

Assam Panel Considers Infrastructure Boost in Tribal Areas



Guwahati, Jun 04: Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kota on Thursday chaired the meeting of the State Level Executive Committee to consider proposals under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for financial year 2026-27, aimed at strengthening educational infrastructure, livelihoods and socio-economic development in tribal areas across Assam.

The Committee considered a perspective proposal of Rs 59.25 crore covering 35 activities, with a strong focus on education and livelihood enhancement. Of the total proposed allocation, 66 percent (Rs 39.15 crore) has been earmarked for education-related infrastructure and interventions, while 34 percent (Rs 20.10 crore) is proposed for income-generating and livelihood activities.

A major focus of the proposal is the strengthening of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) across the State.

The Committee prioritised establishment of 50 production, dyeing and processing centres and installation of solar power systems in 50 VDVVs to ensure uninterrupted power supply, enhance value addition of Minor Forest Produce and improve income opportunities for tribal communities.

The proposal also includes support for Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), construction of ST boys' and girls' hostels, hostels in colleges and ITIs, additional classrooms in tribal-majority schools, integrated sports facilities, wellness centres, upgradation of IT infrastructure and critical connectivity projects to educational institutions in tribal areas.

These interventions will contribute significantly towards improving educational access, promoting sustainable livelihoods, enhancing tribal entrepreneurship and strengthening infrastructure in tribal areas across Assam.

Modi govt ended era of violence in NE: Amit Shah



Shillong, Jun 04: Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said the Narendra Modi government ended the era of violence in the Northeast and transformed the region from a hotspot of disputes to a hotspot of opportunities. Chairing the 73rd Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council in Shillong, Shah said: "Today NEC is serving as an institution for strategic planning for the development of region while fulfilling people's aspirations and promoting culture."

On this occasion, Union Minister of Development of North East-

ern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya Scindia, Meghalaya Governor C.H. Vijay Shankar, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, Union Minister of State for DoNER Sukanto Majumdar, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, and Secretary of the Ministry of DoNER Sanjay Jaju were present. The meeting is also attended by the Governors and Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim, along with many other dignitaries. The North Eastern Council, established under the North East-

ern Council Act, 1971, serves as the apex regional planning body for the North Eastern Region and plays a pivotal role in fostering coordinated development and strengthening cooperative federalism in the region. The Plenary session discussed and deliberated on progress made by the CM High-Level Task Forces constituted for critical sectors of regional development. Presentations were made on Tourism; Agriculture & Horticulture; Investment Promotion; Self-Reliance in Milk, Eggs, Fish and Meat; Sports Promotion; Economic Corridor

Development; Infrastructure & Connectivity; and Handloom & Handicrafts. The deliberations are expected to facilitate co-ordinated action among States and stakeholders for achieving shared developmental goals. The meeting also reviewed important initiatives of the Ministry of DoNER, including updates on major schemes and programmes, outcomes of the North East Investment Summit and Bankers' Conclave, youth-focused initiatives, and efforts relating to tourism, logistics, and the Unique Selling Proposition

(USP) projects in the region. The Plenary Session further deliberated on the North East Vision Plan 2047, which seeks to provide a long-term roadmap for transforming the North Eastern Region into a vibrant hub of economic growth, connectivity, innovation, sustainability, and cultural prosperity by the centenary year of India's independence. The Members of the North Eastern Council also shared their perspectives on regional development priorities and opportunities for enhanced inter-state cooperation.

Drugs Worth ₹4.5 Crore Seized in Cachar, Six Peddlers Including Three Women Arrested

Cachar, Jun 04 (H.S.): Assam Police's ongoing anti-narcotics drive has yielded major success in Cachar district, where six drug peddlers, including three women, were arrested in separate operations and narcotic substances worth approximately ₹4.5 crore were seized.

According to Cachar District Police, acting on specific intelligence under Udhlabond Police Station, police intercepted an Intra B-10 truck (AS-11DC-8629) and recovered 8,010 bottles of codeine cough syrup (100 ml each) along with 150 packets of Tramadol tablets, amounting to a total of 36,000 tablets. The driver, identified as Gyasuddin Laskar, was arrested in connection with the case.

In another operation conducted under Kalain Police Station at Digorkhal, police intercepted a truck (AS-01EC-2533) heading towards Kalain and recovered 170 grams of suspected heroin concealed in 14 soap cases. One accused, identified as Azad Uddin, was arrested. Meanwhile, under Silchar Police Station, police arrested a petty drug peddler, Azim Uddin Laskar alias 'Kala', near Fatak Bazar. During the operation, 35 vials containing approximately 1.7 grams of suspected heroin were recovered from his possession.

In a separate raid near Silchar Railway Station, police apprehended a woman identified as Gul Nihar Begum Laskar and seized 298



grams of suspected heroin concealed in 15 soap cases from her possession.

Further, acting on secret information under Sonai Police Station, police arrested two women, Rashmina

Begum (31) and Mumtaz Begum Choudhury (37), from Sonai Bazar. Both are residents of Makhnan Nagar Basti under Jirighat Police Station. During the search, police recovered 11 soap

cases containing 122 grams of suspected heroin. The seized narcotics and the arrested accused have been taken into custody, and further investigation is underway.

Padmakanta Produced in Court; Police Conduct Search at Relative's Residence

Guwahati, Jun 04 (HS): Padmakanta Hazarika, the prime accused in the multi-crore scam involving the Assam Fisheries Development Corporation, has produced before the court again on Thursday as the investigation into the case continues.

Meanwhile, police carried out a search operation at a residence located on Sewali Path in the Hatigaon area of Guwahati. The operation was conducted in connection with the ongoing probe into the alleged financial irregularities involving crores of rupees.

Investigators reportedly took Padmakanta Hazarika along during the search as part of efforts to gather further evidence related to the case. According to sources, the house where the search was conducted is occupied by a relative of Hazarika.

Police officials are continuing their investigation and examining documents and other materials linked to the alleged scam.

It may be mentioned that Assam Fisheries Development Corporation (AFDC) scam, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Padmakant Hazarika was arrested on 31st May from Puri by investigating authorities. The arrest came amid an ongoing probe into alleged irregularities involving recruitment and lease allotments within the corporation.

Investigators suspect that jobs in the department may have been secured through unfair practices, including alleged cash-for-employment arrangements. The inquiry is examining claims that recruitment procedures were manipulated, bypassing es-

tablished norms and transparency requirements.

The investigation has also focused on alleged tender irregularities, with authorities probing accusations that lucrative "beel" (wetland) leases were awarded to relatives, associates and politically connected individuals without following proper public bidding processes.

Officials said the scope of the investigation is expanding rapidly. Financial transactions, bank accounts and asset records are being scrutinized to trace the flow of funds and identify other individuals who may have benefited from the alleged scam.

Sources indicated that further arrests and legal action could follow as investigators continue to gather evidence and verify financial links connected to the case.

Accused Siddharth Sharma Gets No Relief from Gauhati HC in Bail Matter

Guwahati, Jun 04: In yet another development in the Zubeen Garg death case, the Gauhati High Court on Thursday did not take up the bail plea of Siddharth Sharma, a key accused in the case. The bench of the High Court comprising Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia declined to hear the bail application and refused to accept the case.

The bench also declined to hear a separate petition concerning Mahabir Aqua and ordered that the matter be transferred to a different bench for consideration.

This is not the first time Justice Saikia has declined to hear such a matter.

On May 29 last, the High Court bench had rejected the bail application of Shyamkanu Mahanta, one of the prime accused in the case, for a second time.

Earlier, a special fast-track court, constituted specifically for the case, had rejected his bail application in connection with the case.

Accused Sharma had filed the bail application on May 26 amid ongoing legal proceedings in the case. He was arrested on October 1 along with co-accused Mahanta.

Earlier, the fast-track court, presided over by Judge Sharmila Bhuyan, framed charges against



Sharma and six other accused under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The case, titled State vs Siddhartha Sharma and Six Others, includes charges related to criminal conspiracy, murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, extortion, cheating,

criminal breach of trust and causing disappearance of evidence.

Apart from Siddhartha Sharma and Shyamkanu Mahanta, other accused in the case are Shekhar Jyoti Goswami, Amritprabha Mahanta, Sandipan Garg, Nandeswar Borah and Paresh Baishya.

ASDMA Set to Implement Statewide Emergency Broadcast Service

Guwahati, Jun 04: The cell broadcast system (CBS), a state-of-the-art indigenous public warning system launched by the central government a month back, is now fully operational across Assam through the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

Developed by C-DOT under the Department of Telecommunications in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Ministry of Home Affairs, the system enables authorities to send instant, geo-targeted emergency alerts directly to all mobile phones in a specific area.

The CBS has been made available for pan India implementation including Assam.

"A nationwide test was conducted on May 2, 2026, and the system has already proven effective during real disasters in several states. However, in the states, including Assam, wherein the Model Code of Conduct was in force, the test was excluded," a statement from ASDMA issued on Wednesday, said.

"Hence now, the Government of Assam is planning to implement the activity across the state as instructed by the Government of India," it said.

The CBS involves dissemination of critical and time sensitive messages for impending disaster to all mobile devices within a designat-

ed geographical area, irrespective of whether the recipients are residents or visitors.

"During the implementation of the CBS, citizens may receive emergency alerts on their mobile devices pertaining to disasters. The CBS alerts are highly sensitive, which trigger a loud audio alarm/notification on mobile handsets for approximately 30 seconds whenever received. Hence, to avoid panic situations and confusion among the public, the citizens are requested to be calm regarding the alerts and not to panic," the authority said.

"The alerts are official messages issued only by authorised government agencies during genuine emergencies such as extreme weather conditions like storms, heavy rain, lightning, cyclones, floods, flash floods, or other disasters such as gas leaks. The alert will appear as a pop-up message on one's mobile phone accompanied by a distinctive loud tone and vibration. On supported handsets, the message would also be read aloud," it informed.

The CBS system is far more reliable than traditional SMS alerts. It works even during network congestion, reaches all mobile users in the targeted area (including roaming users). It supports messages in multiple languages and is functional across 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G networks.

Myanmar refugee influx becoming a burden on Mizoram, says Lalduhoma

Shillong, June 04: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Thursday said the continued influx of displaced people from Myanmar has become a burden on the state, while cautioning that more refugees may arrive in the coming months as instability persists in the neighbouring country. Speaking during a programme in Shillong, the Chief Minister said the prevailing geopolitical situation in Myanmar has led to a steady movement of people seeking safety across the border into Mizoram. "Due to the geopolitical condition there, we are getting many displaced people nowadays. It's likely that we will get more people seeking safety."

This has become a burden for us," Lalduhoma said. Mizoram shares a long and porous international border with Myanmar and has been one of the primary destinations for people fleeing political unrest and armed conflict in the neighbouring country over the past several years. The state is currently hosting thousands of dis-



placed persons who crossed into India seeking shelter and security.

The Chief Minister's remarks highlight the growing challenges faced by the state administration in managing the prolonged humanitarian situation. Officials have repeatedly pointed to the increasing pressure on public resources, local infrastructure and welfare services due to the continued arrival of refugees. Despite these

challenges, Mizoram has maintained a humanitarian approach towards displaced people from Myanmar.

The state government and local communities have extended support and shelter to refugees, citing long-standing ethnic, cultural and familial ties shared by communities living on both sides of the international border. The refugee situation has emerged as a significant admin-

istrative and humanitarian issue for the northeastern state. Apart from providing temporary accommodation and basic necessities, authorities have also been required to coordinate relief measures and support services for displaced families. Lalduhoma's statement is expected to renew calls for greater assistance from the Centre to help Mizoram cope with the growing burden.

The state government has previously sought support to address the financial and logistical challenges arising from the prolonged refugee crisis. With uncertainty continuing in Myanmar, officials remain concerned that additional waves of displaced people may enter the state, further increasing the pressure on resources and administrative mechanisms already under strain. Even as the challenges grow, Mizoram has continued its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance while balancing the needs of local communities and displaced populations.

ED conducts raids in Mizoram in alleged areca nut smuggling probe

Aizawl, June 04: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out searches at multiple locations in Mizoram as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation linked to an alleged cross-border areca nut smuggling network operating along the India-Myanmar border. Officials said raids were conducted at around nine locations connected to individuals suspected of playing key roles in the alleged racket. The searches focused on areas associated with the smuggling network in Champhai district, which shares an international border with Myanmar.

According to the ED, the investigation relates to the alleged large-scale smuggling of Myanmar-origin areca nuts, commonly known as Burmese supari, into India through illegal routes. The agency alleged

that the accused transported consignments across the Tiau River and stored them in warehouses before distributing them within the country. Investigators claimed that forged documents and fake billing practices were used to present the smuggled areca nuts as legally procured local products.

Officials said the probe is examining what they described as a well-organised network that allegedly generated significant illegal proceeds through the smuggling operation. The ED further alleged that the money earned from the activities was layered and routed through different channels to conceal its origin and avoid detection. The central agency also claimed that some individuals misused their local tribal status by acting as front claimants before customs authorities.

According to the ED, these persons allegedly submitted fabricated import-related documents to secure the release of consignments that had been seized by authorities.

The searches were conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). During the raids, officials examined documents, financial records and other materials that may be relevant to the investigation. The ED said the investigation remains ongoing and further action will depend on the analysis of evidence collected during the searches. Authorities are expected to scrutinise the seized documents and financial transactions to establish the extent of the alleged smuggling and money laundering activities. No arrests had been reported at the time of filing this report.

DCPU asks media and public to protect identity of children in POCSO cases

Dimapur, June 04: The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Dimapur, has appealed to media organisations and members of the public to exercise caution while reporting and sharing information related to cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, stressing the need to safeguard the privacy and dignity of children.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Avika Zhimomi said the disclosure of a child's identity in such cases is prohibited under the law. She pointed out that Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 bars the publication of the identity of a Child in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and a Child in Conflict with Law (CCL) in any form.

The officer also cited



Section 23 of the POCSO Act, 2012, which states that no report or comment concerning a child should be made without complete and authentic information. The law further prohibits the disclosure of any detail that may directly or indirectly reveal the identity of a child. Reaffirming its commitment to child welfare, the DCPU said all actions taken by the child protection machinery are

being carried out in strict compliance with the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and the POCSO Act, 2012.

It said the safety, dignity, welfare and best interests of the child remain the highest priority in every case. The unit explained that the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) is a statutory body constituted under Section 27 of the Juvenile Justice Act and functions with powers sim-

ilar to those of a Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate First Class. It stated that the committee is empowered to undertake measures for the care, protection and rehabilitation of sexually abused children who are reported as children in need of care and protection under the POCSO Act. Referring to a recent POCSO case in Dimapur, the DCPU said all necessary legal procedures

were being followed in accordance with the provisions of the law. According to the statement, the child was rescued by Child Helpline on May 23, 2026 after information about the case was received. The child's parents were subsequently informed, and interactions with the child were facilitated through the prescribed legal process and child protection procedures.

The DCPU said the child has been provided counselling and psychosocial support. It added that several interventions were carried out through coordinated efforts involving the DCPU, the Child Welfare Committee and Child Helpline, Dimapur. The unit further stated that decisions concerning the child's care, protection and temporary placement were guided by the principles of best interest, safety, privacy and confidentiality as provided

under the Juvenile Justice Act. It added that the ongoing investigation and legal proceedings are being handled by the competent authorities with the primary objective of protecting the child's rights. Clarifying recent media reports, the DCPU said there were no restrictions on visits by the child's parents.

It clarified that restrictions had been imposed only on third parties to prevent additional trauma and to ensure that the child's welfare remained protected. The unit noted that the child currently requires intensive counselling, care and protection. The DCPU said the Child Welfare Committee remains committed to ensuring due process and providing continued care and support to the child. It appealed to all stakeholders to cooperate with authorities and avoid actions that could interfere with the legal process.

Gauhati High Court declines to hear accused Siddharth Sharma's bail plea

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bail application in connection with the case. Accused Sharma had filed the bail application on May 26 amid ongoing legal proceedings in the case. He was arrested on October 1 along with co-accused Mahanta.

Earlier, the fast-track court, presided over by Judge Sharmila Bhuyan, framed charges against Sharma and six other accused under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The case, titled State vs Siddhartha Sharma and Six Others, includes charges related to criminal conspiracy, murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, extortion, cheating, criminal breach of trust and causing disappearance of evidence. Apart from Siddhartha Sharma and Shyamkanu Mahanta, other accused in the case are Shekhar Jyoti Goswami, Amritprabha Mahanta, Sandipan Garg, Nandeswar Borah and Pareswari Baishya.

Lower Subansiri achieves full tap water coverage under Jal Jeevan Mission

Itanagar, June 04: Lower Subansiri district in Arunachal Pradesh has achieved 100 per cent Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission, ensuring piped drinking water supply to every rural household in the district. Officials said all 15,740 rural households in the district have now been provided with tap water connections, marking a significant milestone in the implementation of the Central government's flagship rural drinking water programme.

The achievement was reviewed during a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Oli Perme at Ziro on June 3. The meeting assessed the progress made under the mission and discussed measures required to ensure the long-term sustainability of water supply services across the district. According to officials, the coverage extends across two development blocks, 109 gram panchayats, 200 villages and 271 habitations.

With the completion of the programme, residents in rural areas now have access to safe and reliable drinking water at their homes, reducing dependence on traditional water collection methods. During the review meeting, officials examined the status of water supply infrastructure and focused on strategies to maintain uninterrupted services in the years ahead.



Special attention was given to the protection of water sources and the challenges posed by seasonal changes and climate-related factors that could affect water availability. To strengthen monitoring, technical support and maintenance of water supply schemes, the district administration has constituted a 10-member District Technical Unit (DTU).

The unit includes engineers, consultants, laboratory assistants and operators who will oversee the functioning of various water supply systems and

provide technical assistance whenever required. Officials also discussed the role of the Source Finding Committee, which has been entrusted with identifying and safeguarding dependable water sources for the future. The committee will work towards developing sustainable sources capable of meeting growing demand while ensuring uninterrupted supply to villages and habitations.

The meeting further deliberated on plans to extend water supply facilities to newly developed habitations and strengthen

the role of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs). Authorities said greater community participation is essential for effective water management and the long-term success of rural drinking water schemes. Efforts to improve revenue collection systems and implement the Jal Seva Ankalan framework were also reviewed. Officials said these measures would help improve service delivery, strengthen accountability and enhance the overall sustainability of drinking water infrastructure.

Three arrested with suspected heroin at Arunachal-Assam border

Itanagar, June 04: Three alleged drug peddlers were arrested and suspected heroin was seized during a police operation at the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border, officials said on Thursday.

The arrests were made during a naka checking operation conducted by Banderdewa Police at the Banderdewa Check Gate on June 3 following specific intelligence inputs about the movement of narcotic substances from Assam into Arunachal Pradesh.

According to police, a team led by Inspector Kipa Hamak, Officer-in-Charge of Banderdewa Police Station, launched the operation af-

ter receiving information about suspected drug trafficking activity along the interstate route.

The team included Sub-Inspectors B. Pegu and T. Hinda, Lady Constable Rita Devi and personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Acting on the intelligence, police set up a check point and intercepted a Maruti Alto K10 bearing registration number AR-01V-3694.

The vehicle was subjected to a detailed search in the presence of the police team. During the search, officers recovered 30 vials containing suspected heroin.

The seized substance

weighed approximately 38.70 grams, including the weight of the containers, police said.

The three occupants of the vehicle were immediately detained and later arrested in connection with the case. The accused have been identified as Khyoda Mama, a resident of Jolly-Jollang in Itanagar, Khoda Tadi of F&G Sector in Itanagar, and Guriya Rai of Chimu in Papum Pare district. Following the seizure, Banderdewa Police registered a case under Sections 21(b) and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The accused are being

questioned as part of the ongoing investigation. Police said efforts are underway to determine the source of the suspected heroin and identify other individuals who may be linked to the supply and distribution network. Investigators are also examining whether the seized consignment was intended for local distribution or for further transportation within the state.

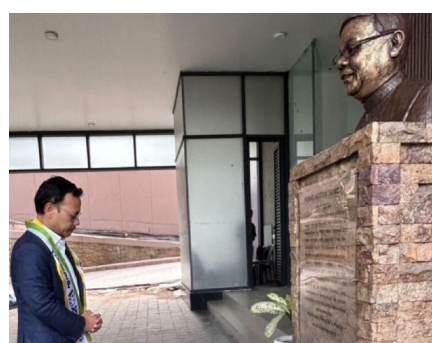
The operation was carried out under the overall supervision of Dr. Nyelam Nega, Superintendent of Police, Naharlagun, as part of the continuing campaign against drug trafficking in the Itanagar Capital Region.

James P K Sangma named MDA candidate for Meghalaya Rajya Sabha election

Shillong, June 04: The Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) has unanimously nominated James P K Sangma as its common candidate for the Rajya Sabha election, set for June 18. This decision was made during a meeting of the alliance's constituent parties, focusing on candidate selection for Meghalaya's sole Upper House seat.

The leaders were informed about the election process and the National People's Party's (NPP) stance by its leadership. Although various names were proposed, the alliance struggled to reach a consensus. To resolve this, they opted to accept the NPP's proposal, adhering to their convention of prioritizing the largest constituent party's nomination, which promotes unity within the alliance. Sangma expressed gratitude for the support he received and committed to work for Meghalaya's interests.

Additionally, the meeting discussed the upcoming by-election for the Shillong



Parliamentary constituency, allowing constituent parties to independently determine their positions, whether to support a candidate, remain neutral, or withdraw entirely. Preparations for the Rajya Sabha election are ongoing, with Sangma scheduled to file his nomination on June 5 at 2:30 PM.

The election is anticipated to be closely monitored, with the MDA aiming to uphold unity and ensure a smooth electoral process.

Areca nuts smuggling: ED conducts searches in Mizoram

Aizawl, June 04: The Enforcement Directorate conducted searches at nine locations in Champhai, Mizoram, targeting a cross-border smuggling network for illegal Burmese supari (areca nuts) from Myanmar. Coordinated with local police, the operation focuses on the residences and businesses of key facilitators who allegedly used the Tiu River for transport, stored the nuts in local godowns, and employed fraudulent documents to masquerade the smuggling as legitimate transactions. The accused also exploited their tribal status to manipulate Customs authorities and release seized goods using historical import documents.

Meghalaya Man Arrested in Assam Elephant Poaching Case

Guwahati, Jun 04: Forest officials have arrested a man from Meghalaya in connection with the killing of a wild elephant in Assam’s Sonapur area, marking a significant breakthrough in the ongoing investigation into the poaching incident. The arrest was made by the Sonapur Forest Range team during a special operation linked to the death of an adult male elephant that was found with gunshot wounds in the Dikchak Hills of Topatoli on May 12. The incident had triggered widespread outrage among wildlife conservationists and local residents. The accused, identified as Salvation Nongrum of Meghalaya’s Ri-Bhoi district, was taken into custody based on intelligence inputs gathered during the investigation, forest officials said. During the operation, forest personnel recovered several items believed to be relevant to the case, including materials suspected to have been used in the manufacture of bullets, a dagger, cash and other articles. Forester-I Deep Kalita confirmed

the seizure of the materials but declined to disclose further details, stating that the investigation remains at a crucial stage. A case has been registered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Following the completion of legal formalities, the accused was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. The killing of the elephant had sparked strong reactions from wildlife conservationists and environmental groups, who demanded a thorough probe and strict action against those involved. Forest officials described the arrest as an important development in the case but stressed that the investigation is still ongoing. They said all possible angles are being examined to establish the circumstances surrounding the killing and identify any other individuals who may have been involved. Authorities are expected to continue gathering evidence as the probe progresses into the death of the protected wild animal.

Amit Shah in Shillong for 73rd Planery of NEC

Shillong, Jun 04: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah chairing the 73rd Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in Shillong, Meghalaya. On this occasion, Union Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya Scindia, Meghalaya Governor C.H. Vijay Shankar, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, Union Minister of State for DoNER Sukanto Majumdar, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, and Secretary of the Ministry of DoNER Sanjay Jaju were present.

Job Fair to be held in Kohima on June 6

Kohima, Jun 04: A job fair offering over 1,000 vacancies across multiple sectors will be held at Don Bosco College, Kohima, on June 6, 2026, from 9 am to 2 pm.Organised jointly by the ANMA Integrated Development Association (AIDA), Don Bosco Job Placement Network India, the National Career Service, and the Regional Employment Exchange (MCC) Kohima, in association with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, the event will feature participation from 20 plus recruiters offering jobs within Nagaland, across India, and internationally. The Governor of Nagaland, Nand Kishore Yadav, will inaugurate the fair as the Chief Guest. vincial, Province of Dimapur, will be Guests of Honour.

Preparedness for first phase of Census 2027 in Nagaland reviewed

Kohima, Jun 04: The State Level Census Coordination Committee (SLCCC), chaired by Home Commissioner Abhijit Sinha reviewed the preparedness for the first phase of Census 2027 at a meeting held at the Chief Secretary’s Conference Hall, Nagaland Civil Secretariat in Kohima. During the meeting, Director of Census Operations and Director of Citizen Registration for Nagaland, Dr. Keneilhoutuolie Miachieo presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the status of preparations for the House Listing Operation (HLO), scheduled to be conducted from July 1 to 30, 2026. Dr. Miachieo informed the committee that 6,461 census functionaries have been appointed across the state. Training of Master Trainers, Field Trainers, Principal Census Officers, District Census Officers, Charge Officers, Supervisors and Enumerators has either been completed or is underway. A total of 130 Field Trainers have been trained, while training for 1,010 Supervisors and 5,124 Enumerators is scheduled to be conducted from June 8 to 25. The committee was also briefed on awareness and publicity measures planned for Self-Enumeration (SE) and the House Listing Operation, including radio interviews, jingles and advertisements through print and electronic media. Dr. Miachieo informed the members that messages from the Chief Minister, Governor, Chief Secretary and Home Commissioner are proposed to be aired through All India Radio to encourage public participation in the census process. He further informed that media coverage and publicity during the Self-Enumeration phase will be carried out through the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) and Press Information Bureau (PIB). The campaign will feature news coverage and public messages from key dignitaries, including the Governor, Speaker, Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Ministers, Council of Ministers, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and Home Commissioner.

KSU holds protest in Shillong amid Amit Shah’s visit

Shillong, Jun 04: As the 73rd Plenary session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) progressed, members of the Khasi Students’ Union (KSU) staged a demonstration today along the roadsides, holding placards and banners to voice their long-pending demands to the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, who was attending the summit. The primary objective of this protest was to remind the Central Government of several issues, especially the demand for the implementation of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) to protect the state of Meghalaya, which the Center has failed to approve to date. This demonstration formed a continuous human chain extending from



Damsite to the U Kiang Nangbah monument towards the Civil Hospital area, among other locations. Through these banners, the KSU members clearly expressed their demands regarding the security of the indigenous population and the environment.

Dead Pigs Dumped in Wokha Raise ASF Concerns, Probe Launched

Wokha, Jun 04: The discovery of five dead pigs dumped at different locations in Airfield Colony has triggered concern in Nagaland’s Wokha district amid a rise in African Swine Fever (ASF) cases. One of the carcasses was reportedly found stuffed inside a rice bag. According to reports, four dead pigs were recovered near a culvert, while another was found at a separate location. Authorities suspect the animals were disposed of without following the prescribed safety protocols. The Wokha Town Council (WTC) strongly condemned the incident and launched an investigation, warning that improper disposal of infected carcasses could accelerate the spread of ASF. WTC Chairman Myingthungo Kikon described the incident as alarming, noting that awareness programmes on ASF prevention and safe disposal methods had already been conducted. Preliminary findings indicate that the carcasses may not have originated from household pig farms but could be linked to imported pigs brought to local slaughterhouses. The council has asked the person responsible to come forward within two days and warned that strict action, including cancellation of trade permits, could be taken against violators. Residents lacking proper disposal facilities have been urged to contact the council for guidance and access to designated dumping sites. Meanwhile, Airfield Colony Council Chairman Vincent Shitiri termed the dumping a serious public health concern that could undermine efforts to contain ASF. Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Yanben

ECI Deputy Director takes stock of SIR exercise in Mizoram

Aizawl, Jun 04: As part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls, Election Commission of India (ECI) Deputy Director Apurva Kumar Singh arrived in Mizoram on Wednesday on an official visit. During his visit, Singh met with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Mizoram Garima Gupta, IAS, at the CEO’s Office in Aizawl. Following the meeting, he conducted a training session on media and communication for District Media Nodal Officers (DMNOs) from across the state at the MINECO Secretariat Conference Hall, Aizawl. The session focused on communication strategies related to the Special Intensive Revision, key challenges that may arise during its implementation, and measures to strengthen public awareness and participation. The programme was chaired by Mizoram Joint Chief Electoral Officer Ethel Rothangpuui, who reminded the officers of the important role



they play in ensuring the success of the revision exercise. She encouraged them to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and commitment. Addressing the participants, Apurva Kumar Singh stated that the objective of the Special Intensive Revision is to ensure that all eligible Indian citizens aged 18 years and above are included in the electoral roll, while preventing the inclusion of ineligible persons. He emphasized that effective public outreach and awareness are essential to the success of the revision process and urged the officers to give due importance to publicity and documentation activities. The District Media Nodal Officers and District Media Assistant Nodal Officers also presented updates on the activities undertaken so far and outlined their proposed plans for the coming weeks. During the training, Singh presented the Media and Communication Standard Op-

Fuel dispensing continues without restrictions across Assam

Guwahati, Jun 04: Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IndianOil), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) — continue to maintain uninterrupted supplies of Petrol (MS), Diesel (HSD), and Liquefied Petroleum

Gas (LPG) across Assam despite prevailing global uncertainties affecting the oil and gas sector. The Oil Industry remains fully geared to ensure seamless availability of fuels through its extensive supply network comprising terminals, depots, LPG bottling plants and retail outlets. Fuel dispensing operations are continu-

ing smoothly across all outlets and supplies are being maintained without any restrictions, in line with prescribed safety and operational norms. Adequate stocks of petroleum products are available across the supply chain and replenishment is being carried out continuously to meet genuine consumer demand efficiently. LPG supplies to domestic consumers are also being maintained normally and deliveries are progressing smoothly across the State. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are closely coordinating on logistics, stock positioning and distribution planning to ensure uninterrupted energy access to citizens. The overall supply situ-

ation remains stable and under constant monitoring. Citizens are requested to continue with normal purchasing behaviour and avoid unnecessary panic buying. The public is also advised to rely only on official communications issued by Oil Marketing Companies for authentic and verified information related to fuel availability.”

Assam Cabinet Expansion: New Ministers to Take Oath Today

Guwahati, Jun 04 (HS): The swearing-in ceremony of ministers designated for induction into the Assam Council of Ministers will be held on Friday at 12:45 pm at the Jyoti-Bishnu International Kala Mandir in Guwahati. The ceremony will be attended by Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and other dignitaries. The event will be livestreamed exclusively by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Assam.Organisers have requested all invited guests and officials to reach the venue by 12:00 noon and take their designated seats to ensure the smooth conduct of the programme. Notably, the Chief Minister has been in New Delhi for the past four days, where he held extensive discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other central leaders regarding the expansion of the state cabinet. However, as of the filing of this report, the list of ministers to be inducted into the new cabinet has not yet been made public.



Mizoram Government to Issue Liquor Permits on Medical Grounds

Aizawl, Jun 04: The Mizoram government has announced that it will issue special “Red Card” permits allowing eligible individuals to possess and consume Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) on medical grounds under the provisions of the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2025. According to a notification issued by the Excise and Narcotics Department, permits will be granted under Section 45B(1) of the Act to applicants whose medical conditions justify the possession and consumption of liquor. Application forms will be available at the Commissionerate of Excise and Narcotics in Aizawl and at district Excise and Narcotics offices across the state. Officials said the Red Card permit will be valid for one year and will require a fee of Rs 5,000. The development follows amendments made to the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Act, 2019 by the state assembly in March last year. The amended law permits the possession and consumption of IMFL for individuals who require it for medical purposes. The legislation also provides for special liquor permits for foreign and domestic dignitaries as well as tourists. Additionally, it allows the manufacture, sale, and supply of locally produced wine and fruit beer made from agricultural and horticultural products such as ginger, banana, dragon fruit, passion fruit, pineapple, gooseberry, guava, starfruit, sugarcane, jackfruit, watermelon, and honeydew melon.

Areca nuts smuggling: ED conducts searches in Mizoram

Aizawl, Jun 04: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out searches at nine places in Mizoram’s Champhai town along the Myanmar border in its ongoing investigation into the case of large-scale smuggling of areca nuts from Myanmar into India. The search operation is carried out in close coordination with the Mizoram Police. Officials said this major crackdown “targets a highly organised cross-border network involved in the large-scale smuggling of illegal Burmese supari (dry areca nuts) into India.” “The ongoing raids focus primarily on the residences and business premises of prominent local facilitators of the smuggling network,” the source said. ED investigation reveals “these individuals illegally brought in Myanmar-origin consignments via the Tiu River, stored them in local godowns, and used fraudulent e-way bills and forged documents to pass them off as legitimate local purchases.” Moreover, the accused actively exploited their local tribal status to act as “front claimants” before Customs authorities, using unrelated historic import documents to secure the release of seized contraband.

UDP Leader Steps Down Protesting Party’s Support to NPP Candidate James Sangma

Shillong, Jun 03: United Democratic Party (UDP) vice-president Robertjune Kharjahnin has tendered his resignation from the party’s Central Executive Committee (CEC) and relinquished his primary membership in protest against the party’s decision to support National People’s Party (NPP) candidate, James P.K. Sangma, in the upcoming Rajya Sabha election. In his resignation letter to UDP president Metbah Lyngdoh and general secretary Titosstarwell Chyne, Kharjahnin said he was “deeply disturbed” that UDP legislators backed James Sangma without the mandate of the CEC. Kharjahnin stated that he could not reconcile his conscience with the party’s decision to support NPP candidate James P.K. Sangma in the upcoming Rajya Sabha election.

He also said that the move undermines the party’s credibility and infuses confusion among voters. “At a time when the UDP is contesting the Shillong Parliamentary by-election against the NPP and asking the people for a clear alternative, supporting an NPP candidate for the Rajya Sabha sends a contradictory message,” he wrote in his resignation letter. The Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) had on Wednesday unanimously nominated the NPP leader as its common candidate for the upcoming Rajya Sabha election in Meghalaya, scheduled for June 18. The decision was taken at a meeting of leaders of the alliance’s constituent parties, where discussions centred on the nomination and selection of a candidate for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from the state. Kharjahnin, a former pressure group leader, said he



has consistently opposed opportunistic politics and that remaining silent on this issue would compromise his convictions.

Meghalaya to pursue language, ILP demand with Shah: Tynsong

Shillong, Jun 04: The Meghalaya government will raise its long-pending demands for the Inner Line Permit and inclusion of Khasi and Garo in the Eighth Schedule with Union Home Minister Amit Shah if an opportunity arises during his visit, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said Wednesday. Tynsong said the immediate agenda is the North Eastern Council meeting, but the state remains committed to pursuing the issues. “On pursuing pending issues, from the government side, yes, for sure. If we get the opportunity to meet the Home Minister, we will certainly apprise him and discuss the pending issue of ILP and the Eighth Schedule languages,” Tynsong said. He noted that both demands have legislative sanction. “We have already passed resolutions on both matters in the Assembly,” he added.

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The Pressure of Instant Success

Stories of overnight success dominate public imagination, particularly through social media and popular culture. As a result, many people expect rapid progress in education, careers, and business. This expectation often leads to frustration when real success takes time, effort, and repeated setbacks. The reality is that

most achievements are built through years of consistent work rather than sudden breakthroughs. The obsession with immediate results can discourage perseverance and long-term planning. Patience remains one of the most underrated qualities in modern life. Sustainable success is usually a marathon, not a sprint.

Selective indignation

In India, stand-up comedy is situated at the tense nexus of commerce and conviction. For many performers, what was formerly considered personal ideology has evolved into a carefully chosen brand, especially when it comes to issues of feminism and gender justice. This connection creates what could be called woke capital, a type of cultural currency based on the performance of progressive principles, in a digital economy that monetizes identity as well as humor.

However, the true test of any role is off-stage and off-camera. And this is when the logic of that capital becomes apparent, away from the security of scripted sets and sympathetic settings. Consider Kunal Kamra, one of the few who bridges the gap between life and the stage. Despite the fact that his political satire has frequently prompted first-information reports, show cancellations, and institutional backlash, he has continuously refused to issue an apology. Regardless of one's opinion of his views, his position implies a readiness to invest that money in turning rhetoric into action.

However, Samay Raina faced police action after criticism of his show, India's Got Latent, and later apologized and pledged to be more sensitive. Here, the natural tendency is to protect capital rather than invest it. Both answers are instructive; neither is neutral. They show a range of those who are willing to take risks with their accumulated capital and those who carefully manage it, allocating it to areas with low exposure and great returns. This is when it becomes crucial to distinguish between safe and dangerous targets. Safe targets include faceless systems, generic patriarchal, or individuals with little immediate impact.

They are also abstract, far away, or already delegitimized. They make it possible for comics to gain woke capital at little risk. In contrast, risky targets are close by and influential, such as colleagues in the same business, partners, and gatekeepers.

Speaking out against them costs money in terms of professional connections, opportunity, and risk. Conviction is a managed asset that occasionally avoids ethical

positions in an ecosystem controlled by algorithms, ticket sales, and brand agreements. Where articulation is evident but accountability is optional, woke capital flourishes. This leads to a kind of selective indignation. The industry's own reckoning with misbehavior is the most difficult place for this to occur. Think about Utsav Chakraborty, who was charged during the #MeToo movement in India. The consequences also affected AIB, which came under fire for doing little in spite of earlier knowledge. For example, Sanjay Rajora was accused of sexual misconduct despite his public persona being based on politically conscious comments and being a "trusted" feminist ally. The conflict is evident in these situations. They were proficient in the discourse of gender justice, not performers outside of it. This is the exact reason why the stillness and the subsequent cautious distance are more illuminating. Here, peers in the workplace were dangerous targets. However, it was far more difficult to spend the woke capital that was so quickly amassed on stage. The vocabulary used on stage is broad and includes terms like equality, justice, and solidarity. It becomes conditional off-stage: silence, complexity, and due procedure. The change signifies the point at which calculating takes precedence over conviction, and the question becomes what is sustainable to prevent the ecosystem from collapsing rather than what is morally correct. Describe it as a performative routine plague. It endures because it is rewarded by the circumstances.

Although audiences welcome alignment, they feel uneasy when it involves well-known individuals. However, Kamra shows that woke capital can be squandered when he maintains his position in the face of institutional pressure. That dangerous threats can be identified without retreating. By doing this, he makes other people's quiet stand out.

Therefore, we are left with a crisis of conviction rather than a crisis of humor. Belief loses all moral significance when it is continually practiced without taking any risks. Risky targets reveal the machine's limitations, while safe targets keep it operating.

British politics are still controlled by Zombie Blairites; it's time to rebel

Now that the half term is finished, let's take a brief test. Can you identify the recurring topic in these lines? The sentiments of well-known Blairite Peter Mandelson have captivated Westminster this week, particularly his scathing conversations with fellow Blairite Pat McFadden. Tony Blair's own piece made headlines last week. Alan Milburn, Blair's former secretary of health, then wrote a report on youth unemployment. Andy Burnham, whom Blair referred to as "an outstanding member of my government," and Wes Streeting, an outstanding member of his fan club, are set to compete for the Labour leadership in this summer's contest. Did you catch it? Yes, if young green men were to travel to Britain, they would believe that Tony Blair was in charge of the country. He is undoubtedly the chair of these islands, if not their chief executive. Some other back number from the class of '97 is quickly thrown into duty if he isn't in the spotlight. Have you recently suffered a severe defeat in the municipal elections? Gordon Brown and Harriet Harman should be called into No. 10 for the pictures. Liz Lloyd, Tim Allan, Michael Barber, Jonathan Powell, and so on. To win over Donald Trump, do you need a walking contacts book? Let's give Peter a call. Oh no. I'll refrain from discussing Blair's most recent encyclical. Part of the point is that you've had more than enough from everyone else.

Tony Blair received three times as much publicity as Yvette Cooper and Shabana Mahmood combined, according to a stunning fact discovered by the Guardian's research department when they combed through the major newspapers published early last week for this piece. More headlines are generated by a man who left office over twenty years ago than by the current foreign and domestic secretary. He conducts the major interviews, gets a lot of comments, and establishes the parameters of the discussion. Why? Tony Blair, the Garbo of SW1 who has broken his quiet to make a "extraordinary intervention," is hardly an enigmatic figure, despite what certain publications may claim. His views on Iran (we should have entered with Trump), digital ID (loves



it), net zero (hates it), and other hobby horses have delighted us in just the last two years. He does more encores than Bruce Springsteen. He's not doing this to satisfy the public's otherwise ravenous appetite. According to a recent survey, people thought Boris Johnson was more worth listening to than Blair. No, the political and media classes are his only audience and the only set of individuals who value his advice. There are more years between us and New Labour's election than between Harold Wilson and New Labour.

However, is it possible for Blair to make Barbara Castle his wage tsar? Bringing in Joe Haines for a little communications work? In the past, the idea would have been absurd; now, it is a sign of seriousness.

During the Anglo-Saxon dark ages, centuries after the Roman Empire was sacked, a poem known as The Ruin depicted the ruins of an old city, which experts assume to be Bath, as though they were the creation of an extinct race of superhumans. The current era was merely a coda to civilization's long-ago apex. The greatest comparison I can think

of for Starmer's mix of ancestor veneration and diffidence is this. We are Lilliputians; those old people were giants. We are losers who were fortunate; they were winners. We have a photocopier, and they had ideas.

The apparatchiks surrounding Starmer bear some of the blame for this, as they removed any independent thinkers from the party with his approval. Regardless of the reason, it is a misinterpretation of the past and present to regard the Blairites as having timeless knowledge. Blair is the prime leader who supervised a historic financial bubble, a massive decline in council housing, and the loss of a million manufacturing jobs—even if you ignore the brutal tragedies of Afghanistan and Iraq. Bryan Gould's statement on Mandelson, "He was always disappointing as someone who is said to be a visionary for the Labour party," also pertains to the main character. He didn't have many ideas about how to transform society, but he had a vision for how Labour could win an election. In June 2007, right before the credit crunch hit, Blair left No. 10. Britain had a banking run in a matter of months, and the

largest financial catastrophe in our history occurred the following year. Every tenable defense of the Blair project—leaning into the information economy and letting finance rip to pay for public sector jobs—was destroyed at that time. That was the reason for a complete reconsideration of the Labour Party's mission and the political economy of the United Kingdom. You may judge for yourself how far either side has come in the last 20 years. Burnham's main challenge this summer will be to demonstrate to Blair how much his views have progressed since he was a junior minister. There is undoubtedly no introspection or reconsideration among the Blairites themselves. Take a look at the conversations between Mandelson and McFadden that were made public this week. They resemble Vladimir and Estragon's discussion, but without the humor. "Who can we tax in order to pay benefits to others?" is the only question McFadden recommended Labour MPs pose. That makes some sense, which is why I and others have voiced our displeasure with an economic strategy that essentially amounts to a "some-

thing something wealth tax." The Blairites' own economics, which asks "whose benefits can we take away, in order to cut taxes for others," is still inferior to that. "How can we combat reform?" Now McFadden begs Mandelson. "And what do we use to mobilize people?"

Mandelson responds, "You mobilize people around winning for Britain." This is not politics or policy. It's the kind of pitch that advertisers make following a three-bottle lunch. In other places, the guru exhorts Starmer's group "to embrace Knowledge and Risk on everything that will help grow the economy." I have met the CEOs of [the fund managers] Blackstone and Bridgewater, and there is a strong desire for UK investment in the US. Mandelson's only way of thinking is the same one that led to the banking disaster. Those who regard him as a wise man are more foolish. But what a depressing, outdated government this is: headed by a man with the political acumen of Rishi Sunak, still terrified of Liz Truss's ghost, and, most oddly of all, subservient to Blairites, who themselves were under Margaret Thatcher's shadow.

99% of people can live fulfilling lives; it's not just a pipe dream

Imagine a time when 90% of the world's population doubles their income while working half as many hours as they do now, and everyone experiences high levels of wellbeing. A society where we consume enough but no one overconsumes; a world where the poorest half of humanity's share of the world's riches increases from just 2% to 30%. Imagine accomplishing this on a world that is capable of supporting human life without experiencing climate change. A radical new vision for global advancement in the twenty-first century is desperately needed in contrast to the depressing techno-authoritarian futures currently being marketed to us. The idea that the planet's habitability is a prerequisite for human progress and equality is the most plausible. The conditions necessary for the globe to move toward this goal by the end of the century in a way that is both economically and environmentally sustainable are examined in our new paper. The end of it? As long as three requirements are simultaneously satisfied, a worldwide transition that balances planetary habitability and high standards of wellbeing for everyone is feasible. Energy systems must be quickly decarbonized. However, we also need to make a significant change from excessive consumption to "sufficiency." In addition to significant changes in consumption patterns, eating habits, land use, and forest cover, this would entail a drastic reduction in labor hours and the use of raw materials. Reducing income, wealth, and power disparities both within and between nations will be crucial to financing and politically maintaining decarboniza-

tion and sufficiency. Deep decarbonization is compatible with this decrease in global inequality; in fact, it is a prerequisite for shared prosperity on a finite world. The first attempt to offer a completely quantitative blueprint for this shift is the Global Justice Report. It incorporates four aspects that are frequently discussed separately in today's discussions: global redistribution; a thorough overhaul of the global financial and economic system; a drastic overhaul of energy systems; and significant changes in consumption habits.

The primary innovation is that we simulate all four aspects simultaneously, with inequality and sufficiency at the center of the research, in contrast to the majority of climate scenarios, including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. What would this change bring about? Convergence between nations is at its core. By 2100, the average per capita national income, which is currently divided by a 16-fold disparity between the richest (€4,590 in North America/Oceania) and poorest (€290 in sub-Saharan Africa) parts of the world, will reach a common level of almost €5,000 per month in all countries. However, this convergence goes beyond money. While the percentage of global working hours allocated to health and education would increase from 11% to 43%, annual working hours per employed person would decrease from around 2,100 to about 1,000, continuing the long trend towards lower working times. Equal remuneration and an equal proportion of home and economic labor would be the convergence of men and women. This would all

take place in a climate that is suitable for habitation. Global warming would drop to 1.8C due to sustainable convergence and rapid decarbonization, as opposed to present trends of over 4C.

Without a significant reduction in inequality, none of this will be feasible. The achievements of Western and Nordic Europe during the 20th century would be extended as the income and wealth scales between individuals narrowed to a ratio of one to five and one to ten, respectively. The billionaire class's portion of the world's wealth would decrease from 6% to 0.05%, while that of the poorest half of humanity would increase from 2% to 30%. New entities would be used to finance and oversee these changes. In contrast to the less than 0.4% that aid and the combined budgets of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank currently represent, a global justice fund would spend an average of 10% of global GDP annually on country dividends and investment between 2026 and 2060. Its funding would come from a worldwide wealth tax that would increase to 20% annually on billionaires, a global income tax that would increase to 90% at the top, and a global sovereign fund that would hold 10% of the world's capital stock, all of which would affect roughly 1% of the world's population. The outcome is a gain for nearly everyone rather than a transfer from many to few. Between 2026 and 2100, nearly 90% of the world's population would double their wealth, and more than 99% would benefit from leisure and a habitable earth. Power is also redistribut-

ed by the scheme. In the new order, every resident would have an equal voice, supported by an international clearing union and a new international currency to end the outrageous privileges of the dominant powers and address global trade imbalances. Currently, the richest regions hold four times as many votes at the IMF and World Bank as their share of the world's population would dictate.

The Bridgetown agenda, which Barbados introduced in 2022, the Sevilla Commitment on development finance, the UN tax convention process, and G20 initiatives spearheaded by Brazil and South Africa on global inequality are all part of a larger international agenda for planetary habitability, social justice, and reform of the global financial architecture.

This report's primary contribution is to situate these recommendations inside a quantitative institutional framework, modeling distributional trajectories, temperature change, and socioeconomic convergence through the year 2100. It is materially conceivable to have a successful, equitable, and livable twenty-first century. The carbon budget permits it, and historical parallels at similar scales include the 20th century's dramatic compression of inequality, universal suffrage, the universalization of healthcare and education, and the halving of working hours. The lack of a common, bold, and concrete vision of social change is what is impeding progress rather than technical impossibility. Instead, it will require political decision-making and the laborious coalition-building process that goes along with it.

PaySprint places a significant emphasis on a cohesive fintech infrastructure



As India’s digital finance ecosystem races beyond standalone payments into integrated enterprise infrastructure, B2B banking fintech and RegTech platform PaySprint is positioning itself as a one-stop operating layer for businesses seeking connected, compliant and scalable financial systems.Founded in December 2020, PaySprint entered the market with a focused objective: solving the growing problem of fragmented financial operations faced by enterprises, fintechs and financial institutions. Businesses were often juggling collections, payouts, reconciliation, verifica-

tion and compliance across multiple disconnected systems, creating inefficiencies, operational delays and rising compliance risks To address this gap, the company launched SprintNXT, a unified business banking switch that combined collections, payouts and reconciliation into a single operational layer. Over the last few years, PaySprint has steadily expanded its platform ecosystem with products spanning verification, escrow, software escrow and contract lifecycle management. Integrated infrastructure stack Today, the company offers an

integrated infrastructure stack through platforms such as SprintVerify, SprintEXcrow, SprintEX-Code and SprintContractX, targeting banks, NBFCs, fintech firms and enterprises seeking scalable and compliant digital financial systems. “India’s digital financial ecosystem had scaled rapidly, but businesses were still managing operations through fragmented systems,” said S. Anand, Founder and CEO of PaySprint. “We did not want to build just another payment product. The idea was to create the infrastructure layer that connects collections, payouts, verification,

escrow and compliance into one coherent architecture,” he added. PaySprint’s verification platform, SprintVerify, provides APIs for KYC, KYB, bank verification and background checks, while its no-code gateway CANDY and white-label SaaS platform Click2Verify are aimed at simplifying onboarding and compliance workflows for businesses. The company has also moved aggressively into digital escrow solutions through SprintEXcrow, which enables secure multi-party transactions for sectors such as lending, marketplaces and real estate with real-time visibility, milestone-based releases and tamper-proof audit trails Another key focus area is contract lifecycle management. Through SprintContractX, enterprises can digitally manage agreements from drafting and approvals to e-signatures, obligation tracking and renewals, reducing manual processes and improving audit readiness. PaySprint has further developed SprintEX-Code to address software and source-code escrow requirements, particularly for regulated entities such as banks and NBFCs seeking stronger business continuity and IP protection frameworks. As digital finance adoption deepens beyond metros, PaySprint is now eyeing expansion across tier-two and tier-three markets, positioning itself as a full-stack infrastructure partner for India’s evolving financial ecosystem.

Generali Central Life invests in healthcare access to deepen social and financial inclusion in Sikkim

Jorhat: Generali Central Life Insurance’s donation of two advanced life-support ambulances to Sir Thutob Namgyal (STNM) Hospital reflects a growing trend among financial services companies to invest in social infrastructure as part of long-term market development and inclusion strategies.As the lead insurer for Sikkim since 2022, Generali Central Life has expanded its role beyond insurance distribution by supporting healthcare accessibility in a state where difficult terrain often limits timely access to emergency medical services. The newly deployed ambulances are expected to improve patient transportation and emergen-

cy response across remote and hilly regions, helping bridge critical healthcare gaps. The initiative aligns with Sikkim’s broader objective of achieving “Insurance for All” by 2027, significantly ahead of the national target of 2047. Government officials said stronger collaboration between public institutions and private sector stakeholders will be essential to achieving this goal. Beyond healthcare, Generali Central Life has focused on expanding insurance awareness and financial literacy through grassroots outreach programmes, Gram Panchayat engagement, village campaigns and target-

ed interventions involving students, farmers, self-help groups, police personnel and local community organisations. As of May 31, 2026, the insurer had extended coverage to more than 6,500 lives in Sikkim under its Rural and Social Sector Obligations mandate. The company also organised a blood donation camp at STNM Hospital, reinforcing its community engagement efforts. Analysts note that such investments in healthcare and awareness can strengthen trust, improve insurance penetration and contribute to greater economic resilience and financial security across underserved regions.

Phase of India-Cambodia payment connectivity goes

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday announced the launch of payment systems connectivity between India and Cambodia, allowing Indian travellers to make UPI-based QR code payments at merchants across the Southeast Asian nation.The facility, launched in Phnom Penh on Tuesday, marks the first phase of collaboration between NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and Acleda Bank Plc under the aegis of the RBI and the National Bank of Cambodia Under the arrangement, Indian users can make real-time merchant payments at more than 4.5 million merchants enabled with Cambodia’s KHQR, the country’s national QR code standard, using UPI-enabled applications.Ac-

cording to the central bank, the linkage would allow Indian travellers visiting ambodia to make physical merchant payments thereby reducing dependence on cash and provide an alternative to card based transactionsThe launch represents first phase of the India-Cambodia payment connectivity project, which is focused on QR code-based person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions. would be rolled out subsequently. The RBI said the initiative is part of its ongoing efforts to interlink UPI with fast payment systems in other jurisdictions to facilitate seamless cross-border payments.The move is aligned with the G20 roadmap aimed at making cross-border payments cheaper, faster, more transparent and accessible.

Banks must brace unknown risks: RBI DG Swaminathan J



New Delhi: The speech was uploaded on the regulator’s website on Wednesday.“Recent years have shown that shocks can arise from very different sources: pandemics, geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, commodity price volatility, cyber incidents or suddenHe said growth in retail, digital and microfinance lending has widened access and thus requires stricter underwriting, fair recovery practices and close monitoring of borrower leverage. “AI, cyber risk, third-party dependencies, climate-related risks and financial interconnectedness will therefore require ongoing attention from banks and supervisors.” Though the geopolitical scenario remains uncertain, the Indian banking system is resilient with stronger balance sheets,

comfortable capital buffers, improved profitability and asset quality. Having said that, Swaminathan added that the best time to build resilience is when conditions are favourable. He noted that central banks are often the cautious voice during bullish periods, raising tough questions when optimism is high. He added that risks tend to accumulate quietly in good times, and therefore buffers, governance and risk discipline must be strengthened when conditions are normal.He emphasised the need for resilience by design. “India’s recent banking resilience reflects policy learning, supervisory vigilance, stronger prudential frameworks, transparent recognition of stress, credible repair mechanisms and improvements within banks themselves.”

Uber layoffs: Company cuts 23% of HR and recruitment staff, says AI not behind move Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi

New Delhi: Uber is cutting 23% of employees in its People and Places division, the department that handles everything from human resources to recruitment. The company announced the layoffs on Wednesday. The move comes as Uber looks to simplify how the department works under the leadership of newly appointed President Jill Hazelbaker. In a memo to employees, Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said the changes were needed to help the company make the most of its opportunities going forward. “The changes are necessary to maximise the effectiveness of the People team and the enormous potential ahead of us.” US plans new 12.5% tariff on India amid trade talks She said some parts of the People division had become difficult to manage over time. “Some segments have become complex and fragmented, with overlapping responsibilities, unclear ownership, and teams operating too far from the businesses and partners they support.” Thus, the restructuring is aimed at reducing those overlaps and bringing teams closer to the parts of the business they work with. Uber says AI was not the reason for layoffs Last month, Khosrowshahi said Uber is hiring fewer employees because existing workers are becoming more productive with the help of AI. At the same time, Uber Chief Operating Officer

Andrew Macdonald said the productivity gains from AI are not matching the amount of money the company is spending on AI tokens. Uber joins a growing number of companies that have announced layoffs in recent months. Many businesses have pointed to artificial intelligence as a way to automate work and improve efficiency. Uber has been closely watching AI spending The layoffs come just days after Uber confirmed that it had introduced spending limits for employees using agentic AI tools.The company said the basic spending tier is set at \$1,500 per month, with higher limits available depending on the tool and team requirements. Earlier, Uber’s technology chief had reportedly said that the company burned through its planned 2026 AI budget in just four months, according to The Information. Bloomberg was the first to report the layoffs. The announcement comes at a time when several major companies have linked job cuts to the growing use of artificial intelligence. Uber, however, said that was not the case here. However, a company spokesperson said the layoffs in the People and Places division were not connected to AI. Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi also addressed employees in a separate memo, saying the changes were necessary to make



the department more effective going forward. “These changes are necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the People team and the enormous potential ahead of us.” While Uber did not reveal the exact number of employees affected, a company spokesperson told CNBC that the layoffs account for “well under 1%” of Uber’s global workforce of around 34,000 employees. Jill Hazelbaker says organisation had become too complicated Hazelbaker, who was promoted to president and chief corporate affairs officer last month, explained the reason behind the cuts in a note sent to affected teams. According to her, the goal is to create a “more connected, modern, operationally excellent organization.”

CEO arrested for cheating as fifth firm shutters in just eight months, up to 5,000 jobs lost Mass layoffs in Pune IT sector

Mumbai: A fifth Information Technology (IT) company in Maharashtra’s Pune has abruptly shut down in the last eight months, leaving between 700 and 1,000 employees jobless in the latest closure and bringing the total number of IT workers affected across the city to an estimated 4,000–5,000. The most recent collapse, Thynk Tech India OPC Pvt Ltd, based in Hinjewadi, prompted a criminal probe and the arrest of its owner and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Harshal Thakare, on cheating charges, according to a detailed report of The Indian Express.CEO arrested; investigation widens Hinjewadi senior police inspector Bala-ji Pandhare told The Indian Express that Harshal Thakare was arrested after multiple complaints and remanded to police custody until June 8. “We have arrested the owner Harshal Thakare for cheating the employees in the name of providing job and collecting money from them,” Pandhare said. Police said they have also identified other accused individuals and are searching for them while probing whether more people were involved.An FIR was registered under provisions for criminal breach of trust and cheating in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) af-



ter a 25-year-old intern filed a complaint. “Till now over 30 interns and employees have approached us and more are coming forward,” the police said, adding that the company’s registered head office is in Noida while its divisional office operated from Hinjewadi Phase-2. Investigators named the CEO, the company’s head of training and development, and a female HR manager in the complaint. Assistant Inspector Sachin Wanganekar, who is leading the investigation, said initial findings indicate interns were charged Rs 15,000 each for a laptop and were promised a stipend of Rs 15,000 per month after a two-month

unpaid internship. “The young engineers who have approached us till now have not been paid salaries ranging between one to three months. The duration when the offence took place is between September 2025 till date,” he said.According to complaints, the firm stopped paying freshers and interns from January despite starting operations in August last year. Employees allege the company repeatedly postponed salary dates and issued bounced cheques. The police confirmed the firm failed to pay salaries for the past five months and had collected Rs 15,000 as a security deposit from many recruits.

The Centre’s revenue surpasses Rs 2.12 lakh crore in April

Mumbai: The Government of India has received ₹2,12,679 crore, which represents 5.8 per cent of the total receipts for the corresponding BE 2026–27, for April this year. This comprises ₹1,78,492 crore of tax revenue (Net to Centre), ₹24,293 crore of non-tax revenue, and ₹9,894 crore of non-debt capital receipts on account of loan recoveries, according to a finance ministry statement issued on Monday. The monthly review of the Centre’s accounts also shows that ₹87,779 crore has been transferred to State Governments as Devolution of Share of Taxes by the Government of India during this period. This is ₹6,044 crore higher than the previous year. Total expenditure incurred by the Government of India is ₹5,74,892 crore, which is 10.8 per cent of the corresponding BE 2026–27. Out of this, ₹3,85,151 crore is on the revenue account, and ₹1,89,831 crore is on the capital account. Of the total revenue expenditure, ₹1,09,562 crore is on account of interest payments and ₹43,633 crore is on account of major subsidies. The subsidy outgo is set to increase in the current financial year due to the rise in the cost of petroleum products such as LPG and fertilisers because of the Middle East conflict and the choking of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of the world’s exports of oil and gas transit during normal times. This is expected to increase the outgo on LPG subsidy for the poor and on fertiliser subsidy, which ensures that farmers are cushioned from the global cost rise in the use of crucial inputs for growing their crops. While the market price of LPG has shot up to ₹1,200



per cylinder globally, Ujjwala households are still being supplied gas at ₹613 per 14.2 kg cylinder, as the government is footing a subsidy of ₹587 per cylinder, a senior petroleum ministry official said. In effect, Ujjwala households are paying only half the market price for gas, while the government is bearing the cost of the other half through a subsidy to protect them from the price rise triggered by the Iran war, he added. The price of LPG in India is also much lower than in neighbouring countries. While general households are paying ₹913 per LPG cylinder and those under the Ujjwala scheme are paying ₹613, in Sri Lanka, families have to shell out ₹1,241 per cylinder, in Nepal, ₹1,207, and in Pakistan, ₹1,046.

Pregnant woman from Ghana and her son are being detained at Dulles Airport

Washington: A pregnant woman and her 4-year-old son from Ghana have been held for more than a week at a Washington, D.C.-area airport, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.Anabella Gyasi arrived at Dulles International Airport on May 19 with a valid tourist visa to bring her son to the United States for medical treatment, and she has been detained in a holding room by Customs and Border Protection since then, the ACLU said, amid the Trump administration’s ongoing immigration crackdown-The ACLU filed a habeas petition for Gyasi and her son on Tuesday, alleging they are being detained “despite long-standing regulations and policies requiring that certain at-risk individuals, such as pregnant women and children, be released.” The petition also points to a court settlement that requires children to be transferred out of detention within 72 hours. The 38-year-old mother first brought her son to the U.S. in 2024, when he was 2 years old, to see a specialist for physical abnormalities affecting both of his hands, according to the habeas petition. At that appointment, Gyasi was told her son was too young for corrective surgery.Earlier this month, Gyasi scheduled a pre-operation appointment at a children’s hospital in Ohio and planned on traveling with the same tourist visa she had previously used, according to her lawyers. After landing at

Dulles on May 19, Gyasi and her son went through U.S. Customs, where they were questioned about the purpose of their trip”Although Ms. Gyasi has valid tourist visas for her and [her son], she disclosed her fear of returning to Ghana based on the persecution she and her son faced,” the petition states. “Ms.



Gyasi and [her son] were then taken into custody by CBP at Dulles Airport.” Since their initial detention, Gyasi and her son have been held in a room at the airport “that has a single bed, a toilet, a sink, and no windows. They are kept locked in their room for 24 hours a day,” said the petition.

According to the ACLU, CBP instituted a policy last month requiring the physical custody of all asylum-seeking individuals enter-

ing the country at ports of entry, which the group says violates other long-standing policies.

“CBP does not maintain immigration detention facilities equipped to safely care for people long-term,” the petition states. “Instead, pursuant to this policy, CBP has converted nonpublic commercial rooms

within airports into prison cells. These “hold rooms” are equipped with nothing more than a toilet, a sink, and a bed, with no on-site medical services.” Gyasi has been transported to the hospital twice during her detention, according to the habeas petition. Doctors there diagnosed her with complications due to the high stress she was experiencing, gave her medication to stop the bleeding, and prescribed blood pressure medication,” her

lawyers said in court documents. to Gyasi’s lawyers, the Ghanaian mother “became concerned about the health of [her son] and her unborn child, given their constant hunger.” She was allegedly prevented from purchasing food for her son. Because of concern for her unborn child, the ACLU said that Gyasi told officers she would rather be deported than denied food, and she signed a deportation order. The ACLU said Gyasi does not wish “to relinquish their asylum claims” and said she agreed to be deported “out of desperation” for the health of her son.

A Department of Homeland Security official confirmed Gyasi is currently in CBP custody at Dulles and said she “will remain in custody pending her immigration hearing.”The DHS spokesperson called the allegations about the conditions of the holding room and the food “false.” “Everyone in CBP custody, including this individual, has access to appropriate care, including medical evaluation by a doctor, medication, and food,” DHS said.A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the government to show a legal basis for the detention of Gyasi and her son“A failure to show an adequate legal basis for Petitioners’ continued detention will result in their immediate release so that they may pursue [her son’s] planned medical care,” U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema wrote in her order.

Clashes continue in Lebanon despite Israel and Hezbollah accepting US partial ceasefire

London: Clashes have continued in southern Lebanon despite Israel and Hezbollah accepting a US plan for a partial ceasefire. President Donald Trump said on Monday that he had spoken to both sides and “they agreed that all shooting will stop”, after Iran warned Israeli military actions in Lebanon were a threat to the US-Iran ceasefire.Lebanon said Hezbollah had accepted the plan for it to halt attacks on Israel and for Israel not to attack the Lebanese capital Beirut.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed the agreement. But he said strikes on Beirut would go ahead “if Hezbollah does not stop attacking our cities and civilians”, and that Israeli forces would still operate in south Lebanon.While the ceasefire appears to be largely holding, there was further violence overnight.Hezbollah said its fighters had targeted Israeli tanks in the southern Lebanese towns of Haddatha and Bayada with missiles and shells.

The Israeli military said

it had intercepted two projectiles that had been fired from Lebanon in the early hours of Tuesday. No injuries have been reported. Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency reported Israeli strikes on several southern areas and said a “very violent” explosion from a large-scale demolition rocked the town of Debbine. On Monday morning, the Israeli prime minister said he had ordered strikes on “terror targets” in Beirut’s southern suburbs in response to rocket and drone attacks by the Iran-backed Hezbollah. That prompted a slew of warnings from Iranian officials, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi saying the US-Iran truce was “unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon” and that “its violation on one front is a violation of the ceasefire on all fronts”.Separately, Iran’s Tasnim news agency reported that Tehran could suspend indirect negotiations with the US over Israeli military actions in Lebanon.The news agency - which is affiliated with

Iran’s powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) - also said Iran and its allies could “activate other fronts, including the Bab al-Mandab Strait” at the entrance of the Red Sea

But in later posts on Truth Social, Trump insisted that talks with Iran were continuing at a “rapid pace” and said he had spoken to both Netanyahu and representatives from Hezbollah.“I had a very productive call with Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, of Israel, and there will be no Troops going to Beirut, and any Troops that are on their way, have already been turned back,” the US president wrote.“Likewise, through highly placed Representatives, I had a very good call with Hezbollah, and they agreed that all shooting will stop - That Israel will not attack them, and they will not attack Israel.”Lebanon was drawn into the war between the US, Israel and Iran on 2 March, when Hezbollah launched rockets into Israel in retaliation for an Israeli strike that killed Iran’s supreme leader.

NJ State Police Crackdown Against Supporters

Washington: An estimated 300 immigrants detained at the Delaney Hall ICE jail in Newark, New Jersey, are continuing a hunger and labor strike to demand their freedom. Amid ongoing protests, New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill has deployed state police, who erected a barricade around the facility and have reportedly brutalized activists. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka has also imposed a nightly curfew around Delaney Hall until further notice.Local investigative journalist Bob Hennelly joins Democracy Now! to talk about the ongoing hunger and labor strike, launched on May 22, and its historical implications in Newark and the rest of the country. In letters at the outset of their strike detailing the conditions in the ICE jail, detainees have “written something that I think historians will say is equivalent to the Declaration of Independence,” says Hennelly, “because they so vividly describe the way they’ve been deprived of all the basic human rights that we’ve come to associate with this nation.” AMY GOODMAN: We begin today’s show in New Jersey, as today marks 11 days since an estimated 300 immigrants detained at the Delaney Hall Newark ICE jail began a hunger and labor strike demanding their immediate release. Protesters and organizers continued to gather near the massive jail over the weekend after New Jersey State Police imposed a barricade about a half-mile long around Delaney Hall’s perimeter. Activists denounced New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill for deploying state police, with officers in riot gear reportedly beating up protesters.Newark Mayor Ras Baraka has imposed a nightly curfew around Delaney Hall until further notice. There were reports of more arrests Sunday night as some protesters defied the curfew. Mayor Baraka’s announcement Sunday came after another weekend of clashes between protesters and law enforcement.Democracy Now!’s Maria Taracena was on the ground and spoke to several people. This is Sally Pillay, a mutual aid advocate with Eyes on ICE New Jersey. She described the chaotic scene as state police swarmed the protest outside Delaney Hall Saturday night. SALLY PILLAY: There was no announcement. There was nothing. It just came. There was an escalation of police with shields, mounted horses, flashbangs, tear gas, smoke bombs, that was just one after the other, one after the other. And there was just no sense of, you know, safeness that people in the crowd felt. We do mutual aid and support for the families. We had nothing to do with the protests that were going on. But the way the police, the state police moved and the local police moved against the crowd from the north side coming down Doremus Avenue, they started to shove the crowd towards the white mutual aid tent, and so we felt very trapped. And then the smoke was coming in, and so we had to escape.AMY GOODMAN: Meanwhile, union workers led a picket line near Delaney Hall Sunday afternoon, demanding the ICE jail be shut down.For more on the latest, we’re joined by Bob Hennelly. He’s the award-winning investigative journalist, general manager of WBAI Pacifica Radio in New York, also host of What’s Going On! Labor Monday, and has



been covering the protests at Delaney Hall. His new piece for Salon is titled “Escalating tensions at Newark migrant prison draws ire of lawmakers.” Bob, if you can go through the weekend, with the New Jersey governor, who actually has called for Delaney Hall to be shut down, calling out New Jersey state troopers? And take us through the weekend, right through the state of exception or emergency that the Newark mayor has now imposed.Also, what is most disturbing, perhaps, is that anyone who’s been around for a while — and I have the fortune and privilege to be in that category — you have to recall that in 1967 the deployment during what has been called the rebellion in Newark, with the state police and National Guard and the same kind of freelance vibe — it’s gotten actually disturbing — resulted in the death of 27 people. And the subsequent report by the Lilly Commission, which was convened by Governor Hughes, much like the Kerner Commission, found that, actually, the state police and National Guard extended the period of time of the civil unrest, contributing to the length of chaos, because they actually targeted Black businesses for destruction. I’m not suggesting that happened here, but it is disturbing that it’s such an ahistorical response.And what it does do is make the conflict and the police violence — which, of course, the likes of the New York Post and 770, that’s what they want — takes us off the heroism of the detainees, who have written these three letters,

I said last time I was lucky enough to be on with you, where they’ve written something that I think that historians will say is equivalent to the Declaration of Independence, because they so vividly describe the way they’ve been deprived of all the basic human rights that we’ve come to associate with this nation, and we know, from speaking with scholars, they enjoy. And yet we have a period of lawlessness in this country.I recall this all the time, because this is when it really started. And Bonnie Watson Coleman, congresswoman, 80 pounds when wet, and Representative McIver, Representative Menendez, all wrapped around, in the tradition of nonviolent self- — the Gandhi-esque tradition, to slow down the process of these masked agents taking the elected mayor of New Jersey’s largest city into custody.

State of trauma: Israel wrestles

Washington: After more than two years of relentless bombardment and war – from Israel’s genocide in Gaza and the Hamas-led assault on southern villages in October 2023 that preceded it, to the country’s successive wars and strikes on Iran, Lebanon, Syria and other neighbouring states – analysts, observers, and numerous studies from within Israel have concluded that the country has become moulded by trauma.A recent survey by Maccabi Healthcare Services found that about one-third of Israelis believe they need professional mental health support. Among those who have served in the army, as either conscripts or reservists, the picture is even starker. In January, Israel’s Defence Ministry reported a near-40 percent rise in the number of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) cases among its soldiers since September 2023, with a 180 percent increase expected by 2028. The government has not published the number of soldiers discharged due to mental health over the same period, despite a legal obligation to do so, Israeli media has reported.Earlier this month, Magen David Adom, Israel’s paramedic service, launched a dedicated mental health emergency service after registering a 45 percent spike in the number of calls it was receiving. The majority, it said, were linked to the continued strain of the country’s multiple wars. The number of suicides, a key indicator of mental health, has sharply increased across society as a whole, but particularly among the military, with 78 percent of military suicides in 2024 linked to combat operations in Gaza, the occupied West Bank and Lebanon, The Jerusalem Post reported in February. Incidents of domestic violence, as well as mental health conditions such as depression and stress, have all spiked since what many in the country regard as its endless series of wars began in October



2023, as well. Israel’s President, Isaac Herzog, appeared to acknowledge the trend in late May, referring to the increase in violence across Israeli society itself, including that perpetrated by rampaging Israelis from illegal settlements against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, and the spike in violence targeting Christians.Speaking at an awards ceremony, he said, “I wish I could speak today only about unity. But to my great sorrow, we are living through days in which violence is not the only thing rearing its head. Alongside it, at the margins of our magnificent Israeli society, a terrible process is creeping in – a terrible process of brutalisation. It is a slow and disturbing process, one that threatens to enter the mainstream of Israeli society, and we will not allow it.”

However, the degree to which these trends began on October 7, 2023, is unclear, analysts and observers say. Violence has been intrinsic to Israel since its founding in 1948, analysts, such as the noted Israeli sociologist Yehouda Shenhav-Shahrabani, told Al Jazeera, with the events following October 7 merely giving new impetus to existing currents. “October 7 was like a new beginning,” Shenhav-Shahrabani said. “People create beginnings to erase the trauma of

the past. Giving trauma a start date helps explain it.” How its current trauma will shape Israel going forward is unclear, Zahava Solomon, a professor at Tel Aviv University who has researched the phenomenon for the past 40 years, said.Trauma can motivate a society to be strong and aggressive, or to always seek negotiation, she said. For Israel, the past trauma of the Holocaust has, she said, instilled in society an absolute sense of victimhood, one imprinted upon its citizens from the cradle and for whom the mantra of “never again” has become second nature.As for the Palestinians, who have experienced their own victimhood, this carries “dire consequences” for the future. For Flint, however, still on the front line of managing the fallout from the wars’ collective trauma, “There’s no cure.” “There’s just recovery. Once people have crossed that threshold, that’s it.”Recounting a conversation he had with his friend, the late Lebanese novelist, Elias Khoury, who had described to him his idea that Israelis need to experience defeat to become “more human” and less hubristic, Shenhav-Shahrabani said, “I’m not sure that’s happened. October 7 was a defeat, and since then, Israelis have become even more

fascist.“There was always a fascist element to Zionism, but more liberal strands, such as kibbutzim, obscured it. However, since October 7, it’s become more apparent. You can see it everywhere,” Shenhav-Shahrabani, who has given up teaching in response to endless criticism from a growing number of right-wing students, said.‘Like a switch’“October 7 was like a switch, and the trauma it caused is widespread and ongoing,” Tuly Flint, an Israeli mental health practitioner and combat veteran, told Al Jazeera. “People’s sense of security was shattered,” he said, arguing that the gap between past conflicts and the present ones had created a false sense of safety, alongside misplaced confidence in Israel’s military and technological superiority, which had kept what he described as the “occupation and oppression” of Palestinians at a secure distance. A poll by the N12 news site of first-time Jewish Israeli voters earlier this year suggested this was true. Of the 18-to-21-year-olds who have come of age during the genocide in Gaza and seemingly endless cycle of regional conflicts, 46 percent said that October 7 had been caused through a “betrayal from within”, with a majority of respondents also showing this generation to be the most right-wing and religious to have existed in Israel’s history.“People have lost confidence in their society, government and institutions,” Flint said, describing the sense of institutional betrayal among those who relied on the state for protection, or the moral injury experienced by those who lived through the consequences of its failure to do so. “In some cases, this has led people to embrace right-wing politics, adopt a more forceful response to perceived threats, and lose trust in government,” he added. It is a trend, he said, that shows no sign of slowing.

Ukraine rescuers pull dead from rubble after Russian strikes kill 18 people

Russia: A Russian missile and drone attack killed at least 18 people across Ukraine overnight, including two children, marking one of Moscow’s largest assaults in recent months.An eight-year-old boy and a woman pulled from the rubble of an apartment block were among 12 people killed in Dnipro, regional officials said. In the capital Kyiv, six people were killed.President Volodymyr Zelensky said civilian infrastructure and energy facilities had been targeted across the country, with more than 100 people injured.Russia’s defence ministry said the strikes had been a response to previous Ukrainian attacks, saying in a statement that the “strike objectives” had all been achieved.The Kremlin said on Tuesday it was carrying out the “systematic strikes”

it had pledged after accusing Kyiv of a deadly attack on a student dormitory in an occupied part of eastern Ukraine in late May.Kyiv said it had hit a Russian military unit.“This practice will continue,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday, claiming the strikes were targeting Ukrainian military infrastructure.

United States in supplying missiles for Patriot systems”, the Ukrainian president said, referring to interception hardware used to intercept Russian missiles.Patriot missiles have been in short supply, exacerbated by the US and Israeli war against Iran.Since returning to power last year, Trump has also stopped direct supplies to Ukraine, so Kyiv’s European allies have been buying them from the

US before sending them to Ukraine. ”The main strike was on Kyiv, where dozens of residential buildings and other purely civilian infrastructure were damaged again,” Zelensky said.Rescuers searching through the rubble of an apartment building in Dnipro where 12 people were killed recovered the bodies of a boy, 8, and a woman, regional governor Oleksandr Hanzha said, adding that another child had been killed in the blast.The attack “essentially demolished” part of the building, Zelensky wrote on X. More than 90 people were injured across both cities, while Kharkiv in the north-east - which also saw its energy facilities and civilian infrastructure hit - reported 10 injured, including a child.

Display your travel souvenirs in your living room with confidence

Souvenirs seamlessly add a sense of personality to your home. They can be anything from pretty trinkets picked up at local bazaars to extravagant statement pieces from heritage shops. Every souvenir has a story to tell about your travel adventures, reminding you of the places you visited and the memories you made. All these aesthetic keepsakes tell a story of who you really are, beyond just where you have been. But there's a common problem that often makes people stash their stunning souvenirs inside a cupboard: a small living room. Living rooms already contain a lot of furniture, from sofa sets and TV units to side tables and fancy cabinets. The walls may also be covered with family pictures or shelves, leaving very little room for your travel keepsakes. When souvenirs are added forcefully without proper planning, the space can quickly start feeling cluttered rather than charming. However, a small living room does not mean you have to hide away your travel memories. The key

is in how you style and invest in vertical displays with strategy. We asked Riya Garg, founder and principal designer of Rya Interiors, about how to tackle the problem of limited space in small living rooms and display souvenirs without making the room look cluttered. To this, she agreed that visual clutter is a very big impediment in styling. "In compact Indian homes, where a 10x12 living room doubles as a drawing room, TV lounge, and sometimes a home office, souvenirs often end up stuffed in a drawer or piled on a shelf with no real thought. The result? Clutter, not character." However, all is not lost. The designer asserted that with a smarter approach to styling, including better placement and nuanced curation, you can easily feature your travel memories in your living room without making the space look cluttered. Here are some of the expert tips from Riya in the form of a quick guide:

1. Go vertical with a gallery wall
- When floor space is limited,

- look up. A curated gallery wall turns a blank surface into a visual story. Mix framed postcards, small textile pieces, pressed flowers from a hill station trek, and photographs into an asymmetric arrangement.
- Keep a consistent frame finish, whether all black, all wood, or all white, to prevent the wall from feeling chaotic. This trick draws the eye upward, making the room feel taller and more expansive than it actually is.
2. Use a shadow box or display case
- Shadow boxes are perfect for collectors with compact spaces. A single deep-set frame can hold coins, shells, small figurines, folded maps, or pressed petals, all without taking up a centimetre of table space. Mount two or three of them in a cluster on one wall. They look intentional, protect delicate pieces from dust, and work beautifully in homes with children or pets where open shelving tends to invite accidents.
3. Style a dedicated souvenir tray or corner shelf
- Designate one floating corner



shelf or a brass tray on your coffee table as your travel corner. Arrange five to seven pieces and vary the height, texture, and material. A tall bronze idol next to a squat ceramic mug from Prague, next to a rolled scroll from Hampi, creates natural rhythm. The tray contains the collection visually, so it reads as deliberate décor rather than random accumulation. Rotate pieces every few months to

keep it feeling alive.

4. Weave textiles into existing decor
- Scarves, stoles, and small woven pieces from your travels don't need a frame. Drape a Kutch embroidery piece over a cushion. Use a Rajasthani block-print square as a table runner. Pin a Thai silk panel as a soft wall hanging. Textiles add warmth, colour, and story without consuming any shelf or sur-

face real estate, which makes them a genuinely clever solution for space-pressed homes.

5. Repurpose souvenirs as functional objects
- The smartest display is one that earns its keep. That ceramic bowl from Pondicherry becomes your key holder by the door. The carved wooden box from Mysore holds your remotes. The copper vessel from Pushkar becomes a planter on

the windowsill. When a souvenir serves a daily purpose, it stays in plain sight, and every single day, it quietly tells your story. In the end, the designer advised that smart curation is actually rewarded by small spaces. This means you need to be deliberate and choose what exactly you want to display in the living room. Don't go all in or nothing at all; find the balance.

Madhuri Dixit gives the elegant Indian drape



Madhuri Dixit's fashion sense remains unparalleled! The 59-year-old actress is presently engaged in promoting her forthcoming film, Maa Behan, alongside her co-stars Triptii Dimri and Dharna Durga. For every appearance, she has showcased a series of remarkable and innovative saree styles.

the star shared pictures of her fashionable saree look from another promotional event, and once again, her custom saree is captivating the internet. She wore a unique denim appliqué saree. Let's break down the details of her eye-catching ensemble:

What did Madhuri Dixit wear?

Styled by celebrity stylist Sukriti Grover, Madhuri Dixit chose a custom look crafted by designer Mayyur Girotra. The custom six-yard is a denim-and-tissue appliqué embroidered number that captures the essence of Indian craftsmanship and pairs it with the aesthetics of a modern woman. Praising the drape, Madhuri captioned the photos, "Beauty in the pleats, magic in the mood." The saree is a pre-pleated number featuring a neatly tucked front and a pallu draped over the shoulder, both showcasing intricate tissue appliqué work in a floral pattern. While the saree comes in a light blue denim shade, the embroidery is done in gold, green, light pink, dark pink, and green hues, adding a pop of colour to the basic denim blue.

Madhuri styled the saree with a blush

pink silk blouse featuring a V neckline, half-length sleeves, a cropped hem, and a tailored silhouette. The gold threadwork on the borders and the colourful floral appliqué elevate the overall look of the ensemble.

The styling

Madhuri chose standout jewels and accessories to make heads turn in the denim saree look. In her hand, she carried a Ruhani handcrafted bag by designer Meera Mahadevia, embellished with intricate gems and details. Meanwhile, for her ears, she chose gold chandbalis decked with tiny pearls and precious stones. A gold bracelet and a statement ring gave the finishing touch. With her tresses left loose in a centre parting and styled with soft, blowout waves, Madhuri opted for a fuchsia-pink lip shade, a light pink eye shadow, sleek black eyeliner, mascara-coated lashes, a dainty bindi, feathered brows, rouged cheeks, and beaming highlighter to round off the glam. On the work front

Madhuri will next be seen in Maa Behan, directed by Suresh Triveni. The film follows the story of a constantly bickering mother and her daughters, whose lives take a chaotic turn after they unexpectedly discover a dead body in their kitchen. Madhuri essays the role of Rekha, while Triptii Dimri and Dharna Durga play her daughters. The film also stars Ravi Kishan. It is slated to premiere on Netflix on June 4.

Kangana Ranaut consumes water from a silver glass to maintain her pitta balance

Kangana Ranaut recently participated in the trailer launch of her forthcoming film Bharat Bhagya Vidhata, during which she was observed drinking water from a silver glass. The 40-year-old actress has previously discussed this practice in an interview with Shubhankar Mishra, clarifying that it is associated with balancing her pitta dosha, one of the three fundamental energies in Ayurveda.

Why Kangana Ranaut drinks water from silver glass

"Bahut purana hai, she said. When asked why she was drinking water from it, she replied, "Moon... sheeta... jinko pitta zyada hota hai, she said, emphasising the cooling properties of silver water.

Drinking water from silver vessels is an age-old tradition that has been followed for centuries, partic-

ularly in royal households. However, before adopting such practices, it is important to understand whether they offer any real, science-backed benefits. Are there any health benefits of silver utensils

Simrat Kathuria, clinical nutritionist and certified dietitian, who explained the possible effects of using silver utensils for drinking water.

"Drinking water using silver utensils is part of Indian tradition and wellness. Silver has been respected for a natural antimicrobial nature, so it might help slow down the growth of some microbes in kept water," says Simran.

She further added that the benefits are limited when it comes to overall health impact. "Drinking water kept in silver vessels isn't really going to increase nutrition, immunity, or your overall health just by itself. It's

more like a minor tweak in the background, not a big health upgrade."

Wellness is about the bigger picture

Simrat also notes that while such practices may feel meaningful, they should not be overestimated. "For those who follow traditional wellness practices, using silver utensils can feel like a meaningful addition to their daily routine. However, the benefits are likely to be modest and should not be seen as a replacement for healthy lifestyle habits." Emphasising a holistic approach to health, she highlighted that everyday habits matter more than any single wellness trend. "Real wellness comes together from drinking steadily, eating in balance, getting real sleep, moving your body, and coping with stress in a calmer way. Silver stored water could be included in



a wholesome routine too, but honestly, it's the day-to-day habits that end up

mattering most for long-term health and overall well-being," she concludes.

Fruit Peels That Are Unexpectedly Beneficial for Your Skin

From oranges to papayas, the peels of these fruits are rich in vitamins, antioxidants, and nutrients that can assist in cleansing, hydrating, brightening, and naturally nourishing your skin. Fruits are loaded with vitamins, antioxidants, and minerals that nourish the body from within. While eating them is one of the best ways to enjoy their benefits, some fruit peels can also be surprisingly useful in your skincare routine. Often discarded without a second thought, these peels contain nutrients that may help cleanse, hydrate, brighten, and soothe the skin naturally.

Orange Peel: Orange peel is rich in vitamin C and calcium and is known for its antibacterial and antimicrobial properties. It can help manage oily skin, reduce acne, and brighten a dull complexion. Vitamin C also supports healthy skin by regulating excess oil production and improving overall skin tone.

Avocado Peel: Avocado is often celebrated as a superfood, and its peel is packed with vitamins B and E along with amino acids.

The area of the fruit closest to the peel contains a high concentration of antioxidants, making it especially beneficial for dry, rough, or irritated skin.

Pomegranate Peel: Pomegranate peel is rich in antioxidants and has antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. It may help fight acne, soothe irritation, and protect the skin from free radical damage that contributes to premature ageing.

Apple Peel: Many of an apple's skin-loving nutrients are concentrated in its peel. Rich in vitamins A and C as well as copper, apple peel may help support collagen production, improve circulation, and keep skin looking fresh and youthful.

Lime Peel: Lime peel contains calcium, vitamin C, and potassium, making it a useful ingredient for maintaining healthy skin. It can help remove excess oil, keep skin hydrated, and protect against environmental stressors such as pollution and sun exposure.

Banana Peel: Banana peels are rich in vitamins A, B6, B12, C, and D, along with essential minerals like magnesium, potassium, and iron. They are often used as



a natural remedy for acne, skin irritation, and dryness. Their soothing properties may also help calm conditions such as eczema and psoriasis.

Papaya Peel:

Papaya is packed with skin-friendly nutrients, including vitamins A and E, potassium, magnesium, and vitamin B5. The peel of unripe papaya contains

an enzyme called papain, which is known for its exfoliating and skin-renewing properties. It can help brighten the complexion and improve skin texture.

ENTERTAINMENT

Aamir Khan's Lagaan returns to theatres for 25th anniversary celebration with Ashutosh Gowariker



Mumbai: Ashutosh Gowariker's epic period sports drama Lagaan is all set to re-release in theatres on its 25th anniversary. The Aamir Khan starrer was the most expensive Indian film at the time of

its release in 2001.

On Wednesday, Aamir Khan Productions shared the trailer on its official channel, invoking nostalgia. They wrote, "A timeless epic that touched every heart. On the 25th An-

niversary of LAGAAN the epic saga returns to the big screen. Relive the magic in theatres on 12th, 13th and 14th June." Lagaan is set in 1893, during British rule in India. It revolves around the

people of a drought-hit village, where they are crushed under heavy taxes, or "lagaan," imposed by British officers. When a young villager named Bhuvan challenges a British captain, the villagers are given an unusual deal. If they can defeat the British in a game of cricket, their taxes will be completely waived for three years. Despite knowing nothing about the sport, the villagers come together to learn cricket and fight for their dignity, survival and freedom.

Besides Aamir Khan, it stars Gracy Singh, Rachel Shelley, Paul Blackthorne, Suhasini Mulay, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Rajendra Gupta, Raghubir Yadav, Rajesh Vivek, and Aditya Lakhia.

Lagaan was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. It also became the most awarded film at the 47th Filmfare Awards. The film will be shown in theatres on June 12, 13 and 14.

Vicky Kaushal responds to backlash over viral wedding joke about wife



Mumbai: Vicky Kaushal has spoken out about the online criticism he faced earlier this year after a video of him making a joke about marriage went viral. The clip, which surfaced on social media in March, was filmed during his attendance at a private wedding.

In the video, Vicky is seen interacting with the groom's father, asking him to prompt the groom to say his popular line, "How's the josh?" - a phrase famously associated with his 2019 film Uri: The Surgical Strike. After the crowd responded with "High, sir!", Vicky added, "Maine yeh dekha hai ki bachelors ka josh hamesha high rehta hai. Hum shaadi-shuda waalon ka josh saal dar saal girta rehta hai. Par tension lene ki baat nahi hai, 4 din mein josh kam nahi hota." (I've noticed that bachelors always have high energy and enthusiasm. For those of us who are married, that enthusiasm keeps dropping year after year. But don't worry, it doesn't fade in just four days.) After the circulation of the video, a large section of the internet criticised Vicky, with some users labelling the comment as misogynist

and calling him a red flag. Addressing the situation in a recent conversation with The Nod Magazine, Vicky shared his perspective on the responsibilities that come with being a public figure. He mentioned, "There is no way that just because you're a public figure, you need to be perfect. Sometimes we do deserve the brickbats, and maybe the learning for me is that, as much as people are giving me love, it also comes with a certain sense of respon-

sibility."He added, "No actor has gotten fame and not gotten the flip side of it. I made the conscious choice that I wanted to be here, and the Universe is reciprocating. Now it's on me how I handle [the fame]. And if the criticism is constructive, you can learn from it." Vicky married Katrina Kaif on December 9, 2021, in a ceremony held at Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan. The couple welcomed their son, Vihaan, last year.

Nick Jonas reflects on return to camp rock 3: 'surreal to be back after years'

Agency: American popstar-actor Nick Jonas, who is married to actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, is all set to revisit the world of Camp Rock after 16 years. He went on to heap praise on the new cast and tagged them as "absolute superstars".

Nick appeared on The To-

night Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, he spoke about returning as Nate Gray in "Camp Rock 3" and also revealed a cameo by the Jonas Brothers. A video was shared on The Tonight Show's Instagram handle, which had Fallon saying: "Camp Rock 3 is coming to Disney Plus in

August. You're coming back as Nate Gray, a character you have not played in 16 years." To which, Nick replied: "Yeah. The big debate is we don't know if we're brothers in the Camp Rock universe. We're not sure, and they haven't made it clear. Yeah, you're right. So I don't

know."

"But I'll tell you this... Camp Rock 3, to basically reintroduce this franchise to a whole new audience, there's a new group of campers. They're all absolute superstars. They're going to be in arenas themselves very soon." The American popstar

said that the upcoming movie is super fun.He added: "Me and the brothers have a little cameo in it, which was so bizarre to be back at Camp Rock all these years later.... But it's amazing. These kids, they just blew me away, and I think people are going to love Camp Rock 3." Camp

Rock first released in 2008. It was directed by Matthew Diamond. The film stars Demi Lovato, Joe Jonas, Meaghan Jette Martin, Maria Canals-Barrera, Daniel Fathers, and Alyson Stoner.

In the film, aspiring teenage singer Mitchie Torres visits Camp Rock, a summer

music camp.The second installment "Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam" released in 2010. It stars Demi Lovato, Jonas Brothers, Maria Canals-Barrera, Meaghan Martin, and Alyson Stoner. In the film, Camp Rock contends with Camp Star, a new, wealthy rival summer music camp.



Anupam Kher reminisces shooting at Mannat before Shah Rukh Khan's iconic purchase: 'I know every corner of that home'

Mumbai: Actor Anupam Kher recently opened up about his long-standing association with Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, and Aamir Khan, reflecting on the bond that he developed with them over the years.

Having worked with each of them across several acclaimed films over the decades, Kher spoke fondly about their journey. Speaking to ANI, Kher recalled the days of shooting his 1990 film 'Dil' in a Mumbai bungalow, which now famously belongs to superstar Shah Rukh Khan. "We did the shooting of Indra Kumar's Dil in a bungalow, which is now owned by Shah Rukh Khan. I know every inch of that place before it became 'Mannat'. Even after that, I have been to Shah Rukh's



house. I remember shooting a lot of scenes in the bungalow's drawing room. We had also shot 'Beta' over there," he shared.

On his bond with the 'Patna' star, Kher added, "I have great memories of working with Shah Rukh Khan.

Whether it was 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', 'Chaaht', or 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai'. I have great memories." The actor also spoke about working with stars like Salman Khan and Aamir Khan. "I have memories of so many people, and people

give you bigger memories. I liked working with Salman. I have worked with Aamir in many films like 'Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin'. Of course, there are some differences, but as life goes on, it gets ironed out." Anupam Kher fondly spoke about his bond

with actor Akshay Kumar, sharing, "Akshay is a very funny man. He calls me on my birthday, and I call him on his birthday. We worked on 'Special 26', and it was amazing. I also loved working with him in 'Baby'. I have worked with him so many times. Akshay is a great guy to work with. I also have a habit of waking up early in the morning, and I arrive on time. Akshay is a very easy person to work with. He has a great sense of charm, a great sense of Punjabi warmth. He is ready to improvise. He has genuine love for me. I think it's great."

One of the most prolific and iconic personalities, Anupam Kher, has had a glorious cinematic career, spanning 45 years in the Indian film industry.

Preity Mukundan's roles in blast zone and Kannappa spark heated debate

Hyderabad: Actress Preity Mukundan has become a talking point on social media following the success of her latest Tamil film Blast Zone. The young actress, who played the daughter of senior actor Arjun Sarja and portrayed a skilled karate fighter in the film, has received praise for her performance and screen presence.

However, the appreciation has also sparked an online debate among fans from different film industries. Some social media users have been comparing Preity's role in Blast Zone with her appearance in Manchu Vishnu's Kannappa. According to these discussions, Blast Zone offered the actress a stronger, character-driven role, while Kannappa largely showcased her glamorous side. The comparisons have led to criticism



of Tollywood from certain sections of fans, who argue that the Telugu film industry did not fully utilize the actress's acting potential. However, others point out that such comparisons may be unfair, as actors often choose roles based on various factors, including career strategy, opportunities, and the nature of the projects.

Interestingly, Preity Mukundan's journey in the entertainment industry began with glamorous appearances, including the popular Tamil music video Aasa Koodai. She later featured in several other music videos that highlighted a similar image. Her role in Kannappa was also part of that phase of her career.

Shilpa Shinde's exit shook TV

Mumbai: Television actress Shilpa Shinde is once again ruling headlines for all the wrong reasons. The actress, who used to play the role of Angoori Bhabhi in the hit show Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, has confessed that the sexual harassment allegation she levelled against the producer Sanjay Kohli in 2016 was false. The revelation has reignited interest in one of Indian television's most talked-about controversies, which took place nine years ago.

Shilpa Shinde became a household name after she played the role of Angoori Bhabhi in the sitcom Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai. The show premiered in 2015 and made Shinde an overnight sensation. Her catchphrase and comic timing played a major role in the show's popularity, making her one of the most recognisable faces on Indian television. In March 2016, Shilpa abruptly quit the show and left her fans shocked. Back then, she accused the makers of mentally harassing her and claimed that she was being asked to sign an exclusivity contract that prevented her from doing other shows. She also alleged that the producers were trying to damage her career.

Rakul Preet Singh reveals shocking fitness mishap that left her bedridden

Mumbai: Actor Rakul Preet Singh got candid about one of the most difficult phases of her life while appearing alongside husband Jacky Bhagnani on Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi's popular talk show, Double Date. In a heartfelt and honest conversation, Rakul opened up about suffering a severe lower back injury after attempting an 80 kg deadlift without wearing a safety belt.

Speaking about the incident, Rakul shared how one mistake during her workout routine led to a slipped disc and weeks of physical and emotional struggle. "No matter what your trainer tells you, deadlift is the worst exercise to do. It's an ego lift," Rakul said during the

conversation. Recalling the incident, she revealed that she had always used a safety belt while deadlifting but skipped it that day. She added, "That one mistake caused me a slipped disc and 40 days of bed rest." She also spoke about how the injury affected her mentally beyond the physical pain. "It was not only a physical injury, but it was also affecting me mentally. It was a mental mess-up because I was going through physical turmoil. Suddenly, I was not able to do anything, and that really triggers you," she shared.

Rakul further credited her husband, Jacky Bhagnani, for being her strongest support system during the recovery phase. "It's very important that your partner

supports you at that point, and that was Jacky's biggest contribution when I was injured. He was there for me," she said emotionally. Reports of Rakul's injury had earlier surfaced after she injured her lower back while lifting 80 kgs without protective support, which reportedly jammed the nerves. Despite being in pain, the actor continued fulfilling her professional commitments with the help of muscle relaxants before eventually taking enforced bed rest. This week's episode of Double Date promises an emotional and deeply personal conversation between Rakul and Jacky, offering viewers a glimpse into their bond, resilience, and support for each other through difficult times.

Kriti Sanon seeks blessings at Tirumala temple ahead of Cocktail 2 release

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon visited the sacred Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala on Wednesday, where she offered prayers and sought the blessings of Lord Venkateswara.

Dressed in a simple traditional attire, the actress participated in temple rituals amid tight security. Kriti's visit comes at a time when she is looking forward to the release of her upcoming film 'Cocktail 2'. The film's trailer has been unveiled and Kriti is set to share the screen with Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna. The almost three-minute trailer of the film features a tale of chaos, confusion and heartbreak between three



friends, Kunal (Shahid Kapoor), Diya (Rashmika Mandanna) and Ally (Kriti Sanon).

In the trailer, the lead cast were seen travelling, where the trio explore their friendship and different aspects of their relationship, including a possibility of a threesome. In some sequences of the trailer, Kriti Sanon is

seen flirting with Shahid Kapoor while the actor appears to be in a relationship with Rashmika Mandanna. The situation takes a downturn when the lady duo starts fighting over Shahid Kapoor.

Prior to the trailer, the makers had released the chartbuster songs from the film. Recently, they released the

romantic track 'Tujhko', unveiling a soulful duet that brings together celebrated singers Arijit Singh and Sunidhi Chauhan in a deeply emotional musical collaboration. The other tracks from the movie include 'Mashooqa' and 'Jab Talak'.Cocktail 2 (2026) is a standalone spiritual sequel. It is not a direct sequel to the 2012 original Cocktail, which featured Saif Ali Khan, Diana Penty and Deepika Padukone in the lead roles.

The movie is directed by Homi Adajania and is written by Tarun Jain and Luv Ranjan. The music of the film is composed by Pritam. The movie is slated to release in theatres on June 19.

Palak Tiwari spotted with Ibrahim Ali Khan, dodges paparazzi amid dating rumors

Mumbai: Actor Ibrahim Ali Khan, who was last seen in the streaming movie 'Sarzaam', was spotted in the city catching a movie with his rumoured girlfriend Palak Tiwari.

The couple were captured by the shutterbugs as they walked out of the theatre. As

Ibrahim was the first to step out, he saw the paparazzi and immediately gestured for the actress to step back. The actress tried to go down the flight of stairs at the establishment; the prying cameras captured her in the lens. Although reports surrounding Ibrahim Ali Khan

and Palak Tiwari being in a relationship have circulated for quite sometime, neither has publicly confirmed being in a relationship. The speculation began after the pair were repeatedly spotted together at restaurants, parties and industry events in Mumbai.

More recently, they have continued to fuel gossip with occasional joint appearances, including being seen leaving social gatherings and celebrity hangouts around the same time, while generally avoiding direct comments on their status. Earlier in March, Ibrahim

Ali Khan gave fans a glimpse into his Eid celebrations, and shared a picture of his younger brother Taimur Ali Khan devouring on a plate of Biryani.

He wrote in the caption, "Eid Mubarak". In the picture, little Taimur is seen seated at his dining table,

relishing a plate of Eid special biryani, with his little fingers. Ibrahim's aunt, Saba Pataudi, had also given a sneak peek into her preparations for the festival. She had shared how the family was gearing up for the celebrations, including the tradition of giving Eidi to

the younger members of the Pataudi family, fondly referring to them as 'Pataudi munchkins'. Talking about the Pataudi family's younger generation, it includes Taimur Ali Khan and Jeh Ali Khan, children of Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Can Manchester City star Erling Haaland write a new chapter in Norwegian football

Erling Haaland is facing a big challenge at the upcoming football World Cup in the US, Mexico and Canada. The challenge of making Norway a respectable nation in the world of football! He is a world-class footballer and has done wonders for Manchester City for many seasons in the English Premier League, but there are other high-class players to assist him. Sadly at Norway, there are not many with that kind of reputation, which means he has to take the lead and prove to the world that not only is he a fantastic player, but is also someone who can lead the team with aplomb – even though he is not an appointed captain. Norway have never been a force in international football. This is only their fourth World Cup appearance. Their last World Cup appearance was in 1998 in France. They had also participated in the edition before, and before that, it was the year 1938 when they made their first World Cup appearance. Norway’s best finish at the World Cups is the Round of 16, twice in 1938 and



1998. The team secured direct qualification from the UEFA qualifying Group I. Haaland played a huge role in their success there. He was on the rampage to all intents and purposes, scoring 16 goals in 8 matches. Needless to say, Norway won all those matches.

They scored 37 goals in all and conceded just 5. Norway had Italy, Israel, Estonia and Moldova in their group, and spearheaded by Haaland, they were simply unstoppable. The two-time Premier League and one-time Champions League winner has scored

55 goals for his national team, and he is the highest goal-scorer in the European team’s history. Last month, the 25-year-old admitted he was under pressure in terms of expectations from fans. “Ever since, I made my international debut in 2019. My

big goal has been to get Norway to the World Cup and Euros. There is a lot of pressure on me, but I like the pressure. I would put a lot of pressure on Erling Haaland if I weren’t Erling. Haaland myself. We now have an amazing generation, and I want

to build on this. I want to develop the whole federation and everything around it to become a big football nation. That is my goal,” Haaland, who has scored 162 goals for City, said. It’s clear the forward is determined, which should give Norway’s fans a lot of hope. While no one is expecting them to go all the way, if they can do better than what they did in 1938 and 1998, their fans should be happy. Norway have Iraq, Senegal and two-time champions and one of the pre-tournament favourites France in their group. At present, Haaland, who was born in England, should not look too far ahead. Going beyond the group stages should be his priority. His reputation is at stake. Readers would remember that when Lionel Messi failed to deliver for Argentina in his first few World Cups, many questioned his greatness and his success at Barcelona. Doing great at the international level, especially at the World Cups, is very important. Haaland knows full well what the expectations are and what will happen if he fails.

How Kylian Mbappe announced himself and took FIFA World Cup by storm



The FIFA World Cup 2026 is around the corner, and fans cannot wait for the biggest sporting spectacle to begin. 48 teams will fight it out for the biggest prize in sport, and one also needs to see which youngster takes the big leap and shows the world how he has it in him to be the true-blue superstar. As far as superstars are concerned, France’s Kylian Mbappe has become a force to reckon with and how can one forget his hat-trick in the 2022 FIFA World Cup final in Qatar. However, the 27-year-old had shown signs of brilliance four years earlier in 2018, with a breakout tournament that helped France win the title. Before the 2018 edition of the tournament, the world already knew a bit about Mbappe. He had dazzled through his performances for AS Monaco. Moreover, he had won a Ligue 1 title, earning a blockbuster move to Paris Saint-Germain. However, it was the FIFA World Cup, where he took the next leap, and started being talked about in the same breath as Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Neymar.

Aged just 19, he arrived at the tournament as one of France’s brightest prospects. And eventually, he left the competition as the face of football’s future. His biggest moment came in the Round of 16 tie against Messi’s Argentina. France and Argentina were locked in a thrilling contest, and it was then that Mbappe produced one of the most jaw-dropping performances the World Cup has witnessed from a teenager. Early on, Mbappe collected the ball inside his own half and charged forward. He accelerated with astonishing speed, surging past Argentinian defenders. Such was his movement that the defenders had no option but to bring him down inside the penalty area. This resulted in France winning a penalty, which led the side to open the scoring. He set up the goal at first, and then he himself got on the scoring sheet. Mbappe struck twice in the second half, first finishing clinically after a swift French counterattack and then firing home again minutes later. Argentina’s experienced defenders simply could not contain him.

The match ended 4-3 in France’s favour, but the scoreline barely captured the impact of Mbappe’s display. He had become the first teenager since Pelé to score twice in a World Cup knockout match. More importantly, he had announced himself to the world. The game against Argentina wasn’t the end of Mbappe’s Midas touch. As France advanced in the competition, his confidence continued to grow. Didier Deschamps’ side mixed defensive solidity with devastating pace in transition, and Mbappe was the perfect foil to his tactics. Opponents knew what was coming and still struggled to stop it.

Then came the final against Croatia. Traditionally, the World Cup finals are not supposed to be won by teenagers as the pressure is immense and the stakes overwhelming. But Mbappe looked completely unfazed. With France leading in Moscow, he received the ball outside the penalty area and drove a precise low shot beyond the Croatian goalkeeper. The goal made him only the second teenager ever to score in a men’s World Cup final, joining Pele in one of football’s most exclusive clubs. France won 4-2 and lifted the trophy. Mbappe stood out not just because of his age but because of how naturally he seemed to belong on that stage. In the competition, he registered four goals, a World Cup winner’s medal, and a series of astonishing runs on the field.

The tournament gave football its next superstar. Mbappe possessed everything modern football craves: speed, technical excellence, fearlessness and an ability to deliver under immense pressure.

In 1958, Pelé introduced himself to the world in Sweden. Sixty years later, in Russia, Mbappe delivered his own arrival story. The teenager who tore through Argentina and scored in a World Cup final had announced himself. The football world was watching, and a new superstar had arrived.

D Gukesh unfazed by criticism: ‘I don’t think the comments affected him at all’

Since becoming the world champion in 2024, D Gukesh has been on the receiving end of criticism from active chess players and legends like Garry Kasparov. Kasparov feels that since world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen relinquished the World C’ship title in 2022, he ended the era of classical chess champions. But Gukesh’s coach, Grzegorz Gajewski, feels that such criticism hasn’t ‘affected’ him at all. ”Gukesh won fair and square, but you can hardly call him the strongest player in the world.

I don’t want to sound offensive, but I think Magnus ended the era of classical world champions. Gukesh’s world championship title is very different. It’s still clear that Magnus is the strongest, and Gukesh is yet to prove his superiority over others. Even players of his age category. The round 1 game against Praggnanandhaa at the Sinquefeld Cup was very unimpressive.

The rules are the rules and the games are the games,” Kasparov said. Speaking to The Indian Express, Gajewski said, “I don’t think meeting the expectations of former world champions is his main goal as a professional chess player.”



“I don’t think the comments affected him at all. They have the right to their opinions. It’s your responsibility as a professional chess player, especially of his calibre, to simply focus on your job,” he added.

Gukesh is the youngest undisputed world champion in chess

history. He is also the youngest player to have crossed a FIDE rating of 2750, at the age of 17. He is the third-youngest to have reached 270 Elo at age 16. He earned his GM title at the age of 12.

At the 2024 World Chess Championship, he scored three wins

against Ding Liren. Liren got two wins. The showdown also witnessed nine draws in 14 classical rounds. Gukesh won the 14th and final game, with Liren making a huge endgame blunder. Meanwhile, Carlsen also feels that the expectations placed on Gukesh are ‘unrealistic’. Speaking to El

Mundo, he said, “The expectations placed on him were unrealistic.

In part, he brought it on himself by playing in such strong tournaments, but he played incredibly in the Candidates Tournament and delivered one of the best performances in history at the Olympiad, leading India to gold. His (world championship)match against Ding Liren was more uneven, but even so, it’s difficult to dispute his results. Let’s remember that he’s still young, and until recently, nothing suggested he would be so consistently good.”

“I think he’s reached a period of stability and is learning. In certain aspects, he’s become stronger, but it’s not easy to demonstrate that in every game. Defending his title in every tournament isn’t easy, but he’ll do well. His trajectory is good.

Another thing is that we have to be realistic about his generation because my career or Hikaru (Nakamura)’s doesn’t come around very often. Gukesh could become one of the best of all time, but more likely, he’ll end up being an elite player who had the best run of his life and became a champion. That in itself is already great,” he added.

362 illegal Bangladeshi nationals held in statewide crackdown

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat police have arrested 362 illegal Bangladeshi nationals and detained more than 782 suspects for questioning under ‘Operation Delta Hunt’, a statewide crackdown carried out simultaneously across multiple cities and districts, according to an official government release. Those arrested include 103 men, 188 women and 71 children. Ahmedabad city recorded the highest number of arrests at 155, followed by Surat city with 84, Ahmedabad rural with 34, East Kutch-Gandhidham with 13 and Bharuch with 12. Detentions were also made in several other districts.

Crime Branch joint commissioner of police Sharad Singhal said the operation was planned during a meeting chaired by deputy chief minister Harsh Sanghavi after inputs suggested that a large number of Bangladeshi nationals had entered Gujarat without valid authorisation.

Ahmedabad police commissioner GS Malik said more than 30 teams,



comprising personnel from the Crime Branch, Special Operations Group and local police units, were deployed across the city as part of the operation.

According to Sanghavi, as raids were launched in urban areas, checkpoints were simultaneously set up at bus stations, highways and railway stations to prevent suspects from fleeing. Around 18 people who allegedly attempted to escape were apprehended at these checkpoints. Investigators said many of those detained had entered India through villages in West Bengal two to four years ago or earlier.

Police said local intermediaries allegedly helped them obtain state docu-

ments, which were later used to secure Aadhaar cards. Police added that fake Aadhaar cards and voter identity cards were recovered during the operation, and the role of trafficking and document-forgery networks is now under investigation. Gujarat director general of police KLN Rao said the operation was based on telecom analysis conducted using data from the Cyber Centre of Excellence.

According to police, a database of Indian mobile numbers that had active communication with Bangladeshi numbers was compiled, generating a list of more than 6,200 suspected Bangladeshi nationals. Police said ground-level operations to dismantle illegal networks are continuing on the basis of this database. Sanghavi said strict action would also be taken against those who provided shelter, employment or forged documents to illegal entrants. All detained individuals are being processed for deportation under applicable legal procedures.

CCTV captures Panchkula club firing that left two injured

Suspected Godara gang shooters arrested

Haryana: Firing took place outside a club in Haryana’s Panchkula on Thursday, leaving two people injured. A purported CCTV video of the firing in Sector 5 has surfaced, capturing moments from the late-night attack.

Two accused in the incident were later arrested after a police chase and an encounter near Ramgarh. Both suspects sustained bullet injuries to their legs during the exchange of fire with police.

In the footage, a man can be seen walking towards a car and speaking to another person. Moments later, multiple gunshots are heard, triggering panic as people scramble to safety and run

away from the spot. Police sources the incident took place around 1 am when Ratan Lubana, a relative of a local BJP leader, was coming out of a club in Sector 5.

The assailants, who were allegedly waiting outside, opened fire at him. Eyewitnesses said around 10 to 12 rounds were fired at the spot. The victims attempted to flee, but the attackers continued shooting.

Ratan Lubana suffered a bullet injury to his abdomen, while another person sustained a gunshot wound to the shoulder. Both injured men were rushed to the Civil Hospital in Sector 6 and were later referred to PGIMER, Chandigarh,

after receiving primary treatment. Following the incident, the police control room alerted all crime branch units across the district. Police teams immediately launched a chase after the suspects, who were fleeing on a motorcycle. The pursuit continued up to the Ramgarh area, where police attempted to intercept them. Ratan Lubana, a resident of Mansa Devi Complex, is reportedly a stakeholder in a club located in Sector 5. He is also a close relative of a local councillor in Panchkula.

The Panchkula Police are expected to hold a press conference on the matter soon. The accused allegedly opened fire on the crime

branch teams.

In the ensuing exchange of fire, both suspects were shot in the leg before being overpowered and arrested. According to initial information, the arrested accused have been identified as Harpreet (18), a resident of Hoshiarpur in Punjab, and Jaswinder, a resident of Jagraon in Punjab. Both have been admitted to a hospital for treatment and are currently under police guard.

Sources further claimed that the two shooters are suspected to have links with the gang of notorious gangster Rohit Godara. However, police have not officially confirmed any gang affiliation so far.

India Coach Says Rishabh Pant Is In Great Spirits And Doesn't Need Title

New Delhi: As the midday sun beat down on a scorching Thursday at the New Chandigarh stadium, the focus of the Indian cricket team's practice session converged on a familiar, explosive figure. Just days ago, Rishabh Pant looked like a man carrying the weight of a fracturing world. He was visibly rattled towards the tail end of a bruising IPL 2026 campaign, an emotional spillover that culminated in an expletive-laden post-match vent. The outburst, tellingly, came mere hours after the national selectors announced the squad for the one-off Test against Afghanistan, revealing that Pant had been stripped of the vice-captaincy. Yet, if the outside world expected a sulking superstar in transition, India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate quickly dismantled that narrative. Speaking to reporters after Thursday's intense training block, the former Netherlands captain provided the definitive angle on where the dynamic southpaw stands: Pant doesn't need an official designation to lead. "I don't think you need a formal title to be a leader. With the new set-up like this, I think Rishabh understands that and he's committed to being a good role model and senior player," Doeschate said. "He's been in great spirits. He's always one of those guys who's happy and cheerful and drives the spirit in the team. We've got no complaints from him. You wouldn't notice that his



role in the team has changed. No concerns about Rishabh." Ten Doeschate's most compelling revelation wasn't just about Pant's physical sharpness in the nets, but the striking social dynamic unfolding on the park. The assistant coach noted that he had spent time watching Pant and newly appointed captain Shubman Gill deep in tactical conversation. "I actually heard him and Shubman having a chat around that yesterday – how you want to conduct yourself as a senior player and extend communication as to how you're going to play," he said. Ten Doeschate, however, noted that the wicketkeeper-batter would be looking to work on his game, especially when it comes to reining in his natural instincts to suit different situations. "He's brilliant. We don't want to take away all the stuff that he does. Occasionally, if he can adjust his game

to play the situation slightly more, then that's something you'll see him work on." Addressing the decision, chief selector Ajit Agarkar had clarified that removing the vice-captaincy was not a punitive measure, but rather a strategic move designed to liberate the dynamic southpaw. The management's ultimate goal is to help Pant focus entirely on his batting and unlock his absolute ceiling as a match-winner. "Rishabh is an incredible Test player. Obviously, he is not part of the ODI squad at the moment," Agarkar said, emphasising the clarity in their current vision for him. "We want him to become the best Test player that he has always been. I don't think there is any concern with his spot in the Test team." Indeed, the leadership snub does not reflect a loss of faith in Pant's red-ball value.

Manchester's Old Trafford Confirmed As A Venue For Women's T20 World Cup

Manchester: Old Trafford Cricket Ground is one of England's most historic and celebrated cricket venues. Located in Manchester and home to Lancashire County Cricket Club, it has hosted Test cricket since 1884 and remains a cornerstone of the English game. The ground possesses a distinctive character shaped by Manchester's passionate sporting culture and famously unpredictable weather. On match days, the atmosphere can be electric, with packed stands creating a sense of anticipation that few venues can replicate. Despite extensive modern redevelopment, Old Trafford has retained the heritage and charm that make it a favourite among players and supporters alike. Its history is filled with iconic moments. Jim Laker's extraordinary 19-wicket haul against Australia in 1956 remains one of the greatest individual performances in cricket, while Ian Botham's Ashes exploits added to the ground's rich legacy. From historic Test matches to World Cup encounters



and modern T20 contests, Old Trafford continues to be a stage where cricket's biggest stars and most memorable moments come together. In a historic development for international women's sports, the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have officially designated the iconic Old Trafford Cricket Ground in Manchester as one of the major host venues for the highly anticipated ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. The tenth edition of the tournament, scheduled to run from June 12 to July 5, 2026, represents an expanded era for women's cricket, bringing

12 elite global teams to England and Wales to contest a total of 33 fixtures across 24 high-octane days. Old Trafford, the historic home of Lancashire Cricket, is slated to host five critical matches that will heavily shape the tournament's trajectory. With its 26,000-seat capacity, and celebrated sporting atmosphere, Manchester is preparing to take center stage in what administrators are calling a "long-term movement" to cement women's cricket into the mainstream permanent sporting landscape. The confirmation of Old Trafford forms the cornerstone of an ambi-

tious strategy by the ECB and the ICC to construct the largest and most commercially successful women's cricket event ever staged in the United Kingdom. "The confirmation of venues represents a defining moment as we build towards the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. This tournament will bring together the world's finest players in a celebration of skill, spirit, and sportsmanship. The United Kingdom's rich diversity has always shown passionate support for all teams, something we witnessed so memorably at past events." Echoing these thoughts, ECB Chief Executive Richard Gould highlighted the intentional choice of world-class, premium stadiums like Old Trafford to elevate the athlete and spectator experience alike. "Crucially, this isn't just about scale; it's about providing a world-class experience for players, fans, and broadcasters alike, ensuring that the tournament reflects the elite performance of the players on the pitch," Gould stated.

French Open Day 11: Kostyuk Faces Andreeva Amid Ongoing Ukraine-Russia War Tensions

New Delhi: The French Open women's singles draw has taken an unexpected turn, and Thursday's semi-finals promise plenty of intrigue as four players chase a maiden Roland Garros title. The standout contest features Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk against Russia's Mirra Andreeva in a match that carries significance both on and off the court. With world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka crashing out in the quarter-finals, eighth seed Andreeva is now the highest-ranked player remaining in the tournament. Kostyuk arrives with momentum and confidence, having beaten the Russian teenager in both of their meetings this season, including a straight-sets victory on clay in the Madrid final. The Ukrainian has been one of the most consistent performers on the surface this year and is now just one win away from reaching her first Grand Slam final. Their



latest meeting will once again take place against the backdrop of the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. Since Russia's invasion in 2022, Ukrainian players have refused to shake hands with Russian and Belarusian opponents, and Thursday's semi-final is expected to be no different. While the political context inevitably adds another layer to the contest, Kostyuk will be focused on extending her winning record against Andreeva and continuing her impressive run in Paris. The Russian,

meanwhile, has quietly established herself as one of the brightest young talents in women's tennis and now stands two victories away from a maiden major title. The second semi-final will see Russian Diana Shnaider take on Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska. Both players have enjoyed breakthrough tournaments, with Shnaider stunning Sabalenka in the quarter-finals and Chwalinska becoming only the second women's qualifier in the Open Era to reach the Roland Garros semi-finals.

Gautam Gambhir And Selectors Divided Over Choosing India's New T20I Captain

Gambhir and selectors clash over next captain

New Delhi: It seems like India coach Gautam Gambhir and the selection committee aren't on the same page when it comes to their choices of who should replace Suryakumar Yadav as the next T20I captain, according to a report from PTI. India Today revealed that the Indian T20I team will have a new captain in Shreyas Iyer as the BCCI are ready to move on from Suryakumar Yadav. Suryakumar, who led India to the T20 World Cup 2026 win, has been woefully out of form and struggled during the IPL this year to score runs. This meant that the selection committee decided to drop him and pick Shreyas as the new skipper for the upcoming tours of Ireland and England. Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma have also been mentioned as dark horses in a three-way race for the role as BCCI wants a new captain who will be at the helm for the next two T20 World Cups. While Gambhir and the selectors



are on the same page when it comes to Suryakumar's removal from captaincy, when it comes to the choices, they do seem to have differences. PTI is reporting that Gambhir's preferred choice is Sanju Samson, who impressed with a superb knockout-stage campaign at the T20 World Cup. However, the selectors remain unconvinced about whether Samson or Ishan Kishan can deliver consistent performances over an extended period. It is also said that Gambhir is not entirely sold on Shreyas Iyer's candidature.

The two worked together during Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL-winning campaign in 2024, with Shreyas leading the side and Gambhir serving as mentor. However, Shreyas' comments that season about not receiving enough recognition are believed to have raised a few eyebrows, and those remarks have reportedly remained a point of discussion. A decision on the new T20I captain is expected to be announced ahead of the 2 T20Is against Ireland on June 26. India's cricket team is set to appoint Shreyas Iyer as the new

T20I captain, replacing the out-of-form Suryakumar Yadav after his T20 World Cup 2026 success. The BCCI aims for a leader for the next two T20 World Cups. While coach Gautam Gambhir prefers Sanju Samson, selectors favor Iyer, with Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma also considered. Differences in opinion exist between Gambhir and selectors, with a captaincy decision expected before the Ireland T20Is on June 26. New Zealand, meanwhile, arrive in England full of confidence after their dominant innings-and-79-run victory over Ireland in Belfast. The Black Caps are currently second in the WTC standings and will be hoping to strengthen their position with a strong showing in England. One of the major talking points for the visitors will be the return of fast bowlers Kyle Jamieson and Will O'Rourke. The towering pair are expected to feature together in a full-strength New Zealand.

Ashwin Reveals Technical Tweak Behind Shubman Gill's Test Form

New Delhi: R Ashwin revealed the technique that Shubman Gill has made to his batting that has allowed the India Test captain to become a run machine in the format. Gill has been in sensational form since taking over the captaincy in the longest format of the game. After taking up the role and moving to No.4, Gill has scored 950 runs in eight matches, with five hundreds and one fifty. Four of his centuries came during the England tour, where he scored 754 runs in five matches. Speaking to JioStar, Ashwin praised Gill's temperament and his skill to handle the pressure of captaincy with maturity. "Shubman Gill had a fantastic series in England. As soon as he was made captain, he went there and delivered, both with the bat and with his leadership. He scored runs in tough conditions and handled the pressure of captaincy with maturity. That showed his class and his ability to bat long," said Ashwin. The former spinner said that



Gill has tweaked his batting technique, bringing the bat closer to his pads, which has made him solid against the moving ball. Ashwin said that while the Indian skipper is yet to be prolific at home, he expects this tweak to help the star batter go all guns blazing at home. "He has worked hard on his technique, especially keeping his bat close to the pads, which helped him reduce the gap between bat and pad, making him more solid against the moving ball." "Yes, he hasn't fired with the bat yet on home soil as captain, but with this change in his batting technique, I expect him to go all

guns blazing at home too. His success in Test cricket will play a big role in redefining India's Test team. He is the kind of player who can lead the batting lineup for years to come," said Ashwin. Gill has played 20 matches in India and has scored 1373 runs at an average of 45.76. The number three position in Test cricket is a sacred territory for the Indian cricket team. For decades, stalwarts like Rahul Dravid and Cheteshwar Pujara set the gold standard, demonstrating how a rock-solid anchor can swing the tides of a match. However, since Pujara's exit, finding a suitable re-

placement has become a puzzling conundrum for the team management. Shubman Gill, the current Test captain, initially took up the mantle after vacating his opening slot for Yashasvi Jaiswal. Yet, the demanding role proved tough to tame. In his 16 matches batting at number three, Gill managed 972 runs at a modest average of 37.38. While he notched three centuries and three fifties, consistency eluded him. Gill found his true rhythm only after being appointed Test skipper and moving down to the iconic number four slot. His shift reopened the massive void at number three. While Sai Sudharsan and Karun Nair were handed opportunities, neither could cement the spot. Now, ahead of the one-off Test against Afghanistan in Mullanpur, the race has narrowed down to two exciting young talents. Following a gruelling domestic calendar and the Indian Premier League, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has hinted that the shoot-out for the coveted Sudharsan.

Leeds' Headingley Confirmed As Host Venue For Women's T20 World Cup

Leeds: Headingley is one of England's most iconic cricket grounds, located in Leeds and serving as the home of Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Since hosting its first Test match in 1889, the venue has become synonymous with drama, resilience and unforgettable cricketing moments. The ground is best remembered for the legendary 1981 Ashes Test, when Ian Botham and Bob Willis inspired England to an astonishing victory over Australia after following on, producing one of the greatest comebacks in cricket history. Headingley has also witnessed batting brilliance, with Sir Don Bradman scoring two Test triple centuries at the venue and Geoff Boycott bringing up his 100th first-class century before a home crowd.



What makes Headingley special is its intimate atmosphere and unpredictability. The often cloudy Leeds conditions and seam-friendly pitch can transform matches

in a matter of hours, ensuring fans are rarely short of excitement. Rich in history and character, Headingley remains one of cricket's most treasured stages. The

Rose Bowl, Hampshire's current home ground, opened its doors in 2001 and represented a major step forward for the county's cricket infrastructure. Designed by

renowned architects Michael Hopkins & Partners, the venue is known for its bowl-shaped layout and striking three-tier pavilion, which has become a defining feature of the stadium. Situated near Southampton on the edge of the M27 corridor, the ground initially encountered logistical challenges. During the 2004 Champions Trophy, significant traffic issues overshadowed England's match against Sri Lanka as thousands of fans struggled to access the venue. Over time, however, the Rose Bowl established itself as one of England's leading cricket grounds. It hosted England's maiden T20 International in 2005 against Australia, introduced floodlit cricket a year later, and welcomed several high-profile day-night fixtures.