of D-voters have been sent to FTs so far, out of which 2,05,659 cases have been disposed, and 56,728 persons declared as foreigners.

Of these, 1,55,490 cases have been disposed and 1,15,945 persons have been declared as foreigners.

Jitendra urges state govts to leverage AI to improve public service delivery

Shillong, July 14: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday urged state governments to embrace next-generation administrative reforms and leverage artificial intelligence to improve public service delivery, while stressing that technological progress must be matched by a change in administrative mindset.

Speaking after inaugurating the two-day National Conference on "NEXT-GEN Administrative and e-Gov Reforms" at the State Convention Centre here, Singh said technology alone cannot transform governance unless there is a corresponding shift in the way governments function and officials adapt to change.

"Technology is evolving very fast, and while the government is quick and prompt in adopting the technology, yet the mindset is not changing. The mindset is not changing at an equal pace, and we are not able to make the optimal use of all the options and tools available," he said.

The conference was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in collaboration with the Meghalaya government.

Singh said decentralising national conferences has helped strengthen coordination between the Centre and states and provided a



platform for sharing best governance practices.

"We learn from the best practices of each other and Meghalaya has set an example with the New Shillong Administrative City. This concept, accompanied by the digital model of governance that is sought to be created here, is something which was not visualised a decade earlier," he said.

Highlighting the Centre's digital governance initiatives, the Union minister said the DARPG now handles nearly 2.5 million public grievances through an AI-driven platform that enables prompt responses.

He said the government has introduced an AI-powered chatbot in 22 languages to assist citizens, while initiatives such as the Digital Life Certificate using face-recognition technology have significantly improved service delivery.

Singh also spoke about the Centre's "Prashasan Gaon Heroes" initiative aimed at strengthening

governance at the grassroots and the Swachhta Campaign, launched in 2021, which has helped free up office space and generate revenue through scientific disposal of scrap.

Calling for continuous reforms, he reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of "Reform, Perform and Transform" and stressed the need to integrate artificial intelligence and cybersecurity into public administration while eliminating obsolete government rules.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said administrative reforms must focus on improving efficiency and delivering better services to the public.

He acknowledged that resistance to change often prevents officials from proposing innovative ideas and called for gradual but consistent improvements in governance.

"The ultimate goal should be to serve the public and

make a difference in their lives," Sangma said.

The chief minister highlighted the state's CM Connect initiative, which uses technology and direct public interaction to address citizens' grievances, and said feedback from frontline officials and the public should guide policymaking.

He also cited the state's Cabinet Retreat as a platform for departments to discuss plans, challenges and ideas, fostering greater inter-departmental collaboration.

The inaugural session was attended by Chief Secretary D.P. Wahlang, senior officials of the DARPG and the Meghalaya government, among others.

Meghalaya's governance initiatives, best practices by Prime Minister's Award-winning projects and programmes of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) were discussed at the event.

Strong action against the unlawful dumping of trash on Pathsala roadways is being called for

Bajali, July 14: Residents of Pathsala are blaming both careless rubbish disposal and poor waste management for the increasing amount of roadside trash that has become a significant environmental hazard.

In quest of food, stray animals—especially dogs and cows—are commonly observed eating plastic bags and other non-biodegradable rubbish, as well as munching on trash piles. The ecology, human health, and animal welfare are all seriously threatened, according to locals.

Concerns have also been voiced by locals regarding



a number of commercial buildings that are rented out for stores and other enterprises without sufficient facilities for disposing of rubbish. Some locals claim

that because there aren't any specified places to store trash, rubbish is being dumped along roadsides and in neighboring open spaces. Pathsala resident

Parshwa Patgiri stated, "We appeal to the concerned authorities to ensure daily garbage collection and strict action against those who litter and keep the roads dirty." "People should have greater civic sense when it comes to waste disposal," stated Mausam Kakati. Garbage dumping by the side of the road is unacceptable and bad for the environment.

Despite receiving rental income from business establishments, many building owners do not provide sufficient room or facilities for disposing of waste. This procedure needs to be altered.

Arunachal Governor Parnaik demands more vigorous prosecution to guarantee prompt justice

Itanagar, July 14: Lt Gen (Retd) K T Parnaik, the governor of Arunachal Pradesh, demanded on Monday that the state's prosecution system be strengthened in order to provide prompt justice, especially in cases involving crimes against women and children.

The Governor emphasized the need for improved coordination between investigating agencies, prosecutors, and other stakeholders during a meeting at Raj Bhavan with recently appointed Additional Advocate General Dugmar Kamduk. Concerned about the relatively low prosecution and conviction rates in situations involving women and children, he stated that swift and efficient legal action was necessary. In addition, Parnaik emphasized the importance of bolstering the Directorate of Prosecution



through institutional assistance, professional training, and capacity building, arguing that a strong prosecution system was necessary to preserve the

rule of law and safeguard citizens' rights. He wished Kamduk a prosperous tenure and congratulated him on his appointment.

Prashant Kishor's assets total Rs 96 crore, while his wife's wealth is Rs 102 crore

New Delhi, July 14: According to his electoral papers, Prashant Kishor, a candidate for the Bankipur bypoll in Bihar, possesses assets valued at Rs 96 crore.

Kishor listed movable assets valued at Rs 22.19 crore and immovable assets valued at Rs 73.87 crore in the affidavit submitted to the Returning Officer. Jahnavi Das, his wife and an Assamese physician, possesses Rs 12.42 crore in real estate and Rs 89.51 crore in movable assets. Kishor, a former poll strategist who is now a politician, is running for the seat that BJP chief Nitin Nabin left empty a few months ago. After Abhishek Kumar "Bunty" withdrew from the race, the BJP fielded Neeraj Kumar Sinha, a 32-year-old leader of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. "This is not just my 'naamankan' (nomination) but a call for political change in Bihar, where people with criminal records must give up their chairs," Kishor said on Monday. Kishor prayed at the Baba Hariharnath Tem-

ple in Sonapur prior to submitting his nomination papers. Later, he marched to the collectorate from the Scout Guide Ground next to the Sinha Library in Patna with a sizable contingent of party workers and sympathizers. Kishor announced his retirement from political consulting and moved to Bihar after the results of the Bengal election on May 2, 2021. He declared he would no longer create election tactics for outside political parties on October 2, 2022, when he founded the Jan Suraj Abhiyan and started a padyatra (foot march). Jan Suraj did not win any seats in the Bihar elections earlier this year, despite making its official political debut. With this bypoll, Kishor, the 49-year-old party founder who had previously chosen not to participate in elections, will make his first poll appearance. According to Kishor's affidavit, he presently has a bank loan of Rs 5.77 crore. In addition to other properties in Noida, his wife owns two apartments



and a third of a home in Guwahati. In addition to owning properties in Buxar

and his ancestral hamlet, Kishor also owns plots in Patna's Pataliputra Colony and Delhi's Vasant Vihar. He also owns two apartments in an apartment complex in Ghaziabad and a 50% share in two additional apartments. Additionally, Vedha Venture Private Limited is owned by Kishor. After donating Rs 50 lakh to the Jan Suraj Foundation and Rs 2.75 crore to the Joy of Giving in 2023–2024, the corporation gave Rs 85 crore to Jan Suraj in 2024–2025. Eight lawsuits have been filed against Kishor, ranging from fraud to defamation and hindering official duty, according to the document. However, none of these cases have yet to be charged. Kishor completed a Master of Healthcare Management program at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) in Hyderabad after earning a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from the University of Lucknow. Additionally, he has finished a French language certification course.

After 19 years, the SC absolves the woman of killing her husband

New Delhi, July 14: The Supreme Court ruled that suspicion, no matter how serious, cannot take the place of legal proof, clearing the wife of a banker who was found dead 19 years after police said she plotted his murder with her supposed boyfriend. Monika Kiran Suryawanshi's acquittal was affirmed by a bench of justices Sanjay Karol and Prasanna B. Varale, who declined to reopen the murder and conspiracy allegations against her. In February 2007, she was charged with the murder of her bank employee husband, Kiran Suryawanshi, due to an alleged extramarital affair. In a case based solely on circumstantial evidence, the court determined that the prosecution had failed to show an uninterrupted chain of circumstances required to win a conviction. The bench dismissed Maharashtra's petitions against the Bombay High Court's 2010 acquittal on Monday, stating that "the chain of circumstances is broken, and the hypothesis of guilt is not exclusively established." All the components of a crime thriller were there in this instance. The prosecution claims that Monika, who married Kiran out of love in 2001, had an extramarital affair with a neighbor. According to investigators, the two and another man planned to kill Kiran. They claimed that after sedating her husband with injections and medications, Monika used a grinding stone inside their house to bash his head. After that, the body was placed on a motorcycle for disposal after being covered in plastic and a bedsheet. When a police constable on patrol noticed two men riding a motorcycle with a suspicious bundle between them, the disposal plan came crashing down. Kiran's body was found when a human foot was observed sticking out of the bundle. The two individuals were immediately taken into custody. A sessions court initially convicted Monika and two co-accused for murder in 2008, but the Bombay High Court later overturned this due to weak circumstantial evidence. The Supreme Court upheld this decision after reviewing the prosecution's narrative, highlighting the failure to prove an alleged affair as a motive, with evidence suggesting merely a one-sided infatuation. The "last seen" theory was also dismissed due to unreliable witness accounts and lack of established time of death.

Additionally, digital evidence contradicted the prosecution's claims about Monika's interactions with Prakash. The court criticized the investigation's procedural flaws concerning evidence recovery, and noted inconsistencies like the absence of blood on the mattress despite claims of bludgeoning.

In the fodder scandal, the SC declines to revoke Lalu Prasad Yadav's bail

Patna, July 14: The Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that it would not be proper to meddle with Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's freedom after six years, declining to revoke the bail granted in the fodder scam cases. Rather, the court ordered the Jharkhand High Court to decide the ongoing criminal appeals as soon as possible, ideally within six months. The Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) challenge to the Jharkhand High Court's orders suspending Yadav's sentence and granting him bail was rejected by a bench of justices MM Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale, who noted that the amount of time that had passed since the bail was granted weighed against upsetting the arrangement. The bench stated, "We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned order since several years have passed since the impugned order." "It will only be appropriate to request the high court to expedite the appeal and decide it preferably within six months," the statement



continued, pointing out that the criminal appeals had been waiting since 2018. Additional solicitor general SV Raju, representing the CBI, said during the hearing that the high court had made a mistake in determining Yadav's length of incarceration. "The judge's calculation is incorrect. The trial court's claim that he has completed half of the sentence is incorrect because he had to serve consecutive sentences, Raju argued. In his defense of Yadav, senior attorney Kapil Sibal argued that Section 427 of the Code of Criminal

Procedure, which deals with concurrent and consecutive running of sentences, would only be applicable during the final adjudication stage and not during the consideration of interim suspension of sentence. The bench then expressed a preference for expediting the appeals rather than reviewing the bail order. "The trial will need to be accelerated. If we accelerate the appeal, what are your thoughts? It said, "We are not allowed to interfere with the contested order. In response, Sibal said he would not be against such

a path. "If the court wants to issue such an order, I cannot obstruct it."

The CBI has contested the Jharkhand High Court's orders, including one from October 2020 that suspended Yadav's sentence for fraudulent withdrawal of ₹37.62 crore in the Chaibasa treasury case during 1992-93. The agency argues that the high court misapplied the "half-sentence" principle in granting bail, as the trial court ruled that Yadav's sentences for various fodder scam cases should run consecutively, amounting to approximately 14 years. Yadav disputes this interpretation, claiming that sentences for different offences are treated concurrently for suspension purposes. He also cites his age, medical issues, including a kidney transplant in 2022, to contest the bail cancellation. The 77-year-old RJD leader has been convicted in multiple fodder scam cases tied to fraudulent withdrawals from Bihar's treasury between 1992 and 1995, involving around ₹950 crore in total.

Officials from the bank and Bhopal Management College are accused of embezzling scholarships

New Delhi, July 14: A bank and representatives of a private management college in Bhopal have been charged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for allegedly opening 118 fraudulent accounts at UCO Bank's Habibganj branch in the capital of Madhya Pradesh in order to embezzle nearly ₹1 crore in government scholarships intended for MBA students. According to the CBI, the accounts were opened between January 2020 and October 2021 with the cooperation of bank officials and Academy of Management College staff. Debit cards issued in the names of the students were used to withdraw the ₹99.48 lakh in scholarships credited to these accounts that same day. Senior branch manager Prema Verma, five other bank employees, college director Vinay Malhotra,

his brother Aditya Malhotra, associate professors Manoj Jain and Vinesh Meshram, and former employee Ram Singh Verma are among the accused. According to the initial information report submitted in the case, the college administration obtained ATM cards by forging students' signatures and using their addresses and cellphone numbers. In order to obtain the scholarships, the defendants submitted fake, legitimate certifications. Verma allegedly took out the money after collecting the debit cards. On March 17, 2026, UCO Bank deputy general manager Lokesh Kumar filed a report alleging widespread fraud, which prompted the investigation. The case has been filed in accordance with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

During his first visit to Perambur, CM Vijay initiates a number of development projects

Chennai, July 14: On Monday, Tamil Nadu chief minister and Perambur MLA C Joseph Vijay visited his Assembly seat for the first time since taking office. He reviewed the area's infrastructure and launched a number of development projects. In the April 23 Assembly elections, the president of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) was elected from both Perambur and Tiruchirappalli East. He kept Perambur, where he is currently the sitting MLA, and resigned from the Tiruchirappalli East seat in compliance with the law. Vijay had visited the Tiruchirappalli East seat prior to his resignation in order to express gratitude to voters and reassure them of his continuous support for the area's advancement. Since then, the Election Commission has declared the seat vacant, and by-elections are anticipated in a number of Assembly constituencies in the upcoming months. On his first visit to Perambur as an MLA, Vijay chaired a review meeting with senior government officials regarding development projects planned for the constituency and officially opened the rebuilt constituency office and an e-Seva center. Kodungaiyur, Vyasarpad, Peravallur, Kosapet, and Kannigapuram are

all part of Perambur, which is located in north Chennai. In addition to a number of car and micro, small, and medium-sized businesses, it is home to the Integral Coach Factory (ICF). Perambur, which has always been seen as a DMK bastion, received 1,20,365 votes to elect Vijay to the Assembly.

By a margin of 53,715 votes, he defeated senior DMK leader R D Shekar. In addition to inspecting a fair price store, Vijay officially began distributing new computerized ration cards around the state to qualified families who had submitted an application. New amenities, like as ramps to increase accessibility for those with disabilities, have been added to the refurbished MLA office. Vijay gave documents to recipients using government services at the e-Seva center. 275 services from different government departments are available in the center. The chief minister also visited the ₹47.50 crore electric bus depot in Perambur, which was constructed by the Metropolitan Transport Corporation. In order to enhance passenger services, Vijay instructed officials to purchase low-floor electric buses with air conditioning during the inspection.

The Supreme Court requests an update on the alleged assault of a lawyer from Delhi

New Delhi, July 14: The Delhi Police were asked by the Supreme Court on Tuesday to provide a status report on the alleged assault of a lawyer at his residence last week and the threat he got for refusing to drop a lawsuit he filed against his powerful political attackers. Pankaj Sharma, the attorney, claimed that despite his serious injuries, the cops did nothing. A bench chaired by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant requested a report on the investigation and whether any action was taken in response to the later threat complaint. It requested that the report be filed by an officer at least as high as deputy police commissioner, and it scheduled a follow-up hearing on Thursday. The cops were instructed by the bench to protect Sharma. Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Vikas Singh highlighted the assault on lawyer Sharma, who was attacked on July 11 and required eight stitches. Singh expressed concern over the safety of common citizens in light of Sharma's situation, as the assailants allegedly threatened him to withdraw the case. Attorney General R Venkataramani called the incident serious and requested the court to seek a response from the Delhi Police. Sharma's petition indicated that initially, the police refused to register an FIR, later filing only for assault, despite serious injuries. He criticized the police for inaction, claiming they were influenced by a local politician and failed to ensure his safety after further threats.

India begins a campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2028–2029 session

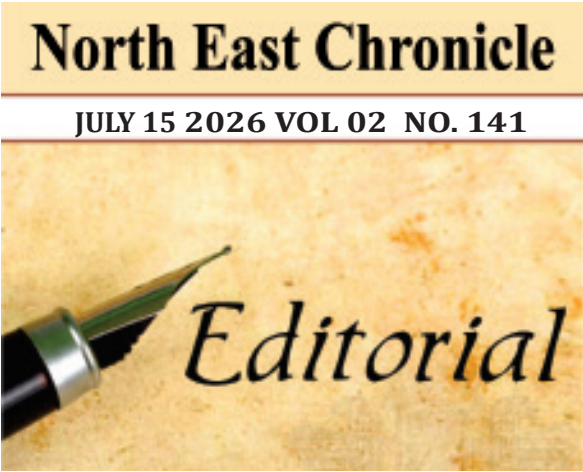
New Delhi, July 14: India's formal campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2028–2029 term began on Monday. India's official campaign, "Shanti: India for the United Nations Security Council 2028-29," was introduced by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. UN envoys, diplomats, and officials attended a special event at the UN headquarters titled "Norms, Trust, Integrity" for the two-year term.

"SHANTI: Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust, Integrity" is the foundation of India's approach to the UN, according to the country, which last sat at the UN horseshoe table for the 2021–2022 term. India and Tajikistan will compete for the only seat in the Asia-Pacific Group category

during the 2028–29 term elections, which are scheduled for June of next year. He arrived in New York over the weekend after making an official trip to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman from July 5–10. On July 14 and 15, he will leave New York to travel to Brussels for the 3rd India-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting and meet with his Belgian and EU counterparts. Significant geopolitical changes will occur during the UNSC elections as the globe continues to struggle with issues like the situation in Gaza, the war in Ukraine, and the US-Israel battle against Iran. In his speech to the Indonesian Parliament last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that "developing countries like ours are seeking equal participation

and a greater role in global affairs" since the world order is changing quickly. India is adamant that reforms in the UN Security Council cannot be postponed in this changing global environment. "India, which claims that the 15-nation Security Council, which was established in 1945, is unsuited for its purpose in the twenty-first century and does not reflect current geopolitical realities, has been at the forefront of years-long efforts to reform the Security Council, including expansion in both its permanent and non-permanent categories. Delhi has repeatedly emphasized that it is entitled to a permanent seat at the horseshoe table. India has demanded that both the permanent and non-permanent categories of UNSC membership

be expanded. However, it has warned that if only the non-permanent category of membership is expanded, the UN Security Council reform will be on the verge of "failure" because this will "fundamentally" not alter the five permanent members' decision-making power structure. India argued that the "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" strategy should not be used as a means of impeding progress because the UNSC reform process has been proceeding slowly over the years. "India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, stated last month that "status quoists have attempted to use this argument in their favor and thereby, entrench the existing inequities in the Security Council."



The Value of Arriving Early

Punctuality is often treated as a personal habit, but its impact extends far beyond the individual. Arriving early for a meeting, a train, or a medical appointment reduces stress, improves planning, and shows respect for other people's time. In contrast, habitual delays create a chain reaction of inconvenience, affecting schedules, productivity, and public services. A culture of punctuality strengthens institutions because it encourages discipline and reliability. Being on time is more than good manners—it is a reflection of professionalism and civic responsibility.

Drains rather than flyovers

Guwahati is in dire need of a contemporary drainage system. When it rained strongly for roughly two hours on Sunday afternoon, more than half the city was submerged in waist-deep water, if not more, demonstrating the necessity of such a system once more. City streets frequently become rivers due to rapid urban expansion and climate change. The city has to install massive subterranean pipelines, clean clogged drains, restore natural wetlands, and establish an umbrella organization for municipal coordination in order to address the flooding problem. Guwahati is encircled by hills and situated in a bowl-shaped valley. Water naturally moves in the direction of the city center when it rains a lot. The dirt is covered with too much concrete these days. The ground cannot absorb water. Rather, it flows into the drainage system of the city. The city's natural water channels—like the Bhara-lu and Bahini rivers—

Lack of Instructors

In Assamese government schools, over 60,000 teaching positions are vacant, as reported by Education Minister Dr. Ranoj Pegu. This staffing crisis has resulted in around 8,000 schools failing to maintain appropriate student-teacher ratios, causing significant learning challenges. Many schools struggle with one teacher covering multiple grades, hindering effective teaching and student support. The shortage obstructs the provision of a full curriculum, negatively impacting students' academic performance and future opportunities. This situation contravenes children's rights to education as outlined in the UN Child Rights Convention and the Right to Education (RTE) Act of 2009, which mandates a specific teacher-to-student ratio and guarantees free education for children aged six to fourteen. The ongoing teacher shortage threatens these legal rights, and public pressure is essential to prompt immediate governmental action to address it, especially in elementary and secondary education.

New directions for Assam's 2026–2027 budget

The economy of the twenty-first century is driven by a combination of knowledge, technology, and skills rather than just schooling. In today's fiercely competitive market, academic degrees and credentials by themselves can no longer provide employment. Employers are looking more and more for people who can solve problems, adjust to changing conditions, use contemporary technologies efficiently, think creatively, and collaborate with others. Put another way, having an education is no longer sufficient; one also needs to have skills. The answer to the question, "Is employment possible without skills?" is becoming more and more obvious every day: no. The Fourth Industrial Revolution has fundamentally transformed the global employment landscape. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, automation, the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, cybersecurity, data analytics, green energy and semiconductor technology are rapidly reshaping industries across the world. While many traditional occupations are disappearing, thousands of new career opportunities are being created. However, these opportunities demand modern skills rather than academic qualifications alone. As a result, many countries today face a paradox: a shortage of skilled professionals exists alongside a growing population of educated unemployed youth. India reflects the same reality. Every year, millions of young graduates leave universities with bachelor's and master's degrees, yet many struggle to secure meaningful employment. The problem is not a lack of education but a lack of employable skills. Increasingly, employers are prioritising competence over credentials. Communication skills, English proficiency, digital literacy, AI awareness, critical thinking, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving ability and entrepreneurial mindset have become some of the most valuable assets in today's job market. This also applies to Assam. For many years, government occupations have been the main source of employment for the state's educated youth. However, while the number of graduates joining the workforce keeps rising annually, there are still few government positions available. The problem of unemployment has gotten worse due to this growing disparity. The development of competent human resources is urgently needed for a number of industries, including those centered around agriculture, tourism, information technology, food processing, healthcare, electronics, service industries, small businesses, and startups. The Assamese government acknowledged this fact and made skill development a major priority in the State Budget for 2026–2027. By enhancing technical education, fostering skill development, supporting entrepreneurship, fostering the start-up ecosystem, and growing technology-focused training programs, the budget seeks to increase young people's employability and entrepreneurial spirit. Strengthening Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), polytechnic institutions, skill development centers, and other technical education institutions has also received more attention, as has forging closer ties between academic institutions and business. The government's understanding that skilled human capital will be the cornerstone of Assam's future economic success is evident in this goal. The Assam Budget for 2026–27 places skill development and employment generation among its highest priorities. The key initiatives include the following: First, the government has set a target of creating 200,000 new employment opportunities across government departments, universities, medical colleges and other public institutions. To facilitate this ambitious objective, a high-level task force under the leadership of the chief secretary has been constituted to oversee implementation and monitor progress. Second, under the "Ashtadash Muktar Unnoyoni Mala" initiative, special emphasis has been placed on equipping young people with industry-orientated skills, promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing employability through structured training programmes. Third, through skill development, institutional assistance, and capacity-building programs, the budget aims to promote local entrepreneurship, self-sufficiency, and the expansion of micro and small businesses. Fourth, using the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the government has suggested building two contemporary integrated academic complexes. By encouraging strong cooperation between academics and the corporate sector, these institutions seek to improve industry-linked and skill-based education. Fifth, the government has prioritized competency-based education in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP), moving the emphasis from examination-centered learning to the acquisition

of real-world competencies and practical knowledge. In order to successfully apply competency-based teaching and assessment, teachers are receiving specialized training. When combined, these programs send a clear message: acquiring practical skills, entrepreneurial potential, and employability—all of which can help young people get ready for a labor market that is changing quickly—are more important for the future than merely obtaining academic degrees. At the global level, the semiconductor industry is expanding at an unprecedented pace. India has also embarked on an ambitious mission to emerge as a major global hub for semiconductor manufacturing by attracting large-scale investments in this strategic sector. If the youth of Assam are trained in fields such as semiconductor technology, electronics manufacturing, artificial intelligence, drone technology, renewable energy, cybersecurity, healthcare technology, logistics and digital services, they will find employment opportunities not only within Assam or India but also across international markets. However, budget announcements alone cannot guarantee success. Their effectiveness depends entirely on timely and efficient implementation. Skill development centres must be equipped with qualified instructors, modern infrastructure, advanced laboratories and industry-standard equipment. Strong partnerships with industries, robust apprenticeship programmes and direct linkages between training institutions and employers are equally essential. Without these, skill development initiatives risk remaining confined to policy documents rather than producing tangible outcomes. India's educational system needs to be fundamentally changed at the same time. Education that prepares students for life and the workforce must replace an exam-focused approach in schools and universities. More effective curriculum integration is needed for topics including coding, artificial intelligence, financial literacy, digital skills, entrepreneurship, design thinking, problem-solving, communication skills, internships, and vocational education. At least one professional or practical skill that improves employability and independence should be acquired by every graduate. Then and only then can education be genuinely relevant to the needs of the twenty-first century. Equally important is a change in the mindset of parents and society. Even today, many families continue to re-

gard government employment as the only measure of success. However, the modern global economy presents a very different reality. A skilled electrician, plumber, mechatronics technician, AI operator, graphic designer, drone pilot, food technologist or entrepreneur can build a highly respectable and financially rewarding career. Parents should therefore encourage their children's interests, talents and abilities instead of forcing them to pursue conventional career paths. Technical expertise alone, however, is not enough. Soft skills are equally indispensable. Integrity, punctuality, dedication, leadership, creativity, teamwork, a positive attitude and social responsibility are qualities that make an individual genuinely employable. Many of the world's leading organisations now value these attributes as highly as, and sometimes even more than, academic qualifications. Lifelong learners own the future. Developing one's skills is an ongoing process that involves learning, adapting, and improving oneself. To stay relevant as technology advances, new skills must be learned. Those who stop learning run the risk of falling behind; those who keep learning will keep growing. It's time for skill development to become a broad societal movement in Assam. To build a dynamic ecosystem that fosters talent and innovation, the government, academic institutions, businesses, parents, and civic society must collaborate. Young people: It is crucial to give young people the tools they need to look for work and start their own businesses through innovation and entrepreneurship. They should be given the freedom to not just look for work but also to generate jobs through innovation and entrepreneurship. The truth is clear: it is getting harder to find long-term work in the modern world without the necessary abilities. Possessing talents is what really enables a person to begin, prosper, and progress in their chosen industry, even though a university degree may open doors. The successful combination of skills and education is essential to Assam's future. The younger generation needs to ask, "Are we equipped with the skills those jobs demand?" in addition to, "Are there enough jobs?" The first crucial step in creating an affluent, independent, and globally competitive Assam will be to determine the answer to that question and take appropriate action.

The size of SUVs and cars in Britain is increasing, but this fatal “carspreading” may be prevented

For vehicles, we require an Ozempic. They are expanding at an incredible rate, causing chaos on the roads, pushing out smaller cars in parking lots, and putting pedestrians in danger. According to recent data published in the Guardian, cars in Europe are getting, on average, a centimeter bigger every two years, much like ravenous teens. Furthermore, fewer than half of newly manufactured cars in the UK can fit in a standard parking spot. No rule can stop their growth until they reach the size of HGVs, which are restricted to 2.55 meters in width. Their size is because vehicles are astonishingly unrestricted in width. SUVs now comprise a remarkable 30% of cars in England's cities, compared with just 3% 20 years ago. But it's not just SUVs that are responsible for what has become known as carspreading. Minis are no longer worthy of the name. They have expanded in all directions and become just a standard medium-sized car. Carspreading is just the latest negative aspect of our century-long obsession with cars and our obeisance to every demand of the all-powerful motoring lobby. It is not only safety that has been adversely affected. By taking up more room in car parks, SUVs are reducing the number of spaces available. In Hove, the capacity of the Norton Road car park has been cut back from 290 to 180 to accommodate larger vehicles. The phenomenon of ever-bigger cars has not

come about accidentally. It has been sustained by an aggressive marketing campaign, as they are far more profitable for manufacturers than conventional-sized vehicles. They are sold on the basis that they are safer. Extra safety for your family is a key marketing strategy. But while Daddy drives Olivia and Rufus to school in perfect safety, other pupils are in greater peril. And that risk is growing as the cars get ever bigger. In the 1990s, I wrote a series of articles in the Independent on Sunday about how bull bars were responsible for several child deaths since they were at precisely head height for many primary school pupils. Despite a campaign by manufacturers, bull bars were soon sent to the scrap yard as legislation limiting their use was passed. But now that gain is being reversed. The increase in the height of car bonnets on SUVs and other luxury models means that this risk has returned. Research compiled by Clean Cities shows that a 10cm increase in bonnet height from 80cm to 90cm results in a 27% greater chance of death for pedestrians run over. For children, the risk of death is increased threefold if they are hit by an SUV rather than a conventional vehicle. They are also more likely to be hit since the driving position is often too high to observe what is in front of the vehicle. Nevertheless, we should not despair. This carspreading process can be reversed. Bull bars and oth-

er successful campaigns show how it can be done. Petrol only became lead-free thanks to a brilliant campaign led by the illustrious Des Wilson; Ken Livingstone imposed a congestion charge on motorists in central London nearly a quarter of a century ago, and no one now questions its validity. Even Ulez is barely mentioned despite all the protests just a few years ago. The car manufacturers are already on the defensive over the issue of carspreading since they cannot challenge the fact that these vehicles pose a greater risk to the general public. Instead, they tend to suggest that measures to deter purchases would restrict choice. The government's national road safety strategy published in January recognised the extra risk posed by SUVs but suggested no course of action except, as my fellow podcaster Mark Walker put it, that "We will have a chat with the industry about it." There has been an equally tepid response from government over pavement parking. While pavement parking is essentially banned in London, the government's policy, also announced in January, was that action on this issue had to be cautious. With such a feeble approach from central government, it is at the local level where action to stop carspreading is most likely to be taken. Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, is already on board. In the spring he announced he was looking at potential new levies and extra park-

ing charges for large vehicles and as a personal gesture said he is hoping to dispense with his own huge armour-protected SUV. In the absence of a weight-loss pill for cars, there are a host of other measures available. In Paris, the mayor has introduced weight-based parking surcharges, a logical move since these heavier vehicles cause greater damage to the roads. There are numerous other tax changes that could discourage the purchase and use of these cars. Oliver Lord, strategy director of Clean Cities, points out that: "The UK is a tax haven for these vehicles." Research by the Transport and Environment Network shows that "buyers here pay up to 20 times less for the biggest models than in other European countries." In France, tax of €66,000 is levied on a BMW X5 compared with just £3,200 in the UK. One quick measure worth considering would be to restrict advertising of these dangerous vehicles, similarly to smoking. The car industry is rather at the stage where the tobacco manufacturers were a generation ago, with its head firmly in the sand, trying to resist what does appear to be an inevitable retreat. As more people are killed by these cars and the roads become ever more crowded, there will be a backlash. It is a shame that it will come after so much damage has already been done, while these cars are dominating urban environments ill-suited to accommodate them.

This £250 million to safeguard Jewish communities is something I applaud. But if the hatred doesn't go away, what good is it

Fortunately, there wasn't much physical damage when arsonists assaulted Finchley Reform Synagogue earlier this year. The terror spread far farther. It was my community for years; I taught b'nai mitzvah kids, sang at Friday night services, and had my wedding officiated by its former rabbi. As part of a trend that has caused British Jews to alter habits, hide symbols of our identification, and question whether the locations where we congregate can be maintained safe, witnessing it attacked felt incredibly personal. The government's announcement of more than £250m over three years to protect Jewish communities in England and Wales is therefore welcome. Communal leaders have recognised the difference it can make after the murders at Heaton Park synagogue, the stabbings in Golders Green and repeated attacks on Jewish people and institutions. The Community Security Trust said it had come "not a moment too soon". However, enforcement and security by themselves cannot give British Jews a viable or respectable future, as many Jewish representatives and government officials have admitted. Better protection shouldn't be mistaken for a solution in a nation where worshippers expect police outside synagogues and Jewish youngsters must pass security guards to enter schools. Con-

fronting the conspiracies, dehumanizing ideologies, and radical movements posing a threat is another essential component of success. Jewish life is the first and most directly harmed by anti-Semitic bigotry. However, the fundamentalism that underpins it also undermines democracy and intercommunal interactions. The administration is correct that efforts to promote solidarity and education must coexist with protection. The charity Solutions Not Sides (SNS) demonstrates what this looks like in practice: pairing Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders to work directly with young people, moving them from abstraction and stereotype towards human connection. The results are striking. In the week after the 7 October 2023 attacks on Israel, students in north-west England who had previously written of hatred towards Israelis expressed sympathy for the victims of the attacks after taking part in an SNS session. At a summer camp last year, students who arrived describing Palestinians as "terrorists" and "aggressive" left expressing sympathy for the suffering in Gaza and appreciation for the Palestinian speaker they had met. We need more of this work, building the empathy and critical thinking that make young people resistant to the polarisation on which both antisemitism and Islamophobia depend. That mat-

ters because frightening events, overseas or on British streets, are repeatedly used to stigmatise whole populations. Recent events in Southampton and Belfast showed what can happen when malicious actors attach an individual crime to a community, spread the most inflammatory version online and present neighbours as enemies. I would urge fellow progressives to understand that this is how many Jews feel when campaigns they may otherwise sympathise with make sweeping accusations against all Israelis and then extend responsibility to Jews. That is why, in the wake of the most recent far-right unrest, I welcomed the Board of Deputies of British Jews' condemnation of violence and intimidation directed at ethnic minorities, faith communities and immigrants. Horrific crimes must not become tools for blaming uninvolvement people. This does not mean pretending every hatred is identical. Antisemitism, Islamophobia and anti-immigrant racism have distinct histories and forms. Precision matters. But so does recognising how fear becomes collective blame. The government's security funding announcement comes soon after the publication of a report, Britain Under Strain, by the former counter-extremism commissioner Sara Khan. Only 38% of respondents thought Britain was safe for

Jewish people and 28% believed Jews hold most of the world's wealth and power. Among British Muslims surveyed, 20% have a negative opinion of Jews, more than twice the rate of the general public. Those findings must be confronted honestly but not turned into ammunition for collective blame. The same report found that 85% of British Muslims favour integration and 88% mix comfortably with people of other faiths. The lesson is not that one minority should fear another. It is that prejudice must be identified where it exists, challenged without euphemism and addressed through education, leadership and sustained contact. Social media companies have a particular responsibility. Their platforms reward outrage and enable misinformation and collective blame. They should enforce rules against incitement, disclose how recommendation algorithms work and let independent researchers study how hatred spreads during crises. Instead of merely speaking out when their own members are being targeted, faith communities need to confront prejudice within their own ranks. Antisemitism must be explicitly identified by progressives and anti-racists, even when anger with the Israeli government turns into animosity toward Israelis in general or collective blame of Jews.

US CPI but markets should not read too much into numbers

New Delhi: All eyes are on a critical set of economic data due today. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will release the US Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for June, providing insight into how inflationary pressures have spread across food, shelter, and other sectors of the economy. The US CPI data for June is scheduled to be released on July 14, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.Markets anticipate a decrease in inflation for June, following a significant drop in oil prices after cease-fire agreements between the US and Iran were announced.The consensus reading is: headline CPI decreased by 0.1% month-on-month, with the annual rate dropping from 4.2% to approximately 3.9% — influenced by a 10% decline in gasoline prices in June. However, core CPI, excluding food and energy, is projected to remain steady at around 2.9% year-on-year — the figure the Federal Reserve monitors most closely.

A Reuters survey of economists predicts the Consumer Price Index increased by 3.8% in the 12 months through June.Here is the crucial caveat that markets need to keep in mind: the June CPI data may paint a rosier picture than the reality on the ground. If markets conclude that inflation is slowing down based on the June report, this could be misleading. Oil prices have once again reversed course and are rising fast. Brent crude rose above \$84 per barrel on Tuesday, marking a weekly gain exceeding 10%. The ceasefire that caused oil prices to fall ended on July 8. Since then, oil prices have surged following fresh US airstrikes and Iran's claim of a closed Strait of Hormuz. This means June's reading will reflect a lower price level, while the upcoming July data, to be released in August, is likely to

show significant changes.The recent jump in oil prices follows President Trump's re-instatement of a blockade on Iranian vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, with payment requirements for all other cargoes entering that waterway due to take effect at 4 p.m. Eastern Time today.

In a nutshell: the risks from rising inflation have not gone away. If oil prices remain elevated, there are direct implications for US Fed interest rate decisions, bond yields, equity markets, the dollar, and prices of precious metals like gold and silver.

The Fed's task is getting harder — not easier. Unless there is an early resolution to the Strait of Hormuz situation, oil prices may remain elevated, putting further upward pressure on inflation. Minutes from the Fed's June 16-17 meeting indicated rising concerns about inflation, leading to the decision to keep the benchmark interest rate steady at 3.50%-3.75%.While markets are not expecting a rate cut anytime soon, CME's FedWatch tool shows a 50% probability of a rate hike in 2026. US Fed policymakers are required to make judgments based on incoming data, and with the current data set providing little clarity, the road ahead for the central bank appears increasingly uncertain. A rate hike or a prolonged pause may be the option chosen by the US Fed.

US market futures slipped lower on Tuesday as investors assessed increasing Middle East tensions following President Donald Trump's announcement of plans to reestablish a blockade on Iranian vessels traversing the Strait of Hormuz. AI stocks are experiencing pressure amid recent trading, compounded by renewed US-Iran tensions.

Morgan Stanley names HDFC, ICICI Bank among sees 42% upside for select financial stocks

• *Morgan Stanley turns bullish on select Indian financial stocks ahead of Q1 FY27 earnings, with its top picks offering potential upside of up to 42%.*

New Delhi: Indian financial stocks are heading into the first-quarter earnings season with an improving operating backdrop, but Morgan Stanley sees a wide divide between stocks offering attractive risk-reward and those where valuations, margin pressures or structural concerns could weigh on performance. The brokerage has an 'Attractive' industry view on India financials and expects another strong operating quarter for retail non-banking financial companies, improving growth trends for banks, a mixed performance from life insurers and muted sequential growth for asset managers.Within banks, Morgan Stanley's preferred names are ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, all rated 'Overweight'. Among large and mid-cap NBFCs, its key 'Overweight' ideas are Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finance and Aditya Birla Capital, while Aptus Value Housing Finance, Home First Finance and PNB Housing Finance are its preferred affordable housing finance stocks.SBI Life Insurance is Morgan Stanley's preferred life insurance stock, followed by ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. The brokerage also has 'Overweight' ratings on HDFC Life Insurance, AU Small Finance Bank, Multi Commodity Exchange of India, Muthoot Finance, REC, Power Finance Cor-

poration, HDFC Asset Management Company and Can Fin Homes. The brokerage is equally selective on the other side. It has 'Underweight' ratings on PB Fintech, SBI Cards and Payment, L&T Finance, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, YES Bank, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda and LIC Housing Finance, with its price targets implying downside for these stocks. Morgan Stanley expects the first quarter of FY27 to bring an improvement in growth for banks, while retail NBFCs are likely to remain the strongest group on its estimates. At the same time, net interest margins, credit costs, the monsoon, geopolitical developments and the interest-rate outlook remain important variables for the sector. It expects the net interest margin to compress by 4 basis points sequentially, making the margin trajectory and management's outlook important for investors.The stock also reflects Morgan Stanley's broader preference for large private banks, which it sees as better placed amid macroeconomic uncertainty because of their business models, valuations and improving fundamentals.

For the June quarter, Morgan Stanley expects HDFC Bank's net interest margin to compress by 2 basis points sequentially. Management commentary on how margins progress from current levels is therefore

one of the key factors to watch.Investors are also likely to focus on management's expectations for loan growth relative to the broader banking system and seek clarity around the chief executive officer's reappointment.

HDFC Bank remains part of Morgan Stanley's preferred group of large private banks, which the brokerage favours for the upcoming results season and beyond. Morgan Stanley has a target price of Rs 2,340 on SBI Life Insurance, implying 31% upside opportunity

SBI Life is Morgan Stanley's preferred life insurance stock

The brokerage expects SBI Life and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to report mid-teens growth in value of new business in the first quarter of FY27. For SBI Life, investors are likely to focus on guidance for annualised premium equivalent growth and the value of new business margin.Potential changes to commission regulations and solvency requirements are also important issues for the sector. Investors are additionally likely to assess the implications of the Reserve Bank of India's norms governing the sale of financial products by regulated entities.Investors will look for APE growth and VNB margin guidance amid macro uncertainty and volatility," Morgan

Stanley says.The brokerage expects sustained strength in retail protection to remain a positive for life insurers and considers valuations attractive after weakness in the stocks during 2026. "SBI Life (OW) is our preferred pick. IPRU Life is at very attractive valuations despite Prudential's supply overhang and is next in our order of preference," Morgan Stanley adds. Axis Bank, implying 20% upside. The brokerage sees the possibility of an upside surprise in net interest income, although it expects the impact on consensus earnings estimates to remain largely unchanged.Morgan Stanley expects Axis Bank's net interest margin to compress by 8 basis points sequentially, partly because of the trailing impact of strong corporate loan growth. However, it believes the Street and investors may be underestimating growth in average interest-earning assets.The brokerage estimates average interest-earning asset growth of 7% sequentially, helped by back-ended growth in the fourth quarter of FY26. Strong average deposit growth of more than 6% sequentially also supports this view.The magnitude of margin compression and management's guidance for margins from the second quarter onward remain the key factors to watch.

Global Markets Signal Weakness Rising West Asia Tensions Trigger Broad

New Delhi: Global markets signalled weakness on Tuesday, with US equities ending the previous session in negative territory and Asian markets witnessing broad-based selling. Dow Jones Futures also traded lower, reflecting continued investor caution. While European markets closed with modest gains in the previous session, most major Asian indices remained under pressure.Investor sentiment in the United States weakened amid escalating tensions in West Asia and a sharp rise in crude oil prices. The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 138.31 points, or 0.26 per cent, to close at 52,498.70. The S&P 500 ended the session 0.79 per cent lower at 7,515.34, while the Nasdaq Composite plunged 404.43 points, or 1.55 per cent, to settle at 25,873.18.Dow Jones Futures continued to trade in negative territory on Tuesday, falling 145.97 points, or 0.28 per cent, to 52,352.67. European markets, however, maintained a positive bias during the previous trading session. The FTSE Index edged up 0.01 per cent to close at 10,498.29. France's CAC 40 gained 0.15 per cent to settle at 8,351.50, while Germany's DAX advanced 0.19 per cent to close at 25,114.25.Asian



markets witnessed widespread selling pressure on Tuesday. Eight of the region's nine major benchmark indices were trading in the red, with only Indonesia's Jakarta Composite Index posting gains. The Jakarta Composite was up 0.55 per cent at 6,071.22.

Among the declining markets, GIFT Nifty was down 121.50 points, or 0.50 per cent, at 24,096.50. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index slipped 121.72 points, or 0.51 per cent, to 24,092. Taiwan's Weighted Index registered the steepest decline in the region, tum-

bling 1,509.68 points, or 3.33 per cent, to 43,870.84.South Korea's Kospi Index also witnessed sharp weakness, falling 139.97 points, or 2.06 per cent, to 6,666.96. Thailand's SET Composite Index declined 0.71 per cent to 1,616.40.

Meanwhile, China's Shanghai Composite Index was down 0.66 per cent at 3,887.92. Japan's Nikkei Index fell 312.73 points, or 0.47 per cent, to 66,930, while Singapore's Straits Times Index slipped 0.18 per cent to 5,460.42.

Nuvama initiates coverage, expects India's largest primary aluminium producer Vedanta Aluminium set for 22% rally

New Delhi: The aluminium industry is seeing significant price action and one newly listed company is in the spotlight. After the demerger of Vedanta, Vedanta Aluminium Metal has emerged as a pure-play aluminium producer. In the latest report, Nuvama believes that the company could be entering a phase of faster earnings growth.The brokerage house has initiated coverage on Vedanta Aluminium Metal with a 'Buy' rating. It has set a target price of Rs 540. This translates to an upside potential of nearly 22% from the current market price.

According to the brokerage report, the investment case rests on a combination of expanding production capacity, lower manufacturing costs, stronger cash flows, a healthier balance sheet and supportive global demand-supply dynamics.

So, what makes the brokerage optimistic about the stock? Nuvama in its report noted, "Vedanta Aluminium Metal – the demerged company of Vedanta – is the fastest expanding primary aluminium company in India wherein EBITDA is likely to compound at 29% over FY26–28E." Commodity prices remain one of the biggest drivers for aluminium companies, and Nuvama expects the global backdrop to remain supportive.As per Nuvama report, "Fundamentally, the aluminium market remains in deficit until H1FY28, which is likely to keep aluminium prices firm."Although aluminium prices corrected recently after expectations that supply routes through the Strait of Hormuz would normalise, the brokerage noted that actual supply conditions have not changed significantly. It expects the global market

to remain in a supply deficit until the first half of FY28. Only after additional supply from Indonesia and a gradual recovery in West Asian supplies does Nuvama expect the market to move towards surplus in FY29. The report added that the company plans to further increase capacity to 3 million tonnes per annum by the end of FY28 through debottlenecking initiatives.

As per the brokerage house report, aluminium production volumes are expected to grow at nearly 8% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) between FY26-28, unlike several domestic peers that are expected to report little or no volume growth during the same period.Lower costs could become the biggest earnings driver

The brokerage also expects profitability to improve because the company is be-

coming more self-reliant in sourcing key raw materials."The company recorded average hot metal CoP of \$1,914/t over FY22–26... which is likely to fall to less than \$1,600/t on a structural basis FY28 onwards," added Nuvama in its report. This reduction is expected to come from higher captive alumina production, the start of the Sijimali bauxite mine and increased captive coal availability. In other words, the company is reducing its dependence on external suppliers, which could help lower costs and protect profit margins even if aluminium prices soften. The brokerage estimates that stronger cash generation and relatively lower capital expenditure could sharply reduce borrowings. Net debt is expected to decline from around Rs 37,500 crore in FY26 to nearly Rs 3,400 crore by FY28.

Nissan bets on premium SUV growth with global debut of TEKTON in India

Aizawl: Nissan Motor India has unveiled the all-new TEKTON, a premium C-SUV designed with the aspirations of modern Indian families in mind while reinforcing the country's growing importance in the automaker's global strategy. Manufactured at Nissan's Chennai plant and developed under the "One Car, One World" philosophy, the TEKTON will not only cater to Indian customers but will also be exported to markets across the Middle East and Africa. Priced from Rs 10.49 lakh for the T160 Manual Transmission and Rs 14.99 lakh for the T280 Manual Transmission and T280 DCT variants, the SUV blends bold Patrol-inspired styling with Japanese craftsmanship, everyday practicality and advanced technology. The vehicle offers a 100% turbocharged engine lineup producing up to 163 PS and 280 Nm of torque, class-leading 700-litre boot space, Google built-in connectivity with access to

more than 200 apps, over 55 connected features through the MyNISSAN App, dual digital displays and premium tri-tone interiors.Designed for families seeking comfort, convenience and confidence, the TEKTON features ventilated powered seats, a panoramic sunroof, wireless charging, intelligent climate control and a comprehensive safety package that includes six airbags as standard, more than 40 safety features and over 17 Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) functions.With bookings now open across Nissan dealerships and digital platforms, the TEKTON represents more than the launch of a new SUV. It reflects Nissan's commitment to creating vehicles that combine global engineering with local needs, offering Indian consumers a premium mobility experience while positioning the country as a key pillar of the company's future growth and export ambitions.

HCLTech versus TCS Q1FY27: A surge in AI megadeals, yet revenue falls short factors

New Delhi: TCS and HCLTech entered FY27 with billions of dollars in new contracts and rapidly growing AI businesses, but their June 2026 quarter highlighted the gap between work won and revenue booked. Tata Consultancy Services signed \$9.5 billion in total contract value in Q1FY27, including an \$800 million AI-led transformation deal, while its annualised AI services revenue crossed \$2.6 billion. HCLTech recorded its highest-ever Q1 net-new bookings of \$2.407 billion, with Advanced AI revenue rising 62.1% year-on-year in constant currency, and followed the quarter with a separate \$1.14 billion mega deal in July 2026. The difference in the opening quarter left the companies with different near-term growth requirements. TCS did not provide formal annual revenue guidance and looked to Q2FY27 for an improvement in demand momentum. HCLTech retained FY27 organic company revenue growth guidance of 1.0% to 4.0% in constant currency and Services revenue growth guidance of 1.5% to 4.5%.K. Krithivasan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of TCS, said during the Q1FY27 management discussion that the company expected demand momentum to improve during Q2FY27 as clients addressed technology requirements delayed amid geopolitical uncertainty. Previously won large

deals were expected to contribute over subsequent quarters. JM Financial estimated that HCLTech needed about 1.5% compound quarterly growth over the remaining three quarters of FY27 to reach the midpoint of its Services guidance. That made the pace of growth from Q2FY27 onward an important measure of delivery against the company's annual target. Krithivasan said TCS continued to see opportunities from vendor consolidation, cost optimisation and transformation programmes, with large contracts moving through their respective ramp-up schedules. The timing of those ramps would determine their contribution to quarterly revenue.Vijayakumar said the latest HCLTech mega deal would make negligible contribution to FY27 because of the transition period and would reach steady-state revenue from April 2027.The disclosed order metrics were not like-for-like. TCS reported quarterly TCv, while HCLTech disclosed net-new bookings. The financial impact therefore depended less on comparing the two absolute figures and more on the timing of project transitions, execution and billing. HCLTech vs TCS Q1FY27: AI brings revenue and productivity pressure

TCS's annualised AI services revenue increased 13.6% from the previous quarter in Q1FY27. HCLTech's Advanced AI revenue stood at \$171

million during the quarter, up 10.6% sequentially in constant currency.The measures were reported on different bases. TCS disclosed an annualised run rate, while HCLTech reported quarterly Advanced AI revenue, pre-venting a direct comparison of absolute AI business size.HCLTech vs TCS Q1FY27: Deal wins face a conversion test

TCS's Q1FY27 order intake included the \$800 million net-new AI-led transformation programme with SKF, its sixth mega deal over the previous five quarters. The company also announced a strategic engagement with ServiceNow and another large contract with a Europe-based Fortune Global 50 company.Its last-12-month order book increased 1% year-on-year in Q1FY27. Management said clients continued to spend on cost optimisation, vendor consolidation and AI-led transformation.HCLTech's first-quarter bookings were spread across industries, geographies and service lines, including medtech, healthcare technology, automotive, telecommunications, semiconductor equipment, agriscience, cybersecurity and enterprise technology.The July 2026 mega deal was excluded from the Q1FY27 booking figure. It covered an AI-led workplace transformation programme for a Europe-headquartered Fortune Global 50 company, with the transition

scheduled to begin over the following months.C. Vijayakumar, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of HCLTech, said: "We recorded our highest ever Q1 net-new bookings of \$2.4Bn and our Advanced AI business grew 10.6% QoQ and 62.1% YoY in constant currency terms. These demonstrate that enterprises are choosing us to lead their AI-led transformation. Combined with the operational efficiencies visible in margin expansion, this momentum gives us the confidence we're positioned to keep outpacing the market over the medium term."HCLTech vs TCS: The Q1 fireprintrevenue, with steady-state revenue expected only from April 2027. The first-quarter numbers put execution timelines at the centre of the FY27 performance test. TCS expected demand momentum to improve during Q2FY27 as previously won deals ramped up. HCLTech retained its FY27 organic revenue growth guidance despite beginning the year with a sequential constant-currency decline, crore in Q1FY27, up 2.2% from Rs 70,698 crore in Q4FY26. Dollar revenue stood at \$7.624 billion, broadly unchanged from \$7.621 billion in the preceding quarter. In constant currency, revenue increased 3.2% from and up 3.0% year-on-year. Constant-currency revenue increased 2.6% from Q1FY26.

SpiceJet Boeing 737-8 MAX jets are getting deregistered

New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued public notices for the deregistration of four Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft operated by SpiceJet after their lessors invoked the Irrevocable Deregistration and Export Request Authorisation (IDERA) framework, according to PTI.

Responding to the development, SpiceJet said the aircraft have remained grounded for a prolonged period due to engine-related issues and that their deregistration would eliminate lease rental costs without affecting the airline's operations. Public notices issued by the DGCA show that Ireland-based lessors Sky High LXXX Leasing Company Ltd and directly approach the aviation regulator to seek deregistration and repossession of leased aircraft in accordance with international aviation leasing agreements.

Darline Graham Nordone: Lindsey Graham’s sister and interim US senator

America: When Lindsey Graham was in college, his parents died, just over a year apart. But he worried most about his sister, who, at 13, was suddenly an orphan. Graham became her legal guardian – and later adopted her so she could receive his benefits through his service as an air force lawyer. On Monday, Henry McMaster, South Carolina’s Republican governor, announced that the late senator’s younger sister, Darline Graham Nordone, would fill the Senate seat he held until his sudden death on Saturday night, aged 71.

“Lindsey took care of his little sister in years long departed,” McMaster said at a press conference convened at South Carolina’s state capital in Columbia. “It’s my honor to ask his little sister, Darline Graham, to finish his work for him now.”

Surrounded by grieving family and friends, Nordone, 62, accepted the appointment, saying her brother had “always been there for me. And now I will be there for him.”

Family appointments in the event of a death or vacancy have a long history in American politics. Coined the “widow’s succession”, the practice most commonly

involved spouses temporarily filling their husband’s seat until a successor was elected – a path that helped open Congress to more women in the 20th century. Nordone’s appointment follows the same caretaker tradition.

Upon being sworn in on Tuesday, Nordone will make history as the first woman to represent South Carolina in the Senate. The Graham children grew up in a one-room house behind the Sanitary Café, a combination bar, pool hall and liquor store their parents operated in Central, South Carolina. Nearly a decade apart in age, the siblings forged a tight bond from the start. It was Lindsey who first taught her to spell her name, incorrectly as it turned out. Although her birth certificate reads “Darlene”, she continued to spell it with an I. He also taught her to ride a bike, running alongside her and shouting: “Keep pedaling!” After their parents died, Graham returned to college but spent the weekends visiting his sister, she recalled in interviews.

As Graham rose through the Republican ranks, Nordone was a constant presence by his side.

When Graham first ran for the US House in 1992,



Nordone knocked doors for his campaign. In 2014, she appeared in a campaign ad, telling the story of how her brother took on the responsibility of raising his teenage sister. In 2015, she introduced him as he launched his presidential campaign outside their childhood home, telling supporters: “He has never let me down.”

Many of the tributes that poured out for Graham’s death over the weekend also extended condolences to Nordone, his only immediate surviving family member. He never married or had children.

When asked during his 2016 presidential campaign who would serve as his first lady if he were to be elected, Graham quipped: “Well, I’ve got a sister. She could play that role if necessary.”

He did not win the Republican nomination, losing to Donald Trump – a rival he had once mercilessly criticized before later becoming one of the president’s closest Senate allies and a frequent golf partner.

Before McMaster announced his decision, Trump publicly urged the governor to appoint Graham’s “wonderful sister” to complete the remainder of his Senate term, which ends on 3 January. “This would be a fabulous tribute to Lindsey, who loved her dearly!” Trump wrote on Truth Social.

In brief remarks on Monday, Nordone indicated that she would serve as a steward of her brother’s legacy.

“I promise to work hard over the next several months to support the president and carry forward the efforts of my brother on behalf of the citizens of South Carolina and the United States,” she said. “I think this is what

Lindsey would have wanted, and I plan to honor him in this way.” Nordone, who has never held public office, arrives in the US Senate at an extraordinary moment, with lawmakers facing a packed legislative agenda, amid a war with Iran that her brother aggressively advocated for. The chamber is also locked in negotiations over the National Defense Authorization Act, and pressure from Trump to pass controversial voting legislation that lacks support among Republicans.

Prior to her appointment, Nordone served since 2019

as commissioner of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, where she focused on expanding employment and independent living opportunities for residents who are blind or have low vision, according to McMaster’s office. Before that, she held positions at Clemson University and in two South Carolina state agencies.

Although less common today, governors occasionally still look to family members for caretaker appointments. In 2000, the Democratic governor of Missouri, Mel Carnahan, died in a plane crash while campaigning for a seat in the US Senate. He posthumously won the election and his widow, Jean Carnahan, was appointed to serve in the Senate until a special election in 2002, which she lost.

One of the most controversial family appointments came in 2002, when then Alaska governor Frank Murkowski named his daughter, Lisa, then a member of the Alaska House of Representatives, to the US Senate seat he had vacated. She has remained there ever since.

While governors often look to fill Senate vacancies with experienced politicians, that is not always the case. Earlier this year, after senator Markwayne Mullin joined Trump’s cabinet as homeland security secretary, Oklahoma governor Kevin Stitt appointed energy executive Alan Armstrong – who had never held elected office – to serve the remainder of his term. Under Oklahoma law, Armstrong cannot seek election to a full term in the upcoming general election. At the time of his death, Graham was seeking a fifth Senate term, having won the Republican nomination only last month. Speculation has quickly turned to who will run to permanently succeed him on the November ballot. Although Nordone did not explicitly rule out a bid, she is not expected to enter the special Republican primary next month.

Long before Nordone found herself preparing to join the institution her brother loved, Graham had suggested that his sister possessed the best qualities of a public servant. Asked in 2015 what role she might play if he reached the White House, he said: “She would be a great representative of our country. I can’t think of a better person to represent our country in an event than my sister.”

Prosecutors get long-withheld evidence on fatal shootings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti



America: Previously withheld evidence regarding the fatal shootings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti is now in the hands of Minnesota prosecutors, helping the state gain clarity on the deaths that occurred earlier this year during protests against a federal immigration crackdown.

“Through the cooperation of our federal partners, we have obtained hard drives of previously withheld evidence in the killings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti, and the shooting of Julio Sosa-Celis,” the Hennepin county attorney, Mary Moriarty, said in a video statement posted on social media.

The newly obtained evidence includes Good’s car, statements, police body-camera video and other evidence that federal officials had previously withheld in the killings.

“Our democracy requires it,” said Moriarty. “After receiving this evidence, we immediately began to analyze it in the context of the evidence we already had in hand. This analysis is ongoing.”

Good, an unarmed US citizen and mother, was killed by a federal immigration officer in Minneapolis on 7 January. The 37-year-old was fatally shot in the driver’s seat of her car during an encounter with an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent in Minneapolis. Incident reports from local authorities and a private autopsy requested by the family show that Good suffered three gunshot wounds, including one to her head.

“Obtaining this evidence has been a priority for us since January 7, the day Renée Good was shot and killed,” Moriarty said on Monday. “It has been rightfully demanded by our community for six months.”

Pretti, a Minneapolis nurse who was observing immigration officers in the city, was shot dead on 24 January by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials in Minneapolis.

In a statement, Steve Schleicher, the Pretti family attorney, said he and his clients were “initially encouraged” by the announcement, but in a subsequent meeting Daniel Rosen, the US attorney for the district of Minnesota, “refused to confirm any cooperation agreement between state and federal agencies – continuing to

deny the Pretti family basic information that they have been requesting for months”.

“No family should be required to beg federal authorities to do their job. Without a public commitment by federal authorities to cooperate with the state, it is difficult – if not, impossible – to pursue justice that holds the individuals accountable for Alex’s death,” Schleicher continued. The US attorney’s office and the Hennepin county attorney’s office didn’t immediately return the Guardian’s request for comment.

Minnesota authorities had said earlier this year that the FBI was refusing to share evidence from its investigation into the shootings of Good, Sosa-Celis and Pretti. Minnesota’s governor, Tim Walz, demanded an “impartial” investigation into the shootings.

Sosa-Celis, a Venezuelan national, was shot during the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown in Minnesota. The federal officer who shot Sosa-Celis, was charged with four counts of second-degree assault and one count of falsely reporting a crime in May.

Washington: State health officials in Michigan said on Monday they have identified lettuces and salad greens as a “potential source” of the thousands of cases of cyclosporiasis – a parasitic infection that causes “watery diarrhea”, loss of appetite and weight loss.

In a statement, the Michigan department of health and human services said the investigation is still continuing, but early results “point to lettuce or salad greens as a potential source for this outbreak”, though officials also cautioned it is too early to rule out other food sources.

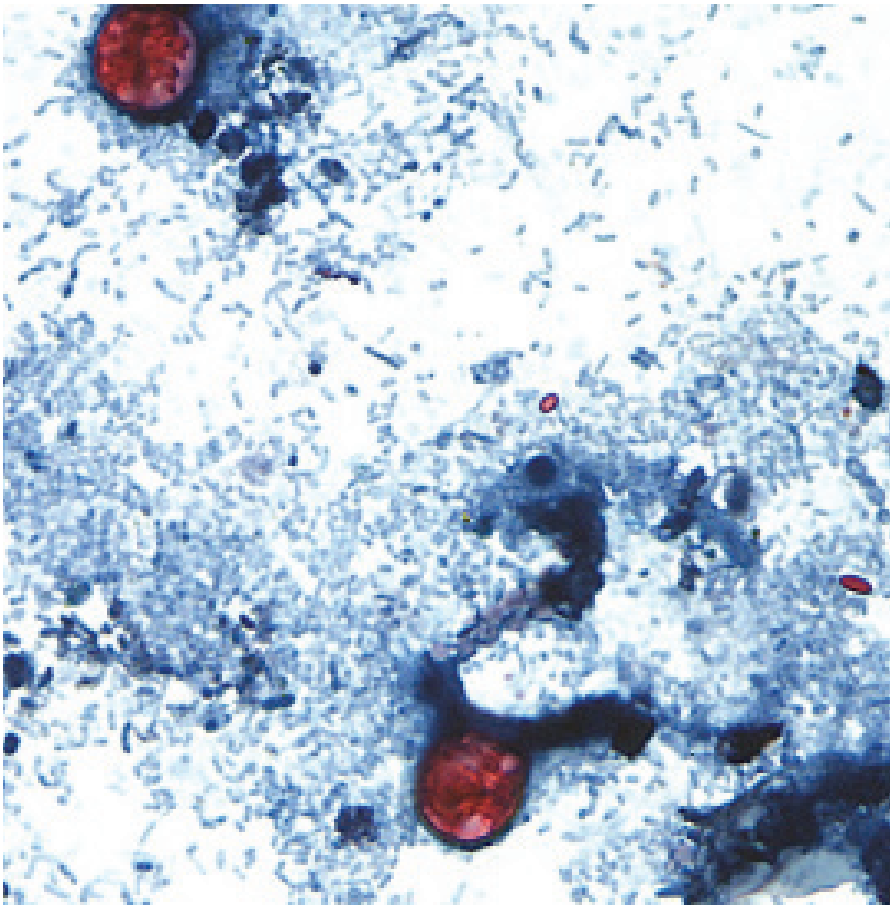
“No specific type of produce, grower, or supplier has been identified as the source,” the statement reads.

The outbreak of more than 2,800 cases comes a year after the Trump administration cut funding to state and local health departments and reduced the remit of a program dedicated to coordinating information on foodborne illness, including of cyclospora. In contrast, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 843 confirmed cases and 1,500 suspected cases of cyclosporiasis across 31 states on Friday. Eighty-six people have been hospitalized, and none have died. The CDC expects the federal case count to rise, in part, because of delays typical in disease investigation.

Michigan appears to be especially hard-hit, with health officials reporting 2,640 cases. Over the border, state officials in Ohio are reporting 177 cases.

The Michigan health department is urging restaurants and commercial kitchens in the south-east to thoroughly wash leafy greens, snow peas, some herbs and raspberries or, ideally, to cook them. After identifying lettuces as the potential culprit, Michigan officials also recommended purchasing whole heads of lettuce rather than pre-

Michigan health officials identify ‘potential source’ of parasite outbreak



washed, bagged greens, discarding outer layers of leaves and thoroughly washing the inner leaves.

Cyclospora has a two-week incubation period, and the CDC assumes a six-week reporting lag between illness onset and receiving a case report. Investigating a disease with a long incubation period is tricky – to find potential links between cases, such as eating at the same restaurant or shopping the same store, epidemiologists interview everyone with a lab-confirmed case. Those interviews often take place two to four weeks after infection, making it difficult for people to recall what they ate.

Even with those challenges, Michigan’s chief medical executive, Dr Natasha Bagdasarian, told the Associated Press: “There is clearly a linked outbreak happening right now.” “Have the funding cuts to public health impacted the current activities related to the cyclospora

outbreak? I think they have,” said Kowalczyk. “If you’re understaffed you might be interviewing [patients] after six to eight weeks,” she said.

In part, delays have been exacerbated by the Trump administration’s funding cuts, Kowalczyk said, citing both grant cuts to state and local health departments and changes to federal surveillance systems that make it harder to get “the whole picture.” The Trump administration cut in March 2025 \$11.4bn in grants to state and local health departments. Although those grants were earmarked for pandemic activities, Kowalczyk said they also built out local health department capacity. Michigan public health labs alone lost \$5.5m, according to Bridge Michigan, a local news outlet.

“In state and local health departments, you might have people who are funded by three to four different funding sources,” said Kowalczyk. “If you take one away, you have to have people go part-time or you have to reduce your staff. There’s not a lot of choice, which means your capacity to scale up during an outbreak is limited.”

In July 2025, the Trump administration also reduced the scope of a program called FoodNet, which actively monitored for foodborne outbreaks. FoodNet’s remit was winnowed from eight foodborne pathogens, including cyclospora, to shiga toxin-producing E coli and salmonella alone.

FoodNet helped coordinate information across states, and developed the oft-cited statistic that 48 million people living in the US are sickened with foodborne illnesses every year, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die.

“Despite what the current HHS administration believes, ignoring a problem doesn’t make it go away,” Gail Hansen, a public health and veterinary consultant, told the University of Min-

nesota’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy in August 2025. “States do not have the ability to coordinate information and data across states, and this cut will bring us back to a time before FoodNet.”

The administration has broadly defended the change in FoodNet’s scope as reducing duplicative efforts, and said foodborne pathogen investigations are not affected by the change.

“Narrowing FoodNet’s reporting requirements is, in part, because the surveillance landscape has changed since the collaboration began in 1995,” said a CDC website update in April. “Today, other surveillance systems monitor for infection with FoodNet pathogens.”

In response to questions from the Guardian, HHS senior press secretary Emily Hilliard said: “Under the leadership of Secretary Kennedy, FDA is currently investigating Cyclospora outbreaks using established epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback tools in close coordination with CDC and state and local partners.

Protecting the nation’s food supply is a core FDA responsibility, and the agency has the expertise, personnel, and resources necessary to detect, investigate, and respond to foodborne illness outbreaks and take regulatory action when warranted.

However, in an era of funding cuts, Kowalczyk said typical delays have likely been exacerbated.

“It’s like putting a puzzle together,” said Barbara Kowalczyk, an associate professor at the George Washington University’s Milken Institute of Public Health, and the director of the university’s Institute for Food Safety and Nutrition Security. “You start taking pieces out of your puzzle – it’s harder to see the whole picture, and that’s what we’ve done. We’ve taken pieces out of the whole puzzle.”

Sling bags are ideal for individuals who prefer not to carry a bag in their hand



Bulky bags are excellent for transporting all the items you may require, making them suitable for travel, work, and extended outings. However, for daily use, a growing number of individuals are choosing a lighter, more practical option: sling bags. Instead of promoting the idea of carrying more, sling bags focus on smarter carrying. They are compact yet functional, crafted to accommodate your daily necessities while ensuring your comfort and minimizing excess bulk. Looking for a bag that's stylish, practical, and comfortable to carry? Sling bags are the perfect option that let you keep your everyday essentials close at hand without feeling bulky

or heavy. Explore some of the options below.

1. ZOUK Flap Sling Bag_1: Crafted from premium vegan leather, it features a spacious main compartment, an interior zip pocket, two slip pockets, and a back zip pocket to help keep essentials neatly organised. The adjustable shoulder strap ensures comfortable carrying, while the easy-to-maintain, water-resistant lining adds to its practicality.
2. MINISO Harry Potter Preppy Style Crossbody Bag: Crafted with a glossy leather-like finish, it offers a refined look while remaining lightweight and comfortable for all-day wear. The stylish TPU hot-stamping hardware enhances its

modern appeal, making it a fashionable accessory for outings, shopping trips, and daily commutes.

3. Mochi Women Light-green Zip Top Sling Bag: Designed for casual outings and everyday use, this handbag is crafted from durable synthetic material and features a secure zip closure to keep your belongings safe. The crossbody strap offers hands-free convenience, making it easy to carry throughout the day. Its versatile design pairs effortlessly with western wear, while the compact structure provides space for daily essentials.
4. Lavie Women's Sparkle Framed Clutch Handbag: This oval-shaped clutch is designed to add a

touch of glamour to special occasions. Crafted from premium shiny material, it features an imported metal frame, soft silk lining, and a crystal-studded clasp that enhances its appeal. Despite its compact size, the clutch offers ample space for essentials such as a phone, cards, cash, keys, lipstick, and other small accessories.

5. MOKOBARA The Transit Crossbody Sling bag: Crafted from reverse-coated polyester with vegan leather trims, it offers a water-resistant exterior and a spacious 8-litre capacity. The bag includes multiple storage solutions, such as a front bucket pocket, zippered mesh pocket, dedicated iPad sleeve, hidden passport pocket, and concealed bottle or umbrella pockets.
6. MOKOBARA The Aisle Crossbody Bag for Men & Women: Crafted from ultra-lightweight Aerology nylon, this sling bag is designed for comfortable everyday carrying without adding extra weight. Despite weighing just 260g, it offers a spacious 7-litre capacity with organised interiors, including slip pockets, a pen holder, and a zip pocket to keep essentials neatly arranged. Additional features such as a quick-access front stash pocket and an external sunglasses loop provide convenience on the go.

Co-ord sets are not required to look like nightwear



I have a fondness for a well-coordinated set. They are convenient, breathable, and help me avoid the daily dilemma of "what should I wear?" However, not every matching set appears stylish. Some can quickly resemble lounge-wear if not styled with care. The key is not to steer clear of co-ords entirely; rather, it is about selecting the appropriate silhouettes, materials, and accessories that transform them into a cohesive outfit rather than sleep attire. Over the years, I've realised that structure is everything. A crisp neckline, tailored trousers, interesting prints, embroidery, or elevated fabrics instantly make a co-ord look intentional. Here's how I style mine, and the pieces I'd happily wear all summer long.

Co-ord sets with styling tips

1. Suppar Sleeve Solid Rayon Co-Ord Set: This is exactly the kind of co-ord that doesn't scream loungewear. The kurti-inspired top gives it struc-

ture, while the straight-fit trousers keep the overall silhouette polished. Rayon also drapes beautifully instead of clinging to the body, making the outfit look more elevated. How I'd style it: Kolhapuris, oxidised earrings, and a structured tote bag.

2. Globus Women Co-Ord Set: A monochrome western co-ord instantly feels more fashion-forward than a printed lounge set. The clean tailoring gives this outfit a smart finish, making it ideal for coffee dates, shopping, or casual Fridays at work. How I'd style it: White sneakers, a sleek shoulder bag, and oversized sunglasses.
3. MEERA FAB Printed Cotton Tunic with Trousers Co-Ord: Printed co-ords can sometimes resemble nightwear, but not when the silhouette is this structured. The V-neck tunic and straight trousers create enough definition to balance the playful print. Plus, breathable cotton makes it perfect for humid weather. How I'd style it: Nude flats, delicate hoops, and a sleek ponytail.

4. FABNEX Embroidered Co-Ord Set: Embroidery instantly transforms a matching set. Instead of looking casual, it feels festive and refined without being over the top. This is one of those outfits you can wear to family lunches, intimate celebrations, or festive dinners. How I'd style it: Metallic sandals, statement earrings, and a clutch.
5. Pinkmint Pure Cotton Printed Co-

Ord Set: Sometimes simplicity works best. The tailored silhouette prevents this cotton co-ord from looking like sleepwear, while subtle prints keep it interesting without overwhelming the outfit. And yes, it has pockets. How I'd style it: Leather sliders, a crossbody bag, and layered necklaces.

6. Janasya Floral Printed Straight Co-Ord Set: Florals don't have to feel overly feminine or overly relaxed. Thanks to its straight-cut silhouette, this set looks polished enough for brunches, office days, or daytime gatherings while remaining comfortable in the summer heat. How I'd style it: Minimal flats, pearl studs, and a classic watch.
7. Tee Projekt Stylish Co-Ord Set: If your style sits somewhere between ethnic and western, this co-ord strikes the perfect balance. Its clean design makes it incredibly versatile, you can easily dress it up or down depending on the occasion. How I'd style it: White mules, a structured handbag, and gold jewellery.

8. Leriya Fashion Jaipuri Straight Kurta Co-Ord Set: Jaipuri prints are timeless, but it's the straight-cut tailoring that keeps this set from looking too relaxed. The traditional print feels fresh when paired with a modern silhouette, making it ideal for office wear, travel, or weekend outings. How I'd style it: Tan kolhapuris, silver bangles, and a woven tote bag.

Eight benefits of a K-beauty routine for those with glass skin



Korean skincare has revolutionized beauty regimens globally by emphasizing hydration, the repair of the skin barrier, and the promotion of long-term skin health.

The most advantageous aspect is that one does not have to invest a significant amount to reap the rewards of K-beauty.

Currently, numerous reputable Korean skincare products are accessible in India at reasonable prices, facilitating the creation of an effective skincare routine without overspending. Whether you seek a mild cleanser, a hydrating toner, a calming moisturizer, or a sunscreen that does not leave a white residue, there are numerous budget-friendly options that provide outstanding results.

Why is Korean skincare still a trend?

Korean skincare is known for using skin-friendly ingredients such as hyaluronic acid, centella asiatica, snail mucin, rice extract, green tea, and ceramides in most of its products. These ingredients focus on nourishing the skin rather than aggressively treating it, making K-beauty suitable for most skin types, including sensitive skin. Another reason for its popularity is its lightweight formulations that absorb quickly without feeling greasy, making them ideal for India's humid climate. "Korean skincare products are popular because they emphasise hydration, skin barrier repair and preventive skincare, not quick fixes. But there isn't one size that fits every skincare product. It's important to choose products according to your skin type and concerns, not social media trends. If you experience redness, itchiness, burning or persistent irritation after using a product, stop use and consult a qualified dermatologist," Dermatologist Dr Shitij Goel, HOD, ShardaCare Healthcity, tells HT Shop Now. He also shares advice on using Korean skin care products

Before you buy any products, know your skin type.

Always do a patch test. Test before regular use

Even if you are using brightening or anti-ageing products, use sunscreen daily. If you have sensitive skin or persistent skin problems, consult a professional. Benefits of Korean skincare. Here are some of the main benefits:

Deep hydration: Many Korean skincare products contain humectants like hyaluronic acid, glycerin, and beta-glucan that help attract and retain moisture. Well-hydrated skin often looks plumper, smoother, more radiant, and less prone to fine lines caused by dryness.

Stronger skin barrier: K-beauty frequently includes ingredients such as Ceramides, Panthenol (Vitamin B5), Centella asiatica (cica), and Squalene. These ingredients help strengthen the skin barrier, reducing dryness, irritation, and sensitivity.

Gentle formulations: Many Korean cleansers, toners, and serums are designed to be mild and suitable for everyday use. This can make them a good option for people with sensitive or easily irritated skin.

Brighter complexion: Ingredients commonly used for brightening in K-Beauty products include Niacinamide, Vitamin C, Rice extract, and Licorice root extract. These can help reduce the appearance of dark spots and promote a more even skin tone over time.

Better acne management: Many Ko-

rean acne-focused products contain Salicylic acid (BHA), Tea tree extract, Centella asiatica, and Heartleaf (Houttuynia cordata). These ingredients can help calm inflammation, reduce excess oil, and keep pores clearer.

Anti-ageing support: Instead of relying on a single strong ingredient, K-beauty often combines several supportive ingredients, such as Peptides, Retinol (in some products), Ginseng, Snail mucin, and Antioxidants. These may help improve skin elasticity and reduce the appearance of fine lines over time.

Daily sun protection: A hallmark of Korean skincare is regular sunscreen use. Lightweight, comfortable SPF formulas encourage daily wear, which is one of the most effective ways to prevent premature ageing, sun spots, and UV-related skin damage.

Layering for customisation: Rather than using one heavy cream, Korean routines often involve layering lightweight products. This lets you adjust your routine based on your skin's needs, such as adding extra hydration in winter or using fewer layers in humid weather.

A few Korean skincare products worth buying

1. COSRX Salicylic Acid Exfoliating Cleanser

The COSRX Salicylic Acid Exfoliating Cleanser helps remove excess oil, dirt and dead skin cells without leaving skin feeling overly dry. It contains salicylic acid to gently clear pores, tea tree leaf oil to refresh the skin, and glycerin to help maintain moisture. Suitable for oily and blemish-prone skin, it leaves the complexion feeling clean and smooth. Amazon customers often praise its ability to reduce breakouts, minimise blackheads and keep skin feeling fresh after regular use.

2. The Face Shop Rice & Ceramide Face Cream 150ml | Barrier Repair Moisturizer for Dry Skin, Intense Hydration & Strengthening: The Face Shop Rice & Ceramide Face Cream is a nourishing moisturiser designed to leave skin feeling soft and hydrated. It features rice extract to support brighter-looking skin, ceramides to help strengthen the skin barrier, and glycerin for lasting moisture. Its rich yet comfortable texture works well for normal to dry skin. Amazon reviewers frequently mention smoother skin, improved hydration and a healthy glow after consistent daily application.

3. Kanpeki Glass Glow 11-Step Korean Skincare Facial Kit | Brightening & Hydrating Facial Treatment: The Kanpeki Glass Glow 11-Step Korean Skincare Facial Kit offers a complete skincare routine inspired by Korean beauty rituals. The kit includes products enriched with hyaluronic acid, niacinamide, centella asiatica, green

tea extract and other hydrating ingredients that help cleanse, nourish and refresh the skin. It is suitable for self-care sessions at home and leaves skin feeling soft and radiant. Amazon customers appreciate its convenience, relaxing experience and glowing-looking results after use.

4. Laneige Water Sleeping Mask for Face (AD) | Hydrating Overnight Face Mask for Refreshed and Glowing Skin: The Laneige Water Sleeping Mask is an overnight treatment that deeply hydrates while you sleep. It contains squalane, glycerin and a blend of moisturising ingredients that help replenish the skin's moisture barrier. The lightweight gel texture absorbs comfortably without feeling greasy. Suitable for most skin types, it helps skin appear refreshed by morning. Amazon reviewers commonly highlight its long-lasting hydration, smoother texture and plumper-looking skin after overnight use.

5. Mirabelle Korea Hyaluronic + Collagen Moisture Serum 50ml | Korean Skincare for Intense Hydration & Skin Firming: The Mirabelle Korea Hyaluronic + Collagen Moisture Serum delivers lightweight hydration for skin that feels soft and supple. It contains hyaluronic acid to attract moisture, collagen to support a smoother appearance, and glycerin to help prevent dryness. The fast-absorbing formula layers well beneath moisturiser and makeup. Amazon customers often comment on its non-sticky feel, improved hydration and healthier-looking skin with regular application.

6. Round Lab 1025 DOKDO TONER (100ml) | Gentle Exfoliating Facial Toner | Deep Sea Water for Moisturizing: The Round Lab 1025 Dokdo Toner is a gentle toner that helps hydrate and prepare the skin after cleansing. It contains deep-sea water rich in naturally occurring minerals, panthenol, allantoin and betaine to soothe and moisturise the skin. Its lightweight formula suits daily use and works well for sensitive skin. Amazon reviewers frequently praise its calming effect, refreshing feel and ability to improve skin hydration without irritation.

7. SKIN1004 Madagascar Centella Poremizing Fresh Ampoule | Soothing Hydration: The SKIN1004 Madagascar Centella Poremizing Fresh Ampoule is a lightweight serum formulated to care for enlarged-looking pores while keeping skin hydrated. It features Centella Asiatica extract from Madagascar to soothe the skin, pink Himalayan mineral salt to help refine pores, and hyaluronic acid for hydration. The fresh, fast-absorbing texture suits daily skincare routines. Amazon customers often report smoother-looking skin, balanced oil levels and a refreshed complexion after regular use.

These seven transfer-proof lip tints are designed specifically for monsoon conditions

The monsoon season can pose significant challenges for makeup lovers. Be it your lip color, moisturizer, or sunscreen, the combination of rain and humidity can lead to products smudging, fading, or wearing off more quickly. This is why transfer-proof lip tints have become a favored option during this time of year. Unlike conventional lipsticks that often necessitate regular touch-ups, these lightweight formulations provide a long-lasting stain that clings to the lips, ensuring your color remains vibrant for hours. If you seek a hassle-free

lip color that can endure the monsoon conditions, consider adding a transfer-proof lip tint to your makeup collection; explore some options listed below.

1. MARS Drip Lip Tint for Women: Add a juicy pop of color to your lips with this glossy lip tint. Featuring a lightweight, non-sticky formula, it glides on smoothly to deliver a radiant, syrup-like shine that's comfortable enough for all-day wear. The buildable pigmentation lets you customise your look, while the long-lasting formula leaves behind a soft stain that stays put

through busy days. Plus, its non-patchy texture makes reapplication effortless.

2. INSIGHT Gloss Up Lip Colour: Designed to give high-impact colour with minimal effort, this lip tint features rich pigmentation that instantly brightens your look. Its lightweight formula feels comfortable on the lips while providing long-lasting wear throughout the day. The high-gloss finish adds a luscious shine, and the vibrant pigments ensure your lip colour stands out with every swipe.
3. Blue Heaven, Silk & Stain

Lip Tint: This nourishing lip stain is infused with powerful lip-loving ingredients that help keep your lips soft, smooth, and hydrated. The hyper-lasting pigments deliver vibrant colour that stays put for hours, while shea butter helps prevent dryness and keeps lips feeling plump. Enriched with jojoba oil, the formula locks in moisture by creating a protective barrier, and vitamin E helps nourish and revitalise the lips.

4. AGE18'S Lip Stain Peel Off Lipstick: Get long-lasting, vibrant lip colour with this peel-

off lip tint that's designed to stay put through meals, drinks, and busy days. The waterproof, transfer-proof, kiss-proof, and smudge-resistant formula leaves behind a natural-looking stain with a lightweight, comfortable feel. Its highly pigmented, buildable colour develops into a beautiful matte finish once peeled off, delivering all-day wear without feeling sticky.

5. LAMIOR Blurry Fudgy Lip Tint: Achieve the coveted Korean-inspired blurred lip look with this soft matte lip tint. Its fudgy, velvet-like texture glides effort-

lessly onto the lips, delivering rich pigmentation with a smooth, diffused finish that feels lightweight and comfortable throughout the day. The long-lasting, transfer-proof formula resists smudging, making it a reliable choice for workdays, casual outings, and special occasions.

6. The Face Shop Water Fit Lip Tint: Add a fresh pop of colour to your makeup routine with this moisturising water gel lip tint. Designed to create a natural-looking flush, it delivers vibrant colour that lasts throughout the day while keeping lips feel-

ing comfortable and hydrated. Its lightweight, water-gel formula glides on effortlessly, leaving behind a crisp, refreshing tint without feeling heavy.

7. Gege Bear Perfect Matte Lip Tint: Gege Bear Matte Lip Tint combines long-lasting colour with all-day comfort, making it a great choice for those who want vibrant lips without frequent touch-ups. Its smudge-resistant, transfer-proof formula delivers rich pigmentation that stays fresh for hours, whether you prefer a bold lip or a soft gradient effect.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hema Malini expresses desire to see Deepika Padukone play her in potential biopic



Mumbai : Veteran Bollywood actress and politician Hema Malini recently named Deepika Padukone as her preferred choice to portray her in a biopic, should one ever be made.

The veteran star, who recently celebrated 60 glorious years in Indian cinema with a grand Diamond Jubilee event in Mumbai, was asked whether she sees Deepika as the ideal actor to play her on screen. Responding to the question, she said, "If she wants to, she can do it. Anyone can do it. Deep-

ika is a beautiful and talented girl." Interestingly, this isn't the first time Hema has publicly expressed her admiration for Deepika. Back in 2015, she had chosen the actress to launch her biography, Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl, written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee. The two also share a fasci-

inating cinematic connection. Deepika's Bollywood debut, Om Shanti Om, saw her play the iconic character Shantipriya, whose look and screen persona were inspired by Hema Malini. In the film, Shantipriya is even referred to as the Dream Girl, a title that has been synonymous with Hema throughout her illustrious career.

Following the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Hema Malini took to X (formerly Twitter) to thank everyone for making the

occasion memorable. Sharing photos from the evening, she wrote, "What a memorable and wonderfully organised event. The celebration of my years in the film industry (Diamond Jubilee) was conducted with such pomp and grandeur that it was truly incredible. The wonderful audience in the auditorium seemed completely immersed in the music of my films, and they stayed until the very end."

Known as Bollywood's Dream Girl, Hema Malini made her acting debut with Sapno Ka Saudagar in 1968 and went on to become one of Hindi cinema's biggest stars through the 1970s and 1980s. With iconic films such as Seeta Aur Geeta, Sholay, Dream Girl, Satte Pe Satta, Baghban and more to her credit, she remains one of Indian cinema's most celebrated actors. Apart from films, she is also an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer and serves as a Member of Parliament from Mathura. Talking of Deepika, she will be seen in Shah Rukh Khan's King and Allu Arjun's Raaka. She is also expecting her second child.

Alia Bhatt joins Sohum Shah's folk-horror universe for Tumbbad 2



Mumbai : The upcoming sequel to the cult classic fantasy horror film Tumbbad has just received a major star power boost. Actor-producer Sohum Shah has officially announced that Alia Bhatt is joining the cast of Tumbbad 2.

Sohum Shah took to his Instagram handle to share the casting update with fans. He posted a photo of himself alongside Alia, with both actors wearing matching black outfits. Expressing his excitement for the upcoming project, Sohum welcomed her to the franchise by writing, "A new chapter unfolds. Welcome to #Tumbbad2, @aliaabhatt #PralayAayega. See you at the movies." The update comes only a few months after the creators of the project officially locked in the theatrical release

date for Tumbbad 2. After weeks of online speculation, motion posters, and cryptic social media updates, the makers announced that the movie will release in theatres on December 3, 2027.

Sharing the film's poster earlier, Sohum had already set the tone for what audiences can expect from the sequel. He

hinted at a return to the eerie, dark universe of the franchise with the caption, "A sinful past, an ominous future. The hunger rises; the legacy of greed continues." In a press release, Sohum talked about what makes this sequel so meaningful to him and how the team plans to build upon the foundation of the original story. He shared,

"Tumbbad has always been very special to me, and with Tumbbad 2, the idea is to take that world forward in a way that feels deeper and more expansive. We are building on the mythology and atmosphere that audiences connected with while exploring new layers within the story. It is something that will feel familiar in its essence, but also new in the way it unfolds." Tumbbad 2 will be directed by Adesh Prasad. The project is being produced by Sohum Shah under his production banner, Sohum Shah Films, in association with Pen Studios. Alongside the addition of Alia Bhatt, the film's star-studded ensemble will also feature Nawazuddin Siddiqui in a key role. Kohrra 2 actor Prayrak Mehta is also starring in the film.

Justin Baldoni calls Blake Lively's \$8 million attorney fee request a 'gross abuse'

Washington : Justin Baldoni has asked a federal judge to deny or "substantially reduce" Blake Lively's request for more than USD 8 million in attorneys' fees and litigation costs, escalating the latest chapter in the high-profile legal dispute between the two actors. According to a court filing submitted on Monday, July 13, Baldoni and Wayfarer Studios argued that Lively's application is "anything but a typical fee motion", alleging that her legal team billed excessive hours and charged unreasonable rates, as reported by People magazine. The filing compares Lively's request with an attorney fee application previously submitted by The New

York Times, arguing that the newspaper sought only USD 181,622.70 in legal fees after successfully moving to dismiss what Baldoni's lawyers described as "precisely the same defamation claim," as per People magazine. In 2024, Baldoni sued The New York Times for USD 250 million, alleging the publication defamed him by reporting that he and his public relations team had engaged in a "smear campaign" against Lively. That claim was later dismissed. Baldoni's latest filing also contends that Lively's legal team overstaffed the case. It claims there were multiple lawyers attending the same hearings, excessive internal conferences and strategy

meetings, and 7,070.20 billable hours logged by 82 timekeepers, which it says is around 20 times higher than amounts previously approved in comparable high-profile defamation cases.

"The most cursory review of Lively's submission shows multiple lawyers at the same hearings, numerous charges for lawyers conferencing, conferring, or strategising with one another, and, to put it mildly, extremely excessive research and online investigation," the filing states, as per People magazine. Along with attorneys' fees, Lively is seeking USD 539,514.01 in litigation costs and expenses. Baldoni's filing describes

that amount as "a whopping" sum. The filing asks Judge Lewis Liman to reject the request entirely or significantly reduce any award. "Lively fails to meet her burden to present credible evidence showing that the fees and costs she seeks to recover are reasonable and, accordingly, her fee motion should be denied in its entirety," the filing argues, adding, "At minimum, the Court should substantially reduce the request, using as a benchmark the USD 181,622.70 the Times sought after securing dismissal of Count II on its separate motion to dismiss, the same outcome Lively achieved," as quoted by People magazine.



Alia Bhatt invites fans inside BFF Akansha Ranjan's star-studded wedding festivities



Mumbai : Actor Alia Bhatt is extremely happy as her best friend Akansha Ranjan recently tied the knot with filmmaker Sharan Sharma. On Monday, Alia shared a series of heartwarming pictures from Akansha and Sharan's wedding celebrations, capturing moments filled with love, laughter, happy tears, and delicious food. Through her photo dump, Alia also gave a look at her outfits that she donned for Akansha's wedding functions. Have a look at the pictures here.

"this. just this," she captioned the post, adding a heart emoji. Akansha and Sharan exchanged

vows during a beautiful sunset ceremony held in the garden of their residence in Mumbai. Surrounded by their closest family members and friends, Akansha and Sharan promised to stand by each other forever before signing their marriage in an intimate celebration. Akansha, the younger sister of actor Anushka Ranjan, is known for her work in projects such as 'Guilty' and Netflix's 'Monica, O My Darling, where she appeared alongside Raj Kummar Rao, Radhika Apte, and Huma Qureshi. Sharan made his directorial debut with 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl,' starring Janhvi Kapoor in the lead role.

Rubina Dilaik takes cryptic dig at Anuj Sachdeva following his remarks on her and Hina Khan

Mumbai : Television actress Rubina Dilaik has taken to her Instagram and shared a cryptic note following actor Anuj Sachdeva's criticism of her, along with husband Abhinav Shukla, Hina Khan, and Rocky Jaiswal, for criticising Gaurav Khanna over his divorce and judging him and Akanksha Chamola for the decisions in their personal lives.

Taking to her Instagram, Rubina Dilaik reshared a cryptic note that reads, "Fake people hate you when you're real. Toxic people hate you when you set limits. Freeloaders hate you when you say no. Manipulators hate you when you notice what they're doing. If you can handle being disliked, you become someone no one can control." While Rubina didn't mention anyone by name, the timing of the post has fuelled speculation that it could be a subtle dig at Anuj Sachdeva's recent criticism. Taking to his Instagram, Anuj Sachdeva shared a video of the two couples discussing Gaurav and Akanksha. While reacting to the clip, he wrote, "It must be exhausting for them, carrying around that much hatred in their heart where empathy was



expected, while comparing someone's pet at home to a 'FUCKING FURNITURE'!

"Clearly, commenting on Gaurav Khanna's personal life is the only way some of these people can trend for five minutes before fading back into irrelevance. Sad," Anuj further wrote. On their chat show, Hina Khan and Rubina Dilaik discussed Akanksha Chamola and Gaurav Khanna's divorce, raising questions about the couple's public appearances just

months before their separation came to light.

Rubina Dilaik also shared her perspective, questioning whether it was all a façade. "If you're living separately, then making public appearances as husband and wife is just a façade," she said. Reacting to the discussion, Abhinav Shukla pointed out the irony and said, "See the paradox, ha? It's called a reality show!" Hina responded to his comment with a sarcastic round of applause, saying, "Slow claps."

Shilpa Shinde slammed for mocking Shivangi

Mumbai : Shilpa Shinde shocked everyone after she mocked about Shivangi Joshi's virginity on Lock Upp 2. In the recent episode, the actress was seen mimicking her fellow contestant when she also made a remark about her virginity.

"Oh man, mere paas toh koi secret hi nahi hai. Kitna act karun? Main bahut innocent hoon. Mujhe kuch nahi chahiye. Main virgin hoon. Main shaadi ke baad hi karungi (Oh Man! I don't have any secret. How much do I act. I am very innocent. I don't want anything. I am virgin. Will do it only after marriage)," Shilpa said, as quoted by IANS. Shreya Kalra, who was seen enjoying Shilpa's mimicry, then jokingly enacted Harshad and added, "Shivangi, tum kya soch rahi ho?" Kalra also mimicked Shivangi's reply and then said, "Pata nahi. Lekin jab yeh secret reveal hoga na, tab main bahut hasungi. Kyunki isme ta hi kuch nahi." Soon after a video from the episode was shared online, several social media users expressed disappointment with Shilpa's comments and slammed the actress. "Shilpa, how low are you going to stoop? Every. FU**ING. Single. Day," one of the users wrote. "Sorry Miss Shreya Kalra and Shilpa Shinde, this is not how you operate on a global platform like Netflix. Please learn some grace from Shivangi Joshi," added another. Lock Upp is a hostage based reality show in which celebrity contestants are locked inside a prison-like house four weeks. While the first season of the show was hosted by Kangana Ranaut and Karan Kundra, Farah Khan and Riteish Deshmukh have taken over hosting duties this season. Some of the contestants who are a part of Lock Upp 2 are Ram Kapoor, Akanksha Chamola, Shreya Kalra, Harshad Chopra, Sufi Motiwala and Shivangi Joshi.

Ranbir Kapoor acquires 25.7 acres in pune's mulshi taluka for Rs 16.42 crore



Mumbai : Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor has added another major property investment to his portfolio. He has reportedly purchased nearly 25 acres of land in Pune's Mulshi region for a whopping Rs 16.42 crore, as per property registration documents accessed by CRE Matrix. The deal involves four adjoining land parcels located in Pimpri village, with the registration completed on April 30, 2026.

The first plot, spread across 21,400 square metres, was bought for Rs 3.31 crore. The second parcel covers 29,900 square metres and was acquired for Rs 4.62 crore. The third and largest parcel measures 43,800 square metres and was purchased for Rs 7.07 crore, while the fourth plot, measuring 8,900 square metres, was bought for Rs 1.39 crore. Together, the four plots account for around 1,04,000 square

metres, which is approximately 25.7 acres, for a total amount of Rs 16.42 crore. The transaction also involved stamp duty payment of Rs 82.13 lakh, according to the registration documents.

This is not Ranbir's first major real estate investment in recent months. Earlier in 2026, the actor reportedly purchased a land parcel in Ayodhya as part of The House of Abhinandan Lodha's luxury plotted de-

velopment, 'The Sarayu'. The deal was reportedly valued at around Rs 3.31 crore for a 2,134-square-foot plot. Located along the banks of the Sarayu River, 'The Sarayu by HoABL' is a 75-acre development that features premium residential plots along with planned lifestyle amenities, including a clubhouse and a luxury vegetarian hotel operated by The Leela.

Speaking about the investment, Ranbir said, "I believe Ayodhya has chosen me, and I have just answered this calling. Ayodhya is deep rooted in our history and is a critical part of our cultural fabric. This land at The Sarayu became my gateway to ensuring this becomes a part of my legacy for my family."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Ranbir Kapoor will next be seen in Nitesh Tiwari's film Ramayana, which also stars Yash, Sai Pallavi and others.

Actor Vijay Deverakonda makes a star appearance at the TG20 cricket league finale

Hyderabad : Actor Vijay Deverakonda needs no introduction; he is one of the most bankable stars in Tollywood. What's more, Vijay Deverakonda enjoys a massive fan following across the globe.

A young, die-hard fan of Vijay Deverakonda got emotional after meeting the Kushi actor. In a viral video, Vijay Deverakonda is seen patiently conversing with the fan, who is crying while talking to him. Netizens praised Deverakonda's kind gesture, with some commenting that some moments are beyond words. The video has since gone viral on social media.

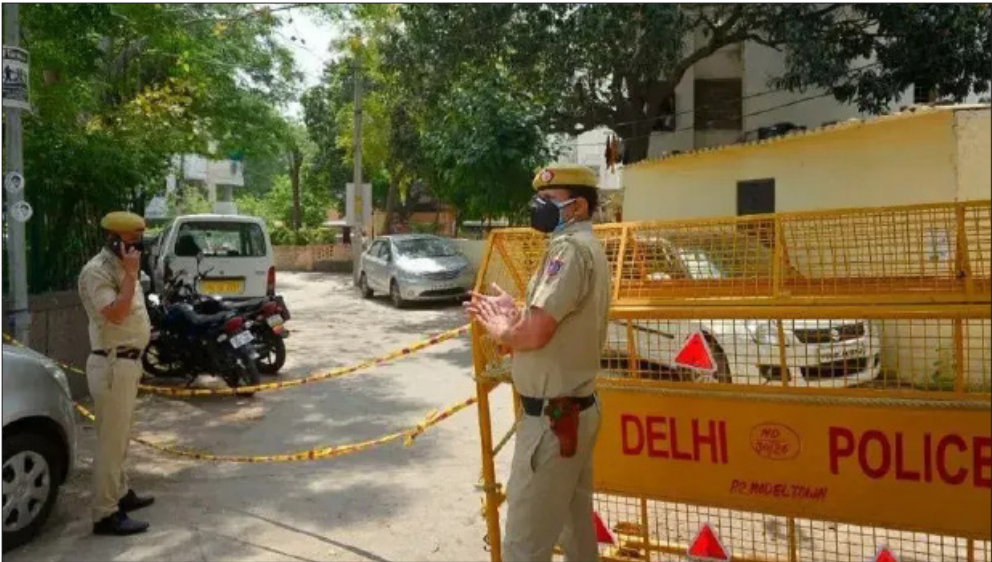
On July 12, Vijay Deverakonda attended the grand finale of the Sreenidhi University TG20 Cricket League. As the brand ambassador for the tournament, he inaugurated the TG20



League final by ringing the ceremonial opening bell at Hyderabad's Raviv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium. In the title clash, the Hyderabad E-Champions defeated the Anvita Khammam Aces to become the inaugural TG20 champions.

On the career front, Vijay Deverakonda will next be seen in Ranabali, which is directed by Rahul Sankrityan. Rashmika Mandanna will star as the female lead. The film is slated for a grand theatrical release on September 11, 2026.

On her birthday, a Delhi cop shoots her dead with his service revolver



New Delhi, July 14: A 32-year-old schoolteacher was fatally murdered on a road in east Delhi’s Kalyanpuri early Monday, only hours after celebrating her birthday at midnight, according to police. The officer reportedly left on his motorcycle, leaving his wife wounded on the roadside. Police identified the culprit as Constable Manish Bhati, who works with the east district’s anti-auto theft team, and claimed he is still on the run. Several police teams have been organized to seek him down. The family of the woman, Priyanka Bhati, alleged that her husband and mother-in-law had harassed

and abused her over dowry since her marriage in 2023. Priyanka was a teacher at Prudence School in Ashok Vihar. Police said the couple frequently fought over dowry and other domestic issues. On Sunday night, Bhati returned home from duty and allegedly got into an argument with his wife. Investigators suspect that he was drunk and assaulted Priyanka during the altercation. The couple left their home between 2am and 3am. “We are still trying to ascertain the exact sequence of events. Preliminary enquiry suggests that the accused was taking his wife to get medicines or have her in-

juries treated at a hospital, but they stopped mid-way and again argued on the road. The woman got off the vehicle. During the argument, the accused pulled out his service pistol and shot his wife in the chest. As she collapsed, he left her there and fled,” said a senior police officer. The officer said Bhati’s family was also not at their east Vinod Nagar residence. Deputy commissioner of police (east) Rajeev Kumar said the matter was reported to police around 3am by a delivery executive who was passing through the area and spotted the woman lying in a pool of blood. “A police team rushed her to LBS Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival,” Kumar said. Police said Priyanka was shot in the chest at point-blank range. “Initial questioning of neighbours revealed that the couple used to have frequent arguments,” the senior police officer said. On Monday morning, Priyanka’s younger brother Nitin, a Uttar Pradesh Police constable, alleged that her husband frequently assaulted and abused her over dowry. “He would harass my sister and tell her that his sister-in-law had brought ₹70 lakh in dowry, while we could not even manage ₹15 lakh,” he said. Nitin said Priyanka had returned to her parental home in tears barely a year after the wedding. “Manish would assault her regularly, while her in-laws harassed her for dowry. She stayed with us for about nine months. They kept demanding ₹25 lakh,” he said. Priyanka had often told them that her mother-in-law demanded her entire salary and harassed her for not having a child.

Argentina seek FIFA permission to wear an alternate kit against England There Is A ‘Psychological’ Reason



Atlanta: Argentina’s preparations for the highly anticipated FIFA World Cup 2026 semi-final versus England have gone far beyond conventional tactical drills and practice sessions. As Lionel Messi prepares to play England for the first time in his career, Argentina hopes to acquire a psychological advantage.

To do this, the team’s administration requested authorization from FIFA to wear the navy blue away kit. The

request was not made to create a better visual contrast with England, which would wear its typical white strip, but to draw a dramatic historical analogy. When the two sides played in the quarter-finals of the 1986 World Cup, Diego Maradona’s famed “Hand of God” and “Goal of the Century” helped the South Americans win 2-1. Argentina used their navy blue away uniform during the historic meeting in Mexico. Argentina hopes that by

seeking to wear the same colors in 2026, they would evoke memories of that epic encounter and gain a psychological advantage over their opponents. Since that terrible 1986 game, Argentina and England have met twice again in the World Cup. Argentina won 4-3 on penalties in 1998, following a thrilling 2-2 draw. In 2002, the Three Lions won 1-0 thanks to a single David Beckham penalty. Notably, Argentina won in 1998 wearing their navy blue alternative uniform, whereas they lost in 2002 wearing their usual light blue and white stripes. FIFA has finalized the uniform allocations for the semi-finals in Atlanta: England will wear their home white kit, while Argentina will wear their distinctive navy blue and black alternative jerseys. So far in the 2026 World Cup, Argentina have worn their primary shirt in five of their six matches, winning them all. They have opted for their alternate kit only once before in this tournament—during their 3-1 victory over Jordan in Dallas.

Women who have a criminal record or possess a 4-wheeler may not be eligible for Rs.2.5k help

New Delhi, July 14: The Delhi government’s monthly financial aid plan is limited to one woman per home. In households with many qualified applicants, only the eldest woman would get the ₹2,500 benefit. Furthermore, if either the candidate or any member of her family has a criminal record, the entire household would be disqualified for the program, the administration declared on Monday.

The government also announced other eligibility criteria for the scheme, officially renamed from “Mahila Samridhi Yojana” to “Delhi Lakshmi Yojana”. Only women aged between 21 and 60 years who, or whose families, have been residents of Delhi for at least 10 years, have an annual family income of not more than ₹2.5 lakh, and are not receiving any government pension or other regular financial assistance will be eligible. According to officials, an applicant will also be ineligible only if they are currently receiving a government pension.

Gautam Gambhir and Shreyas Iyer Face Criticism for Dropping Vaibhav Sooryanvanshi



England: Former Indian cricket captain Kris Srikkanth was furious with the team management for how they treated 15-year-old phenom Vaibhav Sooryanvanshi during the T20I series against Ireland and England. The teenager did not play a single game against Ireland and was dropped after three matches against England. Srikkanth unleashed a stinging assault on skipper Shreyas Iyer, focusing on how he defended his choice to remove Sooryanvanshi. Srikkanth was deeply disturbed by Iyer’s statements during the toss during the fifth T20I match, in which he stated, “I feel now is the moment we need to attempt what’s best going ahead for us as a squad. So based on that, we made this decision.” Srikkanth believed that it was not the right way to handle the situation and even questioned Iyer’s performance. “I was so upset with the interview after the toss,” Srikkanth said on YouTube. “This is not the way to talk. How you are treating your players, how you are forming a young team is important. If this is the way forward, the way forward is to change everybody (the leadership group). He said we want to take

the best way forward. If you are willing to drop players based on their performance, the same yardstick should apply to Gautam Gambhir, the same yardstick should apply to the captain also. You are saying the players are not performing, what has been your performance?” “What wrong did Vaibhav Sooryanvanshi do? Is this how you groom young players?” Srikkanth even drew parallels to his own time as India captain when he handed an international debut to a 16-year-old Sachin Tendulkar during the tour of Pakistan. “Shreyas Iyer said at the toss ‘we want to get back to the best way possible’. Is this your best way forward? What is this interview? If you thought Sanju Samson was the best fit, then you should have continued with him. Why bring in Vaibhav and then drop him? Why spoil his future? You are all ruining his confidence. When Sachin Tendulkar made his debut at 16, I went up and told him ‘you won’t be dropped in this tour. You play fearlessly’.” “Should Gambhir and Shreyas not give Sooryanvanshi that kind of confidence? It’s not fair. I am very upset with the way they are treating Vaibhav Sooryanvanshi.”

CBI submits closure report on RAU’s IAS disaster; no evidence discovered against key MCD officials

New Delhi, July 14: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a supplementary closure report before a Delhi court in the Rau’s IAS Study Circle flooding case in Old Rajinder Nagar, concluding that senior Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) officials committed no criminal negligence or abused their positions. The story is about the July 2024 tragedy at a coaching institution in Delhi’s Old Rajinder Nagar, when three UPSC candidates perished after the basement was flooded following heavy rains. The court will now determine whether to accept the closure report, reject it, or order more investigations. The CBI’s inquiry was begun when the Delhi High Court shifted the case from the Delhi Police, instructing the agency to investigate whether carelessness, corruption, or dereliction of duty by government officials led to the fatalities. The agency was entrusted with examining whether any public employees may be held criminally responsible for the occurrence. According to the supplemental report, the CBI reviewed a broad range of documentary and technical material, including coaching centre records, MCD files, inspection reports, construction papers, rainfall and waterlogging data, and other pertinent technical inputs. Investigators also questioned multiple witnesses to determine if municipal



officials had disregarded rule infractions or colluded with any individual or entity. The CBI found no proof against MCD. After reviewing the evidence gathered during the investigation, the agency concluded that there was no concrete or credible evidence to suggest that any senior MCD official had wilfully failed in their duties, abused their official position, or committed any offence punishable under the Indian Penal Code. On that premise, the CBI submitted a closure report rather than a charge sheet against senior municipal officials. The organization underlined that its conclusions do not imply that the catastrophe did not happen or that no one was responsible. Rather, the study argues that the existing evidence did not

match the legal standard necessary to charge top authorities. It said that criminal procedures cannot be commenced based only on suspicion or public impression, but must be backed by documentary and direct proof demonstrating criminal intent or carelessness. The deaths of the three civil service hopefuls sparked global anger and extensive demonstrations by students, who claimed that lax enforcement of safety standards and delayed administrative action led to the tragedy. The event highlighted the expanding number of coaching institutes operating from basements in central Delhi, raising worries about emergency exits, drainage systems, and adherence to occupancy laws during the monsoon season. Del-

hi authorities conducted a citywide effort. Following the incident, the Delhi authorities started a city-wide crackdown on illicit basement enterprises. Authorities closed many coaching facilities, issued notices for violations of building codes and fire safety standards, and increased inspections to guarantee compliance with disaster management recommendations. The incident sparked increased calls for tougher regulation of coaching institutes and greater responsibility in urban civic planning. The extra closure report is now before the court, and the case has moved on to the next legal level. The court will decide whether to accept the CBI’s findings, conduct more investigations, or take any other action permitted by law.

Tahir Hussain, a former AAP councillor, was been convicted of murdering IB officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 Delhi riots



New Delhi, July 14: In a key conviction in the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots case, a Delhi court on Monday convicted former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain of the murder of Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Ankit Sharma. The court, however, withdrew Hussain’s criminal conspiracy case. The Karkardooma Court issued the decision in one of the most carefully watched cases related to the communal violence that erupted in Northeast Delhi in February 2020. Aside from Tahir, four others have been convicted in the case: Nazim, Qasim, Anas, and Javed. However, the court acquitted six other suspects

in the case owing to insufficient evidence. Ankit Sharma was discovered dead in a gutter during the rioting. Ankit Sharma, an IB officer, was brutally slain during the February 2020 riots in Northeast Delhi. His corpse was eventually found from a nearby drain, causing great indignation across the country. Sharma’s father filed a complaint, and the case was lodged at Dayalpur Police Station. Aside from Tahir Hussain, ten other people were charged in the case. Charges are brought under numerous IPC provisions. The Delhi Police filed a chargesheet against the accused under several sections of

the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including Sections 109 (abetment), 114, 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 436 (mischievous by fire), 153A (promoting enmity), 505 (statements conducing to public mischief), 365 (kidnapping), and 302 (murder). 201 (causing evidence to disappear), 120B (criminal conspiracy), and 34 (common intention). While Tahir Hussain was convicted of murder, he was cleared of criminal conspiracy charges under Section 120B. Sentencing is scheduled to occur following additional processes. About the 2020 Delhi riots: The 2020 Delhi riots broke out between February 23 and 26 in northeast Delhi, after tensions over rallies against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

Violence erupted between protesters and counter-protesters, eventually leading to broad community fights, arson, stone-throwing, and gunshots. The disturbance killed 53 people and wounded over 500 others, while houses, businesses, schools, and places of worship were damaged or destroyed. Police have filed multiple charges and detained several people from various groups. Multiple investigations and legal actions have ensued, with some convictions, acquittals, and prosecutions still ongoing, making the riots one of Delhi’s worst incidents in recent decades.

Spain versus France ‘Mind Games’ Start Ahead Of FIFA World Cup Semifinal



Arlington: Spain and France will meet for the second time in the history of the FIFA World Cup, 20 years after the first. On paper, there isn’t much to separate the two European powerhouses vying for a position in the final. Mind games have begun ahead of Tuesday’s semi-final, with players from both sides discussing match expectations, individual performances, and

who the favourites are. France coach Didier Deschamps has already labelled the reigning European champions as the ‘favourites’ in the semi-final clash, while several Spanish players are already looking forward to facing Kylian Mbappé, the tournament’s top scorer. Spain and France have only met once in the event, in 2006, when Les Bleus won 3-1. The two sides last played

in a high-profile competition, the Euro 2024 semi-final, which Spain won 2-1. Spain defeated France 5-4 in the UEFA Nations League semi-final last year and hopes to repeat the feat this time around. We defeated France in our last two encounters. If France has anything to fear, it is us.

“We’ll see what happens, but we’re not scared,” Spain forward Lamine Yamal stated ahead of the semi-final. Yamal’s attacking partner on the other side of the pitch, Nico Williams, echoed his teammate’s sentiments in a chat with El Chiringuito: “We don’t have to be afraid of them, far from it. We’ve al-

ready proven that by beating this team twice. It’s not arrogance, but self-confidence and a bit of ego.” Spain defender Pau Cubarsi was asked about facing France captain Kylian Mbappé, who is the joint top scorer in this World Cup with eight goals to his name. He said: “He doesn’t scare me,” before adding, “Everyone knows his qualities. Even if he’s not involved in the match, he can change the game with one action. He’s unique, like Lamine. You have to stay focused for 90 minutes.” France centre-back Ibrahim Konate labelled the comments by the Spanish players ‘a trap’ that he and his teammates do not want to fall into.

Japan Open: PV Sindhu advances as injured Satwik-Chirag retire on comeback

Tokyo: India's star men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty endured another injury setback as their comeback at the Japan Open 2026 was cut short, while two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu advanced comfortably to the second round of the BWF Super 750 tournament on Tuesday. GeographicReference Returning to competitive action for the first time since last month's Indonesia Open, Satwik and Chirag were forced to retire midway through their opening-round clash against Denmark's Daniel Lundgaard and Mads Vestergaard after Satwik's recurring shoulder injury resurfaced, according to Olympics.com. The fourth-ranked Indian duo dropped a closely fought opening game 21-19 before deciding not to continue, bringing a premature end to their comeback.



The reigning Asian Games champions had been sidelined from four tournaments after Satwik aggravated his shoulder during the opening round of the Indonesia Open. The latest setback comes just weeks after the pair snapped a two-year BWF World Tour title drought by clinching

the Singapore Open crown in May. There was better news for India in the women's singles draw as world No. 10 PV Sindhu produced a commanding display to beat Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching 21-14, 21-11 in just 35 minutes. Sindhu dictated proceedings from the outset,

establishing an early lead before capitalising on her opponent's unforced errors to take the opening game comfortably. The Indian carried the momentum into the second game, racing to an 8-2 lead before extending it to 11-3 at the mid-game interval. Wong struggled to find

consistency throughout the contest as Sindhu wrapped up victory on her second match point, recording her third win in as many meetings against the Malaysian. India also enjoyed success in the mixed doubles competition, where Olympian Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila progressed to the second round with a convincing 21-16, 21-14 victory over Scotland's Alexander Dunn and Julie Macpherson. However, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde bowed out in the opening round after suffering a 21-11, 21-10 defeat to top seeds and world No. 1 Chinese pair Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping. India's campaign at the Japan Open will continue on Wednesday, with Lakshya Sen and rising youngster Unnati Hooda set to begin their singles campaigns in the first round.

India Deaf Women's team scripts historic T20 series triumph

Moratuwa: The India Deaf Women's cricket team won the T20 series, defeating the host Sri Lankan Deaf Women's cricket team in a series whitewash this week. The landmark tour marked the Indian deaf women's team's debut on the international stage. According to a press release, the team played four matches at the De Soysa International Cricket Stadium in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. On 13th July, Team India won the fifth and final match by seven wickets after restricting the Sri Lankan team to 40/10 in 13.5 overs in the first innings. The final match was followed by a grand closing ceremony attended by Hon. Sunil Kumara Gamage, Minister of Sports, Sri Lanka, and Maitrey Kulkarni, Deputy High Commissioner of India, as Chief Guests, along with Sugath Wasantha, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka, as



Guest of Honour. At the ceremony, the trophies were presented to the champion and runner-up teams by the Chief Guest, Maitrey Kulkarni, Deputy High Commissioner of India. Speaking on the occasion, Sumit Jain, President, Indian Deaf Cricket

Association (IDCA), said the performance of the Indian women's team here in Sri Lanka shows that, just like their male counterparts, the Indian Women's Deaf Cricket Team is also ready to take on and dominate the international platform.

BCCI calls Lord's Test win among Indian women's finest moments

London: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has congratulated the Indian Women's Cricket Team on scripting history with a memorable 270-run victory over England in the one-off Test at Lord's Cricket Ground. Winning a Test match at the Home of Cricket is a landmark achievement for any cricketer. For this young Indian side, it is a defining moment that reflects the remarkable growth of women's cricket in the country and the resilience, skill and character that this team continues to display on the world stage, BCCI said, according to a press release. The victory adds another glorious chapter to Indian cricket and reinforces the team's growing stature in international cricket. It also serves as an inspiration to countless



young girls who aspire to represent India at the highest level. BCCI President Mithun Manhas said: "This is one of the finest moments in the history of Indian women's cricket. To win a Test match at Lord's is incredibly special and is a reflection of the courage, discipline and belief this team has shown throughout the contest. They embraced the occasion, played with tremendous character and made the entire

nation proud. I would like to acknowledge the astute leadership of our former Honorary Secretary and current ICC Chairman, Mr Jay Shah, whose resolute commitment to the growth of women's cricket has helped lay the foundation for achievements such as this. On behalf of the BCCI, I congratulate Harmanpreet Kaur, the players, coaches and support staff on a truly unforgettable achievement." BCCI Honorary Secretary Devajit Saikia said: "This historic victory is the result of years of sustained investment and belief in women's cricket. The BCCI has remained committed to creating the right environment for our women cricketers to succeed through stronger domestic structures, enhanced opportunities and greater professional support.

Mbappe declared fit as France coach eases injury fears before Spain semifinal clash

Texas: France captain Kylian Mbappe is expected to be fit for Les Bleus' FIFA World Cup 2026 semifinal against Spain despite picking up a minor ankle injury during the quarterfinal victory over Morocco, according to Reuters. Speaking to reporters ahead of the semi-final, France head coach Didier Deschamps reassured that the star forward was available for selection. "Kylian is fine," Deschamps said, as quoted by Reuters. Mbappe did not complete the final training session after suffering the injury during France's 2-0 win over Morocco in the quarterfinals. The forward, who was substituted late in that match, had his workload managed as a precaution. Asked about Mbappe's



participation in training, Deschamps said, "Yes, he trained. He is allowed to do 10 minutes in one drill instead of 15," as quoted by

Reuters. The France captain was partially rested during the session, but the injury is not expected to rule him out of the highly anticipated semifinal against Spain. France will take on an in-form Spain side that advanced to the last four after defeating Belgium

2-1 in the quarterfinals. Spain enters the contest on a 36-match unbeaten run and will be aiming to secure a place in the FIFA World Cup 2026 final. The winners of the semifinal will book their place in the title clash scheduled for July 19. France have enjoyed the most convincing and controlled knockout-stage campaign among the four remaining teams. After finishing top of Group I, they opened the knockout rounds with a commanding 3-0 victory over Sweden in the Round of 32. They then edged past Paraguay 1-0 in a closely contested Round of 16 before producing another disciplined display to defeat Morocco 2-0 in the quarter-finals and secure their place in the last four.

Delhi unveils 'Mayur' mascot for Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday unveiled 'Mayur', the official mascot of the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026, describing the peacock-inspired mascot as a symbol of India's energy, hospitality and the spirit of unity that the tournament seeks to promote. The mascot was unveiled in the presence of Delhi Education and Sports Minister Ashish Sood, Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation President Vivek

Kohli and other dignitaries ahead of the championship, which will be held at the Thyagraj Stadium from July 27 to August 2. Designed around India's national bird, the mascot features feathers representing the flags of the participating Commonwealth nations, symbolising friendship, harmony and sportsmanship. Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, Rekha Gupta said the event would provide Delhi with an opportunity to showcase itself on the global

sporting stage. "Today's mascot launch, Mayur, India's national bird, has feathers representing the flags of all nations participating in this event. Mayur, symbolising energy and enthusiasm, is the perfect mascot for the Commonwealth Table Tennis event," she said. The Chief Minister congratulated the organisers and officials involved in staging the tournament and highlighted the Delhi government's focus on strengthening sports infrastructure and athlete



development. "By hosting this event in Delhi, we are putting our capital on the international platform. As the Chief Minister of Delhi, I congratulate you all. It is our

government's effort to provide the youth and athletes of Delhi with the opportunities they deserve." CM Gupta said. She added that the government would continue investing in sports facilities and athlete welfare. "Our government has worked extensively on sports infrastructure, prize money, facilities, and coaching for Delhi's sportspersons. We want every sportsperson in Delhi to have the chance, the platform, and the facilities so that they can bring glory to

Delhi and the country. I am happy that an international-level championship will be held here from July 27 to August 2, 2026. Delhi's government remains committed to sports and will continue to support athletes," she concluded. Delhi Sports Minister Ashish Sood said hosting the prestigious event reflected the city's growing stature as a sporting destination. "Delhi has received the opportunity to host this international event. The government is

committed to improving the sports ecosystem. We have provided the necessary arrangements and facilities at every stadium for students competing at national, international, and state levels. Our goal is to make Delhi the sports capital," he said. The championship is being jointly organised by the Delhi government and the Table Tennis Federation of India and is expected to attract players from more than 35 Commonwealth nations.

Indian Supercross Racing League welcomes new franchise ahead of exciting third season

Pune: The Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL) on Monday announced the addition of Pune-based Punit Balan Group (PBG) as a new franchise owner for Season 3, with the group launching its team, PBG Racing. The development marks Punit Balan Group's entry into Indian motorsports, further expanding its sports portfolio that already includes investments across cricket, chess, tennis, handball, table tennis, kho kho, badminton and arm wrestling, according to a release. Welcoming the new franchise, ISRL Co-Founder and Director Eeshan Lokhande said Punit Balan Group's commitment to Indian sport and athlete development reflects its long-term vision for building world-class sporting ecosystems. He said the group's entry into



the league is a strong validation of ISRL's growth and potential as it continues to establish Supercross as a mainstream sporting and entertainment property in India. Punit Balan, Chairman and Managing Director of Punit Balan Group, said the Indian Supercross Racing League represents an exciting new chapter for racing in India. "We are delighted to join ISRL for Season 3 and look forward

to building a franchise that reflects passion, performance and the spirit of Indian racing while supporting the long-term growth of motorsport in the country," he said. According to the league, the addition of PBG Racing is expected to strengthen ISRL's presence in Maharashtra and further boost fan engagement for Supercross racing. The Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL) has taken

another significant step in its growth journey by welcoming a new franchise ahead of its third season. The expansion reflects the league's growing popularity and underlines the increasing interest in professional motorsport in India, particularly in the fast-paced and spectator-friendly discipline of supercross racing. With every new franchise comes fresh investment, a wider fan base and greater opportunities for riders, teams and commercial partners. League officials believe the addition will strengthen competition while helping the ISRL extend its footprint across new regions of the country. As the league prepares for another exciting campaign, the latest development is being viewed as a vote of confidence in the future of Indian motorsport.

England elect to field as Kohli returns for India in Edgbaston ODI opener

Birmingham: England are batting first in the first ODI of the three-match series at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Tuesday. The Shubman Gill-led side will try to start their ODI series with a big win at Edgbaston as many senior players have returned. Men in Blue are entering the match with three proper seamers -- Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna and Gurnoor Brar, and a medium-pacer -- Shivam Dube, who is playing his first ODI after almost two years. Virat Kohli is returning to international cricket after almost seven months. He missed the home ODI series against Afghanistan due to a leg injury. The Three Lions had already announced their playing XI a day before the match and made no changes to it. At the toss, England



skipper Harry Brook said, "We're gonna have a bat today. Looks like a good surface, don't quite know what's gonna happen, but we fancy our chances with the bat first. Hopefully, we can get a little bit of spin in the second innings." Indian skipper Shubman Gill said, "We're looking to bowl first. Well, I think most of the boys have been playing

the T20S, and the rest of the boys got a bit of rest; I had a bit of training. Got here a couple of days before, so we were practising. So the environment, the vibe has been really good." On the return of the senior players, he said, "Yeah, definitely most of the seniors are back. We have got Virat Bhai, Rohit Bhai, KL and Boom back

in the squad. So the experience is going to be massive for us." The veteran batter looked in good touch during the session, playing a range of elegant strokes, including straight drives and cover drives with ease. The veteran batter looked in good touch during the session, playing a range of elegant strokes, including straight drives and cover drives with ease. India is currently playing a five-match T20I series against England. Rohit enters the ODI series on the back of scores of 16, 48, and 79 in the previous series against Afghanistan last month. The "Hitman" is India's third-highest run-scorer in ODIs, with 11,720 runs from 285 matches at an average of 48.83 and a strike rate of 92.97, including 33 centuries and 62 fifties.