

Dispur Declares a 2% DA Increase for State Government Workers and a Rs 500 Crore Second Capital Region Project

Guwahati, Jun 07: Today, the state cabinet increased state government employees' dearness allowance (DA) by an extra 2%. During the late-night meeting, the cabinet, led by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, also took a number of other decisions. This was the first cabinet meeting since 12 new ministers were appointed today, raising the total number of ministers—including the chief minister—to 17."Today the state cabinet decided to hike the dearness allowance of state government employees by an additional 2%," the Chief Minister told the media after the cabinet meeting. Currently, state government employees receive 58% DA from the state government. The DA will grow to 60% as a result of today's increase, which

will take effect right away. The chief minister stated, "We declared Dibrugarh the second state capital during the government's last tenure." We decided on the location of the second state capital region during today's cabinet meeting. Additionally, we made the decision to establish the Second State Capital Region Development Authority, Dibrugarh (SCRDA-D). Prasanta Phukan, a cabinet-ranked MLA from Dibrugarh, will serve as the Authority's chairman. The Dibrugarh MLA will serve as the SCRDA-D's ex-officio member. Excluding other development projects, the government would invest Rs 500 crore over the course of five years in the second state capital region. The second state capital region, according to the chief minister, will encom-



pass a 20-kilometer radius around the Dibrugarh Capital Complex in Dibrugarh District. The increase in the MLA area development fund to Rs 1.5 crore from the previous Rs 1 crore for

this fiscal year was also approved by the state cabinet. It will be raised to Rs 2 crore starting in the upcoming fiscal year, with 10% going toward instrument purchases and the remain-

ing 90% going toward infrastructure development. Today's cabinet meeting also decided to start the budget session on July 6, 2026. In response, the CM stated, "We were unable

to implement some of the plans because we had previously presented a vote-on-account budget. All programs will operate as usual on August 1st following the budget's approval in July. The chief minister stated, "I want to take some time, a maximum of seven days to allocate the portfolios to the ministers." Before allocating the portfolio, I shall review the work of the previous ministers. In addition, I want to consider what a new minister would find appropriate to work in." The Assam Secondary Education (Provincialized Schools) Service (Amendment) Rules, 2026 have been amended by the State Cabinet through changes to Rules 5(2) and 16(4) of the main Rules, which govern how Grade IV personnel are promoted to Grade III posts.

In Brief

4.4 lakh saplings are planted by Kamrup on World Environment Day

Rangia: On Friday, the Kamrup district held large-scale plantation drives in honor of World Environment Day 2026. The topic for this year's World Environment Day is "Climate Action," with the tagline "Inspired by Nature. For Climate." For the Future. The drives were conducted throughout the Kamrup district's 13 Development Blocks as part of the Assamese government's countrywide Women-led Greening Movement effort. About 4.4 lakh saplings were planted by SHG members throughout the district as part of the program, significantly advancing the state's ambitious goal of increasing green cover through community-led activity.

Burmese areca nut smuggling into India: ED raids nine locations

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) executed extensive search operations at nine locations in Champhai, a border town along the Mizoram-Myanmar frontier, as part of its investigation into the smuggling of illegal Burmese dry areca nuts into India. These operations, conducted in collaboration with the Mizoram Police, aim to dismantle a well-organized cross-border smuggling network. Investigations indicate that local facilitators were involved in importing Myanmar-origin supplies through the Tiu River, storing them in local warehouses, and utilizing fraudulent e-way bills and forged documents to disguise these imports as legitimate transactions. This illicit operation has reportedly generated significant financial gains, amounting to hundreds of crores of rupees. The accused have exploited their tribal identity to pose as legitimate claimants to Customs authorities, leveraging unrelated historical import documents to facilitate the release of seized smuggled goods.

Itanagar Bandh Disturbs Everyday Life in the Capital Area

Itanagar: Normal life in the Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) was severely disrupted on Friday due to a 24-hour bandh called by the Arunachal Pradesh Indigenous Youth Organisation (APIYO), which received an overwhelming response. Despite claims by the state government that the issues raised by APIYO had been addressed, businesses, educational institutions, and markets remained closed, resulting in empty roads except for a few government and police vehicles. The bandh, which lasted from 5 am Friday to 5 am Saturday, proceeded largely without incident, aside from a few minor occurrences of tyre burning by supporters. The district administration had previously classified the shutdown as "illegal and unlawful." APIYO's demands included action against alleged unauthorized mosques and a focus on concerns regarding illegal immigration in the area. In response, the state government asserted that it had already closed and sealed all 15 mosques identified as operating without the necessary approvals within the region, thereby addressing the core issue highlighted by the organization.

James PK Sangma of MDA would submit his Rajya Sabha nomination papers



Shillong, Jun 07: James PK Sangma, the MDA coalition's nominee for the Rajya Sabha election, would submit his nomination papers on Monday after postponing the initial Friday submission due to unfinished paperwork. With little sign of a significant opposition challenge, the ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA), which holds an overwhelming majority in the State Assembly, looks set to win the lone Upper House seat. The next election has garnered significant political attention as the Rajya Sabha seat is scheduled to become vacant on June 21.

However, the ruling coalition's numerical strength—it has the backing of 51 lawmakers in the 60-member Meghalaya Legislative Assembly—has heightened expectations that, should no opposition candidate enter the race before the nomination deadline, the election may end without a contest. Malthus S. Sangma, the secretary of the Meghalaya Legislative Assem-

bly, stated on Friday that the National People's Party-sponsored candidate's nomination filing had been delayed due to unfinished paperwork. "The last date for filing of nomination will be on Monday, the 8th of June, and today the NPP-sponsored candidate wanted to file a nomination, but they are yet to prepare some documents; some documents are not yet ready, so they will be coming on Monday," Sangma stated. The election is being held in the context of a disjointed opposition and the ruling coalition's stronghold in the Assembly. Although it is unlikely to nominate a candidate for the Rajya Sabha election, the Voice of the People Party (VPP), which has four lawmakers in the Assembly, has already declared its candidacy for the upcoming Shillong Lok Sabha by-election.

The central leadership of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), which has five MLAs in the Assembly, has likewise not indicated that it plans to run for office.

According to the Home Minister, CAPF has planted 6.40 crore trees since 2018

Agartala, Jun 07: In an effort to preserve forests and improve India's ecology, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated on Friday that the Central Armed Police groups (CAPF), who are made up of many Central para-military groups, have planted 6.40 crore trees nationwide over the previous eight years. Speaking to BSF officers at the Lankamura Border Outpost in the West Tripura district, which is located along the India-Bangladesh border, the Home Minister announced that fewer trees will be planted this year because efforts would also be directed toward replacing saplings

that did not survive previous plantation drives. Over 6.40 crore trees of various species have been planted nationwide by the CAPF since 2018. Approximately 40 to 60 lakh trees will be planted this year, and locations where previous plantations failed will be replanted, he said. As part of an ongoing national initiative to increase forest cover and safeguard the environment, Shah stated that the CAPF intends to plant two crore trees next year. He pointed out that the ozone layer is being disrupted and agriculture and human life are being negatively impacted by rising temperatures and climate change brought on by



fast urbanization and massive tree-cutting for development purposes. "Increasing forest cover, protecting existing forests, and adopting environ-

ment-friendly measures are the only solutions to counter the changing environmental conditions," the Home Minister stated.

Arunachal Governor Parnaik: Plant Trees Every Year, Not Just on Special Days



Itanagar, Jun 07: In honor of World Environment Day, Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lieutenant General (Retd) K T Parnaik took part in a plantation event at Raj Bhavan on Friday.

The governor, who is dedicated to sustainable living and environmental preservation, planted a mahua seedling on the grounds of

Raj Bhavan. Speaking with representatives from the forest department and Lok Bhavan, Parnaik emphasized that safeguarding the environment is a shared duty and urged all citizens to actively participate in expanding the state's green space. In metropolitan areas, where fast expansion frequently results in the loss of natural

vegetation, he emphasized the necessity of large-scale plantation drives.

In order to preserve ecological balance and protect the environment for future generations, the governor recommended that at least 10 saplings be planted and raised for each tree that is cut down.

He counseled everyone that planting trees should become a way of life rather than being limited to events like Van Mahotsav or World Environment Day. In order to turn every celebration and public event into a chance to give back to the environment, he urged communities, educational institutions, government agencies, and social organizations to include plantation activities.

Gauhati University and Gajraj Corps Talk About Improving Army-Academic Cooperation

Tezpur, Jun 07: Along with a group of officers, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Gajraj Corps met with Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta, Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University, as well as eminent academics from different fields.

Parking app for Guwahati In order to improve knowledge of the region's complex socio-cultural dynamics, develop students' critical thinking and strategic awareness, and encourage young people—especially young women—to consider fulfilling career options in the Armed Forces, the talks centered on enhancing cooperation between the Army and academic institutions. Through experiential



learning efforts, including as educational tours to border areas and interactions with people operating in demanding operational conditions, the engagement also investigated ways to strengthen Army-Aca-

demia-Community partnerships. These programs are designed to give students firsthand experience with border management, national security, and the distinctive sociocultural environment of the Northeast.

Three people are killed in an armed assault in Manipur, and homes are set on fire

Imphal, Jun 07: Unidentified armed attackers raided a tribal community in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Friday, killing at least three people, including a woman, according to officials. According to a police official, Loibol Khullen village was attacked by armed cadres from an unidentified group. Another armed group retaliated against the assault, setting in a bloody firefight between the opposing factions that lasted for about thirty minutes. The crossfire claimed the lives of three locals, one of which was a lady. Letkhongam Haokip, his wife Tinmary Haokip, and Jangminlal Haokip have been identified as the deceased. According to the official, terrified locals fled their houses after the incident and sought refuge in adjacent wooded areas to avoid the violence. The attack caused significant damage to civilian structures in the village and converted at least seven houses to ashes. Senior officials have dispatched more security officers to the scene and initiated a combing operation in an attempt to apprehend the offenders. The state's highest authority for the Kuki ethnic tribe, the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), vehemently denounced the attack and called for a prompt inquiry to find and detain the perpetrators. The intentional slaughter of innocent people and the devastation of homes and livelihoods constituted a serious breach of human dignity and fundamental human rights, according to a statement released by KIM Secretary (Information and Publicity) Janghaolun Haokip. "Under no circumstances can the intentional targeting of persons and the destruction of homes be justified. The statement read, "KIM expresses its unwavering solidarity with the affected residents of Loibol Khullen village and extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved families." Yumnam Khemchand Singh, the chief minister of Manipur, stated that the government will not spare anyone who commit such heinous atrocities and that the intentional targeting of defenseless civilians is totally intolerable. The Chief Minister condemned the murder and ordered the central security agencies and state police to find and capture the killers right now.

Arunachal Establishes Four Strong Panels to Strengthen ILP, Prevent Illegal Infiltration, and Defend Tribal Rights

Itanagar, Jun 07: Four powerful committees have been established by the Arunachal Pradesh government to investigate matters pertaining to illegal infiltration, strengthening the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, re-verifying Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe (APST) certificates, and safeguarding indigenous rights from claims of non-APST lineage. According to Chief Minister Pema Khandu, the committees were established in accordance with resolutions passed during consultative sessions he chaired on May 27 and May 29. The panels comprise government officials, legal professionals, academics, and members from groups like the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union, the All India Tribal



Federation, and the Arunachal ST Bachao Andolan Committee. Under the direction of Forest Minister Wangki Lowang, the committee on illegal immigration and infiltration will investigate the level of illegal

immigration in the state and suggest ways to improve border security, biometric verification systems, and counteract fake identification certificates. Additionally, it will recommend administrative and judicial measures to prevent illegal immigration. Reviewing the current ILP system is the responsibility of another committee led by Agriculture Minister Gabriel D. Wangsu. It will evaluate the 2026 criteria, look at the current processes for issuing, tracking, and verifying ILPs, and suggest technology-driven changes to improve the permit system. The re-verification of APST certificates would be the topic of a third committee headed by Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona. The team will examine current regulations,

advise more robust verification procedures, and recommend taking legal action against tribe certifications that have been falsified or obtained illegally. The protection of indigenous rights and non-APST lineage claims will be the focus of the fourth committee, which is led by Law Minister Kento Jini. It will point out gaps that allow tribal rights to be abused and suggest measures to protect tribal identity, inheritance, land protection, and reservation benefits. Within six months of their initial meetings, the four committees must report their recommendations and have the authority to request information from district administrations and government agencies.

The Chief Minister of Arunachal rejects China's assertion

Dispur, Jun 07: China may still publish maps and rename locations within Arunachal Pradesh, but according to Chief Minister Pema Khandu, these claims are no longer very important to the state. Speaking on the fringes of the North Eastern Council's (NEC) 73rd plenary session in Shillong on Wednesday, Khandu called Beijing's most recent assertions over Arunachal Pradesh "meaningless" and stated that the state is concentrated on infrastructure development. China's claim over Arunachal Pradesh, referred to as "Zangnan" or South Tibet, was dismissed by Chief Minister Khandu, who stated, "We don't give a damn about it" and emphasized that they do not take these claims seriously.

He noted the ongoing infrastructure development in Arunachal Pradesh, with projects totaling nearly Rs 2 lakh crore aimed at enhancing border connectivity and hydropower initiatives. Khandu stressed that the focus should be on development rather than historical territorial disputes, asserting that India shares a border with Tibet, not China. He highlighted India's recent investments in border infrastructure, contrasting it with China's longstanding advantages in that area. Khandu's comments reflect a shift in political sentiment in Arunachal Pradesh, suggesting that local leadership no longer views Chinese claims as significant against the backdrop of substantial regional development and modernization efforts, despite Beijing's continued attempts to standardize names for locations within the state.

In Dehing Patkai, two rehabilitated bear cubs are back in the wild



Kaziranga, Jun 07: The Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) celebrated the successful release of two orphaned Asiatic black bear cubs into Dehing Patkai National Park on June 5th, World Environment Day, with a noteworthy conservation accomplishment. After being saved and taken to the CWRC in Kaziranga for care and

treatment, the bear cubs underwent months of rehabilitation before being allowed to be released. Conservationists and wildlife specialists took care of the cubs, putting up endless effort to teach them how to live independently in the wild.

Under the direction of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the release is being hailed as one of the

state's inspirational conservation success stories and a continuing effort to preserve its unique wildlife legacy. The cubs now have the possibility to grow and develop in a secure and natural environment since they have been given another chance to live in the wild, according to officials. The Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation's role in caring for and conserving injured and orphaned wildlife for the benefit of the ecosystem is further demonstrated by the rehabilitation and release. Conservationists expressed optimism that these activities will continue to bolster animal protection programs and increase public understanding of the significance of protecting Assam's distinctive ecology.

The Fishery Department takes action against illicit fishing in Brahmaputra and confiscates 105 traps



Boko, Jun 07: The Fishery Department initiated a significant operation on Thursday to combat the widespread killing of brood and tiny fish in the Brah-

maputra. The raid was conducted from Acholpara's Zero Point in the Goroimari Development Block along the river, as instructed by Kamrup District Fishery

Development Officer Dr. Sanjay Sharma. Unscrupulous fishermen have persisted in breaking the law by indiscriminately killing brood and spawn fish,

even after the Fishery Act's stringent restriction was put in place from April 1 to July 15. The department stepped up its enforcement efforts throughout riverine areas in response to public complaints. Numerous fishing nets and up to 105 fishing traps were seized as a result of the operation, which had the active assistance of Goroimari police. According to officials, illicit fishing gear has been dispersed across the river, endangering the aquatic ecology. Several fish species were recovered from the confiscated nets and reintroduced back into the Brahmaputra by the crew during the operation. The impacted sections of the river were covered by mechanized boats during the operation.

Papum Pare has set a deadline of June 14 for the registration of bulk waste generators

Itanagar, Jun 07: In accordance with the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, which went into effect on April 1, the Papum Pare district administration in Arunachal Pradesh has instructed all qualified bulk waste generators (BWGs) to register on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) portal by June 14. Deputy Commissioner Lobsang Tsering presided over the District Level Implementation Committee's (DLIC) inaugural meeting, where the instruction was issued. Strict adherence to the new regulations was emphasized by the deputy commissioner, who also mentioned that the State must provide the Supreme Court with a compliance report by August 6. Institutions that use more than 40,000 liters of water



per day, produce more than 100 kilograms of garbage, or occupy 20,000 square meters or more will be categorized as bulk waste generators, according to officials. The Environment (Protection) Act of 1986's

regulations pertaining to waste segregation, BWG registration, certification procedures, and enforcement measures—including the potential disconnection of utilities for non-compliance—were examined

during the conference. Additionally, institutions were advised to implement composting, set up facilities for material recovery, and make sure that e-waste was disposed of properly through approved routes.

Under JJM, the Lower Subansiri district has 100% tap water coverage

Itanagar, Jun 07: According to officials on Wednesday, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the Lower Subansiri region of Arunachal Pradesh has reached 100% functional household tap connection coverage.

All 5,740 rural households—two blocks, 109 panchayats, 200 villages, and 271 habitations—were supplied with piped drinking water by the district. The accomplishment was assessed at a District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) meeting at Ziro, which was presided over



by Deputy Commissioner Oli Perme. According to officials, a ten-person district technical unit was established to

assist with the upkeep and oversight of rural water delivery programs in order to guarantee the infrastructure's viability.

At the NEC plenary, the chief minister of Manipur highlights issues with border security, peace, and climate change



Shillong, Jun 07: While speaking at the 73rd Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) on Thursday, Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh emphasized the Indo-Myanmar border

situation, peacebuilding initiatives, and climate change as the State's main challenges. Singh claimed that since taking office on February 4, 2026, his administration has concentrated on fostering conversation and

community involvement in order to promote reconciliation, restore peace, and rebuild trust throughout Manipur. He requested ongoing support for resettlement and livelihood restoration and stated that

rehabilitation programs for internally displaced people were being carried out with Central assistance. Singh described the situation along the Indo-Myanmar border as a significant security and humanitarian

challenge, claiming that criminal networks, drug traffickers, and arms smugglers had taken advantage of the weak border. He applauded the Center's border barrier project and called for its prompt completion in addition to improved infrastructure for security and surveillance. Citing frequent floods, landslides, and environmental deterioration, the Chief Minister also noted climate change as a major concern to the Northeast. In addition to advocating for a regional framework on climate adaptation, disaster response, connectivity, and investment promotion, he suggested the establishment of a specific North East Climate Resilience Fund.

Visual pollution won't exist in Agartala: Mayor Deepak Majumder



Agartala, Jun 07: Deepak Majumder, the mayor of Agartala, promised on Thursday that the city will be free of visual pollution and that all advertisements and display boards positioned throughout the town would soon be taken down. The Mayor, who is also a Ramnagar MLA, toured some parts of his electorate and spoke with locals.

Many said that the unscientific placement of adver-

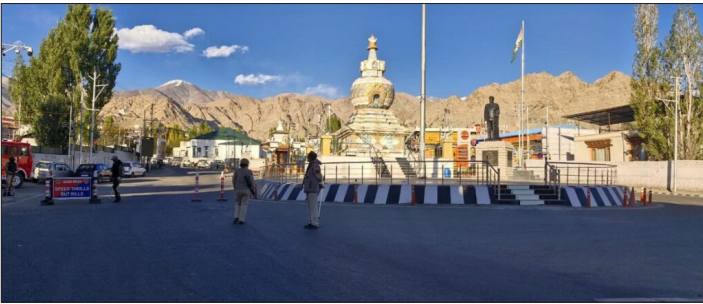
tising boards is detracting from the city's aesthetic appeal and, in certain areas, creating traffic issues. Speaking to reporters, the mayor stated that the Agartala Municipal Corporation is already in control of the situation and that similar concerns have been voiced in a number of other places. He promised to remove any visual pollution-causing advertising boards as soon as possible. When it was

brought to his attention that the boards had been put with the proper authorization from the local government, he declared that boards causing pollution would be pulled down regardless of their position. Under-construction drains are causing problems for individuals in numerous parts of the city. The mayor stated that work has already begun in this area and that the required steps are being taken to finish the project before the monsoon arrives. Additionally, he voiced his displeasure with the non-cooperation of some individuals who are purposefully impeding development initiatives. He mentioned a club that was over a drain and said that it had not been taken down in spite of numerous demands. If the club authorities don't take independent action, he warned, the authorities would have to dismantle the part of the building that is obstructing.

Ladakh Experiences a Record 121% Increase in Visitors There were 72,834 arrivals in May

Leh, Jun 07: Ladakh had a staggering 121% increase in visitor arrivals in May compared to the previous year as a consequence of persistent efforts and reforms to improve tourist-friendly infrastructure and ambiance.

When compared to the same time in 2025, visitor arrivals during the first five months of 2026—January through May—also showed a significant increase of 44%. This notable expansion has been credited by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to a number of reforms in the tourism industry as well as the development of facilities and infrastructure that are welcoming to visitors. Tourism stakeholders, including hoteliers, guest house owners, tour operators, and others, have grown more confident as a result of initiatives such as tourism sector reforms to lessen the burden of compliance, streamlining the laborious



paperwork, and awarding "Industry" status to hotels and guest houses in Ladakh.

The month of May 2026 marked a historic increase in tourism for Ladakh, welcoming 72,834 visitors compared to 32,927 in May 2025, a growth of 121.20%. From January to May 2026, the total visitor count reached 117,546, up 43.65% from 81,827 in the same period in 2025. Notably, arrivals increased by 128% compared to May 2024. The Ladakh administration's initiatives to pro-

mote the region and enhance infrastructure contributed to this success, attracting over 15% more foreign tourists, totaling 6,961 within the first five months of 2026. Key source countries for visitors included Thailand, Vietnam, and the United States. LG Saxena emphasized the positive impact of this growth on local economies and livelihoods, as tourism stakeholders enhance offerings in various sectors like winter, adventure, and eco-tourism while focusing on sustainable development.

Bamunigaon celebrates a traditional Baikho Puja that showcases the rich cultural traditions and practices of the Rabha

Boko, Jun 07: In Bamunigaon, Kamrup district, the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) region witnessed the colorful celebration of the traditional Baikho Puja. The celebration, which has its roots in Rabha history, seeks to transmit ancient traditions, rituals, and beliefs to coming generations. Baikho Puja, which is held every year in the Assamese month of Jeth, is devoted to prayers for health, holistic development, and agricultural prosperity. The Rabha Students' Union, Rabha Women's Council, and the Bamunigaon regional units of the Sixth Schedule



Demand Committee organized the Bamunigaon event, which coincided with festivities throughout the Rabha

Hasong region. Rituals led by Rabha priests (Baibra) were part of the daylong program, and the villagers provided service and devotion.

Lewatna, Killabhan-ga, and Baranakakai dances—also referred

to as the "Juit Nasa," or fire dance—were among the high-lights, drawing sizable crowds.

A significant anti-drug operation in Orang resulted in the seizure of over 286 kg of ganja



Orang, Jun 07: During a daylight operation at Dhan-shri Ghat on Thursday, the Orang police of Udalguri

seized a massive amount of suspected ganja weighing 286 kilos and 48 grams.

Manoj Kumar Das, a freshly appointed Officer-in-Charge who took over the Orang police station on June 1, led the operation. Around 11:20 am, the police squad conducted a quick operation based on a confidential tip and stopped a Mahindra XUV with registration number AS01GF6706 while it was heading from Mazbat to Borjhar.

district scored a spectacular accomplishment in a large anti-narcotics operation by seizing an enor-

RHAC Holds an Awareness Drive in Boko and Promises to Make the Region TB-Free by 2028

Boko, June 07: The Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC) organized the Prime Minister’s Tuberculosis (TB) free campaign and awareness gathering on Thursday at Ratanpur Pantan in Chaygaon.

The 31st and 32nd constituency units of the council collaborated to conduct the program in a lively setting at the Pantan Tribal Sporting Club. Nearly thirty TB patients from the surrounding area received nutrition kits during the awareness meeting, which



was chaired by Council Chairman Sonaram Rabha. Speaking at the event, Prabodh Kalita emphasized that 290 TB patients in the Council region have

received medical care and nutrition kits just this year. He added that the Rabha Hasong region would be free of tuberculosis by 2028.

Adani Plants 1.6 Million Trees to Green the Chhattisgarh Coal Mine



New Delhi, Jun 07: Adani Enterprises Ltd. is planting more than 1.6 million trees and saplings over 568 hectares at the Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) mine in Chhattisgarh’s Surguja district, transforming the coal mine into a verdant landscape. For Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (RVUNL), the firm develops and runs the mine. Additionally, according to officials, its greening project has shown how mined land may be restored following coal mining. As part of initiatives to restore mined land and improve biodiversity in the area, it seeks to raise the green cover to more than 4 million trees by the end of the decade. For each tree taken down for mining operations, 40 new trees are planted as part of the program. Sal, Mahua, Tendu, Amaltas, and Sidha are among the native species that have been replanted; the firm has an 88% survival rate. Af-

ter the Parsa East & Kanta Basan (PEKB) Mine in Surguja, Chhattisgarh, ceased operations, it initiated a commitment to ecological restoration and sustainable transformation. The former mining site has been converted into a verdant area, exemplifying the harmony between responsible mining practices and environmental conservation. Adani has established a 3.5-hectare nursery with around 500,000 saplings and successfully regenerated Sal forests in the region. The company has also engaged in compensatory afforestation across more than 4,000 hectares in various forest divisions, contributing over Rs 259 crore to the Chhattisgarh government for afforestation and wildlife management efforts. These restoration initiatives are part of a larger program intertwining mining with ecological rehabilitation and community development, which includes education, healthcare, and livelihood initiatives. Furthermore, Adani Natural Resources complies with all environmental regulations and regularly submits monitoring reports to the appropriate authorities, ensuring that its efforts align with sustainable development goals.

The Supreme Court rules that the right to travel overseas cannot be seen in a isolation



New Delhi, Jun 07: The Supreme Court has emphasized that the equally significant right of victims and their families to a prompt trial must be weighed against the

fundamental right to travel elsewhere. The Telangana high court’s October 2025 order allowing businessman Guniganti Ravinder Rao to travel to the United States for

medical treatment was overturned by a bench of justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma, who concluded that the lower courts had been unduly indulgent in the case’s facts. The court emphasized that the right to a speedy trial is an essential aspect of Article 21, balancing individual liberty, victims’ rights, and societal interests in criminal justice. While personal freedom, including travel, is constitutionally guaran-

teed, it is not absolute and can be restricted in the interest of justice. This judgment reinforces the importance of victims’ rights in ensuring timely legal proceedings. The case, stemming from a 2014 complaint regarding a suspicious death, highlights that nearly ten years have passed without the trial beginning, leading to the court’s decision against unrestricted travel for the accused due to their conduct and the trial’s stagnation.

‘Cockroach Janta Party’ Gets Police Permission For Delhi Protest

New Delhi, Jun 07: The social media group “Cockroach Janta Party” was allowed to demonstrate at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday morning by the Delhi Police.

The internet platform has organized a demonstration to push for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation due to the NEET paper leak. Abhijeet Dipke, the founder of the “Cockroach Janta Party,” arrived in Delhi earlier on Friday from the United States to spearhead the demonstration.

He was greeted by Delhi Police officers at the airport and given permission to travel to Jantar Mantar for the demonstration. In order



to obtain authorization for the demonstration, Dipke had previously encouraged his followers to gather outside the Parliament Street Police Station.

However, he urged his followers to go straight to Jantar Mantar once the authorities permitted the demonstration. Dipke was spotted leaving the airport with a copy of the autobiography of social reformer and Constitution architect BR Ambedkar. Following the rally, Delhi Police implemented stringent security measures.

In Central Delhi, over 2,000 police officers have been stationed at the protest location and nearby areas. The “Cockroach Janta

Party” stated in a booklet handed out at the protest location that the demonstration’s objectives were “demanding accountability, seeking justice, and calling for education minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation.” Additionally, the booklet stated that over 8 lakh people had signed the party’s petition for Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation. In response to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant’s “parasites” and “cockroaches” comment, Abhijeet Dipke founded the satirical digital group Cockroach Janta Party on May 16. The CJP attracted millions of followers on social media in a matter of hours.

After decades, a rare caracal was spotted at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh

New Delhi, Jun 07: One of India’s rarest and most elusive wild cats, the Caracal, has been captured in a video trap inside Madhya Pradesh’s Kuno National Park after decades, an incredible wildlife development that has delighted both environmentalists and forest officials.

The sighting, which was made public on World Environment Day, is being praised as a key evidence of the Kuno landscape’s growing ecological health. The Caracal, sometimes referred to as the “ghost of the grasslands” due to its scarcity and reclusive nature, was caught during a recent camera-trap study carried out by forest officials. The species’ unique black-tufted ears, strong physique, and remarkable hunting prowess make it readily identifiable. Due to habitat loss and declining grasslands, the wild cat, which was once widespread throughout western and central India, is now one of the least visible predators in the nation. The sighting, according to Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, represented the growing biodiversity of Kuno National Park and was a significant accomplishment for Madhya Pradesh’s animal conservation efforts. The Chief Minister claims that conservation efforts under Project Cheetah are assisting in the restoration of not only cheetahs but also the larger ecosystem, resulting

in safer habitats for a number of endangered species. Because the existence of a top predator like the Caracal typically signals strong prey numbers, good grassland conditions, and a functioning ecosystem, wildlife specialists consider the development especially noteworthy. Following the restoration of African cheetahs under Project Cheetah, Kuno has experienced significant habitat management over the past few years and has drawn interest from around the world.

The sighting also contributes to Madhya Pradesh’s increasing number of positive wildlife records. Rare sightings of caracals have been reported from Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in recent years, raising the possibility that tiny but surviving populations of the animal may still exist in suitable dryland settings throughout the state. Since the caracal is one of the most endangered wild cats in India, its reintroduction is particularly significant. Conservationists point out that confirmed sightings are still incredibly uncommon, thus every record is important for comprehending the species’ range and chances of survival. In order to better understand the species and safeguard its limited habitat, conservation organizations around India have recently stepped up their monitoring and research initiatives.

Delhi’s Green Cover Is Declining and Surface Temperatures Are Rising



New Delhi, Jun 07: According to a recent analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a large portion of Delhi is suffering from ongoing heat stress. The paper emphasizes how the city is becoming more susceptible to intense heat due to rising temperatures, decreasing green space, and growing urbanization. The study found that 76% of Delhi’s entire area has experienced heat stress for at least ten years. Additionally, almost 99% of Delhi’s land experienced heat stress at least once between 2015 and 2024. Heat stress is when temperatures rise too high to have a detrimental effect on people, increasing their risk of heat exhaustion or heatstroke. The issue is pervasive throughout the city. 82 of Delhi’s 272 wards have 90% of their total land under heat stress. Another concerning trend highlighted by the report is the growing disparity between air and land surface temperatures. The land surface temperature gauges how warm the roads, buildings, and other infrastructure get, even while the weather station in the shadow measures the air temperature. The ground surface temperature in certain parts of Delhi reached

60.8 degrees Celsius. Asphalt roads may reach temperatures of 55–65 degrees Celsius on a day when the air temperature is at 44 degrees, and metal roofs would be significantly warmer. The report also mentions rising temperatures at night. Between 2014 and 2024, the rate of cooling down at night decreased by 9%, which decreased the likelihood of recovery and raised health hazards for locals. The paper claims that Delhi’s natural cooling capability is deteriorating, which contributes significantly to the city’s heat burden. Between 2014 and 2024, the city’s green coverage fell from 25.4% to 14.1%. In the meantime, heat stress affects more than one-third of its green-blue areas, which include parks, marshes, woods, and bodies of water. But not everyone is equally affected by the effects of heat. Employees who work in hot conditions are more vulnerable. According to the survey, 84% of marketplaces have recurrent heat stress, and 92% of construction sites are located in heat-stressed areas. The findings are pertinent since over 80% of Delhi’s working population is employed in the unorganized sector, which limits their access to amenities like paid time off or air conditioners and prevents them from taking any special precautions against the heat. According to the report, workers in the unorganized sector who engage in outdoor activities, such as street vendors and construction workers, spend a lot of time in extremely hot or cold environments. They also lack access to clean, cool, and shaded areas where they can rest. Delhi’s growing urbanization makes it vital to safeguard people from the heat. According to the research, this calls for actions like protecting natural areas and implementing appropriate urban design, with a focus on heat-stressed communities and workers.

Tamil Nadu is still dedicated to its traditional two-language policy



Chennai, Jun 07: Vanani Arasu, the Tamil Nadu Minister for Social Justice, criticized the central government’s attempts to adopt a three-language formula on Thursday, claiming that the state is still steadfastly committed to its traditional two-language policy. He also described the state’s comprehensive action plans to modernize government institutions, eliminate student dropouts, and simplify administrative processes for underprivileged populations, according to a story published by the Press Trust of India.

Through the CBSE, the Union Government is enforcing a three-language formula. After inspecting Adi Dravidar Welfare schools on their reopening day, Arasu told reporters, “We have started this year with a vision and a goal to modernize these government schools and provide them with all necessary facilities as an alternative to counter and defeat their actions against our two-language policy.” Arasu expressed confidence that focused action plans would guarantee government school students receive grades that are on par with those of private schools.

The minister stated that a thorough deficiency study is in progress, acknowledging the infrastructure gaps between metropolitan and interior rural institutions. “Within six months, a focused action plan to make rural institutions self-suffi-

cient will be implemented. The government has used door-to-door tracking in an effort to reduce student dropouts, particularly at the higher secondary levels. The senior VCK leader stated, “Departmental review meetings are prioritizing this tracking mechanism to ensure no student drops out during this academic year.” The minister also discussed findings from a four-day visit to centralized kitchens conducted by officials in Coimbatore, Erode, and Chennai. He acknowledged that students had identified some shortcomings in the food offered and pledged to improve the nutrient-dense meal program immediately through department-specific action plans.

The State Education Policy (SEP) was unveiled on August 8 of last year by then-chief minister MK Stalin, who described it as an inclusive, forward-thinking framework that was adapted to the social and cultural fabric of the state. Stalin distanced himself from the center’s National Education Policy (NEP) and reaffirmed Tamil Nadu’s adherence to the two-language policy, Tamil and English.

He rejected the NEP’s three-language formula, which the state has long resisted as a means of imposing Hindi. A portion of educationists and parents have expressed concerns about the CBSE’s three-language policy for Class 9, questioning the schools’ readiness and the timing of the adjustments given that the academic year has already begun. Beginning on July 1st of this year, the CBSE board has mandated that pupils in Class 9 learn three languages, including at least two native Indian languages.

Data Center Expert AirTrunk Will Make an Investment In India, Rs 3 lakh crore: PM Modi

New Delhi, Jun 07: By 2030, leading hyperscale data center expert AirTrunk intends to invest over Rs 3 lakh crore in India to bolster digital infrastructure capacity, establishing the nation as a pillar of global growth strategy. Following his meeting with AirTrunk founder and CEO Robin Khuda on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the investment ambitions of the Asia-Pacific and Middle East technology company and its plan to build 5 GW of data center capacity in India. The development of digital infrastructure in India is gaining significant traction. AirTrunk has declared its intention to build 5 GW of data center capacity and invest around Rs 3 lakh crore (USD 30 billion) in India. In a post on X, he stated, “This is one of the biggest proposed investments in the nation’s digital infrastructure ecosystem.” According to PM Modi, these investments would boost India’s standing as a global center for cloud computing and artificial intelligence while also creating jobs, bolstering regional supply chains, and quickening growth driven by innovation. It is evident that India is progressively influencing the global digital economy’s future,” he stated. In the Asia-Pacific and Middle East (APME) area, AirTrunk is a hyperscale data center expert building a platform for cloud, content, and large corporate clients.



Prime Minister Modi’s ambition for India’s digital economy has made the country one of the most attractive places in the world for technology investment, according to AirTrunk CEO Khuda. India possesses the size, skill, and aspirations needed to emerge as a major force in AI worldwide. He stated in a corporate statement, “AirTrunk is thrilled to support that vision.” Supported by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and Blackstone, one of the biggest foreign investors in India, AirTrunk’s proposed investment program would be one of the biggest digital infrastructure projects presently under consideration in the nation and help pave the way for the next wave of cloud and artificial

intelligence growth. “AirTrunk plans to invest more than INR 3,000 billion (USD 30 billion) in India by 2030 in support of digital infrastructure capacity, positioning the country as a cornerstone of AirTrunk’s global growth strategy and one of the company’s most significant long-term investment markets,” AirTrunk stated in its statement. The company stated that its planned development pipeline in India, spanning several states and union territories, would help the country achieve its goal of becoming a global hub for investments in cloud infrastructure and artificial intelligence while creating a sizable amount of employment, economic activity, and growth in the technology ecosystem. The statement comes after AirTrunk CEO Khuda’s first senior government engagement initiative in India since the company’s April acquisition of Lumina CloudInfra. With this acquisition, AirTrunk now has a 600 MW development pipeline in Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad. The company creates and runs data center campuses with industry-leading energy and water efficiency, technological innovation, and dependability. Founded in 2015, AirTrunk established Australia’s first and biggest hyperscale data centers in 2017. After focusing on quick growth, it now runs a network of hyperscale data centers throughout the APME area.

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Editorial

The Importance of Learning from Mistakes

Mistakes are often viewed negatively, particularly in competitive environments where success is heavily emphasised. Yet mistakes remain one of the most effective teachers. Fear of failure discourages experimentation, innovation, and personal growth. People become reluctant to take risks when every error is treated as a sign of weakness. Learning from mistakes requires reflection, accountability, and resilience. Progress rarely follows a perfect path. Individuals and institutions grow stronger when they treat mistakes as opportunities for improvement rather than reasons for embarrassment.

Building an environment to nurture our teenagers



The comments that reverberate through school hallways have seen noticeable changes in the last several years. The worries felt familiar ten years ago. Teachers were concerned about academic achievement, bullying, exam pressure, and attendance. The topics of grades, homework, and teenage behavior in the classroom dominated parent-teacher conferences. The issues were not insignificant, but they were part of the vocabulary of growing up. Teachers now have to deal with a changing environment. Pupils show up to class after spending the night playing video games, rush through social media, find it difficult to focus, try smoking, and exhibit unpredictable emotional swings. Stricter rules, severe warnings, phone confiscations, or sporadic awareness lectures won't address these issues. These are more than just teenage problems.

They are signs of a more profound shift in society. Children and teenagers are no longer just influenced by their neighborhood, school, and family. They live in an ecosystem where social media and over-the-top (OTT) platforms, peer networks, smartphones, recommendation algorithms, AI, and family settings all interact. The child is shaped by the collision of multiple worlds rather than by a single institution at a time. The distinction between digital and physical life has become more hazy. Long after the last bell, school-related conversations continue on messaging groups. On the internet, friendships, identification, approval, ambition, amusement, and social comparison take place. Nowadays, adolescence extends beyond screens. The outward remnants of what transpired outside the classroom or within a phone are frequently what show up inside. For example, excessive gaming is rarely merely entertainment. Sleep, focus, mood, emotional control, and academic engagement can all be affected. Lack of sleep therefore contributes to impulsivity, irritability, and weak resilience. Influencer-driven ambitions, curated perfection, endless

Safe cycling is essential to a greener future

This year's World Bicycle Day theme, "cycling for a greener future," is quite pertinent given the ongoing worldwide fuel crisis brought on by the West Asia crisis. From a global standpoint, the Assam government's initiative to provide children with bicycles is an investment in climate-resilient mobility for the next generation rather than merely a social welfare intervention in education to get them to school. In addition to giving students access to education without using fossil fuels, their daily reliance on the bicycles helps them get ready for potential disruptions in the supply and volatility of fossil fuels.

The bicycle makes it easier for residents in places with inadequate public transportation access to markets, schools, and medical facilities, all of which support their socioeconomic advancement. The bicycle is a wise investment for health-conscious individuals, regardless of age, as it enables them to maintain their fitness and health without being constrained by the set hours of a gym regimen. Regularly riding a bicycle to markets, offices, and educational institutions can drastically save fuel costs. In addition to saving gasoline, it lowers vehicle pollution and contributes to everyone's



access to clean air. Even though they are aware of the many advantages, residents of a rapidly expanding city like Guwahati are discouraged from choosing cycling for daily transportation due to the lack of dedicated and safe bike lanes. Many people in the state's rural areas still use bicycles as a form of transportation. Even with the growing number of two- and three-wheelers, people still rely on them to get to the closest cities or villages within a particular radius for everyday needs and to visit relatives. Unfortunately, there have been numerous deadly bicycle accidents on the roadways, making them more dangerous for bikers. Bicyclists are forced to uti-

lize the highway carriageway due to the lack of service lanes along national highways, endangering their lives. According to official data, there are approximately 11,000 bicycle-related traffic incidents in India each year, and the fact that the number is still rising is quite concerning. Many people who live near roads no longer want to invest in bicycles because of the risks associated; instead, they would rather purchase a two-wheeler for mobility. Furthermore, because cycling is a slow-moving form of transportation, promoting it has become more difficult in cities and towns where mixed traffic has already exacerbated traffic con-

gestion and vehicular pollution. Due to hard facts that cannot be disregarded, the government's and non-governmental organizations' awareness campaign to promote bicycles as a greener method of transportation faces considerable obstacles.

In order to address practical issues and create new methods that put cyclist safety first, this situation calls for a reevaluation of the tactics intended to popularize bicycles. Only when bicycles are prioritized in the design of roads, bridges, and other infrastructure improvements will this objective be achievable. In order for people, particularly young people, to have constructive conversations about the advantages of cycling as an essential component of daily commuting and lowering reliance on fossil fuel-based transportation, the discourse on bicycle promotion as part of the awareness drive must concentrate not only on those difficulties but also on workable solutions. Bicycles are a much more accessible and cheap option for the majority of households, even though electric vehicles offer a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel-based transportation due to their higher initial cost.

As the state government's bicycle distribution program helps the next generation understand this reality, it can be used to promote

bicycles as a lifelong habit that they will carry into adulthood and their careers as a sustainable mode of transportation. The demand for safe bike lanes in cities, towns, and along roads and bridges will only increase as bicycles become more popular as a mode of transportation. In response to this increasing demand, city officials, the transportation department, panchayats, autonomous councils, and other governmental organizations must collaborate to remodel the streets and highways.

This demands that all bicycle-related initiatives, whether they are aimed at empowering women, promoting health, or lowering the use of fossil fuels, come together into a unified, targeted campaign encouraging everyone to ride safely.

The entire government and society must work together to achieve these objectives, with each institution and community contributing in some way. In order to build safe riding areas for both enthusiasts and those who depend on it for daily mobility, cities like Guwahati must find retrofitting solutions. Assam has a chance to spearhead the nation's adoption of bicycles for a greener future in the face of shocks to the world's fuel supply. However, cyclists' safety must be guaranteed if riding is to become a sustainable form of transportation.

Regaining life's rhythm: Mastering the art of retirement



Around the world, retirement is a universal milestone that is discussed in board rooms and drawing rooms. The specified retirement age varies by employment in the workforce. Judges in the judiciary, government employees, educators, bankers, members of the armed forces, and many more in similar professions retire at rigidly set ages. Attorneys and other professionals who provide services, such as chartered accountants, healthcare providers, and others, frequently go through different stages of active practice. Politics, where there is notoriously no upper age limit to retire, seems to be the only exception to this rule. However, most people eventually reach the point when they stop commuting and empty their office desk. India is going through a major demographic shift; by 2050, people 60 years of age and older are predicted to make up close to 20% of the country's total population. Retirement frequently leaves a void and a feeling of aimlessness. Many elders struggle with social isolation, emotional neglect, loneliness, and dependency anxiety, especially when they live alone. Memory loss, repetitious speech, and withdrawal following a child's relocation are typical difficulties. Many elderly individuals don't engage with others for days at a time, and they frequently just want a sympathetic ear. Many people experience a quiet crisis as they make the move to retirement. For decades, the ecosystem of our work and vocation offers us a safe haven where we may exercise influence, positional power, and a set routine. A profound sense of uneasiness and a fear of the unknown may emerge when that structure disappears. Understanding that power is a relative and ephemeral concept is essential to navigating the shift with ease. It might come from financial prosperity, be positional, or be personal. Positional power disappears as soon as you reach superannuation, but personal power derived from relationships,

character, wisdom, and financial independence endures. A significant pattern for this shift is provided by our ancient heritage. Indian philosophy divides human existence into four distinct phases, or Ashramas: Brahmacharya (the student/learning stage), Grihastha (the household-er/duty stage), Vanaprastha (the forest dweller/retirement/reflection stage), and Sannyasa (the renunciation stage). The Purusharthas (the fundamental goals of life—Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha) are the lens through which Indian philosophy views life. Every stage has its own set of responsibilities, particular difficulties, and spiritual objectives. This framework is exquisitely crafted to assist a person in leading a balanced and meaningful life. It guarantees that we fulfill our obligations to our families and society during our prime while methodically making room to progress toward spiritual emancipation (moksha). Vanaprastha is nothing more than retirement, a deliberate retreat from external commitments to focus on oneself. According to Chapter 18, Verse 9 of the Bhagavad Gita "It is considered renunciation in the nature of goodness when actions are taken in response to duty and one relinquishes attachment to any reward, O Arjun."-Sattviko Tyagah's ultimate practice is retirement. letting the following generation take the lead and giving up control over results. The cycle of life is organic. We begin as helpless children, grow into self-sufficient individuals, become protective parents, and ultimately become devoted grandparents. An aged person eventually reverts to a childlike state as the years pass, needing love, care, and attention. For most retired people, the most challenging aspect of this cycle is coming to terms with the unavoidable constraints on their physical and mental agility as well as the inherent limitations of aging. Surrendering and letting go of what you have previously controlled are the keys

to achieving peace. Give others the reins. Steer clear of the temptation to micromanage at home, as this will only cause you and your loved ones needless worry. Take a step back and let your kids take care of you the way you used to take care of your own parents. Life expectancy has significantly increased due to improvements in modern medicine and access to healthcare. However, as people age, a longer lifespan presents new difficulties for their physical and mental well-being. Longer life expectancy can result in years of infirmity, loss of freedom, and chronic discomfort.

As a result, you should start planning for a fulfilling retirement while you are still working and in your mid-40s. Deliberate attention must be paid to personal financial planning during this peak working phase. This includes making sure that your children's higher education is funded, building your own home, arranging for their marriages, and securing the family's healthcare insurance while still making time for sporadic family vacations. Concurrently, making early investments in your health yields enormous long-term benefits. Maintaining your physical and mental well-being via regular exercise, a healthy diet, and a disciplined lifestyle can help you save a lot of money on medical expenses as you age. One

of the most frequent errors made by retirees is attempting to engage in the same professional activities that they did for more than thirty years of their working lives. In order to truly retire, you must pursue something completely different. After you retire, do an honest SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) study of yourself. Strengths include a wealth of time to follow genuine hobbies, financial stability from long-term planning, and decades of experience and area competence. Loss of positional authority and formal infrastructure could be weaknesses. Opportunities include traveling and engaging in creative hobbies, mentoring and leading the next generation, and deeply integrating into local community service. Social isolation, loneliness, and cognitive decline are examples of threats. Please indicate what you can actually do and what you should completely avoid. Developing a creative interest, social cause, or artistic passion while still young and energetic is great. After retirement, they can be easily continued. Importantly, avoid the temptation to pursue temporary or contractual post-retirement employment in the same organization from which you have retired for just two or three more years. These kinds of interactions merely delay the inevitable. All officers, executives, and profes-

sionals must eventually reintegrate into society as regular citizens. Your emotional stability will benefit from making that change as soon as possible. There are countless opportunities for everyone to stay socially relevant in our society's dynamic, close-knit communal structure. It is imperative that you cultivate your friendships and build this social network while you are still active, long before you retire. The most effective solution to the excruciating issues of loneliness and feeling excluded is active integration with local welfare organizations, charities, and community institutions. Another option is to enroll in classes like the Tata Institute of Social Sciences' one-year part-time Diploma in Gerontology, which teaches elders about aging, companionship, cognitive stimulation, and meaningful living. Maybe gerontology should be promoted more widely in India. The hard-earned freedom of not being forced to do anything is known as retirement. Since we were just 15 or 16 years old, the majority of us have been under constant pressure to pass tests, develop competitive occupations, make a living, and move up the corporate or bureaucratic ladder. You gain the freedom to live your life completely at your own pace and on your own terms once you cross the finish line. One needs to become proficient in re-

laxation and meditation if they want this stage to be extremely gratifying. As one transitions from one stage of life to another, these skills aid in mental stability and clarity. Make the most of this time to strengthen your emotional ties to your loved ones, especially your life partner, who has silently supported you for decades. Visit historical sites, take in the scenery, and get in touch with old friends who you were unable to see during your hectic work schedule. In the end, retirement teaches us the most important lesson in life. The end is unavoidable. There is nothing at all frightening or negative about it. Even when long life comes at the terrible expense of extreme physical suffering from excruciating comorbidities, severe dementia, or Alzheimer's disease, modern mankind clings passionately to long life. The question of what actually qualifies as a dignified existence and whether a provision should be made for an individual to end their life is still hotly debated in international legal and ethical forums. We should be clear about our own approach even when the legalities change. Retirement shouldn't be a time of gradual fading. Consider it the golden hour of your life's journey, a time for introspection, community building, and deep inner serenity, as if it had always been meant to be.

Kuku seeks a rs. 15,000 cr value and submits a confidential rs. 3,500 cr IPO

Mumbai: According to insiders, Kuku Technologies, a digital entertainment startup, has filed a confidential initial public offering (IPO) with the goal of raising up to Rs 3,500 crore (\$360 million).When it listings later in FY27, the business, which runs Indian language audio and short-video applications under the Kuku FM and Kuku TV names, respectively, hopes to be valued at much to Rs 15,000 crore (\$1.8 billion). Kuku declined to comment.The filing coincides with an increase in demand in India for micro dramas, which are two- to three-minute smartphone entertainment. Industry observers predict that Kuku’s IPO will be a turning point for India’s mobile-first consumer entertainment narrative, riding on a market with around a billion cellphones. Both a new issuance and an offer-for-sale will be part of the IPO. The primary portion’s proceeds are designated for content creation, glob-



al expansion, and infrastructure related to technology and artificial intelligence (AI).Kuku’s income in FY26 was Rs 1,400 crore, over seven times more than the previous year’s Rs 240 crore. According to sources, the business is on the verge of breaking even, and AI tools allow it to create content more rapidly at reduced marketing expenses and with more precise personalization. Since its late 2024 start, Kuku TV has over 200 million downloads and distributes over 150 original shows per month. According to industry insiders, the Indian micro drama business is expanding at a rate of 60% per

year and is widely regarded as the next big content wave. The format has already grown to a \$15 billion market in China, where it first appeared, which is almost three times the size of the conventional box office. The company has approximately 10 million active paying customers and 400 million total app downloads across its portfolio, which also includes the edutainment app Guru and the audio platform Kuku FM. It has accumulated more than 60,000 hours of content in seven or eight Indian languages and is preparing to enter developed markets, such as the US.Three IIT alumni, Lal Chand Bisu, Vinod Kumar, and Vikas Goyal, established Kuku in 2018. Investors such as Fundamentum Partnership, Krafton, Vertex Ventures, Granite Asia, IFC, Parmark, India Quotient, and 3one4 Capital have contributed more than \$150 million to the company. M S Dhoni, a cricket player, is another supporter.

Choice warns lock-in expiration as a near-term overhang, while Meesho drops 4%



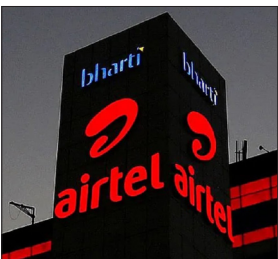
New Delhi: Meesho’s stock fell 3.9% on the BSE, reaching an intraday low of ₹168.25. At 12:50 PM, the price had somewhat recovered, although it was still down 3.77 percent at ₹168.5 per share. By contrast, the BSE Sensex was down 0.04 percent at 74,317.Based on 4x FY28 EV/Revenue,

Choice Institutional Equities has maintained a ‘Add’ on Meesho stock with a target price of ₹210, highlighting the firm’s near-term overhang due to the lock-in expiration on June 9, 2026. After the lock-in period expires on June 9, 2026, almost 68% of Meesho’s pre-IPO shares, or over ₹54,000

crore, will be available for trading on June 10, 2026. This does not include about 20% of the company’s share capital, which is locked in until June 9, 2027, according to the prospectus. Potential secondary market outflows might be around ₹5,400 crore, which is almost equal to Meesho’s entire IPO size, even if only about 10% of existing shares become tradable right away after lock-in expiration. The brokerage anticipates that early private equity and venture capital investors, who are sitting on significant unrealized profits, will likely sell their holdings as a result of this liquidity event, causing the shares to temporarily decline.

Although Meesho’s main operating metrics have significantly improved, there hasn’t yet been a noticeable increase in advertising revenue, which is anticipated to happen gradually. The brokerage anticipates little upside from current levels because the majority of short-term gains are mostly priced in.The brokerage’s long-term perspective on Meesho is unchanged, based on robust user-led scale-up and ongoing seller ecosystem expansion. However, it is anticipated that the lock-in expiry event and existing fundamentals would put the company under short-term downward pressure.

CLSA is optimistic about Bharti Airtel as the IPO of Airtel Money approaches



New Delhi: Airtel Money, Bharti Airtel’s mobile money division for Africa, is getting ready for an IPO in the second half of 2026. According to a CLSA study, the company might raise \$1.5–2 billion at a possible valuation of \$10 billion (increasing fourfold from 2021). This corresponds to 60% of the market capitalization of Airtel Africa.

With a \$10 billion value, the listing would rank Airtel Money among the biggest initial public offerings (IPOs) on a European exchange in recent memory. The most likely place for Airtel Money to be listed is London. With an annualized transaction value of \$215 billion in FY26, up 50% year over year, and a PAT of \$350 million, Airtel Money has experienced strong growth. Ebitda rose 31% year over year to \$689 million, while revenue rose 36% year over year to \$1.4 billion. According to CLSA, Airtel Money’s client base increased by 21% year over year to 54 million users during the fiscal year. At 50.8%, the Ebitda margin was higher than Airtel Africa’s overall margin of 49.3%. The growth narrative, according to CLSA, is far from finished. Since Nigeria has not yet ramped up (only 2.7 million customers presently use the service), Airtel Money’s penetration is low at 29% of Airtel Africa’s own mobile subscribers of 184 million, leaving substantial space for expansion. Twenty percent of the region comes from the Airtel Money business, while twenty-five percent of Bharti Airtel’s combined operations are in Africa.It considers the Airtel Money IPO to be a significant strategic move for the company. QIA, MasterCard, TPG, and Chimera invested \$550 million in Airtel Money in 2021 at a valuation of US\$2.5 billion, or half of Airtel Africa’s market capitalization at the time. CLSA has set a target price of ₹2,310 for Bharti Airtel, maintaining its ‘Outperform’ rating. This implies an increase of over 27% from the previous close of ₹1,819.90. The brokerage pointed out that although Bharti Airtel’s share of Airtel Africa is valued in its SOTP assessment, Airtel Money is not valued separately.

Auto stocks to purchase: Following May sales, analysts support Maruti, TVS, M&M, and TaMo

New Delhi: Although analysts pointed out that the industry’s performance is becoming more “fragmented,” with passenger cars and tractors continuing to outperform while two-wheelers and commercial vehicles show early signs of moderation, the automobile sector saw another month of robust growth in May 2026. In a sector note, analysts at Motilal Oswal Financial Services stated that while two-wheelers and commercial vehicles showed signs of slowing down, retail demand momentum for passenger cars and tractors remained steady in May.

The firm stated that while commercial vehicle growth was impacted by disruptions related to the West Asia war, passenger vehicle wholesales continued to benefit from low channel inventories and robust retail demand. Similar observations were made by Emkay Global Financial Services, which stated that although the auto pack performed steadily in May 2026, “growth moderation was visible across segments” with two-wheelers and medium and heavy commercial vehicles (MHCVs) showing slower retail momentum.

In light of the ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, analysts advise investors to exercise caution and give preference to businesses that exhibit significant increases in market share, possess pricing power, and are able



to execute their plans. The Nifty Auto index increased 1.3% intraday on the NSE. At 11:35 a.m., the index had increased by 0.45 percent while the Nifty50 index had decreased by 0.02 percent. In May, producers of passenger cars performed the best. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles reported an even greater 42.2% surge to almost 60,000 units, while Maruti Suzuki dominated the market with a 34.8% Y-o-Y increase in sales to 242,688 units. Due to supply restrictions, Mahindra & Mahindra’s utility vehicle sales increased 10.7%, while Hyundai Motor India reported a modest 4.1% increase. While Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles’ sales were fueled by the ramp-up of recently released

models and the ongoing popularity of electric vehicles, analysts credited Maruti Suzuki’s good performance to low channel stocks, healthy order backlogs, and capacity expansions at its Kharkhoda facility.

Meanwhile, supply-side issues limited Hyundai and M&M’s expansion, they claimed.

While the two-wheeler market experienced robust wholesale growth, observers noted weaker retail trends. TVS Motor reported a 31.4% increase in volumes to 566,585 units, Hero MotoCorp claimed a 12.3% increase, Bajaj Auto reported a nearly 20% increase, and Royal Enfield (Eicher Motors) reported a 15.4% increase. Nevertheless, the ongoing acceler-

ation of electric transportation was a positive development.According to Emkay Global, industry volumes surged by 63% year over year, while the penetration of electric two-wheelers rose from 6.6% in FY26 to 9.2% in May 2026. In the commercial vehicle segment, demand decreased, with MHCV retail growth slowing to 8% year-on-year from 23% in H2FY26. Tata Motors saw a 16.7% increase in sales, while Ashok Leyland experienced a 3.6% decline. In contrast, the tractor segment benefited from strong rural demand, with Mahindra’s sales up 22% and Escorts Kubota’s up 18.9%. Motilal Oswal attributed the tractor sales growth to good reservoir levels and favorable rural conditions but cautioned about potential weak monsoons from the El Niño effect. Analysts highlighted ongoing geopolitical tensions and rising input costs as factors that may impact farmer affordability and demand sentiment. JM Financial noted the structural positives from GST rationalization and the 8th Pay Commission but emphasized monitoring near-term challenges and price hikes due to commodity costs. Motilal Oswal recommends Maruti Suzuki, TVS Motor Company, and Mahindra & Mahindra, while Emkay Global favors two-wheeler and commercial vehicle OEMs for their pricing flexibility during commodity pressures.

RBI uses FII tax exemption on government securities to regulate the rupee



New Delhi: According to commentators, the decision to exempt foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) from the capital gains tax levy on interest or sales of government securities is a positive step and is intended to boost the rupee. This is a strong indication that administrative tools, as opposed to direct rate increases, will be used to protect the INR. According to Sneha Pandey, Quantum Mutual Fund’s fixed income fund manager, “measures like gold import restrictions, easing investment limits, and even a potential dollar bond issuance still remain on the table.” Foreign investors currently pay a 20% withholding tax on interest generated on government bonds and a 12.5% long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on listed shares and bonds held for more than a year.

Targeting the bond market through tax exemptions for FIIs is a step in the right direction, according to U R Bhat, co-founder and director of Alphaniti Fintech,

since rising rates would have had an impact on the whole economy.“When the tax is removed, FII’s bond market returns will immediately increase by 20%. The pressure on the rupee will lessen as a result of increased inflows into the (bond) market. Bond trading is done by many large international institutions in India. Therefore, they would likely instruct their “prop desks” to begin right away, and bond funds would follow,” Bhat stated.First, the RBI has included all new issuances of 15-, 30-, and 40-year tenor G-secs to the list of “specified securities” for government securities under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR). Furthermore, restrictions on specific securities, short-term investments, and concentration on FPI investing under the General Route are being lifted. The RBI stated that these actions, together with the tax advantages, should assist draw in foreign investment for government borrowing. Second, the amount that NRIs and OCLs can invest in equity instruments that are traded

on the stock market without registering with SEBI is being raised. Additionally, all individual Persons Resident Outside India (PROIs) are receiving the same benefits as NRIs and OCLs.

Third, to encourage ECBs by PSUs, a concessional FX swap facility will be offered until September 30, 2026. Fourth, until September 30, 2026, AD banks will have a comparable capacity to cover the entire cost of hedging in order to raise new 3–5-year FCNR (B) deposits. Fifth, the RBI suggests bringing back the nine-month period for export proceeds realization.

According to Anindya Banerjee, head of commodity and currency research at Kotak Securities, the removal of FPI concentration limits, the extension of FCNR(B) hedging support and the PSU ECB swap window, the restoration of the export realization period to nine months, and the expansion of the Fully Accessible Route to all new 15, 30, and 40-year G-Sec issuances all add up to the most extensive dollar-mobilization effort since 2013. According to Banerjee, the Center’s simultaneous elimination of taxes on foreign investment in G-Secs is the force multiplier since it resolves the single largest issue raised by international bond funds and index providers. He claimed that the action is beneficial for the G-Sec curve’s long end

Groww increases 4% after Goldman Sachs purchases 1.13 crore shares for rs. 210 crore

New Delhi: Groww’s parent company, Billionbrains Garage Ventures, saw its shares rise 3.9% on the BSE, reaching an intraday high of ₹195.80 per share. The counter purchase followed Goldman Sachs’ purchase of more than 1.13 crore Groww shares from venture capital fund Friale on Thursday for ₹210 crore in an open market deal.

At 10:59 AM, Groww’s share price was up 2.71 percent at ₹195.2 per share, but it had lost part of its gains. By contrast, the BSE Sensex was up 0.01 percent at 74,367.45. According to block deal data accessible on the BSE, Goldman Sachs acquired 1,13,43,750 equity shares, or 0.18 percent of the Bengaluru-based trad-

ing platform, through its affiliate Goldman Sachs Bank Europe SE. The deal value was ₹210.43 crore after the shares were purchased at an average price of ₹185.50 per.

According to the data, Friale sold the same quantity of shares in the meantime. The proposed acquisition of a share in Groww Asset Management (Groww AMC), a fully-owned subsidiary of Billionbrains Garage Ventures, by US-based State Street Global Advisors (SSGA) was approved by markets regulator Sebi on Monday.Following the proposed transaction, SSGA will purchase shares in Groww AMC and, upon conclusion of the transaction, will have an econom-

ic interest of 22.94 percent and voting rights of 4.85 percent in the asset manager’s fully diluted share capital. US-based Peak XV Partners, Ribbit Capital, and Y Combinator sold their combined 4.71 percent ownership in Billionbrains Garage Ventures for ₹5,326 crore last month.Billionbrains Garage Ventures announced in April of this year that its profit after taxes for the three months ending in March 2026 had more than doubled to ₹686 crore.In the same quarter of the previous fiscal year, the company had a PAT of ₹309 crore.From ₹850 crore in the January-March quarter of 2025 to ₹1,536 crore in the reviewed quarter, its total income increased by 81% year over year.

Until the price of oil drops, silver will continue to be under pressure

New Delhi: Spot silver fluctuated between \$72.46 and \$75.07 on June 4. The metal was trading at \$73.98, up 1.5%, at the time this piece was written.Silver reduced its gains as questions over the Israel-Lebanon accord resurfaced, but it erased its losses to trade higher on reports of an Israel-Lebanon truce that fueled confidence about an Iran deal. During negotiations on Wednesday at the State Department in Washington, Israel and Lebanon decided to adopt a cease-fire agreement that excludes Hezbollah. The Iranian-backed organization Hezbollah, which is not affiliated with the Lebanese government, did not attend the negotiations. Hezbollah was also left out of the initial cease-fire agreement agreed in April. Hezbollah will stop attacking Israel and withdraw from southern Lebanon in accordance with the new deal, which is supported by the United States. Newly created “pilot zones” devoid of any



non-state armed organizations will be completely under the supervision of the Lebanese military. Israeli troops have reportedly left a community in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah, however, rejected the cease-fire agreement and insisted that all Israeli troops leave Lebanon, as was to be expected.A resolution to prevent President Donald Trump from directing more strikes against Iran was approved by the US House on Wednesday. But before Congress can compel Trump to

halt hostilities, it must overcome a number of obstacles.Companies’ holdings of US oil stocks dropped by 8 million barrels last week, marking the eighth consecutive weekly decline, and are at 3% below the five-year average. Last week, the US government also released 8 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, bringing the current level close to the low achieved in July 2023 following the Biden administration’s use of the supply following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The Israel-Lebanon ceasefire caused oil prices to drop on Thursday, but further declines are unlikely unless the US and Iran reach a formal agreement to restore normalcy to trade over the Strait of Hormuz. Recently, a number of oil executives have cautioned that quickly running out of oil reserves will cause gas prices to rise in the near future. As of this writing, Brent oil was trading at \$94.75, down 3% from the previous day.

Russia’s Military Agreement with the Taliban During the War in Ukraine



Moscow: Russia has strengthened its relationship with Afghanistan’s ruling party and solidified its status as the only nation to formally recognize the Taliban administration by signing a military cooperation pact with the Taliban.Senior Taliban commanders, including Defense Minister Mohammad Yaqoob, son of Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar, attended an international security summit in Moscow where the pact was approved. The move is likely to spark concern about whether the Taliban could someday supply seasoned militants to back Russia’s war effort in Ukraine, even though neither party released details of the pact. Although researchers claim there is presently no proof of a comparable deal with the Taliban, the prospect has gained attention because North Korea sent thousands of troops to support Moscow after striking a defense pact with Rus-

sia in 2024.Given that Taliban fighters, who were then a component of the Afghan mujahideen, engaged in a ten-year insurgency against Soviet forces following the Soviet Union’s 1979 invasion of Afghanistan, this development is especially noteworthy. Speaking at the forum, Yaqoob stated that bilateral ties between the two countries were growing and characterized Russia as a significant regional and worldwide power.Russia and Afghanistan have a long history together, and we wish to continue this relationship. During the meeting, Mr. Yaqoob stated, “We have expanded bilateral relations.”During the discussion, former defense minister and close assistant to Russian President Vladimir Putin Sergei Shoigu criticized Western sanctions on Afghanistan and demanded the release of blocked Afghan assets. ”We are convinced that Western countries should unfreeze

blocked Afghan assets, fully recognise the full extent of responsibility for their 20-year presence in Afghanistan and take upon themselves the full burden of post-event recovery of the country,” Shoigu said. Concerns on the existence of ISIS-Khorasan, a regional affiliate of the Islamic State, in Afghanistan and Central Asia were also raised by Russian officials. Moscow has issued several warnings about the group’s increasing threat to national security.

But the Taliban brushed those worries aside. Zabiullah Mujahid, the spokesperson, asserted that no terrorist organizations were using Afghan territory and declared that ISIS had been “completely eliminated” in Afghanistan. Afghanistan should not be a source of concern for any nation. Such acts are prohibited for both individuals and groups. The Afghan security forces have fought against Isis, and it has been totally eradicated in Afghanistan,” Mr. Mujahid stated. According to analysts, the deal is more likely to concentrate on regional stability, equipment assistance, and security cooperation than on troop deployments. They point out that the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan is dealing with its own security issues and does not have the means to offer substantial military support outside.

El Nino has an 80% chance of developing between June and August

Switzerland: The World Meteorological Organization stated on Tuesday that there is an 80% chance that the warming El Nino phenomenon would grow between June and August, raising the possibility of catastrophic weather events.El Nino conditions are emerging and are expected to affect global temperature and rainfall patterns due to abnormally warm ocean temperatures in the tropical Pacific, according to the United Nations’ meteorological and climate agency (WMO).

The Geneva-based organization stated that forecasts from the WMO global network “indicate a pronounced shift toward El Nino conditions, with probabilities reaching 80 percent for June-August.”El Nino is a natural climate phenomena that causes global variations in wind, pressure, and rainfall patterns by raising surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. It usually lasts nine to twelve months and occurs every two to seven years.

Neutral conditions exist in between El Nino and its opposite, La Nina.According to the WMO’s quarterly El Nino/La Nina bulletin, there is a “near or above 90 percent” chance that El Nino will form by November, and most projection models indicate that it will be “at least moderate -- and possibly strong”.The globe must



thus prepare for an El Nino, which could “exacerbate drought and heavy rainfall and increase the risk of heat-waves both on land and in the ocean,” according to WMO Director Celeste Saulo.Even a weak El Nino increases the likelihood of certain weather and climate extremes, according to the WMO.

Due in part to the most recent El Nino, 2023 became the second-hottest year ever recorded, while 2024 reached an all-time high of about 1.55C above the pre-industrial normal of 1850–1900. According to the WMO, sea-surface temperatures in the central-eastern Equatorial Pacific, the region used as a monitoring reference, were getting close to El Nino thresholds in late April to mid-May, with subsurface temperatures more than 6C above average.In the meantime, El Nino conditions are also compatible with the Southern

Oscillation Index, which measures El Nino’s atmospheric component.According to the WMO, there is no proof that El Nino episodes are becoming more frequent or intense due to climate change. El Niño exacerbates climate issues by enhancing extreme weather through increased energy and moisture availability. UN Chief Antonio Guterres warns that this phenomenon serves as a critical climate alert, necessitating urgent action against fossil fuel reliance and a shift to renewable energy.

The WMO forecasts above-normal temperatures globally, risking severe hazards and droughts, particularly in regions like the Greater Horn of Africa and South Asia, and altering hurricane patterns. Advance warning systems aim to improve preparedness in agriculture, water management, energy, and health sectors.

China’s display of solidarity with North Korea and Russia could strain its international relations

Beijing: On September 3, 2025, the leaders of Russia, North Korea, and China met in Beijing, signaling unity among these countries against perceived Western dominance. Following the meeting, Japan and Australia agreed to enhance security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and soon after, Japan and the Philippines initiated a military agreement, highlighting regional responses to China’s assertiveness. Observers interpreted the joint appearance of Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un, and Xi Jinping as a deliberate effort by Beijing to solidify alliances against the West, potentially fostering new international alignments centered on China.However, this strategic positioning may create unforeseen challenges for Beijing. It could draw Xi closer to unreliable partners while undermining China’s global neutrality, notably jeopardizing relations with Europe and other Asian nations. The ongoing war in Ukraine has al-



ready strained China-Europe ties, countering Beijing’s claims of neutrality. Recent actions, such as Kim Jong Un’s growing ties to Russia, have further complicated these dynamics, prompting criticisms that China is aligning itself with pariah states.

The European Union’s foreign policy chief remarked that this consolidation of authoritarian regimes posed a challenge to a rules-based international order, leading

to increased security concerns and potential economic repercussions for China. In response, the EU could implement measures like anti-dumping tariffs, thereby exacerbating China’s economic vulnerabilities, as trade with the EU is crucial for Beijing.Moreover, the China-Russia-North Korea alignment could push Japan and South Korea to strengthen their alliances with the U.S. in a bid to counter this

new bloc. Recent military exercises involving the U.S., Japan, and South Korea underscore this trend. Beijing’s current diplomatic stance risks hardening domestic and foreign attitudes against China’s influence, particularly in South Korea, where public opinion may shift towards a more confrontational policy. Significantly, Beijing’s welcoming of Kim Jong Un signals tacit recognition of North Korea’s nuclear sta-

tus, notably not addressing denuclearization during their recent discussions. This approach contrasts sharply with previous interactions and underscores China’s evolving, complex geopolitical landscape in Northeast Asia. Japan, under recently resigned Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, has shifted towards a pro-China stance, contrasting with the previous administration’s hardline approach. Ishiba’s meeting with Xi Jinping at the APEC summit aimed to enhance Sino-Japanese relations.

However, increasing security concerns from the China-Russia-North Korea axis may prompt Japan to adopt a tougher policy on China. The recent display of unity among these nations raises questions about its impact on U.S.-China relations, with potential risks including deeper Western suspicions and stronger alliances against Beijing, particularly between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea.

The US Desires to Remove Sanctions on Russian Oil Waiver in the War with Iran

Washington DC: After the Donald Trump administration in the United States stated that it wants to terminate the sanction waivers given to nations like India that buy Russian oil “as soon as possible,” new uncertainty surrounds New Delhi’s oil imports. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in testimony before the Senate Foreign Policy Committee that these steps were temporary in order to ease international supply following the Iran War. Since this country’s fundamental policy has been to sanction their oil, we would like to put an end to it as quickly as possible. Rubio informed the committee, “These are time-limited waivers to open up more global supply.” According to the US Secretary of State, the sanctions waiver

was an effort to lessen the impact of rising oil prices worldwide.The issue we’re dealing with is the possibility for contagion, which means that although we can eventually implement strategic reserves and take some of the other actions we’ve taken to reduce world supply, you have to make sure that this is not too much for us,” Rubio stated.He continued by saying that while other economies around the world have profited from the Russian waiver, the US economy ultimately does not require such measures. In March, the US waived sanctions on buying Russian oil, and it did so twice. The most recent one-month extension was approved on May 17. One of the nations that has profited from the US sanctions on the acquisition

of Russian oil is India.In the midst of rising crude prices, New Delhi requested an extension of waivers from the United States last month, according to a Bloomberg report. Nearly nine-tenths of India’s oil consumption comes from imports. After the turmoil in Ukraine, when Russia provided huge discounts on crude due to Western sanctions, New Delhi found a cost-effective partner in Moscow.

India purchased a record-breaking 2.3 million barrels of Russian oil per day last month, according to data from energy intelligence firm Kpler. This was made possible by the ongoing import of cargoes covered by the sanctions waiver. According to analysts, India’s ongoing imports of Russian oil have

prevented a more severe energy crisis during the Iranian conflict and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. If the waiver expires, domestic refiners may have to find more expensive oil elsewhere on the spot market. However, the problem for India goes much beyond oil. The Trump administration’s plan to increase economic pressure on Russia over the conflict in Ukraine included US sanctions aimed at buying Russian energy. Nonetheless, New Delhi has continuously insisted that national interest, affordability, and energy security are what motivate energy purchases. The government has consistently upheld its authority to purchase oil from any source who best serves the nation’s requirements.

An Iranian attack on a Kuwaiti airport killed an Indian

Kuwait: The Indian Embassy in Kuwait posted on X on Wednesday that an incident on Kuwait International Airport claimed the life of an Indian person. The health ministry reports that at least 63 additional individuals were hurt in the attack.63 injured people were brought in and split up among hospitals. According to Abdullah al-Sanad, a representative for the health ministry, “this includes serious injuries... including head wounds, cerebral hemorrhages, amputations and injuries resulting from explosions,” and 25 ambulances were sent to the airport.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in Kuwait offered their condolences.

According to the statement, the mission is “closely coordinating” with Kuwaiti authorities to provide the grieving family and those injured in the incident with all the care and help they can.

According to Abdullah Al-Rajhi, a spokesman for the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Kuwait halted air travel on Wednesday after the strikes struck Terminal One and resulted in fatalities and damage to airport infrastructure. The attack on Kuwait was claimed by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, who said that it was carried out in revenge for US attacks on an Iranian oil tanker and island.”The US Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain

and the helicopter-hosting Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait were targeted with missiles and drones by the Guards’ forces in response to this aggression,” the Guards claimed in a statement posted on their official Telegram channel. UAE presidential advisor Anwar Gargash wrote on social media, “A firm, unified, and cohesive Gulf stance is imperative in light of Iran’s repeated aggression against... Kuwait and Bahrain.”We are all the targets of this aggression, not just one nation.

An incident “that once again targeted vital and civilian infrastructure ... killing one person and injuring others” was denounced by Kuwait’s foreign ministry.

Trump cherishes his friendship and ties to PM Modi in India



Washington DC: Sergio Gor, the US ambassador to India, stated on Wednesday that as both nations are nearing the completion of the trade agreement, they are well-positioned to lead the next stage of economic growth together.He cited the quick growth of commerce and investment between the two countries when he remarked, “American and Indian business leaders know how to drive results.”In an interview with reporters, Gor stated that he hopes to make the US-India connection the “defining relationship” of this age and that even President Donald Trump “deeply values” his friendship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the relationship with India. Gor highlighted the growing presence of US companies in India, emphasizing the creation of jobs and the necessity for resilient supply chains. He warned against the risks of excessive reliance on a single supply segment, stating, “Overdependence on a single segment of the supply chain creates vulnerability.” Additionally, he underscored the significance of cooperation between the US and India in enhancing global energy security.

The bilateral trade between the two nations has

surged from approximately \$20 billion to nearly \$220 billion in the last twenty years, spurred by innovation and high-value sectors. Gor pointed out that the Trump administration aims to facilitate further trade and create lucrative opportunities for American enterprises. A primary focus is the conclusion of an ongoing trade agreement, which Gor reported is in the final stages of negotiation, with significant progress made. The Indian team visited Washington, and now negotiations are taking place in India, with 99% of the deal finalized, leaving only minor aspects to be resolved.

He acknowledged the intricacies of large trade agreements, remarking, “These are massive, complex deals that take time.” Furthermore, he addressed investors’ apprehensions regarding intellectual property (IP) rights in India, admitting concerns about potential IP theft but asserting that India remains a secure investment destination, stating, “India is safe for investors and the government cares about IP protection.”

Gor also urged for “candid and constructive engagement” on critical topics including export controls and technology transfers, which are vital to ongoing discussions. Supporting this perspective, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal confirmed that most components of the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement have been finalized, with current conversations centering on minor details described as “commas and full stops.”

Times Square in New York will host a Yoga Day event led by PM Modi’s yoga guru

Albany: On June 21, the famous Times Square in New York will host the International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations, which will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s yoga teacher HR Nagendra.Nagendra will also launch a unique yoga and wellness retreat at Monticello, New York, from June 12 to 14, ahead of the IDY festivities.Yoga, meditation, talks on stress management, healthy aging, and holistic wellbeing, as well as interactive conversations with community leaders, doctors, and wellness experts, will all be included in the retreat. The Rajasthan

Association of North America (RANA), BRUHUD NY Seniors, and Jaipur Foot USA are organizing the retreat. Nagendra, a Padma Shri recipient and president of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhan Samsthana (S-VYASA) University in Bengaluru, and NK Manjunath, the university’s vice chancellor, will be present.Additionally, Nagendra will be the main guest for the June 21 International Day of Yoga events in Times Square, which are hosted by the Indian Consulate General in New York.Additionally, Nagendra will be the main guest for the June 21 Inter-



national Day of Yoga events in Times Square, which are hosted by the Indian Consul-

ate General in New York. ”India’s ageless gift to humanity is yoga. Prem Bhandari, Pres-

ident of RANA, stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visionary leadership gave

yoga a historic boost. Modi’s initiative at the UN resulted in June 21 being declared the International Day of Yoga.This year’s IDY topic is “Yoga for Healthy Aging,” which aims to promote yoga as a means of enhancing mobility, lifespan, and preventive healthcare.On December 11, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. On June 21, 2015, the inaugural International Day of Yoga was observed. Since then, this day has been observed annually by millions of people worldwide.



How to Travel Alone Without Experiencing Loneliness

In recent years, solo travel has become incredibly popular, particularly among young people looking for freedom and self-discovery. It enables people to go at their own speed and venture outside of their comfort zones, which is frequently viewed as an empowering experience. This tendency has been further fueled by social media sites like Instagram, which feature flawless solo travels that appear effortless. Beyond these manufactured moments, though, traveling alone can occasionally be difficult, particularly when loneliness strikes. The good news is that solo travel may feel just as meaningful and connected as any group trip if you make a few thoughtful decisions. Here’s what to do if you intend to travel alone.

Select Stays That Promote Conversation:

The social aspect of your journey is greatly influenced by where you stay. Although they provide comfort, hotels don’t necessarily foster social interactions.

Many lone travelers favor:

- Shared areas and group activities in hostels
- Homestays with local families
- Co-living or social guesthouses
- Conversations feel organic rather than forced in these settings.

Plan Activities, Not Just Traveling:

Unplanned or idle periods are often when loneliness manifests itself. Incorporate participatory activities rather than just tourist attractions.

- Walking excursions
- Classes on cooking
- Day outings or group hikes
- Workshops on culture

These encounters give your day structure and facilitate social interaction.

Go Out to Eat Rather Than Stay Inside:

Although eating by yourself can be uncomfortable at first, it can also be one of the most

rewarding aspects of traveling alone. Why it’s beneficial

- You feel more a part of the location.
- You watch daily life in the area.
- Small, informal conversations naturally occur.
- Meals might gradually change from making you feel lonely to making you feel content and at ease.

Maintain Contact While Establishing Limits:

It can be consoling to stay in touch with loved ones, particularly on longer travels. However, being online all the time can detract from the experience.

An improved strategy: Plan sporadic phone calls

- Provide updates without being overboard.
- Steer clear of frequent comparisons on social media.

When you are really present, solo travel frequently takes on greater significance.

Discover How to Enjoy Your Own Company:

Getting used to being alone is a huge aspect of traveling alone. At first, it might seem strange, but it eventually feels liberating.

- Easy methods to get used to it: Keep a book or journal with you.
- Spend time in cafés or parks.
- Take leisurely strolls without hurrying.
- You eventually come to understand that loneliness is not necessarily a result of being by yourself.

Engage in Brief Discussions:

- To feel connected while traveling, you don’t need to be too gregarious. Even short conversations can add interest to your day.
- Try speaking with: Owners of cafes
- Other travelers
- Guides for tours

Local retailers

These brief interactions frequently have a profound effect.

Refrain from packing too much:

It might be draining to constantly keep occupied in order to prevent loneliness. Instead of being enjoyable, overplanning frequently results in burnout.

Rather: Make time for leisure activities.

- Permit leisurely, spontaneous moments
- Recognize that silent time is a necessary component of the journey.

A well-planned itinerary is much more pleasurable than a hurried one.

Because everything is new—being by yourself, making choices, and navigating strange locations—the first solo vacation might feel the most difficult. However, confidence increases rapidly with experience.

Over time, trav-



Traveling alone benefits you: Become more self-sufficient

- Easily adjust to unfamiliar environments
- Develop self-assurance

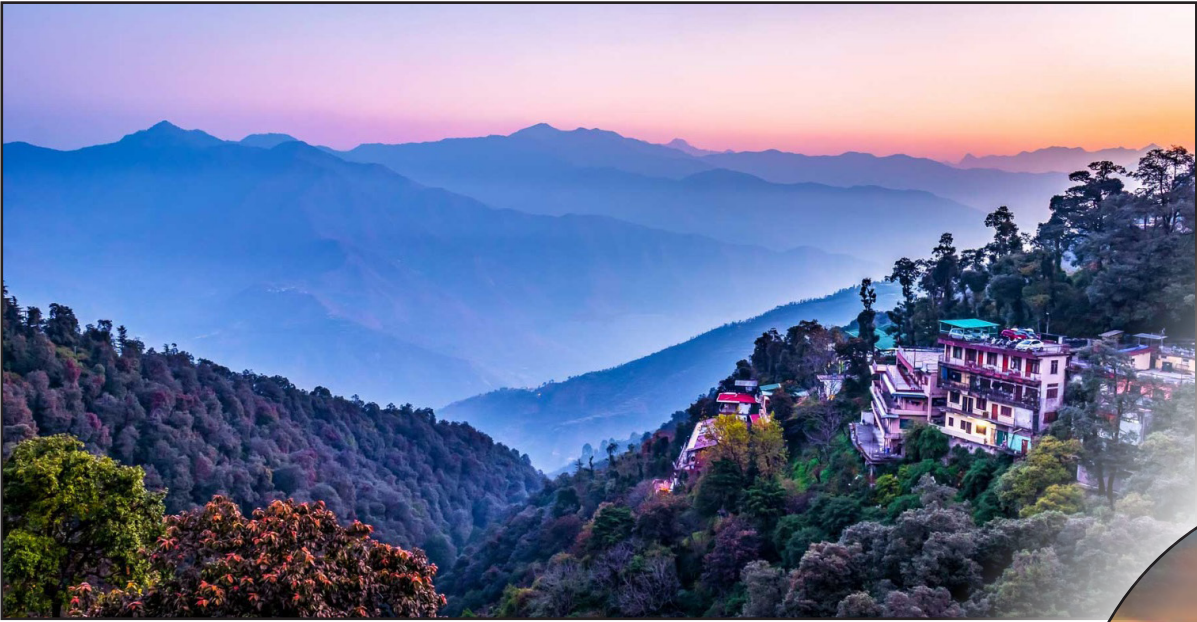
Take more deliberate trips.

One of the most fulfilling experiences is frequently one that starts off painful.

You don’t have to experience loneliness when traveling alone. Traveling alone can go

from being daunting to incredibly gratifying with the correct mix of independence, engagement, and careful planning—often in unexpected ways.

How Your Trip To Mussoorie Is Modified By The New Delhi-Dehradun Expressway



Are you sick of driving all day to reach the hills? The long and taxing trek from Delhi to Mussoorie might soon be a thing of the past for travelers. Road travels to the most popular hill station in Uttarakhand will soon be quicker and much more comfortable thanks to the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway. In addition to offering significant time savings, the new expressway offers improved access to Dehradun, Haridwar, and other locations, which could change how travelers organize their mountain vacations. This is how the new Delhi-Dehradun Expressway may affect your next visit to Mussoorie.

In Just 2.5 Hours, Delhi to Dehradun:

On April 14, Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi is set to officially open the eagerly anticipated Delhi-Dehradun Expressway, a significant improvement to North India’s road network. The 210-kilometer road will cut the travel time between Delhi and Dehradun from roughly 6.5 hours to about 2.5 hours. The motorway begins close to the Akshardham Temple in Delhi and travels through important Uttar Pradesh towns like Baghpat, Baraut, Shamli, and Saharanpur before arriving at Dehradun.

What This Means for Visits to Mussoorie:

Currently, depending on traffic and the starting point, drivers from Delhi to Mussoorie usually travel 280–300 kilometers and spend 7–8 hours on the road. The trip often entails taking the Delhi-Meerut Expressway to Dehra-

dun, after which there is a challenging 33-kilometer uphill drive that can take one to one and a half hours. Travel time between Delhi and Dehradun will significantly decrease with the construction of the new motorway. As a result, traveling from Delhi to Mussoorie might now take only 3.5 to 4 hours, which is about half the time it used to take. This makes the hill station much more accessible for weekend getaways and quick breaks.

Increasing Traveler Demand on Mussoorie Roadways:

Over time, the number of tourists visiting Mussoorie has constantly

climbed. According to reports, the number of visitors increased from over 8.5 lakh in 2000 to over 21 lakh in 2025. The Dehradun-Mussoorie route gets extremely congested during the busiest travel seasons, with cars crawling past the city’s entry and exit points. Before starting the climb to Mussoorie, the majority of travelers must pass through Dehradun city, which causes traffic jams, lengthier travel times, and increased strain on the local infrastructure.

The construction of a new Dehradun-Mussoorie highway:

The National Highways Authority of India has authorized the building of a new 42-kilometer route that will directly connect Dehradun and Mussoorie in order to address these issues. According to officials, the project will reduce the travel time between the two towns to



about thirty minutes.

Nowadays, it typically takes 1.5 hours or longer to travel the 34 kilometers from Dehradun to Mussoorie, especially during the busiest travel seasons. The proposed two-lane highway will start from Jhajhra in Dehradun and finish at Gandhi Chowk in Mussoorie. Its estimated cost is Rs 3,500 crore. Once finished, travelers would be able to go straight to Mussoorie via Jhajhra, completely avoiding Dehradun. This implies that the current 7–8-hour road trip from Delhi to Mussoorie may soon be reduced to just 3 hours, making Mussoorie much more accessible for quick, frequent journeys from Delhi.

You could even schedule a day excursion to the hill station and back once the travel from Delhi to Mussoorie would only take three to four hours. This well-planned one-day itinerary for Mussoorie will help you maximize your time.

Start Your Morning At Lal Tibba:

Start your day early at Mussoorie’s highest point, Lal Tibba, which is situated in the Landour neighborhood. It’s ideal for a tranquil start because of the serene surroundings and clean mountain air. You can arrive early to witness a stunning dawn, take stunning pictures, and take in expansive vistas of the snow-capped Himalayan peaks using telescopes that have been constructed.

Head To Kempty Falls:

After that, take a journey to one of Mussoorie’s most well-known sights,

Kempty Falls. The waterfall, which is surrounded by hills, is vibrant and revitalizing, particularly in the summer. You can go for a quick splash in the water or just take in the scenery.

Mall Road for lunch:

Go back to the city and eat lunch on Mall Road, which is the major thoroughfare in Mussoorie. There is something for everyone, from regional North Indian cuisine to European cuisine served in cafes.

Visit cozy eateries with views of the valley, including the charming Little Llama Cafe, or sample traditional Garhwali cuisine.

Stroll Along Mall Road and Make Local Purchases:

Take a leisurely stroll along Mall Road after lunch. Purchase woolen goods, handcrafted items, wooden trinkets, and regional candies. On one side of the road, you can always see the Doon Valley.

Savor tea and delicious snacks:

While taking in the vistas of the mountains, enjoy your evening tea or coffee with some delectable Maggi and sweet corn. You may also indulge in a platter of momo with some lemonade at Kalsang Restaurant or try the renowned Lovely Omelette Center, which is well-known for its fluffy omelettes.

At Camel’s Back Road, End the Day:

Take a stroll or quick drive along Camel’s Back Road, which is well-known for its distinctive rock formations and tranquil surroundings, to cap off your day. Here, the sunset views are particularly lovely, providing a serene contrast to the busy Mall Road.

ENTERTAINMENT

After RCB’s IPL 2026 victory, Anushka Sharma gives Virat Kohli a kiss in a tender photo

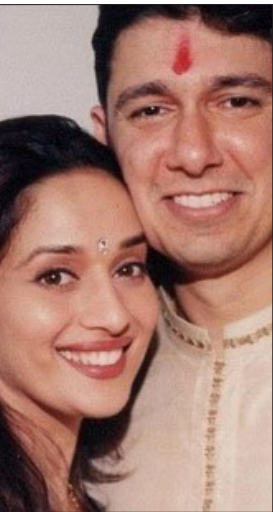
New Delhi: On Sunday night, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) defeated Gujarat Titans (GT) by five wickets to win the IPL trophy for the second consecutive year. Virat Kohli started the innings and remained at the crease till the very end, staying undefeated at 75 as RCB won. Anushka Sharma, an actress and proud wife, later posted a photo of herself with the batter. Anushka may be seen kissing Virat’s forehead tenderly in the post. The duo can be seen carrying the trophy together, and she is dressed in blue trousers and a white shirt. Anushka Sharma



posted an inside photo of Kohli on her Instagram Story shortly after the win. Kohli may be seen in the picture sporting a T-shirt that says, “One felt nice,

we did it twice.”” As the winners rejoice in a joyous environment, Karthik is pointing at the caption. On her story, Anushka posted the photo along with a heart emoji. At the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the seasoned batsman hit an undefeated 75 to lead RCB home with 12 balls remaining while chasing a modest total of 156. After hitting a four and a six down the ground to seal the victory, he broke into an unusual celebration. Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli tied the knot in 2017. They have a daughter named Vamika and a son named Akaay.

Madhuri Dixit Says Her Stardom Startled Her Husband Shriram Nene



Mumbai: In 1999, Madhuri Dixit Nene relocated to the United States, took a vacation from her extremely successful film career, and married Dr. Shriram Nene. The actress recently revealed that Dr. Shriram Nene was shocked by her “stardom” and that he now has more friends in the business than she does. Madhuri Dixit discussed her experiences since moving to India in 2011, highlighting her husband’s adaptation to the film industry. She noted that he was initially surprised by her level of success, saying, “I knew she was an actor; I didn’t know how big an actor she is!” Over time, she expressed satisfaction with her family’s growth and her role as a character named Rekha in the project “Maa Behen.” Madhuri emphasized enjoying personal time with her children, which she regarded as a significant aspect of her life goals and happiness. Reflecting on their life in Denver, she mentioned that it was less complicated there due to a smaller Indian community and more interactions with Americans. Initially, people were unaware of her celebrity status, leading to moments of concern among her neighbors, particularly when they noticed unfamiliar cars stopping outside her home. One neighbor even offered to call the police out of caution. Madhuri ultimately had to clarify her celebrity situation, explaining that the visitors were merely hoping for a glimpse of her. Overall, she conveyed a sense of contentment in her personal and professional life. In 2003, the couple welcomed Arin, their first son, and Ryan, their second child, in 2005. In 2007, Madhuri rejoined the film profession with Aaja Nachle after taking a hiatus to concentrate on her family. On June 5, 2026, Madhuri Dixit’s most recent movie, Maa Behen, will be available for streaming on Netflix. Ravi Kishan, Dhanya Durga, and Triptii Dimri are also in the Suresh Triveni-directed

Kiara Advani Talks About Body Pressure After Pregnancy

New Delhi: In preparation for the premiere of Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups, Kiara Advani became a mother last year when she and her husband Sidharth Malhotra welcomed their daughter Saraayah Malhotra on July 15, 2025. Kiara discussed the realities of parenthood and the physical and mental changes that accompany the journey in a recent interview with Bombay Times. The actress discussed how becoming a mother has changed her, from overcoming postpartum difficulties and social expectations to gaining a fresh outlook on life and her career. Kiara reflected on the challenges and realities of motherhood, stating that no one truly prepares



you for the overwhelming journey it entails. She acknowledged the chaos and guilt experienced during postpartum, highlighting the significant biological and emotional changes that new mothers face. Kiara emphasized the vital role of support from other women during this transition and expressed how motherhood has enriched her personally and professionally. She pointed out the societal pressures women encounter regarding their appearances post-childbirth and the

In July, Aamir Khan is scheduled to wed Gauri Spratt for the third time



New Delhi: Aamir Khan, an actor, is getting married for the third time. According to Hauterrfly’s Wednesday Instagram post, the actor will wed his fiancée Gauri Spratt in July. The wedding will be a small-scale event that takes place in July. The actor would wed Gauri in a “very private and intimate” way, according to the story. On July 5, the couple’s families as well as a few close friends will attend the ceremony. “Aamir and Gauri have been living together as a family for a little over a year now,” the insider continued. Together, they have created a contented and secure existence, and they have chosen to formally celebrate it in front of their families. The pair

will have a straightforward signing at home rather than a lavish wedding. Aamir talked candidly about his personal life and his relationship with Gauri in an interview with Navbharat Times in April. I consider myself quite fortunate to have met Gauri, with whom I began a relationship. She is wonderful, and I am at ease with her. Even though I had a close relationship with Kiran Rao and Reena Dutta, my ex-wives, it didn’t work out. When you asked, I said that I consider myself really fortunate that Gauri came into my life. Together, we are ecstatic. Aamir remarked, “Mujhe lagta hai ab jaake mai mukammal hua hu (I feel complete today).” Aamir pre-

sented his girlfriend, Gauri Spratt, to the Mumbai media on his 60th birthday in March of last year. He has since accompanied Gauri to a number of occasions. In 2002, Aamir Khan divorced Reena Dutta, his first wife. Junaid and Ira are Aamir’s two children from his first marriage to Reena. The actor and filmmaker Kiran Rao, his second wife, were wed in 2005 and divorced in 2021. Azad, their son, is still co-parented by them. After Laal Singh Chadha’s failure in 2022, Aamir returned to the big screen with Sitaare Zameen Par last year. In Happy Patel: Khatarnak Jasoos, Aamir made a brief appearance. Aamir is presently waiting for his production, Ek Din, to be released. The romance drama, which is directed by Sunil Pandey, features Sai Pallavi and actor Junaid Khan, the son of Aamir. The movie is a remake of One Day, a Thai movie from 2016. On May 1, it is set to open in theaters.

Kangana Ranaut Remembers How Her Parents Reacted to Her First Film, Gangster



Mumbai: Despite receiving a lot of praise for her first role in Gangster, Kangana Ranaut was extremely upset by the response she got back home. Looking back on her early career, the actor-politician disclosed that her parents were more worried about how society would perceive her role in the movie than they were about her performance. In a recent interview, Kangana talked candidly about the emotional impact of her parents’ reaction and how it altered her perception of family vali-

dation. “After watching the movie, my father showed no emotion. “Our society won’t accept this,” was my mother’s reaction. I was devastated. “You are underage and have done all kinds of scenes.” That was all she saw in the movie. “They were more concerned about society than my performance,” she remarked. The actor said that the event had a lasting impact on her and affected how she responded to her parents’ criticism. That day, I made the decision to never take my parents’ crit-

icism seriously. However, I came to a realization when Mr. Bachchan wrote me a lovely letter complimenting my role in Queen and other movies. Cinema was just not my father’s domain, therefore he would never be able to see my work from the same perspective as someone like Amitabh Bachchan. I was unable to use that against him. Kangana went on to say that as she started getting significant accolades for her work in film, her parents’ perspective started to change. The actor claims that receiving a National Award was a momentous occasion for her family, especially her father, who at last realized the significance of her accomplishments. “My parents were truly thrilled when I received a National Award. It was a turning point for my father, and it was made even more meaningful when I was awarded the Padma Shri. They were happy that their daughter was being honored by the President of India. He found it unbelievable that someone could become so well-known through movies. The actor claimed that these turning points ultimately influenced her goals and the type of job she wished to pursue.

Aruna Irani remembers going three years without a job after successful movies

New Delhi: Recently, veteran actor Aruna Irani made an appearance on Rajeev Khandelwal’s reality show Tum Ho Naa - Ghar Ka Superstar. Aruna thought back on her early experiences in the film business during the performance. She disclosed that she was unemployed for three years despite working with Amitabh Bachchan and delivering two superhit movies. She also talked about how her career was revitalized by a dance performance in a Marathi movie. Aruna became emotional after hearing a contestant’s struggle story on a show, reflecting on her own challenging career phase. She recounted her early success with the films “Bombay to Goa” and “Caravan,” which were blockbusters running for years in theaters like Super Cinema and Dreamland. However, she faced a sudden three-year hiatus from work.



When she resumed her career, she took on a Lavani performance in a Marathi film, showing determination despite the drastic change from her previous status as a leading actress opposite Amitabh Bachchan, for a fee of ₹2,500. This decision, driven by the need to prove her resilience,

led her to meet director Raj Kohli, which subsequently opened doors for new opportunities in her career. Aruna emphasized the importance of perseverance during difficult times and the transformative power of embracing unexpected roles. Aruna Irani started her acting career in the 1960s as a young performer and has spent more than 60 years working in the Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, and various other regional cinema industries. She became one of Bollywood’s most recognizable character performers after making appearances in over 500 films, including Caravan, Bobby, Beta, Raja Babu, and Bombay to Goa. After receiving praise from critics for a number of supporting parts, she successfully transitioned to television, appearing in programs like Jhansi Ki Rani, Mehndi Tere Naam Ki, and Des Mein Nikla Hoga Chand.

Prakash Padukone shares the motivation behind Deepika Padukone’s public depression speech

New Delhi: In addition to starting a charity to promote mental health awareness, Deepika Padukone has been candid about her battle with depression. Prakash Padukone, a former badminton player and Deepika’s father, recently discussed the actor’s struggle with depression and how he and the family helped her when she made the decision to talk about it in public. Prakash, speaking on The Something Bigger Show, expressed full support for Deepika Padukone’s initiative to raise mental health awareness, emphasizing its importance. He highlighted the need for open discussions about mental health and encouraged those with experiences to share them. Prakash underscored the significance of prioritizing both mental and physical health, promoting a balanced lifestyle as essential for managing stress. He praised Deepika for her impactful work in mental health and noted that she would be remembered not just for her cinematic achievements but also for making a significant difference through her



organization, Live Love Laugh, founded in 2015 to combat stigma and improve access to mental health resources. Regarding her career, Deepika will next be seen in King with Shah Rukh Khan. She will also be a key character in Allu Arjun’s Telugu action movie Raaka. In terms of her personal life, the actor is expecting her second kid. On April 19, 2026, Deepika and her husband Ranveer Singh—who have a daughter named Dua—announced Deepika’s second pregnancy on social media.

Women Lead Aarti at Jammu Temple, Breaking a Centuries-Old Barrier

New Delhi, Jun 07: A group of young women wearing saffron sarees sing the aarti and recite hymns while holding lamps in calm hands. Something significant is indicated by this scene inside the sanctum sanctorum of Jammu’s Raghunath Temple. Here, women undergoing training to become priests are leading the evening aarti for the first time. These young women break a centuries-old barrier by chanting mantras with studied ease. The temple was constructed in 1835 and has seen several prayers, battles, and monarchs. It is undergoing change now-days. There were a number of obstacles in the road, making the journey difficult. However, Kunwarani Ritu Singh, Maharaja Hari Singh’s granddaughter-in-law, took the audacious step to persuade people to accept this change. “The idea is not to sideline men, but to promote the



concept of Shiv and Shakti, where both men and women are equal,” Ritu Singh clarified. How can we prevent ladies from performing pooja if we perform Devi Poojan and Kanjak Puja?” she questioned. Kunwarani Ritu Singh took that action a year ago, educating and acclimating women to a position traditionally occupied by men. The response has been excellent. There are currently

150 girls. The figure will only rise in the upcoming days, according to Ritu Singh. They will learn how to recite mantras and execute hawan during the following training phase so they can work as pujarans in different temples. “This will be a step towards empowerment,” Ritu Singh continued. The sight of women leading the aarti is encouraging, according to devotees at Jammu’s Ra-

ghunath Temple. You have no idea how fortunate I feel. Mini Bagotra, a devotee present during the prayers, remarked, “I never in my lifetime did I think I would ever see women leading aarti.” Who is holding the aarti thali is not the only issue here. It has to do with who gets to keep faith alive. And Jammu is leading the way tonight,” added another devotee, Rajni Sehgal.

Khan Sir’s coaching guards were arrested for firing during the center attack

Patna, Jun 07: A day after unidentified miscreants threw stones at and vandalized the coaching center, Bihar Police detained two security guards of Khan Global Studies Institute here on suspicion of being fired, police said on Thursday. A alleged video of two guards firing rounds went viral on social media, leading to the incarceration. could not, however, independently confirm the legitimacy of the footage. On Tuesday night, a gang of fifteen to twenty individuals are said to have vandalized the institute and thrown stones at its location. Educator Faisal Khan, also referred to as “Khan Sir,” is in charge of the institute. According to a statement from the City SP (Central) office, a case has been filed at the Kadamkuan police station, and an investigation is in progress. “Police discovered a claimed video of two people firing from the air during their inquiry. Two guards associated with KGS have been detained for interrogation after the video was verified,



it stated. The firearms reportedly used in the shooting have been confiscated and sent for forensic analysis, according to the police. Khan Sir, the founder of KGS, claimed shortly after the vandalism event that people from a rival coaching college were responsible for the firing. However, he later stated that only a police inquiry could verify whether the firing had indeed occurred. According to police, three persons have been detained in relation to the incident, including the director of a competing tutoring facility. At a news conference on Thursday, representatives of a competing coaching school claimed that Khan Sir was

responsible for the event. A member named Adarsh stated Khan Sir had made up the firing story after displaying the footage of the guards firing rounds. “Khan Sir stated that seven or eight rounds of gunfire occurred in front of him, but the police investigation turned up no proof of firing. It’s easy to see who is attempting to fabricate a firing scandal. Additionally, a video of Khan Sir’s guards firing rounds has recently surfaced, Adarsh told reporters here. He said that Khan Sir had planned the event to advance his “lagging teaching career,” although he did not elaborate on how the instructor would profit from it.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Tickets Are Free for Sixty Fans

New Delhi: Due to a website glitch, FIFA has invalidated World Cup tickets that were given to roughly sixty fans. FIFA said in a statement on Thursday that the tickets were “allocated at no charge (0 USD) due to a prior payment issue during the checkout process.” “FIFA regrets the error and any inconvenience caused,” the governing body of soccer stated. “The tickets requested by these fans remain reserved, and the affected fans have been invited to complete payment of the correct amount.” The attorneys general of New York and New Jersey are looking into the most recent issue in a frequently contentious World Cup ticketing program for potential violations of consumer protection laws. FIFA informed customers via email on May 21 that the tickets were sold at the incorrect price on the official World Cup website.

More than three months have passed since FIFA President Gianni Infantino said that all 104 World Cup matches had sold out. FIFA is still selling tickets for World Cup games, which begin in Mexico City on Thursday. It’s unclear if FIFA’s contentious surge pricing methodology will result in cheaper seats for less popular games. In an effort to eliminate ticket resellers from the market, FIFA is also running its own resale website and collecting a 15% commission from both buyers and sellers. On Friday, however, a lot of games were widely available through sales portals like Seat Geek. FIFA has defended the 2026 World Cup’s significantly higher ticket prices by claiming that they will help generate billions of dollars for member federations to use in the game’s worldwide development.

Caste, influence, Continuity: Congress Fulfills Every Requirement in Karnataka Save One

Bengaluru , Jun 07: One of the first queries in political circles following DK Shivakumar’s swearing-in as Karnataka’s new chief minister on Wednesday is whether the Congress has been able to successfully strike a delicate balance between competing power centers within the party, administrative performance, and caste representation. The Congress has tried to check all three boxes, according to a closer examination of the leadership team. The government accommodates politicians with administrative expertise and regional influence while also reflecting participation from the most powerful socioeconomic groups in Karnataka. In order to prevent any one camp from controlling the power structure, the party has also worked to guarantee that important groups inside the Congress are fairly represented. The powerful Vokkaliga

community, which continues to hold political sway throughout the Old Mysuru region, is represented by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and State Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda. KH Muniyappa, Priyank Kharge, and Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G Parameshwara bolster the government’s outreach to the Scheduled Castes, one of the biggest social groups in Karnataka. Through MB Patil, Eshwar Khandre, and Sharan Prakash Patil, the Lingayat community—a powerful political force in North and Central Karnataka—has achieved substantial representation. Their participation is especially important as Congress looks to increase its influence in a community that has always been viewed as a BJP stronghold. Yathindra Siddaramaiah and Byrathi Suresh represent the Kuruba community, which is closely linked to former Chief Minister



Siddaramaiah. While preserving the community’s power within the administration, their presence is probably going to comfort Siddaramaiah camp supporters. Additionally, Congress has made room for minority groups, with KJ George representing Christians

and UT Khader representing Muslims. Satish Jarkiholi contributes both regional power from Belagavi and a powerful voice from the lower classes, while Ramalinga Reddy gives representation from the powerful Reddy group. A few of the selected leaders have signif-

icant administrative and electoral expertise in addition to caste math. The new administration has a combination of political clout and governance expertise thanks to the leadership of MB Patil, Ramalinga Reddy, KJ George, KH Muniyappa, Parameshwara, and Priyank Kharge. The balancing of internal Congress groups may be just as crucial. The inclusion of politicians regarded as loyal to Siddaramaiah shows an attempt to preserve internal balance and prevent the impression of a one-sided government, even though DK Shivakumar’s promotion represents a major triumph for his group. It remains to be seen if this skillfully constructed social and political alliance results in efficient governance. In the meanwhile, the lack of a female representative on this list is one obvious exclusion from

the top leadership structure. Not a single woman is on the leadership team sworn in with the Chief Minister, despite Congress’s frequent declarations of its commitment to women’s empowerment. Both inside and outside the party have criticized this. Margaret Alva, a former governor and seasoned member of Congress, pointed out the absence. Alva expressed her dissatisfaction and stated that she wished there had been at least one female minister. Congratulations to DK Shivakumar on becoming Karnataka’s CM. However, there is disappointment over the absence of women in his new Cabinet, despite Congress having four women MLAs and several members in the Legislative Council. Shivakumar has 21 ministerial positions left to fill, raising questions about future female representation in his administration.

Youtuber suspected of spying for Pakistan is denied bail by the Supreme Court



New Delhi, Jun 07: Jyoti Malhotra, a travel vlogger and YouTuber who is suspected of disclosing private information to Pakistani intelligence agents, was denied bail by the Supreme Court on Friday, stating that “there can be no compromise with national security.” Malhotra’s bail plea was denied by a Punjab and Haryana High Court, with justices Dipankar Datta and SC Sharma

highlighting the seriousness of the allegations against her. Malhotra, arrested on May 16 of the previous year, faced charges related to national security, including allegedly passing sensitive information to Pakistani intelligence officials. The court emphasized that her defense would be addressed during trial, given the nature of the charges. Her counsel argued for bail, noting her lengthy custody and lack of prior criminal history. However, the court referenced her connections with individuals associated with the Pakistan High Commission and stated that the ongoing interactions posed a risk to national security. The charges arise from allegations that Malhotra had meet-

ings with a Pakistani official, shared sensitive video material of Indian establishments, and regularly communicated with operatives in Pakistan through various social media platforms. Evidence gathered by the Haryana Police included findings from a forensic examination of her electronics, which showed deleted communications and suspicious bank transactions. The court found adequate prima facie material to support the allegations under the Official Secrets Act and stated that Malhotra’s actions constituted anti-national activities, leading to the conclusion that she was not eligible for bail based on the gravity of her offenses and her conduct.

R Praggnanandhaa Makes History by Becoming the First Indian to Win the Norway Chess Championship

New Delhi: On Friday, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa created history by becoming the first Indian to win the Norway Chess championship. The 20-year-old chess player ended his career with a spectacular victory over Vincent Keymer of Germany. After starting the day in third place with 15 points, Praggnanandhaa came through at the right time to win his classical game and collect three vital points. This helped him win one of the most important titles in professional chess and increased his total to 18 points. Since the event started in 2013, not even Indian icon Viswanathan Anand and current world champion D Gukesh had accomplished what the Chennai-born phenom did with this victory. Praggnanandhaa, who was playing in Norway Chess for the second time, got off to a poor start in the elite six-player field before picking up steam in the second half. His campaign was marked by an incredible feat: he defeated World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, the seven-time Norway Chess champion, twice in classical chess. This uncommon feat demonstrated his



resolve to recover from the disappointment of a lackluster Candidates Tournament in Paphos earlier this year. Praggnanandhaa made sure that India’s challenge persisted and eventually carried it all the way to the title when the current world champion Gukesh was eliminated in the final stages. The outcome was made possible by American Grandmaster Wesley So, who led the standings with 15.5 points heading into the final round, was held to a

draw in his classical game against Alireza Firouzja, sending their contest into an Armageddon tie-break. Praggnanandhaa, who knowing that a classical victory over Keymer would drive him to the top of the standings and secure a historic title, was able to take advantage of that event. Despite winning the Armageddon tie-break, Wesley So’s victory was only worth 1.5 points, bringing his total to 17 points, one less than Praggnanandhaa’s winning score of 18. Alireza, who also had ambitions of winning the championship going into the last round, ended third with 15.5 points. Gukesh, who is scheduled to defend his world title against challenger Javokhir Sindarov, continued his disappointing campaign as his third tournament appearance ended without the breakthrough he had hoped for in a year. In the last round, Carlsen won three points by defeating the 20-year-old Indian in a traditional game with the white pieces. The Norwegian legend finished fifth in the rankings with 13 points, therefore the triumph was insufficient to put him in the running for the championship.

The youngest person to receive their first call-up to India is Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

New Delhi: The left-handed batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi made history on Saturday when he was included in the India team for the forthcoming tours of England and Ireland as well as the Asian Games. The 15-year-old became the youngest player ever selected for the India squad, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar’s record. After making his debut against Pakistan in 1989 at the age of sixteen, the Master Blaster’s record stood the test of time for thirty-six years. Sooryavanshi received recognition for his outstanding performance in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, where he amassed 776 runs to finish as the top run scorer. Super Striker, Orange Cap, and Most Valuable Player were among the five honors he received. Additional-



ly, he broke Chris Gayle’s long-standing record by hitting the most sixes in an IPL season. Since making his IPL debut for the Royals last year, the left-hander has been the buzz of the town. The teenage player scored 175 in the U19 World Cup final against England earlier this year after blasting runs for fun in youth cricket during his first IPL stint. Before the IPL 2026 season, though, there was a lot of doubt re-

garding Sooryavanshi. Most fans and experts thought that the young player would struggle because clubs would prepare well and the novelty of the first season would wear off. Sooryavanshi impressed during the T20 tournament, outperforming top bowlers like Bumrah, Hazlewood, Cummins, and Rabada. He scored a century against Sunrisers Hyderabad and registered three scores above ninety, making a significant impact in play-off matches. Ajit Agarkar, chairman of selectors, acknowledged Sooryavanshi’s outstanding performance as pivotal for his selection in the upcoming T20I assignments, highlighting his ability to carry the Rajasthan Royals. Agarkar noted the young player’s exceptional batting skill.

The BCCI Selects Virat Kohli’s Substitute ODI’s for Afghanistan

New Delhi: Veteran batsman Virat Kohli’s exclusion from the forthcoming ODI series against Afghanistan shocked a lot of supporters. The fashionable right-hander is hoping to make a comeback for the 2027 ODI World Cup after retiring from Tests and T20Is. He will not play in the Afghanistan ODIs, though, as he sustained a hamstring injury during the IPL 2026 final between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans. Young batsman Yashasvi Jaiswal has been picked as Kohli’s successor in the

squad, according to a statement made on Saturday by BCCI head selector Ajit Agarkar. The announcement coincided with the selection of India’s teams for the Asian Games and the Twenty20 International series against England and Ireland. Jaiswal is now a member of India’s team for the Mullanpur one-time Test match against Afghanistan. According to sources, Kohli would probably miss the ODI series against England in order to fully recover from his ailment. “His hamstring is torn. Surgery won’t be necessary to treat

the injury. The recovery process, which includes rehabilitation at the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, would take roughly six weeks. According to a source, he teleconsulted with famous orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwalla of the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai, who examined his MRI images. Meanwhile, winds of change swept across India’s T20I set-up as Shreyas Iyer on Saturday took over the captaincy from Suryakumar Yadav, and wonder kid Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

found a place in the squad for the twin tour of Ireland and England. Sooryavanshi, who is 15 years and 71 days old, breaks the long-standing record set by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the youngest player to ever play for an Indian cricket team. India will play a five-match T20I series against England from July 1–11 after visiting Ireland for two T20Is on June 26 and 28. After a match against Australia at Bengaluru on December 3, 2023, Shreyas made his first comeback to the national T20 team.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's India Debut Debate is resolved, and the BCCI clarifies its position

New Delhi: After Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) defeated Gujarat Titans (GT) by five wickets in the 2026 final in Ahmedabad, BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia congratulated RCB on winning two IPL titles in a row. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, a 15-year-old youthful sensation, was also commended by the BCCI Secretary for his outstanding efforts this season.

With 776 runs at a remarkable strike rate of 237.30, the 15-year-old hitter from Bihar had an incredible tournament for the Rajasthan Royals. Sooryavanshi, who was only 15 years and 65 days old, also became the youngest Orange Cap winner in IPL history. Shubman Gill set the record in 2023 at 23 years and 263 days, while Gujarat Titans opener Sudharsan held the previous mark in 2025 at 23 years and 231 days.

"It was a wonderful season... I hope all the fans have a lovely time during this IPL,



and congratulations to RCB for winning the tournament consecutively twice," Saikia told reporters. A fantastic player with a promising future is Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

The BCCI will stop at nothing to help him reach the pinnacle of cricket. The BCCI Secretary further stated, "That is the most challenging thing coming up in the coming days," regarding the forthcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup later this month. The Women in Blue are already doing well, and I'm hoping they'll win the ODI title again, just like they did last year."Anurag Thakur, a BJP MP, also congratulated Bengaluru, led by Rajat Pati-

dar, on defeating the Titans in Sunday night's grand finale. "I congratulate RCB for winning the IPL for the second consecutive time," Thakur told reporters. Even though the game was taking place in Ahmedabad, a large number of RCB supporters had traveled to see it. The IPL is the largest cricket competition, thus this was a fantastic victory. This is a huge accomplishment for BCCI.

When RCB batted first in the IPL 2026 final, GT managed just 155/8 in 20 overs, with only Washington Sundar (50* in 37 balls, with five fours) and Nishant Sindhu (20 in 18 balls, with three fours) scoring more than 20 runs. Josh Hazlewood (2/37), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/29), and Rasikh Dar Salam (3/27) all frequently claimed wickets. RCB got off to a strong start with a 62-run partnership between Virat Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer (32 in 16 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes). Virat (75* in 42 balls, with nine fours and three sixes) led RCB to victory with two overs remaining after GT put up a fight and reduced RCB to 132/5 at one stage.

After winning two Women's Premier League (WPL) titles, this is RCB's second IPL championship and their fourth Indian franchise cricket trophy overall.

Arne Slot is replaced as manager of Liverpool by Andoni Iraola

Liverpool : Liverpool has appointed Andoni Iraola as their new manager after dismissing Arne Slot due to a disappointing 2025-26 Premier League season, where the team finished 5th.

Although the club did not disclose the contract duration, reports suggest Iraola has signed a two-year deal. Expressing his enthusiasm, Iraola emphasized Liverpool's prestigious status, calling it "one of the biggest clubs in the world" and highlighting its special atmosphere, supportive fans, and the opportunity to coach top-level players. Iraola, previously the manager of AFC Bournemouth, led the team to their inaugural European qualification following a sixth-place finish.

A Basque native, he had a successful 12-season playing career at Athletic Club, earning 7 caps for Spain, and transitioned to coaching in 2018 with AEK Larnaca, winning the Cypriot Super Cup. He later managed Mirandes and guided Rayo Vallecano to La Liga promotion before joining Bournemouth.

As he embarks on this new challenge, Iraola acknowledges the high expectations at Liverpool but is ready to compete for titles.

David Ferrer provides an injury report, which shapes Carlos Alcaraz's return plans

New Delhi: Carlos Alcaraz has withdrawn from the ongoing French Open due to a right wrist injury sustained during the Barcelona Open last month. David Ferrer, the captain of the Spanish Davis Cup team, provided an update on Alcaraz's recovery while speaking on El Partidazo de Cope.

Ferrer indicated that Alcaraz's recovery is progressing well but reminded that the process needs to be gradual to ensure a complete return to form, emphasizing the importance of competing when Alcaraz is fully prepared to avoid further injuries. Ferrer noted Alcaraz's competitive spirit and eagerness to return to the sport. In preparation for the 2026 season, Alcaraz has also parted ways with his longtime coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero. His season began successfully at the Australian Open, where he reached the semifinals without losing a set, ultimately prevailing over Alex-

ander Zverev in a marathon match that lasted five hours and 27 minutes, which made him the youngest man in the Open Era to reach the finals of all four major tournaments. He then claimed his first Australian Open title by defeating Novak Djokovic, thereby becoming the youngest player in history to achieve a career Grand Slam in men's singles. Alcaraz's season has had its challenges; he withdrew from the Rotterdam Open citing fatigue but bounced back at the Qatar Open, where he won the title against Arthur Fils. However, his performance at the Indian Wells and Miami Open resulted in a loss to Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals and another defeat to Sebastian Korda in the third round, respectively. He reached the final in Monte Carlo but lost to Jannik Sinner, which also led to him relinquishing his No. 1 ranking to Sinner.

The USA is full of opportunities and expectations going into the 2026 FIFA World Cup



New Delhi: The United States rarely under excessive pressure to perform well in football games. The story of the courageous underdog attempting to make things happen with a small core of talented players is always prevalent in the US because it is eclipsed by other sports on American soil. However, things are different when you are hosting a FIFA World Cup; with all eyes on the United States and their two continental neighbors this summer, there is undoubtedly pressure to perform well in 2026. Their brilliant coach, Mauricio Pochettino, is partly to blame. Even though he had less than stellar stints with PSG and Chelsea before being

appointed head coach of the USMNT, Pochettino is still regarded by elite European teams because he is a flexible thinker who wants to play self-assured, fluid football. Pochettino brings experience to the US backroom that they haven't had in a long time. The second is that this seems to be a continuation of an American team that was successful in Qatar in 2022; that team was young, talented, and raw, but they weren't yet prepared to take on the biggest names in international football. After four years, those players still form the core of the team for the home World Cup, which gives them a slight advantage. The overall dissatisfaction around the World Cup on home soil is both a blessing and a curse for the United States. Fans are being prevented from attending games due to exorbitant ticket prices, which eliminates an important aspect of holding a World Cup. This also gives the Americans something to prove; they are the generation that will propel USA football to the next level, and with that worth fighting for, they have a clear idea of what this squad must do. Weston McKennie and Tyler Adams give a true motor in the middle of the field, while Antonee Robinson and Sergino Dest, two quick fullbacks, provide the breadth in Pochettino's three-center-back formation. Christian Pulisic, who plays off the left behind Folarin Balogun, who is responsible for scoring goals for the American team, will serve as the creative center. Ultimately, the question that will have a greater impact on Pochettino and his players is how they will perform against the top teams in the competition, whom they will inevitably have to defeat. Given a simple group, USMNT should easily go to the round of 32. From there, it's knockout football, but anything below a round of 16 will probably be viewed as a failure.

16 years later, Luis Suarez, Ghana, and the handball that still divides football

New Delhi: One of the few instances in football history that has generated controversy is Luis Suarez's infamous handball against Ghana during the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The contentious episode is still fresh in everyone's mind over ten years later, and it continues to provoke discussion about sportsmanship and the extent players should go to in order to win. On July 2, 2010, in Johannesburg, the disaster played out like a movie. In a tight World Cup quarterfinal that went to extra time, Ghana and Uruguay were fighting hard for the victory, tied at 1-1. Ghana tried one more attack as time was running out and a spot in the semifinals was on the line. After a goalmouth scramble in which Uruguay's Fernando Muslera was defeated, it appeared as though Ghana had scored the game-winning goal. However, Suarez was standing on the goal line. Raising both hands out of reflex, he stopped what would have most likely been the game-winning goal. Suarez received a red card and was dismissed. The referee was forced to give Ghana a penalty. However, what transpired next turned a straightforward goal-line foul into one of the most contentious incidents in World Cup his-

tory. Asamoah Gyan went up to take Ghana's penalty as Suarez was leaving the field, advancing them to the semifinals. They would have been the first African nation in World Cup history to advance to the semifinals. Instead, his penalty bounced away after hitting the crossbar. Ghana's ambition was dashed when Uruguay prevailed 4-2 in a penalty shootout after managing to survive. Suarez faced swift and harsh criticism as a result. He was regarded as a villain who cheated Ghana out of a historic victory throughout much of Africa and the football world. He was also spotted cheering Gyan's failure, which heightened the suspense. Suarez defended his actions during a 2022 press conference, asserting he did not owe an apology for his controversial handball that led to a missed penalty by a Ghanaian player. He stated that while he accepted the consequences of his actions, he did not directly cause the penalty miss. The situation continues to spark debate on whether Suarez's actions were unsporting behavior or a strategic use of game rules, representing a pivotal moment for both Ghana's heartache and Uruguay's survival in the World Cup.

Magnus Carlsen is in shock as R Praggnanadhaa writes history by defeating him twice in Norway Chess

Oslo : At Norway Chess 2026 on Tuesday, Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa dealt hometown hero and world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen another devastating blow by defeating the Norwegian in classical chess for the second time. In addition to strengthening Praggnanandhaa's chances of becoming the first Indian winner of the esteemed competition, the outcome made him the first Indian to defeat Carlsen twice in classical games within the same competition. Additionally, he is the first player this year to defeat the World No. 1 twice in traditional games. With nothing but disappointment on his face, Carlsen shook hands with the young Indian Grand-



master and departed the table, unable to do anything but acknowledge his brilliance.

After losing the game, Carlsen was seen in the video standing up and shaking his head. After witnessing Praggnanandhaa defeat him twice in this competition, the Norwegian quickly left the area. The win put the 20-year-old in third place

with 12 points, but it also dealt a potentially fatal blow to Carlsen's chances of winning an eighth Norway Chess championship.

The reigning champion's championship defense is currently in jeopardy with only two rounds left. Carlsen's campaign has been unusually volatile, with four classical losses, including two at the hands

of the Indian prodigy, who has become one of the main rivals to the Norwegian's established domination. American Grandmaster Wesley So extended his lead to 14 points at the top of the rankings by defeating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the Armageddon tie-break. After defeating current world champion D. Gukesh in their traditional match, Alireza Firouzja of France moved up to just second place with 13 points. Gukesh's chances of winning the Norway Chess title were essentially dashed with the loss. Even if the Indian wins his final two games in the traditional style, he will only be able to collect a maximum of 14 points, which is unlikely

Zee Group acquires the rights to broadcast FIFA World Cup games in India

New Delhi: The rights to broadcast FIFA World Cup matches in India starting on June 11 have been acquired by Zee Group. Indian fans will therefore be able to watch every World Cup match that takes place in the United States, Mexico, and Canada via the network's digital and television platforms. For the first time, 48 teams from all around the world will compete in the World Cup. Over the course of the competition, 104 games will be played. Every game will be broadcast in India. The network reportedly paid between \$30 million and \$35 million for the rights to the quadrennial event in 2026 and 2030, which is significantly less than the \$100 million FIFA had wanted for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups. The financial conditions were not made public. "By partnering with Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) to bring the world's biggest football properties—FIFA World Cup 2026 and 2030 editions, FIFA Women's World Cup in 2027, along with other important FIFA events up to 2034 and docu-series content—to the Indian market, the Company has emerged as one of the most powerful sports



destinations for our nation's youth," Zee stated. In a press statement, Punit Goenka, CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., commented on the strategic alliance, saying, "We are thrilled to bring one of the biggest sporting spectacles to Indian audiences." Football transcends geographical boundaries and demographic divides, and the expenditures made to secure media rights and establish specialized sports channels demonstrate our unwavering faith in the sport's long-term potential. Our strategy has been to make investments in assets where we believe there is potential for future growth and current relevance. In keeping with our laser-like focus on expansion and profitability, our collaboration with FIFA will allow us to uncover the sport's true worth while enhancing the thrill of

the game for each and every fan. Reliance-Disney and FIFA had been negotiating for the India rights for some time, but the talks had failed. Sony Pictures Networks India did not make a formal bid, although it did investigate the idea of purchasing the rights. For the 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups, Sony owned the rights. The games will be streamed on Zee5, the company's internet platform, and broadcast on Zee's recently established sports network. Additionally, coverage is probably going to be provided in several languages. In Zee's comeback to sports broadcasting, this is a big step. Under the Unite8 Sports brand, the business recently introduced four sports channels: Unite8 Sports 2 and Unite8 Sports 2 HD in English, as well as Unite8 Sports 1 and Unite8 Sports 1 HD in Hindi.

Serena Williams said she will be playing tennis again at Queen's Club



London: Serena Williams, the legendary American tennis player, announced on Monday that she would be returning to the game after a nearly four-year hiatus. She will play women's doubles at Queen's Club later this month. The 44-year-old, a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, hasn't competed since losing in the third round of the US Open in 2022. "Good news travels fast" was the statement sent by the former world number one, along with a

video of herself on the court wearing an all-white Nike tennis attire and her phone beeping quickly in the background. Since it was announced in December that she had re-entered the anti-doping program, which is a requirement to perform on the tour once more, her impending return has been anticipated. "Omg yall, I'm NOT coming back," she wrote on social media at the time, denying any plans to resume competitive tennis. This blaze is insane.

However, the American, together with young Canadian Victoria Mboko, has been granted a wild card to compete in the women's doubles at Queen's in London. Williams, a seven-time Wimbledon singles champion, said, "Queen's Club feels like the perfect place to start this next chapter." "Grass has given me some of the most meaningful moments of my career, and I'm excited to be back competing on one of the sport's most iconic stages."

Queen's women's event will begin on June 8. "We are thrilled that Serena Williams, one of the greatest athletes in history, will be returning to tennis at the LTA's HSBC Championships," stated Laura Robson, director of the WTA tournament. An classic of the sport is returning to the court after women's tennis made a historic comeback to the Queen's Club last year. Williams stated in 2022 that she was "evolving" away from tennis rather than "retiring" the sport. The American's 23 Grand Slam singles victories are the most of any woman in the Open era, and she is ranked second on the women's all-time list behind Australian Margaret Court's 24.