

Assam CM highlights agri-infrastructure push under the Mukhya Mantri Utkarsh Yojana

Guwahati, Jun 11: On June 11, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma highlighted the state's efforts to strengthen agricultural value chains through the implementation of the Mukhya Mantri Utkarsh Yojana, stating that the future of Assam agriculture lies in creating more value for farmers and rural communities. Sharing an update on X, the Chief Minister stated that modern processing and agri-infrastructure projects are taking shape throughout the state, creating new opportunities for farmers, entrepreneurs, and rural stakeholders. Several key projects are being developed across districts as part of the scheme.

These include a pineapple processing plant in Lakhimpur, a modern rice mill in Morigaon, a cutting-edge mushroom spawn production facility in Tinsukia, and an advanced spice processing plant in Kamrup. According to Sarma, the initiative is aimed at modernising agricultural infrastructure, improv-



ing value addition and strengthening market linkages for farmers.

"The future of Assam's agricultural value addition and strengthening market linkages for farmers."

the Chief Minister said, adding that the projects are expected to enhance rural livelihoods and encourage entrepreneurship in the ag-

riculture sector. The Mukhya Mantri Utkarsh Yojana forms part of the state government's broader strategy to modernise agriculture, promote

food processing and generate employment opportunities through infrastructure-driven growth in rural Assam.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha invites governors and chief ministers to visit Tripureswari Temple



Agartala, Jun 11: Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha has invited all Governors, Lieutenant Governors, Chief Ministers, and Deputy Chief Ministers from across the country to visit the state at their leisure in order

to promote the revered Tripureswari Temple, one of the 51 Shakti Peethas. According to sources, several dignitaries have responded positively to the initiative. According to reports, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi

and Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ramnath Thakur have accepted the invitation and will visit the state soon. The move forms part of the state government's broader efforts to popularise the historic shrine and strengthen its position as a major spiritual and tourist destination. Since coming to power in 2018, the BJP-led government in Tripura has undertaken several initiatives aimed at developing the Tripureswari Temple and transforming it into one of the state's principal tourist attractions. Over the past few years, the temple has been visited by several prominent personalities, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, further enhancing its national profile.

Tensions flare at Indo-Bangladesh Border Over Infiltration and Repatriation Standoff

Aizawl, Jun 05: Diplomatic and territorial tensions have risen along the India-Bangladesh border following a series of tense standoffs between India's Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). The dispute centers on the contentious practice of "push-ins," in which undocumented migrants are apprehended at the border.

The standoff recently reached a climax along the Jamalpur-Bakshiganj border sector, with an elderly man suspected of being an undocumented migrant left stranded in no-man's land. Local reports indicate a heated exchange of words between front-line troops.

When the BSF attempted to return the individual, BGB personnel and local Bangladeshi villagers formed a human wall to prevent entry, refusing to let the individual return without formal procedures. Witness

accounts report a sharp verbal duel regarding armed intervention before an emergency local flag meeting was called, which ultimately failed to reach a breakthrough.

The impasse coincides with the high-profile, 57th DG-level Border Coordination Conference held in New Delhi between BSF Director General Praveen Kumar and BGB Director General Major General Mohammad Ashraffuzzaman Siddiqui. During the bilateral talks, the BGB delegation took a firm stance, characterising uncoordinated cross-border pushbacks as "illegal and inhumane." With thousands of suspected undocumented individuals reportedly under administrative scanner along the West Bengal and North-East frontiers, the border remains on high alert as both nations work through established bilateral mechanisms to lower the temperature.

AATSU opposes the rehabilitation of Laika families in the Tirap Tribal Belt Areas of Tinsukia



Tinsukia, Jun 11: On June 11, the All Assam Tangsa Students Union (AATSU) expressed strong opposition to the proposed rehabilitation of flood-affected Lai-

ka families from the Kenia, Balijan, and Phaneng areas of the Tirap Tribal Belt in Assam's Tinsukia district. Addressing a press conference in Mungkaam Village,

Margherita constituency, student leaders expressed concern about the state government's reported plan to rehabilitate approximately 334 displaced families from Laika in the Tirap Tribal Belt region. Speaking to reporters, AATSU president Nayung Mossang said the proposed resettlement could have adverse impacts on the region's ecological balance, including its flora and fauna. While expressing sympathy for the flood-affected families and acknowledging their long-standing hardships, the union maintained that the rehabilitation process should not be carried out within the Tirap Tribal Belt. Instead, the student organisation urged the state government to identify alternative land elsewhere in Tinsukia district for the permanent resettlement of the displaced families. The union stressed the need to

safeguard the environmental integrity and cultural identity of the tribal belt while ensuring a humane and sustainable rehabilitation plan for those affected by recurrent flooding and erosion.

"The government should find a suitable alternative location for rehabilitation without disturbing the ecological and demographic balance of the Tirap Tribal Belt," the union leaders said. The rehabilitation of residents from Laika, an erosion- and flood-affected area, has remained a subject of public debate for several years, with authorities exploring options for the permanent resettlement of families displaced by recurring natural calamities. The latest opposition from AATSU adds a new dimension to the ongoing discussions over the future rehabilitation of the affected families.

AASU observes Students' Unity Day in Dergaon and pays tribute to the 1974 Food Movement Martyrs

Golaghat, Jun 14: On June 10, 1974, two young students, Gajen Engti and Putul Saikia, died during the historic Food Movement led by the All Assam Students' Union, leaving a black mark on Assam's history. The movement, launched in response to rising commodity prices, economic exploitation, artificial scarcity, and other public issues, drew widespread support from residents throughout the state. Two students were killed in police firing during a peaceful protest in Bhurbandha, Morigaon district. To honor their sacrifice, AASU observes Students' Unity Day. This year's central observance took place at Chirishitika in the Brahmaputra region of Dergaon in Golaghat district, with a day-long programme organized by the Golaghat District Students' Union and hosted by the Brahmaputra Regional Students' Union. The programme be-

gan with the hoisting of the AASU flag by president Utpal Sharma, followed by tributes to the martyrs by general secretary Samiran Phukan. AASU chief adviser Dr. Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharjya paid floral tributes to the portraits of Gajen Engti and Putul Saikia. An open meeting chaired by Utpal Sharma was attended by Dr. Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharjya, Samiran Phukan, vice-president Abhibartan Goswami, Tea Tribes Students' Association president Jagadish Baraik, Chutia Students' Association president Mohen Bora, Devaraj Roy College Dean Dr. Debajit Phukan, and several other distinguished guests. A cultural evening featuring noted singer Tarali Sharma was also organised. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Bhattacharya said AASU has consistently stood with the people of Assam during challenging times.

Meghalaya TMC to decide on future strategy by year-end, says Charles Pyngrope amid merger rumours

Shillong, Jun 11: Amid increased political speculation about the Trinamool Congress (TMC)'s future in Meghalaya, as well as persistent rumours of defections ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections, Meghalaya TMC president and senior legislator Charles Pyngrope said on Wednesday that the party would make a decision on its future political strategy only by the end of the year. He ruled out any immediate merger, alliance shift, or exodus to rival political formations, stating that the party leadership would conduct a thorough evaluation of its organizational strength and electoral prospects before deciding on its next course of action.

Pyngrope said the TMC would review its position after the proposed Lok Sabha by-election to the Shillong Parliamentary constituency, the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) elections and other organisational developments.

"There is no indication of TMC leaders merging with Congress or the ruling NPP. After the MP by-election and district council elections in Garo Hills, we can sit together and decide how to move forward. Any such decision will only be taken by the end of the year, which will

give us ample time before the 2028 Assembly elections," he said. The remarks come amid growing speculation over the future of the Meghalaya unit of the TMC and recurring rumours involving Leader of the Opposition Dr Mukul Sangma.

Responding to suggestions that leaders might leave the party, Pyngrope said political developments could work both ways and that new entrants could also join the organisation. He argued that the TMC remained one of the few political parties capable of raising issues concerning Meghalaya in Parliament due to its presence in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

"Even the inclusion of Khasi and Garo in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution was first raised in Parliament by the TMC," he claimed. On speculation surrounding Dr Mukul Sangma's political future, Pyngrope dismissed the rumours as repetitive and baseless. "I have heard all these rumours since last year. Has anything happened?" he asked. Asked whether he would continue with the TMC if Dr Mukul Sangma floated a separate party, Pyngrope reaffirmed his loyalty to the organisation.

Arunachal Pradesh has been transformed under Modi's Act East Policy, according to Chief Minister Pema Khandu

Kohima, Jun 05: On Wednesday, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12-year tenure as a period of transformative governance, claiming that the Centre's Act East Policy has repositioned the frontier state from a strategically neglected border region to a key gateway and pillar of India's developmental and security vision. Khandu congratulated Modi on becoming the longest-serving elected head of government in independent India, with over 4,399 days in office, and highlighted significant progress in connectivity, infrastructure, hydro-power, border development, and welfare since 2014. In a letter to the Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh, the Chief Minister thanked the Centre for its continued support and



praised Modi's leadership for bold reforms, selfless service, and a commitment to improving citizens' quality of life.

Khandu stated that Arunachal Pradesh, which shares more than 1,080 kilometers of international borders with Tibet, Bhutan, and

Myanmar, is no longer viewed as a border state but as a strategic and civilizational frontier under the Prime Minister's leadership. Recalling the transformation witnessed over the past decade, he said the state had moved from decades of developmental isolation

to becoming an important contributor to India's growth story. According to Khandu, Arunachal Pradesh had less than 1,000 kilometres of National Highways before 2014, whereas it now has more than 4,060 kilometres, with nearly 14,000 kilometres of roads and several bridges under construction. He highlighted major infrastructure projects, including the Trans-Arunachal Highway, Frontier Highway, Sela Tunnel and Nechipu Tunnel, stating that these have improved year-round connectivity to remote and border areas while strengthening national security and economic integration. The Chief Minister also referred to the impact of the Bogibeel Bridge, inaugurated by Modi in 2018, saying it had substantially reduced travel time between Arunachal Pradesh and the rest of the country.

Gaurav Gogoi Demands Swift Probe into Killing of Six Naga Civilians in Manipur



Imphal, June 11: Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Gaurav Gogoi on June 11 called for a swift, impartial, and transparent investigation into the killing of six Naga civilians in Manipur, urging authorities to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice without delay.

Expressing deep sorrow over the incident, Gogoi described the killings as a tragic reminder of the continuing instability in the violence-hit state.

“The brutal killing of six Naga civilians in Manipur is a deeply distressing tragedy. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims as

they cope with this immense loss,” Gogoi said in a post on X.

He noted that Manipur continues to grapple with prolonged conflict, with peace and normalcy remaining elusive even after more than three years of unrest.

“Innocent lives continue to be lost, while communities across the state remain burdened by fear and uncertainty,” he said. Gogoi stressed that the incident highlights the urgent need for lasting peace, accountability, and justice in Manipur.

“There must be a swift, impartial and transparent investigation into this heinous crime, and those responsible must be identified and brought to justice without delay,” he added.

His statement came a day after Manipur Police recovered the mortal remains of six people believed to be among the Naga men who had gone missing after being abducted from Leilon Vaiphei village in Kangpokpi district on May 13.

The recovery took place shortly after the release of 14 Kuki individuals who had also been abducted nearly a month ago in separate incidents linked to the ongoing tensions in the state.

The killings have sparked widespread condemnation from political leaders, civil society groups, and community organizations, with growing demands for accountability and justice amid rising tensions across Manipur.

Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar joins Green Mizoram Day plantation drive in Aizawl

Aizawl, June 11: Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court Justice Ashutosh Kumar on Thursday participated in a Green Mizoram Day programme organised by the Mizoram State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) and called for continued efforts to protect the state’s rich forests and natural resources.

The awareness programme on the importance of mass tree plantation was held at the Gauhati High Court Office premises at MINECO, Khatla, to mark Green Mizoram Day, which is observed across the state every year on June 11. Justice Ashutosh Kumar, who is also the Patron-in-Chief of the MSLSA, attended the event as the chief guest.

He was accompanied by Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Judge of the Gauhati High Court, Judge-in-Charge of the Administration Department and Executive Chairman of the Assam State Legal Services Authority, and Justice Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Judge of the Gauhati High Court.



The theme of this year’s Green Mizoram Day was “Trees are green gold, The roots of all life.” To mark the occasion, the Chief Justice and other dignitaries planted tree saplings within the premises. Addressing the gathering, Justice Ashutosh Kumar spoke about the history of Green Mizoram Day and noted that the initiative began as “Green Aizawl Day” in 1998 before being expanded into a state-wide observance as “Green Mizoram Day” from 1999 onwards. He said that more than 46 lakh saplings have been planted across Mizoram

since the programme was launched, reflecting the state’s long-standing commitment to environmental conservation and afforestation.

Praising the theme of this year’s observance, the Chief Justice said trees are among the most valuable natural resources because they help conserve groundwater, prevent soil erosion and provide clean air necessary for human survival. He observed that although Mizoram is geographically one of the smaller states in India, it is endowed with abundant forests, diverse wildlife and a healthy cli-

mate.

He said these natural assets must be carefully protected for future generations. Justice Ashutosh Kumar stressed the need to preserve the state’s flora, fauna and forest resources and urged people to remain committed to environmental protection.

As part of the plantation drive, the Chief Justice planted a sapling of Herhse (Ironwood/Mesua ferrea) near the Gauhati High Court Aizawl Bench office. Other judges, officials and participants also joined the plantation programme. The event was chaired by Vin-

cent Lalrokima, Member Secretary of the Mizoram State Legal Services Authority. It was attended by judicial officers from across Mizoram, officers of the Law Department, officials of the Gauhati High Court Aizawl Bench, members of the Mizoram Bar Association and students from law colleges.

In addition to the programme at Khatla, staff members of the Legal Services Authority carried out plantation activities in the Ainawn locality, planting several saplings as part of the state’s annual environmental campaign.

Green Mizoram Day is observed across the state to promote environmental awareness, increase green cover and encourage public participation in conservation efforts.

The annual initiative has become one of Mizoram’s key environmental programmes, involving government departments, educational institutions, community organisations and citizens in large-scale plantation drives.

POCSO Court Sentences Man to 20 Years for Raping Minor



Guwahati, June 11: A Special Court under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has sentenced Nabam Sanjay to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor girl below the age of 12, concluding a four-year-long trial stemming from an incident reported in the Itanagar Capital Region in 2022.

Special Judge (POCSO), Yupia, Hirendra Kashyap, delivered the verdict, holding the accused guilty under Section 376AB of the Indian Penal Code and Section 6 of the POCSO Act, both dealing with aggravated sexual offences against children under 12. The court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000, with an additional two months of simple imprisonment in default of payment.

The case originated from an FIR lodged by the victim’s mother at the Itanagar Women Police Station on March 7, 2022. The prosecution, led by Special Public Prosecutor Kagam Bagra, stated that the accused, known to the family, entered the victim’s rented residence at Chimpu on March 6, 2022, when she was alone, and sexually assaulted her. The incident came to light when the mother no-

ticed blood-stained clothes and bedsheets, later discovering incriminating WhatsApp conversations between the accused and the victim. Following questioning, the child disclosed the assault. Police registered the case, medically examined the victim, and recorded her statement before a magistrate.

The accused was later tracked to a hotel in Ziro, Lower Subansiri district, and arrested. During the trial, eight witnesses, including the victim, her mother, the investigating officer, and the doctor, testified. The prosecution relied on medical findings, documentary evidence of the victim’s age, electronic communications, and witness statements.

The defence claimed alibi, suggesting the accused was at a picnic, and alleged personal disputes with the victim’s mother. However, the court rejected these arguments, ruling that the prosecution had proved the case beyond reasonable doubt.

The court emphasized that the victim’s testimony was consistent, credible, and corroborated by other evidence, and confirmed that she was below 12 years of age at the time of the offence.

Nagaland CM condemns killing of six Nagas in Manipur, demands action against those involved

Kohima, June 11: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has strongly condemned the loss of six Naga civilians in Manipur while calling upon the Government of India and Government of Manipur to take all necessary and urgent measures to ensure that justice is delivered. “I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of the six Naga men whose mortal remains were recovered today.

I strongly condemn this heinous act and extend my heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones. No family should have to endure such pain and anguish,” Rio stated. “This heartbreaking tragedy is a painful reminder of the hurt and suffering that violence leaves behind.

May the departed souls rest in peace, and may their families and loved ones find the strength to bear this profound loss,” the Chief Minister said.

“I therefore appeal to the Government of India and the Government of Manipur to take all necessary and urgent measures to ensure that justice is delivered.

Those responsible for this heinous crime must be identified, apprehended and prosecuted under the fullest extent of the law,” Rio stated. “Accountability is essential. Only through a fair, transparent and credible process can a measure of confidence be restored among the people,” he stated.

The Chief Minister urged the authorities to take concrete and impartial steps to ensure the safety and security of all communities. “At a time such as this, it is imperative that people continue to have faith in the government, the rule of law and the institutions entrusted with maintaining peace and order.

The erosion of public trust will only aggravate an already fragile and danger-



ous situation,” he stated. “I also appeal to all citizens, especially my Naga brothers and

sisters across Manipur, Nagaland, the wider North Eastern region and our Naga brethren in Myan-

mar, to remain calm and steadfast,” he added.

Kultuh Village Attack Leaves Multiple Dead as Conflicting Claims Emerge Over Perpetrators in Manipur Border Region

Imphal, June 11: At least four people were killed, two others injured and more than 15 houses destroyed in a violent attack on Kultuh village along the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur’s Kamjong district on June 11, triggering fresh tensions in the sensitive border region.

Conflicting accounts have emerged regarding those responsible for the attack. The Eastern Kuki Chiefs’ Association (EKCA) alleged that armed cadres of the

NSCN (Eastern Flank) and the Shanni National Army (SNA) launched an assault on Kultuh village at around 4 am.

According to the organisation, the attackers set fire to seven houses, including the village church, causing extensive damage to private property and a place of worship. EKCA said two civilians were killed in the attack and identified them as Letminlun Haokip, Head Deacon of Kultuh Church,

and Lunminthang Haokip, Youth Chairman of the church. The association stated that both were respected community leaders who had dedicated their lives to serving the church and society. Two other civilians were reportedly injured and are receiving medical treatment. Condemning the incident as a grave violation of human rights, EKCA said the deliberate targeting of civilians and destruction of religious property were unacceptable.

The organisation demanded an immediate investigation and strict action against those responsible.

However, the Naga Village Guard (NVG), Eastern Command, offered a different version of events. In its statement, NVG alleged that the attack was carried out by cadres of the Kuki National Army-Burma (KNA-B). The group claimed that four villagers were killed, two injured and more than 15 houses destroyed during the

assault. According to NVG, the violence was linked to an ongoing rivalry between the Kuki National Front-President (KNF-P) and KNA-B over territorial control and alleged narcotics-related taxation along the international border.

The organisation said its personnel rushed to defend the village after receiving information about the attack and engaged the assailants in a brief gun battle, during which one NVG member

was injured. The incident comes amid heightened tensions in Manipur following the recent recovery of the bodies of six abducted Naga civilians in Kangpokpi district, which has sparked protests and demands for justice across Naga-inhabited areas.

Authorities have not yet issued an official statement confirming the exact sequence of events or identifying those responsible. Investigations into the attack are expected to continue.

Tripura CM to attend NITI Aayog meeting, Northeast chief ministers’ session in Delhi

Agartala, June 11: Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha has left for New Delhi to attend the 11th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog and a special meeting of chief ministers from the Northeast region, where key development priorities and policy issues are expected to be discussed.

Before the NITI Aayog meeting, Dr Saha on Wednesday attended a special conclave of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The meeting was attended by chief ministers of BJP-

ruled states and NDA allies, where leaders discussed governance issues and future political and developmental strategies. Participants also congratulated the Prime Minister on completing 12 years in office.

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to chair the 11th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi on Thursday. The meeting, themed “Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047”, will bring together chief ministers, lieutenant governors, Union

ministers and senior NITI Aayog officials to discuss strategies aimed at ensuring balanced and inclusive growth across the country.

According to official information, discussions will focus on four major areas – human capital development and future-ready skills, employment and entrepreneurship, health and nutrition, and ensuring equity and dignity for all sections of society. The meeting will also deliberate on measures to strengthen skill development, promote entrepreneurship and create sustainable employment op-



portunities.

A key objective of the meeting will be to align state-level development visions with the national goal of achieving a developed India by 2047.

The Governing Council is expected to discuss implementation strategies, governance reforms and mechanisms to ensure measurable outcomes in developmental programmes. Officials said Dr Saha is expected to present Tripura’s development priorities and vision for the state’s future growth during the meeting.

On June 12, the Prime

■ Prior to the NITI Aayog meeting, Dr. Saha attended a National Democratic Alliance (NDA) conclave chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, discussing governance and political strategies.

Minister will also chair a special meeting of chief ministers from the Northeast. During the session, leaders from the region are expected to raise state-specific issues, development requirements and policy interventions needed from the Centre.

The Delhi Court Notifies the Magistrate of Bias Allegations in Two Cases



New Delhi, Jun 11: Two criminal complaint cases that were pending before a judicial magistrate were placed on hold by a Delhi court after the accused requested a transfer of the cases, claiming bias and procedural flaws in the proceedings. While consid-

ering the transfer requests submitted in two separate criminal complaint cases, Principal District and Sessions Judge Vijay Kumar Dahiya sent notifications to the judicial magistrate Komal requesting opinions in a sealed cover. “Let notice of the trans-

fer petition be issued to the respondent,” the court said on June 9. The Trial Court’s proceedings in the Ct Case named Rajesh Kumar Kaushik Vipin Sharma and Ors are suspended till NDOH. The court ordered that a copy of the transfer plea be forwarded to the relevant

magistrate after noting that the petitions contained accusations of bias against the presiding officer. Amit Saraogi, an accused in the complaint of “Advik Capital Ltd vs Fairplan Distributors Pvt Ltd and Ors,” filed one of the petitions, while Dayanand Ray filed the oth-

er in the case “Rajesh Kumar Kaushik vs Vipin Sharma and Ors.”

The petitioners stated that the issues were being handled with exceptional urgency and that notices were sent to the accused before pre-summoning processes were finished. Additionally, they expressed concerns that if the cases were heard in the same court, they might not be given a fair trial. Saraogi’s plea also claimed that a number of complaint cases involving businessman Vikas Garg and his firms were being listed before the same court at short intervals, raising suspicions of bias. The district judge requested the trial court record and halted further proceedings in both complaint cases until the next hearing date without voicing any view on the veracity of the allegations. On July 31, the court scheduled the transfer requests for additional hearings and sent notice to the respondents.

Meghalaya Youth Congress will step up its efforts to combat drug misuse and unemployment

Shillong, Jun 12: The Meghalaya Pradesh Youth Congress decided on Wednesday to step up its campaign against drug misuse and unemployment, establishing itself as a strong voice in opposition to issues that impact the state’s youth. Samrat Keshari Jena, secretary of the Indian Youth Congress and in-charge of Meghalaya, stated that during a lengthy State Executive Committee meeting in Shillong, the group’s goals were to strengthen the organization, broaden its ideological outreach among youth, and examine the party’s district-level structure in light of growing concerns about unemployment and substance abuse.



Speaking to reporters following the meeting, Jena stated that drug addiction and unemployment have become major issues for Meghalaya’s youth and will be the focal points of the organization’s upcoming initiatives. “The primary goals of the gathering were to fortify the organization, develop our ideas, and spread our philos-

ophy among young people. We held this conference and examined the organizational structure in the districts because Meghalaya is dealing with job and drug-related problems,” he stated. According to Jena, the gathering passed a number of resolutions and established a three-month action plan in which the Youth Congress will aggressively bring up concerns affecting youth throughout the state. Resolutions have been submitted that would make the Youth Congress the primary opposition to this government for the next three months. We will speak out in support of Meghalaya’s youth who are dealing with various problems. The state has a serious drug problem, and although there are many open positions, young people are not granted them. “Give us work, not addiction” is our first concern,” he stated. Indian Youth Congress national in-charge Manish Sharma, Tura MP Saleng A. Sangma, former Youth Congress president Zenith Sangma, and Meghalaya Pradesh Youth Congress president Tinjim were among the party leaders present at the meeting.

Saleng Sangma claims that if the high command allows the TMC, Congress will welcome Mukul Sangma

Shillong, Jun 11: Saleng A. Sangma, a Congress MP from the Tura Lok Sabha seat, stated on Wednesday that the Meghalaya unit would be forced to welcome former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Dr. Mukul Sangma back into the party if the Congress leadership in New Delhi chooses to make accommodations for the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Saleng Sangma emphasized that the national leadership, not state leaders, makes these decisions, saying, “If Delhi accepts TMC there in Delhi itself, then I don’t have any say on Dr. Mukul Sangma being part of Congress.” Without a doubt, we must accept him. It’s about the Delhi party itself, not Dr. Mukul or anyone else.” His remarks come amid heightened political speculation following reports that senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has urged TMC chief Mamata Banerjee to work closely with the Con-

gress to strengthen Opposition unity against the BJP. The discussions are believed to have gained momentum after a recent meeting of INDIA bloc leaders in New Delhi, where alliance partners reportedly stressed the need for greater coordination among Opposition parties. Describing the developments as recent and still evolving, Saleng Sangma said, “This is the recent development. We don’t know yet because I have not been to Delhi.” Political circles have also been abuzz with speculation over the future of the TMC amid reports of internal dissent and possible defections. Mamata Banerjee’s prolonged stay in New Delhi, her nephew Abhishek Banerjee’s meeting with Rahul Gandhi and her interaction with Sonia Gandhi have further fuelled discussions over closer cooperation between the two parties. However, sources said that

rather than looking into a formal merger between the Congress and the TMC, the present focus is still on bolstering opposition coordination inside the INDIA bloc and launching a coordinated fight against the BJP. Saleng Sangma declined to comment on happenings within the TMC. TMC exists in both West Bengal and Meghalaya. I am unable to speak on behalf of TMC simply because West Bengal has internal conflicts,” he stated. The events have rekindled discussion about Mamata Banerjee’s potential political “ghar wapsi” almost thirty years after she broke with the Congress. After quitting the Congress in 1997, Banerjee created the Trinamool Congress. The most recent interaction between the two parties has once again sparked debates about the future direction of opposition politics and its consequences for states like Meghalaya.

Inside the Rebel Faction’s Plan to Show That It Is a Real Trinamool

New Delhi, Jun 11: Another resignation, another day. The Trinamool, led by Mamata Banerjee, is having a difficult summer. Prakash Chik Baraik became the third member of the Trinamool Rajya Sabha to quit this week. And the week is only in its fourth day. On Wednesday, Sushmita Dev, a Rajya Sabha MP who had defected from the Congress in 2021, announced her resignation. Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, a Rajya Sabha member and seasoned Trinamool leader, announced his resignation on Monday. The Trinamool has 13 Rajya Sabha and 28 Lok Sabha members. According to sources, the rebels, who number about 20 Lok Sabha MPs and are led by Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, have created a distinct parliamentary group and promised to back the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which is led by the BJP. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, also referred to as the Anti-Defection Law, clearly covers this development. According to its requirements, a split can only be acknowledged if it has the support of at least two-thirds of the Legislature Party. The threshold in the current situation is 18.66 MPs, which essentially means that 19 MPs would be needed for a split to be legally accept-



able without being disqualified. According to the dissident bloc, it has surpassed the constitutional threshold. According to reports, the number fortifies the bloc’s stance against any possible disqualification challenge. If formalized, this bloc would support the NDA’s legislative agenda as a distinct parliamentary group rather than merging directly with the BJP. According to BJP insiders, the renegade group will assert that it is the “real” Trinamool Congress. Based on this assertion, they would ask the Speakers of the Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha to acknowledge them as the legitimate party. To assert a claim to Trinamool’s election symbol, a similar petition will be submitted to the Election

Commission. According to insiders, the Trinamool split would be carried out on legal grounds. According to insiders, it will be claimed that the Trinamool is not operating in compliance with its own constitution, citing multiple decisions that were purportedly made against the party’s charter. According to the sources, letters describing Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee’s arbitrary decision-making will be written. Sources claim that the Trinamool will split in accordance with the examples established by the LJP, NCP, and Shiv Sena. In each of those three situations, the Election Commission had rendered decisions. A merger with another party necessitates the separation of two-thirds of the members in accordance

with the anti-defection law. But a merger is not required by the “real party” formula. In this case, there would be no need for a merger because the dissident group would probably become well-known. The renegade group would claim to be the true party. This is not the same as the case of Rajya Sabha MPs from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). In such case, two-thirds of the group, or seven out of ten MPs, defected to join the BJP. As a result, their memberships were unaffected. In a similar vein, the memberships of the renegade Trinamool MPs would be maintained if the rebel faction claims to be the legitimate party and obtains recognition. There could be a protracted legal dispute over who controls the Trinamool.

The Haflong car driver was commended for returning the tourist’s gold chain

Haflong, Jun 11: After returning a valuable gold chain to its rightful owner and clearing a homestay from a baseless theft claim, a local auto-rickshaw driver in Haflong received widespread praise for his act of honesty. Shortly after letting off a group of visitors who had been exploring Haflong, the driver, Pronab Dey, found the gold chain inside his autorickshaw. When the tourists couldn’t find the ornament, they allegedly accused staff personnel of stealing it, not realizing that the chain had been lost during the trip. The homestay owners and staff be-

came distressed as the situation swiftly got worse. Tension and anxiety were reportedly created by the visitors’ demands for action and threats to file a police complaint. When Pronab Dey came to the homestay and told the management that he had discovered the missing chain in his car, the miscommunication was cleared up. He proved that the ornament had been inadvertently left behind during their travels by giving it to the guests right away. The guesthouse administration complimented the car driver for his honesty and prompt involvement, while the tour-

ists expressed relief after retrieving the chain. Dey’s honesty was also commended by locals and tourism partners, who described his actions as a symbol of the warmth and qualities Haflong is known for. Pronab Dey received a monetary prize and a certificate of appreciation from the homestay management in appreciation of his excellent deed. Speaking at the event, local tourism businesses claimed that deeds of integrity like these boost tourists’ faith in Haflong’s tourism industry and show the district’s residents’ character.

Bengali Parishad wants Bengalis in the Brahmaputra Valley to be represented in the cabinet



Guwahati, Jun 11: Stressing the necessity for equitable political representation of the Bengali-speaking minority in the area, the Dima Hasao district committee of the Bengali Parishad Assam has urged the Assam government to appoint

at least one Bengali MLA from the Brahmaputra Valley to the State Cabinet. Bengali leaders from the Brahmaputra Valley have historically held significant roles in the Assam Government during the Congress era, ac-

cording to a news statement released by the organization on Wednesday. Leaders like Sadhan Ranjan Sarkar, Dr. Ardendu Kumar Dey of Hojai, Debesh Chakraborty of Lumding, who subsequently held the positions of Deputy Speaker and

Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Gopinath Das of Boko, and Chandan Sarkar of Abhayapuri South were mentioned. However, the Parishad noted that under the consecutive BJP administrations, no Bengali MLA from the Brahmaputra Valley has been appointed to the State Cabinet. The group claims that this has caused Bengali Hindus to worry about having enough political representation. According to the organization, there are more than 4.5 million Bengali Hindus in the Brahmaputra Valley, and a sizable portion of the group has continuously backed the BJP in elections. It said that in spite of this assistance, the community is still impacted by problems like D-Voter cases, difficulties with Mission Basundhara, and other administrative and socioeconomic issues. A Bengali minister from the Brahmaputra Valley will assist solve these concerns more successfully, according to Bengali Parishad Assam.

The Food Safety Department advises against packing food with newspapers

Dibrugarh, Jun 11: To deter food company owners from packing, storing, and serving food items using newspapers and other printed materials, the Food Safety Department of Dibrugarh has started a specific awareness and inspection campaign throughout the city. Culinary safety officials inspected hotels, restaurants, candy stores, tea shops, and other culinary facilities as part of the campaign, which started on Monday. Business owners were made aware of the possible health risks connected to handling food with newspapers and printed materials during the campaign. According to officials, printing inks and chemicals found in newspapers and other printed ma-



terials can contaminate food when they come into touch with it, endangering customers’ health. When such fabrics are used to wrap hot, oily, or moist food items, the risk is very great because these conditions make it easier for dangerous elements to enter the meal. The department further mentioned that the Food Safety and

Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) advises against using newspapers and printed papers for food packaging because they are deemed hazardous. Newspapers and other printed materials used for food packing and storage at various places were confiscated and removed by officials during the inspections. Owners of businesses

were told to stop using these materials and switch to safer substitutes. The Food Safety Department emphasized that every facility was responsible for adhering to food safety regulations and recommended all food business owners to utilize only approved food-grade packaging materials.

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Editorial

The Growing Crisis of Public Attention

In an era dominated by endless notifications, short videos, and constant updates, capturing and maintaining public attention has become increasingly difficult. Important issues often receive brief interest before being replaced by the next trending topic. This short attention cycle affects public discourse, policymaking, and even social movements. Com-

plex problems that require sustained engagement struggle to remain in focus. As attention becomes fragmented, meaningful understanding often gives way to surface-level awareness. A healthy society needs the ability to stay engaged with important issues beyond fleeting moments of interest. Lasting solutions require lasting attention.

Inadequate modifications

Indian welfare laws have an odd institutional reaction whereby the State gives a body to a doctor when it is unsure of what to do with it. A certificate is issued by the physician. The body's legal identity is established by the certificate. And at some point in this series of exchanges, the individual vanishes. This sequence will be recognizable to a person with a disability. Despite being touted as a revolutionary law, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 kept the medical certification framework that it was meant to replace. To access any of the Act's provisions, people with disabilities must get a Disability Certificate from an authorized medical authority, regardless of their experiences with impairment and exclusion. This architecture has now been replicated with even less uncertainty in the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026. A transgender person may request a certificate of identity from the district magistrate based on their self-perceived gender identity under the 2019 Act. That right is eliminated by the amendment. Only after reviewing the proposal of a designated medical board led by a chief medical officer would the district magistrate now grant a certificate. Before the State will recognize the body, it needs to be examined by a physician once more. This is ideological rather than an inadvertent bureaucratic design. Transgender identity is viewed under the medical paradigm of gender as a condition that needs to be diagnosed, treated, and certified rather than as a difference in human experience. The concept creates a gate-keeping function in which legal recognition is only granted to people who fit the clinical narrative of gender dysphoria. There is more than just a structural similarity with disability certification. It's philosophical. Both start with what experts in disability studies refer to as the "medical model"—A medical professional's evaluation and classification of a person's body determines their eligibility for legal protection. The "social model"—the idea that disability results from society's and institutions' inability to accept human

diversity rather than from impairment—has long been supported by the disability rights movement. The same criticism has been made by transgender rights researchers. In an article published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, Florence Ashley makes the case that the fundamental medical ethics concept of autonomy leads to the presumption right to gender self-determination. The State regards being transgender as pathology rather than diversity when it creates medical obstacles to this self-determination. The Supreme Court had, incidentally, stated otherwise. The court held in *NALSA v. Union of India* that a person's gender identification is their own and that the state cannot need medical treatments in order to recognize it. It establishes the circumstances that the *NALSA* ruling was intended to eliminate by placing a medical board between an individual and their legal identity. The medical reasoning is made clear by the Amendment's definitional limitation. Regardless of whether they had undergone any medical procedures, transgender men and women were recognized under the 2019 Act.

This is completely eliminated by the Amendment. It limits recognition to historically recognized socio-cultural groups such as jogta, hijra, kinner, aravani, and individuals with medically recognized intersex variants. Transgender people are no longer included in the legal system. Transgender women who are not members of these particular communities struggle to stay afloat. In 2019, genderqueer individuals are left out. Additionally, the Amendment introduces a revealing category: individuals "forced to assume a transgender identity" through castration or mutilation, so establishing victimhood as the default framework for transgender existence. Applying the medical concept to gender or handicap does not provide protection. It serves as a rationing of rights and the state's recognition of an individual's legal existence. After congratulating itself on the 2016 RPwD Act, Parliament passed a transgender bill that replicates the fundamental flaw in that approach.

There are currently no boundaries on the right in UK politics; others will follow Restore Britain wherever it goes

What does it mean to be too right-wing these days? I've given it a lot of thought lately. But when you consider the development of Restore Britain, it becomes even more urgent. The party, which was founded by multimillionaire businessman and former Reform MP Rupert Lowe, has the active backing of the world's richest man, far-right software tycoon Elon Musk. Restore Britain might be the party you've been waiting for if you think Nigel Farage is a wet liberal. It states that its goal is to "reverse mass migration." This entails deporting not only undocumented immigrants but also "legally resident foreign nationals" who reside in public housing, make benefit claims, or otherwise "fail to integrate"—a rather ambiguous category. According to Lowe, "millions and millions" must depart or be forced to do so. Politicians and officials "who knowingly placed dangerous third world savages in our communities" will go to jail. You should hardly be surprised that among Restore's prominent supporters are those with links to neo-Nazis who support the "total

remigration" of any Britons with non-white heritage. It may feel comforting to dismiss them as fringe wackos who have always existed. Surely they're only louder because social media gives them a voice? Musk is certainly doing his best to boost his pet British cause on X. But whether Restore Britain's claimed 130,000 membership is real – which would mean the party is bigger than the Conservatives – Labour canvassers on the ground for the Makerfield byelection report that it is finding an audience. In the end, the party might divide the right-wing vote and assist Andy Burnham in winning. It would be really foolish for his camp to be appreciative. The phenomenon of Restore Britain is not unique. It is the most recent development in a much larger narrative that is taking place throughout the West and Britain. A political consensus developed after the fascism of the Second World War destroyed Europe and killed 17 million people. As a kind of intellectual ring-fencing, a cordon sanitaire would be erected to the right of democratic politics. The far right

was seen as an existential threat to democracy and politically illegitimate. Deals and agreements of the kind that the establishment parties in Germany and Italy made in the 1920s and 1930s with disastrous results could not be made with them. The far right must always be the outcasts. When the far-right Freedom Party formed a coalition government in Austria at the start of the new millennium, it was the first significant break. Then there were EU sanctions and large-scale protests. Since then, there has been no equivalent reaction to the normalization of far-right parties throughout Europe. "You have broken this basic consensus of our republic," the Social Democratic leader scolded him after Germany's center-right Christian Democrats, with the help of the far-right AfD, approved an anti-immigrant resolution last year. Before it fell apart last year, the Dutch far-right was the biggest party in a coalition government. In Spain, the far-right Vox and mainstream conservatives form regional alliances. The anti-immigrant agendas of their more radical

competitors have been increasingly embraced by surviving center-right parties. Others, most notably the US Republicans, have just been completely overtaken by the far-right. The outcome is the same: the previous understanding of what is beyond the pale has fallen apart. After all, it is now commonplace for the US president to refer to Somalis as "garbage," state that "we don't want them in our country," and declare that "their country stinks." In the past, using such remarks would have ended a political career. It hardly registers at all today. Talk of any barrier sanitaire seems somewhat silly if the president of an acknowledged declining superpower can pardon the far-right insurrectionists who attempted a violent coup in 2021 and select key people who have a lengthy history of espousing white supremacist beliefs. Britain is going in the same direction. Farage now uses language that has long been linked with the far-right fringe, such as "anti-white prejudice" and "anti-white discrimination." Reform calls for the deportation of both lawful foreign

immigrants, including those residing in social housing, and undocumented migrants. Reform shifts to the right as Lowe's insurgency puts pressure on it. In response, the Conservatives go to the right in an effort to win over Reform supporters. A radicalization conveyor belt is what appears. And that poses a troubling query. What happens if it is now widely accepted that white Britons suffer from institutionalized discrimination? And there's the issue. On the right-wing frontier, there are no obstacles. There is a lot of uncharted terrain beyond the current stance, with politicians vying for ever-more-extreme positions. The left is not subject to the same leniency. Moral fear and constant examination of progressive groups persist. Observe how opponents of Israel's genocide have been consistently painted as radicals. According to history, this disparity is far from insignificant. The rise of authoritarian politics on the right typically requires the demonization of the left. Additionally, it has made opposition to the far-right surge more difficult.

I would like to ask Nigel Farage why your nationalist party is so focused on eliminating British jobs

Really? Do you wish to eliminate a million jobs? Is your argument to vote Reform UK for mass unemployment? Every time you see a party supporter, make sure to ask them these questions. or even a Conservative, because their party now adopts an almost identical stance. The figurines are striking. The Confederation of British Industry, a conservative stronghold, put them together rather than Just Stop Oil or the Green Party. They demonstrate that the net zero economy today directly supports 1.1 million employment and employs over 300,000 full-time workers. An additional 600,000 people are directly employed by the remainder of the green economy. This is only the beginning. The government declared in October that it will use its green energy strategy to generate an additional 400,000 employment, especially for those quitting the fossil fuel business, school dropouts, ex-offenders, veterans, and jobless people. Colleges and training facilities will be constructed in areas severely impacted by deindustrialization. It's the first practical strategy in years for a significant rise in skilled manual labor. By contrast, in 2023 the UK's oil and gas industry generated 27,500 employment, and supported a total of 205,000. To put it another way, depending on where you draw the line, oil and gas contributed between 10% and 5% of the jobs created by the alternatives. Since these numbers have been rapidly declining for years, they are probably even lower today. Between 2016 and 2023, the industry lost 70,000 employment despite the Conservatives' expanded licensing rounds and tax advantages. If the extraction of the Rosebank oilfield is authorized, it will directly create 255 employment over its lifetime, which is a cause close to the hearts of both Reform and the Tories. You can argue with these



figures all you want, but you're up against geology. Richard Tice, the deputy leader and energy spokesperson for Reform UK, asserted two weeks ago that "there is decades and decades and decades of gas in the North Sea." In actuality, our gas output will decrease by 97% from 2025 levels by 2050, even if further licenses are given for the potentially profitable fields in the North Sea. Since there is so little left to be mined, new licenses seldom have an impact on this trajectory. Approval and production take an average of 28 years (large-scale wind and solar take about four). There will probably be less than a year's worth of extractable supplies, far from satisfying UK need for "decades and decades and decades." Fake jobs in a dream industry are promised by reform. Now, they and the Tories are vying to find the boundaries of stupidity. Some Reform candidates merely reject the existence of climate science. "There are loads of scientists who are ter-

rified to speak, because they won't get any research funding if they tell it as it is," Tice says, going so far as to promote blatant conspiracies. The former Conservative prime minister Theresa May, among others, has torn apart Tory leader Kemi Badenoch for making bogus claims to justify her abandonment of net zero. These parties are working to undermine the net zero economy even when they are in opposition. Tice threatened to "strike down" renewable energy contracts inked under the present administration in a letter to eight significant energy companies last year. "You do so at your own risk if you bid for a contract... the era of unquestionable liberal progressive orthodoxy across the Western hemisphere is over." It would be prudent for potential investors to pay attention to the UK's Net Zero economy. In response, Labour MPs said that acknowledging this danger would require dismantling contract law. The fact that the UK is not in the western

hemisphere is another issue they may have made. But who gives a monkey's geography, geology, physics, or law? The world will follow our instructions. In our shadow, even God will cower. According to Transition Economics, a reform government would eliminate 500,000 employment in the first three years. By 2040, this would increase to 1.4 million. Who would be most harmed? The present government is helping oil and gas workers transition to innovative manufacturing and renewable energy. However, firing employees is something Nigel Farage told Durham council employees with duties relating to climate change last year that "you all better really be seeking alternative careers very, very quickly." Reform appears to be contemplating with joy. Why should multimillionaires worry about other people's jobs, after all? Reform and the Tories prefer to portray their criticism of climate policy as the victory of pragmatic hard-

heads over tree-huggers and woolly boffins who don't give a damn about the "working man and woman." However, they are the ones destroying practical people's employment. They are the idealists and romantics who envision an unattainable future. Naturally, what the facts say is not the question in politics. Whether the facts can be made to matter is the question. The case is unquestionable even if you ignore the insignificant problem of human survival, the local pollution, noise, and damage caused by fossil fuels, and the enormous expenses they already impose through energy prices and climatic repercussions. In terms of employment and income, it would be extremely detrimental to the citizens of this nation to chose the dying industry over the expanding one. They make this decision on behalf of whom? Not their own voters, who would much rather have renewable energy than the fracking that Tice demands and who fervently support net zero policies and renewable energy. Reform voters' support for green initiatives appears to be increasing despite the deluge of misinformation. Tice's position has angered some of the people who suffer because Boston and Skegness, his district, are the most vulnerable to flooding in England. However, the party appears to be in agreement with one group: its funders. According to one estimate, extremely wealthy individuals with interests in oil and gas have contributed two-thirds of the money it has received. Reform, in my opinion, is a party run by millionaires for billionaires. According to the polls, Reform's weakness is the belief that it is benefiting the wealthy and powerful—billionaires and fossil fuel companies—rather than the "ordinary people of Britain." They will fire you for the benefit of their elite friends, so spread the word.

A Fauji's Tribute To The Prime Minister Of India With The Longest Tenure

It was 2013. After serving in the Indian Army, I had recently returned to my ooru (village). I was at a crossroads, much like a lot of young Indians in my time. I was still looking for a way to continue serving the country, even though I knew I wanted to. The nation was at a turning point as well. There was a rising sense throughout India that our country was capable of much more than what it had settled for. A new spirit was starting to emerge in towns, cities, and villages.

People were talking about possibilities, confidence, and aspiration. Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of Gujarat at the time, was at the center of that discussion. His message struck a chord with millions of Indians who desired a more powerful and self-assured Bharat. Additionally, I was appointed District General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha in Dakshina Kannada in June 2013. The goal—Nation First—did not alter, but the outfit did. We

ran for an idea rather than just a party, a notion that India may be more powerful, self-assured, independent, and well-respected globally. Ten years later, I had the honor of being sworn in as a member of parliament on the team headed by the same man who had encouraged millions of young Indians to pursue their dreams. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes over as India's longest-serving leader, I find myself thinking about the country's development

as well as the remarkable opportunities this time has brought to regular Indians like me. Among the most significant years in modern world history have been the past two. Geopolitical disputes, worries about energy security, economic instability, and the ongoing threat of terrorism continue to plague the world. I have had the chance to watch many of these developments up close as a member of parliament involved in

discussions on energy and defense. However, the two overseas assignments I was given during my first time in Parliament taught me a lot about India's position in the world. May 2025 saw the first. I was selected to be a member of an all-party delegation that was tasked with spreading India's message of zero tolerance against terrorism throughout the world following "Operation Sindoor." We traveled to Moscow, Madrid, Athens, Ljubljana, and

Riga for our commitments. This assignment held particular importance for me as a fauji. For many years, India was frequently forced to describe the terrorism it had to deal with. I saw a different reality when we interacted overseas. The voice of India was powerful. The world has witnessed India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism. More significantly, the delegation showed something that, in my opinion, is essential to India's power.

IT stocks poised for a 67% increase despite bearish pressure and additional insights

Mumbai: IT stock Aurionpro Solutions is set for an upside of 67% to reach a price target of Rs 1,250 in a year, according to brokerage Choice Broking. The bullish stance on the IT stock comes at a time when the stock has corrected 28% in 2026 and fallen 46% in a year. On the other hand, the stock has delivered multibagger returns of 871% in five years and 1,197% in ten years. In the current session, the stock rose 1.46% to Rs 757.55. Aurionpro Solutions stock opened on a flat note at Rs 746.65 today against the previous close of Rs 746.65. In terms of technicals, the relative strength index (RSI) of the Aurionpro Solutions stock stands at 40.3, signaling it's trading neither in the overbought nor in the oversold zone. Aurionpro Solutions shares have a beta of 1.20, indicating high volatility in a year. Aurionpro Solutions shares are trading lower than the 5 day, 20 day, 50 day, 100 day and 200 day moving averages. The stock of the IT services firm has lost 13% in a month. Total 7773 shares of the firm changed hands amounting to a turnover of Rs 59.18 lakh. Market cap of the firm rose to Rs 4183 crore on BSE. The company has logged a rev-



enue growth of 30% CAGR from FY22 to FY26. Choice Broking has maintained a 'BUY' call on the stock with a TP of Rs 1,250 on the basis of average of FY27E & FY28E EPS, as valuation remains attractive with the PEG below 1x.

The brokerage in its key management takeaway said: 1) The company's strategic focus has driven a clear shift toward high-

er-value IP-led offerings, reflected in revenue per employee increasing from Rs 2.9 Mn in FY21 to Rs 4.7 Mn in FY26, representing 64% growth. (2) Future growth in the Transit business will focus on scaling the international AFC business in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, while diversifying into airport systems, EV charging, and Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS). (3) Auri-

onpro is expanding from data centre consulting and execution into modular infrastructure, cybersecurity and AI services to offer end-to-end solutions. (4) Aurionpro Solutions is building seven compounding growth engines across Lending, Mobility & Payments, and Enterprise AI, targeting a Serviceable Obtainable Market (SOM) of \$560 Mn –1.7 Bn by FY30 Five promoters held 26.88 per cent stake in the firm and 50,971 public shareholders owned 73.12 per cent for the quarter ended March 2026. Of these, 47,957 public shareholders held 69.31 lakh shares or 12.55% stake with capital up to Rs 2 lakh. Only 68 shareholders with 17.76% stake or 98.05 lakh shares held capital above Rs 2 lakh for the quarter ended March 2026. About the Company Aurionpro Solutions is an advanced technology solutions company catering to the needs of the Banking, Mobility, Payments and Government sectors. It converges multiple technology solutions under one umbrella, acting as one platform for Advanced and Accelerated Platform-led Transformation, guiding businesses to ADAPT to a new paradigm in the digital world order.

Planning to fly from Jewar Air India Express pulls out changes for you

Mumbai: Noida's Jewar Airport opens on June 15 — but there is a catch. Air India Express, which previously committed to flying from the new airport, has quietly backed out. It also recently pulled out of the Hindon Airport. So when Jewar opens to the public, only IndiGo and Akasa Air will be there to greet you. IndiGo kicks off on Day 1; Akasa Air follows on June 16. If you were hoping to take an affordable Air India Express flight to Abu Dhabi or Dubai from Jewar, that's off the table for now. If you live in Noida, Greater Noida, or western Uttar Pradesh, this directly affects how you fly and whether the dependence on the Delhi airport will go down. Here's the full picture. Why did Air India Express back out?

The airline has indefinitely postponed its Noida International Airport launch plans after pulling out of the Hindon Airport operations, The Times of India reported. The airline took this decision as part of cost-cutting measures within the Tata Group-owned Air India, which has been facing mounting losses. The group is reluctant to incur additional expenses to

set up facilities at a new airport in a region where it already has a major presence through the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi. The move is part of a broader exercise to rationalise the airline's networks, with some other routes also being reviewed. Air India Express backing out of the Noida airport launch implies that passengers will now have fewer choices. The commercial operations will begin as scheduled, with IndiGo and Akasa being the key players. Passengers are advised to check airline schedules before planning their travel from Jewar. Early travellers should also compare fares across Jewar and Delhi, as price differences may vary significantly during the launch phase. Will dependence on Delhi airport go down? That's not the case. One of Jewar airport's biggest selling points has been the convenience of the residents of Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, and parts of Western Uttar Pradesh. With Air India Express deciding to back off from Jewar and Hindon, passengers loyal to the airline will still have to travel to Delhi to catch Air India Group flights.

US Curbs on WuXi AppTec

Mumbai: The pharma sector, especially the buzzing CDMO sector is in the spotlight. This is after the US Department of Defense added several prominent Chinese companies to its list of entities identified as "firms linked to Chinese military" recently. Chinese pharmaceutical services company WuXi AppTec is also on this list. What are the implications for Indian companies in the space as a result of this.

WuXi AppTe Indian CDMOs capture this Opportunity

Mumbai: The pharma sector, especially the buzzing CDMO sector is in the spotlight. This is after the US Department of Defense added several prominent Chinese companies to its list of entities identified as "firms linked to Chinese military" recently. Chinese pharmaceutical services company WuXi AppTec is also on this list. What are the implications for Indian companies in the space as a result of this? While there are no immediate sanctions, industry observers believe that there is potential for long-term opportunities for Indian contract drug manufacturers.

Elara Capital highlighted that "While the development is sentimentally positive for India's CDMO companies, it would be premature to interpret it as an immediate business opportunity." "The addition of Chinese Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisations (CDMO) names like Wuxi Apptec creates a significant opportunity for Indian CDMO firms especially in the small-molecule and peptide space," Jefferies noted. Jefferies: India seen as a key beneficiary of the China+1 shift Jefferies believes the development will accelerate the "China+1" sourcing strategy among global pharmaceutical companies including India. Indian CDMOs generated around \$3-3.5 billion in revenue in FY26, as compared with WuXi AppTec's \$6.3 billion revenue in CY25. However, analysts from Elara Securities noted that any potential gains for Indian companies are unlikely to materialise immediately as pharmaceutical supply chains are complex and take years to shift. "The transfer of pharmaceuticals manufacturing and supply chains is a complex process that usually takes several years, making it too early to assess any meaningful impact on WuXi's business. Moreover, the move could prove to be part of the broader geopolitical and trade negotiations between the US and China, rather than a precursor to significant near-term shifts in industry-sourcing patterns," Elara noted highlighting the complex process. Elara added that the move could also be part of broader geopolitical and trade negotiations between the US and China rather than a signal of imminent changes in pharmaceutical sourcing patterns. WuXi AppTec's inclusion in the US Department of Defense's Section 1260H list brings it under the BIOSECURE Act, which bars US federal agencies and federally funded entities from procuring biotechnology products or services from designated "biotechnology companies of concern" (BCCs). While the restrictions will be implemented in phases and are unlikely to become fully effective before late 2027 or 2028, the law will prohibit new federal contracts, grants, loans, renewals, and extensions involving these companies. Existing contracts will be allowed to continue for a five-year transition period, giving customers time to shift supply chains. The move is expected to create a significant long-term opportunity for non-Chinese CDMOs, particularly Indian players with strong capabilities in small molecules and peptides.

Allotment odds, fresh GMP & listing date

Mumbai: Hexagon Nutrition is likely to finalize the basis of allotment of its shares on Wednesday, June 10. Applicant bidders will get the messages, alerts or emails for debit of their funds either on the weekend or latest by Thursday, June 11. The research-based nutrition company saw a strong response from the investors during the three-day bidding process. The IPO of Hexagon Nutrition was open for bidding between June 05 and June 09. It had offered its shares in the price band of Rs 42-45 per share with a lot size of 333 shares. The company eyed to raise a total of Rs 139 crore via IPO, which was entirely an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 3,08,58,704 crore shares. The issue was overall subscribed a total of 53.68 times with more than 7.71 lakh applications, fetching bids for Rs 5,200 crore. The portion for qualified-institutional bidders (QIBs) was subscribed 19.77 times. The non-institutional investors (NIIs) quota was booked 161.49 times, while the allocation for retail investors was booked 26.85 during the three-day bidding process. Based on the subscription status, here is the tentative allotment mix for IPO of Hexagon Nutrition: The grey market premium (GMP) of Hexagon Nutrition has seen dropped sharply even after strong listing of CMR Green Technologies and decent response from the investors amid mixed market sentiments. Last heard, it was commanding a GMP of Rs 4.5 per share, suggesting a listing of 9-11 per cent for the investors. The GMP stood at Rs 12 before the bidding kicked-off. Incorporated in 1993, Mumbai-based Hexagon Nutrition is a research-driven nutrition company. It is engaged



in developing and manufacturing products across micronutrient premixes, branded wellness and clinical nutrition, therapeutic formulations, and ready-to-use foods.

Cumulative Capital and Catalyst Capital Partners are the book running lead managers of Hexagon Nutrition IPO and Kfin Technologies is the registrar of the issue. Refund initiations and credit of shares is likely to be done by Thursday, June 11. Shares of the company shall be listed on both BSE and NSE on June 12, 2026. The registrar is a Sebi-registered entity, qualified to act as such and which electronically processes all applications and carries out the allotment process, as per the prospectus. The registrar is responsible for complying with the timelines for updating the electronic credit of shares to successful applicants, dispatching and uploading refunds, and attending to all investor-related queries. Hexagon Nutrition sold its shares in the price band of Rs 42-45 apiece, applied for a minimum of 333 shares and its multiples to raise Rs 139 crore between June 05-09.

Do you know these 10 companies that grew profits by up to 568% in 10 years

Mumbai: A decade ago, India Inc.'s profit landscape looked very different. Banks were still dealing with bad loans; telecom companies were locked in fierce competition, and energy firms were navigating volatile commodity prices. Fast forward to FY26 and select corporate giants have emerged as India's biggest money-making machines, generating tens of thousands of crores in annual profits and creating enormous value for shareholders. The telecom sector also delivered a remarkable success story. Bharti Airtel's profit climbed 385% over the decade, rising from Rs 6,893 crore to Rs 33,458 crore. Among energy companies, ONGC's profit surged 257%, while Reliance Industries posted a 220% increase, taking its earnings from Rs 29,861 crore in FY16 to nearly Rs 96,000 crore in FY26. The data reveals a clear trend banking, energy and technology companies have dominated India's profit pool over the last decade. More importantly, it shows how some of the country's largest corporations have not only maintained their leadership positions but have also multiplied their earnings several times over, reflecting the scale and resilience of India's corporate growth story. Performance in FY26 The latest year's performance presents a mixed picture. ONGC recorded the fastest profit growth among the top 10 companies in FY26, with earnings rising 22% year-on-year. Reliance Industries followed with 18% growth, while NTPC and Infosys reported gains of 13% and 10%, respectively. State Bank of India and HDFC Bank delivered steady growth of 8% each, while ICICI Bank's profit increased 6%. In contrast, Bharti Airtel and Coal India reported declines of 11% and 14%, respectively, while TCS posted a modest 1% in-



crease. Profit growth in the last ten year

While the FY26 rankings showcase current leaders, the real story lies in how significantly profits have grown over the last decade. State Bank of India emerged as the biggest turnaround story, with profit soaring 568% from Rs 12,743 crore in FY16 to Rs 85,168 crore in FY26. HDFC Bank followed closely with 518% growth, while ICICI Bank's earnings jumped 428%. Together, these numbers underline how India's banking sector has transformed from a period of stress into the country's strongest profit engine. According to ACE Equity data, Reliance Industries remained India's most profitable company in FY26 with a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 95,610 crore, followed by State Bank of India (Rs 85,168 crore), HDFC Bank (Rs

79,219 crore) and ICICI Bank (Rs 57,673 crore). Tata Consultancy Services reported a profit of Rs 49,454 crore, while ONGC earned Rs 46,791 crore. Bharti Airtel, Coal India, Infosys and NTPC completed the list of the country's top 10 profit generators. The combined profit of the 50 companies in the Nifty50 stood at Rs 9.16 lakh crore in FY26, up nearly 6% year-on-year. Over the last decade, aggregate profit surged 250%, rising from Rs 2.62 lakh crore in FY16. Of the 50 companies in the index, 48 reported profits in FY26, while two companies posted losses. Notably, 30 companies recorded profits exceeding Rs 10,000 crore, highlighting the broad-based strength of corporate earnings among India's largest listed firms.

Ather Energy, Ola Electric, Bajaj Auto or TVS Motor: EV two-wheeler stock is best placed for growth

Mumbai: Select electric two-wheeler stocks have attracted investor interest amid the Centre's continued push towards greener mobility. Shares of Ather Energy Ltd have gained 40.80 per cent so far in calendar year 2026, while Ola Electric Mobility Ltd has risen 26.07 per cent. Bajaj Auto Ltd has also advanced 5.94 per cent during the same period. Meanwhile, TVS Motor Company Ltd has declined 11.96 per cent year-to-date (YTD). Market participants hold differing views on the two-wheeler EV sector's prospects. While some largely believe TVS Motor, Bajaj Auto and Ather Energy are better positioned for the next phase of growth, another market expert said Ola Electric, which has witnessed a sharp rebound in its share price recently, could gain an edge going forward. Ravi Singh, Chief Research Officer at Master Capital Services, said, "India's electric two-wheeler market is becoming

highly competitive, but currently TVS Motor and Bajaj Auto look better positioned for long-term leadership. Both companies already have strong dealership networks, trusted brands, better service infrastructure and financial strength, which gives customers more confidence while shifting towards EVs. Bajaj's Chetak has witnessed strong growth recently, while TVS iQube continues seeing healthy demand across multiple cities." He added, "Ather Energy, on the other hand, still stands out for its technology, premium quality and strong product experience. Its new family scooter Rizta has helped the company expand beyond young urban buyers. However, compared to TVS and Bajaj, Ather still needs a larger scale and wider reach."

Singh further stated, "Ola Electric remains aggressive in expansion and battery manufacturing plans, but the compa-

ny is still facing concerns around service quality, execution and profitability. Overall, traditional players currently appear more stable.

while Ather remains the strongest innovation-driven EV brand." Kranthi Bathini, Director of Equity Strategy at WealthMills Securities, said, "The two-wheeler EV space is moving from a slow lane to a fast lane. Investors with a medium- to long-term view can add Ather." He advised buying Bajaj Auto and TVS Motor on dips. On Ola Electric, Bathini highlighted that the stock may be suitable only for investors with a high-risk appetite. In contrast, market veteran Arun Kejriwal underscored the sharp rebound in Ola Electric's stock price.

"The pure-play EV company has indicated that work on its new cell technology is at an advanced stage. Based on the



management's commentary, Ola Electric could gain an edge as progress in cell development continues," he said. Shares of Ather Energy Ltd have gained 40.80 per cent so far in calendar year 2026, while Ola Electric Mobility Ltd has risen 26.07 per cent. Bajaj Auto Ltd has also advanced 5.94 per cent during the same period.

Immigrant from Republic of Georgia Banned from U.K., Traveling to Cuba & Critical of Israel Dies in Louisiana ICE Jail



New Work: An immigrant from the nation of Georgia has died in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center. Mamuka Artmeladze is the 50th person to die in ICE custody since Trump returned to office. The 43-year-old had been jailed at the troubled Winn Correctional Center in Louisiana for about four months when he was found unresponsive. ICE officials have not disclosed further details about his death. Artmeladze is the second immigrant to die while detained at Winn Correctional Center in less than two months. The facility is operated by the Winn Parish Sheriff's Office and ICE contractor LaSalle Corrections. A recent inspection of the ICE jail found excessive use of force by guards, poor medical care and unsanitary conditions. New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill conducted an inspection of the Newark ICE jail known as Delaney Hall Monday after previously being denied entry to the facility, where hundreds of immigrants began a hunger and labor strike in May. Governor Sherrill said her visit was closely controlled and limited and that she was prohibited from speaking to any of the detained immigrants inside. In a statement, Sherrill said the restrictions during the visit continued to raise "serious questions about the real conditions of the facility and the treatment of those held there." Sherrill has faced criticism after she deployed New Jersey State Police on protesters outside Delaney Hall, which is run by the private prison company GEO Group. Mutual aid volunteers have continued to support the families of those detained, even after facing harassment from law enforcement. On Monday, educator and YouTube star Ms. Rachel, known to millions around the world, paid a visit to the volunteers, as well as the children of parents detained at Delaney Hall. She said on her Instagram, "Met the sweetest children whose hearts are broken. They just want their parents home again."

President Trump's so-called border czar Tom Homan lashed out at Delaney Hall protesters in an interview with Fox News, claiming that government surveillance had revealed that most of the demonstrators were not from New Jersey. Tom Homan: "Look, these are paid protesters. We got, you know, facial recognition of people from Portland. They're at Portland riots, and many."

Minnesota. This is a well-planned, established thing they're doing. This isn't homegrown." In the same interview, Homan also laid out a plan by the Trump administration to deploy a massive surge of federal immigration agents to New York City in retaliation for new legislation recently signed by Governor Kathy Hochul that bans state

and local law enforcement from collaborating with ICE and enacts other immigration protections. Homan's announcement came just days before the start of the World Cup this week, with immigration activists leading campaigns nationwide to protect communities amid an expected rising presence of ICE agents during the soccer tournament.

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani pushed back against Tom Homan's threats during a press conference with Governor Kathy Hochul Monday, calling for ICE to be abolished and saying, "I believe that ICE raids are cruel, they are inhumane, they do nothing to serve in the interest of public safety." Mamdani also responded to the mounting barriers faced by World Cup fans and soccer players from qualifying nations that are on Trump's travel ban and visa restrictions list. President Trump was loudly booed by basketball fans at Manhattan's Madison Square Garden Monday evening as he attended Game 3 of the NBA Finals between the New York Knicks and the San Antonio Spurs. The unwelcome reception drowned out the singing of the national anthem, after a camera showed Trump saluting from his VIP suite, surrounded by bulletproof glass. Fans reportedly waited outside Madison Square Garden for hours due to a strict security protocol resembling TSA, and Trump's presence prompted the NYPD to cancel a watch party outside the venue that would have attracted thousands of people. We will have more on this story later in the broadcast with The Nation's sports editor Dave Zirin.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani:

"The World Cup is supposed to be a celebration of the world as a whole. And some of the decisions that we've seen been taken by the federal administration, be it the denial of visas for journalists from certain countries or the rejection of a visa for a coach of a team, as well as single-day visas for specific foreign national teams, this is anathema to what this tournament is supposed to be about.

If we cannot even allow the players, the teams and the journalists covering those teams to come into this city and this country, then it begs a larger question about our commitment to the spirit of this tournament." A federal judge has ruled against President Trump's \$100,000 annual fee on H-1B visa applications, saying it's an unlawful tax. This decision comes days after another federal judge ruled against a Trump administration policy to freeze applications for asylum, green cards, work permits and other immigration protections for people from 39 countries.

New Work: The British government earlier this week barred left-wing political commentators Hasan Piker and Cenk Uygur from entering the U.K. ahead of several speaking events. The Home Office said it was canceling their travel permits because "their presence in the U.K. may not be conducive to the public good." Piker and Uygur, who are related, are both outspoken in their criticism of Israel. While the government did not cite a specific reason for the ban, some lawmakers and pro-Israel groups had accused the two of promoting antisemitism, which they reject.

"I find what the British government did here to be objectionable. I find it to be disgusting. I also find it to be terrifying," Piker tells Democracy Now! "I think it's a sign that we're ... headed down a very different — dare I say, fascist — direction in the Western world." Piker also discusses his participation in a recent humanitarian mission to Cuba, for which he is reportedly under investigation by the Trump administration, and his support for progressive and antiwar candidates in this year's midterm elections. "We don't have a lot of time. Fascism is here," Piker says. Earlier this week, the British government banned the progressive political commentators Hasan Piker and Cenk Uygur from entering the U.K. They were scheduled to speak at the SXSW London festival and the Oxford Union Society. The U.K.'s Home Office said it was canceling their travel permits, quote, "on the grounds that their presence in the U.K. may not be conducive to the public good," unquote. Both Piker and Uygur are outspoken in their criticism of Israel. Recent comments from — that have drawn scrutiny include Piker saying that as a, quote, "lesser-evil voter," he "would vote for Hamas over Israel every single time," unquote.

The week prior to their ban, British Labour MP David Taylor called for Piker

to be barred, saying, quote, "It's shocking that SXSW would invite someone who has openly supported a proscribed terrorist organisation and spouted these kinds of vile antisemitic rants to speak at their festival. With the unacceptable rise in antisemitism on our streets leaving British Jews in a constant state of anxiety, Hasan Piker is clearly not conducive to the public good," he said. Hasan Piker is one of the most prominent online influencers on the left. He has millions of followers and subscribers across social media platforms. He live-streams on the gaming platform Twitch for hours every day. Recently, he's drawn the ire of the Democratic Party leadership for endorsing and campaigning on behalf of progressive candidates in primaries across the country. To talk more about his ban from the U.K., his views on Israel, his critique of the Democratic Party and more, we're joined by Hasan Piker from his home, where he streams, in West Hollywood, California. Hasan, welcome to Democracy Now! Can you start off by responding to this ban on you and — Cenk is your uncle, is that right, Cenk Uygur? But so, Cenk and I were supposed to participate at the Oxford Union. We were supposed to do different panels at SXSW. I was also supposed to have a conversation with Jeremy Corbyn and Zack Polanski, the leader of the Green Party, and I also had another talk set up with former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis. And then, Cenk was supposed to travel to the U.K. with his family, and he was stopped at the airport, and he found out that his visa had been rescinded and that he could not get on the plane. So I ended up checking my visa, as well, and found out that my visa was also revoked.

Now, I find what the British government did here to be objectionable. I find it to be disgusting. I also find it to be terrifying. I think it's a terrifying prospect for the future of Western liberal democracies. The fact that a country that has in the past harbored much more radical thinkers than myself to completely drop all pretext that they care about free expression instead of protecting it is, I think, a sign of the times. I think it's a sign that we're moving down into a — we're headed down a very different — dare I say, fascist — direction in the Western world. JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And this is — this is happening, Hasan, under a Labour government in Britain, especially given Britain's particular role when it comes to Israel and Palestine, being the primary imperial power that allowed the creation or promoted the development of the state of Israel. HASAN PIKER: Yeah, absolutely. There is definitely a lot of culpability, that extends far beyond the Balfour Declaration. And the British government has been coordinating with the Israeli government. The Royal Air Force has been conducting surveillance missions, flying off of their Cyprus base. Keir Starmer has actually visited this base and has openly admitted that he could never say in broad daylight what the Royal Air Force is doing there. Starmer has also invited Isaac Herzog, who has been mentioned in the ICC and the ICJ court cases against both Israel and Israeli officials, like former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

So, the fact that England extends a red carpet to war criminals and collaborators of war criminals that have played a role in the genocide of the Palestinians, but then critics of Israel are considered to be real threats, significant threats to public safety is preposterous. But once again, I think this is a real warning. Just as the proscription of Palestine Action and the mass arrests that have taken place of pensioners in the U.K. that have demonstrated in support of Palestine Action was a very clear attempt by the British

government to do the exact opposite of the democratic process, to refuse to listen to the very just and moral demands of the masses, and instead suppress their voices and try to silence them through state repression, is very clear that there's a — there's a terrifying direction that the U.K. is headed down. And, yes, it is the Labour government's complicity, both in the crimes that Israel has committed, but it's also the Labour government's complicity in the acceleration towards fascism, because the next government that comes in, if it's, God forbid, a Reform government, a far-right, authoritarian government, they're going to overtake this exact same process, and they might not have even the restrictions that the Labour government is applying currently. So, to offer them the keys of the castle in this manner is complicity. It's something that we've seen. It's appeasement. It's something that we've seen throughout history in the past, where liberals assume that they could overtake the reactionary demands coming from the right in an effort to keep control, and they ultimately fail to the fascists. JUAN GONZÁLEZ: I wanted to ask you also about another international issue which you've been involved with controversy lately. You went to Cuba in March with the Nuestra América Convoy, which brought activists from 33 countries and medicines and supplies to Cuba to attempt to break this economic blockade and warfare that the United States has been — has been involved in against Cuba. But last week, it was reported that the Treasury Department sent you and Medea Benjamin, founder of CodePink, who helped organize the convoy, a request for information from the Office of Foreign Assets Control to look at the possible violations. What's your response to this inquiry?

Russian soldiers bloc in fresh

London: "Our sanctions keep biting hard and cutting deep. They are weakening the economic foundations of Russia's war effort," von der Leyen said as she introduced the plans, the 21st set of measures since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The commission also wants to maintain a price cap on Russian oil at \$44 until January 2027, which would prevent the Kremlin reaping gains from rising crude prices resulting from the closure of the strait of Hormuz. We want to maintain the full intensity of our sanctions," von der Leyen said.

EU officials also want to add 30 "shadow fleet" vessels helping Russia evade western sanctions to its blacklist, in addition to 632 already under restrictions. In addition, Brussels wants to extend sanctions against cryptocurrency firms that are helping Russia cope with being shut out of western capital markets. It proposes placing sanctions on 20 banks, crypto firms and oil traders in third countries deemed to be helping Russia dodge sanctions. Estonia put a ban on Russian ex-combatants on the agenda earlier this year. Its foreign minister, Margus Tsahkna, told reporters in January that a visa ban was necessary for Europe's security. "Putin will push these people to Europe," he said, citing continuing hybrid attacks by Russian agencies in the EU. "Can you imagine these hundreds of thousands of ex-combatants, criminals coming here? I am sure they are not going to just work and pay all taxes. No, they are going to do many bad things." Von der Leyen also confirmed the decision to move ahead with Ukraine's negotiations to join the EU. The bloc is expected to open the first set of negotiating chapters — on the rule of law and democratic standards — in accession talks with Ukraine and Moldova next week. "This basically opens the door to the next phase of the accession process, the formal start of negotiations," she said. The latest sanctions proposals extend for the first time to Russian fish imports, with a potential ban on cod and restrictions on trade in other species. The EU also intends to ban the import of Russian metals, ores and car parts worth €60m (£52m) as part of continuing attempt to restrict economic ties. EU alumina exports, which have come under the spotlight since investigative journalists revealed details of how the raw material needed to produce aluminium and refined in Ireland feeds into Russian supply chains. Alumina is shipped from the Russian-owned Aughinish plant in County Limerick to Siberia, where it is smelted into aluminium to supply Russian factories. An investigation by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and partners including the Guardian and the Irish Times revealed that alumina refined in Ireland fed into a Russian supply chain that appeared to conclude with arms firms making lethal weapons used in Ukraine. The EU foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, was expected to raise the issue when she met the taoiseach, Micheál Martin, in Dublin on Tuesday, a few weeks before Ireland takes over the rotating presidency of the EU council.

Israeli Strike on Gaza Refugee Camp Kills 8-Year-Old Palestinian Leaving School

New Work: In Gaza, Israeli forces have reopened border crossings into the besieged Palestinian territory, after closing them on Sunday in retaliation for Iranian strikes. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres had urged Israel to immediately reopen the passages, which are the only route for desperately needed humanitarian aid, which Israel severely limits. Meanwhile, Israeli strikes killed at least seven Palestinians on Monday, including a child, as Israel's army pushes the so-called Yellow Line deeper into Gaza. In one attack, an Israeli drone fired at people gathered in Jaba-liya refugee camp, killing three — among the dead, 8-year-old Jad Salman, a young boy whose father Youssef was seen clutching his son's school bag, saying a final goodbye. President Trump says the United States is nearing a peace agreement with Iran, claiming he's in the "final throes" of a deal that could be completed within days. It's at least the 37th time since late March that Trump has said publicly that Iran and the U.S. were closing in on an agreement or that Tehran was eager to reach a deal. Trump's latest claim came after Israel and Iran halted drone and missile attacks at one another, following the largest escalation since a so-called ceasefire was declared in April. On Monday, Iran's parliament speaker and top negotiator Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran was responding to U.S. and Israeli violations. Nigeria's military says it has freed 360 people abducted by Boko Haram in southern Borno, in the northeastern part of the country. But villagers in the region say joint

U.S.-Nigerian airstrikes killed dozens of civilians during operations in May, when AFRICOM and the Nigerian Army claimed they killed 175 so-called terrorists over three days. Nigeria is facing a decadelong insurgency in the north of the country, where armed groups have routinely carried out kidnappings for ransom. In California, progressive Los Angeles City Councilmember Nithya Raman will advance to a November runoff election against incumbent Mayor Karen Bass, who's seeking a second term in office. A count of mail-in ballots from the June 2 primary showed Raman surging ahead of former reality TV personality Spencer Pratt. An immigrant from the nation of Georgia has died in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center. Mamuka Artmeladze is the 50th person to die in ICE custody since Trump returned to office. The 43-year-old had been jailed at the troubled Winn Correctional Center in Louisiana for about four months when he was found unresponsive. ICE officials have not disclosed further details about his death. Artmeladze is the second immigrant to die while detained at Winn Correctional Center in less than two months. The facility is operated by the Winn Parish Sheriff's Office and ICE contractor LaSalle Corrections. A recent inspection of the ICE jail found excessive use of force by guards, poor medical care and unsanitary conditions.

New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill conducted an inspection of the Newark ICE jail known as Delaney Hall Monday after previously being denied entry to the

facility, where hundreds of immigrants began a hunger and labor strike in May. Governor Sherrill said her visit was closely controlled and limited and that she was prohibited from speaking to any of the detained immigrants inside. In a statement, Sherrill said the restrictions during the visit continued to raise "serious questions about the real conditions of the facility and the treatment of those held there." Sherrill has faced criticism after she deployed New Jersey State Police on protesters outside Delaney Hall, which is run by the private prison company GEO Group. Mutual aid volunteers have continued to support the families of those detained, even after facing harassment from law enforcement. On Monday, educator and YouTube star Ms. Rachel, known to millions around the world, paid a visit to the volunteers, as well as the children of parents detained at Delaney Hall. She said on her Instagram, "Met the sweetest children whose hearts are broken. They just want their parents home again." This comes as officials continue to count ballots in the race to succeed Governor Gavin Newsom. With more than 80% tallied, Republican Steve Hilton has a slight lead over Democrat Tom Steyer in a close race for second place; one of them will advance to take on former Biden administration Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra in the general election. President Trump formally nominated his former personal lawyer Todd Blanche to serve as attorney general. He would succeed Pam Bondi, whom the president fired back in April. The nomination



comes just weeks after Blanche used his position at the Justice Department to protect Trump, his family and his business from any IRS investigation connected to tax returns filed before Trump's controversial \$10 billion settlement with the agency. In a statement, Public Citizen Co-President Lisa Gilbert wrote, "This is yet another example of Trump assembling a team of henchmen whose primary qualification is doing his own bidding, rather than serving the nation, to staff the government. Blanche demonstrated his toady qualities throughout his 'audition' for this role, and is being awarded with the leading role as a result."

On Monday, President Trump repeated his unfounded claim that California's elections were "rigged," writing on his Truth Social platform, "Not possible for Spencer Pratt to have lost the L.A. runoff's after the big lead he had. 3rd World Nation." More than half of Los Angeles voters are registered Democrats, compared to less than 15% who are Republicans.

Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf: "What caused these tensions was that the Americans committed a blatant violation of the ceasefire, both through the naval blockade against the Iranian nation and by violating the agreement made on Lebanon and the ceasefire. The remarks made by the U.S. president about the memorandum of understanding contradicted parts that had been agreed to. This showed t In Lebanon, Israeli forces ordered all residents of the coastal city of Tyre and its surrounding suburbs to flee north of the Zaharani River — just hours before it began heavily bombing the area. Five people were killed and eight others injured when Israel struck near a Red Cross center in Tyre. Four of the wounded were paramedics. The attack also damaged a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lebanon's Health Ministry reports Israel has killed more than 3,600 people in Lebanon since March 2, including 245 children. More than 900 children have been wounded.

Learn how to dress stylishly to tackle heat and humidity



Your attire reflects your mood and personal style; however, it is equally important to consider the weather conditions. Flexibility is a key characteristic of a thoughtfully curated wardrobe! This is particularly significant during the transitional period when summer gradually shifts into the rainy season. Certain days may be intensely hot, while others can swiftly become humid, result-

ing in garments that feel uncomfortable and clingy. To combat this, you need to make practical fashion choices. For expert-backed styling tips for the in-between season, Shubha Mitra, founder of Shubha Design Studio, weighed in and helped to identify the fashion choices one needs to make for better comfort. She outlined three important things you need to keep in mind: breathability,

comfort, and ease of repeated wear. “Instead of investing in occasion-heavy outfits that are worn once and forgotten, shoppers are gravitating towards pieces that transition effortlessly from work to travel to casual outings and holidays,” Shubha added. What does it mean? The focus here should be on choosing clothes that are useful for different occasions. Pieces that are versatile! The

choices should be focused on functionality.

The expert walked us through the best choices. Here’s a brief guide Shubha shared, recommending the best fabrics, fittings and prints: 1. Choose breathable fabrics

Cotton, linen, bamboo blends, and soft handwoven textiles are summer-monsoon staples. They regulate heat better and feel lighter on the skin. Avoid heat synthetics, which can feel restrictive and uncomfortable in hot, humid weather.

2. Go for relaxed fits Choose oversized shirts, easy co-ord sets, loose trousers, and wrinkle-friendly separates. The co-ord set is comfortable. The focus is on how to be comfortable even after long hours outdoors.

3. For fun, choose prints Quirky prints, artistic florals, tropical motifs and playful stripes enhance personality. To feel expressive, choose statement shirts, printed co-ords and bold separates that feel visually good, while also remaining easy to wear. Next, Shubha highlighted that one should prioritise ‘durability’ in this season. “Instead of building wardrobes around constant newness, shoppers are focusing on versatility. Pieces that can be styled differently across occasions naturally reduce unnecessary consumption while making everyday dressing simpler.”

These fashionable kurta sets are dominating summer wardrobes

Each summer, there arrives a moment when the act of dressing transforms into a challenge. Jeans seem excessively heavy, synthetic materials become intolerable, and at that point, all one desires is attire that is breathable, comfortable, and sufficiently stylish for outdoor wear. This is precisely the reason why kurta sets emerge as the unofficial attire of Indian summers.

This year, the trend is moving beyond heavily embellished festive styles. Instead, women are gravitating towards lightweight cottons, linen blends, floral prints, sleeveless silhouettes, relaxed palazzos, and easy dupatta sets that can seamlessly transition from work meetings to lunch dates and family gatherings. The focus is on effortless dressing: pieces that look polished without requiring too much styling.

If you’re looking to refresh your summer wardrobe, these trending kurta sets deserve your attention.

- Kurta sets for the summer season
1. Women’s Linen-Cotton Kurta & Dupatta Set: Linen-cotton blends are having a major moment this summer, and this kurta set explains why. The beige base paired with multicolour floral prints creates a fresh, understated look that feels elegant without being overwhelming. The lightweight fabric makes it ideal for hot days, while the floral detailing adds enough visual interest to keep the outfit feeling elevated. This is the kind of set you’ll reach for when you want to look put together with minimal effort. Style it with: Kolhapuris, silver jhumkas, and a woven tote bag for an easy daytime look.
 2. Arayna Cotton Printed Kurta Set with Pants & Dupatta: Floral prints never really leave summer wardrobes, but this season they’re appearing in softer, more wearable forms. This Arayna kurta set combines breath-



able cotton with elegant floral motifs, making it suitable for everything from office days to weekend outings. The coordinated pants and dupatta create a complete look that requires very little additional styling, making it ideal for busy mornings. Style it with: Minimal jewellery, nude flats, and a sleek low bun.

3. EthnicJunction Linen Floral Kurta with Farshi Salwar Set: Farshi salwars are one of the biggest ethnic wear trends this year. Their dramatic volume offers comfort while creating a more fashion-forward silhouette than traditional straight pants. Combined with a linen floral kurta, this set feels modern, breathable, and incredibly versatile. It works equally well for office wear, travel days, and casual social plans. Style it with: Statement earrings and strappy sandals for a contemporary ethnic look.
4. Klosia Pure Cotton Sleeveless Kurta Palazzo Set: Sleeveless kur-

tas are becoming increasingly popular as temperatures continue to rise. This cotton palazzo set offers excellent breathability while maintaining a clean, polished appearance. The relaxed silhouette makes movement easy throughout the day, while the matching palazzo pants add a modern co-ord feel to the outfit. Style it with: Oversized sunglasses, sliders, and a structured handbag.

5. Nermosa Cotton Block Printed Kurta Pant with Dupatta: Block prints continue to dominate summer ethnic wear because they strike the perfect balance between traditional and contemporary. This Nermosa set embraces that aesthetic beautifully through classic motifs and breathable cotton construction. The addition of a coordinated dupatta gives it a more complete ethnic feel without making it look overly dressy. Style it with: Oxidised silver jewellery and comfortable flats.

A high-end diffuser that quickly permeates spaces with delightful scents within minutes

I tend to be the type of individual who perceives scents prior to nearly all other stimuli. The aroma of fresh flowers adorning the dining table, the smell of rain wafting through an open window, the delightful fragrance of warm baked goods emerging from the oven, and a gentle floral scent that remains in a room. If it has a comforting aroma, it is likely that I have a fondness for it.

So when Aerome sent over the IVAA Xperia Ambience Diffuser, I was curious. Then I looked at the price tag and nearly fell off my chair. At an MRP of ₹28,820, this is not your average diffuser. This is a luxury and premium product. After 40 days of regular testing, I can confidently say that this is one of those products that makes complete sense once you live with it. Before that, it feels slightly absurd.

Don’t want to read the details? Here’s a quick verdict

The IVAA Xperia is an investment in fragrance as a lifestyle choice. If you want hotel-style scent coverage without candles, reed sticks, water tanks or constant maintenance, the Midnight Black edition delivers beautifully. It fills a room incredibly fast, looks fantastic on display and is genuinely fun to use. The trade-off is that it needs a permanent plug point and will go through oils faster than simpler diffusion methods. The price point is also a splurge, but in a very wellness-forward mindset way!

First impression and the unboxing

The unboxing experience feels beyond basic. This is a luxury experience from the moment you open the package. Nothing feels rushed or cheaply assem-



bled. The entire presentation gives the impression that you’re opening a piece of home technology rather than another fragrance gadget. The Midnight Black finish is gorgeous. It has a sophisticated matte appearance that looks expensive. Under warm evening lighting, it almost looks sculptural, which explains why I immediately placed it somewhere guests could see it. The diffuser has a reassuring weight to it and feels stable on a console table. None of that lightweight plastic feeling that often comes with fragrance devices. In fact, on higher diffusion settings, the visible mist effect is so satisfying that it quickly becomes a conversation starter. More than once, I have had guests ask why the house smells so good, which gives me the perfect excuse to launch into a full

demonstration.

What exactly is ambient scenting?

Ambient scenting is different from simply spraying a room freshener and hoping for the best. Instead of creating a sudden burst of fragrance that disappears after a few minutes, ambient scenting creates a continuous fragrance background throughout a space. The goal is consistency rather than intensity. Think of it as invisible décor. Just as lighting changes the mood of a room and furniture influences how a space feels, scent has the ability to create an immediate emotional response. You walk in, and something simply feels good before you can even explain why. Luxury hotels, designer boutiques and premium hospitality spaces have been using scent this way for years. That memorable

feeling you get when walking into a beautiful hotel lobby is often carefully planned through ambient scenting. The IVAA Xperia essentially brings that concept into your home. The tech that revolves around advanced dry air diffusion

The IVAA Xperia uses dry air diffusion technology, also known as atomisation. Instead of mixing oil with water, the machine uses pressurised air to break fragrance oils into microscopic particles that remain suspended in the air for longer periods. The result is significantly faster scent distribution. Since there is no water involved, humidity levels remain unchanged, and there is no risk of moisture affecting nearby furniture or electronics. There is also no heat involved in the process. The fragrance oils remain intact rather than being altered

through heating elements. In simple terms, it is a more efficient and direct way of getting fragrance into a room. And based on my experience, the difference is noticeable almost immediately. 40 days with the Aerome IVAA Xperia ambience diffuser

This is where the IVAA Xperia truly earned its price tag, or to me at least justified it enough to accept that this could be something worth investing in. My home is not particularly compact. The rooms are spread out and separate from one another. Even then, two minutes of diffusion are enough to transform the immediate area completely. The fragrance intensity was impressive, and what I loved was that it was not some simple Jasmine/Lemongrass/Vanilla concoction, but instead it was perfume-like with notes and undertones. One short session can leave the drawing room smelling like a very expensive garden. Not a flower market. Not an overpowering perfume counter. Something far more refined. The included Frosty Zenith fragrance is excellent. In fact, I enjoyed it enough to start looking at refills before finishing the first bottle. After roughly 40 days of use, I am still only halfway through my first bottle. That said, I do not run it continuously. My routine usually involves switching it on during the evenings or before guests arrive. The control system allows you to adjust power levels, timing cycles and automatic shut-off periods. There is enough flexibility to customise how aggressively the fragrance spreads through a space. What surprised me most was the speed. Compared

to reed diffusers, room sprays or water-based systems, the scent arrives almost instantly.

There are a few quirks

If power is interrupted, the diffuser resets to its default settings once electricity returns. In my case, it occasionally restarted on a higher power setting than intended. The touch controls are also extremely sensitive. They look futuristic but react to the slightest touch. More than once, I accidentally changed settings while simply moving the unit. I also think an app or remote control would have made a lot of sense here. Walking across the room to switch it off during a gathering feels oddly old-fashioned for such a modern product. And yes, I absolutely switch it off after guests leave. Call it oil conservation, but those refills do not come cheap! Maintenance

Maintenance is refreshingly simple. One of the smartest additions in the box is a bottle of ethanol included specifically for cleaning and unclogging the system. It is a thought-

ful touch that shows some genuine consideration for long-term ownership. So far, I have not needed to clean the nozzle, but it is reassuring to know the process is straightforward. But again, at the price point, it is important that the brand thought this through, so brownie points for giving us our money’s worth! My bigger complaint is the requirement for a constant power connection. This limits placement options significantly. In my house, it often turns into a competition between the diffuser and my robot vacuum for access to the nearest plug point. The touch controls, while attractive, remain my least favourite design decision. Sometimes a press-button just makes more sense, and this is one of those times!

The IVAA Xperia Ambience Diffuser is absolutely a luxury purchase

It is not something you buy because you need a diffuser. It is something you buy because you care deeply about how your home feels. I would recommend it to design-conscious

homeowners, fragrance enthusiasts and anyone who loves creating a welcoming atmosphere with minimal effort. I would skip it if your primary goal is humidification, budget friendliness or whole-house coverage in a large multi-room property. Interestingly, I think smaller homes may get even more value from it than larger ones. In a compact apartment where the living room, dining area and kitchen flow into one another, a single unit could transform the entire home. In my own house, I can easily imagine wanting one in the drawing room, another in the master bedroom and perhaps a third near the dining area. That sounds excessive until you experience what this machine can do. At a discounted price of ₹20,640, the IVAA Xperia sits firmly in luxury territory. Yet it falls into the same category as a great watch, a premium pair of sneakers or a bottle of exceptional whisky. Not necessary. Completely enjoyable. And surprisingly difficult to give up once you get used to it.



ENTERTAINMENT

SC Judge steps aside from Jacqueline Fernandez plea

New Delhi : Supreme Court judge Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra on Thursday recused himself from hearing a plea of Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez against a Delhi court order framing of charges against her in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case. At the outset, a partial working day (PWD) bench, comprising justices Mishra and Atul S Chandurkar, apprised the actor's counsel and the Enforcement Directorate that the matter would be referred to some other bench.

"There is some difficulty. In one of the connected matters, my son had appeared on the government side. Post (this matter) on June 25 before a bench in which one of us is not a member," Justice Mishra said. A Delhi court, on May 30, ordered framing of charges against the actor, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar and 15 others in a Rs 200-crore money



laundering case. The trial court had also directed that the charges be framed against Chandrashekhar and 20 others for various offences, including under the stringent MCOCA provisions, in another case registered by the city police's special cell.

The actor moved the top court against the order. Jacqueline, whom the ED summoned several times

in connection with the probe, was named as an accused for the first time in a supplementary chargesheet filed by the agency. The ED alleged in its second supplementary complaint against Jacqueline that she was in constant touch with Chandrashekhar and had received valuable gifts from him through his associate, Pinky Irani.

According to the prosecution, Chandrashekhar was running an organised criminal network from inside jail and was impersonating senior government officials, including those from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Law and Justice. It claimed that by using spoofed calls, encrypted applications and fabricated identities, the accused induced complainant Aditi Singh and her family members to part with huge sums of money.

Janhvi Kapoor reconciles with Karan Johar

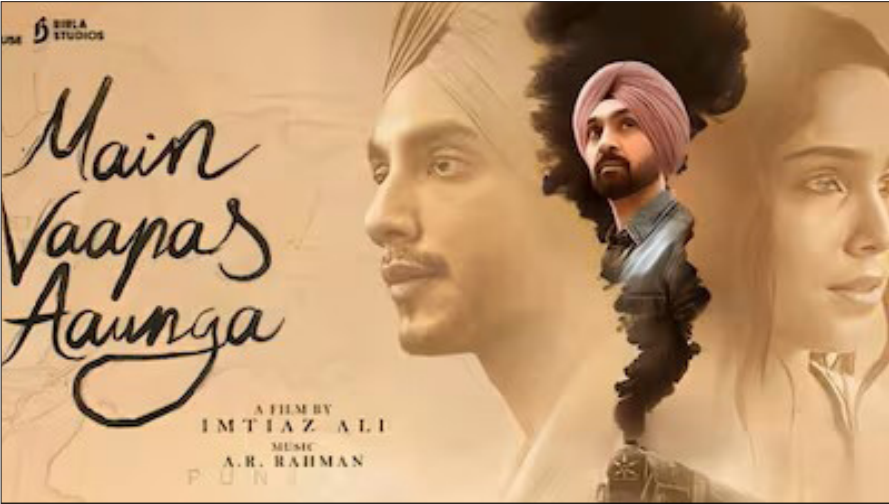
Mumbai : After the Peddi experience, Janhvi Kapoor will take a step back from Telugu cinema and concentrate on Hindi films. In an effort to mend bridges with her mentor Karan Johar, whom she had snubbed a few months back by opting for another marketing agency over Johar's Dharma Productions, Janhvi showed up at an intimate birthday party hosted for Karan by Manish Malhotra at the latter's residence on May 25. Both Karan and Janhvi were teary-eyed as they hugged and agreed to leave the past behind.

Janhvi is working again with Karan Johar for a film co-starring Tiger Shroff and Lakshya. To go back



a bit, Janhvi was launched in 2018. Since then, she has starred regularly in Dharma Productions projects.

Main Vaapas Aaunga review: Imtiaz Ali's partition love story



Mumbai : There have been countless stories about Partition, but rarely has the tragedy been seen through the eyes of lovers. That is precisely what Imtiaz Ali achieves in Main Vaapas Aaunga. Beyond the hatred, beyond the conflict, the film tells the story of people who longed only for love, peace and a place to call home.

Main Vaapas Aaunga follows Keenu, a college-going student from a Sikh family, who falls in love with a Muslim girl, Jiya. While the two were enjoying their growing closeness and budding romance, India was going through a tough time. As they were planning to get married, the Partition of India and Pakistan was announced. The movie follows multiple timelines and shows how Keenu, even after 78 years, longs to meet his Jiya, and on his deathbed he wishes to say a final goodbye to her. Will Nirvair

(Diljit Dosanjh) be able to help his grandfather fulfil his last wish? Sharvari plays Jiya, Vedang Raina plays young Keenu, while Naseeruddin Shah stars as the older Keenu in the Imtiaz Ali's directorial. The movie starts with Naseeruddin Shah's Keenu struggling with dementia, trying to reason between reality and his thoughts. While Main Vaapas Aaunga lives in two timelines, you will have to sit through the first half to be rewarded by the second. The first half of the movie, which mainly focuses on setting the tone and introducing and establishing its characters, felt a little overstretched. While the audience tries to connect with the characters, their story and their pain, it is only the second half that shifts something from within. A man on a quest, longing and trying his best to fix everything — the typical Imtiaz Ali hero. But the differ-

ence? This time the story is not relatable; it is the reality that many must have faced during the hardest historical decision of the India-Pakistan divide. What begins as a grandfather's stubbornness to revisit his old city soon turns into a grandson's mission to uncover.

Often, we have seen films on Partition where we witness riots and families leaving their homes, but this time we see separation through the eyes of lovers. Two youngsters, planning their dream life, unaware that Partition could separate them forever, end up waiting an entire lifetime to meet again. Like much of Imtiaz Ali's work, Main Vaapas Aaunga treats love almost as a spiritual experience. Keenu's longing for Jiya often feels less like romance and more like devotion, echoing the emotional intensity seen in Laila Majnu. The shots of what happened to

those left behind, the shots of Keenu's constant struggle to come back to his love and the ending will make you teary-eyed. The emotional payoff is so powerful that it almost makes you forgive the sluggish first half. While promoted as a Vedang Raina and Sharvari starrer, the film has Diljit Dosanjh and Naseeruddin Shah as the heroes who remain the film's strongest pillars throughout. Diljit, as Nirvair, holds the entire story together, and it feels like he makes us live both timelines of Keenu's life through Naseeruddin Shah's eyes. His punches land well, while we all feel something when he speaks about the desire to be loved like Keenu and Jiya.

Vedang Raina continues to make smart choices with his films and Main Vaapas Aaunga is another solid step forward. He got the chance to work with Imtiaz Ali as the younger male lead, and he delivers for the most part. There are a few moments where his acting feels a little forced, as if he is trying too hard, but those are minor bumps in an otherwise good performance. We cried when he cried, smiled when he smiled and laughed when he laughed and that's a good sign. Sharvari brings a natural warmth to Jiya, making every scene she appears in linger long after it ends. While she has fewer scenes than expected in the film, she does justice to every frame.

Welcome To The Jungle trailer runs 4:20, Akshay Kumar shines



Mumbai : The trailer of Welcome To The Jungle is set to be launched at a grand event at YRF Studio on June 11. The film, which marks the third instalment of the popular Welcome franchise, has already created buzz for its massive ensemble cast. Now, fresh details about the trailer have further added to the excitement around the Akshay Kumar-led comedy.

According to a report by Pinkvilla, the makers have spent over Rs 1.50 crore on the trailer launch alone, making it one of the biggest movie trailer events in recent times. The report has now revealed that the trailer will have a runtime of 4 minutes and 20 seconds. As per the report, an insider who has watched the trailer said that it is packed with fun, chaos, comedy and confusion. The trailer reportedly features several punchlines and dialogues that are expected to become popular on social media. The source also shared that the trailer includes a throwback to a Majnu Bhai moment, which could become a major meme reference after its release.

The iconic character, played by Anil Kapoor in Welcome, remains one of the most memorable parts of the franchise.

Calling Akshay Kumar the show-stealer of the trailer, the insider said, "Akshay is an absolute show stealer, but it opens with the introduction of the entire cast in the most unexpected way. Every character gets a moment to shine, and the last 25 seconds with Akshay, Krushna Abhishek, and Kiku Sharda, among others, stand out the best." The trailer is also said to include several call-backs to real-life jokes around the leading actors. One of the biggest highlights of Welcome To The Jungle is the reunion of Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty after a long gap. According to the report, the two actors will once again be seen sharing a love-hate equation, reminiscent of their much-loved dynamic in Hera Pheri. The insider added that the trailer is likely to receive a strong response from theatre-going audiences.

"The trailer is sure to get a solid reaction from the cinema-going audience, and it will boost curiosity. Witness

this chaotic adventure on the big screen," the insider said.

The source also reportedly hinted at a major surprise in the trailer, suggesting that Welcome To The Jungle may possibly open doors to a cinematic universe. Welcome To The Jungle is scheduled for a theatrical release on June 26, 2026. Directed by Ahmad Khan, the film brings back the madness and confusion associated with the Welcome franchise, but on a much larger scale.

The film 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, Johnny Lever, Rajpal Yadav, Shreyas Talpade, Tusshar Kapoor, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda, Daler Mehendi and others. With a massive cast, a lavish trailer launch and a reported 4-minute-20-second trailer packed with comedy and nostalgia, Welcome To The Jungle is shaping up to be one of the biggest Bollywood comedy releases of 2026.

Sheeba, Arunoday join Vir Das horror

Mumbai : Actor, comedian, International Emmy-winning performer and filmmaker Vir Das has officially unveiled the ensemble cast of his upcoming directorial venture Baara Number, a found-footage psychological horror film that brings together some of the most accomplished and respected performers working in Indian cinema today.

Marking Vir's next directorial feature following Happy Patel, Baara Number boasts an impressive ensemble cast featuring Vir himself along with Sheeba Chaddha, Arunoday Singh, Ahsaas Channa, Atul Kulkarni, Niharika Lyra Dutt, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Suhail Nayyar, Puja Sarup and Naveen Kaushik. Collectively, the cast represents a remarkable body of work across critically acclaimed films, streaming hits, and some of the industry's most memorable performances. Kavi Shastri also joins the project as Creative Producer. Interestingly, the announcement comes at a time when comedian-turned-filmmaker Curry Barker's supernatural psychological horror film Obsession is making waves in cinemas globally. The coincidence highlights a growing trend of comedians exploring darker storytelling spaces, with Vir Das now stepping into the genre through Baara Number.

Speaking about the cast, Vir Das said, "What made this project especially exciting was bringing together a group of actors whose work I've admired for years. Sheeba, Atul, Arunoday, Shriya, Ahsaas, Niharika, Suhail and Naveen each bring a distinct energy, intelligence and authenticity to the film. Horror works best when audiences believe every moment is real, and this ensemble has elevated the material beyond anything I imagined when we first started writing it."

The casting announcement has already generated excitement, with audiences eager to see a lineup of performers known for their versatility, craft and powerful screen presence come together for a genre-bending horror film. With a cast of this calibre leading the project, Baara Number is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated horror films currently in development.

Ishita Dutta, Vatsal Sheth reveal daughter Veda's face



Mumbai : Popular television couple Ishita Dutta and Vatsal Sheth revealed their daughter Veda's face on her 1st birthday this Wednesday.

Taking to their official Instagram handles, Ishita and Vatsal treated the fans with some adorable family photos in a joint post captioned, "And just like that, she is one. Happy Birthday, Veda. (sic)" The glimpses from her first birthday bash show Veda dressed in a beautiful yellow dress, with two adorable ponytails on each side. Both Ishita and Vatsal chose

to twin in blush-blue colors for their daughter's special day. We could also see a cartoon-themed birthday cake in the album.

Before this, while the parents were sharing glimpses of their little one on social media, they used to cover her face with a heart emoji. In December last year, Ishita and Vatsal celebrated their daughter Veda's "Annaprashan" ceremony, giving the little munchkin her first taste of rice. Both Ishita and Vatsal's parents were also a part of the traditional

ceremony. "Veda's first taste of rice, wrapped in blessings, love, and tradition. Bengali Annaprashan," the post was captioned. Talking about their love journey, Ishita and Vatsal first met on the set of the popular television show, "Rishton Ka Saudagar - Baazigar". After being in a relationship for some time, these two finally tied the knot in 2017. The lovebirds embraced parenthood for the first time back in July 2023, as they welcomed their son Vaayu.

Vatsal and Ishita became parents for the second time to baby girl, Veda in June this year. Announcing the arrival of their daughter on social media, they uploaded a photo that showed Ishita holding the baby in her arms, while Vatsal and little Vaayu posed next to the latest addition to the family. "From two to four hearts beating as one. Our family is now complete. Blessed with a baby girl," they captioned the post.

Katrina Kaif applauds Alia, Sharvari for Alpha teaser

Mumbai : After the teaser of Alpha was released yesterday, several celebrities took to social media to hype it up and praise the lead cast, Bobby Deol, Alia Bhatt and Sharvari. The latest in line to shower love on the film is Katrina Kaif.

The actress, who is a good friend of Alia, shared the teaser on Instagram's story section and wrote, "My dearest @aliabhatt @sharvari This is looking fire Can't wait to see this... Full on Action Mode, Bring it on. (sic)" Earlier, celebrities including Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Kiara Advani, Vasan Bala, Aneet Padda, Vijay Varma and more gave a shoutout to the teaser. The short clip gave a glimpse of Alia Bhatt and Bobby Deol's characters, while keeping the other characters under



wraps.

The teaser opens on a seemingly warm note, with Bobby's character celebrating his daughter Alia's 18th birthday. As part of the occasion, he hands her a card containing a location and asks her to go there. When Alia asks what she is expected to do, Bobby tells her to do what he has been

training her for all these years. As the music takes a darker turn, he reveals that on her 18th birthday, she is being sent on her very first mission. The teaser then shifts into a series of intense montages, showing Bobby's character training a young Alia from childhood. The scenes quickly transition to present-day

Alia, now a skilled assassin, taking down opponents in high-octane action sequences.

Throughout the teaser, Bobby's voiceover plays a key role in establishing the film's tone. He says that there are only two kinds of people in the world - sheep and wolves. In another scene, Alia declares that a wolf's daughter will always be a wolf. Another scene in the teaser shows Bobby tattooing a mysterious symbol onto young Alia's arm. When she asks him what it means, he simply replies, "Alpha." It is then revealed that Alpha is a secret programme designed to create a new generation of soldiers in India. The teaser concludes on a chilling note. Bobby wishes Alia a happy birthday, following which she shoots a man. Alpha is set for release in theatres on July 3.



Cops take into custody BJP councillor in Kerala’s Thiruvananthapuram after major drama

Chamoli: The Rudraprayag Police remain vigilant to ensure the safety of pilgrims and smooth darshan arrangements during the Kedarnath Yatra. Strict action is being taken against individuals attempting to disrupt the pilgrimage or defraud devotees.

In a recent case, police arrested a man accused of cheating pilgrims by falsely promising VIP darshan at the Kedarnath Temple.

According to police, on June 8, Kedarnath Police Outpost received information that a person identified as Chirag, along with local associates, was luring pilgrims with assurances of VIP darshan. The accused allegedly collected ₹3,000 each from a group of 10 devotees, fraudulently obtaining a total of ₹30,000.

Acting promptly on the complaint, Kedarnath Police “arrested” the accused from the temple premises. During a search, police recovered ₹5,000 in cash, believed to be part of the amount collected from the victims. During interrogation, the accused reportedly admitted to carrying out the fraud in collaboration with a local accomplice.

A case has been registered against the accused at Sonprayag Police Sta-



tion under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

He was subsequently produced before the court and, following judicial orders, was remanded to judicial

custody and sent to the District Jail in Chamoli.

Police stated that efforts are underway to trace the other accused involved in the case, and further in-

vestigation is in progress.

SP Niharika Tomar said that Police in Uttarakhand have arrested a 31-year-old Himachal Pradesh resident for allegedly posing as a fake IRCTC agent and cheating pilgrims out of thousands of rupees by promising VIP darshan at the Kedarnath Dham.

“On 8th June 2026, the police post at Shri Kedarnath Dham received information about an individual claiming to be an IRCTC agent and collecting money from people under the pretext of arranging VIP darshan.

Our police took immediate action and, upon investigation, arrested a man named Chirag, a 31-year-old resident of Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh, and recovered ₹5,000 from him,” the SP said. “During interrogation, he admitted to posing as a fake IRCTC agent and charging people ₹3,000 each for VIP darshan.

He had collected a total of ₹30,000 from a group of 10 people... It has also come to light that a local individual was involved in this matter, and an investigation is currently underway. We have arrested Chirag and produced him before the court to seek his remand,” SP Tomar added.

Ex-Kerala CM’s daughter seeks postponement of ED questioning in CMRL PMLA case

Kochi, June 11: Veena T, daughter of former Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has requested the ED to postpone her questioning in connection with the CMRL money laundering case, sources said on Thursday. The Enforcement Directorate had summoned Veena to appear before its investigation team at the agency’s office in Kochi on Friday.

However, Veena recently sent an email to the ED seeking postponement of her appearance, citing health issues, sources said. She has also informed the agency that all required documents would be submitted through her counsel shortly, they added.

ED sources said the agency would consider issuing a fresh summons with a new date for her appearance. The ED probe pertains to allegations that Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd made payments amounting to ₹2.78 crore to Exalogic Solutions Private Limited, an IT consultancy firm owned by Veena, without receiving any services in return.



According to the ED, another company, Empower India Capital Investments Private Limited, operated by CMRL Managing Director Sasidharan Kartha, had extended loans worth ₹50 lakh to Exalogic despite the company allegedly failing to make timely repayments. The agency has al-

leged that the management of CMRL, led by Kartha and Veena, generated “proceeds of crime” through these transactions.

The ED registered the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on the basis of a prosecution complaint filed by the Serious Fraud Investiga-

tion Office before a court in Ernakulam in April 2025.

The SFIO is the investigation arm of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

CMRL came under the scanner of central agencies following an Income Tax Department raid in January 2019 that allegedly uncovered irregularities,

including certain expenses suspected to be fictitious, amounting to around ₹130 crore.

Last month, the ED conducted searches at 10 locations linked to the case, including premises associated with Veena and her husband, former minister PA Mohammed Riyas.

Jannik Sinner’s GF Laila makes sweet gesture for Italian star’s parents after win vs Ruud

Rome: Jannik Sinner created history at the Italian Open after defeating Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-4 in the final, becoming the first Italian man in 50 years to win the tournament. But while the world no 1 celebrated another major milestone in Rome, fans also noticed a touching moment involving his girlfriend Laila Hasanovic and his family following the victory.

Hasanovic was present throughout the final weekend at Foro Italico, sitting alongside Sinner’s brother Mark during the rain-delayed semifinal against Daniil Medvedev. After Sinner sealed his place in the championship match, cameras caught Hasanovic warmly embracing Mark Sinner in the stands. The Danish model returned again for Sunday’s final against Ruud and was later seen celebrating with Sinner’s family after the historic win.

Fans online also reacted to Hasanovic wearing Sinner-themed apparel during the tournament, including a black cap featuring the Italian star’s signature Nike fox logo.

Sinner’s victory over Ruud carried enormous significance for Italian tennis. He became the first Italian male player to win the Italian Open since Adriano Panatta lifted the trophy in 1976. The triumph also completed another historic achievement for Sinner, who became just the second player after Novak Djokovic to win all nine ATP Masters 1000 events. Djokovic completed the career Masters sweep in 2018.



Sinner extended his winning streak to 29 matches and improved to 17-0 on clay this season heading into the French Open. “Incredible,” Sinner said after the final. “It’s been a long time since an Italian won – 50 years. I’m happy one of us was able to take advantage of this great period for Italian tennis.”

The Italian celebrated in his usual composed style before smiling broadly after converting championship point in front of a packed home crowd that included Panatta himself seated courtside.

Earlier this month, Sinner admitted he wanted to spend more time with his loved ones amid the demands of the ATP Tour. “It’s definitely a little bit [like] I missed out a little bit of time, spending time with my parents. I would like to catch up as much as I can,” he said

while speaking to the ATP Tour.

“Obviously, at home, grandma and grandpa, the parents of my mum, they’re still both alive. I understand her very much that she wants to stay at home and spend as much time as possible with them. But I also would like to have more time with family.”

“So hopefully I can have some more time with my parents and the people I love, and also with my brother and friends. Because things can change.” While Sinner has largely kept his relationship with Hasanovic away from the spotlight, he previously admitted in an interview with Corriere della Sera that he was in love. Before the championship match, Ruud openly acknowledged the enormous challenge of facing the red-hot Italian.

Will Aaron Rodgers return as Steelers QB? Jalen Hurts’ honest reaction goes viral

Agency: The 2026 schedule release video of the Philadelphia Eagles has unexpectedly created discussion about the Pittsburgh Steelers’ quarterback situation. The Eagles will face the Pittsburgh Steelers in week 11 of this season. During the Eagles’ promotional video, a teammate asked quarterback Jalen Hurts whether Aaron Rodgers would still be Pittsburgh’s quarterback. Hurts’ response captured the uncertainty surrounding Pittsburgh’s plans. Hurts replied, “Who knows?” The clip quickly circulated online, creating many interesting reactions. NFL reporter Kimberley A. Martin shared it on social media and remarked: “Jalen Hurts is all of us when it comes to the Steelers’ QB situation...”

The uncertainty surrounding the Steelers’ quarterback is one of the talking points of the NFL offseason. Although they have Aaron Rodgers on their side, the delay in a contract extension is increasing the uncertainty. Rodgers, who joined the Steelers in 2025 on a one-year deal, played a crucial role in leading the team to an AFC North title. The season also marked the end

Football's grandest event arrives with a promise of glory and demanding grit

The biggest World Cup in history is upon us. Come Thursday (IST), the 2026 FIFA World Cup will kick off at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City. And before a ball has even been kicked, the tournament has already generated enough drama, controversy and expectation to command global attention, more often for reasons beyond football itself. Forty-eight nations. Three host countries. One hundred and four matches. Thirty-nine days. And a world that is simultaneously more football-mad and more politically fractured than ever before. When Mexico face South Africa in a repeat of the 2010 World Cup opener on June 11 at the Azteca, a stadium becoming the first to host World Cup matches across three different editions, it will mark the beginning of a tournament unlike anything football has staged before. The final, scheduled for July 19 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, carries a record \$50 million winner's prize. But as always, the true stakes extend far beyond money. It would be convenient to keep football and politics separate. World Cups rarely allow that luxury. From Benito Mussolini's Italy using the 1934 World Cup as a political tool to the tension surrounding Argentina and England in the years following the Falklands conflict, football's grandest tournament has often mirrored the world around it. The 2026 edition is no different.

The ongoing diplomatic tensions between the United States and Iran have cast a shadow over the tournament for months. Iran's football federation publicly explored the possibility of playing its matches in Mexico amid concerns over travel, security and visa access. Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum welcomed the idea, but FIFA president Gianni Infantino rejected any relocation proposal following a visit to Iran's training camp in March, reiterating that football's role is to "bring people together." The tensions resurfaced this week when Iran's federation accused tournament organisers of restricting ticket allocations for Iranian supporters. Reports have also suggested that several Iranian officials and staff members were denied visas, forcing logistical complications that have seen Iran establish a training base in Tijuana, Mexico.

The problems have extended beyond Iran. Somalia referee Omar Artan, who was poised to become the first Somali official at a World Cup, was reportedly denied entry despite holding tournament credentials. Iraq striker Aymen Hussein was detained and questioned for several hours before being allowed into the country, while other delegations have reported heightened security scrutiny. The incidents have prompted criticism of FIFA and the tournament organisers, although neither FIFA nor the Trump administration has shown much willingness to publicly engage with the concerns. Back to football.

For the first time in history, the World Cup will be hosted by three nations, the United States, Canada and Mexico, and each will stage its own opening ceremony. Mexico City's Estadio Azteca hosts the first on June 11, headlined by Shakira and Burna Boy performing the official anthem, Dai Dai. Maná, J Balvin, Belinda and Tyla are also scheduled to perform. Toronto's ceremony follows on June 12 and will fea-



ture Michael Bublé, Alanis Morissette and Alessia Cara. Los Angeles hosts another ceremony the same day with performances from Katy Perry, Future, LISA and Rema. For the final, Coldplay frontman Chris Martin has curated a halftime show featuring Shakira, Madonna and BTS. The format shake-up

For the first time, 48 teams will compete at a World Cup, expanding from the 32-team format used since 1998. The teams will be split into 12 groups. The top two from each group will automatically advance to the knockout rounds, joined by the eight best third-placed teams. The expansion dramatically increases the possibility of surprises and gives more nations than ever before a chance to make history. Opta's supercomputer is not entirely convinced.

Its projections give Argentina just over a 10 per cent chance of retaining the title won in Qatar four years ago. Spain enter as the favourite at 17 per cent, with France close behind at 14 per cent. Yet World Cups are rarely won on probability alone. Morocco's run to the semi-finals in 2022 rewrote expectations for African football. South Korea stunned the world in 2002. This year, Ecuador arrive unbeaten in 19 matches and fresh from a second-place finish in South American qualifying. Japan remain one of the most tactically sophisticated teams in the competition, while Norway return to the World Cup for the first time in 28 years powered by Erling Haaland.

Then there are the debutants, Curaçao, Cape Verde, Jordan and Uzbekistan, each carrying the hopes of nations experiencing a World Cup for the first time. Politics aside, their stories may ultimately define the opening chapters of this tournament. The expanded format makes this the most inclusive World Cup ever staged. That matters. Football belongs to everyone. No storyline looms larger than the possibility that this could be the final World Cup for both Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Messi, now 38, arrives as the defending champion and sits within touching distance of several World Cup scoring records. Ronaldo, at 41, remains Portugal's talisman despite questions over his future. The draw has created the possibility of one final Messi-versus-Ronaldo showdown in a quarter-final in Kansas City on July 11 — a scenario that would captivate the sporting world. Beyond the legends, Kylian Mbappé continues his pursuit of football immortality, while Spain's Lamine Yamal arrives as the tournament's most exciting young star.



of Mike Tomlin's tenure as Steelers head coach. Despite age and injuries, Rodgers delivered a strong campaign, recording 25 total touchdowns against just 7 interceptions and a 94.8 passer rating. His consistency was central to Pittsburgh's 10-win season.

However, this offseason has raised a lot of questions for the Steelers, including the new head coach and quarterback. This decision can reunite Rodgers and McCarthy after their successful partnership with the Green Bay Packers from 2006 to 2018.

Together, they produced eight straight playoff appearances, five NFC North titles, three NFC Championship appearances, and a Super Bowl XLV victory. Rodgers received seven Pro Bowl selections and two MVP awards during this period.

Los Angeles Protests Erupt As Activists Demand Iran Ban From FIFA World Cup

Los Angeles: Iranian-American activists and former footballers staged a protest in Los Angeles ahead of Iran's opening FIFA World Cup match, calling on world football governing body FIFA to expel the nation from the tournament over alleged human rights abuses by the Iranian regime, reported Reuters. Demonstrators gathered outside Los Angeles City Hall on Wednesday, arguing that Iran's participation in the World Cup provides the government in Tehran with an opportunity to improve its international image despite its record on human rights. "Bringing them here and having them play basically presents a calm face to the world, when in fact back home there is no calmness, there's only execution and suffering that the regime has brought," Ryan Salami, a 21-year-old Iranian-American whose parents fled Iran, told Reuters. The protest featured photographs of athletes who activists claim were persecuted or died in government custody after opposing authorities. Several speakers, including former Iranian national



team players, paid tribute to athletes they said had been targeted by the state. Among them was former Iran international Asghar Adibi, who represented the country in 1970. Addressing the crowd, Adibi criticised the current national team's association with the Iranian establishment. This is the ayatollahs' team," Adibi said. He further alleged that the side was controlled by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), adding that it was wrong to allow an organisation "that kills people, tortures people, to have a team representing them." The demonstration highlighted divisions among opponents of the Iranian government regarding the role of the players themselves. While some protesters expressed sympathy for footballers who may face pressure to remain silent, others argued that only individuals loyal to the regime are selected to represent the country. "They are all attached to the regime in some way," protester Peymaneh Shafi told Reuters. "These are the real athletes," she added, pointing to photographs of sportspeople she

Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal Faces Tough Challenges In World Cup Group K Preview

New Delhi: For many fans, Group K begins and ends with one name: Cristiano Ronaldo. The Portuguese icon is set to play what is likely to be the sixth and final World Cup of his extraordinary career, and every match Portugal play will carry the weight of that narrative. Yet while Ronaldo's last dance will dominate the headlines, Portugal are far from the only story in this group. Standing in their way is a dangerous Colombian side led by another veteran creator in James Rodriguez. Like Portugal, Colombia arrive with ambitions of making a deep run and possess enough quality to trouble any opponent on their day. Meanwhile, DR Congo bring physicality, resilience and one of Africa's most disciplined defensive units, while World Cup debutants Uzbekistan will be eager to prove that their remarkable rise is no accident. The result is a group that blends star power, experience and unpredictability. Portugal are the only team to have sold out all their group-stage matches, and the excitement around them is fully justified. This could be Cristiano Ronaldo's final World Cup, but Portugal are far from a one-man team. Their biggest strength lies in midfield, where Vitinha and Joao Neves form one of the best partnerships in football, while the creative force of Bruno Fernandes arrives after a record-breaking assist season. With pace and quality out wide through Nuno Mendes and Rafael Leao, Portugal have all the tools to create chances for Ronaldo, still one of the game's most lethal fin-



ishers. If Roberto Martinez gets the balance right, Portugal have the quality to go all the way. Colombia return to a World Cup in the United States carrying memories of 1994, a tournament forever linked to the tragic death of defender Andrs Escobar. Today, again, they arrive as one of South America's strongest sides. Captain James Rodriguez remains the creative heartbeat of the team, while Luis Suarez provides additional attacking threat. Experienced and talented, Colombia have the quality to challenge anyone. Though, their biggest obstacle remains maintaining consistency. Under a pragmatic and detail-oriented coach, DR Congo have built a team defined by resilience and discipline. They are one of the toughest sides to break down in this tournament, combining defensive organisation with impressive mental toughness. Aaron Wan-Bissaka's energy and defensive quality offer an outlet down the flank, while much of the attacking responsibility falls on Yoane Wissa.

Syed Kirmani Reveals He Competed With Dilip Vengsarkar For 1983 India Captaincy

New Delhi: Former wicketkeeper batter Syed Kirmani revealed that he was in contention for India captaincy along with Dilip Vengsarkar ahead of the 1983 World Cup but the then selection panel zeroed in on legendary Kapil Dev to lead the country in the third edition of the tournament held in England. Former India batter Ghulam Ahmed headed the panel that picked the India squad for the 1983 showpiece, while Bishan Singh Bedi, Pankaj Roy, Chandu Borde and Chandu Sarwate were his colleagues. "There was a question during the 1983 tour of the West Indies before the World Cup. At that time, there was a move before they appointed Kapil Dev as the captain. There was a move between me and Vengsarkar," Kirmani told PTI. "This is the inside stuff which I heard. Should we make Vengsarkar the captain or Syed Kirmani? So, in this tussle, probably, they said, a wicket-keeper, why burden him?," the former India wicketkeeper revealed. But the choice of Kapil did not go wrong as he led India to its first 50-over World Cup title. The 'Kapil's Devils' knocked over the



mighty West Indies by 43 runs at Lord's 43 years ago - June 25, 1983 to be precise - to bag the World Cup, then known as the Prudential Cup. Now, that epochal triumph will be celebrated in Mumbai on this June 25 by that team members, but Kirmani urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to suitably honour the pioneers. "It should be the BCCI who should come forward in recognizing the '83 World Cup players to celebrate

every year on 25th June, which laid a huge foundation for the Board as well as the cricketers who are now enjoying the benefits of what they got after the '83 World Cup." "This should be remembered. Everybody remembers, everybody will remember 1983. It is like, you know, having the first love in everybody's life. The first love can never be forgotten," said Kirmani. "So, on that count, I think we are celebrating the 25th of June. We are all assembling.

It will probably be given publicity. If a sponsor had come forward, it would have been more publicity for that sponsor, right? "But I feel that the BCCI should do the needful in celebrating what we did in 1983 on the 25th of June. This will be a great celebration." The 76-year-old stressed on his argument, citing the grand celebration BCCI conducted after India won the 2007 T20 World Cup in 2007 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Haiti Redesigns World Cup Kit After FIFA Raises Official Objections To It



California: Haiti's football team has been forced to modify their World Cup 2026 jerseys after FIFA raised concerns over elements of the original design that depicted a scene from the nation's struggle for independence, reported Reuters. Colombia-based sportswear manufacturer Saeta confirmed on Wednesday that the shirts, created in collaboration with the Haitian Football Federation, had been altered following FIFA's review process. The company said the design was intended to honour Haiti's history and celebrate the country's pride, resilience and national spirit rather than make a political statement. "During the review process, FIFA determined that certain visual elements could be interpreted differently under its equipment regulations and ultimately requested modifications to the design," Saeta said in a statement, according

to Reuters. "While this interpretation differed from our intention, Saeta respected the process and implemented the final requirements communicated by FIFA," the statement added. Neither FIFA nor the Haitian Football Federation immediately commented on the matter. The jersey controversy comes just days before Haiti begin their World Cup campaign in Group C. The Caribbean nation will open against Scotland in Boston on Saturday before facing five-time champions Brazil later in the group stage. Haiti will then conclude their group fixtures against Morocco on June 25. As teams finalise preparations for football's biggest event, excitement continues to build across the three host countries -- Canada, Mexico and the United States -- which are jointly staging the World Cup for the first time in history.

Nikhil Chaudhary Earns Australia Call-Up For Bangladesh T20Is

Canberra: India-born all-rounder Nikhil Chaudhary has received his first Australia call-up after being named in the T20I squad for the upcoming series against Bangladesh, replacing the rested Travis Head. The 30-year-old leg-spinning all-rounder, who currently represents Tasmania and Hobart Hurricanes, has emerged as one of Australian cricket's most compelling success stories after moving from India during the COVID-19 pandemic and establishing himself in the domestic circuit, according to ESPNcricinfo. Chaudhary, who played domestic cricket for Punjab between 2017 and 2019, travelled to Australia in 2020 to visit family before international borders were closed due to the pandemic. He remained in the country and has since built an impressive career through grade cricket, state cricket and the Big Bash League. His breakthrough came with the Hobart Hurricanes, where he has enjoyed three outstanding seasons. Chaudhary played a pivotal role in the Hurricanes' BBL title-winning campaign in 2024-25, earning recognition from national selectors with a string of influential performances with both bat and ball. The all-rounder's rise has continued with Tasmania, where he recently marked his first-class career with a maiden Sheffield Shield century



and claimed his first five-wicket haul, further strengthening his credentials for higher honours. Australia selector Tony Dodemaide said Chaudhary had been on the national radar for some time and had already spent time training with the squad before the recent white-ball tour. "Nikhil has been a player of national interest for some time," Dodemaide said. "He was a standby player for this tour, and the panel has been impressed by his BBL performances, particularly last season. He will gain invaluable experience in Bangladesh and will be in conten-

tion for selection in the opening T20I." Chaudhary had trained with Australia's squad in Brisbane before their departure for Pakistan, but was not initially included in the touring party. However, Head's absence has created an opportunity for the all-rounder to push for an international debut. Despite not yet holding Australian citizenship, Chaudhary is eligible to represent Australia under ICC regulations, having completed the required residency period after living in the country for five years. His current temporary visa remains valid until 2027.