

In Brief

In the Assamese district of Kamrup, eight child laborers were saved

Kamrup:Eight children were rescued from child labor during operations in the Kamrup district by the Assam Centre for Rural Development (ACRD), in partnership with local authorities, on World Day Against Child Labor. These rescues are part of ongoing efforts to combat child labor, coinciding with the state's "Action Month" initiative in June. The rescued children, aged 13 to 16, had been subjected to exploitative working conditions, including long hours and dangerous environments. Legal action is being pursued against their employers, and efforts for their rehabilitation and compensation are underway. ACRD, allied with Just Rights for Children, emphasizes the importance of restoring the rights of rescued children, highlighting the need for education, safety, and dignity. Awareness programs involved various community stakeholders to further combat this issue, which robs children of their youth and basic rights, needs to be addressed immediately. Every child belongs in school; no youngster belongs in the job.

World Day against child labor is celebrated with an campaign

Dibrugarh: The Women and Child Development Department of Dibrugarh's District Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP) staged a number of awareness programs in the district's tea garden areas in honor of World Day Against Child Labor in 2026. The Dibrugarh District Administration, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Childline, and the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) under the Panchayat and Rural Development Department collaborated on the project. The purpose of the awareness campaigns was to inform parents and teenagers about the negative consequences of child labor and the significance of protecting children's rights to healthy growth, education, and safety. The legal laws that forbid child labor, the obligations of parents and communities to avoid child exploitation, and the resources available for the rescue and rehabilitation of children located in vulnerable situations were all highlighted by resource persons during the programs. Additionally, a variety of child protection services and channels for reporting instances of child labor and abuse were explained to the participants.

An Indian Air Force AN-32 transport aircraft crashes in Jorhat, Assam

Guwahati: On Saturday morning, an Indian Air Force (IAF) AN-32 transport plane crashed and caught fire at the Air Force Station in Jorhat, Assam. Initial accounts state that the AN-32 aircraft crashed while landing on Air Force Station property, setting off a fire. In order to contain the fire and evaluate the situation, emergency reaction teams were sent to the scene very once. Details about any losses or injuries are still unknown, and the cause of the crash has not yet been determined. The Indian Air Force acknowledged the occurrence and stated that more information will be released following a situation assessment. The Air Force has started looking into the AN-32 crash; more details are anticipated. The Indian Air Force's "workhorse" is the tough, twin-engine turboprop Antonov AN-32 military transport aircraft.

Assam CM asserts that the Arya Nagar dispute was brought up to deflect attention from the Nalbari encounter case

Guwahati, Jun 14: Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister of Assam, has asserted that the recent controversy surrounding the Arya Nagar incident in Guwahati was being overemphasized in order to deflect public attention from two other significant developments in the state: the ongoing Goalpara beef-tiffin controversy and the Nalbari encounter case involving Roz Ali. Speaking following a Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister claimed that significant public debates about the Nalbari and Goalpara incidents coincided with the spotlight on the Arya Nagar event, which first attracted attention as a conflict between Assamese and Bihari groups. The Nalbari case concerns the June 1 police confrontation where Ashik Ali, also known as Roz, was slain after being charged with assaulting an 18-year-old girl and killing her 19-year-old cousin, a local student leader named Madhurjya Barman. According to authorities, Roz Ali was slain after reportedly stealing a police officer's service rifle and firing while being transported to retrieve the murder weapon. In Assam, the tragedy provoked intense discussion and political responses. In the meantime, the Goalpara issue arose from claims that beef had been transport-



ed to a government school in a tiffin box, leading to the detention of a juvenile pupil

and the arrest of his mother. Police action, public demonstrations, and conversations

about communal harmony resulted from the incident, and reports indicated that numerous students would face disciplinary action. In reference to the Arya Nagar incident, the Chief Minister claimed that the incident was being exaggerated in public discourse even though subsequent investigations suggested that the conflict was more likely to be tied to extortion than a simple racial conflict. He claimed that conversations on the Nalbari encounter and the events in Goalpara were being overshadowed by the story surrounding the Arya Nagar case. After fights broke out during a protest against alleged illegal drug activities, the Arya Nagar event garnered a lot of attention.

Several people were injured, including a police official and members of the media. Although the incident's circumstances are still being investigated, viral videos and social media posts connected the altercation to Assamese-Bihari hostilities. The Chief Minister's comments are indicative of his political evaluation of the circumstances. There is no independent evidence to support the claim that the Arya Nagar controversy was purposefully brought to light in order to deflect attention from the Nalbari and Goalpara instances.

An AN-32 crashes during landing at Jorhat Air Base, killing five IAF soldiers while the co-pilot survives



Guwahati, Jun 14: On June 13, an AN-32 cargo plane crashed during a routine sortie at the

Jorhat Air Force Station in Assam, killing five Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel. The co-pilot is

presently receiving medical care after surviving the collision. Indian Air Force sources confirmed

the event, stating that while operating out of the Jorhat air base, the AN-32 aircraft had an accident at around ten in the morning. According to preliminary reports, the plane crashed while trying to land at the airfield and then caught fire inside the station.

Emergency response teams were immediately deployed to the crash site to control the blaze and carry out rescue operations. While five personnel onboard lost their lives, the co-pilot was rescued and shifted for treatment. In an official statement, the Indian Air Force said, "An IAF AN-32 aircraft met with an accident during a routine sortie today at approximately 1000h at Jorhat, Assam. Crash site management and initial enquiries are on at this time. IAF requests everyone

to refrain from speculation till preliminary results are not in." To determine the precise reason of the disaster, the Air Force has mandated a Court of Inquiry.

According to officials, preliminary investigations and crash site management are presently in progress. The IAF expressed sorrow at the incident, saying that it strongly supports the bereaved families during this trying period and sincerely laments the deaths. The Indian Air Force frequently uses the AN-32, a twin-engine military transport aircraft, for supply, troop mobility, and logistical tasks, especially in difficult terrain and isolated areas. As the inquiry continues and the Air Force publishes more information on the crash, more details are anticipated.

Healthy Greater Hog Badger Population Verified by the First Scientific Study

Kaziranga, Jun 14: The Greater Hog Badger (*Arctonyx collaris*), often referred to as "Mati Gahori" locally, has a healthy and widely dispersed population within Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, according to the first-ever scientific assessment report on the species. The study examined camera trap photos that were initially gathered during the All India Tiger Estimation effort.

It was carried out by Kaziranga's Tiger Cell in association with the Wildlife Conservation Trust and researcher Tiasa Adhya of The Fishing Cat Project. According to the evaluation, there are at least 60 Greater Hog Badgers throughout around 1,100 square kilometers of the Tiger Reserve, suggesting a healthy population dispersed throughout a variety of habitats. Covered by the Schedule The Greater Hog Badger, a nocturnal and secretive animal covered by I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is thought to be in decline worldwide as a result of habi-



tat degradation and hunting pressure. Some of the most significant surviving populations of the species are now found in India, especially in Assam and the Northeast, according to conservationists. Assam's Minister for Environment & Forests, Jayanta Mallabaruah, praised the

results on X, saying, "The robustness of Kaziranga's ecosystems is reflected in the healthy presence of this elusive species." All species, regardless of size, are essential to preserving biodiversity and ecological balance. "Kaziranga is a biodiversity treasure trove, and scientific documentation of lesser known species by the Assam Forest Department will help strengthen their conservation and further our understanding of the park's rich ecological heritage," said Dr. Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, highlighting the study's wider significance. The Greater Hog Badger's burrowing and feeding habits, which aid in soil aeration, nutrient redistribution, and habitat diversity, greatly enhance ecosystem health in addition to its conservation importance. The report emphasizes the significance of safeguarding lesser-known species in addition to prominent fauna and highlights yet another conservation achievement for Kaziranga.

Assam Rifles and police uncover a massive stash of weapons and military supplies

Kakching, Jun 14: During an operation in Manipur's Kakching district, Assam Rifles and Thoubal Police Commandos jointly found a sizable stockpile of weapons, ammunition, and military-grade equipment, severely harming terrorist networks in the area. Based on particular intelligence information, the operation was conducted in the Kakching district's Purnaheitupokpi general region. Many guns, ammunition, explosives, and military equipment thought to be connected to insurgent activity were found by security personnel. One of the weapons found was made in the United States. 32 pistol, two single-barrel breech-loading (SBBL) pistols, two detonators, and four rounds of ammo. 17 AK-series rounds, 18 SLR rounds, 29,303 bullets, and three INSAS rounds were among the ammo that was found. A striker spring, two tear smoke rounds, twelve KCP brand stickers, and a bipod were also found by security personnel. The joint team found a significant amount of military gear, including two bulletproof fiber plates, two helmets, a bulletproof jacket, and twelve bul-



letproof plates, in addition to the weapons and ammo. Sixty combat shirts, fifty-seven combat pants, two combat jackets, eighteen combat hats, eight pairs of combat shoes, twenty-three combat belts, and an MP-5 sling were also found in the cache. The recovery, according to officials, is a significant accomplishment in continuous efforts to stop insurgent activity and uphold law and order in the state ravaged by the conflict. The Heirok Police Station has received all recovered guns, ammunition, and military supplies so they can conduct additional research and take any required legal action.

CM Sarma said Assam will emerge as the leading hub for trade and logistics in northeastern India



Guwahati, Jun 14: Assam is quickly becoming into a significant hub for trade, business, and logistics for Northeast India, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday. The Chief Minister emphasized that the state is the ideal entry point to both the northeastern states and the larger South East Asian markets due to its advantageous geographic location. The state government has rapidly increased capital spending to

construct top-notch infrastructure in order to take advantage of this.

This economic shift is being driven by important infrastructure pushes, such as:

Network expansion is the process of greatly enlarging regional corridors and national roadways to accommodate significant freight traffic. The establishment of significant industrial centers, container depots, and specialized economic zones around the state is known as logistics infrastructure. The development of India's first International Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Jogighopa, which smoothly combines road, rail, and river transportation networks, is known as the Jogighopa Milestone. Chief Minister Sarma emphasized that these structural adjustments are intended to reduce transportation costs, draw in private investment, and generate thousands of jobs for young people in the area, thereby integrating Assam into international supply chains.

Silghat Jute Mill's production was suspended for more than four months

Nagaon, Jun 14: Locals are quite concerned because the Assam Co-operative Jute Mill in Silghat, Nagaon, which was once a successful business and a sign of optimism for Assam's economic sector, has been closed for more than four months. Due to a severe lack of raw jute and a dramatic increase in its price, mill authorities halted operations on February 1st this year. Because of this, the unit has remained idle for more than four months, putting hundreds of employees in a difficult situation.

Many workers are now forced to sell vegetables or work as daily wage laborers in order to make ends meet because they are not paid. Though

the management has been paying an ex-gratia of Rs 4,000-Rs 6,000 per month to workers and staff since February, costing the mill Rs 35-40 lakh monthly, employees say it is not enough to cover their basic needs. Locals claim deeper problems, but the official explanation is a shortage of raw jute.

They claim that some mill officials' "gross inefficiency and corruption" and a portion of the management committee's poor judgment are the main causes of the current impasse. It has also been said that the Assam Co-operative Jute Mill Workers' Union, which was established to defend workers' rights, has taken a passive, anti-worker

posture. The first cooperative sector jute mill in India was built in 1960, and production commenced in 1971.

It operated profitably for a number of years before encountering difficulties in 1980 as a result of suspected corruption and looting by senior officials. In March 1984, the government locked the mill due to losses exceeding Rs 3 crore. Under the terms of the Assam Accord, production started up again in January 1986. In 1992, it turned a profit once more after paying expenditures like electricity and payroll, and it even survived the Covid era. Internal conflicts caused it to temporarily close in 2020, but Keshav Mahanta, the minister at the time, worked to get it back

open. Later, a Kolkata-based company established a second facility with female employees. The current impasse is allegedly caused by the director of the Kolkata company, who is also a director of the mill, owing several crores to jute suppliers. A high-level investigation of the whole situation has been demanded by concerned citizens.

Silghat's trade and commerce have also been impacted by the stoppage. Equipment is rusting and getting damaged when it is left idle. The new state government has been called by citizens and concerned organizations to step in right now, fix the situation, and resume operations at Assam's sole cooperative-based industrial facility.

Kiren Rijiju praises 12 years of BJP-led administration during media engagement in Itanagar

Itanagar, Jun 14: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju praised the BJP-led government's achievements over the last 12 years, claiming that the time has been distinguished by trust, progress, and public service under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Rijiju was speaking at a "Media Samvad" function hosted at the BJP headquarters in Itanagar to mark the NDA government's 12 years in power at the Centre. The ceremony was attended by BJP heavyweights such as Chairman Tarh Tarak and Arunachal Pradesh



development, connectivity, economic growth, and welfare delivery. Rijiju spoke about improvements in road and transport connectivity across the country, growth in India's GDP, and the implementation of major welfare schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Jan Suvidha initiatives and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. He said the government's focus on people-centric governance and inclusive development has helped transform the country's socio-economic landscape over the past decade.

Why Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma considers Aizawl a Silent City

Aizawl, Jun 14: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma has highlighted Aizawl's unique civic culture as one of the key reasons behind the state's growing popularity among tourists, describing the capital as a "silent city" where unnecessary honking is virtually absent. Speaking to India Today NE, Lalduhoma said visitors to Aizawl are often struck by the city's disciplined traffic culture and peaceful atmosphere. "If you come to Aizawl, you will never hear horns unless it is absolutely necessary. It is called a silent city," the chief minister said. According to Lalduhoma, the city's quiet streets and orderly public behaviour reflect the broader social environment in Mizoram, which he described as India's most peaceful state. He added that another feature that fascinates visitors is the presence of unattended shops operating on trust, where goods are left without shopkeepers and customers make payments voluntarily. The chief minister's remarks come amid a sharp rise in tourist arrivals to the state. He said Mizoram welcomed around eight lakh visitors in 2025 and expressed confidence that Aizawl is



steadily emerging as one of the Northeast's leading tourism destinations. Lalduhoma attributed the tourism boom to improved connectivity, particularly the railway connection inaugurated last year, as well as the state's peaceful environment and strong social indicators. He noted that Mizoram recently became India's first fully literate state and has also gained recognition as the country's ginger capital. The chief minister said the state's reputation as one of the safest places for women has further enhanced its appeal among domestic and international travellers. Looking ahead,

Lalduhoma said tourism growth is expected to continue, with destinations such as Thenzawl being developed into major attractions. The town is being transformed into a Peace City and will feature tourism infrastructure including an international-standard golf course, paragliding facilities, a ropeway project and access to some of Mizoram's most scenic natural attractions. "As tourism continues to grow, Aizawl's unique identity as a silent city is becoming one of the state's strongest attractions," the chief minister said.

Arunachal Pradesh introduces APEDP 5.0, grants initial investment up to Rs 10 lakh to companies

Itanagar, Jun 14: The government of Arunachal Pradesh has inaugurated the fifth edition of the Arunachal Pradesh Entrepreneurship Development Programme (APEDP 5.0), which will provide a significant boost to prospective entrepreneurs, inventors, self-help organizations, and startups throughout the state.



Under the initiative, 100 promising businesses will get seed investment and incubation support to help them turn unique ideas into viable commercial operations. As per the scheme, the top 20 selected startups will receive Rs 10 lakh each, while the next 80 startups will be provided Rs 8 lakh each as seed funding support. In addition to financial assistance, selected participants will undergo a nine-

month incubation programme at the Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP). The programme will offer mentorship, capacity building, networking opportunities, co-working space, and market access support to help entrepreneurs scale their ventures. The initiative aims to strengthen Arunachal Pradesh's startup ecosystem by encouraging innovation, job creation, and entrepre-

neurship among the youth. Interested applicants can submit their applications online through the state startup portal. The last date for submission of applications is July 20, 2026. State authorities have encouraged young entrepreneurs, professionals, innovators, and self-help groups to take advantage of the opportunity and turn their business ideas into successful enterprises.

Native Peoples' Committee requests independent investigation into the murders of six Naga people



Imphal, Jun 14: The Native Peoples' Committee of Manipur (NPCM) has severely denounced the murders of six Naga citizens whose bodies were recently discovered, and has sought an impartial inquiry into the circumstances of their kidnapping and killings. The organization's Information and Publicity Committee issued a statement expressing grief over the deaths of six people identified as Kenpibou, Phenrongwi Thiumai, Rev. Dr. Manu Thiumai, Dilip Thiumai, Kaliwangbou Abonmai, and Ch. Phenrilung of Konsakhul village in Kangpokpi district. The NPCM said that the victims were tortured before being slain and condemned the occurrence as a serious violation of human rights. Pastors and church leaders were among those who died, according to the group. Expressing condolences to the bereaved families and the wider Naga community, the committee said it stood in solidarity with those affected by the tragedy. The

organisation also raised concerns over the handling of the hostage crisis by the authorities. It questioned whether sufficient efforts had been made to secure the release of the six Naga civilians and sought clarification regarding the sequence of events surrounding their deaths and the release of 14 Kuki hostages. NPCM said the circumstances had created public concern and called for a transparent explanation from the government and security agencies. Demanding accountability, the committee called for an independent, impartial and time-bound investigation into the abduction and killing of the six civilians. It urged authorities to identify and prosecute all those responsible and to examine the role of any individuals or agencies that may have possessed information related to the hostages' whereabouts. The organisation further sought a thorough inquiry into the actions of all local actors allegedly connected to the custody, movement or concealment of the hostages.

Assam intends to become a major commercial and logistics hub, says Himanta Biswa Sarma

Guwahati, Jun 14: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has restated the state's ambition of developing Assam into a major center for commerce, logistics, and business by capitalizing on its advantageous geographical location and promoting regional economic integration in the Northeast. The Chief Minister shared the government's goals for Assam and the Northeast on the 'X' social media platform, emphasizing the necessity of improved connectivity, Brahmaputra economic revival, and deeper regional

integration in unlocking the region's immense economic potential. "Our priorities for Assam and the North East are clear. We are determined to leverage our strategic location, strengthen regional integration and unlock the immense economic potential of the Brahmaputra," Sarma stated. He added that the long-term goal is to transform Assam from a transit region into a vibrant center of production, logistics, services, and trade. The vision aligns with ongoing efforts to improve transport infrastructure, inland waterways, multimodal logistics



networks, and cross-border trade connectivity, positioning Assam as a key gateway to Southeast Asia and the broader Northeast region. The Chief Minister said these initiatives are

expected to drive economic growth, attract investment, generate employment opportunities, and strengthen Assam's role in India's Act East policy and the vision of a developed India.

Tripura received investment offers worth Rs 30,000 crore in a year

Agartala, Jun 14: Tripura has received investment offers totaling more than Rs 30,000 crore in the last year, with projects worth more than Rs 8,000 crore already underway, according to Chief Minister Manik Saha on June 12. Addressing the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting, Saha stated that the state has experienced substantial economic development in recent years, including a doubling of its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) during the last six years. He also mentioned that Tripura has emerged as India's third entirely literate state. The chief minister said major companies, including Bharti Airtel, are establishing strategic facilities in the state, in-

cluding a data centre in Agartala aimed at serving eastern India. Highlighting initiatives for women and youth empowerment, Saha said nearly 4.96 lakh rural women are currently associated with 55,676 self-help groups (SHGs) across the state. He added that the "Sam-riddhi" campaign has boosted credit access for women-led SHGs and enterprises, while efforts are underway to integrate SHG-based micro-enterprises into the formal MSME sector. Saha also said Tripura has achieved complete digitalisation and paperless functioning across administrative levels, from the state cabinet to gram panchayats. Outlining the government's long-term development roadmap, he said

the state has adopted "Lakshya 2047", a vision aligned with India's goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, aimed at ensuring an inclusive, secure, prosperous and healthy future for all citizens. The chief minister further highlighted progress in the health and education sectors, stating that MBBS seats in the state have increased from 225 to 550, while postgraduate medical seats have risen from 85 to 196 over the past few years. He also pointed to advances in the tourism sector, including the development of the Tripura Sundari Temple Tourism Circuit and the Buddhist Circuit as part of efforts to boost visitor arrivals and economic activity in the state.

Royal Bengal Tiger discovered mutilated in Assam; poaching suspected



Dispur, Jun 14: A mangled Royal Bengal Tiger body was discovered on a sandbar near the Gabharu River in Assam's Sonitpur district on June 11, sparking suspicions of poaching, forest officials said. The cadaver, with its tail and all four legs removed, was discovered near Kochgaon inside Thelamara Police Station's jurisdiction. According to Divisional Forest Officer Biswa Jyoti Das, the tiger's carcass looked to have been thrown into the river after important body parts were taken. "The carcass seems to have drifted downstream several days after the animal's death. However, the manner in which the body was mutilated strongly suggests foul play," Das said. Following the discovery, teams from the West Sonitpur Forest Division, Tezpur Forest Range and local police rushed to the site. Veterinary experts and officials from the wildlife division conducted a post-mortem examination and collected samples for forensic analysis to determine the exact cause of death. Officials said the tiger measured approximately five feet in length. After the examination, the carcass was cremated on the banks of the Gabharu River in accordance with wildlife disposal protocols.

The forest department has launched an investigation into the incident and is awaiting the forensic report to establish the circumstances surrounding the tiger's death. Authorities suspect poachers may have killed the animal, removed valuable body parts and attempted to destroy evidence by disposing of the carcass in the river.

A joint enforcement exercise in Arunachal's Doimukh discovered 11 stores breaking trade standards

Itanagar, Jun 14: A joint market inspection and enforcement drive conducted in Doimukh town of Arunachal Pradesh's Papum Pare district found several commercial establishments operating without valid trading licenses and violating regulations related to the sale of tobacco products near educational institutions. The inspection was carried out in the vicinity of Government Higher Secondary School, Doimukh, and Government Middle School, Rono, by a joint team comprising officials from the district administration, Trade and Commerce Department, and police. The team was led by Doimukh Circle Officer Nyalisa Raji and includ-

ed Trade Development Officer Sorang Yapa, Trade and Commerce Inspector Toko Mira, departmental staff and personnel from Doimukh Police Station. During the drive, eight shops were found operating without valid trading licenses, while three others were functioning with expired licenses. Authorities collected penalties amounting to Rs 3,000 from establishments found violating licensing regulations. As part of the enforcement action, officials also seized visible tobacco products from shops located near school premises for violating restrictions on the sale of tobacco products around educational institutions. The inspection team con-

ducted an awareness programme for local traders and advised shopkeepers on the legal procedures for obtaining and renewing trading licenses through the Trade and Commerce Department. Shop owners were instructed not to stock, display or sell tobacco products within a 100-yard radius of educational institutions. Authorities warned that repeat offenders could face stricter legal action, including the sealing of shops. The district administration said the drive was aimed at ensuring lawful commercial practices and maintaining a tobacco-free environment around schools and other educational institutions.

A commercial truck plunged down a canyon in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng, killing five people and injuring one

Itanagar, Jun 14: On June 13, a commercial vehicle plummeted down a steep canyon near Pagaso Stream on National Highway-13 in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district, killing at least five persons and seriously injuring one. The tragedy happened near Tatatara village in Seppa Circle, when the car apparently lost control and drove off the route before plummeting into the valley. The deceased have been identified as Md. Bulbul Hussain, son of Md. Abdul Hai; Abdul



Hussain (21), son of Abdul Jalil; Nur Hussain (40), son

of Rustam Ali; Amjat Ali (41), son of Abdul Hai; and

Saidul Ali, son of Akup Ali. All the victims were residents of Boruluwa village under North Lakhimpur Police Station in Lakhimpur district of Assam. Local residents, police personnel, and rescue teams rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. One injured occupant was rescued and shifted to a medical facility for treatment. Authorities are continuing their investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. Further details are awaited as rescue and recovery efforts continue.

Nagaland Governor encourages people to become regular blood donors

Kohima, Jun 14: On Friday, June 12, Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav encouraged people to become regular blood donors, characterizing each unit of given blood as a "gift of hope" for patients in need of lifesaving transfusions. Addressing a session ahead of World Blood Donor Day, which is observed annually on June 14, Yadav emphasised the critical importance of volunteer blood donors in sustaining a safe and sustainable blood supply system. "Voluntary donors form the backbone of a safe and sustainable blood supply



system that supports patients requiring transfusions. Their selfless service deserves the highest appreciation and

continued support," he said. Encouraging greater public participation in blood donation drives, the Governor

said regular donation can save lives and strengthen healthcare services. Yadav also shared his personal ex-

perience, stating that he has donated blood 36 times over the years, often on his birthdays. Speaking at the event, Margaret Yhome, Director of the Nagaland State Blood Transfusion Council, said World Blood Donor Day seeks to raise awareness about the importance of safe blood and blood products while recognising the invaluable contribution of voluntary donors. She stressed the need for continued efforts to encourage voluntary blood donation to meet healthcare requirements and ensure the availability of safe blood for patients across the State.

ED issues fresh summons to Pinarayi Vijayan’s daughter Veena



Kochi, June 14: The Enforcement Directorate has issued fresh summons for June 17 to Veena T, the daughter of former Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, for questioning in a money laundering case, officials said on Friday. She had sought deferment of her first summons for June 12 citing health issues, sources said.Officials said the central agency has now asked Veena to depose on June 17 at the ED zonal office here for questioning and recording of her statement in the money laundering case related to alleged financial transactions between her now defunct IT

solutions company named Exalogic Solutions Pvt Ltd and a Kerala-based sand mining company Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd .CMRL managing director Sasidharan Kartha and other company officials and nine others have also been summoned for questioning on different dates, the officials said earlier. The premises of Veena, who lives with her father in a Thiruvananthapuram rented house, were raided by the ED recently. The agency is probing an allegation that CMRL made fraudulent payments worth ₹2.78 crore to Exalogic Solutions under the

guise of ‘IT consultancy services’.Another company named Empower India Capital Investment Private Limited operated by Kartha had also extended loans worth ₹50 lakh to Exalogic Solutions despite its failure to make timely repayments, the officials said.They claimed that the CMRL management and Veena generated “proceeds of crime” in this process and that they want to understand the rationale behind these transactions from them. The PMLA case was filed in March 2024 after the ED took cognisance of a complaint registered by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office , the investigation arm of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, which later filed a prosecution complaint before an Ernakulam court in April 2025. The CMRL was caught in the crosshairs of central probe agencies following an Income Tax Department raid in January 2019, which unearthed alleged fake expenses to the tune of ₹130 crore.Court documents

state that the company “inflated” its expenditure by ₹133.82 crore by booking “bogus” cash expenses under the heads of ‘transportation’ and ‘sludge handling’ between the financial years 2012-13 and 2018-19, and generated cash that was used to make illegal payments to politicians, parties, media houses and public servants.The court papers add that CMRL CFO and MD “admitted” before tax authorities that such cash payments were made to ensure smooth business operations, as they faced threats of closure of the business and environmental challenges.Officials said CMRL “admitted” to making these “fake” expenses before the Income Tax Settlement Commission. Later, a complaint was made to the SFIO. In its prosecution complaint, the SFIO said that CMRL made fictitious cash expenses worth ₹182 crore over a span of 15 years to “bribe” various people, and that it paid ₹91 crore towards transport services to companies owned by the Kartha family.

Kalyan Banerjee Issues Ultimatum to Mamata Amid TMC Power Struggle



New Delhi , Jun 14: Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Kalyan Banerjee stated on Thursday that party supremo Mamata Banerjee must decide whether she wants to keep him or party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, claiming that he will not remain in the party if she believes the organization cannot function without her nephew.Speaking to reporters, the Serampore MP restated his support for Mamata while stressing that the party leadership will eventually have to make a decision. “I am with Mamata,” Kalyan Banerjee said.“But Mamata has to decide whether she will keep Abhishek or keep me.”When asked whether he would return if approached again, Banerjee said the decision rested entirely with the TMC chief.“No, no. Mamata has to decide first,” he said.Elaborating

further, the TMC leader added, “Mamata has to first decide that, yes, she cannot move the party without Abhishek. Then I will not be there.”The remarks are significant as they come amid discussions surrounding internal equations within the ruling Trinamool Congress and have brought renewed attention to the relationship between different power centres within the party.advertisementBanerjee, a senior TMC parliamentarian known for his outspoken views, did not elaborate further on the circumstances behind his comments.Earlier, Kalyan Banerjee also criticised the arrival of a West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) team at the residence of Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata.Calling the move unlawful, the TMC MP alleged that it was motivated by a desire to harass the

former Chief Minister.“This is not in accordance with the law. No FIR has been lodged against Mamata Banerjee, nor has she been called as a witness anywhere. This is a vindictive attitude initiated by CM Suwendu Adhikari. They just want to harass Mamata Banerjee,” Banerjee told ANIA CID team reached Mamata Banerjee’s residence on Tuesday as part of an ongoing investigation linked to an alleged signature forgery case involving Trinamool Congress legislators.Mamata Banerjee was not present at her Kolkata residence at the time.The TMC chief is currently in New Delhi, where she attended an INDIA bloc meeting and also met Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi.You May LikeUP Woman Alleges Father-In-Law Raped Her At Gunpoint, Husband Gave Triple Tala.by Taboola.The CID investigation has gained attention in recent weeks. Last week, investigators visited the residence of TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee in connection with the alleged forgery case. The state CID has formed a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations that signatures of Trinamool Congress legislators were forged.’Mamata Has To Decide Whether To Keep Abhishek Or Me’: Kalyan Banerjee Amid TMC Power StruggleAmid TMC Crisis, Sonia Gandhi Reaches Out to Mamata Banerjee for Closer Congress CooperationAmid TMC Crisis, Sonia Gandhi Reaches Out to Mamata Banerjee for Closer Congress Cooperation.

The first group of nine female cadets from IMA represents a turning point: Murmu, the President



New Delhi, Jun 14: The graduation of nine female cadets from the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, on Saturday, according to President Droupadi Murmu, is a “watershed moment” in the academy’s history and an encouraging illustration of the nation’s progress toward women-led development.”This is a turning point in IMA’s history. In addition to being a significant turning point in the history of India’s armed forces, it serves as an encouraging illustration of the country’s progress toward women-led development. Speaking at the IMA’s 158th Regular Course and 141st Technical Graduate Course Passing Out Parade, Murmu stated, “I am sure that many more women cadets will join the Academy.” Women were first inducted as officers under the Women Special Entry Scheme in 1992. Over the years, their role steadily expanded across various branches of

the Army. Subsequent policy reforms and landmark court judgments opened new avenues, including permanent commission and command opportunities.A defining moment came in 2021 when the Supreme Court allowed the women to appear for the National Defence Academy (NDA) examination. The next year, the first group of women joined the NDA, opening the door for more women to be included into military training facilities. Nine female cadets have already graduated from IMA following pre-commissioning training for the Army, following the 17 female cadets that graduated from the NDA in 2025.Murmu examined the procession in the interim.She said, “This Academy that stands as a shining symbol of honour, courage and selfless service to the nation. This Academy has produced many exceptional military leaders who have protected our borders and maintained India’s dig-

nity in the face of extreme adversity. I would like to take this occasion to express my gratitude to everyone connected to this esteemed institution, both past and present. For “successfully completing one of the most rigorous training programmes” in the nation, she complimented every officer cadet.”I also want to thank your proud family members who have helped you succeed. “I am grateful to the Indian Military Academy’s commandant, instructors, and staff for their unceasing efforts in mentoring the officer cadets,” she remarked. Murmu also congratulated cadets from friendly foreign nations on graduating from the IMA.”We were given the task of teaching you to the highest standards of military professionalism by your countries. Through your service and the ideals you have absorbed here, I am sure that you will bring many honors to your Armed Forces and countries,” she remarked.

Rahul Gandhi starts a national campaign against the jobs crisis and document leaks

New Delhi, Jun 14: The Congress accused the Narendra Modi government of a “systematic betrayal” of India’s youth on Saturday, announcing the first phase of a statewide campaign spearheaded by senior leader Rahul Gandhi against paper leaks, exam irregularities, and unemployment.The month-long outreach program, which will include student conventions in major cities, calls for a parliamentary discussion on the rights and future of students and job seekers, demands the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and seeks accountability for persistent exam irregularities.In a statement, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said, “The campaign will highlight the hardships faced by millions of young Indians whose futures are repeatedly jeopardized by paper leaks, rising examination costs, and the government’s failure to ensure a fair and transparent recruitment and education system.” Over the course of a month, Gandhi will host a number of student conventions in several locations

around the nation, beginning with Kota on June 17, Allahabad on July 10, Patna on July 11, and Delhi on July 14. The conferences are intended to unite students, job seekers, youth organizations, educators, and other individuals impacted by “examination scandals.” The statement praised Gandhi as the “most consistent and credible advocate for India’s students and youth” and said, “The movement will seek to unite students beyond political affiliations and provide a platform for affected youth to share their experiences and demand accountability for repeated examination failures and paper leak scandals, reflecting Shri Rahul Gandhi’s conviction that the aspirations of young Indians must not be sacrificed to corruption, incompetence, or political indifference.”The party’s prior requests for the decentralization of NEET, the elimination of test fees, and severe legal action against individuals engaged in paper leak rackets will be among the campaign’s demands. In an effort to demand accountability at



the highest echelons of government, the party would also call for Pradhan’s resignation. Additionally, the Congress would push for legislative measures to safeguard the “interests, rights, and future” of the youth and demand a thorough discussion of the “crisis confronting India’s youth” in Parliament. The party stated, “Shri Rahul Gandhi has made the defense of merit, fairness, and the availability of equal opportunity to our youth a pressing matter of national importance, having repeatedly raised these issues.”Through the

party’s youth and student wings, the National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) and Youth Congress, Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs), District Congress Committees (DCCs), and other regional organizations around the nation, the campaign will advocate for student mobilization. In order to mobilize students, it will also make use of physical and digital invites, campus outreach, encounters at coaching centers, colleges, schools, and youth hubs, social media campaigns, live screenings, and direct student contact.

Krishnendu Paul examines Dima Hasao’s progress and preparedness for disasters

Haflong , Jun 14: Today, Krishnendu Paul, Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Barak Valley Development, Hill Areas, and Guardian Minister of Dima Hasao, chaired a thorough review meeting at the CEM’s Conference Hall, Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC).The operation, performance, and advancement of several line departments under the administrative jurisdiction of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council were thoroughly reviewed by the conference. Discussions centered on accelerating development initiatives, enhancing service delivery, and guaranteeing the successful execution of public welfare programs for the benefit of the populace. The meeting’s main topic was catastrophe management and preparedness. In-depth talks on enhancing emergency response systems, enhancing departmental collaboration, and developing strategies to successfully address issues brought on by extreme weather and natural disasters were all part of the gathering. The gathering emphasized the administration’s shared commitment to sustainable development, good governance, and creating a resilient Dima Hasao that can successfully handle crises while maintaining the welfare and advancement of its people. MLA Smt Rupali Langthasa; DHAC Executive



Members (EMs) and Members of the Autonomous Council (MACs); T.T. Daulagupi, IAS, Secretary, Hill Areas Department; District Commissioner of Dima Hasao, Smt Gayatri Devidas Hyalinge, IAS; Superintendent of Police, Ripunjoy Kakati, APS; Chief Engineer (Water), PHE Assam; Chief Engineer (Sanitation), PHE Assam; Additional Chief Engineer (HQ), PHE Assam; Principal Secretaries and Joint Secretaries of DHAC.

Assam Rifles and police uncover a massive stash of weapons and military supplies

Kakching, Jun 14:During an operation in Manipur’s Kakching district, Assam Rifles and Thoubal Police Commandos jointly found a sizable stockpile of weapons, ammunition, and military-grade equipment, severely harming terrorist networks in the area.Based on particular intelligence information, the operation was conducted in the Kakching district’s Purnahaitupokpi general region. Many guns, ammunition, explosives, and military equipment thought to be connected to insurgent activity were found by security personnel. One of the weapons found was made



in the United States.32 pistol, two single-barrel breech-loading (SBBL) pistols, two detonators, and four rounds of ammo. 17 AK-series rounds, 18 SLR rounds, 29,303 bullets, and three INSAS rounds were among the ammo that was found. A striker spring, two

tear smoke rounds, twelve KCP brand stickers, and a bipod were also found by security personnel.The joint team found a significant amount of military gear, including two bulletproof fiber plates, two helmets, a bulletproof jacket, and twelve bulletproof

plates, in addition to the weapons and ammo. Sixty combat shirts, fifty-seven combat pants, two combat jackets, eighteen combat hats, eight pairs of combat shoes, twenty-three combat belts, and an MP-5 sling were also found in the cache.The recovery, according to officials, is a significant accomplishment in continuous efforts to stop insurgent activity and uphold law and order in the state ravaged by the conflict.The Heroik Police Station has received all recovered guns, ammunition, and military supplies so they can conduct additional research and take any required legal action.

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Editorial

Bengal's Lost Crown

West Bengal was once India's intellectual and industrial powerhouse — the cradle of the Bengal Renaissance, home to visionary thinkers, and the nucleus of the nation's commercial life. Kolkata, its capital, was the jewel of the British Empire in Asia. Today, that legacy lies buried under decades of political patronage, institutional decay, and systemic corruption. Corruption is not merely a governance failure in West Bengal — it is a structural malaise. From syndicate-controlled construction and land dealings to cut-money culture in welfare delivery, graft has permeated every layer of public life.

The school jobs scam, which sent shockwaves across the nation, was not an aberration; it was a symptom of a polity where merit

has been subordinated to loyalty and bribes. The consequences are stark. Industry has fled. Talent emigrates. Infrastructure stagnates. While neighbouring states modernise and attract investment, West Bengal remains anchored to a politics of entitlement rather than enterprise. Reclaiming its former glory demands more than electoral change — it requires a fundamental reset of civic culture. Independent institutions, transparent governance, and zero tolerance for corruption must replace the entrenched patronage networks. Citizens, civil society, and the judiciary must act as unrelenting watchdogs. West Bengal's renaissance is possible. But it will only begin the day its leaders choose accountability over impunity.

Tezpur Litchi opens doors in the Northeast

More than merely an export shipment from Assam, the first shipment of GI-tagged Tezpur litchi to Dubai has given international consumers access to orchards of various organically cultivated fruits and other horticultural and agricultural goods throughout the northeast. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has demonstrated that the region's food products are now ready for the worldwide market by permitting the export consignment of Tezpur Litchi. The World Bank group highlighted at the South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth (SAPLING) dialogue held in Ahmedabad that transforming food systems beyond the farm can unlock significant opportunities for employment, investment, economic growth, and poverty reduction in the South Asia region. Apart from the global market potential, the deliberations at the dialogue have offered a cue on what must come next to consolidate and expand the gains from the global debut of GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi, which has a century-old legacy. APEDA attributes the popularity of Tezpur Litchi to its exceptional sweetness, bright-red appearance, distinctive aroma and superior eating quality. Given that the shelf life of lychees is only 3-4 days from the date of harvest, the export of lychees from orchards in Tezpur to Dubai marks an extraordinary milestone. While the GI tag helped widen its appeal in the global markets, retaining the freshness continues to be a huge logistical and scientific challenge and crucial for sustaining the export market. An APEDA report on improving the shelf life of fresh litchi pointed out a major issue – because litchis spoil quickly, shipping them in large amounts by sea to faraway countries is difficult, and sending them by air means only small amounts can be exported. A variety of cutting-edge cuisine items made from litchi, including litchi biscuits, ice creams, shakes, honey, and chips, were on exhibit and sold at this year's Tezpur Litchi Festival. This illustrated the enormous possibility of adding more items with extended shelf life to the Assamese litchi export basket. Speaking at the SAPLING dialogue, experts emphasized that expanding food processing, storage, logistics, marketing, and value addition—all of which



can generate millions of productive jobs while lowering food losses and raising farmers' incomes—is the next stage of agricultural transformation. Increasing production is crucial to closing the gap between supply and demand because the domestic market for Tezpur litchi is likewise expanding rapidly. Strengthening the processed food-value chain will be essential to prevent post-harvest losses. A report titled “Assessment of the Level of Food Processing in India”, commissioned by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and released at the SAPLING dialogue, brought to light that significant progress has been made in India's food processing sector, with overall processing levels increasing from around 10% in 2016 to nearly 17% in 2023. An official report from the Press Information Bureau says the study also finds many chances to add value to perishable goods like fruits, vegetables, and dairy, and it suggests ways to improve infrastructure, cut down on post-harvest losses, in-

crease farmer incomes, and make India more competitive in the global food market. This study can be a ready reckoner for government and private stakeholders in food production and processing in the region to draw the road-map for optimising the commercial value of various food products, including GI-tagged agricultural and horticultural products. While exports fetch the grower higher prices than the domestic market, geopolitical and economic challenges causing disruptions in export markets, which are often unpredictable, must not be ignored even while focusing on boosting export volume. The pragmatic strategy, therefore, is to adopt a balanced approach that maximises both export and domestic markets. Prioritising processed markets is essential to increase the domestic consumer base while eyeing the global shelves and ensuring higher returns for growers by reducing post-harvest losses. However, the region's lack of logistical infrastructure and the necessary cold chain

to tap into both domestic and export markets for fresh fruits and vegetables represents a critical gap that must be urgently addressed to sustain the optimism generated by Tezpur litchis reaching markets in Dubai. Even most fruits and vegetables traditionally grown by the farmers in the region are organic by default; lack of adequate organic certification continues to pose a major barrier for transforming the potential into a high-value market opportunity. Addressing these gaps urgently is crucial to sustain the euphoria among growers and exporters of Tezpur Litchi.

A significant shift in agri-horticulture is about to occur in Assam and its neighboring states. Thanks to continued collaboration between producers, government agencies, and marketers, the export of Tezpur Litchi has become a symbol of promise for the long-awaited economic change led by agriculture and horticulture, as the region has attracted substantial investment in numerous industries.

From the periphery to the border of growth

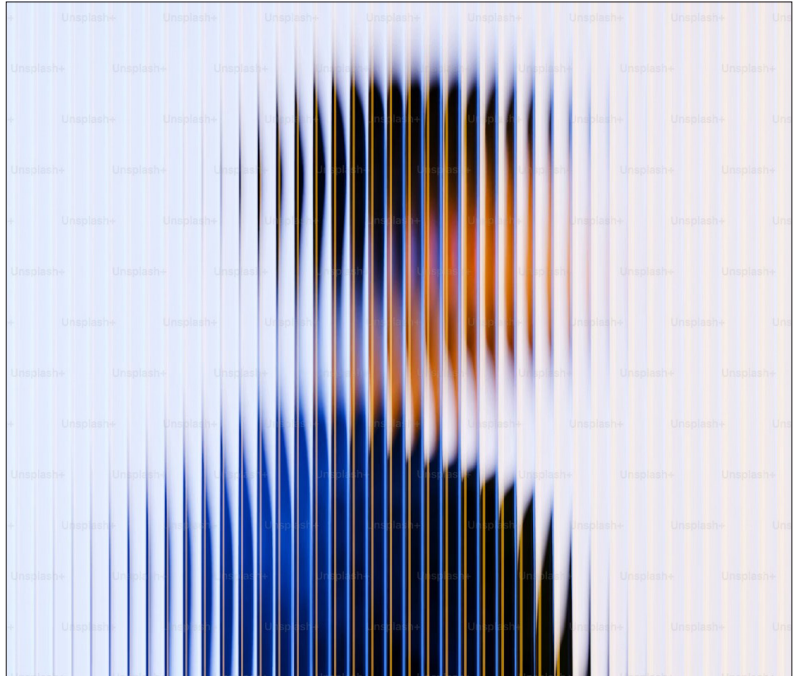
After receiving a historic mandate in 2014, Narendra Modi became Prime Minister of India twelve years ago, ushering in a new era of administration. Since then, the nation has seen a number of reforms, infrastructure projects, and welfare initiatives aimed at boosting growth and enhancing inhabitants' quality of life, all guided by the goal of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).From the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the swift growth of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem to flagship initiatives like the Semiconductor Mission, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Make in India, and Swachh Bharat Mission, the past 12 years have been devoted to improving governance, creating more opportunities, and fortifying the economy. For Assam and the eight Northeastern states, often described by the Prime Minister as Ashtalakshmi — the eight embodiments of prosperity — the period has been particularly transformative. Once viewed as geographically distant from the country's mainstream development narrative, the region has increasingly emerged as a gateway to Southeast Asia, a hub of connectivity and a growing destination for investment. Infrastructure development has been one of the defining features of the past decade in Assam and the Northeast. Investments in roads, bridges, airports and railways have significantly improved connectivity within the region and with the rest of India. The expansion of national highways, construction of major bridges across the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers, and enhanced border road networks have reduced travel times and improved access to remote areas. Landmark projects such as the Bogibeel Bridge and the Bhupen Hazarika Setu have strengthened connectivity while facilitating trade, tourism and economic activity.The expansion of airport infrastructure and improved regional air connectivity under the UDAN scheme have made air travel more accessible across the Northeast, bringing remote communities closer to markets and opportunities.Urban infrastructure in Assam has also undergone visible transformation. Flyovers in Guwahati have eased congestion, while city development projects have improved public amenities. The Brahmaputra riverfront development aims to create modern urban spaces while promoting tourism and cultural

preservation. Railway connectivity has witnessed significant growth in the region. Broad-gauge conversion projects, new rail lines and station modernisation have enhanced connectivity across the Northeastern states, improving passenger mobility and freight movement. These developments have enabled farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses to access larger markets while strengthening the Northeast's integration with national logistics networks. Improved connectivity has also reinforced the region's role in India's Act East Policy, which seeks to deepen engagement with Southeast Asia. A major pillar of the government's development agenda has been the expansion of welfare programmes aimed at improving living standards and promoting social inclusion. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, lakhs of beneficiaries across Assam and the Northeast have gained access to pucca houses, improving housing security and dignity for vulnerable families. The Ayushman Bharat scheme has expanded access to healthcare by providing financial protection for medical treatment. Initiatives such as Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission have improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation and public health services.Meanwhile, Direct Benefit Transfer mechanisms, Jan Dhan accounts and digital payment platforms such as UPI have enhanced transparency and efficiency in welfare delivery while advancing financial inclusion. Healthcare infrastructure across the Northeast has received renewed attention over the past decade. A major milestone has been the establishment of AIIMS Guwahati, which has emerged as a centre for advanced medical care, education and research. The institution has reduced dependence on metropolitan cities for specialised treatment while creating opportunities for healthcare professionals and researchers.Several new medical colleges and expanded hospital facilities across Assam have further strengthened healthcare delivery and increased access to quality services.The education sector has witnessed similar progress. Institutions such as IIM Shillong and IIM Guwahati have expanded opportunities for management education and leadership development. Investments in universities, technical institutions and skill development programmes have helped create a stronger ecosystem

for higher education and innovation. Initiatives for skill development have concentrated on giving young people industry-relevant skills so they can take advantage of opportunities in developing industries including manufacturing, information technology, logistics, and entrepreneurship.Growing awareness of Assam and the Northeast as desirable investment destinations has been one of the biggest changes during the last ten years.Investor confidence has increased as a result of improved connectivity, regulatory changes, and infrastructure. Interest in industries like manufacturing, tourism, food processing, renewable energy, information technology, and logistics has grown. The construction of the Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) plant in Jagiroad, Assam, is a significant accomplishment. The project is a significant step toward creating a high-tech manufacturing environment in the Northeast and has put the state on India's semiconductor map. The facility enhances Assam's standing in the nation's endeavors to construct robust electronics and semiconductor supply chains and is consistent with India's Semiconductor Mission. It is anticipated to create jobs, assist related businesses, and draw more capital to sophisticated manufacturing. The past 12 years have also witnessed governance reforms aimed at improving efficiency, transparency and citizen services. The expansion of digital governance platforms has simplified access to public services, reduced bureaucratic hurdles and strengthened accountability.As India marks 12 years of Modi-led governance, the transformation visible across Assam and the Northeast reflects a broader shift in national development priorities. The region, once seen primarily as remote, is now gaining recognition as a strategic growth frontier with substantial economic and geopolitical significance.The foundations for long-term growth have been reinforced by high-tech manufacturing, highways, railroads, healthcare, education, and housing. Even if there are still obstacles to overcome, Assam and the Northeast are getting closer to the national goal of a Viksit Bharat because to the advancements made in the last ten years.Today, the region's narrative is more and more about opportunity, aspiration, and assimilation into India's development.

Blurred lines

The battle of Haldighati is 450 years old, and while most people agree that it took place on June 21, 1576, there are other reasons to consider its background and relevance today. However, there are others. Political dispute, historical revisionism, and even the rewriting of history continue to attack Haldighati. This has been the case for over 200 years since James Tod portrayed the conflict as “the Thermopylae of Mewar” in Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan. This contest was presented along the lines of the Persians versus the Greeks in 480 BCE, itself an enormously significant milestone in the evolution of the West as a self-defined idea.Nevertheless, a recent statement by the deputy chief minister of Rajasthan merits a pause. She claims credit for the change made in the signage and plaques in Haldighati to show that Rana Pratap was the victor in the battle on June 2, 1576. This was not a simple intertwining of politics and history: by this, the achievements of the deputy chief minister's own direct ancestor, Raja Man Singh, the prince of Amber, were being erased. He commanded the Mughal army, which, according to the dominant and the conventional belief, carried the day in the battle. The Indian nationalist movement has always included the Haldighati struggle, but within it, several narratives have clashed. Rana Pratap became a national hero after a number of authors and poets, including Kazi Nazrul Islam and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, invoked Haldighati and praised Mewar's fight to the Mughals. In 1976, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi attended the 400th anniversary. News reports state that Sarsangchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh would host a celebration to mark the battle's 450th anniversary. Earlier it was possible to acclaim both combatants as standing for honourable principles and, in that sense, both were victorious. Rana Pratap stood for patriotism, one who was unwilling to sacrifice his small but still highly-valued sovereignty to the mighty Mughals. Conversely, Man Singh, at the head of the Mughal army, also represented a principle, that of a larger Hindustan in which the Rajputs were also stakeholders. The narrative shift in Indian politics means that extolling both sides is more difficult. The battle of Haldighati thus becomes a more straightforward Rajput versus Mughal or Muslim contest. Our political polarisations have also meant that an older positionwhich celebrates both combatants has receded. To question Rana Pratap's victory becomes less than patriotic.The great historian, Jadunath Sarkar, had also seen this battle as having



an epic quality, calling it “the Thermopylae of Rajasthan” as a variant to Tod. In his treatment, what comes through as having collided at Haldighati were two opposing ideas of India but with a Rajput leading each side. Although Rana Pratap fell and Man Singh prevailed tactically, it was a “barren victory” because the Maharana continued to fight, his kingdom and dynasty outlived the Mughals, and his name came to represent the spirit of national resistance. “The name of the general who lost Haldighati will live to sustain and uplift the spirit of man at every arduous call of duty so long as the history of India is read,” according to Sarkar. However, the ideals that Man Singh, the prince of Amber, carried to fight equaled the epic character of Rana Pratap's patriotism and resistance. “He was the greater statesman of the two,” according to Sarkar. This was because “He lent his help to uniting India under one sceptre and imposing an imperial peace on the hundreds of petty potentates eternally wrangling and raiding one others territory, each eagerly cherishing the independence of his small plot as the sole object of his life.” It was only by sweeping all this away that a united India could emerge “and an Indian nation could be dreamt of”. “Man Singh”, wrote Sarkar, “devoted his life to the first honest and conscious effort at realizing such a dream.” Later historians are careful to distance themselves from the grand narratives surrounding Haldighati. They see its epic quality telling us more about the emergence of Indian nationalism from the second half of the nineteenth century than about the second half of the sixteenth when the Me-

war-Mughal contestation actually took place. In such treatments, it is pointed out that pre-nineteenth-century accounts had cast the battle as being of a much smaller scale with the Sisodia/Mewar versus Kachhwaha/ Amber rivalry being one of its principal axis.

In our own times, instances abound of how larger narratives emerge from a conflict and then go on to redefine it in such a manner that the lines between victory and defeat get blurred. In the continuing Russia-Ukraine war, there is no clear answer to either of the narrative issues that frame the conflict or to the question of who has won so far. As Ukraine says, is it a full-scale invasion and a war? Or is it what Russia refers to as a “special military operation”? The cooperation between the US and Israel against Iran raises many of the same issues even more sharply.

Do these battles have a winner at all, and if so, who is it? By simply continuing to fight in David vs Goliath circumstances and refusing to succumb to a greater power, Iran and Ukraine have undoubtedly changed the notions of triumph and failure in a larger sense. The Mewar vs the Mughals equation is undoubtedly reminiscent of previous conflicts' asymmetry, and the lack of a definitive winner also implies that the side with more endurance wins both strategically and historically.

This does not necessitate altering the historical record or rejecting the empirical record. “Rana Pratap is still a name to conjure with,” according to Sarkar, because it was “the losing side who have made that yellow defile a haunted holy ground for pilgrims of Indian patriotism.”

West Asia conflict hits MSME credit, Elara notes private bank edge

Mumbai: The banking sector was one of the worst impacted sectors due to the Middle East war. Elara Capital, an investment bank and brokerage firm, noted that the loan growth to MSMEs has slowed across all types of lenders – PSU banks, private banks, and NBFCs as their businesses are hurting due to higher fuel costs, shipping disruptions, and weaker trade.Elara Capital also believes that the impact remains manageable so far, but the brokerage cautioned that a prolonged conflict in West Asia could create challenges. According to Elara Capital, the MSME loan portfolio stood at Rs 46 trillion in April 2026, up 12.8% year-on-year (YoY). Active loans rose 2.4% from a year ago to 19.2

million.However, growth has slowed significantly in recent months. The MSME portfolio expanded just 3.1% between December 2025 and April 2026, compared with 9.7% growth during the same period last year. The number of active loans also declined 3.5% during the four-month period, compared with 3% growth a year earlier. The slowdown has been more pronounced in the micro segment, which includes loans below Rs 2 crore. Among industries, shipping and transport, food processing, and auto and ancillary businesses recorded the sharpest decline in activity. The report also noted that lending activity moderated across all lender categories, with PSU banks and NBFCs witnessing softer traction. Despite

concerns around the West Asia conflict, MSME asset quality has held up better than expected.Early delinquency levels increased slightly in April compared with March. However, the rise remains broadly in line with historical trends and is not materially worse than previous years. Elara said private banks and NBFCs have maintained relatively stable delinquency trends, while PSU banks have seen some increase in stress levels.The report also highlighted that cash credit accounts have shown some strain, whereas term loan performance remains stable.Elara believes government-backed guarantee schemes could play an important role in supporting liquidity and reducing near-term risks for MSMEs.

TVS Raider demand accelerates as over 500 motorcycles delivered in Medininagar

Mumbai: TVS Motor Company, part of TVS VENU and a globally reputed manufacturer of two and three-wheelers, on Friday delivered more than 500 TVS Raider motorcycles to customers at a mega delivery event in Medininagar, Jharkhand, highlighting strong demand for the model in the region. The event saw enthusiastic participation from customers and their families, marking a significant milestone for the company and reinforcing the growing popularity of the TVS Raider among young and aspirational riders. The large-scale delivery reflects the motorcycle’s increasing acceptance in the commuter segment, where buyers are seeking a blend of style, technology and performance.TVS Motor said the TVS Raider has emerged as a preferred choice among customers due to its sporty styling, best-in-

class features, superior performance and everyday comfort. The motorcycle combines modern design with advanced technology to offer a dynamic riding experience, making it a strong contender in the feature-rich commuter motorcycle category. In Medininagar, the delivery of more than 500 motorcycles in a single day points to rising consumer spending and growing demand for personal mobility solutions. The trend also reflects increasing preference among young buyers for premium commuter motorcycles that offer practicality alongside modern features.The company said the mega delivery event marks another milestone in the growth journey of the TVS Raider and underscores the expanding community of customers across Jharkhand, where demand for the motorcycle continues to gain momentum.

Sensex gains nearly 1,700 points, US-Iran deal prospects lift sentiment



Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks rallied sharply on Friday, with the Sensex soaring nearly 1,700 points and the Nifty reclaiming the 23,600 mark, as investor sentiment improved on hopes of a potential peace agreement between the United States and Iran. The Sensex closed at 75,527.95, gaining 1,695.40 points, or 2.30 per cent, from its previous close of 73,832.55. The 30-share index opened at 74,709.27 and touched an intra-day high of 75,608.02 before settling near the day’s peak. The Nifty also ended strongly at 23,622.90, up 461.30 points, or 1.99 per cent. The index opened at 23,412.55 and climbed to an intra-day high of 23,645.35 during the session. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that a sustained move above 23,800 could further improve sentiment and pave the way toward the 24,000 psychological mark. “On the downside, the 23,550–23,500 region is now expected to act as an import-

ant immediate support area, having transitioned from resistance to support following the breakout,” an analyst stated.The rally came after US President Donald Trump said that Washington had reached a “great settlement” with Iran and that only the finalisation of the document remained. The comments fuelled optimism in global markets, with investors betting that easing geopolitical tensions could stabilise energy supplies and reduce uncertainty. Among Nifty constituents, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro emerged as the top gainers. The broader market also witnessed robust gains. The Nifty MidCap index ended 2.43 per cent higher, while the Nifty SmallCap index advanced 2.8 per cent. Sectorally, real estate and financial stocks led the upmove. The Nifty Realty and Nifty Financial Services indices surged more than 3 per cent each, outperforming other sectoral gauges.In contrast, the Nifty IT index lagged the broader market and emerged as the weakest-performing sector during the session.

Lenskart stake bought by Goldman, Morgan Stanley

New Delhi: Global financial institutions, including Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Societe Generale, on Thursday collectively bought a 2.3 per cent stake in eyewear firm Lenskart Solutions from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority for ₹1,960 crore through open market transactions. Following the stake purchase, shares of Lenskart Solutions rose 0.37 per cent to close at ₹502 apiece on the NSE.Other foreign investors who participated in the transaction include Integrated Core Strategies (Asia) Pte Ltd, Ghisallo Capital Management, Citigroup Global Markets Mauritius and Hong-Kong based investment manager Viridian Asset Management.Among domestic institutional investors, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund (MF), Kotak Mahindra MF, Mirae Asset MF, SBI MF, Canara Robeco MF, Franklin Templeton MF, Aditya Birla Sun Life MF, and Mumbai-based Alpha Alternatives

Holdings also bought shares of Lenskart.Insurance firms, including ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance, HDFC Life Insurance and National Pension System (NPS) Trust, also participated in the transaction, according to the block deal data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The investors collectively purchased a total of 4,00,00,000 shares, amounting to a 2.3 per cent stake in Lenskart Solutions. The shares were picked up at an average price of ₹490 apiece, taking the combined transaction value to ₹1,960 crore. Meanwhile, Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust off-loaded the same number of shares in Peyush Bansal-led eyewear retailer.Sovereign wealth fund Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) is the sole beneficiary and settlor of the Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust. After the latest transaction, ADIA’s holding in Lenskart dropped to 9.78

per cent from 12.08 per cent. Last week, technology investor SoftBank Group divested a 3.25 per cent stake in Lenskart Solutions for ₹2,873 crore. SoftBank was one of Lenskart’s largest shareholders before the company went public.Last month, Lenskart reported a 7.5 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to ₹203.6 crore in the March quarter due to a rise in expenses on components and inventories.The company had posted a PAT of ₹220.1 crore in the same period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations grew 45.62 per cent to around ₹2,516 crore in the March quarter from ₹1,728 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Lenskart has a presence across online and offline channels. It operates thousands of stores across India and in the overseas markets, and also manufacture eyewear products through its in-house facilities.

Meesho acquires kirana club to boost grocery presence



Bengaluru: Meesho, the Bengaluru-based e-commerce platform, has announced the acquisition of Kirana Club in a deal valued at ₹202 crore. The move is aimed at strengthening Meesho’s presence in the grocery segment and expanding its reach among small retailers and kirana stores across India. Kirana Club, a fast-growing platform connecting local shopkeepers and FMCG brands, has built a strong network of traditional retailers. By integrating Kirana Club’s ecosystem, Meesho plans to enhance its grocery offerings, improve supply chain efficiency, and deepen engagement with India’s vast

kirana store network. The acquisition comes at a time when competition in the on-line grocery and retail space is intensifying, with players like Flipkart, Amazon, and Reliance JioMart aggressively expanding their footprint. Meesho’s entry into this segment through Kirana Club is expected to provide it with a strategic edge, leveraging the trust and reach of neighborhood stores. Industry experts view this deal as a significant step for Meesho, which has traditionally focused on fashion, lifestyle, and household products. The company is now positioning itself to tap into India’s massive grocery market, estimated to be worth over \$600 billion, with kirana stores accounting for the majority of sales. With this acquisition, Meesho aims to empower small retailers by offering them better access to products, digital tools, and supply chain support, while simultaneously expanding its consumer base in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

Sebi order on fundraising contested by reliance power, infra

Mumbai: Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure have moved the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), challenging the Securities and Exchange Board of India’s (Sebi’s) refusal to grant them relief from restrictions linked to group chairman Anil Ambani, which the companies say are preventing them from raising capital. Counsel for the companies told the tribunal on Friday that they had sought an exemption under Regulation 300 of the ICDR Regulations to proceed with proposed rights issues and other capital-raising plans. The matter stems from Sebi’s order in the Reliance

Home Finance case, under which Ambani faces restrictions that affect the group’s ability to access the capital markets. The companies first approached Sebi in May 2025 seeking an exemption. The regulator rejected the request in August 2025. Although SAT remanded the matter to Sebi for reconsideration in March 2026, the regulator again turned down the applications in May 2026.Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure have now challenged Sebi’s latest rejection before SAT. The tribunal has granted Sebi four weeks to file its response and scheduled the next hearing for July 27.



Indian rupee surges to 95.08 against USD

Mumbai: The rupee surged 77 paise to close at 95.08 (provisional) against the greenback on Friday as global oil prices fell sharply after US President Donald Trump indicated an imminent deal with Iran. A firm trend in domestic equity markets and a weaker American currency also supported the rupee during the day, forex traders said. Trump has said a deal to end the war with Iran is nearly complete, and is expected to be signed over the weekend in Europe, as he called off military strikes on the Islamic Republic hours after threatening to take control of its oil industry. Following Trump’s remarks, international crude oil prices fell with Brent crude — the global oil benchmark — trading lower by 4.25 per cent at USD 86.54 per barrel in futures trade. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.40 and traded in the range of 94.95-95.53 before settling at 95.08 (provisional), up 77 paise from its previous close. The rupee had plunged 60 paise to set-

tle at 95.85 against the US dollar on Thursday. “The rupee rose as oil prices fell to USD 88.58 levels after three months. The rupee has hovered between 95 and 95.80 in the past few days, moving with the prices of oil,” Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.“For Monday, we expect the rupee to remain in the range of 94.75 to 95.75. The one-month premiums were slightly higher at 2.95 per cent while the one-year premiums were at 2.85 per cent,” he said. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.65, down 0.20 per cent. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex soared 1,695.40 points to settle at 75,527.95, and Nifty climbed 461.30 points to 23,622.90.Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,987.09 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data.

₹2,000 Cr Hitachi energy investment in Gujarat factory; stock gains 2%



Mumbai: Electrical transmission company Hitachi Energy is set to invest nearly Rs 2,000 crore in Gujarat for expanding its grid manufacturing facilities. The company’s share price jumped nearly 4% following this announcement. As per the company’s exchange filing, it will allocate approximately Rs 2,000 crore for the development of a new Large Power Transformer Factory in Vadodara, Gujarat aimed at strengthening its regional footprint. The factory is scheduled for

completion in FY28, and when operational, it is expected to support applications such as high-voltage transmission, grid equipment, HVDC, power generation, AI data centres, and large-scale industrial equipment. “The Vadodara factory is planned as a LEED-certified site, with a strong focus on energy efficiency, responsible resource use, and reduced environmental impact,” Hitachi said in its press release. The factory will be fully digital and will

integrate smart manufacturing technologies and end-to-end digital connectivity. The project is expected to create more than 1,000 direct and indirect job opportunities, the company said. “Hitachi Energy’s new factory is expected to assist in meeting India’s demand for reliable, efficient, and high-quality powerequipment while supporting a stronger and more self-reliant energy value chain,” the company said in its filing. The company’s senior management had approved

this investment proposal last month, while the official announcement was made on Friday. Commenting on the project win, Bruno Melles, CEO, Transformers Business Unit, Hitachi Energy, said, “India is one of the fastest-growing energy markets globally. This new factory will strengthen our ability to serve customers locally while contributing to the nation’s self-reliance and infrastructure development.” The company’s share price was up nearly 2% in the intraday trade. Over the past one month Hitachi Energy’s stock has delivered a return of around 5% on NSE, while over the past six months it has climbed up by a whopping 74%. So far this year its share price has increased by 84%. The company is engaged in the business of electrical transmission, distribution, and grid automation. Its product portfolio includes high-voltage equipment, grid automation, transformers and machines used to transition to renewable energy.

Weak demand is restricting the oil rally, according to Mirae Asset

Mumbai: The Hormuz crisis has caused supply interruptions that have dominated the oil market for the last three months. Contrary to forecasts, upside risks have been limited by demand erosion rather than supply loss. The demand side is the subject of this week’s major reports from OPEC and the EIA, which show how persistent crude prices above \$100 have significantly reduced consumption. This result should worry those who are still holding optimistic bets. Start with the June Short-Term Energy Outlook from the EIA. The organization projected in February that the world’s oil consumption will increase by 1.2 million barrels per day by 2026. That growth projection was shrunk to 0.2 mb/d by May. It went negative this month: the EIA now projects that global consumption would decrease by 1.1 mb/d this year compared to 104 mb/d in 2025. Within four months, a 2.3 mb/d movement in the demand expectation indicates a regime shift rather than a revision. The same narrative was presented in slow motion in OPEC’s June Monthly Oil Market Report, which was predictably more polite. The group reduced its forecast for demand growth in 2026 for the second time in a row, from 1.38 mb/d in April to 1.17 mb/d in May to 0.97 mb/d today. India’s growth estimate was reduced by 60,000 bpd, while Middle East consumption was lowered as demand from the war zone diminished. The demand floor is not where the bulls believe it to be when even the manufacturers’ own home view has dropped 30% in just two months. This brings us to the supply side, where the story is hidden by the headline. According to secondary sources, OPEC+ output fell 190,000 bpd to 33.13 mb/d in May. Are you pessimistic about prices? Go through the piece. Under the US boycott, Iran alone fell by about 546,000 barrels per day. Even before Hormuz reopens, the remainder of the group, led by Saudi Arabia and Iraq, supplied roughly 350,000 bpd to restore shut-in capacity via Red Sea routes and Iranian transit exemptions. The intention is clear. OPEC+ has already increased quotas four times in a row, increasing paper production by around 600,000 bpd between April and June. By September, it hopes to reach restored targets of almost 1.65 mb/d. An estimated 10 mb/d of spare capacity is waiting on the waterway beyond that.

Trump claims he has ended war with Iran promises Europe peace deal by weekend

Washington DC: US President Donald Trump on Thursday said a deal to end the conflict with Iran was nearly complete and could be signed as early as this weekend in Europe, hours after he called off military strikes on the Gulf nation following threats to target its oil industry. Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump said Vice President J D Vance is expected to attend the signing ceremony, which could take place in Europe over the weekend. The US president said he had spoken with leaders from several Middle Eastern nations, including Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Pakistan, regarding the latest round of negotiations. Later, during a tele-rally in support of Georgia Lt Governor Burt Jones, who is contesting for governor, Trump declared that the US had effectively ended the conflict with Iran. “I don’t know if you heard, but we ended the war with Iran today (Thursday), and they have agreed never to have a nuclear weapon, something that we insisted on. That was the whole pur-

pose,” Trump said. Earlier at the Oval Office, Trump suggested financial markets had responded positively to the development and indicated that a formal agreement would be signed soon. He also said the Strait of Hormuz would reopen once the agreement is finalised. “It’s a very strong memorandum of understanding. That’s a little conceptual, but it’s something that’s going to get done,” Trump said. “It’s a very detailed memorandum of understanding,” he said. Trump further claimed that Iran had committed to permanently abandoning any attempt to acquire nuclear weapons. “They will not purchase, develop in any way, shape or form a nuclear weapon. They will not have a nuclear weapon,” Trump said. “They’ve taken a pounding like very few people could take - and they want to make the deal a lot more than I do,” Trump said in response to a question on how Iran had come around to agreeing to the deal. The remarks marked a sharp shift from earlier in the day, when Trump had threatened to hit Iran “VERY HARD” and seize control of Kharg

Island, the country’s key oil export hub. Hours later, he announced that planned attacks had been called off, citing progress in peace negotiations. Trump made the comments on the proposed Iran deal during an event announcing the restoration of commercial fishing in protected areas of the Pacific Ocean. Over recent weeks, Trump has repeatedly said Washington and Tehran were close to reaching an agreement, though a formal deal had remained elusive. As the World Cup opening ceremony got underway in Mexico, Trump posted news of a potential breakthrough, triggering a stock market rally and sending oil prices tumbling on hopes that Gulf exports could soon return to normal. “Based on the fact that discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved, I have... cancelled the scheduled strikes and bombings against Iran this evening,” Trump posted. “Time and place of the signing to be announced shortly,” he promised, af-

ter explaining that the finer points of the arrangement had been approved by the United States and its allies in the region, including Israel, with which Washington jointly launched the war in February. There was no immediate official reaction from Iran, but the Fars news agency said that an informed source close to Tehran’s negotiating team had said: “No text has been approved for a preliminary memorandum of understanding with the United States.” The Tasnim news agency noted that Trump had already announced a deal was imminent 38 times in the previous two months and warned: “Until Iran announces the matter of a potential understanding, any news from Trump on this subject should be regarded the same as his previous messaging.” Markets had been nervous that the latest exchanges of threats and missile fire across the Gulf would further disrupt the global economy, and the World Bank had earlier in the day revised down its global growth forecast to a level not seen since the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump denounces the deal “leak” and says Iran attempted to use drones to attack Indian ships

Washington DC: On Friday, US President Donald Trump declared it “totally unacceptable” and accused Iran of attempting to launch a drone strike on Indian ships departing the Strait of Hormuz.”Their (Iran’s) totally rebuffed Drone attack last night against Indian Ships leaving the Hormuz Strait is totally unacceptable,” Trump said in a Truth Social post. Trump’s assertion regarding the “rebuffed” drone attack comes after three Indian-manned vessels were attacked this week off the coast of Oman. Three Indian seamen were killed in an attack on the Palau-flagged tanker MT Settebello.Iran, however, has denied the US president’s accusations, calling them “baseless” and a diversion from what it claimed were recent US activities against Indian ships. The attacks were deemed “deeply worrisome” by India, and the Foreign Ministry demanded that they cease immediately.Trump claimed that Iran’s “leaked” version of a potential US-Iran agreement to end the conflict is not what was agreed upon, save from the



failed drone attack on ships. Trump called the Iranians “very dishonourable people to deal with” and claimed that Iran’s description of the potential accord “bears no relation to the truth”. He asserted that “there is no such thing as dealing in good faith” when it comes to Iranians.They must quickly get their act together. On his Truth Social platform, Trump made a remark. US Vice President

JD Vance also dismissed “fake information” regarding the US-Iran deal. He stated that the Iranians will not receive cash and that no funds are being released for an agreement to be signed. “Vance wrote on X, “The agreement is designed to guarantee that the concerns of the United States and its allies are given top priority, and that if the Islamic Republic of Iran fulfills its obligations, economic benefits

will flow to them and to the entire region.”The US and Iran have “never been closer” to an agreement to end the Middle East conflict, according to a tweet made by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on X.Araghchi said on X, “The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding has never been closer,” alluding to the Pakistani metropolis that served as the site of earlier US-Iran negotiations.

The EU will prohibit airlines from charging parents to sit with their kids



London: Under an EU reform of passenger rights reached on Friday that avoided more contentious reforms, airlines will not be allowed to charge parents for seats adjacent to their children, according to diplomats. EU nations have sought to reduce the compensation that airlines are presently required to pay for delayed and cancelled flights. However, after months of negotiations, the plans were abandoned due to strong opposition from European parliamentarians.In a similar vein, a parliamentary attempt to

prohibit airlines from charging for carry-on baggage was dropped in favor of a clause requiring ticket websites to list rates for hand luggage. “We have successfully defended air passenger rights,” stated German legislator Jan-Christoph Oetjen, who participated in the negotiations. The change, which took over ten years to complete, keeps Europe’s current pay structure in place. For delays of three hours or longer, passengers are entitled to between 250 and 600 euros (\$291-\$699), depending

on the distance of the flight. Due of the knock-on effects on flight schedules, airlines have complained that this leaves them with a large charge and frequently causes them to cancel flights rather than operate them with a lengthy delay.

The 27 member nations of the bloc supported this viewpoint, and last year they attempted to force reforms that would have allowed for longer waits and less payouts through a hardly used expedited procedure.

However, this led to criticism from MPs from both parties, whose support was required for the reforms to be approved.At a Friday meeting, officials of EU member states decided to abandon the issue because there were just a few days left to reach a settlement. They reached a consensus on a document that is widely endorsed by parliamentarians, opening the door for Monday’s preliminary ratification.

Other changes that will result from this include a prohibition on airlines collecting costs for correcting spelling errors in reservations and for placing children under 14 adjacent to their parents.Before going into effect, the reform must be formally approved by lawmakers and member states.

Three civilians are dead following the latest missile strikes between Russia and Ukraine

Moscow: Three civilians died in Russian and Ukrainian border regions, officials said on Friday, as the two sides lobbed overnight strikes at each other in the latest exchange of fire in the grinding war. In Russia, two civilians were killed and two wounded in the border region of Bryansk after Kyiv struck the settlement of Suzemka with artillery, acting governor Egor Kovalchuk said in a post to Telegram. In Ukraine, a 44-year-old woman working as a rail station operator died on her way to a shelter during a drone attack in the border region of Sumy, the head of Ukrainian Railways said. Another woman, a station attendant, was wounded in the attack, Oleksandr Pertsovkyi said. Three people were wounded in separate strikes on Ukraine’s southern Mykolaiv region. In recent months, Kyiv has carried out an increasing number of attacks on Russian territory, in response to nearly daily bombardments by Moscow since it sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022. Residents of St. Petersburg, Russia’s second-largest city, were told not to leave their homes after a “large-scale” Ukrainian drone attack targeted the city Saturday morning, local officials said, underscoring Kyiv’s growing ability to hit deep inside Russia. St. Petersburg Governor Alexander Beglov advised St. Petersburg residents not to go outside and warned of possible disruptions to mobile internet service. Regional Gov.

Alexander Drozdenko said 141 drones were shot down over the surrounding Leningrad region. Russia’s Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 376 Ukrainian drones. Although no casualties were immediately reported, the renewed attack on St. Petersburg strikes a further embarrassing blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s efforts to cast the conflict as a distant event that doesn’t affect Russian daily life. Saturday’s attack follows a Ukrainian drone strike that set ablaze an oil terminal in the city and hit a nearby naval base Wednesday, hours before the opening of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Putin’s annual showcase for investment. Speaking at the forum, Putin said Thursday that Russia will strengthen its air defenses to counter recent Ukrainian drone attacks, which have reached deep inside his country and cast a cloud over the event in his hometown of St. Petersburg.

With the front line barely moving as swarms of drones hinder advances, both sides have sought an edge by launching long-range strikes. In Ukraine, one person was killed and three wounded overnight in the Dnipropetrovsk region, as Russian forces struck three districts nearly 30 times with drones and artillery, regional head Oleksandr Hanzha said Saturday. In Zaporizhzhia, five people sought medical care after a Russian drone strike started a fire at a parking lot, according to regional head Ivan Fedorov. Russia targeted Ukraine overnight with 272 strike drones, and air defenses shot down 249 of them, the Ukrainian air force said Saturday.

The latest attacks came a day after Putin on Friday rejected a proposal by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a face-to-face meeting on the four-year-old conflict, saying he sees “no point” in it. Thursday’s letter, the first public message Zelenskyy has written directly to Putin since Russia



sent troops into Ukraine in 2022, was a sweeping critique of the Russian leader’s 26 years in power, as well as some taunts about his age. The incident comes a day after a massive drone and missile barrage by Russia on Ukraine killed at least 23 people. The bus was hit in the Donetsk region as it travelled from Moscow to Simferopol in Crimea, a Black Sea peninsula that Russia annexed in 2014. “In Yenakiyevo, a UAV attacked a Moscow–Simferopol coach; according to preliminary reports, seven civilians were killed,” Denis Pushilin, the head of the Russian-occupied part of Ukraine’s Donetsk region said on Telegram. “A further 11 people sustained injuries of varying severity, and all are receiving the necessary medical care,” he added. Russia and Ukraine have traded regular aerial assaults since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, deploying waves of missiles and drones in tit-for-tat strikes. Meanwhile, a Russian drone strike killed a woman in Ukraine’s southern Kherson region, according to regional authorities. An 86-year-old woman “sustained fatal injuries as a result of a drone attack”, Yaroslav Shanko, head of the Kherson City Military Administration, said on Telegram on Wednesday. Russia said its air defences intercepted 354 Ukrainian drones across multiple regions, including areas bordering Ukraine and annexed Crimea overnight into Wednesday.

The Russian defence ministry said the drones were downed over Belgorod, Kursk and other western regions, as well as near Moscow and over the Sea of Azov. On Tuesday, Ukraine said that Russia had fired 73 missiles and 656 drones in one of the largest attacks of the war, overwhelming parts of its air defence and damaging cities including Kyiv and Dnipro. Moscow and Kyiv have been targeting each other with intensifying aerial attacks in recent months as US-led diplomatic efforts to end their war, now in its fifth year, remain stalled. Russian drone strikes on Thursday evening killed a 75-year-old man in the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson, according to the head of the city’s military administration Yaroslav Shanko.

US plans to slash fighter jets and warships assigned to NATO in Europe, report claims

Washington DC: The United States plans to slash the number of fighter jets and warships it provides to NATO in Europe, the New York Times reported on Thursday. The reported cutbacks come as European nations race to bolster their defense capacities since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 sparked fears that Moscow could attack a NATO country. US President Donald Trump has called the alliance a “paper tiger” and its members “cowards” in frustration that they have not joined the US-Israeli war against Iran. Washington plans to reduce the number of fighter jets it supplies to Europe by one third, cut all eight aerial refueling tankers and reduce maritime reconnaissance aircraft, the New York Times reported, citing two unidentified senior European officials. Other assets to be reallocated include a missile-launching submarine, an aircraft carrier, a group of bomber aircraft and several jets and warships. AFP has contacted the Pentagon for comment. The US European Command said this month that it would reassess Washington’s contributions to NATO to “ensure Europe takes primary responsibility for its own conventional defense.” US General Alexus Grynke-wich accused Europe of “an unhealthy co-dependence” on US forces.

The 32-member NATO bloc was founded in 1949 and its collective security is based on the principle that if one member is attacked, the entire alliance comes to its defense. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said last week that Trump will attend a NATO summit in Turkey in July. Rubio described it as “probably the most important meeting in NATO’s history, because there’s some things that need to be cleared up and fixed.” In a move that has sent shockwaves through European capitals, the United States is planning a sweeping reduction of the aircraft, warships, and specialized military capabilities it makes available to NATO operations in Europe. The dramatic pivot, first reported by The New York Times and corroborated by internal alliance documents, marks one of the most significant structural shifts in transatlantic defense since the inception of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949. According to senior European officials and a written document circulated among allies, Washington intends to sharply scale back its contribution to NATO’s

contingency force model. The planned drawdown strips away an array of deep-strike, aerial refueling, and maritime reconnaissance assets—capabilities that European allies have long relied upon to offset their own defense deficiencies.

The decision comes at a moment of extreme geopolitical vulnerability. European nations have been racing to bolster their conventional militaries since Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine sparked fears of a wider continental conflict. Simultaneously, US President Donald Trump has expressed escalating frustration with European allies, publicly labeling the alliance a “paper tiger” and criticizing members for failing to align with Washington’s ongoing military entanglements elsewhere. The details of the planned reductions reveal a deep gutting of the specific American assets designed to deter long-range threats and monitor adversarial movements in Europe. The United States plans to slash its commitment of high-readiness frontline fighter aircraft, specifically F-16s and F-15E Strike Eagles, by roughly one-third. The number of jets pledged to NATO for crisis response will drop from approximately 150 down to 100. The Pentagon has declined to comment publicly on the specific asset tallies but has acknowledged a fundamental realignment of its forces. In an official statement, the US European Command stated that defense officials have notified allies of a mandate to “rightsize” American contributions to the NATO Force Model.

The military framed this drawdown as part of a broader “burden-sharing” approach codified under the 2026 National Defense Strategy and an overarching vision for what Washington calls “NATO 3.0.” The administration’s explicit objective is to force European states to transition away from what US General Alexus Grynke-wich described as an “unhealthy co-dependence” on American military might, ensuring that Europe finally assumes “primary responsibility for its own conventional defense.” The White House has intensified pressure on European nations to dramatically step up their domestic defense budgets, with President Trump urging allies to raise their military spending targets to a staggering 3.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—well above the current 2% benchmark that many members have only recently

managed to achieve. The timing of the American retrenchment could not be more delicate. European defense officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, have expressed profound anxiety over the gaps this drawdown will create. Military analysts warn that building up domestic European replacements for high-tech capabilities—such as strategic bombers, stealth drones, and submarine tracking networks—takes years, if not decades, of sustained industrial manufacturing. “The United States expects European allies to provide explicit details by July on exactly how they plan to bridge this massive gap in defense capacity,” noted one senior military source close to the transition. The policy shift is also heavily influenced by fraying diplomatic dynamics outside of Europe. President Trump has voiced severe irritation with European capitals for their reluctance to support recent US military operations and naval escorts aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz amid the conflict with Iran. By drawing down capabilities in Europe, Washington is signaling that American security guarantees are no longer unconditional, throwing into question the reliability of NATO’s foundational Article 5 mutual defense pact. As European defense ministers scramble to organize emergency force-generation conferences, the reality of a diminished American umbrella is setting in. Whether this forced detachment will successfully catalyze a self-reliant European defense apparatus, or leave the continent dangerously exposed to aggressive maneuvers from Moscow, remains the defining question of this new geopolitical era.

A video posted on social media showed a huge plume of smoke on the runway of La Romana International Airport, while trucks sprayed water to try to control a fire. The Dominican Civil Aviation Institute said that the pilot and co-pilot, both Americans, died. “No passengers were reported” on board, its statement said. “The aircraft declared an emergency while approximately 16 nautical miles (30 kilometers) southwest of La Romana” and crashed as it was attempting to land there, it added. The authority said an investigation has been opened to determine the cause of the crash of the Gulfstream G200 jet, which can seat up to 18 passengers.

Drinks that may aid digestion, increase metabolism, and reduce cravings in order to help lose weight

A key factor in general wellbeing is maintaining a healthy weight. The advantages of keeping a healthy weight are numerous, ranging from enhancing energy and mobility to promoting good bodily functions and lowering the risk of chronic illnesses.

Maintaining a healthy weight also boosts immunity, improves mental health, and aids in hormone regulation. Dr. Akanksha Singh of the SENS clinic discussed common beverages that could aid in fat burning and enhance general health in an interview.

1. Green tea:
Green tea is a powerful metabolic accelerator because it is high in antioxidants called catechins and

has trace amounts of caffeine, which increases thermogenesis. Using unsweetened green tea in

place of sweetened tea and other high-calorie beverages promotes weight loss with improved metabolism, leading to a noticeable decrease in waist circumference within weeks.

Green tea is one of the greatest tools for weight loss because it increases insulin sensitivity, which helps control blood sugar levels and

decrease fat storage.

2. Black coffee:
Plain black coffee is a powerful thermogenic beverage. During physical exertion, caffeine improves fat oxidation, boosts alertness, and stimulates the central nervous system. Pre-workout coffee is often used in structured weight-loss programs as a performance enhancer to

increase calorie expenditure and endurance. However, it's important to keep

caffeine consumption within safe bounds because too much of it can raise cortisol levels and encourage fat storage, which makes losing weight much more difficult.

3. Jeera water:
In addition to being a prevalent spice in Indian homes, jeera also helps regulate intestinal

metabolism. She emphasized that jeera water has long been used as a medicinal beverage to boost appetite, avoid bloating,

and enhance digestion. Compounds found in cumin enhance food ab-

sorption, promote metabolic efficiency, and increase the release of digestive enzymes. Improved energy use and decreased fat storage are two benefits of better digestion that contribute to weight loss.

4. Lemon water:
Beyond just keeping you hydrated, drinking lemon water offers additional advantages since the vitamin

C in lemons promotes fat metabolism and liver detoxification. It is quite advantageous to drink warm lemon water in the morning since it promotes bowel movements and digestion, both of which increase metabolic efficiency.

5. Ginger tea:
Another spice that is frequently seen in most kitchens is ginger. Bioactive substances found in ginger, such as gingerol, have thermogenic and anti-inflammatory qualities.

Regular ginger tea consumption suppresses hunger, lowers waist-to-hip ratios, and reduces abdominal fat. She suggests consuming ginger tea before to meals because it is particularly advantageous when paired with a healthy diet, which can hasten weight loss.



vegetarian sources of high protein for elderly persons

One of the most crucial nutrients for a healthy aging process is protein, although many older persons, especially those in India, do not consume enough of it on a daily basis. Vegetarians, whose meals are frequently high in carbs but low in protein, are particularly affected. Inadequate protein consumption can eventually lead to decreased mobility, frailty, and an increased risk of falls, as well as sarcopenia, the age-related loss of muscle mass and strength. Making sure aging parents eat enough protein can support the health of their muscles, preserve their independence, and enhance their general wellbeing. In order to help your parents meet their nutritional needs and promote good aging, you should encourage them to incorporate four items high in protein into their daily diet, according to dietitian, yoga instructor, and Conscious Living program founder Shalini Sudhakar. The dietitian says, "If you feel it is so difficult to convince your parents to have protein, then ask them to have these four foods every day," in an Instagram video posted on June 2. They become defensive the once you bring up their eating habits and protein intake. Rather, tell them this with kindness.

Eggs:
In addition to being a great source of high-quality protein, eggs are a powerful source of vital vitamins and minerals that promote general health. They supply choline, an essential nutrient for brain development and function, and are rich in vitamins A, D, E, K, and numerous B vitamins, including folate. The dietitian suggests pushing your parents to eat two eggs every day because of their remarkable nutritional profile."Eat two eggs a day," Shalini emphasizes. It contains numerous essential elements that are beneficial to your health, including vitamins A, B, D, E, K,



and B9 (folate). They will receive 14 grams of protein from it.

Dal:
Your parents should drink two cups of dal each day, according to Shalini. It is a simple addition that requires little persuasion because it is already a familiar element of the diet and is a traditional staple in many Indian households. In addition to having the allure of comfort food, dal is high in fiber and protein, supporting both digestive and muscle function."Number two, have two cups of dal every day," the dietitian says. Any dal can do it. You don't need to persuade them to eat dal. They are aware that it provides them with 30 grams of protein daily and is quite healthful.

Greek yoghurt:
Another fantastic source of protein and a fantastic choice for vegetarians is Greek yoghurt. Shalini suggests urging your parents to incorporate about 100 grams of Greek yogurt into their daily diet. Greek yogurt is rich in probiotics, which are good bacteria that promote a healthy gut microbiota, facilitate digestion, and enhance general health, in addition to its high protein content.

"Ask them to have 100 grams of Greek yoghurt every day because it is very important for their gut health and that will give them 12 grams of protein," she says. Just by having these three foods, they get 56 grams of protein every day which is amazing."

Why:
To increase your parents' total protein intake, the nutritionist suggests adding a scoop of whey protein to their daily regimen in addition to whole-food sources. A quick, high-quality source of complete protein that can aid in muscle maintenance and recuperation is whey protein."Beyond this, if you can convince them for one scoop of whey, that's a bumper price," says Shalini. Tell them the easiest and finest course of action rather than criticizing them.

Stress-relieving breathing exercises

Stress has a way of taking over before you know it. Your shoulders tighten, your mind begins to race, and even seemingly insignificant activities become onerous. Many individuals attempt to rationalize their way out of tension during times like these, but tranquility frequently starts somewhere much simpler: your breath. When you're stressed or anxious, your breathing usually quickens. You can tell your body that you are secure by purposefully slowing it down. Your mind generally relaxes along with your body. Use these three simple breathing exercises to stop and concentrate on your breathing the next time stress starts to build up.

1. Box Breathing:
Athletes, public presenters, and even military people frequently employ the Box Breathing meditation technique, which is one of the simplest and most efficient ways to quiet your mind and body and maintain focus under pressure. Here's how to do it:
Take a four-second breath through your nose.
For four seconds, hold your breath.
Repeat the cycle multiple times.
Your pulse rate may settle down and your thoughts may become less disorganized as you maintain this constant pattern.

2. Physiological Sigh:
Stress can occasionally accumulate so rapidly that you require a quick reset. The physiological sigh can be useful in this situation.

To put it into practice:
Inhale deeply through your nose until your lungs are nearly full.
Next, inhale briefly through your nose to completely expand your lungs.
Let out a long, slow sigh through your mouth.
This method can swiftly lessen feelings of stress and assist in releasing pent-up tension. After just one or two rounds, a lot of people report feeling relieved. When things start to feel overwhelming, consider it like hitting a reset button for your body and mind.

3. Five-Finger Breathing:
Five-finger breathing is particularly helpful when your mind feels disorganized or restless since it blends breathwork with light movement. To complete this task:
Extend one hand in front of you.
Trace the outline of your open hand slowly with the index finger of your other hand.
Take a slow breath as you go up each finger.
Breathe out softly as you go down each finger.
Keep tracing each of your five fingers. Five-finger breathing uses several senses, in contrast to many other breathing techniques. You pay attention to your breathing, your hand movements, and the tactile experience. This calms your mind, helps you return your focus to the here and now, and almost quickly makes you feel at ease.



Kishore Kumar

Born Abhas Kumar Ganguly (pronounced), Kishore Kumar was an Indian playback singer, musician, and actor who lived from August 4, 1929, to October 13, 1987. [9] He is considered by many to be among the best, most significant, and most powerful singers in Indian music history.[10][11][12] [13] Known for his yodelling and versatility, Kumar was one of the most well-known vocalists in the Indian subcontinent.[14] He sang in a variety of genres, but some of his uncommon compositions—which are regarded as classics—were lost to time. [15, 16, 17] Kumar won the title of “The Most Popular Male Playback Singer” in a 2013 Filmfare magazine survey.[18] Besides Hindi, he sang in many other Indian languages, including Bengali, Marathi, Assamese, Gujarati, Kannada, Bhojpuri, Malayalam, Odia and Urdu.[19] He also released a few non-film albums in multiple languages, especially in Bengali, which are noted as all-time classics.[20] According to his brother and legendary actor Ashok Kumar, Kishore Kumar was successful as a singer because his “voice hits the mike, straight, at its most sensitive point” [21]He won 8 Filmfare Award for Best Male Playback Singer out of 28 nominations and holds the record for winning and nominating the most Filmfare Awards in that category.[20] He was awarded the Lata Mangeshkar Award by the Madhya Pradesh government in 1985. In 1997, the Madhya Pradesh Government initiated an award called the “Kishore Kumar Award” for contributions to Hindi cinema. In 2012, his unreleased last song sold for ₹15.6 lakh (\$17,500 US) at the Osian’s Cinefan Auction in New Delhi.

Early life: Kishore Kumar was born in a Bengali Brahmin Ganguly[25] [26] family in Khandwa, Central Provinces (now in Madhya Pradesh) as Abhas Kumar Ganguly.[27] His father, Kunjalal Ganguly (Gangopadhyay), was a lawyer and his mother, Gouri Devi came from a wealthy Bengali family and was a home-maker. Kunjalal was

invited by the Kamavisadar Gokhale family of Khandwa to be their personal lawyer. Kumar was the youngest of four siblings, the elder three being Ashok (the eldest), Sati Devi, and Anoop.[28]While Kumar was still a child, his brother Ashok became an actor in Hindi cinema. Later, Anoop also ventured into cinema with Ashok’s help. [29] Kumar graduated from Christian College, Indore. [30] **Career:** After Ashok Kumar became a star of Hindi films, the Ganguly family visited Bombay (now Mumbai) regularly. Abhas Kumar changed his name to ‘Kishore Kumar’ and started his cinema career as a chorus singer at Bombay Talkies, where his brother worked. Music director Khemchand Prakash gave Kumar a chance to sing “Marne Ki Duayen Kyon Mangu” for the film Ziddi (1948). After this, Kumar was offered many other assignments, but he was not very serious about a film career. [31] In 1949, he settled in Bombay. [32]During the initial stage of his career, Kumar was deeply inspired by singer K. L. Saigal and imitated his style of singing in some of his early films but later evolved his own, unique style.[33] He had a great respect for poet and musician Rabindranath Tagore who influenced him in many ways.

[34]He was an ardent admirer of Hollywood actor-singer Danny Kaye. He hung the portraits of all these three personalities at his Gouri Kunj residence and would bow respectfully before them every day as a rule.[35]In his later career, Kumar was also heavily influenced by playback singer Ahmed Rushdi and his liking towards Rushdi was to the extent that former paid a tribute at Royal Albert Hall in London to the latter by singing some of his songs. [36]Kumar employed yodelling in many of his songs including, “Yeh Dil Na Hota Bechara”, “Zindagi Ek Safar Hai Suhana”, and “Chala Jata Hoon”. The style eventually became an essential feature of his singing and was inspired by Jimmie Rodgers and Tex Morton.[37]In the movie Half Ticket, for one of the songs, “Aake Seedhi Lagi Dil Pe”, the music director Salil Chowdhury had a duet

himself. The duet is actually for Pran and Kumar on the screen dressed as a woman. It just turned out to be fine as he did admirably well singing both in male and female voices.[38]Music director S. D. Burman is credited with spotting Kumar’s talent for singing. During the making of Mashaal (1950), Burman visited Ashok’s house, where he heard Kumar imitating K. L. Saigal. He complimented him and told him that he should develop a style of his own, instead of copying Saigal.[39] Kumar eventually developed his own style of singing, which featured yodelling, which he had heard on the records of Tex Morton and Jimmie Rodgers. [40]:60S. D. Burman kept making Kishore sing for Dev Anand from the 50s to the early 70s. S. D. Burman provided him the training and encouraged Kumar a lot, especially in the late 50s and early 60s, resulting in Kumar developing into a great singer in the future years.[41]S. D. Burman recorded Kumar’s voice for Dev Anand’s Munimji (1954), Taxi Driver (1954), House No. 44 (1955), Funtoosh (1956), Nau Do Gyarah (1957), Paying Guest (1957), Guide (1965), Jewel Thief (1967), Prem Pujari (1970), and Tere Mere Sapne (1971). He also composed music for Kumar’s home production Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi (1958). Some of their songs were “Maana Janaab Ne Pukara Nahin” from Paying Guest (1957), “Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke” from Nau Do Gyarah (1957), “Ai Meri Topi Palat Ke Aa” from Funtoosh (1956), and “Ek Ladki Bheegi Bhaagi



Si” from Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi,[42] Asha Bhosle and Kishore performed duets composed by Burman including “Chhod Do Aanchal” from Paying Guest (1957), “Ankhon Mein Kya Ji” from Nau Do Gyarah (1957), “Haal Kaisa Hai Janaab Ka” and “Paanch Rupaiya Baara Aana” from Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi (1958) and “Arre Yaar Meri Tum Bhi Ho Gajab” from Teen Deviyani (1965). [43]As a singer, Kumar’s work with many music directors in this period includes “Ye Raatein Ye Mausam” and “Hum Toh Mohabbat Karega” from Dilli Ka Thug, “Piya Piya Mora Jiya” from Baap Re Baap, “Hello Hello Ji” from Bombay Ka Chor, “Michael Hai To Cycle Hai” from Bewaqoof, “Ae Haseeno Nazneeno” from Chacha Zindabad, “Zaroorat Hai Zaroorat Hai” from Man-Mauji (1961), “Likha Hai Teri Ankhon Mein” from Teen Devian, “Suno Jaana Suno Jaana”, “Pyaar Baatke Chalo” and “Kya Teri Zulfein Hai” from Hum Sab Ustad Hain, “Khoobsurat Haseena” from Mr. X in Bombay, “Gaata Rahe Mera Dil” from Guide (1965), “Sultana Sultana” from Shreeman Funtoosh, “Machalti Hui” from Ganga Ki Lahren, “Mera Dil Meri Jaan” and “Pyar Ka Jaahan Hotel” from Jaalsaaaz and “Yeh Dil Na Hota Bechara” from Jewel Thief (1967).[44] Music director C. Ramchandra also recognised Kumar’s talent as a singer.[45] They collaborated on songs including “Eena Meena Deeka”

from Aasha (1957). Kumar’s work includes “Nakhrewaali” from New Delhi (1956) by Shankar Jaikishan, “C.A.T. Cat Maane Billi” and “Hum To Mohabbat Karega” from Dilli Ka Thug (1958) by Ravi, and “Chhedo Na Meri Zulfein” from Ganga Ki Lahren (1964) by Chitragupta.[10]In 1968, Rahul Dev Burman worked with Kumar on the soundtrack of the film Padosan (1968), in which Kumar sang “Mere Saamne Wali Khidki Mein” and “Kehna Hai.” Padosan was a comedy featuring Kishore as a dramatist-musician, Mehmood as a Carnatic music and dance teacher, and Sunil Dutt as a simpleton named Bhola. Kishore’s character was inspired by his uncle, Dhananjay Bannerjee, a classical singer.[31] The highlight of the film was a musical, comical duel between Kumar, Sunil Dutt and Mehmood: “Ek Chatur Nar Karke Singaar.[46]In 1969, Shakti Samanta produced and directed Aradhana. Kumar sang three songs in the film; “Mere Sapnon Ki Rani”, “Kora Kagaj Tha Ye Man Mera” and “Roop Tera Mastana”. Shakti Samanta suggested that Kumar sing the other songs too. When the film was released, Kumar’s three songs established him as a leading playback singer of Hindi cinema.[47] Kumar won his first Filmfare award for “Roop Tera Mastana”. [48]:54 **Acting career:** Kumar’s first film appearance was in Shikari (1946),

in which his brother, Ashok played the lead role. Kumar played the lead in the Bombay Talkies film Andolan (1951), directed by Phani Majumdar. Although he got some acting assignments with the help of his brother, he was more interested in becoming a singer. But Ashok wanted Kumar to be an actor like him.[39] Between 1946 and 1955, Kumar appeared in 22 films, of which 16 were flops; since he was uninterested in taking up acting as a career, he found ways to be in the bad books of the director or producer, so that they would throw him from their films. It was only after the success of films such as Ladki, Naukari, Miss Mala, Char Paise and Baap Re Baap that Kumar developed an interest in acting seriously, which resulted in him having successful films as the lead actor between 1955 and 1966.[13] Kumar starred in Bimal Roy’s Naukari (1954) and Hrishikesh Mukherjee’s directorial debut Musafir (1957). Salil Chowdhury, the music director for Naukari, was initially dismissive of Kumar as a singer when he found that Kumar had no formal training in music. [45] However, after hearing his voice, Chowdhury gave him the song Chhota Sa Ghar Hoga, which was supposed to be sung by Hemant Kumar. [49] The commercially successful films of Kumar included Ladki (1953), Naukari (1954), Baap Re Baap (1955), Paisa Hi Paisa (1956), New Delhi (1956),

Naya Andaz (1956), Bhagam Bhaag (1956), Bhai Bhai (1956), Aasha (1957), Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi (1958), Dilli Ka Thug (1958), Jaalsaaaz (1959), Bombay Ka Chor (1962), Chacha Zindabad (1959), Man-Mauji (1962), Jhumroo (1961), Half Ticket (1962), Mr. X in Bombay (1964), Shreeman Funtoosh (1965), Ek Raaz (1963), Ganga Ki Lahren (1964), Hum Sab Ustaad Hai (1965), Haal E Dil, Pyar Kiye Jaa (1966), and Padosan (1968). As an actor, his best period was between 1954 and 1966. His onscreen pairing with actresses Mala Sinha, Vyjayanthimala, Nutan, Madhubala, Meena Kumari and Kumkum gave the biggest hits in his career. Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi (1958), his home production, had the three Ganguly brothers and Madhubala in main roles. Kumar played a car mechanic who has a romance with a city girl; (Madhubala) with a subplot involving the brothers.[40]:29 Kumar acted in and composed the music for Jhumroo (1961), and wrote the lyrics for the film’s title song, “Main Hoon Jhumroo”. Later, he produced and directed Door Gagan Ki Chhaon Mein (1964), where he starred with Bengali actress Supriya Devi.[51] He also wrote the script and composed music for the film, which is about the relationship between a father (Kumar) and his deaf and mute son (played by his real-life son Amit Kumar). [48]:52

Mahesh Babu

Born on August 9, 1975, Ghattamaneni Mahesh Babu is a Telugu film actor, produc-

the movies Gudachari 117 (1989), Sankharavam (1987), Bazaar Rowdy, and Mugguru

commercially successful films such as Athadu (2005), Pokiri (2006), Dookudu



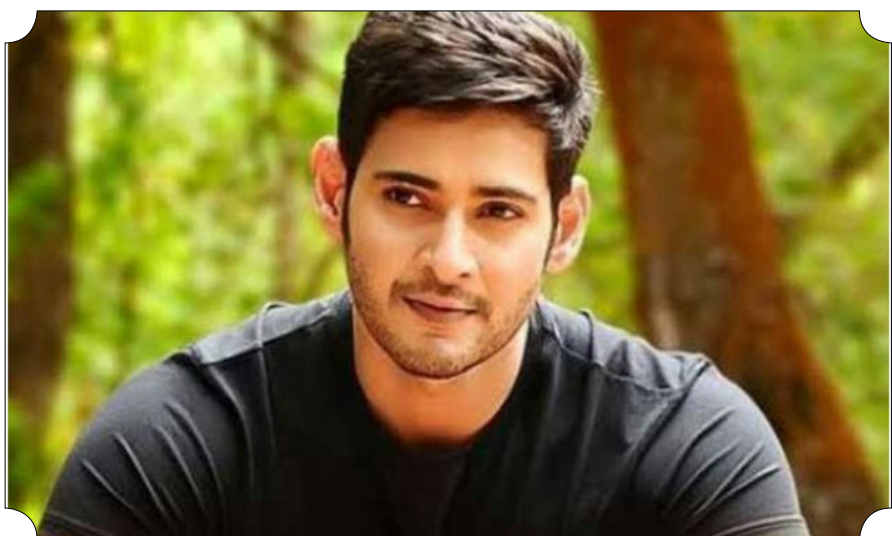
er, and philanthropist from India. From 2012 to 2025, he was listed in Forbes India’s Celebrity 100 list, making him one of the highest-paid actors in Indian film.[1][2] Known by the media as the Superstar, he starred in more than 30 movies and won numerous honors, including four SIIMA Awards, five Filmfare Awards South, and nine Nandi Awards. Babu, the younger son of seasoned actor Krishna, made his stage debut at the age of four in a cameo in the Telugu movie Needa (1979). He then performed as a kid actor in

Kodukulu (1988). In the 1989 movie Koduku Diddina Kapuram, he had two roles. After that, Babu made appearances in the 1990 films Balachandrudu and Anna Thammudu. With Rajakumarudu (1999), he made his feature film debut and was awarded the Nandi Award for Best Male Debut.[4] Babu achieved his breakthrough with the supernatural drama Murari (2001) and the action film Okkadu (2003), winning his first Filmfare Award for Best Actor – Telugu for his performance in the latter. He went on to star in other

(2011), Businessman (2012), Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu (2013), Srimanthudu (2015), Bharat Ane Nenu (2018), Maharshi (2019), Sarileru Neekevvaru (2020), and Sarkaru Vaari Paata (2022), some of which rank among the highest-grossing Telugu films of all time. His performances in Pokiri, Dookudu, Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu, and Srimanthudu earned him high acclaim and four more Filmfare Awards for Best Actor – TeluguBabu established Mahesh Babu Foundation, which focuses on supporting children in need

by funding life-saving congenital heart surgeries.[5] He owns the production house G. Mahesh Babu Entertainment. [6] He is also associated with Rainbow Hospitals as their goodwill ambassador.[7] He entered into the film exhibition business in partnership with Asian Group in 2018, with the inauguration of the seven-screen multiplex, AMB cinemas in Hyderabad, followed by a nine-screen multiplex in Bengaluru.[8] [9] He is married to actress Namrata Shirodkar.[10] **Early life and education:** Ghattamaneni Mahesh Babu was born on 9 August 1975 in a Telugu family to actor Krishna and Indira in Madras, Tamil Nadu.[11][12] [13][14] He is the fourth of five siblings, after Ramesh Babu, Padmavathi, and Manjula, and before Priyadarsini. His family hails from Burripalem in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh.[15]Babu spent his childhood mostly in Madras under the care of his maternal grandmother Durgamma and the rest of his family.[16] He was educated at the St. Bede’s Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School, Chennai. He went on to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the Loyola College, Chennai.[11][17] **Career:** **Early career and breakthrough (1979–2003):** At the age of four, Babu visited the sets of the Telugu film Needa (1979) where its

director Dasari Narayana Rao shot a few sequences of his as a part of the narrative in the presence of the former’s brother Ramesh. Needa marked his debut as a child actor.[18] In 1983, he acted in Poratam (1983) upon being requested by its director Kodi Ramakrishna.[19] He went on to act as a child artist in the films Sankharavam (1987), Bazaar Rowdy (1988), Mugguru Kodukulu (1988) and Gudachari 117 (1989). He played a dual role in the film Koduku Diddina Kapuram (1989). Babu then appeared in Bala Chandrudu (1990), and Anna Thammudu (1990).[19][20]In 1999, Babu made his debut as a lead actor with the romantic comedy Rajakumarudu, and people began referring to him with the title Prince.[21] For his performance, he received the Nandi Award for Best Male Debut.[22] He starred in two films the following year – Yuvvaraju and Vamsi, where he was paired opposite Namrata Shirodkar.[23][24] He also starred in Krishna Vamsi’s Murari (2001) opposite Sonali Bendre, which he regarded as an important film in his career.[25][26] For his role in Murari, he earned a Nandi Special Jury Award, in addition to his first nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Actor – Telugu.[22] A critic from Sify stated, “Both Mahesh and Sonali Bendre look charming and Mahesh is in his elements as light-heart-



ed prankster.”[27]In 2002, his performance in Takkari Donga landed him his second Nandi Special Jury Award.[22] He had two film releases in 2003, the first one being Gunasekhar’s Okkadu co-starring Bhumika Chawla. [28] He won his first Filmfare Award for Best Actor – Telugu for his performance in the film.[29] The other release was Nijam co-starring Rakshita.[30] Babu received praise from critics for his performance in the film, with Vijayalaxmi of Rediff.com calling him the only reason to watch the film’s second half which she termed “a routine tale of vendetta”.[31] He won his first Nandi Award for Best Actor for his performance in the film, in addition to his third nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Actor – Telugu.[32] **Mainstream film and com-**

mercial success (2004–2010): In 2004, Manjula produced his next film,[33] Naani, directed by S. J. Surya co-starring Amisha Patel. While its simultaneously shot Tamil version New featuring a different cast proved to be commercially successful, Naani flopped at the box office.[34] He received his third Nandi Special Jury Award for his performance in his next film, Arjun, directed by Gunasekhar and produced by Ramesh.[35] The film released on 18 August 2004[36] and was successful at the box-office.[37] The film was screened at the International Film Festival of India in the mainstream section. This was Keerthi Reddy’s final acting performance prior to her retirement from the film industry.[38] He chose to act in Trivikram Srinivas’s Athadu (2005), co-starring

Trisha Krishnan, whose script had been approved back in 2002 before the production of Naani and Arjun had begun. [39][40] It emerged as one of the highest-grossing films of the year.[41][42] The film proved to be a major boost for Babu’s career as he received his fourth nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Actor – Telugu, in addition to fetching his second Nandi Award for Best Actor for his performance in the role of a hired assassin.[43] Idlebrain.com gave it a rating of 3.25/5 and mentioned Babu is stylish and brilliant as professional killer.[44]Cinegoer.net gave a review stating, “True the film gives an image of a Hollywood base for the drama. Even the taking, screenplay structure and execution of scenes, less talk and more action.[45]

Political War of Words: BJP Slams Sanjay Raut For Comparing PM Modi to Aurangzeb



Pune, Jun 14: A massive political storm erupted on Saturday after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi with highly provocative language, calling him an “aghor” (eccentric/dreaded) and a “cruel” leader. Raut further inflamed passions by asserting that the Prime Minister hails from the

“land of Aurangzeb,” sparking a fierce counter-offensive from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Addressing journalists in Pune, Raut launched a scathing attack on the Prime Minister’s political persona, claiming it inspires fear. Comparing him unfavorably to past Indian stalwarts like Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Balasaheb

Thackeray, Raut remarked, “Never before has such an ‘aghor’ person been born in this country’s politics. He comes from the same soil that produced Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb was born in Gujarat, wasn’t he?”

The BJP retaliated swiftly, accusing the opposition alliance of hitting a “new low of frustration.” National spokesperson Shehzad

Poonawalla released a video statement condemning the remarks as an insult not just to a constitutional office, but to the entire state of Gujarat. “The Congress party and its allies have crossed the line, hurling over 150 abusive slurs against the Prime Minister over time,” Poonawalla stated. “Now, Sanjay Raut has gone even further by labeling Gujarat as the land of Aurangzeb.

Because they lack substantive policy criticisms, they resort to constant vitriol.” Poonawalla further alleged that the opposition’s repeated attacks stem from a deep-rooted prejudice against the Prime Minister’s humble background as an OBC family member and a former tea seller. Warning that the electorate would penalize the opposition for its “abusive politics,” the BJP spokesperson concluded that such persistent disrespect toward constitutional heads has repeatedly led to the alliance’s electoral downfalls.

Assam’s Bhabani Moran Brings Laurels Home With Bronze at National Cadet Judo Championship



Guwahati, Jun 14: Rising martial arts talent Bhabani Moran has brought immense pride to Assam by securing a prestigious bronze medal at the Cadet National Judo Championship. The tournament, which features the country’s finest young judokas, is currently underway in Chandigarh. Moran climbed the podium on Friday following an impressive display of tactical skill and physical endurance.

Competing in the high-

ly competitive girls’ 57 kg weight category, the young athlete from Assam showcased exceptional technique and resilience through multiple grueling rounds. Facing off against some of the top-ranked cadet martial artists in the country, Moran bounced back from a challenging field to dominate her final classification bouts and firmly secure her place on the national podium. Sports administrators and local judo enthusiasts

across Assam have widely celebrated her podium finish. Local coaches have hailed her achievement as a major milestone for the state’s combat sports ecosystem. Analysts noted that her national-level success underscores the growing pool of athletic talent emerging from India’s northeastern region, which continues to firmly establish itself as a powerhouse for indigenous sports and martial arts. The Assam Judo Association extended its warmest congratulations to Moran, stating that her bronze medal victory serves as a powerful inspiration for aspiring young judokas across the state. This landmark victory is expected to provide a major boost to her burgeoning sports career, paving the way for potential selections into national training camps and future international representations on the global stage.

Amit Shah Directs Panel to Verify Regional Demographic Changes on the Ground



New Delhi, Jun 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday directed a newly formed high-level committee on demographic change to launch extensive field assessments across India’s border districts, industrial towns, and metropolitan centers. The directive aims to analyze significant population shifts on the ground and evaluate their broader implications for national security.

Chairing a high-profile review meeting attended by all committee members, Shah emphasized that tracking demographic variations is critical to safeguarding national sovereignty, maintaining law and order, and preserving domestic social structures. He noted that abnormal population trends, particularly in sensitive frontiers, pose unique challenges to national security and can disrupt the

cultural fabric of indigenous and tribal communities. The specialized panel was formally constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) through an official notification last month. Headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar, the committee comprises high-ranking administrative and domain experts, including Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, former IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, former IPS officer Balaji Srivastava, and prominent economist Dr. Shamika Ravi. The Joint Secretary of the MHA’s Foreigners Division-I serves as the panel’s member secretary. During the session, the Home Minister explicitly instructed the panel to investigate what the government terms “unnatural causes” of population variation, focusing primar-

ily on illegal migration and orchestrated settlement patterns. The committee’s expansive mandate involves conducting a scientific, data-driven assessment of regional migration trends. Members will analyze localized growth rates that diverge sharply from regional or national averages, looking closely at shifts across various religious and social communities. Beyond identifying cross-border influxes, the panel is tasked with evaluating the socio-economic and environmental drivers—such as shifting economic opportunities—that trigger domestic migration into urban and industrial hubs. Crucially, the government has directed the committee to formulate robust policy, administrative, and legislative solutions to manage these shifting dynamics. Chief among its responsibilities is a mandate to propose a streamlined, permanent, and institutionalized mechanism for the identification, detention, and subsequent deportation of illegal immigrants. The Home Ministry emphasized that this deportation framework must be legally sound, fair, and bound to a strict timeline.

The panel’s comprehensive findings and field reports are expected to serve as the blueprint for India’s long-term internal security and population policies.

By providing a structured framework to address abnormal demographic growth, the committee’s upcoming recommendations will heavily influence future border management strategies and administrative interventions in highly sensitive zones.

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth named next Army Chief, first from Armoured Corps in 3 decades



New Delhi, Jun 14: A government directive issued on Saturday states that Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth would succeed General Upendra Dwivedi, who retires on June 30, as the nation’s Army leader. He will be the first Armoured Corps officer to head the service in almost thirty years. A government directive issued on Saturday states that Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth would succeed General Upendra Dwivedi, who retires on June 30, as the nation’s Army leader. He will be the first Armoured Corps officer to head the service in almost thirty years. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, Seth was commissioned into the 2nd Lancers on December 20, 1986. Known for his professionalism and military acumen, he attended the Defence Services Command and General

Staff Course at the Military College in Paris, the International Defence Acquisition Management Course at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, the Higher Command Course at Mhow, and the National Defence College in New Delhi. “Over a distinguished military career spanning nearly four decades, he has had extensive experience across the operational, strategic, capability development and institutional domains, contributing significantly to the Indian Army’s combat effectiveness and long-term transformation,” the defence ministry said, announcing his appointment. Seth, the son of a retired three-star general, has commanded the armoured regiment Skinner’s Horse, an armoured brigade, a counter-insurgency force in Jammu and Kashmir, a strike corps on the western front, the Jaipur-based South Western Command and the Pune-based Southern Command.

The officer has the rare distinction of commanding two operational Army Commands and providing strategic oversight across critical theatres for over two-and-a-half years, the defence ministry said. He has held several key appointments that significantly influenced operational planning, force management and capability development, it said. The General Officer, who is widely acknowledged for his contributions to force modernization, has held key positions in the Army headquarters’ strategic planning and

capability development verticals, influencing the army’s modernization trajectory, capability roadmap, and long-term force structuring initiatives. According to the ministry, “his contributions have been crucial in aligning operational requirements with emerging technologies and future battlefield imperatives.” He has held three positions in various branches at Army headquarters, including director general (discipline, ceremonial, and welfare), assistant military secretary at the MS Branch, brigadier general staff (operations) at South Western Command, and brigade major of an independent armoured brigade. Additionally, he served as a colonel instructor at the School of Armoured Warfare, the Armoured Corps Centre and School, Ahmednagar, and an instructor and assistant adjutant at the NDA. From 1995 to 1996, he worked as an operations officer with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission-III. According to a statement from the defence ministry, Seth has continuously performed exceptionally well in professional military education, earning top spots in courses of instruction. His appointment as head of the Army coincides with the appointment of Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as the new head of the Navy and General NS Raja Subramani as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), filling the top military positions ahead of a significant command reorganization.

Thomas Partey misses Ghana’s World Cup opener after Canada denies visa



New Delhi: Ghana midfielder Thomas Partey will miss his country’s opening World Cup match against Panama after Canadian authorities refused his visa application, FIFA confirmed on Friday. The 32-year-old was expected to travel with the rest of the Ghana squad from their team base camp in Boston to Canada for Wednesday’s Group L fixture. However, FIFA said Partey would be unable to make the trip following the decision by the Canadian government. “FIFA can confirm that player Thomas Partey will be unable to travel from Ghana’s Team Base Camp in Boston, USA, to Canada for their first match against Panama on Wednesday, 17 June, as his visa application has

been refused by the Canadian government,” FIFA said in a statement provided to Reuters. The world governing body added that it does not play any role in immigration matters involving tournament host nations. Canadian authorities did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the decision.

While Partey will be absent for Ghana’s tournament opener, he remains eligible for the Black Stars’ remaining Group L fixtures. Ghana face England in Boston before taking on Croatia in Philadelphia, with both matches set to be played in the United States. Partey is currently with the rest of the Ghana squad and has continued preparations with the team despite the travel

setback. His absence represents a significant blow for Ghana ahead of a crucial opening encounter against Panama. The experienced midfielder has earned 57 international caps and remains one of Ghana’s most recognisable players. He featured in the team’s final warm-up match against Wales on June 2 as preparations intensified for the tournament. Partey’s visa refusal comes amid ongoing legal proceedings in the United Kingdom. The former Arsenal midfielder faces allegations of rape and sexual assault, charges he has consistently denied. According to previous reports, a trial originally scheduled to begin later this year at Southwark Crown Court has been postponed and is now set to start on June 8, 2027.

Partey has appeared in court and entered not guilty pleas to all charges. He remains on bail while legal proceedings continue and is subject to conditions, including a restriction preventing contact with the alleged victims. After spending five years at Arsenal between 2020 and 2025, Partey moved to Spanish side Villarreal. Despite the ongoing legal case, he has remained selection.

Shield Complete: India’s Phase-II BMD Ready to Neutralize Long-Range Intercontinental Threats

New Delhi, Jun 14: India has achieved a monumental milestone in its strategic defense capabilities, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully executing three consecutive flight-tests of its Phase-II, multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system. Conducted between June 10 and 11, the trials witnessed indigenous interceptors successfully neutralizing targets across both endo-atmospheric (within the atmosphere) and exo-atmospheric (outer space) zones. Engineered to neutralize faster, longer-range threats, the Phase-II shield is designed to scale up against Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs). The DRDO stated that these successful trials firmly solidify India’s position within an “elite group of nations” possessing advanced BMD capabilities. While official statements did not specify the target ranges, defense sources indicated that the latest intercepts effectively engaged tar-

gets in the Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) class, spanning the 2,000 to 5,000 km band. India’s BMD journey began in the mid-2000s to counter regional threats, particularly Pakistan’s expanding arsenal and China’s sophisticated missile inventory. Phase-I utilized Prithvi Air Defence (PAD) and Advanced Air Defence (AAD) systems. Phase-II commenced with the maiden AD-I interceptor test in November 2022, followed by a network-centric system trial in July 2024. The current system operates as a unified, high-tech network utilizing indigenous long-range tracking radars, low-latency communication links, and Mission Control Centres that compute threat trajectories to launch precision kill vehicles. In a separate breakthrough, the DRDO also conducted the maiden flight-test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR). This subsonic, sea-skimming weapon boasts a strike range of approximately

300 km. Slated to arm MiG-29K fighters, frontline warships, and P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, the NASM-MR will progressively replace the Indian Navy’s aging, Russian-origin Kh-35 anti-ship missiles. Looking ahead, the DRDO has already initiated conceptual work on Phase-III of the BMD program, anchored by two next-generation interceptors designated AD-AH and AD-AM. These advanced systems are being designed to neutralize highly complex future threats, including Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs) that travel above Mach 5 and change trajectories mid-flight, as well as Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs) capable of releasing several nuclear warheads from a single launch. While China fields hypersonic weapons like the DF-41 and Pakistan develops the MIRV-capable Ababeel, India’s Phase-III interceptors remain in the early design phase ahead of future flight-testing.

Water Crisis Looms: Bhakra Dam Inflows Plunge 50% Amid Delayed Snowmelt in Sutlej Catchment

Chandigarh, Jun 14: A severe combination of deficit winter precipitation and delayed summer snowmelt has triggered a critical water deficit in northern India, causing water inflows into the iconic Bhakra-Nangal Dam to plummet by approximately 50 percent compared to historical averages. The crisis stems from a meager winter snowfall across the Sutlej River catchment area in Himachal Pradesh, compounded by a succession of persistent western disturbances. These meteorological systems have kept high-altitude temperatures unusually below normal, severely arresting the natural snowmelt process required to feed the reservoir. Making matters worse, the volume of water currently being released from the dam continues to drastically outpace incoming natural flows. According to official reservoir monitoring data released on June 11, the cumulative inflow into the Bhakra reservoir between May 21 and June 11 was recorded at 3,03,307 cusecs. This stands in stark contrast to the historical average of 5,91,876 cusecs typically witnessed during this precise window. In volumetric terms, the cumulative water receipt reached just 0.74 billion cubic metres (BCM), roughly half of the long-term average baseline of 1.45 BCM. Looking strictly at daily figures, the

real-time inflow into the Bhakra Dam crawled at 16,527 cusecs—nearly 50 percent lower than the baseline average of 32,706 cusecs, and significantly trailing the 28,015 cusecs recorded during the corresponding period last year.

Paradoxically, due to a healthy residual storage carryover from previous seasons, the actual water level in the Bhakra reservoir currently reads higher than both last year’s metrics and the historical baseline. On June 11, the live pool level hovered at 1,576.65 feet, comfortably ahead of the 1,555.30 feet recorded on the same date last year, and well above the long-term historical average of 1,545.39 feet. However, this buffer is depleting rapidly. To meet the aggressive agrarian demands of the newly commenced paddy sowing season in the breadbasket states of Punjab and Haryana, the dam management released a hefty 23,163 cusecs on June 11. Juxtaposed against the meager inflow of 16,527 cusecs, this structural deficit resulted in a net reservoir depletion of 0.70 feet in a single day. Technical experts familiar with the catchment topography revealed that the Sutlej basin in Himachal Pradesh normally yields an average winter snowfall equivalent to 4 BCM of water.



Yuzvendra Chahal

Yuzvendra Chahal, a leg spin bowler for the Indian national cricket team, was born on July 23, 1990. In addition, he plays for Northamptonshire in the County Championship, Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League, and Haryana in domestic cricket. In T20I history, Chahal was the first Indian and the second player to collect six wickets.[2] In an international cricket match, he was the first concussion substitute to win man of the match.[3] He used to be an international chess player for India. Despite not playing in any of the tournament’s games, he was a member of the Indian side that won the 2024 T20 World Cup. **Domestic career:** Chahal was first signed up by Mumbai Indians in 2011.

He appeared in only 1 IPL game across three seasons and that was against Kolkata Knight Riders on 24 April but played in all matches in the 2011 Champions League Twenty20. He took 2 for 9 in 3 overs in the Final against Royal Challengers Bangalore, helping Mumbai defend the total of 139 and lift the title. At the 2014 IPL players auction, he was signed up by the Royal Challengers for his base price of ₹ 10 lakh. He got the Man of the Match award against Delhi Daredevils in IPL 2014. In January 2018, he was bought back by the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 2018 IPL auction.[4] In February 2022, he was bought by the Rajasthan Royals in the Mega auction for the 2022 Indian Premier

League tournament.[5] On 18 April 2022, in the IPL match against the Kolkata Knight Riders, Chahal took a hat-trick and a five-wicket haul. [6] He became the first Indian to take 300 wickets in T20s during Rajasthan Royals’ opening match of the 2023 Indian Premier League against the Sunrisers Hyderabad.[7] In September 2023, Chahal signed for Kent County Cricket Club for the final three matches of the 2023 County Championship season. This was after he not been selected for India’s Asia Cup or World Cup teams.[8][9] Chahal signed a short-term contract with Northamptonshire County Cricket Club in August 2024.[10][11] taking 5/14 in his debut appearance for the club in the One-Day

Cup against his former team, Kent. **International career:** He was named in the 14-man squad to tour Zimbabwe in 2016. He made his One Day International (ODI) debut against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club on 11 June 2016, Richmond Mutumbami was his first wicket in ODIs.[14] In the second match, Chahal took three wickets for just 26 runs and led his team to victory by 8 wickets. In his second over, he delivered a seam-up delivery at a speed of 109 km/h.[15] His bowling performance earned him first international man of the match award as well. He made his Twenty20 International (T20I) debut against Zimbabwe at Harare on 18 June 2016, Malcolm Waller was his first wicket in T20Is.[16] On 1 February 2017, he became the first bowler for India to take a five wicket haul in T20Is, ending with figures of 6/25 against England.[17][18] Yuzvendra Chahal was also the first legspinner to pick up a fiver as well as 6 wicket haul in a T20I and had the record for the best bowling as a legspinner in T20I history (6/25). He took the most wickets (23) in T20Is in 2017 by any bowler.[19] Chahal is also the first Indian bowler to claim a five-wicket haul in T20Is in the third T20 against England on February 1, 2017. On 18 January 2019, Chahal took his 2nd One Day International 5 wicket haul by taking 6/42 against Australia. These were the joint best figures by an Indian bowler vs Aussies after Ajit Agarkar in 2003/04. These also were best figures by an Indian spinner at MCG in Australia against Australia. In this match, Australia scored 230 in 48.5 overs while India chased it easily by winning it from 7 wickets courtesy fine knocks from M.S. Dhoni, Kedar Jadhav. In April 2019, he was named in India’s squad for the 2019 Cricket World Cup.[20][21] He ended his world cup campaign with 12 wickets.[22] In November 2019, during the third T20I against Bangladesh, he became the third bowler for India to take 50 wickets in T20Is.[23] On 4 December 2020, in the first T20I match against Australia, Chahal replaced Ravindra Jadeja as a suffering a concussion.[24] Chahal was later named the man of the match, becoming the first concussion substitute to win the man of the match award in an international cricket fixture.[25] In June 2021, he was named in India’s One Day International (ODI) squad for their series against Sri Lanka.[26] He was

left out of the Indian 2021 T20 WC squad, prompting several questions and reactions.[27] [28] In February 2022, in the opening match against the West Indies, Chahal took his 100th wicket in ODI cricket.[29] In June 2022, Chahal was named in India’s squad for their T20I series against Ireland.[30] In April 2024, Chahal became the first player in the history of Indian Premier League to complete 200 wickets.[31] In May 2024, he was named in India’s squad for the 2024 ICC Men’s T20 World Cup tournament.[32] **IPL career:** Chahal played four teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Between 2011 and 2013 he played for Mumbai Indians before moving to Royal Challengers Bangalore where he played between 2014 and 2021, including in the 2016 final losing team. He joined Rajasthan Royals ahead of the 2022 season, and was again on the losing team in the 2022 final. In 2024, he became the first bowler to take 200 IPL career wickets.[33][34] After a lackluster start to the 2025 Indian Premier League, Chahal registered figures of 4/28 against the Kolkata Knight Riders on 15 April, helping the Punjab Kings successfully defend 111 runs, which is the lowest IPL total defended to date. He won Player of the Match for this performance.[35] **Chess career:** Chahal is the only player to represent India in both chess and cricket. He represented India in chess at the World Youth Chess Championship, though he gave up the game later when he struggled to find a sponsor.[36][37] He is listed in World Chess Federation’s official site; as per FIDE ratings, as of February 2025, Chahal’s rating national rank in India was 1,967, while he was ranked 18,641 in Asia and 83,544 in the world.[38] **Personal life:** Chahal married Dhanashree Verma, a dance choreographer and YouTuber, in December 2020 in Gurgaon.[39] The couple divorced in March 2025.[40] **Harassment:** In 2022, he revealed that during his stint with the Mumbai Indians, a drunk teammate dangled him from a 15th floor balcony. He did not name the player, but this revelation led to calls for strict action. He had also been tied up in a room by Andrew Symonds and James Franklin.

Pankaj Advani

Indian pool player and professional snooker player Pankaj Arjan Advani was born on July 24, 1985. He has won the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world championship 27 times. Twenty global titles in pool have been won by him, including the global Team Billiards Championship once and the IBSF World Billiards Championship seventeen times. He has won three IBSF World Snooker Championships, two IBSF World Six-Red Championships, and one each of the IBSF World Team Cup and IBSF World Team Championship. He holds the record for the most IBSF world titles.[2] In 2012 and 2013, he started playing professional snooker. In recognition of his achievements, the Government of India has bestowed several awards upon Advani: the Arjuna Award in 2004, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2006, Padma Shri in 2009 and Padma Bhushan in 2018.[3] Pankaj Advani was born on 24 July 1985 to a Sindhi family in Pune, India. Advani spent his initial years in Kuwait before moving to Bangalore, India. He received his education at the Frank Anthony Public School, Bangalore and completed his bachelor’s degree in Commerce from Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College. He received training in snooker from former

national Snooker champion Arvind Savur. At the age of 10 his acumen for snooker came to the notice of Arvind Savur after being introduced to the sport by his elder brother Dr. Shree Advani, a noted Sport & Performance Psychologist. He won his first ever title at the age of 11 and went on to set several records at the state and national levels. In the year 2000 he won his first Indian Junior Billiards Championship title and then went on to win it again in 2001 and 2003. In 2003 he not only won the Indian Junior Snooker and Billiards Championship, he also won the senior snooker champions which made him the youngest National Snooker champion at age 17. **Billiards career:** Advani made his international competitive debut in 1999 at the World Billiards Championship in England. After World Snooker Champion title win in 2003, he won the IBSF World Billiards Championship in 2005 at Qawra, Malta, where he became the first to achieve a “Grand Double” by winning both the time and point formats, making him the first cueist to achieve that feat.[4] He has won the “Grand Double” on three occasions, 2008 in Bangalore, 2014 in England and 2018 in Myanmar. He is the only Indian to have won the amateur world title in both snooker and billiards. Advani

has the distinction of winning all five national, regional, and world billiards tournaments in a single season, a feat he achieved by winning the Indian Junior National Championship and Senior National Championship, the Asian Billiards Championship, and both the World Billiards Championship (point format) and World Billiards Championship (time format) in 2005.[5] In April 2012, Advani won the Asian Billiards Championship in Goa, India[6] to become the first player to win 5 Asian Billiards Champion titles. It was announced in May that Advani had accepted the Indian wildcard place on the main snooker tour for the 2012–13 season.[7] In October 2012, in Leeds, England, Advani won his seventh (counting professional and amateur) World Billiards Championship title, eighth world title overall, beating defending and nine-time WPBSA World Billiards Champion Mike Russell again, in the timed division final (Advani did not make it to the points division final).[8] On 14 August 2014, Advani helped win the first ever World Team Billiards Championship held in Glasgow, Scotland, along with Rupesh Shah, Devendra Joshi and Ashok Shandilya. On 2 February 2017, Pankaj Advani won his 29th National Championship Title at the PYC Hindu Gymkhana in

Pune, India. This gave him a 39 match-winning streak. Overall, as of 2017 Advani had won 60 titles: 19 world titles; 8 Asian titles; 2 Asian Games titles; 1 Australian Open title and 30 national titles.[9] In 2018, Advani won his 7th Asian Billiards Title in Myanmar making him the maximum holder of the Asian Title.[10] On March 11, 2020, won the 6 reds national snooker championship in Ahmedabad taking his total tally of national champions to 34. (11 junior and 23 senior).[11] **Snooker career:** Pankaj Advani, on international competitive debut in the discipline, won the IBSF World Snooker Championship (i.e. the World Amateur Snooker Championship) on 25 October 2003 in Jiangmen, China. He was 18 years old, and became the youngest Indian to win the title, his first world title. When he was 28-years-old, at the IBSF World 6-Red World Snooker Championship in Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt, a feat he repeated in August 2015 after he successfully defended the title in Karachi, Pakistan.[12] As a new player on the tour, Advani would need to win four matches to reach the main stage of the ranking events. He did this in just his fourth attempt, when qualifying for the International Championship. He defeated Craig Steadman 6–1, six-time world champion Steve Davis 6–5 (after being 1–4 down).[13] Alan McManus 6–3 and Michael Holt 6–4 to reach the venue stage for the first time.[14] He made four century breaks during qualification, the most of any player.[15] Advani was to play a wildcard match once at the tournament in Chengdu, China, to reach the last 32, however he decided to withdraw from the tournament to take part in the World Billiards Championship, which he went on to win.[8] He also reached the semi-finals of the minor ranking European Tour Event 1, beating four-time world champion John Higgins 4–1 along the way. Advani lost to Mark Selby 2–4.[14] Advani played in eight of the ten of these Players Tour Championship events and finished 40th on the Order of Merit.[16]

Harmanpreet Singh

Indian field hockey player and national team captain Harmanpreet Singh was born on January 6, 1996. He is considered one of the world’s top drag flickers, plays defense, and specializes in penalty corners. In contemporary hockey, he has scored the most goals for India on the international stage. At the 2024 Olympics in Paris, he guided the team to the bronze. In his three Olympic appearances, this was his second bronze.[4] Singh led the squad to a gold medal in the Asian Games in 2022. At the FIH Awards, he has won Player of the Year three times. He is popularly known as Sarpanch Saab by fans for his ability to lead the team towards victory.[6] **Early life:** Singh was born to a Sikh family on 6 January 1996 in Timmowal, Amritsar, India. [7] He had an interest in all sports and tried several of them including volleyball, football, cricket, and athletics.[8] Singh started playing hockey at the age of 10 and joined the Surjit Singh Hockey Academy when he was 15 years old, hoping to become a forward.[9] **Personal life:** Singh is married to Amandeep Kaur and they have a daughter Ruhana Kaur.[10] He is the richest Indian hockey player.[11] As per GQ India, Singh’s estimated net worth is \$5 million (approximately ₹42 crore).[12] **Junior career:** Singh made his debut for India Junior Team against New Zealand. He scored 9 goals at the 2014 Sultan of Johor Cup. His team won the tournament by defeating Great Britain 2–1 in the final. For his outstanding performances he was awarded Man of the Tournament Award. He scored 4 goals at 2015 Sultan of Johor Cup. Unfortunately his team lost in the final to Great Britain in penalties 3–4 after a 2–2 draw. He was the member of the team which won 2015 Men’s Hockey Junior Asia Cup. He



was the highest goalscorer of the tournament, he scored 14 goals. After his debut appearance at the Olympics, he was selected for 2016 Men’s Hockey Junior World Cup.[13] Singh scored a crucial 66th-minute goal against Spain which helped his team win the match 2–1 and reach the semi-finals. His team won the tournament by defeating Belgium in the final 2–1. He scored 3 goals in the tournament. **Senior career:** **Senior team debut (2015):** Singh received his maiden call-up for senior team in April 2015 when he was selected for the 3-match series against Japan.[14] But he was dropped from the team for the next tournament which was the 2014–15 Men’s World League Semi-finals.[15] **Highs and lows (2016):** Singh returned to the team for 2016 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.[16] He scored his 1st ever goal for national team against the Japanese team which helped the team win the match 2–1. He then scored one goal in the match against Canada which was won by his team 3–1. He scored 2 goals in the tournament. The national team faced a crushing defeat to Australia in the final 4–0. [17] Singh was retained in the squad for 2016 Champions Trophy.[18] In the 1st match against Germany, he scored a goal in the 32nd minute but the match ended in a 3–3 draw and in the next match against Great Britain

he scored a goal in the 34th minute which helped his team win the match 2–1. The final against Australia ended in a 0–0 draw. In the penalty shootout only Singh managed to score. His team lost the final in 3–1 on penalties. [19] Singh scored 2 goals in the tournament and won the Young Player of the Tournament award. He was named in the Indian squad for 2016 Olympics.[20][21] Singh had a disappointing outing at the Rio Olympics 2016. He failed to score a single goal. His coach claimed he had unperformed and had not done justice to the outstanding talent and prowess that he possessed as a player. The team lost to Belgium in the quarter-finals 1–3. Out of six games, India managed to win only two which was a disappointing conclusion to their Olympic campaign. Singh was dropped from the team for 2016 Asian Champions Trophy and 4 Nations invitational tournament after the disastrous Olympics campaign. **Return to the team (2017):** After his improved performances at the 2016 Junior World Cup, Singh returned to the national team for 2017 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.[22] [23] He scored 2 goals (27th minute and 47th minute) in the match against New Zealand which the team won comfortably 3–0. He was the lone scorer (26th minute) in the match against Australia which the team lost 1–3. Singh managed to score 3 goals in the tournament

and the team finished 3rd. Singh was named in squad for 2016–17 World League Semifinals.[24] He was then selected for the 2017 Asia Cup.[25][26] He scored 2 goals in the 35th minute and 48th minute in the 1st match against Japan. India easily won the match 5–1. He again scored 2 goals in the next match against Bangladesh in the 28th and 47th minute. The team won the match 7–0. He then scored a goal in the 45th minute of match against arch-rivals Pakistan which was also won by the team 3–1. His team topped the pool and qualified for the Super 4s stage. He scored a goal in the 19th minute in a thrashing win over of 6–1 over Malaysia.[27] He then scored a goal in the 51 minute in the match against Pakistan which was won by the team 4–0 to enter the finals. The national team won the tournament by defeating Malaysia 2–1 in the final to win their 3rd title. Singh was the joint high scorer with Malaysian Faizal Saari with 7 goals.[28] **Tokyo Olympics victory (2020):** Singh had a stellar performance in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. He scored twice against New Zealand in a 3–2 win. He scored against Argentina in a 3–1 victory. He also scored a goal against Japan in the 5–3 win as well as against Belgium in the semifinals, but India lost 5–2. In the bronze medal match, Singh scored a goal against Germany, securing a 5–4 win for India. His consistency throughout the tournament was instrumental in guiding India to the Olympic medal after 41 years.[29]

