

ZPM Makes History, Wins First-Ever Rajya Sabha Seat From Mizoram

Aizawl, Jun 19: Mizoram's ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) achieved a landmark political victory on Thursday by securing its first-ever seat in the Rajya Sabha, marking a significant milestone in the party's growing influence in the state's political landscape. ZPM leader K. Laltluangkima emerged victorious in the election to the Upper House of Parliament, defeating opposition candidate Zothansangi Hmar of the Mizo National Front (MNF). The win represents a major achievement for the relatively young regional party, which has steadily expanded its political footprint since coming to power in Mizoram. According to official results, Laltluangkima secured 26 votes in the election, comfortably defeating Hmar, who received 10 votes. The election also witnessed three abstentions.

The abstaining legislators included Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs K. Beichhua and K. Hrahmo, as well as Congress MLA C. Ngunlianchunga. In addition, ZPM legislator W. Chhuanawma was unable to cast his vote due to health-related reasons. The information was confirmed by Mizoram Assembly Secretary and Returning Officer Zothansanga Ralte following the completion of the voting process. The outcome was largely in line with the numerical strength of the parties in the 40-member Mizoram



Legislative Assembly.

The ZPM currently enjoys a commanding majority with 27 legislators, while the MNF holds 10 seats. The BJP has two MLAs, and the Congress has one member in the Assembly. With its strong legislative majority, the ruling party was widely expected to secure the Rajya Sabha seat, but the victory nonetheless carries considerable symbolic and political significance as it marks ZPM's debut representation in the Upper House. Political observers view the result as another indication of the ZPM's consolidation of power following its impressive performance in the

2023 Assembly elections, which ended decades of alternating rule between the MNF and the Congress. Since assuming office, the party has focused on strengthening governance and expanding its political reach. The Rajya Sabha victory further enhances its standing both within Mizoram and at the national level, providing the party with a direct voice in parliamentary proceedings in New Delhi.

For the MNF, the defeat highlights the challenges faced by the opposition in countering the growing popularity and dominance of the ruling party. While the opposition fielded Zothansangi Hmar as its candidate,

the Assembly's arithmetic made the contest an uphill battle from the outset. Nevertheless, the election served as an important political test ahead of future electoral contests in the state. The successful election of K. Laltluangkima to the Rajya Sabha is expected to strengthen Mizoram's representation in national policymaking and provide the ZPM with a broader platform to advocate for issues concerning the northeastern state. As the party celebrates this historic achievement, the victory is being viewed as a defining moment in ZPM's political journey and a reflection of its growing influence in Mizoram's evolving democratic landscape.

Administration Seeks Documents in Ledo Land Dispute

Margherita, Jun 19: The Assam Tea Tribes Students Association (ATTSA) has alleged the illegal occupation of land belonging to a Tea Tribe family in Ledo Maulang under the 83rd Margherita Legislative Assembly Constituency in Assam's Tinsukia district, prompting intervention by the Margherita Co-District Administration. The controversy revolves around the establishment of a brick kiln on land reportedly owned by a Tea Tribe resident, with the matter now under official scrutiny following complaints of land encroachment, document irregularities, and alleged non-payment of lease dues. According to a formal complaint submitted by the ATTSA Margherita Branch Committee, two individuals, identified as Jugesh Das and Zaminul Rahman alias Pitka, are allegedly operating a brick kiln on the disputed land without obtaining the mandatory No Objection Certificate (NOC) and other required permissions. The student body has claimed that the duo unlawfully took possession of approximately 9 bigha and 2 katha of land belonging to Sanu Mura, a resident of Ledo Maulang from the Tea Tribe community, and subsequently established the brick-making unit on the property. The association has further

alleged that forged lease-related documents were prepared in connection with the land transaction. ATTSA leaders have expressed concern over what they describe as the exploitation of a member of the Tea Tribe community and have demanded a detailed investigation into the circumstances under which the land came under the possession of the accused individuals. Speaking on the issue, ATTSA Central Executive Committee leader Pranjal Baraik stated that under the terms of the alleged lease agreement, landowner Sanu Mura was entitled to receive a total amount of Rs 36 lakh over a period of four years, with annual payments of Rs 9 lakh. However, Baraik claimed that the promised amount has not been paid to the landowner, raising further questions regarding the legitimacy of the lease arrangement and the conduct of those involved.

Following the second hearing of the matter at the Margherita Circle Office, the Margherita Co-District Administration directed Jugesh Das to produce all valid lease-related documents before the authorities within one month. The administration's directive is being viewed as a significant step toward establishing the facts surrounding the allegations and determining whether any legal violations have occurred. As demands for a comprehensive inquiry continue to grow, local residents and community organizations are closely monitoring developments in the case. Authorities are expected to examine the authenticity of the lease documents, ownership records, and regulatory clearances associated with the brick kiln. The outcome of the investigation could have significant implications for land rights and legal protections available to Tea Tribe communities in the region.



Two Drug Peddlers Arrested in Guwahati; Suspected Heroin Seized in Panbazar Anti-Narcotics Operation

Guwahati, Jun 19: In a significant breakthrough in the ongoing fight against drug trafficking in Assam, Guwahati Police arrested two suspected drug peddlers during a targeted anti-narcotics operation conducted in the Panbazar area of the city. The operation resulted in the seizure of 12.69 grams of suspected heroin, which was allegedly concealed inside a soap case in an attempt to avoid detection by law enforcement authorities. The successful raid is being viewed as part of the Assam Police's intensified campaign against the illegal drug trade, which continues to pose a serious challenge to public safety and security across the state.

According to police sources, the operation was carried out based on specific intelligence inputs regarding the movement and possible distribution of narcotic substances in the Panbazar locality. Acting swiftly on the information received, a team of police personnel



launched a search operation in the area and intercepted two individuals suspected of being involved in the illegal trafficking of drugs. During the search, officers recovered a quantity of suspected heroin weighing 12.69 grams. Investigators said the substance had been carefully hidden inside a soap case, a method commonly employed by drug traffickers to transport narcotics discreetly and evade law enforcement checks. The seized contraband was

recovered and documented in the presence of independent witnesses, in accordance with the legal procedures prescribed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Police officials stated that maintaining procedural transparency during such operations is crucial to ensuring the integrity of investigations and subsequent legal proceedings. The two arrested individuals have been identified as Rajiv Das and Rahul Ali.

Following their detention, both accused were taken into police custody for interrogation. Investigators are currently questioning them to determine the origin of the seized narcotics, identify their suppliers, and uncover any possible links to larger drug trafficking networks operating within Assam and beyond. Police believe that the arrests could provide valuable leads in their efforts to dismantle organized drug distribution chains that have been active

in different parts of the region. A case has been registered against the accused under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, which prescribes stringent penalties for the possession, transportation, sale, and distribution of illegal narcotic substances. Officials confirmed that further legal action will be taken based on the findings of the ongoing investigation. The latest seizure highlights the continued efforts of Assam Police to combat the growing menace of drug trafficking. In recent years, the state government and law enforcement agencies have intensified anti-narcotics operations across Assam, targeting drug peddlers, suppliers, and organized trafficking networks. Numerous raids, arrests, and seizures have been conducted as part of a broader strategy aimed at disrupting the flow of illegal drugs into the state and protecting communities, particularly young people, from the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Senior police officials have repeatedly emphasized the importance of intelligence-based operations and public cooperation in tackling the drug problem.

Authorities have also strengthened surveillance mechanisms at key transit points and vulnerable locations to prevent the movement of narcotics through the state. Following the Panbazar operation, investigators are working to identify additional individuals who may be connected to the seized heroin. Efforts are also underway to trace the supply chain and determine whether the narcotics originated from interstate or international trafficking routes. Police officials expressed confidence that continued enforcement actions and coordinated investigations will help curb drug-related activities and strengthen the ongoing campaign against narcotics in Assam. The investigation remains active, and further arrests are not being ruled out.

CM Pushes for Better Enrolment and Lower Dropouts

Guwahati, Jun 19: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has directed education department officials to ensure that the state's key educational indicators surpass the national average as part of the government's broader effort to strengthen the education sector. Chairing a high-level review meeting on June 18, Sarma assessed the progress of various educational schemes, infrastructure projects, recruitment initiatives and budgetary allocations aimed at improving learning outcomes across the state.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the education and finance departments, who presented updates on ongoing programmes and future priorities. Speaking after the review, the Chief Minister said the government is committed to transforming Assam's education ecosystem and providing quality education to students across all regions. He emphasized that improving educational standards, reducing regional disparities and expanding access to education remain the administration's top priorities. Sarma instructed officials to

focus on key indicators such as dropout rates, teacher-student ratios, geographical parity and gross enrolment ratios, ensuring that Assam performs better than the national average.

He also stressed the need to standardize essential infrastructure in schools, including electricity, drinking water, toilets and adequate classroom facilities. The review further examined student welfare initiatives, including financial assistance schemes, free admission programmes, and the distribution of scooters, bicycles and textbooks. Discussions also covered the functioning of Government Model Colleges and Tea Garden Model Schools, teacher recruitment drives, measures to reduce higher education dropouts, creation of new teaching posts and the upgradation of high schools into higher secondary institutions. Reiterating the government's commitment to educational development, Sarma directed all departments concerned to ensure timely implementation of projects and effective utilization of resources to achieve the state's education goals.

Khandu Extends Wishes for Compassion Cup Ahead of Dalai Lama Birthday

Itanagar, Jun 19: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has extended his warm wishes to the Jang Shengzam Brothers Youth Association for organizing the Universal Compassion Cup 2026 (3rd Edition), a football tournament aimed at promoting the values of peace, unity and compassion among the youth.

The tournament is scheduled to begin on June 21 and will be organized as part of the celebrations marking the 91st birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. In a message ahead of the opening ceremony, Chief Minister Khandu appreciated the efforts of the Jang Shengzam Brothers Youth Association for bringing together sports and social values through the tournament.

He expressed hope that the event would encourage young people to follow the principles of compassion, harmony and friendship that have been promoted by the Dalai Lama throughout his life.

Khandu said that sports have the power to connect people beyond boundaries and create a sense of togetherness among communities. He highlighted that football tournaments and other sporting events provide an important platform for youth engagement, discipline, teamwork and the development of leadership qualities. According to him, initiatives such as the Universal Compassion Cup go beyond competition and contribute to building a stronger and more united society. The Chief Minister also conveyed his best wishes



to all participating teams, organizers, volunteers and supporters associated with the

tournament. He expressed confidence that the event would be

successfully conducted and would inspire participants and spectators alike with

the message of compassion and mutual respect. The Universal Compassion Cup 2026 is expected to attract football enthusiasts and young players from different areas, creating an atmosphere of celebration and community participation. The tournament has been designed not only as a sporting event but also as a platform to spread awareness about the importance of kindness, peace and cooperation among people.

The event coincides with celebrations marking the 91st birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, whose teachings have emphasized non-violence, compassion and universal responsibility. Organizers believe that the football tournament will serve as a meaningful tribute

by bringing young people together and encouraging them to embrace these values in their daily lives.

The Arunachal Pradesh government has consistently emphasized the role of youth and sports in promoting social development and community harmony. Events like the Universal Compassion Cup reflect efforts to encourage positive engagement among young people while strengthening cultural and social bonds. As preparations continue for the opening ceremony on June 21, organizers are hopeful that the third edition of the tournament will be a memorable occasion, combining the spirit of sportsmanship with the timeless message of compassion and peace.

Dimapur becomes Nagaland's first ABDM model district

Dimapur, June 19: In a major step towards digital healthcare transformation, Dimapur has been designated as Nagaland's first Model District under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), with authorities aiming to establish a fully digital healthcare ecosystem within the next four months.

The initiative was launched by National Health Authority (NHA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Sunil Kumar Barnwal during a workshop organised by the Health & Family Welfare Department in collaboration with the NHA at Niathu Resort on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering, Barnwal said ABDM would transform healthcare delivery by enabling a seamless, data-driven and patient-centric system. He noted that fragmented medical records often hinder effective treatment and said the mission seeks to create an integrated digital health ecosystem where



hospitals, pharmacies and diagnostic centres can securely share patient information with consent.

He informed that over 92 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs have been generated nationwide, while

nearly 8.96 lakh people, accounting for around 38 per cent of Nagaland's population, have already been enrolled. He called for accelerated efforts to achieve universal coverage in the state.

Barnwal said the digital framework is built around ABHA IDs,

the Health Facility Registry and the Health Professional Registry, enabling verified digital identities for patients, healthcare institutions and medical professionals. He added that digital records would improve efficiency, transparency and continuity of

care while reducing dependence on physical documents.

Highlighting the significance of the model district initiative, Barnwal said Dimapur was chosen to demonstrate that comprehensive digital healthcare transformation can be achieved within a short timeframe.

He urged healthcare institutions to move beyond basic digitisation and adopt complete digital record management systems. Deputy Commissioner of Dimapur, Dr Tinojongshi Chang, described the initiative as a landmark move towards accessible, efficient and inclusive healthcare, assuring full administrative support for its implementation.

Barnwal also clarified that ABDM does not maintain a central repository of medical records, stressing that patient data would remain with the originating healthcare facility and be accessible only to authorised providers and the patient through consent-based sharing.

Canopy bridges installed to help protect Golden Langurs in Assam national park

Guwahati, June 19: In an effort to reduce wildlife casualties and protect the endangered Golden Langur, the BTC Forest Department and the Primate Research Centre Northeast India (PRC NE India) have installed two artificial canopy bridges along the Bismuri-Saralpara Road that passes through Sikhna Jhwlao National Park in western Assam. The initiative comes amid growing concerns over the impact of an ongoing road widening project on the habitat of the rare primate species. Conservationists have warned that the expansion of the roadway has disrupted natural tree canopies, forcing Golden Langurs to descend to the ground while moving between forest patches and increasing the risk of road accidents. According to experts, two Golden Langurs were killed in separate incidents within a span of seven days in May this year while attempting to cross the road. The deaths raised alarm among wildlife researchers and forest officials, prompting urgent measures to improve safe passage for the animals. To address the issue, a Ladder Bridge and a Pipe Bridge have been installed near Ride Number Seven inside the national park. The Pipe Bridge has also been fitted with a vertically mounted rope to provide additional support and ease movement for tree-dwelling animals crossing between fragmented sections of the forest. The Bismuri-Saralpara Road cuts through the core area of the 316.29-square-kilometre Sikhna Jhwlao National Park, which extends across Kokrajhar and Chirang districts. The park is home to the second-largest population of Golden Langurs, a species found only in a limited region of Assam and neighbouring Bhutan. The animal is also the official mascot of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). Wildlife experts have cautioned that once the road widening project is completed and the route is fully paved, traffic movement and vehicle speeds are expected to increase significantly. This could pose an even greater threat to Golden Langurs and other wildlife inhabiting the area. PRC NE India has urged authorities to introduce additional mitigation measures before the project is completed. The organisation has stressed the need for safeguards not only for Golden Langurs but also for other vulnerable species such as butterflies, amphibians and reptiles that inhabit the ecologically sensitive landscape.



Assam expands power infrastructure to meet future energy demand

Guwahati, June 19: Assam is stepping up efforts to strengthen its power infrastructure as the state prepares for rising electricity demand in the coming years. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on June 19 said the government is making significant investments in the power sector with the goal of transforming Assam into an energy-surplus state while ensuring a reliable supply of electricity to every household.

Sharing an update on social media platform X, the Chief Minister outlined the progress made so far and the plans underway to further enhance the state's power transmission and distribution network. According to Sarma, Assam currently operates 82 sub-stations across the state, supported by a transmission network of 5,300 circuit kilometres.

The state's existing grid capacity stands at 10,000 MVA, forming the backbone of its electricity infrastructure and helping meet the growing power needs of residents, businesses and industries.

To prepare for future demand and support the state's development goals, the government has launched a major expansion programme. As part of the initiative, 16 new sub-stations are being constructed across Assam. The projects will add 6,340 MVA of additional grid capacity and



include the commissioning of 957 circuit kilometres of new transmission lines.

The Chief Minister said

the expansion is aimed at strengthening the overall power network and improving the quality and reliability of electricity supply across urban and rural areas alike. He noted that increasing grid capacity

and extending transmission infrastructure are essential steps towards ensuring uninterrupted power availability as demand continues to rise.

"Assam is progressing steadily towards becoming an energy-surplus state," Sarma said, adding that the government remains committed to building a robust power sector capable of supporting economic growth and improving the quality of life for citizens.

The ongoing projects are expected to play a key role in enhancing power transmission capabilities, reducing network constraints and ensuring that consumers across the state receive a stable and dependable electricity supply.

Meghalaya High Court Disposes of PIL on Laban Circuit House After Government Plans Memorial for Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy

Shillong, June 19: The Meghalaya High Court has disposed of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning the historic Laban Circuit House, also known as Bidhan Bhavan or Roy Villa, after the state government decided to install a bust and commemorative plaque of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy at the premises.

The PIL was initiated following a letter dated November 12, 2025, submitted by Malabika Bisharad, who sought protection of the building citing its historical significance. The petition was filed after the state government had proposed demolition of certain portions of the old structure.

Bisharad claimed that the building, constructed in the early 1920s, had historical importance and had hosted several prominent personalities, including Rabin-dranath Tagore and Subhas



Chandra Bose. During the hearing, the Meghalaya Heritage Authority inspected the site and found that the building did not fulfil the criteria required for declaration as a heritage structure under the Meghalaya Heritage Regulations, 2013. The authority also noted that the building was in a deteriorated condition.

Considering the circum-

stances, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Revati Mohite Dere and Justice Wanlura Diengdoh suggested the installation of a bust and plaque in memory of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.

The Public Works Department (Buildings) later submitted a report confirming that the bust and plaque would be installed

in a properly designed symmetrical garden area at the Laban Circuit House. Photographs and details of the proposed arrangement were also placed before the Court. After considering the steps taken by the state government, the High Court observed that no further issues remained for consideration and disposed of the PIL.

Kanad Purkayastha Urges Prasar Bharati to Revive Silchar Doordarshan Kendra

Silchar, June 19: Seeking to restore the lost glory of a once-important public broadcasting centre in southern Assam, Rajya Sabha MP Kanad Purkayastha has urged Prasar Bharati to revive the infrastructure, regional programming and unique identity of the Doordarshan Kendra Silchar.

Purkayastha raised the issue during a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology in New Delhi on Wednesday.

He submitted several proposals aimed at strengthening broadcasting facilities across the Northeast, with special focus on the Silchar Doordarshan centre.

He also held discussions with Prasar Bharati Director General Rajeev Kumar Jain, who assured that matters related to Silchar Doordarshan Kendra and the improvement of public broadcasting services in the Northeast would be given priority.

Purkayastha said the Silchar centre had gradually lost its original character despite playing a crucial role in showcasing the culture, language and aspirations of the Barak Valley. "The Silchar Doordarshan Kendra was not



merely a broadcasting centre; it was the voice of the Barak Valley and southern Assam.

It must regain its production capacity, regional programmes and local identity," he said. Established at Tarapur, Silchar, in 1990, the centre became a major platform for promoting Bengali, Manipuri, tea tribe languages and other regional cultures. For decades, it catered to nearly 50 lakh people of the region through local news and cultural programmes.

At present, programmes related to Silchar Doordarshan are routed

through the Guwahati Kendra. Purkayastha also demanded the restoration of the Bengali news bulletin from Silchar, describing it as an important cultural connection for the people of the Barak Valley.

He said the revival of the bulletin was not only a technical requirement but also linked to the emotional and cultural identity of the region. He further proposed modernisation of Doordarshan and Akashvani infrastructure in remote and border areas of the Northeast to improve public communication networks.

BIS raids fake Hallmarking centre in Guwahati

Guwahati, June 19: A team of officials of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Guwahati Branch Office, on Thursday search conducted a and seizure operation on the premises of M/s Ganesh Hallmarking Centre at Col. J Ali Road at Lakhtokia in Guwahati.

The operation was carried out following a discreet investigation initiated on June 3 this year into suspected violations of the BIS Act, 2016. During the investigation, it was found that the establishment was functioning as an unauthorized Assaying and Hallmarking Centre (AHC) and was engaged in illegal hallmarking activities.

The firm was found to be using a laser marking machine for marking jewellery without authorization and issuing spurious gold hallmarks bearing fake BIS logos. The laser marking machine was sealed and the spurious gold hallmarks were also



seized during the raid. Gold jewellery products are covered under the mandatory hallmarking order notified by the Government of India.

Action is being initiated against the offenders for violation of Section 14(6) of the BIS Act, 2016. The offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to one year, or with a fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but may extend up to five times the val-

ue of the goods or articles produced, sold, offered for sale, or affixed or applied with a Standard Mark including Hallmark, or with both, as provided under the BIS Act, 2016.

The BIS Act, 2016, prohibits any testing and marking centre or assaying and hallmarking centre that is not recognized by BIS from using, affixing, embossing, engraving, printing, or applying the Standard Mark, including the Hallmark or any co-

lourable imitation thereof, on notified goods or articles.

The law also bars such entities from making any claim regarding the use of BIS hallmarks through advertisements, promotional materials, or sales literature. The Bureau of Indian Standards has been conducting raids whenever information regarding misuse is received and verified, with the objective of protecting consumers from such deception and the possible safety hazards that may result from the use of such materials.

BIS also appeals to all citizens to report any instance where mandatory products are being sold without BIS certification or where misuse of the ISI Mark on any product is noticed. The information may be provided to the head of Guwahati Branch Office, 2nd Floor, West End Building Block Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati, or can be emailed to ghbo@bis.gov.in.

Security forces rescue abducted Moreh resident in swift operation

Imphal, June 19: Security forces have successfully rescued a 50-year-old man who was allegedly abducted by suspected militants from Manipur's border town of Moreh and reunited him with his family following a swift search operation.

The rescued individual, identified as Ngamsom Baite, is a resident of B. Bongjang Village in Moreh under Tengnoupal district. According to officials, Baite was allegedly kidnapped by suspected cadres of a proscribed militant outfit, prompting an immediate response from security agencies. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, security personnel launched a coor-

dinated search and rescue operation in and around Moreh. During the operation, Baite was traced and rescued from the Gate No. 1 area under the jurisdiction of Moreh Police Station. Officials said the operation was conducted efficiently, ensuring the victim's safe recovery without any reported injuries.

After being provided necessary assistance, Baite was handed over to his family members. The successful rescue has brought relief to local residents and the victim's family, who had been anxiously awaiting his return since reports of the alleged abduction surfaced. Authorities have launched

an investigation to identify those responsible and determine the motive behind the incident. Moreh, a strategically important town along the India-Myanmar border, remains under heightened security surveillance amid ongoing efforts to curb militant activities and maintain law and order. Security agencies reiterated their commitment to protecting civilians and continuing operations against unlawful and insurgent elements in the sensitive border region. Officials said the rescue underscores the effectiveness of coordinated security operations and intelligence-based interventions in safeguarding residents in vulnerable areas.

Meghalaya introduces SOPs and an investigation module while promoting new criminal laws



Shillong, Jun 19: In an effort to bolster criminal investigations and enhance case management under India’s redesigned criminal justice system, Meghalaya has implemented a computerized Investigation Monitoring Module and published new police Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).The projects were introduced on June 18 at the State Convention Center in Shillong during a Nyaya Sanhita Exhibition hosted by the Home (Police) Department. The purpose of the gathering was to acquaint government officials, students, traditional leaders, and other interested parties with the nation’s new criminal laws. The program was organized in accordance with directions from the Ministry of Home Affairs to increase public under-

standing of the new legal framework, according to Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong, who opened the exhibition. He stated that in order to make sure that the public is aware of the changes, collaboration between the government, law enforcement, and community organizations would be essential.Tynsong emphasized the exhibition’s importance by pointing out that it gave visitors a chance to learn about the new laws’ provisions and how they may be used in real-world situations through interactive exhibits and demonstrations. Such programs, he continued, would improve people’s comprehension of legal processes and their part in the administration of justice. He described the “T3” model, which stands for “Timeline, Technology, and Trust,” in reference to the state’s strategy for putting the new legislation into practice. He emphasized that prompt investigations, increased use of technology, and increased public trust were crucial for efficient police.Legal understanding and civic duty must go hand in hand, according to Tynsong, who also asked students and local leaders to share the knowledge they learned at the exhibition with their communities. Increasing forensic capabilities has been a major component of the government’s readiness. According to Tynsong, all 12 districts of Meghalaya now have forensic mobile vans outfitted with cutting-edge equipment to enhance evidence gathering and assist investigations, especially in remote locations. The

new criminal laws, he continued, are intended to expedite investigations and shorten the time it takes to file charge papers. In order to increase prosecution effectiveness and assist in resolving outstanding cases, the state has also formed a Directorate of Prosecution, which is manned by legal experts.The new criminal rules represent a significant change in the nation’s legal system, according to Director General of Police Idashisha Nongrang.We are completely unfamiliar with this. Previous criminal statutes were a holdover from the British era.

We have been able to pass very important and pertinent new laws after 160 years as a free nation,” she stated. According to Nongrang, a contemporary legal framework is required because the nature of crime has changed significantly over time. She claimed that the new legislation would improve the criminal justice system and help solve modern issues.

Traditional chiefs, students, representatives from other institutions, and members of Synjuk Ki Nongsynshar Shnong Ka Bri U Hynniewtrep attended the program. Additionally, police officers received recognition for their participation in the event.

A child drives an MG Cyberstar for Rs 75 lakh, Father Charged in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Jun 19: A case has been filed by Hyderabad Police against the father of a toddler whose purported video of the child driving a high-end vehicle on the city’s Outer Ring Road went popular on social media.The car, an MG Cyberstar, was also taken into custody by police after a heated discussion about parental duty and driving safety.The Instagram account safecars india shared the footage, claiming that a child who looked to be younger than 12 was operating an MG Cyberster on a high-speed motorway. The car with the interim registration number TG09AP3320 was also identified by the post. According to Rajendranagar Traffic Police SHO CH Raju, the department acted immediately after receiving a complaint on social media regarding a minor driving the luxury electric sports car. A police team was dispatched to trace the vehicle, following which

the car, the minor boy, and his father were identified and detained. They were later handed over to the Rajendranagar Law & Order Police Station for further action.Police have registered a case under charges of allowing a minor to drive a vehicle, dangerous driving, and disobedience of police orders. Officials said strict action would be taken as per the law against those responsible. India’s first all-electric roadster is the MG Cyberster.

Concerns over the grave dangers of underage driving on public roads are raised by the luxury electric roadster, which costs about Rs 75 lakh and can accelerate from 0 to 100 kmph in just 3.2 seconds.Many social media users are calling for strict action against parents who permit kids to drive after the tragedy, which has sparked a broad discussion on parental responsibility and road safety.

AMCH requests an investigation on claims that Ayushman Bharat benefits were denied



Dibrugarh, Jun 19: A high-level investigation has been launched by Assam Medical College & Hospital (AMCH) into claims that a surgeon refused to treat a patient under the

Ayushman Bharat health insurance program and recommended the patient’s family to buy medications from other sources.The uproar started when local BJP politician Ujjal Kashy-

ap brought attention to the matter on social media, claiming that the patient’s guardian was first told that operation would not be performed using Ayushman Bharat-eligible medica-

The daughter of the Uddhav Sena Rebel shows allegiance to the Thackerays



New Delhi, Jun 19: As the Uddhav Thackeray-led UBT group struggles with a legislative crisis, the 60th Shiv Sena Foundation Day has turned into a pivotal occasion for the party’s unity. Intense political tension has been caused by six Lok Sabha MPs, including Sanjay Dina Patil of Mumbai Northeast, who skipped a crucial parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi and wrote to the Speaker of the

Lok Sabha to voice their disbelief in the existing leadership.

This deepening factional divide has mirrored itself uniquely within the Patil household, leading to an internal strategic split. Even as the senior Patil manoeuvres through a coordinated plan to merge the breakaway group with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde’s Shiv Sena, his daughter, Rajool Patil, a Shiv Sena (UBT) corporator, has

publicly held her ground.On the eve of the historic foundation day, she took to social media to share official UBT promotional posters and teaser greetings prominently featuring Bal Thackeray and Uddhav Thackeray. Her public reassertion of allegiance to “Matoshree” draws a stark line between family ties and organisational loyalty, creating a compelling micro-narrative of the larger struggle for the true legacy of the Sena. Patil had vehemently denied the rumors of his defection just one day before the meeting, claiming that he was still fully in the Thackeray camp.

But his subsequent absence, together with a quick increase in police presence outside his Bhandup home in the face of violent demonstrations by local party supporters, highlights a quickly developing political change. Omraje Nimbalkar (Dharashiv), Sanjay Dina Patil (Mumbai North-East), Sanjay Jadhav (Parbhani), Sanjay Deshmukh (Yavatmal-Washim), Nagesh Patil Ashtikar (Hingoli), and Bhausaeheb Vakchaure (Shirdi) are the six Uddhav Sena MPs who have defected.

For the Center’s probe commission, the Assam government is requesting district-specific data on SC certificates



Guwahati, Jun 19: In response to a request from a Central inquiry commission looking into matters pertaining to SC status and religious conversion, the Assam government has instructed all District Commissioners to provide comprehensive information on the issuance of Scheduled Caste (SC) certificates and complaints pertaining to such certificates.

The State Government requested district administrations to evaluate official documents right away and provide the necessary data within ten days in a statement released by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department. The instruction was issued in response to a request from the Inquiry Commission, which was established by the Indian government under the

Commissions of Inquiry Act of 1952 and is led by Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, a former Chief Justice of India. The commission was created by a notification dated October 6, 2022, to determine whether people who claim historical affiliation with Scheduled Castes but have since converted to religions not covered by the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, are eligible for Scheduled Caste status.The notification states that the commission has requested state-by-state data from all States and Union Territories and is in the final stages of compiling its report and recommendations for submission to the Central Government. District Commissioners have been requested to fill up the required Proforma-I with information on Scheduled Caste certificates issued by appropriate authorities. Additionally, they have been directed

NHPC and Arunachal Pradesh Agree on India’s Biggest Hydro Project in the Dibang Valley



Itanagar, Jun 19: The building of the 3,097 MW Etalin Hydroelectric Project in the Dibang Valley area, which is expected to become India’s largest hydroelectric power plant, was agreed upon by Arunachal Pradesh and NHPC Ltd. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, NHPC Director (Projects) Sanjay Kumar Singh, and other

high-ranking officials were present when the agreement was signed on Tuesday. The agreement was formally signed by NHPC Group General Manager Deepak Rattan Sagar and Joint Secretary (Hydropower) Hage Lailang. According to Khandu, the project would provide infrastructure, jobs, and development to remote places while producing close to 11,600 million units

of renewable energy yearly. The project, according to NHPC Chairman and Managing Director Bhupender Gupta, demonstrated a shared dedication to utilizing Arunachal Pradesh’s hydropower resources in a sustainable way. The project is anticipated to increase jobs and make a substantial contribution to India’s energy security and clean energy transition.

The biggest heroin seizure in Arunachal Pradesh

Itanagar , Jun 19: During a naka checking operation in Seppa on Wednesday, East Kameng Police found 108 vials of suspected heroin and detained two suspected drug dealers, the district’s highest heroin recovery to date.

A crew from the Seppa Police Station stopped the shipment along National Highway-13 after receiving particular intelligence. Along with a used insulin syringe, tiny amounts of suspected

The mystery surrounding the Nalbari child abduction case is deepened by new allegations when the accused dies following a mob assault

Nalbari, Jun 19: One of the suspects in the suspected kidnapping of a little girl in the Nalbari district of Assam, Bibek Gupta, passed away on Wednesday morning while receiving medical care at Nalbari Medical College & Hospital (NMCH).Sources claim that at around ten in the morning, Gupta, a resident of Purbanchal Nagar in Silpukhuri, passed away from



his wounds. Following the June 16 incident, he was brought to the hospital af-

ter suffering severe injuries in a public assault. The other accused, Jahedul Ali, is reportedly receiving treatment, while Gupta passed away on Wednesday from his wounds. Naina Baruah Gupta, Bibek Gupta’s wife, has filed a formal complaint (FIR) at the Chandmari police station in Guwahati, characterizing the entire episode as a “pre-planned conspiracy.” There has

been much discussion and controversy surrounding the case as a result of her accusations. In 2023, Vivek Gupta met Dali Das, the older sister of the juvenile girl engaged in the case, via Facebook, according to Naina Baruah Gupta’s lawsuit. The two later became close, according to the FIR. She further claimed that she had previously filed a complaint at the Sipajhar

police station after learning of the relationship, and that the parties had then agreed to break off all contact. But she claimed that Dali Das, her father Pramod Haloi, and her husband Madhab Das persisted in harassing Vivek Gupta and demanding money from him. Additionally, according to the FIR, Dali Das and others planned to entice Vivek Gupta to Nalbari on the

day of the event and falsely accuse him of kidnapping a child, which ultimately led to a mob attack that killed Gupta. These grave accusations have sparked further inquiries into the case’s history and true facts. The police have been urged by concerned residents to look into every facet of the occurrence in a comprehensive, unbiased, and complete manner.

supporting modern governance. One of the most significant upgrades involves the integration of artificial intelligence into India's statistical infrastructure. MoSPI has indicated that AI tools will increasingly be used to improve data collection, validation, analysis, and dissemination. The ministry is exploring how AI can automate routine statistical processes, identify inconsistencies in datasets, enhance forecasting capabilities, and improve access to information. Officials have also discussed the possibility of treating data as an economic asset under emerging international statistical frameworks. In addition, India has launched initiatives such as Data Innovation Labs and collaborations with technology partners to develop practical AI applications for official statistics. These projects are expected to strengthen analytical capabilities while reducing delays in data processing. A major milestone in the modernization effort is the government's initiative to make official datasets readable by large language models and AI systems. MoSPI recently upgraded its data portal and standardized hundreds of priority datasets to improve interoperability and machine readability. The ministry has reportedly harmonized 288 important datasets across government departments and introduced advanced metadata standards. The objective is to ensure that AI systems rely on credible and authoritative government-urate externals.

Ultraviolette enters Northeast with first experience centre in Aizawl

Aizawl: Electric vehicle manufacturer Ultraviolette Automotive has expanded its national retail and service network into Northeast India with the launch of its first UV Space Station in Aizawl, a move aimed at strengthening its presence in one of the country’s fast-est-growing two-wheeler markets. The new experience centre, established in partnership with MSS Motors, marks the company’s entry into the region and will offer customers a comprehensive ownership ecosystem, including sales, service, accessories, merchandise and personalized test rides.

The launch comes as Ultraviolette accelerates efforts to build a wider electric mobility ecosystem across India. The company recently rolled out its “Kill the Petrol Bill” programme



to boost EV adoption and announced a collaboration with Bolt.Earth to expand the country’s Type 6 charging infrastructure. Customers at the Aizawl-centre will have access to Ultraviolette’s performance electric motorcycles, including the X-47 Crossover and F77 range. The motorcycles deliver 40.2 hp

of power and 100 Nm of torque, enabling acceleration from 0 to 60 kmph in 2.8 seconds. Powered by a 10.3 kWh battery pack, the vehicles offer an IDC-certified range of 323 km on a single charge. Ultraviolette CEO and Co-founder Narayan Subramaniam said the Northeast’s strong motorcycling

culture and growing interest in electric mobility made Aizawl a strategic choice for the company’s first regional experience centre. He added that the expansion would improve customer access to the company’s technology-driven electric motorcycles while supporting the growth of an EV community in the region.

iPhone owners alert! Your lock screen is about to get smarter with iOS 27

Mumbai: Apple has officially rolled out the iOS 27 beta for developers, and many have already started to test new features and upgrades across the user interface. If you are someone who likes to customise smartphone experience, then you may want to pay close attention to the latest lock screen upgrades. From wallpaper customisation to AI-powered upgrades, iOS 27 introduces several changes that make the lock screen more useful and personalised. Here’s a look at the five biggest new features coming to your iPhone lock screen. Adjust Liquid Glass opacity: With iOS 27, Apple introduced a new Liquid Glass slider under “Appearance” in Settings, where iPhone users can adjust between more transparent, tinted, or

something in between look that matches the style and readability. However, the changes will be applied to the entire system. Generate Wallpapers: This is a new AI-powered feature in Image Playground, where users can generate Lock Screen wallpapers. Users can customise, look, scene, background, mood, and others with a simple written text prompt. Once generated, the AI image can be directly set as a lock screen wallpaper. Wallpaper extension feature: iOS 27 comes with a feature that allows users to expand wallpaper. Powered by Apple Intelligence, the feature can automatically extend a photo’s background, allowing it to fit the entire Lock Screen seamlessly. With the “Extend” option, iOS 27 can automatically generate extra parts of the image around the edges. These added parts are created to match the original photo, so everything looks natural and blended. Compact clock mode: The lock screen customisation setting also includes a new



compact clock layout that makes the interface look cleaner and highlights your wallpaper more than before. The compact and smaller clock is placed near the top and sits alongside the date and widgets.

New Siri interface: With iOS 27, Apple introduced Siri AI with a revamped AI-powered experience and design. Siri no longer uses a glowing edge effect. Instead, it appears inside the Dynamic Island, and responses show in a smaller, cleaner layout so it doesn’t take over the Lock Screen.

From wallpaper customisation to AI-powered upgrades, iOS 27 introduces several changes that make the lock screen more useful and personalised.

Turtlemint IPO: Experts split despite strong anchor demand

Mumbai: Brokerages have delivered a split verdict on the initial public offering (IPO) of technology-enabled insurance distribution platform Turtlemint Fintech Solutions, which opens for public subscription on Friday, June 19, 2026.

The company aims to raise ₹882.67 crore through a combination of a fresh issue and an offer for sale (OFS) of equity shares. Despite the strong anchor book, analysts remain divided on the public issue. While SMIFS has recommended subscribing to the IPO, Swastika Investmart has assigned it an ‘Avoid’ rating.

SMIFS recommends subscription SMIFS has recommended subscribing to the issue from a long-term perspective, citing the expansion of the PoSP network, rising insurance penetration, improving advisor productivity, cross-selling opportunities in financial products, AI-led scalability, deeper insurer partnerships, and regulatory growth opportunities.

Ahead of the IPO, Turtlemint raised ₹397.20 crore from 32 anchor investors, including ICICI Prudential Equity & Debt Fund, BNP Paribas Financial Markets, Mirae Asset Multicap & Aggressive Hybrid Funds, Amansa Holdings, Border to Coast Emerging Markets Equity, and Edelweiss Mutual Fund, among others. The company allotted 2.61 crore equity shares to anchor investors at ₹152 apiece, the upper end of the price band. SMIFS said Turtlemint is well-positioned to capitalise on this opportunity through its distribution franchise of over 507,000 certified PoSPs and 632,000 Digital Partners, extensive pan-India reach, and strong presence in B30+ markets, which contribute 75.1 per cent of



platform premium.

The brokerage also highlighted the company’s diversified ecosystem of 45 insurer partners. Improving advisor economics, reflected in a 2.8x growth in FY20 cohort earnings by FY25, and a retention rate of 69.5 per cent after two years are expected to support scalability and operating leverage.

“Further, expansion into mutual funds (₹1280 crore AUM) and loan distribution, coupled with AI-led automation, strong network effects and opportunities under the MGA framework, provide additional long-term growth levers,” said SMIFS. Swastika Investmart, however, has assigned an ‘Avoid’ rating to the issue. The brokerage said the IPO may suit only long-term, high-risk investors betting on the company’s market leadership and may not be suitable for investors seeking listing gains.

The brokerage flagged concerns over the company’s financial profile, noting that it remains loss-making, with a negative return on net worth (RoNW) of 47.29 per cent. “Valuation is rich at around 6.8x FY25 revenue despite continued losses. High regulatory dependence and a volatile revenue history — with FY24 witnessing an 81 per cent

year-on-year decline — make growth difficult to extrapolate confidently. Additionally, high dependence on Digital Partner costs, which account for 70–77 per cent of expenses, means profitability hinges on future scale rather than current fundamentals,” said Swastika Investmart. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of 43.5 million equity shares aggregating ₹660.72 crore and an OFS of 14.6 million shares aggregating ₹221.95 crore

The issue is priced in the range of ₹144–152 per share, with a lot size of 98 shares. Investors can bid for a minimum of 98 shares and in multiples thereafter.

At the upper end of the price band, retail investors will need to invest a minimum of ₹14,896 for one lot. The maximum retail investment, comprising 13 lots or 1,274 shares, works out to ₹1,93,648.

Grey market premium Grey market trends indicate muted sentiment towards the issue. According to market sources, the company’s unlisted shares were trading at ₹154.25 apiece, implying a grey m The public issue will close for subscription on June 23, 2026. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalised on June 24, 2026.

Shares of Turtlemint Fintech Solutions are scheduled to list on the stock ex-

Despite the strong anchor book, analysts remain divided on the public issue. While SMIFS has recommended subscribing to the IPO, Swastika Investmart has assigned it an ‘Avoid’ rating

changes on June 29, 2026.

ICICI Securities, Jefferies India, JM Financial, and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors are the book-running lead managers to the issue, while KFin Technologies is the registrar. Use of proceeds The company will not receive any proceeds from the OFS component, as the funds will be paid to the selling shareholders. However, the proceeds from the fresh issue, Turtlemint Fintech said, will be used towards cloud and server infrastructure, salaries for technology and product development teams, marketing initiatives, lease payments for existing properties of the company and its wholly owned subsidiary TIB, investment in TIB for working capital requirements, funding inorganic growth through unidentified acquisitions and strategic initiatives, and general corporate purposes. arket premium (GMP) of ₹2.25 per share, or 1.48 per cent over the upper end of the IPO price band.

Accenture impact: Nifty IT index cracks 6%; TCS, Infy, TechM plunge up to 8%

Mumbai: Shares of information technology (IT) companies were under pressure, falling up to 8 per cent on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Friday’s intra-day deals. The fall came after Accenture narrowed its annual revenue growth forecast and issued weaker-than-expected fourth-quarter guidance, despite steady quarterly earnings. Accenture shares fell over 14 per cent on Thursday.

Share price of Infosys and Mphasis tanked 8 per cent each, while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tech Mahindra and Persistent Systems plunged 7 per cent each. HCL Technologies, LTM and Coforge were down 6 per cent each.

The Nifty IT index tumbled 6.4 per cent on the NSE in intra-day deals to 26,634.50. The IT index was quoting at its lowest level since April 21, 2023. At 09:23 AM on Friday, the Nifty IT index was the top loser among sectoral indices, down 5.7 per cent, as compared to 0.82 per cent decline in the Nifty 50. In the past five months, Nifty IT index underperformed the market by plunging 32 per cent, as compared to 6.3 per cent decline in the Nifty 50

Accenture’s Q3 commentary Accenture has guided for 1-5 per cent growth in constant currency (CC) terms for 4QFY26E, and expects 0.5 per cent headwind from currency movements in 4QFY26E

The company has lowered its FY26E guidance band for revenue growth from 3-5 per cent to 3-4 per cent y-y in CC terms largely due to



the West Asia conflict and two large deals slipping into FY27E (due to client-specific issues). For FY26E, Accenture expects around +2 per cent tailwind from currency movements and 1 per cent headwind from its US business. FY26E adjusted EBIT margin guidance came in at 15.8 per cent versus previous the guidance band of 15.7-15.9 per cent. Overall, Accenture’s commentary, according to analysts at Choice Institutional Equities, suggests that AI is becoming an increasingly meaningful demand driver; however, it remains insufficient to offset near-term weakness from discretionary spending pressures, elongated deal cycles and delayed large-program conversions. Adding: “We continue to recommend selecting stocks which has decent growth visibility through well-balanced portfolio on the cost take out and discretionary/AI led transformational spend. We prefer Infosys and TechM amongst large-caps and Mphasis, eClerx and KPIT Tech

amongst the midcaps on a relative basis.” The brokerage firm expects a gradual recovery trajectory for Indian IT rather than a broad-based acceleration in FY27. Within Tier-1, their analysts prefer Infosys and Tech Mahindra. Among mid-caps, Persistent Systems and Coforge are their preferred ideas.

“We remain watchful regarding the discretionary spend outlook in CY26E/FY27E. Accenture’s 4QFY26E growth guidance implies that macro-led demand issues for the Indian IT sector may continue in H1-FY27 (April 2026-September 2026) and its major adverse impact, if any, on the growth estimates for FY27,” wrote analysts at Equirus Securities

The Q3 commentary suggests the demand environment remains mixed, with strong AI-led transformation demand offset by weak discretionary spending and elongated decision cycles. For FY26, management expects consulting growth in low single digits and managed

services growth in mid-single digits.

Revenue miss

There was a direct impact of around \$100 million revenue miss in Q3-FY26 from the West Asia business (all consulting-type work). The Automotive vertical which was already a challenged sector, Accenture said, saw added pressure due to higher oil/gas prices. However, the company highlighted growing momentum in AI (100 new advanced AI projects added), cyber security and platform-led offerings, while acquisitions such as Dargos, runZero and NetRise expand its exposure to a \$27 billion fast-growing market of cyber security OT. Brokerages view on IT sector, stocks For Indian IT services, the read-through remains largely unchanged - AI-led demand and large deal activity are supporting growth, but the broader recovery is still gradual rather than broad-based. Analysts at Nomura believe that the West Asia conflict is expected to have some effect on the revenues and deal bookings in Q1-FY27 for the Indian IT majors. “In our view, the indirect impacts can continue in Q2-FY27 as it is not clear how quickly spending behaviour will normalise, particularly in challenged sectors like auto. We prefer Infosys (Buy) and Cognizant (Buy) in large-caps; Coforge (Buy) in mid-caps; eClerx (Buy) in the small-cap IT segment,” wrote Abhishek Bhandari and Karan Nain of Nomura in a recent note.

5 key expectations from Reliance Industries’ AGM Jio IPO to AI strategy

New Delhi: RIL AGM 2026 expectations: Reliance Industries Limited’s (RIL) 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM) is set to take place on June 19 (Friday), with the Street expecting clarity on the timeline for the Jio IPO, among other key announcements. Here are the five big expectations from RIL’s AGM.

1. Jio Platforms IPO timeline: Management previously indicated that they would target a listing for Jio Platforms during the first half of the calendar year 2026. Since that window is fast approaching, the street will be keenly watching for a firm timeline regarding the Jio Platforms IPO. This segment is expected to be one of the fastest-growing verticals for RIL over the next three to four years, with the potential to contribute close to ₹10,000 to ₹11,000 crore in profitability by 2030. Any commentary or clarity on this business will be highly appreciated by the street.

A clear schedule will be an important re-rating trigger, potentially leading to a better-than-expected listing and an upgraded outlook for Reliance on a sum-of-the-parts (SOTP) valuation basis. 2. New Energy business commercialisation: Reliance has been investing heavily in its New Energy business over the last four to five years. While this segment has historically been a drag on overall cash flow and the balance sheet, it is now on the verge of kickstarting commercial operations. 3. Reliance Retail growth strategy: During the last AGM, management guided that its Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) business, along with Jio Platforms, could double in size over five years. With one year already passed, the market will look for guidance during the remaining four years regarding



the growth trajectory. The retail business witnessed a slight slowdown in FY26 due to multiple macroeconomic headwinds and challenges. As consumer sentiment improves and Reliance expands its offerings across multiple product lines, investors will closely monitor the future outlook for the retail segment.

4. Traditional Oil-to-Chemicals (O2C) outlook: RIL’s traditional Oil & Gas and Oil-to-Chemicals (O2C) business faced significant challenges during FY26. Higher crude oil prices and supply-side disruptions during parts of the year, coupled with rising input costs on the petrochemical side, impacted performance. The market will closely examine the outlook for the O2C and petrochemical business. However, the primary focus of this AGM is expected to shift toward the non-oil and gas segments, as they are anticipated to be the key growth drivers for Reliance over the next three to five years. As the revenue contribution from non-O2C businesses increases, it increases the probability of a valuation re-rating. 5. Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy: Investors are eager to see Reliance’s overarching strategy and participation in the AI space. During the last AGM, partnerships were announced with Meta to leverage AI opportunities.

Trump and Pezeshkian Memorandum Aimed at Ending U.S. War on Iran

Iran: The United States and Iran have officially signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at ending the war in Iran. President Trump signed the agreement at a dinner at the Palace of Versailles hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron, hours after the G7 summit wrapped up in Évian. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the agreement in Tehran; he later shared the memorandum on social media, calling it a “historical document and a message from a powerful Iran.” The 14-point agreement calls for an immediate end to fighting on all fronts, including Lebanon; the full resumption of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz; the lifting of the U.S. blockade; the waiving of U.S. sanctions on Iran; the unfreezing of Iranian assets; and a \$300 billion investment fund to rebuild Iran. Iran’s lead negotiator, Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, said, “Everything we sought to achieve through military action, we obtained several times over through negotiation; it was not even comparable.” On Capitol Hill, some lawmakers have criticized Trump’s deal, with Republican Senator Bill Cassidy calling it the “worst foreign policy blunder in decades.” Meanwhile, President Trump has signaled that no one will face consequences for the U.S. cruise missile strikes that killed more than 175 people at a school in Minab on the first day of U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran last February. Most of the victims were schoolgirls. Peace activists rallied in Baltimore on Wednesday to celebrate a decision by the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System to divest most of its holdings in Israeli sovereign bonds. This is Evie Frankl, a member of Jewish Voice for Peace and the Break the Bonds Campaign and the daughter of Holocaust survivors.

In Haiti, at least 1.5 million people have been displaced and forced to live in makeshift shelters due to rising gang violence across the country. That’s according to new data announced by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres during a visit to Haiti Tuesday. Guterres spoke from the capital Port-au-Prince. Secretary-General António Guterres: “Since the start of the year, gang violence has killed more than 2,300 people and wounded more than 1,100. It has paralyzed the state, the economy, education and the delivery of aid. Yet the greatest shame is not gang violence. The greatest shame is indifference, a world that looked the other way for too long.”Guterres welcomed the deployment of a new U.N.-backed force to combat gangs — approved by the U.N. Security Council in September — that will replace Kenyan police troops. But

many Haitians have opposed further foreign intervention in Haiti, denouncing a history of political and economic destabilization.

Evie Frankl: “When we started this campaign, held about \$73-\$74 million worth of Israel bonds, and currently we’re down to \$11 million in Israel bonds. That’s an 85% reduction in their holdings. And we’re declaring that a victory, but we want them to divest the other \$11 million, and we want a policy to make clear that they can’t reinvest.” President Donald Trump: “If it was a fault — and as you know, that’s under investigation — it’s such a strange question to be asked at this state, talking about a long time ago, but nobody did that on purpose.” Ukrainian drones have struck a massive oil refinery in Russia’s capital region for the second time in a week, sending thick black smoke over Moscow and halting flights at the city’s four airports. Elsewhere, Russian officials say one woman was injured as debris from downed Ukrainian drones fell on homes, cars, a fitness center, a large mall and an industrial site. In Gaza, at least two Palestinians were killed and another left wounded after Israel bombed the southern Gaza Strip. The attack targeted al-Mawasi, a crowded tent camp that Israel had designated as a so-called humanitarian zone. The latest killings bring the number of deaths since Israel agreed to a U.S.-brokered so-called “ceasefire deal” with Hamas in October to more than 1,000. Israel now occupies 64% of the Gaza Strip — far more than the 53% allowed under the October agreement. California Democratic Congressmember Ro Khanna has become the first member of Congress to sign a pledge not to take money from pro-Israel lobbying groups. The PEACE Pledge stands for the Pledge to Enforce American law, Counter foreign influence, and End war crimes. It was created by the group Track AIPAC, which tracks political spending by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.Rep. Ro Khanna: “It’s pretty commonsense. It means that we shouldn’t be sending our tax dollar money for foreign wars overseas. We should be spending it here at home. And it says that we shouldn’t be taking money from AIPAC or all of its affiliate PACs or bundled money from those organizations, and that we have to recognize the genocide that took place in Gaza.”The PEACE Pledge includes a promise to support the First Amendment rights of people critical of the state of Israel, including supporters of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, or BDS, movement.

Haitian Immigrants Call on Supreme Court to Toss Case Seeking to End Protected

Iran: Lawyers for Haitian immigrants are petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to dismiss the Trump administration’s efforts to end temporary protected status, TPS, for more than 300,000 Haitians living in the United States. This comes as evidence uncovered during ongoing litigation has raised serious questions regarding the process Trump officials used to terminate the relief. The Department of Homeland Security announced Thursday that all immigrants detained at an isolated ICE jail in the Florida Everglades, known as “Alligator Alcatraz,” have been transferred to other facilities across the U.S. ahead of the approaching hurricane season. DHS did not say whether the embattled ICE jail would be closed. Advocates warn those transferred from the jail have been disappeared, with their whereabouts unknown to family members. People detained at the Everglades ICE jail have described egregious abuses, including the denial of medical care and being placed in a 2×2-foot cage-like structure as punishment, according to Amnesty International.

Georgia’s state Legislature has rejected a push by President Trump to redraw congressional and legislative districts. Republican Governor Brian Kemp had proposed a special session to revise Georgia’s political maps ahead of the 2028 elections. But on Wednesday, Republican lawmakers revolted, declaring there would be no vote on redistricting, after protesters filled the state Capitol, many of them chanting, “Black voters matter!” This is Tennessee state Representative Justin Jones, who traveled to Atlanta to join the protests. Rep. Justin Jones: “I’m here because what happens in Atlanta is connected to what happens in Nashville, connected to what happens in Jackson, Mississippi, connected to what happens in Montgomery, Alabama. They’re waging a battle against multiracial democracy in the South, so we have to show up for each other. But what we saw in real time was the power of people. You saw an almost entirely white caucus up there who represents the new Confederacy. We represent a new South that is multiracial, rooted in racial justice, rooted in protecting our vote.”The Trump administration has launched a legal fight to block the United States’ first-ever reparations program which serves Black community members of Evanston, Illinois. The program was approved by Evanston city councilmembers in 2021, allotting some \$20 million to Black residents who lived in the city between 1919 and 1969, or their direct descendants, over discriminatory housing policies and the lasting impacts of slavery. Robin Rue Simmons, who pioneered the program and now serves as the chairperson of Evanston’s Reparations Committee, denounced the Trump administration’s lawsuit as a “fear tactic.”

Terrorist Attack at Niger Airport Kills 11 Soldiers, Security Forces Eliminate 22 Militants



Niamey: A terrorist attack struck Di-ori Hamani International Airport in Niger’s capital, Niamey, in the early hours of Thursday, with explosions and heavy gunfire continuing for more than an hour. According to the Niger Republic’s military government’s preliminary report, 11 soldiers and 22 terrorists were killed in the attack.

According to a report by the English-language newspaper Premier Times Nigeria, two civilians also lost their lives. The gunfire reportedly began near the airport’s main entrance, after which security forces cordoned off the entire airport complex. Local residents said that the attackers began fleeing in different directions after the military sealed off the area. Nigerian security forces pursued the terrorists, who abandoned a cache of weapons while escaping.No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. However, a similar assault targeted the same airport in January this year.

During the January attack, militants linked to the Islamic State in the Sahel (IS-Sahel) launched a coordinated assault using mortars and drones. They targeted

both the civilian terminal and the adjacent Air Base 101, a key strategic hub for the country’s military operations.During that attack, Russian Africa Corps fighters fought alongside Nigerian troops, killing several militants and capturing others alive. The assault also caused extensive damage to the runway, military vehicles, and commercial aircraft.

Niger has been battling an organised Islamist insurgency for more than a decade. Like its neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso, the country is currently under military rule. The military government seized power after pledging to decisively end the widespread regional violence.Today, Niger remains at the centre of a complex, multi-front battle against violent extremism, which has destabilised the wider Sahel region since the mid-2010s.The country is currently confronting multiple insurgent groups. In the west, near the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, it is fighting IS-Sahel and Jama’at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM), an al-Qaeda-affiliated group. In the south-east, near Lake Chad, Niger is battling Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP).

Trump Pressed Hard for Iran Deal, Says Khamenei as Hormuz Reopens

Iran: Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei on Thursday claimed that US President Donald Trump aggressively pursued a peace agreement with Tehran, saying the American leader relied on “all kinds of leverage” to secure a deal aimed at ending months of military confrontation.In his first public address since the memorandum of understanding was signed, Khamenei said he had initially opposed the agreement but eventually approved it after receiving assurances from Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and the country’s Supreme National Security Council that Iran’s national interests and regional allies would be protected.The remarks came a day after Washington and Tehran formally endorsed a framework designed to end the conflict and launch negotiations on broader issues, including regional security, maritime stability and Iran’s nuclear programme.As part of the initial implementation of the agreement, the United States began easing military restrictions around the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most important oil shipping routes. US Vice President JD Vance said on Thursday that American naval forces had allowed commercial vessels to resume normal movement through the strategic waterway, marking an early confidence-building measure under the accord.

According to Vance, global oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have resumed, with millions of barrels of crude oil passing through the route following the agreement. He said the United States was fulfilling its commitments under the military provisions of the deal while continuing diplomatic engagement with Iran.



The vice president also announced plans to travel to Switzerland for discussions on implementing the agreement, including measures to address Iran’s enriched uranium stockpile and ensure the uninterrupted flow of international energy supplies. No official date for the visit has been announced.Shipping activity has also begun returning to normal. Maritime industry data indicated that several international commercial vessels successfully transited the Strait of Hormuz

after months of disruption caused by the conflict. Industry experts described the development as an important step towards restoring stability in one of the world’s busiest energy corridors.Iranian state media reported that operations at the country’s southern ports had largely returned to normal, while emphasising that Iranian authorities continue to oversee security in the Strait of Hormuz and coordinate maritime traffic.Despite the progress, the agreement continues

to face political scrutiny in both Washington and the Middle East. While supporters argue that the framework reduces the risk of further conflict and protects global energy markets, critics remain concerned about its long-term impact on regional security and Iran’s nuclear ambitions.

Officials from both countries are expected to continue negotiations in the coming weeks as they work towards a broader and more comprehensive peace agreement.

Trump’s Iran Agreement Sparks Republican Backlash

Iran: US President Donald Trump is facing growing criticism from members of his own Republican Party following the signing of an interim agreement with Iran aimed at ending the recent conflict and paving the way for broader negotiations over Tehran’s nuclear programme and regional security.The preliminary agreement, signed earlier this week, seeks to halt hostilities, keep the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz open for global shipping, and create a framework for further diplomatic negotiations between Washington and Tehran. The document was circulated to members of the US Congress on Thursday, prompting lawmakers from both parties to seek greater clarity on its provisions. Several Republican lawmakers voiced strong reservations about the agreement, arguing that it grants significant concessions to Iran without securing sufficient commitments in return. Critics have particularly questioned reported provisions involving the release of frozen Iranian assets, the easing of certain economic sanctions, and the establishment

of an investment mechanism intended to support Iran’s economy if future negotiations progress. Republican Senator Bill Cassidy described the agreement as “the worst foreign policy blunder in decades,” arguing that Iran’s nuclear ambitions had not been adequately restrained. He also expressed concern that Tehran could interpret the agreement as a sign that threatening maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz yields diplomatic advantages. Senator Roger Wicker, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, also questioned the framework, saying it appeared to risk undermining the military gains achieved during the conflict. He opposed easing sanctions or releasing Iranian funds before Iran makes concrete and verifiable commitments on its nuclear programme and regional activities.Respondingto the criticism on Thursday, President Trump defended the agreement through a social media post, rejecting claims that his administration had been too lenient toward Iran. He argued that the deal had already helped stabilise

global markets, lower oil prices and reduce the risk of a prolonged military conflict, insisting that diplomacy would better serve American interests than an extended war.The agreement has also generated debate among conservative commentators. Some influential Republican voices argued that the framework does not adequately address Iran’s missile capabilities or permanently diplomatic approach, describing the agreement as an opportunity to prevent another prolonged conflict in the Middle East while maintaining pressure on Iran through future negotiations. They argued that the framework could provide a pathway to a broader and more durable settlement if Tehran complies with its commitments. Lawmakers from both political parties have called for detailed briefings from the White House on the agreement and its implementation. Under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (INARA), any future agreement involving Iran’s nuclear programme and sanctions relief may be subject to congressional review before taking full effect.The interim accord



represents an important diplomatic step after weeks of heightened tensions in the region. However, with negotiations expected to continue in the coming weeks, the agreement is likely to remain the subject

of intense political debate in Washington as lawmakers scrutinise its long-term implications for US national security, Middle East stability and global energy markets.

8 Glamorous Accessories to Refresh Your Wardrobe

The maximalist bling trend has returned, with Gen Z and millennials incorporating sparkle, sequins, and rhinestones into their daily attire. These selections make the act of dressing up enjoyable once more. Minimalism enjoyed a significant period of popularity. The clean girl aesthetic introduced us to neutral wardrobes, understated luxury, and outfits that appeared effortlessly coordinated, but the fashion world is now making a statement once more. This time, it is expressing itself through sequins, rhinestones, shimmer, and bold sparkle. Maximalist fashion is officially making its comeback, and Gen Z and millennials are leading the charge. The new-age approach to bling is not about looking like you are heading to a 2000s award show. It is about mixing glamour with everyday style, adding personality to outfits, and embracing clothes that actually feel fun.

From Beyoncé-inspired sparkle moments to Y2K fashion revivals and partywear taking over social feeds, high-shine pieces are everywhere. Today’s bling trend feels more wearable. A rhinestone top can work with baggy jeans, a sequin skirt can be balanced with basics, and a statement dress can do all the talking without needing a dozen accessories. Basically, your



wardrobe is getting permission to have a little more fun. Here are some sparkling pieces to bring back the shine

1. Leriya Fashion Sequin Dress: A sequin dress is the easiest way to embrace maximalist fashion because it does all the talking for you. This black and red sequin number brings that perfect party-ready energy with its bold shimmer and bodycon silhouette. The contrast colour palette makes it feel glamorous without being predictable, while the sparkle catches the light beautifully, exactly what a statement outfit should do.

Style tip: Keep accessories sleek. Let the sequins be the jewellery.

2. Women Sparkly Sequin Tassel Skirt: Fringe, shimmer, and movement? This piece understands the assignment. Tassel skirts are getting a fresh fashion moment thanks to the Y2K and maximalist revival. The playful sparkle adds drama and gives your outfit that “something extra” factor. Whether styled for a party, vacation look, or a fun night out, this piece proves that fashion can be expressive.

Style tip: Balance the drama with a fitted black or white top.

3. The Style Studio Rhinestone Tube Top: Rhinestones are officially leaving the “special occasion only” category. This embellished tube top brings sparkle into modern party dressing with its geometric rhinestone pattern and sleek strapless design. It is proof that you don’t need a full glitter outfit to participate in the trend, sometimes one statement piece is enough.

Style tip: Pair it with wide-leg trousers or baggy jeans for a cool Gen Z-inspired contrast.

4. Leriya Fashion Black & Red Sequin Dress: Another take on the sequin dress trend, this piece is made for anyone who believes outfits should have a little personality.

The bold finish gives classic partywear a maximalist update, making it perfect for celebrations, date nights, or evenings where you want your outfit to stand out.

Style tip: Add a sleek hairstyle and minimal heels to keep the look modern.

5. SHAYE Purple Embellished Party Top: Bling does not always have to mean silver and gold. Coloured embellishments are becoming a huge part of the new maximalist wave. This purple embellished top brings together rich colour and sparkle, making it a statement piece that feels youthful and fashion-forward.

Style tip: Pair with black trousers or a leather skirt for a night-out look.

6. Gold Sparkly Deep V Neck Crop Tank Top: Metallics are having a serious comeback, and gold continues to be the ultimate “main character” shade. This sparkly crop tank brings instant glamour while still being easy to style. It is the kind of piece that can turn a simple outfit into a full look.

Style tip: Style it with denim to make the shimmer feel effortless.

7. CHICME Rhinestone Sparkly Tank Top: The biggest update to the bling trend? Sparkle is no longer waiting for a party invite. Rhinestone basics are becoming wardrobe staples, with shiny tanks and embellished tops being styled for concerts, dinners, vacations, and casual outings.

Style tip: Throw on an oversized blazer or denim jacket to make it everyday-friendly.

8. Nashville Sparkly Rhinestone Fringe Crop Top: For those who love a little extra drama, this rhinestone fringe top brings together two maximalist favourites: sparkle and movement. The fringe detail creates a fun, statement-making effect, while the rhinestones add that reflective partywear finish.

Style tip: Pair with simple bottoms and let the top steal the spotlight.

Skincare Products for Oily Skin Under Enhance the firmness of your facial appearance

From lightweight Korean sunscreens to oil-controlling serums and gel-based moisturizers, these products can assist oily skin in remaining comfortable during heat, humidity, and extended summer days.

If you have oily skin, Indian summers can feel like a constant battle. You start the day with a fresh face, apply sunscreen and perhaps a moisturiser, only to find yourself looking shiny again by lunchtime. Add sweat, humidity, pollution and long commutes, and even a simple skincare routine can start feeling uncomfortable. The good news is that you don’t need a shelf full of expensive products to make a difference. A handful of well-chosen products can help control excess oil, keep pores clear and make your skin feel more comfortable throughout the day. For this list, we focused on skincare products under Rs 1,500 that work particularly well for oily skin during Indian summers.

1. Beauty of Joseon Relief Sun SPF50+: Price: Rs 1,200, after 20% discount

Why it stands out

A lot of sunscreens promise to feel lightweight. This is one of the few that actually does. The formula feels more like a moisturiser than a traditional sunscreen, making it easier to wear every day. Instead of leaving skin feeling coated or sticky, it blends in quickly and sits comfortably even during hot weather.

2. COSRX Advanced Snail 96 Mucin Essence: Price: Rs 942, after 34% discount

Why it stands out

Oily skin can still become dehydrated, especially after long hours in air-conditioning or sun exposure. Hydrated skin isn’t necessarily oily skin. In fact, some people produce more oil when their skin is dehydrated. This essence adds hydration without the heavy feeling often associated with creams and lotions. Many users find their skin feels calmer and more balanced after consistent use.

3. Minimalist Niacinamide 10% Serum: Price: Rs 570, after 10% discount

Why it stands out

If your face looks shiny just a few hours after washing it, niacinamide is one of the ingredients worth paying attention to. This serum focuses on helping regulate excess oil while improving overall skin texture and the appearance of pores.

4. Paula’s Choice 2% BHA Liquid Exfoliant: Price: Rs 1,200 for 20-50ml bottle

Why it stands out

This product has earned cult



status for a reason. Salicylic acid remains one of the best-known ingredients for oily and acne-prone skin because it works inside pores, helping clear excess oil and build-up.

5. Clinique Moisture Surge 15ml: Price: Rs 950, after 21% discount

Why it stands out

Many moisturisers feel too rich for Indian summers. This one doesn’t. The gel-cream texture provides hydration while remaining surprisingly light on the skin.

6. Neutrogena Hydro Boost Water Gel: Price: Rs 749, after 37% discount

Why it stands out

This remains one of the most popular gel moisturisers globally. It absorbs quickly and leaves skin feeling refreshed rather than coated.

7. Bioderma Sebium Gel Mousse: Price: Rs 809, after 10% discount

Why it stands out

A good cleanser should remove oil without making your skin feel stripped. This French pharmacy favourite manages that balance particularly well.

8. COSRX Low pH Good Morning Gel Cleanser: Price: Rs 765, after 10% discount

Why it stands out

If you’re only going to buy one product from this list, make it a sunscreen you’ll genuinely enjoy wearing every day.

Which product should I buy first if I have oily skin?

If you’re only buying one product, start with the Beauty of Joseon Relief Sun SPF50+. Daily sunscreen will usually have a bigger impact on skin health than adding another serum or moisturiser. What’s the best product on this list for controlling excess oil?

The Minimalist Niacinamide 10% Serum is the most targeted option for reducing shine and helping regulate oil production throughout the day. Which product is best for acne-prone oily skin?

Paula’s Choice 2% BHA Liquid Exfoliant stands out for clogged pores, blackheads and recurring breakouts because salicylic acid works inside the pores rather than just on the skin’s surface. Do I need both a moisturiser and a sunscreen in summer?

Yes. Moisturiser and sunscreen do different jobs. A lightweight gel moisturiser such as Neutrogena Hydro Boost or Clinique Moisture Surge helps maintain hydration, while sunscreen protects against UV damage. Is COSRX Snail Mucin suitable for oily skin?

Yes. Despite the name, the texture feels much lighter than most creams. It provides hydration without leaving a heavy or greasy finish, making it popular among oily and combination skin types. Which cleanser should I choose: Bioderma Sebium or COSRX Low pH Good Morning Gel Cleanser?

Choose Bioderma Sebium if your main concern is oil control and daily cleansing. Choose the COSRX cleanser if you’re looking for a gentler, low-pH formula that supports the skin barrier. Can beginners use Paula’s Choice 2% BHA Liquid Exfoliant?

Yes, but start slowly. Using it two or three times a week is usually a better approach than applying it daily from the start, especially if you’ve never used a salicylic acid exfoliant before. What’s the best moisturiser on this list for humid Indian weather?

Neutrogena Hydro Boost Water Gel is probably the easiest recommendation for hot, humid weather because it absorbs quickly and feels extremely lightweight on oily skin. Which product gives the best value for money?

The Minimalist Niacinamide 10% Serum offers the strongest value proposition. It addresses one of the biggest oily-skin concerns, excess oil, while costing significantly less than many premium alternatives.



International Yoga Day 2026: Celebrated annually on June 21, the International Day of Yoga in 2026 will focus on the theme ‘Yoga for Healthy Ageing.’ This theme serves as a reminder that yoga is beneficial for individuals of all ages, promoting agility, activity, and flexibility in the body. But yoga is not solely limited to familiar body stretches and asanas. There’s yoga for your face, too! Known as face yoga, it is a natural beauty ritual that focuses on the face, jaw, and neck. It supports yoga’s holistic idea of wellness, showing how healthy ageing can naturally extend to skin and facial wellness too, and how yoga can truly be a head-to-toe practice.

To understand face yoga better, beauty expert Blossom Kochhar, chairperson of Blossom Kochhar Group of Companies, who has over three decades of experience, shared with HT Lifestyle what it is and how it can benefit you.

What is face yoga?

As the name suggests, face yoga focuses on your face, neck, and jaw. Kochhar stated that there are over 40 facial muscles, but we do not consciously use all of them.

“Face yoga involves basic exercises, stretches, and gentle self-massage, which wakes up facial muscles,” she added. When you regularly practise certain face yoga movements, your face may gradually look more refreshed and develop a healthier tone. The benefits of face yoga, according to Kochhar, come from consistency. Much like body workouts, the face also needs regular movement for visible changes to appear soon. “Doing these moves regularly makes a difference. The muscles in your face get toned, your circulation improves, and your lymphatic system gets moving, so your skin glows and looks healthier,” she said. What are the exercises?

Face yoga is actually simple in practice, and beginners can easily start. They need light finger pressure and repeated muscle engagement. According to WebMD, here are a few easy facial yoga exercises you can try:

1. The cheek lifter

Open your mouth to form an “O.” Fold your upper lip over your teeth. Smile. This lifts your cheek muscles up. Gently place your fingers on the top part of your cheeks. Relax your cheek muscles to return your face to the original position and lower your fingers.

Repeat this raising and lowering 10 times.

2. Happy cheeks sculpting

Smile with your lips pursed together so your teeth don’t show. Focus on smiling with the corners of your mouth. This forces your cheeks up. Put your fingers at the corners of your mouth. Slide your fingers to the tops of your cheekbones. Relax and then repeat 10 times.

3. Eyebrow lifter

Press three fingertips from each hand under each eyebrow to force your eyes open. Smile and try to push your eyebrows down. Close your eyes and roll your eyeballs up. Relax and repeat 10 times. How will your face look?

Kochhar listed out that with regular practice, your face looks: Firmer: Certain movements target facial muscles in areas such as the cheeks, jawline, and neck. More toned: Repeated muscle engagement helps improve facial definition

Fresher: Better blood circulation can support oxygen and nutrient flow to the skin. Brighter: Improved circulation may give the skin a more awake, healthy appearance. Less puffy: Gentle massage and movement support lymphatic drainage, especially around the eyes and jaws. But these will take time to show. The beauty expert reminded, “Face Yoga isn’t magic, and it won’t take the place of medical treatments or hand you instant results. Like any workout, you need to stick with it. Five to ten minutes every day works better than the occasional marathon session.”

ENTERTAINMENT

Bhuvan Arora, Vaneja Gupta welcome baby; Pritam retirement rumors denied



Mumbai : Bhuvan Arora, best known for his performance in the hit web series Farzi, has embraced a new chapter in his personal life. The actor and his wife, Vaneja Gupta, have welcomed a baby boy, sharing the happy news with fans through a heartfelt social media post.

After Arijit Singh, is ace composer Pritam also retiring from Bollywood? This question sparked a frenzy after Pritam's recent Instagram note left fans confused about his new career move. The note especially went viral due to Arijit Singh's previous retirement announcement. However, good news for Pritam's fans: he is not retiring anytime soon. Samantha

Ruth Prabhu and filmmaker Raj Nidimoru recently visited the Tirumala Tirupati temple ahead of the release of Samantha's much-awaited film Maa Inti Bangaaram. Photos from their spiritual visit have quickly gone viral on social media. Dressed in traditional attire, Samantha and Raj appeared calm and focused as they sought divine blessings before the film's release.

Actor and television host Shruti Seth has once again captured the internet's attention, this time with a heartwarming video featuring her daughter, Alina. The clip, shared on social media by Viral Bhayani, quickly went viral, with fans showering love on the mother-daugh-

ter duo and drawing comparisons between Alina and Bollywood star Alia Bhatt. Filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani is currently developing a sequel to his 2009 blockbuster 3 Idiots, starring Aamir Khan, R Madhavan and Sharman Joshi. The story is set to revisit Rancho, Farhan and Raju years after the events of the original film. The filmmaker shared that the writing process is still underway and there is considerable work left before the script is finalised. In a recent chat with The Hollywood Reporter India, he explained that the sequel will not return to college but instead explore what happens to the characters around 15-20 years later in their lives.

Taylor Swift offers behind-the-scenes look at recording 'i knew it, i knew you' for toy story 5

Washington : Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has given fans a behind-the-scenes look at the making of her 'Toy Story 5' soundtrack song, 'I Knew It, I Knew You', sharing studio footage from the day she recorded the track, according to People. The Grammy-winning artist posted a video on social media, offering insight into her creative process and describing what she called one of the most exciting days of her life. In the clip, Swift revealed that she had watched 'Toy Story 5' earlier that day and was immediately inspired to write the film's end-credit song. "I got so inspired, got the songwriter zoomies, went home, wrote the end credit song for Toy Story 5," Swift said in the video. "We have now produced it and I'm doing vocals," as per the outlet. The singer noted that the footage was recorded at 6:57 p.m. and that she had only a few hours before then-Disney CEO Bob Iger and a Pixar executive were due to visit the studio to hear the song.

"We have not recorded it



yet. And I think this is one of the most fun days of my life," she added. Swift's social media post also featured a childhood photograph of herself dressed as a cowgirl alongside her brother Austin, as well as pictures with 'Toy Story 5' director Andrew Stanton, screenplay co-writer Kenan Harris and images from the film's Los Angeles premiere. "TOMORROW WE GET TS5. Oh how I love this phenomenal movie," Swift captioned the post. "Disney and @pixar's @toystory 5 is in theaters everywhere tomorrow (!!!!!)" The singer released 'I Knew

It, I Knew You' on June 5 and, at the time, reflected on her connection to the beloved animated franchise. "Writing this song felt like a musical departure and coming home at the same time. Creating something for Jessie was a new challenge and also felt like second nature all at once," Swift wrote. "And being a Toy Story kid from the age of 5 til now... is an adventure I plan to be on, to infinity and beyond." On June 9, Swift attended the Los Angeles premiere of 'Toy Story 5', where she surprised audiences with a live performance of 'I Knew It, I Knew You' and joined

legendary composer Randy Newman for a duet of the franchise's iconic song, 'You've Got a Friend in Me'. Addressing the audience at the premiere, Swift expressed her gratitude for being associated with the film series. "It means the world to me to be a small part of the universe of these films," she said, according to People. The singer also described 'Toy Story 5' as her favourite installment in the franchise, calling the movie "insanely beautiful" and "a masterpiece." Swift praised the filmmakers and artists behind the project, saying, "If you're in this room and you worked on this film, thank you so much. Your work is amazing and I hope you're all proud of yourselves." She also paid tribute to actress Joan Cusack, who reprises her role as Jessie in the latest installment.

"It's an honor to write for her," Swift said, adding that Cusack does "such an extraordinary job" portraying the beloved character, according to People. 'Toy Story 5' arrives in theatres on June 19.

Karan Kundrra seeks parents' approval

Washington : Karan Kundrra recently proposed to Tejasswi Prakash on Desi Bling. After dating for four years, Karan sought his parents' permission before proposing to Tejasswi. After Karan made this revelation, a certain section of social media users trolled him and argued that he should have proposed to his girlfriend anyway. Karan has now defended his choice.

In a recent chat with Sid-dharth Kannan, Karan Kundrra asked, "Agar aap parents se nahi puchoge, agar aap apne bhaiyon se nahi puchoge, to kisse puchoge (If not parents and siblings, who will you even consult?)" He mentioned that involving one's family in important life decisions is not a bad thing. "Kisi aur ke aane se aap apne parents ke position nahi bhul jaoge (you will not forget your parents if someone enters your life)," he said. The actor said that it is sad if people think that one should not involve their parents in their life decisions and sternly called out the trolls for their opinions. He said that even Tejasswi Prakash had no issues with Karan consulting his parents. Karan said, "Jo log mer-eko comment kar rahe hain na ki you should not talk to your parents, bhai kon si duniya mein paida hue ho? Hindustan mein paida hue ho ki kahi Kardashians ke ghar paida hue ho tumlog (People keep telling me that I shouldn't consult my parents before making a decision. But what world are they living in? Were they born and raised in India, or in the Kardashians' household?)"

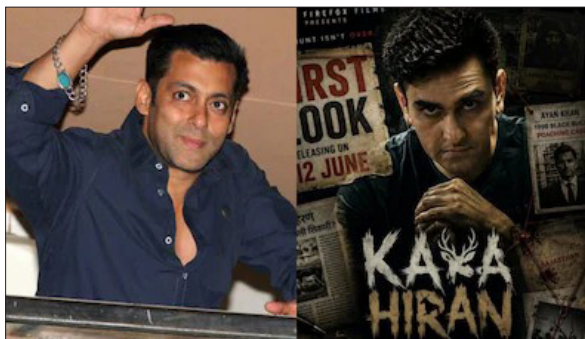


'Salman's bracelet not patented': Kala Hiran director says, 'can't alter my actor's look'

Mumbai : The row surrounding Kala Hiran: The Battle For Legacy is only getting thicker. After Govind Namdev distanced himself from the film for not wanting to be a part of story against Salman Khan, director Bharat S Shrinatol told News18 that unlike the veteran actor's claim that he didn't know what the film entailed, he was very much in the thick of things.

For the unversed, the first look video of Kala Hiran opened a floodgate of chatter.

It's based on the 1998 black-buck poaching case allegedly involving Salman. The teaser featured actor Kashif Iqbal Khan in a character named Ayaan Khan, who bears a strong resemblance to Salman, complete with the superstar's signature turquoise bracelet. Bharat now exclusively tells us, "The bracelet isn't a patented accessory. If Salman feels that only he can wear it, he should get it patented. That bracelet shouldn't be made available anywhere else in the world. I



completely disagree with the narrative that this film or this character is based on Salman. Our character isn't Salman Khan. This is just a film!"

Kala Hiran may have avoided using the superstar's real name but what about the uncanny resemblance between him and Kashif? "Nawazud-

din Siddiqui had once played the role of Balasaheb Thackeray in a film [Thackeray]. He was made to look like him through prosthetics and make-up. But in our film, we haven't made use of any prosthetics. Our actor naturally looks like Salman," he asserts. "I can't change how he looks. I couldn't have used prosthetics on him to make him look like someone that he's not. Kya kar sakte hai? Agar kisi ko pareshaani ho rahi hai isse, toh main kya bolu?" Bharat adds. Meanwhile, Salman

has approached the Delhi HC seeking a stay on Kala Hiran. Through his legal counsel, he has argued that the film also violates an order protecting his personality rights.

Reacting to it, Bharat jeers, "Salman Khan isn't god. He isn't my godfather. He can't stop me. Neither can he destroy me and my career nor make me and my career." While the maker doesn't mind the dissent surrounding his film, a legal notice hasn't sat well with him. "I always welcome healthy discussions.

Everyone has a viewpoint. Cinema is meant to spark conversations," he says. He continues, "But ultimately, it's the audience who'll decide the impact and value of the film. Our film has been made with the collective effort of so many people. And now, suddenly, someone has sent us a legal notice. They're trying to stall our film. Bura toh lagta hai. A lot of planning and research goes into writing and making a film. And we've been planning to make this film for years."

Akshay Kumar seeks blessings at Vaishno Devi before Welcome to the Jungle release



Mumbai : Akshay Kumar was recently spotted visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, and videos from his spiritual trip are now making rounds on social media. The actor's visit comes ahead of the release of Welcome To The Jungle, adding to the excitement among fans eagerly waiting for the upcoming film.

Mirror Now shared the video on its Instagram handle. Akshay Kumar is seen dressed ethnic wear and walking towards the temple amid tight security. His visit

comes ahead of his upcoming film release. The film is releasing on June 26. It features Akshay Kumar in the lead role, along with Suniel Shetty, Arshad Warsi, Disha Patani, Jacqueline Fernandez, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Jackie Shroff, Urvashi Rautela, Paresh Rawal, Johny Lever, Rajpal Yadav, Shreyas Talpade, Tusshar Kapoor, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda and Daler Mehendi, among others. The trailer opens with a high-energy introduction of the film's en-

semble cast, setting the tone for a chaotic comedy filled with confusion, madness and rapid-fire humour. Staying true to the spirit of the Welcome franchise, the trailer brings together multiple characters, overlapping situations and a sense of comic disorder that has long defined the series. One of the major highlights is a throwback to the iconic Majnu Bhai moment from the original Welcome. The character, played by Anil Kapoor in the first film, remains one of the most loved comic figures from the franchise, and the reference in the new trailer is likely to strike a chord with fans.

Akshay Kumar appears to be one of the biggest highlights of the trailer: His comic timing, screen presence and return to a large-scale ensemble comedy have become major talking points among fans.

Imtiaz Ali on Main Vaapas Aaunga: expected slow start, says it's 'not a star-driven film'

Imtiaz Ali, Diljit brings poster appeal

Mumbai : Imtiaz Ali's latest film, Main Vaapas Aaunga, has been receiving a lot of love since its release. Starring Vedang Raina, Sharvari, Naseeruddin Shah and Diljit Dosanjh, the film is being lauded for its strong performances and compelling story. However, the appreciation has not reflected well on the box office. According to Imtiaz Ali, this is because the film is not driven by "stars".

Imtiaz Ali said, as quoted by Hindustan Times, "We are not a star-driven film, so this film was supposed to be like this. It couldn't have opened big. If it is good, people would go and tell other people to watch it, and

that's the only way this film is going to progress. Hopefully it will continue to grow and strengthen itself." "I am particularly happy that the younger generation is coming in and liking it. Usually there is a phase lag between acclaim and box office, and hopefully we are coming close to the end of that lag," the filmmaker said. "Now, there is an uptrend in the sale of tickets. The figures are improving if you see the sales," Imtiaz Ali said.

Asked why Imtiaz chose newcomers Vedang and Sharvari for the film, the director said, "I have great confidence in performances. I am a man, not from the trade, but from the art of



filmmaking. I do understand the power of cinema and performance, and also the power of good casting. If all those things come together, then there is a certain power that is created." "I had no doubt that both these actors will be able to headline this story well, but I also knew

that on the poster, there is also Diljit. Everybody in the world knows him, and they are interested to see what he's doing. I was sure that there was going to be a poster appeal because Diljit is there," he mentioned. Further reflecting on the younger generation con-

necting with the film, Imtiaz said, "I feel that the younger generation is the one that needs love the most. They are the most lost and yet most seeking of love. If there was a way for them to get the kind of love relationship that was possible in the past, they would take that route." "It's very enchanting for them to imagine that kind of commitment. It's a very sensitive and romantic generation. But it's also a generation that has been misunderstood, misrepresented as though it is their fault that they are so flaky. Their lives are different from the previous generations, but they are seeking more," the filmmaker concluded.

Ranveer Singh to stay silent on Don 3 controversy for 18 months, says trade journalist

Mumbai : Amid the controversy surrounding Ranveer Singh's exit from Don 3, it has now been reported that the actor has decided not to speak about the matter for at least next 18 months. Reportedly, Singh has decided not to speak to any journalist or reporter till the release of his next movie, Jay Mehta's Pralay.

"I met him personally," a trade journalist said, as quoted by Free Press Journal, and then added, "And he told me he will not speak on the Don 3 controversy, nor will he give any interviews for at least 18 months." The fallout between Ranveer Singh and Farhan Akhtar over Don 3 has become one of Bollywood's biggest controver-



sies. According to multiple online reports, Singh exited the film due to creative differences with the makers. Several reports also suggested that Ranveer was unhappy with repeated delays in production and the absence of a locked final script.

What initially appeared to be a routine casting change

has now escalated into a legal matter, with Akhtar's Excel Entertainment demanding Rs 45 crore in compensation and the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) issuing a non-cooperation directive against the actor, which has now been revoked. Pralay is a post-apocalyptic zombie thriller. Set in

a post-apocalyptic Mumbai, Pralay will reportedly use AI-driven visuals to depict a crumbling, decayed version of the city. The project will be directed by Jai Mehta, son of filmmaker Hansal Mehta, marking his theatrical directorial debut. Jai previously co-directed Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story and Lootere, and is known for his realistic storytelling style.

The film is being co-produced by Hansal Mehta and Sameer Nair's Applause Entertainment, adding further weight to what is shaping up to be one of the more unconventional Hindi films in development. Reportedly, the script of Pralay has been finalised and shooting of the movie is likely to begin soon.

Shatrughan Sinha remembers Dev Anand's support, shares golden advice

Mumbai : The upcoming episode of music reality show 'Indian Idol' will witness veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha share heartwarming memories from the early days of his career and sharing his mentorship journey with the legendary late actor Dev Anand.

Recalling the beginning of his journey in films, Shatrughan Sinha recalled how Dev Anand not only gave him an opportunity but also guided him with invaluable advice that stayed with him throughout his career. Sharing the memorable incident, he said, "Meri zindagi ki shuruwat Dev Sahab ke saath hi hui thi. Dev Sahab ne na mujhe sirf promote kiya, unka aashirwad mila mujhko. Unhone ek film mein mujhe kaam diya tha. Bhale chhoti role tha, lekin kaafi naam hua usmein, tareef hui. Kamal ka role tha Prem Pujari film. Ek gaana hai 'Phoolon Ke Rang Se, Dil Ki Kalam Se', toh Dev Sahab ne woh role diya aur main usmein



kaam karne gaya. Pakistani karne ka role tha. Aur wahan pe jab maine dialogue bola, wahan taaliyan baji jitne log the wahan pe."

Later, he continued saying, "Phir Dev Sahab dheere se mere paas aaye aur director ke saamne kaha, Kisi se prabhav hona achhi baat hai, kisi se utsaha aur energy lena bahut achhi baat hai, seekhna bahut achhi baat hai, par copy mat karo.

Apni originality maintain rakho." Reminiscing about the same, he added, "Woh baat mujhe yaad hai. Uske baad jo maine shot diya, ek shot mein bahut lamba dialogue tha. Sabse zyada taali kisse bajayi? Camera ke saamne aake Dev Anand ji ne khud bajayi. Aur ussi din itne khush hue the woh." Later, he revealed that he also did one more film named Gambler, in which he was again offered a small role.

After a bit of a see-saw, spot-fixing suspect Elye Wahi given entry into Canada for Germany game in FIFA World Cup 2026

Ivory Coast striker Elye Wahi is having a nightmarish time in the ongoing FIFA World Cup. Why? He is a spot-fixing suspect. He played 55 minutes in Ivory Coast’s 1-0 over Ecuador earlier this week in Philadelphia. The team plays its next game on Saturday night against four-time champions Germany in Toronto, and 23-year-old Wahi was denied entry into Canada — initially, that is. Last month, he was arrested on suspicion of deliberately earning a yellow card for Nice in Ligue 1, France’s first division. He was released later, and the police didn’t press any charges against him. However, they continue to investigate the case, which means Wahi remains a suspect. The news of his arrest in May broke out after the win against Ecuador and brought him a lot of bad press all over the world. Anyway, after initially being denied entry, things got better over time for the player after the matter was raised with the authorities concerned, and eventually he was allowed to go to Toronto to feature in his team’s second game. “The necessary authorisations for his entry into Canadian territory have now been obtained,” a statement from FIF (Ivory Coast Football Federation) said. “As a result, the Ivorian interna-



tional is authorised to travel with the Elephants’ delegation to Canada and will continue his participation in the competition alongside his team-mates as normal. “The FIF welcomes this positive outcome and thanks the various parties who contributed to handling this matter,” it added. So, what happened was that Nice played a league game

against Metz on May 17, and Wahi picked up his fifth yellow of the season during that match, which made him ineligible for the first-leg relegation game against Saint-Etienne. On May 29, he was arrested and investigated. Hours later, he played in the second leg as he scored a brace in the 4-1 win. The first leg had ended goalless, which meant Nice sur-

vived relegation. Ligue de Football (LFP), the body that governs top professional football divisions in France, shared its stance on the matter. “At this stage, and given the ongoing investigation and the confidentiality requirements imposed by the police authorities, the LFP will not make any further comments and has not initiated

disciplinary proceedings. However, it reserves the right to do so depending on the progress of the investigation. “The LFP reiterates that it remains fully committed to ensuring the integrity of its competitions and that it will act with the utmost firmness against any behaviour that could compromise it,” it told BBC Sport.

Declan Rice is running out of steam, leaving Tuchel a midfield conundrum

England: Afreak of nature is Aaron Cresswell’s description of Declan Rice. The former West Ham left-back marvels at Rice’s ability to keep going. “He can play six or seven games a week,” Cresswell says of his old West Ham teammate. “God knows how many he’s played in the last few years.”

The answer is 360 since the start of the 2020-21 season. The schedule has been relentless for the England midfielder. He was vital for West Ham when they had deep European runs in 2022 and 2023, was a mainstay for Gareth Southgate’s England and has been no less influential for Arsenal’s Premier League and Champions League endeavours since joining them three years ago. The temptation is to keep going. Yet Rice looked weary when his 63rd appearance of the 2025-26 season arrived in England’s chaotic 4-2 win over Croatia in their opening game of the World Cup on Wednesday. The 27-year-old was not himself. The midfield shape was wrong. There was too much space between Rice and Elliot Anderson during a worrying first half. Rice dropped too deep and was pulled out of position by Luka Modric. Perhaps those tactical wrinkles



can be ironed out by Thomas Tuchel before England face Ghana on Tuesday. However, there was concern when Rice had to be taken off with England guarding a 3-2 lead against Croatia in the 72nd minute. Given his ball-winning ability it is almost unheard of for Rice to go off in that situation, but the fear for England must be that their vice-captain is running out of steam when they need him most.

Tuchel said Rice felt discomfort in his lower back and upper hamstring. The head

coach said the substitution was precautionary and Rice was quick to say he would be available against Ghana. England need to tread carefully, though.

What happens if the injury worsens? The midfield malfunctioned with Rice nowhere near 100% – “Declan had some unusual ball losses,” was Tuchel’s diplomatic assessment of his performance – but England will not want to play without him. They need Rice. They have rarely looked good whenever he has missed a game in the past six years

and do not have a like-for-like replacement in the squad. Kobbie Mainoo is wonderful on the ball but is young and does not have Rice’s physique or set-piece deliveries. Jordan Henderson is an option but is 36 and was not called upon with England looking to maintain a high tempo against Croatia. There are no obvious answers for Tuchel.

His initial move when Rice went off was to move Jude Bellingham back but that almost led to Croatia equalising. The experiment lasted eight minutes. It was only then, perhaps, that we saw a way for England to function without Rice, with the introduction of Djed Spence for Bellingham allowing Reece James to step away from right-back and slot into a role he has performed with distinction for Chelsea during the past 18 months.

James could be the answer in midfield if Rice’s minutes have to be managed. The Chelsea captain played there during a loan at Wigan in the 2018-19 season. He has spent much of his career at right-back or right-wingback but had a positional shift during Enzo Maresca’s 18 months in charge of Chelsea. James was redeployed in midfield and after some initial doubts Maresca was rewarded when Chel-

sea beat Paris Saint-Germain in last year’s Club World Cup final.

Tuchel was one of the early sceptics. The German coached James at Chelsea and initially said he regarded him as a right-back in his England side. Yet Tuchel has come to understand Maresca’s thinking. James is a physical presence and an intelligent footballer. He can tackle and has a good passing range. The performance against PSG was no flash in the pan. James was excellent when he partnered Moisés Caicedo in midfield when Chelsea beat Barcelona 3-0 last November and dominated Rice when Arsenal visited Stamford Bridge five days later.skip past newsletter promotion

“Reece James can play in the 6 because he does on a high level for Chelsea,” Tuchel said when he named his World Cup squad and justified leaving out Adam Wharton and Alex Scott.

Tuchel has prized versatility in his picks. If James moves out of the back four then Spence, Ezri Konsa and Jarell Quansah are capable of slotting in at right-back. The answer could be to have Konsa operating almost as a third centre-back with John Stones and Marc Guéhi, freeing Nico

O’Reilly to surge from left-back.

The big doubt with that plan, though, is around James’s fitness. He has a long history of hamstring injuries – the most recent came in March, leading to an absence of almost two months – and has had to be managed carefully by Chelsea.It is a complication for England. They have lost Tino Livramento to a calf injury, forcing Tuchel to replace the Newcastle full-back with Trevoh Chalobah. It has been a gruelling season for so many squad members. James is first choice at right-back but cannot start every game. He cannot be expected to take on all the load in midfield if Rice is struggling.

Fitness concerns nagged away at Tuchel as the World Cup approached. The decision to fly early to Florida for a pre-tournament camp in the sun was based around conditioning. Rice joined up late after playing for Arsenal in the Champions League final, though. He keeps pushing himself to the limit. Will there be a price to pay?If England reach the final and Rice is not given a rest, he will have made 70 appearances for club and country this season. The demands feel extreme. Tuchel must have alternative plans.

Telegram ban, imposed ahead of NEET re-test, upheld by Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Friday upheld the government’s decision to block instant messaging service Telegram for six days ahead of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) reexam on Sunday, citing the emergency nature and sufficient grounds for the move. Telegram was blocked days after the NEET-UG was rescheduled following the exam cancellation on May 12, even though 2.27 million students had taken it across 551 cities. The central agencies found that the question paper had been compromised. Questions were available on some phones as early as May 1, two days before the exam. It was the second time in two years that NEET-UG came under scrutinyTelegram moved the court against the government’s June 16 blocking order, calling it unconstitutional, arbitrary, and unlawful. On Friday, Justice Tejas Karia said that the government’s blocking order was founded on relevant material and did not suffer from any “non-application of mind”, as Telegram alleged. He added that the content and information Telegram generates fall within the ambit of Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, which empowers the government to block access to online information, websites, or applications to protect national security, public order, and sovereignty.

Justice Karia orally noted that the test of proportionality has been satisfied. He added that the government has used the least restrictive method of temporarily blocking the application and “cannot be held to be disproportionate”. Justice Karia said there was no reason to exclude the platform from the ambit and scope of the IT Act. “Accordingly, [the] respondent [government] was empowered to issue directions to restrict public access to Telegram”.The high court on Thursday asked the government whether it could stop the rights of 150 million people communicating through Telegram only because a set of people were appearing for an examination. During the proceedings, the court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, “Can you block someone else’s right?” The court remarked it was alive to what happened. “There were so many students who were affected. The second aspect is that, due to one incident, can you block the entire platform? There is a power that can be exercised. To what extent it can be exercised is the question”.

Mehta argued that the emergency measure of blocking the platform was taken as a last resort, as the application had “failed to effectively curb unlawful material” on the channels operating on its interface.He said the government informed Telegram that several channels going by names such as “Private Mafia” with thousands of followers were operating on its platform, but it was failing to act against them.In its affidavit, the government opposed Telegram’s petition, stating that the application’s features created a “unique ecosystem” that could be exploited for the dissemination of “exam leaks, cyber-enabled frauds, terrorist propaganda and other unlawful activities” on a scale that presented serious challenges for effective law enforcement and public interest. The affidavit said Telegram’s technical and architectural features distinguish it from other intermediaries and materially affect the ability to prevent, detect, and investigate unlawful activities on the platform.It said that Telegram provided a dedicated bot infrastructure, enabling the creation and deployment of automated accounts capable of functioning without continuous human intervention. The affidavit states Telegram reportedly disabled more than 150 bots associated with disseminating NEET-related content. “Such disclosure statements demonstrate that the bot ecosystem is capable of being exploited for the dissemination of examination-related material and other unlawful content on a large scale.”The affidavit said several other countries had taken regulatory, judicial, or administrative action against Telegram due to concerns related to encryption-based non-compliance, extremist or terrorist content, child sexual abuse material, copyright violations, and examination-related leaks. “...Telegram’s combination of large subscriber capacity, anonymity features, cloud-based architecture, and ease of recreation of channels creates a persistent enforcement challenge, whereby unlawful examination-leak ecosystems can continue to operate notwithstanding individual takedown actions taken against specific channels or accounts,” the affidavit said.

It added that any delay in preventing information from being blocked would have led to “mass student unrest, disruption of public order and incitement to commissioning of cognisable offence”.Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta, who appeared for Telegram, argued that the government’s order was arbitrary and issued without application of mind. He argued that the restriction affects over 150 million users and businesses operating on the platform, and amounts to a disproportionate curb on free speech and expressionTelegram’s plea argued the platform was wrongfully singled out, effectively disabling its functioning entirely. It noted that other social media intermediaries continue to operate freely. It sought quashing of the June 16 order or an ad-interim stay on it until the pendency of proceedings.

BEST employees on indefinite strike: What are their demands and what it means for Mumbai

Mumbai: Public transport buses in Mumbai were hit as employees of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) went on an indefinite strike on Friday. The staff staged a massive protest at the Dharavi depot, demanding the fulfilment of long-pending grievances and a salary hike.

A heavy police force was deployed at the spot to maintain law and order, news agency reported. “The state government must meet the BEST’s demands as soon as possible. Otherwise, the movement will continue for a long time until our demands are met.

The strike commenced despite an ad-interim order passed by an industrial court restraining employees from stopping work, and the Maharashtra government invoking the Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance Act (MESMA), which prohibits the disruption of essential services Among the key demands raised by the employees are the merger of BEST’s budget with that of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), settling legal dues of retired em-



ployees, implementation of Seventh Pay Commission recommendations for 2016-2026 period, abolishing contractual arrangements in the transport and electricity departments, and absorption of wet-lease bus workers into BEST Speaking about the financial issues being faced by employees, BEST workers’ union leader Ranganath Satavase said.

“Those who retired did not get their money since 2022, the wait-listed workers are not getting even the minimum wages, so it is the

responsibility of the administration, the government to pay that.” Satavase also expressed concerns regarding the government’s plan for all depots to be developed on a PPP model.

“...Development on PPP model means the government is promising to give them on rent for 99 years, so in such a situation, whether this BEST will run or not, this worry is troubling the workers Dinesh, one of the protestors, said the wage agreement for the workers for the years 2016 to 2021 had

not been finalised, and the retired workers had not received gratuity payments.

Another employee said the salary tax and merger issues were passed in 2019. “The BMC sent it to the city development account. They don’t pass it. Neither the previous government nor the present government passed it.

The strike will affect public transport services in Mumbai, leaving hundreds of thousands of commuters in a lurch.

With the BEST being Mumbai’s second-largest public transport provider after the suburban railway network, it carries around 25 lakh passengers on a daily basis through its bus services Further, it supplies electricity to more than 10 lakh consumers in south and central Mumbai.

On Monday, hardly any buses from the 27 BEST depots could leave, with striking employees allegedly preventing it . This will therefore force commuters to depend on alternate modes of transport, like autorickshaws, taxis, app-based cabs and the Metro.

75-year-old visually impaired woman killed in clash over old rivalry in Lucknow

Lucknow: A 75-year-old visually impaired woman died and her son was injured after a long-standing dispute between two neighbouring families turned violent under Banthra police station limits on Wednesday night, police said. The incident occurred in Mawai Padiyana village when an argument escalated into stone pelting and physical assault.

“The deceased, identified as Siyavati Rawat, suffered a fatal head injury during the clash that broke out around 9.10 pm. She was taken for treatment but died during care. Her son Rajendra Rawat also sustained injuries,” police said in a statement.

Three people have been held in connection with the incident, officials addedAccording to police, preliminary findings suggest some men had consumed alcohol together before returning to the village, after which the dispute flared up



again, leading to violence involving sticks, bricks and stones.

The family alleged the incident was linked to an old personal enmity. Rajendra claimed he had left for Rajasthan around 15 years ago with the wife of his neighbour Manohar, as alleged, and that tensions between the families continued after both returned and lived separately.

Rajendra further alleged that he was attacked on the roof of his house and his mother was hit when

she intervened.Based on a complaint filed by Rajendra’s brother Ravi Rawat, police have registered a case of murder and voluntarily causing hurt against Dharmendra and Govind, sons of Manohar, his wife Basanti and brother Pancham.

Police said Dharmendra, Govind and Pancham have been detained, while Dharmendra is undergoing treatment under police watch. Security has been tightened in the village and investigation is underway.

Ivory Coast striker Elye Wahi allowed into Canada for World Cup after visa U-turn

Toronto: Ivory Coast striker Elye Wahi will be permitted to enter Canada for his country's second World Cup match after previously being denied entry, according to a report by The Athletic. According to the Report, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has said that hosting major international sporting events does not lead to any changes in the country's immigration laws, following concerns linked to Wahi's entry issue ahead of his country's FIFA World Cup 2026 versus Germany. IRCC told The Athletic, "Canada has been consistent that hosting major events does not change Canada's immigration laws. Every person seeking to come to Canada is assessed individually, based on the facts available and the law that applies, while maintaining the safety and security of Canadians as a top priority." "In exceptional circumstances, Temporary Resident Permits may be granted to a person



who is inadmissible or does not meet the requirements to enter or remain temporarily in Canada," it added. Earlier, the Ivorian Football Federation (FIF) said that striker Elye Wahi will not be able to travel to Canada for his team's FIFA World Cup opener against Germany on June 21, as his authorisation for visiting the country has not yet been obtained. The announcement comes just a day after Wahi was

linked to an investigation into alleged sports corruption, with French authorities saying that unusual betting patterns were detected around a yellow card that the striker received while representing Nice in the Ligue 1 last month. Wahi, while not named as a suspect, was not available for comment. A spokesperson of the Marseille prosecutor's office told Reuters that the Ligue 1 player was taken into custo-

dy on May 29 for an investigation into suspected organised fraud, organised sports corruption, handling stolen goods and money laundering. FIF has shown their full confidence in their player. "The FIF has not been officially notified of any legal or administrative proceedings concerning him," Reuters reported. FIF also said that Wahi remains an important part of the Ivory Coast national team. Till the team returns to Philadelphia for their final group stage against Curacao, he will be staying in the US, where the team's base camp is in Chester, Pennsylvania. "The player will not be able to join the delegation's trip to Canada. This is because the administrative authorisations required for him to enter Canadian territory have not yet been obtained. Elye Wahi will therefore remain in the United States until the team returns," said FIF. Wahi has also represented France at the under-21

level and made his senior level debut for the Ivory Coast back in March. Ivory Coast started off their tournament with a 1-0 win over Ecuador, while four-time champions Germany will enter with a 7-1 win against Curacao. The announcement comes just a day after Wahi was linked to an investigation into alleged sports corruption, with French authorities saying that unusual betting patterns were detected around a yellow card that the striker received while representing Nice in the Ligue 1 last month. Wahi, while not named as a suspect, was not available for comment. A spokesperson of the Marseille prosecutor's office told Reuters that the Ligue 1 player was taken into custody on May 29 for an investigation into suspected organised fraud, organised sports corruption, handling stolen goods and money laundering. FIF has shown their full confidence in their player.

Messi's family refutes fake reports on father's health, sharing positive update

New Delhi: Argentina captain Lionel Messi's family has confirmed that his father, Jorge Messi, is recovering well after a recent health scare. In a statement released on Thursday, the family said he remains under medical supervision and is showing positive signs of improvement. Concerns over Jorge Messi's condition grew after Lionel Messi was seen in tears following his opening goal against Algeria at the FIFA World Cup. Messi was seen in tears after scoring the first goal of his hat-trick in Argentina's opening game. While requesting privacy during this period, the Messi family did not disclose details about Jorge's medical condition, only stating that his recovery is progressing favourably under ongoing care. "He is currently under medical supervision, recovering, and progressing favorably within his current condition," read the statement. Messi's family also slammed the various rumours connected to Messi's father's health, with a few outlets in Argentina say-



ing that he passed away on Wednesday. "Given the versions, rumors, and speculation that have circulated in recent hours, the family wishes to express its deep displeasure at the lack of sensitivity, respect, and scruples with which some people have treated a strictly private and family matter," the statement continued. "The family also wishes to clarify that only his closest family members have accurate and reliable information about Jorge's condition. Therefore, any version, statement, or information that does not come from the family itself and its official channels should not

be considered valid or true. At times like these, we ask for responsibility, prudence, and compassion. "A person's health and the peace of mind of those around them should not be subject to speculation or irresponsible media interest. We sincerely appreciate the expressions of affection, respect, and concern received, and we request that the privacy, confidentiality, and intimacy of Jorge and his entire family be respected during this process. Any relevant updates will be communicated promptly by the family and through the appropriate channels.

Srikanth believes Vaibhav Sooryavanshi can revive Test cricket if he succeeds longer-term

Chennai: Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could trigger a "revival of Test cricket" if he fulfils his potential in the longest format, said former India captain Krishnamachari Srikanth, urging fans and experts to stop over-analysing the youngster's performances. Riding on his IPL exploits, Sooryavanshi has earned his maiden call-up in the Indian T20 set-up. The teenager has been picked for the seven-match tour of Ireland and England, comprising two games against Ireland and five against England, beginning in Belfast on June 26. Srikanth said the 15-year-old possesses a rare ability to attract audiences and should be allowed



to develop naturally without being burdened by expectations. "What I like about Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is he has an appetite to score runs and an appetite to dominate. At the same time, he could stay there and play also," Srikanth told PTI at his residence here on Thursday. "If he progresses beyond T20

cricket to one-day cricket, and then to Test cricket, and if he clicks in Test cricket, which he will, I am sure then you will see a revival of Test cricket. "You need that kind of cricketer today. People switch on the TV just to watch Sooryavanshi. I switch on the TV to watch Sooryavanshi. That is the

aura he has created around himself. And he is something amazing." "Don't worry about what people talk, just play your natural game Srikanth cautioned against "too much assessment, scrutiny and advice" after the youngster's modest returns on the recent India A tour of Sri Lanka. "Vaibhav, don't worry about what people talk about you, just play your natural game," the former selection committee chairman said. "In one series, you don't judge a person. Come on. That happens. Poor boy. It doesn't matter. You just give him time. Don't be in a hurry. In the IPL, he was just amazing. In his second year in the IPL, he won all the awards beating all the top in the world.

Manika Batra reacts to unexplained omission from India's squad for the 2026 Asian Games

Mumbai : India's leading table tennis player Manika Batra has publicly questioned her omission from the country's main squad for the Asian Games 2026, expressing disappointment over the selection process and has called for greater transparency. The 31-year-old Olympian was named among the reserves when the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) announced a 10-member contingent for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Thursday. A day later, Batra voiced her concerns over the decision and wrote on X, "My non-selection for the Asian Games 2026 squad is deeply disheartening, with no specific reason communicated." "Questions arise on consistency, as different thresholds and considerations were applied in the previous selection cycle compared to my case. If the same rules are meant to apply as in the last Asian Games selection," she added. "I have sought clarity



on the process and respectfully request the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Sports Minister and Indian Olympic Association to look into the matter and ensure transparency and fair application of selection norms," she

concluded. TTFI selected the squad based on a policy that allocates 50 per cent weightage to national rankings, 40 per cent to world rankings and 10 per cent to the selection committee's discretion.

Neeraj Chopra joins IOA's anti-doping drive to launch clean sport awareness campaign

Neeraj Chopra joins IOA clean sports campaign



New Delhi: India's fight against doping received a major boost on Friday as Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra joined hands with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to launch an awareness campaign aimed at educating athletes about the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs and promoting clean sport. The initiative was unveiled at the second IOA Athletes Forum, where IOA Chief Executive Officer Raghuram Iyer announced that the association had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Neeraj Chopra Foundation for the Clean Sports Campaign. A video message from Chopra, who is in

Doha for the Diamond League, was played during the event. The two-time Olympic medalist urged young athletes to remain patient and trust the process rather than seek shortcuts to success. "I have seen how kids want to enhance performance by doping to win big medals. But from my story, I can tell you it took me 10 years to get to the Olympic medal," Chopra said, referring to his gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics and silver at the Paris Games. "You need patience to achieve something in sports. I am seeing that patience has come down in today's kids. They want to achieve things quickly, cross 80m in one year. It takes five years

to do something like that," he added. The campaign comes at a time when India continues to grapple with a poor doping record. The country has topped the World Anti-Doping Agency's annual list of doping offenders for the past three years. Recently, the Athletics Integrity Unit classified India as a high-risk country for doping, while WADA president Witold Banka described the issue as a serious concern despite efforts to address it. The campaign seeks to improve awareness of anti-doping regulations, reduce inadvertent violations and promote a culture of integrity and fair play across all levels of sport. Iyer said the initiative would rely on athlete-led storytelling, digital learning resources, workshops and grassroots outreach programmes to make anti-doping education more accessible to athletes. "During my journey, I have learnt that success is never achieved overnight. It comes from years of discipline, sacrifice and doing the right things consistently," Chopra said. "Clean sport is not only about rules, it is also about creating a comfortable, safe space for athletes where they can clear their doubts about supplements and performance pressure." The Sports Ministry is also considering legal amendments to strengthen India's anti-doping framework, including provisions to criminalise the supply and procurement of banned substances. IOA president PT Usha said discussions on the campaign had been ongoing for the past six months and credited Chopra for taking the lead.

Harry Kane poses with iconic signed Brazil jersey from Ronaldo Nazario



New Delhi: England captain Harry Kane enjoyed a memorable fan moment after receiving a signed Brazil jersey from his childhood idol, Ronaldo Nazario, following England's FIFA World Cup 2026 opener against Croatia. The surprise gift came during Kane's post-match media duties, just hours after the striker had inspired the Three Lions to a commanding victory with a brace. Kane was one of England's standout performers as Thomas Tuchel's side opened their World Cup campaign with a 4-2 win over Croatia on June 17. However, after the match, the Bayern Munich striker found himself on the receiving end of a special moment when a Brazilian journalist presented him with a shirt signed by one of the greatest forwards in football history. "I brought this here for you, this is a shirt signed by Ronaldo," the journalist told Kane. The England captain was visibly surprised by the gesture and immediately expressed his gratitude. "Oh wow. Yeah, that's pretty special. Thank you very much. That's a nice gift," Kane replied with a smile. The journalist then suggested the gift may have reminded Kane of the players who inspired him during his rise to the top of world football. "I think you've been in one of the most special years of your career. So I think, I don't know if this brings you memories," the journalist added. Kane was quick to acknowledge Ronaldo's influence on the game and the significance of receiving a gift

linked to the Brazilian legend. "Yeah, no, that's really thoughtful. I appreciate that. What a special shirt and obviously from one of the best players. So, yeah, I really appreciate it," he said. Ronaldo, affectionately known as "O Fenomeno", remains one of football's most iconic figures. A two-time World Cup winner with Brazil, he scored 62 goals for his country and enjoyed trophy-laden spells with some of Europe's biggest clubs. His pace, skill and clinical finishing made him a role model for an entire generation of strikers, including Kane. Kane's special moment came after he played a starring role in England's 4-2 victory over Croatia. The Bayern Munich forward opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 12th minute after Noni Madueke was fouled inside the area by Croatia captain Luka Modric. Although goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic initially saved Kane's effort, the penalty was ordered to be retaken after the Croatian shot-stopper moved off his line too early. Kane made no mistake with his second attempt, calmly converting to give England the lead. Croatia responded through Martin Baturina, whose powerful strike beat Jordan Pickford to level the scores in the 36th minute. England, however, regained the advantage before halftime when Kane rose highest to meet a Declan Rice corner, powering home a header to move level with Gary Lineker's record of 10 World Cup goals for England.