

INDIAN CHRONICLE

16 June 2026 | Tuesday | Volume No:14 | Issue No: 119

Pages: 12+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

Ensure timely supply of student welfare materials: Azharuddin

Hyderabad: Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin held a meeting on Monday at the Secretariat to review the distribution of welfare materials for residential schools and hostels for the 2026-27 academic year. The meeting reviews the supply of uniforms, welcome kits and other essential materials for students of Residential Educational Institutions and Welfare Hostels for the 2026-27 academic year. The meeting focused on the timely supply of uniforms, school bags, shoes, socks, welcome kits, stationery items, dining sets, bedding materials and other essential items for students. Azharuddin directed officials to complete all arrangements and avoid last-minute execution of works.

KTR to address BRS training camp at Palair in Khammam on June 17

Khammam: As part of efforts to strengthen the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) organisationally and plan its future course of action, the party's working president KT Rama Rao is scheduled to visit Khammam district on June 17.

The party's erstwhile Khammam in-charge Takkellapalli Ravinder Rao, speaking to the media along with MLC Tata Madhusudhan here on Monday, informed that Rama Rao would address key constituency representatives at 11 am at Sriharsha Convention in Palair constituency.

Revanth Says Centre Blocked Telangana's Metro Rail Purchase Plan

Hyderabad, June 15

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday accused the Centre of creating hurdles in the release of the ₹13,600-crore refinancing loan sanctioned by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to the state government for the takeover of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project.

Demanding clarity from the Centre on Hyderabad Metro Phase-II, the Chief Minister asked the BJP government to either facilitate the loan disbursement or issue a no-objection certificate (NOC) to allow the state government to independently execute Metro Rail expansion works.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, Revanth Reddy said the IRFC was required to disburse the loan by June 15 in accordance with the MoU signed with the government, but had failed to do so. He alleged that Union minister G. Kishan Reddy had met urban affairs minister Manohar Lal Khattar on May 20 and railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on May 21 and exerted pressure on them to halt the loan disbursement for political reasons.

Revanth Reddy alleged that Kishan Reddy was creating obstacles at the behest of BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao and its working president K.T. Rama Rao. He also alleged that the BJP and the BRS were acting in concert to stall the Metro Rail expansion and defame the Congress government.

Revanth Reddy said several proposed Metro Rail corridors would benefit constituencies represented by BJP MPs, including Secunderabad, Malkajgiri, Medak and Chevella, besides Assembly segments represented by BRS legislators in Greater Hyderabad limits.

"The Centre need not contribute the 50 per cent share. Give us the NOC to secure the IRFC loan to mobilise funds for Phase-II, and we will bear the entire cost of the project expansion," Revanth Reddy said.

He asked the Centre to explain why Metro Rail projects in cities such as Ahmedabad and Visakhapatnam and other locations had received approvals while Hyderabad's expansion proposal remained pending.

Claiming that he had evidence supporting his allegations, the Chief Minister said the Centre had delayed the release of funds despite the state government fulfilling all conditions stipulated by the IRFC. He stated that Telangana had paid ₹1,400 crore as margin money and ₹84 crore as processing fee and submitted documents, including Reserve Bank of India approvals, required for the refinancing arrangement.

Revanth Reddy said the state government had secured the refinancing package at an interest rate of around four per cent through IRFC, backed by funding from a Japanese agency, compared to the existing loan burden of ₹13,600 crore raised by L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad at an interest rate of 8.25 per cent.

The refinancing, he said, would significantly reduce



the Metro Rail project's debt servicing burden and save nearly ₹150 crore annually in interest payments.

The Chief Minister also questioned the pace of development of the Warangal airport project and said he had raised the issue with Union civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, seeking faster implementation.

The Chief Minister reiterated that there were no technical obstacles to the Metro loan disbursement and maintained that the delay was the result of a political conspiracy. He recalled that the state government had recently acquired 100 per cent shares of L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd through Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd (HMRL) after L&T expressed its inability to undertake Metro Phase-II because of mounting financial losses.

He said that L&T had created assets worth nearly ₹30,000 crore but continued to incur annual losses of about ₹400 crore. According to him, the state acquired Metro Rail assets worth around ₹30,000 crore for approximately ₹15,000 crore following consultations with the Centre.

Revanth Reddy said the refinancing agreement was signed on May 25 between L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd and HMRL in New Delhi to facilitate the takeover of Metro Phase-I by the state government. He maintained that the Japanese funding agency had already deposited the loan amount with IRFC and questioned why the funds had not been released.

Tracing the history of the Metro Rail project, Revanth Reddy said it was conceived during the Congress government led by Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and then Union urban development minister S. Jaipal Reddy in 2004. He alleged that delays after the formation of Telangana in 2014 and the previous BRS government's handling of the project resulted in a three-year setback till 2017, escalating project costs from an estimated ₹15,000 crore to nearly ₹22,000 crore and contributing to L&T's financial difficulties.



ongoing road construction work and intimidated the complainant who was supervising the work and the labourers present at the site. They allegedly inflicted blows on the complainant and kicked him.

They also allegedly made caste-based derogatory remarks against labourers and an FIR was registered under various provisions of the BNS, 2023 and the SC/ST Act, 1989.

AI, social media can be used to delete votes: TPCC chief on SIR

Hyderabad: June 15

Emphasizing the critical nature of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise being carried out across the state, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B Mahesh Kumar Goud has urged everyone starting from the Booth Level Assistants (BLA) to assembly in-charges to be highly vigilant with regard to the deletion of votes during the process.

2 killed, 7 injured in fire at resto-pub in Karnatakas Mysuru

According to fire officials, more than 25 people were present in the pub when the fire broke out

Mysuru, June 15

A fire broke out at a resto-pub here on Monday, killing two people and seriously injuring seven, officials said.

The deceased were identified as Sahil and Prakash, who were charred to death, they said.

The incident occurred at a premium two-storey resto-pub near Netaji Circle in Dattagalli in the city, officials said, adding that a short circuit is suspected to be the cause of the fire.

According to fire officials, more than 25 people were present in the pub when the fire broke out.

Seven people were rescued by fire and emergency services personnel. Some people, alarmed by thick smoke inside the building, tried to escape by jumping from the upper floor.

Seven people were seriously injured and have been admitted to Suyog and Apollo hospitals for treatment, a senior fire official said.

Fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. Police visited the spot and inspected the site.



FORGOTTEN MONEY IN YOUR OLD BANK ACCOUNTS?



RBI will help you recover what's yours.

Money in Inoperative Accounts (inactive for more than 2 years and up to 10 years) lying with your bank / Unclaimed Deposits (Beyond 10 years) is transferred to DEA Fund of RBI. You or your legal heirs can claim it anytime.



3 EASY STEPS TO CLAIM YOUR MONEY

1. Visit any branch of your bank, even if it's not your regular branch
2. Submit a form with KYC documents (Aadhaar, Passport, Voter ID, or Driving Licence)
3. Receive your money with interest, if any, after verification

To find your unclaimed deposits

Search your bank's website or check RBI's UDGAM portal (<https://udgam.rbi.org.in>) covering 30 banks currently.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHAMMED ANWAR, S/O MOHAMMED GOUSE** (Old Name) born on 24-07-1984 at Asifabad earlier was holding passport No. **E7811661**, DT: 03-03-2004 hereby changing my name and henceforth in future I would be known as **MOHAMMAD ANWAR S/O MOHAMMED GOUSE** (New name) HNo. 4-179/1 Janakapur SC Colony, Asifabad 504293 Telangana.

DECLARANT.

Place: Asifabad
Date: 16-06-2026**MOHAMMAD ANWAR**
S/O MOHAMMED GOUSE

For more details, visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in>
For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in

Official WhatsApp No. 99990 41935



Issued in public interest by
भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

AN-32 crash turns spotlight on modernisation

THE death of five Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel in an AN-32 crash in Assam has laid bare the risks involved in operating an ageing military fleet under demanding conditions. Factors such as delayed modernisation and institutional inertia are difficult to ignore. The AN-32, a Soviet-origin twin-engine transport aircraft, has served as a dependable workhorse for the IAF for decades, especially in remote and high-altitude areas. Yet its very age is now its most pressing liability. Crashes over the years, including fatal incidents in 2009, 2016 and 2019, reflect an unmistakable pattern.

The circumstances of the latest accident — loss of control during landing and subsequent fire — will be examined by a court of inquiry. However, a technical investigation alone will not address the larger concern: why a fleet inducted in the mid-1980s continues to perform critical operational roles four decades later. The long-promised Medium Transport Aircraft programme has moved slowly through shifting proposals, international partnerships and bureaucratic delays, leaving the IAF dependent on incremental upgrades rather than full replacement. It seems that no lesson has been learnt from the tragedies involving the MiG-21 fighter jet, which was finally phased out last year after six decades of service. The gap between operational needs and procurement is stark. Transport aircraft are central to troop mobility, disaster response and frontline logistics. The IAF operates in some of the most challenging aviation environments in the world. Resilience in such conditions depends on modern, reliable platforms with a robust safety record. Each accident affects the readiness and morale of the air force. Urgency in decision-making is a prerequisite for modernisation.



Cordon and Search' by police in Colony Circles Anjanapur and Manas Nagar Colony Villages, Surapet rural circle under the direction of Surapet Divisional Superintendent of Police, Rajasekhara, S.I Balu Naidu and more than 80 police personnel. Among the items seized in the checks were: 26 two-wheeled vehicles and 6 cars without proper certification. People's awareness and instructions by the DSP Prasen Kumar. The main objective of this cordon and search is to provide better security to the people of the community and to create confidence and courage in the police.

Poor students to be encouraged to study and always give back to their school



* Cash incentives to be given to students to help them who are in financial difficulties. It was stated that such awards would help to foster competitiveness among students. It was also stated that the school is always ready to give necessary contributions to the students along with the provision of necessary facilities to the school in the near future. It was said that the recognition and encouragement of students' talents would inspire them to achieve higher goals. A cash award of Rs.1,00,000 was given to first prizewinner N. Meghan, Rs.50,000 to second prizewinner V. Shriti and Rs.25,000 to third prizewinner Dikshit. Also present at the event were Mr Venkanna, Municipal councillor, Mr Goli Padma Raju, school principal, Mr G. P. Reddy, teachers, former students and parents.

TDP Tarnaka Division President Gandikota Vijay Kumar's birthday celebrations.

.....OU JUNE 15 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) : Telugu Desam Party Secunderabad constituency and Tarnaka division president Gandikota Vijay Kumar's birthday celebrations were held in a grand manner. TDP Secunderabad Parliament Spokesperson Kasula Sudarshan Reddy, Addagutta Division President Katha Vijay Kumar, State Executive Secretary Sandhyapogu Rajasekhara, State SC Cell Secretaries, Bottu Suresh, Satyanarayana, Vikram were present at the ceremony. Mudiraj, BRS leaders, MN. Srinivas Rao, Alakunta Hari, Greater GHMC Contractor Association President Ramakrishna Reddy, MMC Contractor Association General Secretary Gandikota Anand Kumar, Kittu, Rama Rao, Prasad Rao, Balakrishna, Raju Chauhan., Nagaraju, Raju, Tarun, Congress leaders Vemula Srinivas, Venkatesh, Gopi, Shiva Cherry, Ramcharan, Ganesh, Kalyan, Ramesh, Venkatesh, Giribabu, Ravi, Kanna, Ravi Kumar, Ravi Teja, Naveen, Rohit, Ashok, Bunny and others participated.

Fisheries Pond Land Survey Completed in Manthani Following Minister Sridhar Babu's Orders; Strict Warning Issued to Encroachers



"Peddapalli District, Manthani (Indian Chronicle) June 15: Acting on the directives of IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, officials have successfully completed the survey of the local fisheries pond land. The surveyed land, spanning

1 acre and 38 guntas, is located in Survey Number 20, adjacent to the Ayyagari Cheruvu (lake) within the Manthani municipal limits." Potharaveni Kranthi Kumar, President of the Manthani Fisheries Society, stated that certain land grabbers have been attempting to encroach upon the property belonging to the fisheries. Speaking on behalf of the society, he issued a stern warning that strict legal action will be taken against anyone attempting to illegally occupy the land." Kranthi Kumar also expressed his gratitude to Minister Sridhar Babu, the Manthani Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), and the Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) for their swift response and cooperation in facilitating the land survey to protect the property." The statement was officially released by Potharaveni Kranthi Kumar, President of the Manthani Fisheries Society and Director of the Peddapalli District Fisheries Society.

Old Age Should Not Become a Curse; Respect for the Elderly Is the Foundation of a Progressive Society: Dr. Anitha Reddy



"Hanamkonda, June 15 (Indian Chronicle): Old age should never become a curse for anyone, and the government must undertake extensive awareness campaigns on laws related to senior citizens' welfare down to the grassroots level, said Dr. Anitha Reddy, Chairperson of Anurag Society and Member of the Senior Citizens Tribunal Bench." Speaking at an awareness programme organized by the Senior Citizens Forum on Monday at the Senior Citizens Day Care Centre Hall in the ZP premises, Hanamkonda, to mark the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Dr. Anitha Reddy emphasized the need to safeguard the dignity and rights of senior citizens." The programme was presided over by Forum President Chandramouli, while

Dr. Anitha Reddy attended as the chief guest." Addressing the gathering, she explained the provisions of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and the Rules, 2011. She described the Tribunal Bench as a valuable support mechanism for senior citizens and advised elderly persons facing harassment, property disputes, or other difficulties to approach the Tribunal for assistance." She warned that stringent action would be taken against those who subject senior citizens to abuse or neglect." Dr. Anitha Reddy urged senior citizens to become aware of their legal rights and make full use of the protections available to them. She advised elderly parents not to distribute all their assets to their children during their lifetime, but to retain sufficient resources for their own needs and subsequently prepare a legal will." She stated that respecting and caring for the elderly is a reflection of India's cultural values and moral heritage. Those who fail to love and care for their parents, regardless of their wealth or social status, are no better than the poorest of the poor, she remarked." Emphasizing that the responsibility of caring for parents ultimately rests with their children, she called upon society to uphold the dignity, well-being, and rights of senior citizens." Among those present were Devachari, Ramamurthy, P.V. Srinivas, Chandrajit Reddy, Yugender, Damodar, Sarala, Ponnala Ram Mohan, Samyukta, Dr. Usha, and several other members of the forum.

Rakesh Reddy E-Classes App to be Launched in Hanamkonda on June 18



"Hanamkonda, June 15 (Indian Chronicle): The Rakesh Reddy E-Classes App, a comprehensive digital learning platform designed to help aspirants prepare for examinations related to 57 categories of Central and State Government jobs, will be officially launched in Hanamkonda on June 18, announced Enugula Rakesh Reddy, BRS State Leader, Graduate MLC candidate, and an alumnus of BITS Pilani (M.S., M.M.S.)." The app has been developed with the objective of equipping unemployed youth with quality coaching, competitive examination preparation, and essen-

tial skills required to secure government employment. The initiative has been undertaken in collaboration with Chakravarty E-Classroom, a reputed educational institution. "One of the platform's key highlights is its extensive repository of syllabus-based learning content, comprising nearly 1,200 hours of instructional material tailored for various government recruitment and competitive examinations." The launch event will be held at 10:00 AM on June 18 at Ambedkar Bhavan, Gokul Nagar, Hanamkonda. A live demonstration will be conducted to showcase the app's features, course structure, and educational resources available to users. "Rakesh Reddy invited students, job aspirants, and the general public to attend the event and explore the opportunities offered through the platform, which aims to enhance career prospects and support aspirants in achieving their employment goals." Suggested Headlines: "Rakesh Reddy E-Classes App to Empower Government Job Aspirants" Digital Learning Platform for 57 Government Job Categories to Launch on June 18" 1,200 Hours of Learning Content Packed into New E-Classes App" Rakesh Reddy Unveils Career-Oriented Digital Platform for Competitive Exam Aspirants" New E-Learning Initiative Aims to Transform Job Aspirants into Success Stories

Football Fever in Kapra – Parameshwar Reddy Encourages Youth



Football Summer Camp Concludes at Valluvar Nagar" Parameshwar Reddy Distributes Prizes and Certificates to Players" UPPAL, JUNE 15 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The concluding ceremony of the Football Summer Coaching Camp at Valluvar Nagar in Kapra Division was held on a grand note. Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and distributed prizes and certificates to the young players who successfully completed the training camp. "Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy congratulated the children who underwent coaching in football, one of the world's most popular sports. He said that sports contribute significantly to the physical and mental development of youth and help shape them into disciplined citizens, keeping them away from negative influences." He stated that the Congress government is giving top priority to sports and sportspersons. Keeping in view the growing popularity of football in Kapra Division, he announced that state-of-the-art football grounds would be developed at Galileo Colony, Valluvar Nagar and Kandiguda at a cost of 10 crore. "Parameshwar Reddy re-



called Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, himself a football enthusiast, had encouraged aspiring players by organizing a match featuring international footballers at the Uppal Stadium to promote the sport further. "He appreciated former councillor Rajender for organizing the camp. Members of the Valluvar Nagar Football Academy felicitated Parameshwar Reddy with a shawl.

"Among those present were P. Rajendran, Chairman of the TPCC Ex-Servicemen Department; Vijay Reddy; national secretary and national football player P. Dharmender; TFA Licensed Coach P.D. Immanuel; football coach V. Shivakumar; General Secretary P. Gunasekhar; senior leaders M. Raju and P. Rajasheela; Medchal-Malkajgiri District Agricultural Market Committee Vice-Chairman Vitthal Naik; District AMC Director Purna Yadav; former AMC Director Kobbanuri Nagaraju; Kapra Division Congress President Kobbanuri Nagaseshu; and senior leaders Padamati Mallareddy, Baburao, G. Satyanarayana, Tanneeru Srihari, Gunasekhar, Rakesh Yadav, Manoj Kumar, Akula Santosh, Rajasheela, Kookuntla Prakash Reddy, Aziz, Lingam and others.



AICC member Raam Reddy said* Colonel Santosh Babu's sacrifice is immortal. His statue was garlanded on the eve of his 6th Varshasti. He said the services and sacrifice of Colonel Santosh Babu, who gave his life for the defence of the nation, is an inspiration to the youth. On this occasion, said Raam Reddy, the gallantry of Colonel Santosh Babu, who fought for the sovereignty of the nation and became immortal, will remain in the history of India and his sacrifice will never be forgotten by the people of the country.

Prevent temptations to achieve your goals and build a brighter future:*



Precautions for road travel: * When travelling to school or college, obey traffic laws. Be alert when crossing roads and deal with vehicles with concentration. * Precautions for social media: * Keep clear of drugs and other addictions as they will completely destroy your health and future. Keep clear of bad friends and build good habits. * Cyber security: * Do not click on links from unknown persons. Do not share personal details, bank details with anyone. Be alert to cyber frauds. Discipline is your original weapon in the attainment of your lofty goals. Hope this school year is a success for you



The event was attended by the district president Mamidhajay, district president of the All India Kisan Sangram Sangharsh Samiti EGGADHI MUARALA, student president Mamidhajay Shobhann, secretary Meer Akbar, district women president Konne Mangulda, district youth president Kolla Karunagarkar, Penpahad Mandala party president Pappadhi Mangulda, TRP leaders Kumban Venkannan, Lingalayudu Thadappu, Kumban Naga Raju along with Bolle Saiyadulu, district president and town president Kumban Venkannan, and other leaders. The leaders wished the village people a prosperous jatra and prayed to the Swami that all the people may be in peace and comfort. The jatra festivities continued with devotion and solidly.



On this occasion the SP Garu heard the grievances of each individual victim and took immediate instructions by speaking to the relevant police officials through the phone so that immediate action could be taken to resolve them. The officials were also directed to take steps to ensure that the public always have access to the Police Department to resolve their problems in a timely manner. The legal process guarantees that every complaint will be looked into and that action will be taken to ensure justice for victims.

Inagala Venkatram Reddy Offers Prayers at Bhadrakali Temple and Thousand Pillar Temple

"Warangal/Hanamkonda, June 15 (Indian Chronicle): Warangal KUDA Chairman and Hanamkonda DCC President Inagala Venkatram Reddy participated in the Dhvajasthambha Pratishtha Mahotsavam being conducted with great religious fervour at the renowned Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal. "As part of the three-day celebrations commencing on Monday and continuing through Wednesday, Venkatram Reddy visited the temple and offered special prayers to Goddess Bhadrakali. He was

recorded a traditional welcome with temple honours by Chief Priest Sheshu Ayya and Endowments Department Executive Officer R. Sunitha. "On the occasion, Vedic scholars blessed him and presented him with Theertha Prasadam after the special rituals. "Later, he visited the historic Thousand Pillar Temple and offered special prayers to Lord Rudreshwara Swamy Temple. He sought divine blessings for the welfare, prosperity, and development of the region.

People's Government Stands by Daughters of Poor Families: MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy



being undertaken to strengthen their socio-economic status." The MLA said that welfare schemes in the Warangal West constituency are being implemented beyond political considerations and that efforts are being made to ensure benefits reach every deserving family. He noted that programmes for the distribution of Chief Minister's Relief Fund assistance, Kalyana Lakshmi, and Shaadi Mubarak cheques are being conducted twice every month. "He urged citizens to approach the MLA camp office or Congress Party public representatives in their respective divisions for assistance in resolving grievances. He also cautioned people against relying on middlemen or brokers, clarifying that all government welfare schemes are implemented entirely free of cost. "Referring to the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process for electoral rolls, scheduled to commence this month, the MLA appealed to all eligible citizens to verify and update their voter registration details. He emphasized that the right to vote is a fundamental democratic right and called upon every eligible voter to ensure their name is included in the electoral rolls. "Nayini Rajender Reddy further stated that maintaining accurate voter records would help citizens avoid difficulties in accessing government welfare schemes in the future. He urged the public to participate responsibly in the voter registration process and not neglect the exercise. "Reaffirming the government's commitment to public welfare, the MLA said that people's representatives would continue working tirelessly until the benefits of welfare schemes reach every household. "The programme was attended by public representatives, Congress Party leaders, party workers, government officials, and beneficiaries.

---106 Beneficiaries Receive Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak Assistance Cheques at Camp Office" Hanamkonda, June 15 (Indian Chronicle): The State Government is committed to ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every eligible family, said Nayini Rajender Reddy, MLA of Warangal West Assembly Constituency. "Addressing a programme held at his camp office in Balasamudram on Monday, the MLA distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak assistance cheques worth ₹1,06,12,296 to 106 beneficiaries from across the constituency. "Speaking on the occasion, Nayini Rajender Reddy stated that the State Government is effectively implementing the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes to provide financial support for the marriages of daughters from economically weaker families. He emphasized that women's empowerment remains a key priority of the government and that several welfare initiatives are

Special Prayers and Annadanam Held at Sri Shiva Shankara Mahamayi Temple in Uppal



"UPPAL, JUNE 15 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Special prayers and Annadanam (distribution of free meals) were organized at the Sri Shiva Shankara Mahamayi Temple in Uppal on the occasion of the Adhika Jyeshtha Masa Amavasya. "As part of the religious celebrations, devotees offered special prayers to Goddess Mahamayi and participated in the distribution of prasadam and meals to devotees. "Temple members and devotees, including Uppoji Balavanth Chary, Srinu, Madhu, Pawan, Cholleti, Sridhar Chary, Palerla Gopi, Palakurthi Srinu, Teega Vittal Rao, Shamirpet Hanumanth Reddy, Mandumula Anji Reddy, Mamilla Mallesh, Krishna Reddy, Gondi Prashanth Reddy,

Jagan, Narasimha Reddy, Abhiram, Gumidelli Nursing Rao, Boothukuri Sai Kumar Goud, Naveen, Mudugonda Ravi, Praveen Reddy, Narasimha Rao, Kothakonda Ramesh, Turai Das, Mahesh, Bikshapathi, Ram Prakash, Gopi Chary, Pasupuneti Ramesh, Venkatayya, Kumar, Bhaskar Chary, Naveen Goud, Raju, Sandeep, Mahesh Kumar, Prashanth Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Bhavani Shankar, Santosh Kumar, Lakshman, Srinivas Goud, Ganesh Goud, Yadi Goud, Venkatesh and several other devotees, participated in the programme. "The event was marked by devotion and spiritual fervour, with a large number of devotees attending the celebrations and receiving Annaprashadam.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Offers Special Prayers at Kalabhairava Temple; TGFDC Chairman Dil Raju Participates



"UPPAL, JUNE 15 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): On the occasion of Amavasya, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma

Reddy participated in the special prayers held on Monday at the Kalabhairava Swamy Temple in Bhagayat, Uppal. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA expressed his wish that the blessings of Lord Kalabhairava remain with the people of Uppal at all times. He said that worshipping Lord Kalabhairava brings prosperity and auspiciousness to devotees. Temple committee representatives felicitated the MLA during the event."

Telangana Film Development Corporation (TGFDC) Chairman Dil Raju also took part in the special puja. Former corporator Kotha Rama Rao, temple committee chairman Poojala Prabhakar, Vinod Reddy, and BRS leaders Mushyam Srinivas, Anya Balakrishna, Bharat, Jetta Kishore, Niranjan Chary, BSNL Raju, Kaleru Jai Naveen, Masha Shekhar, along with party workers and devotees, were present.

AIMIM alleges SIR exercise targets minorities, marginalised groups

Party holds training workshop for booth-level agents in Karimnagar, urges vigilance during electoral roll revision.

KARIMNAGAR June 15 (Correspondent): The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is being used to target minorities, Dalits, Christians and other marginalised sections of society. Addressing a training workshop for BLA-2 members, party leaders and workers at SBS Function Palace in Godamgadda on Sunday, AIMIM Karimnagar president Syed Ghulam Ahmed Hussain claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had introduced the SIR process with the intention of disenfranchising vulnerable communities.

The workshop, organised by the AIMIM Karimnagar urban unit on the instructions of party president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, was attended by representatives from 390 polling booths in the Karimnagar Assembly constituency. Mr. Hussain alleged that the BJP-led Union Government was targeting supporters of secular parties and AIMIM sympathisers through the electoral roll revision exercise. He called upon party leaders, elected representatives and cadre to actively participate in the process and verify that the names of all eligible voters remained on the electoral rolls.

Stating that the AIMIM aimed to emerge as a strong political force in Karimnagar in the next Assembly elections, he urged party workers to remain vigilant and safeguard every vote. He also accused the BJP of attempting to manipulate the electoral process, a charge not independently verified. Mr. Hussain appealed to booth-level leaders, agents and workers to participate actively in programmes sched-



uled to commence from June 25 and create awareness among voters regarding the revision exercise. Master trainers Mujeeb Ayub, Ehtesham and Wasim conducted sessions on the procedures involved in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and trained BLA-2 members and booth-level agents on their roles and responsibilities. Representatives of various social and religious organisations, AIMIM office-bearers, former and present public representatives, and party workers attended the programme.

Nutritious Food is the Foundation of Quality Education: Chippa Venkateshwarlu



"Nutritious Breakfast Programme Launched at Girmajipet High School" Warangal, June 16 (Indian Chronicle): As the new academic year commenced in Telangana, the State Government's flagship Nutritious Breakfast Scheme was launched with enthusiasm on Tuesday at Girmajipet High School, Kothawada, reaffirming its commitment to student welfare and educational development. "The programme was organized under the

guidance of Minister for Endowments, Forests and Environment, Konda Surekha. Participating in the event, Chippa Venkateshwarlu, State Working President of the TPCC Handloom Department and Congress candidate for the 23rd Division Corporator post, welcomed the students and personally served nutritious breakfast to them. "Speaking on the occasion, Venkateshwarlu emphasized that proper nutrition plays a vital role in the physical and mental development of students. He stated that the Telangana Government has introduced the scheme with the objective of providing quality nutrition to children studying in government schools, thereby creating a healthier and more conducive learning environment. "He noted that the Nutritious Breakfast Scheme would not only help address nutritional deficiencies among students but also enhance their interest in education and improve academic outcomes. The initiative, he said, would serve as a significant step toward strengthening the public education system and ensuring holistic development of children. "Students and their parents expressed their gratitude to the Telangana Government, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and Minister Konda Surekha for introducing the welfare-oriented programme. "The event was attended by the school Headmaster, teachers, students, parents, and other dignitaries.

CM Breakfast Scheme Launched in Ramanthapur Division

Ramantapur Division Congress Working President Vallapu Srikanth Yadav inaugurates and inspects the scheme" UPPAL, JUNE 15 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): With the objective of ensuring that economically disadvantaged students do not suffer from hunger and remain connected to their education, the Telangana Government has introduced the CM Breakfast Scheme, providing nutritious morning meals to students studying in government schools. "The scheme was formally launched on Monday at the Indira Nagar Primary School in Ramanthapur Division by Ramantapur Division Congress Working President Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, who also inspected the quality and arrangements of the breakfast being served to the students. "Speaking on the occasion, Srikanth Yadav said that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had taken a visionary decision aimed at strengthening government schools and bringing them on par with corporate educational institutions. He noted that the government is appointing teachers and providing students with various facilities, including CM kits, school uniforms, ties, shoes, bags and textbooks, ensuring that no child faces difficulties in accessing quality education. "He stated that it is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of such welfare initiatives in schools. Expressing happiness



over the launch of the scheme, he said that both students and their parents have welcomed the initiative and conveyed their gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress government. "On behalf of the Ramanthapur Division, Srikanth Yadav thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Parameshwar Reddy for introducing the programme. School Headmaster Madhusudhan Reddy, teachers and Congress leaders Poosa Sathanna, Samuel, Yadagiri Yadav, Mahesh, Ambika and others participated in the programme.

KMC holds weekly Prajavani; 22 petitions received.

KARIMNAGAR June 15 (Correspondent): The Karimnagar Municipal Corporation (KMC) received 22 petitions during the weekly Prajavani public grievance redressal programme held at Kalabharathi on Monday. Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai received representations from residents of various divisions and directed officials to ensure their prompt disposal.

Of the 22 petitions received, 12 pertained to the Town Planning department, six to Revenue, two to Engineering, and one each to pension and Indiramma housing-related issues. Reviewing the grievances, Mr. Desai instructed officials to examine each petition on priority and take steps to resolve them without delay. He emphasised the need to avoid pendency and ensure regular monitoring of applications received by various sections. The Commissioner also directed Town Planning officials to expedite the processing of applications and ensure that pending cases are cleared in a time-bound manner. Additional Commissioner Ayaz, Deputy Commissioner Khader Mohiuddin, DCP Basheer, DE Lachhi Reddy, Veterinary Officer Durgaprasad Reddy, ACPs Venu and Sridhar, and other officials were present.



Task Force seizes large quantity of illegally stored sand in Jammikunta; two tractors confiscated.



KARIMNAGAR / Jammikunta June 15 (Correspondent): The Karimnagar Task Force police seized three illegal sand dumps and two tractors during a raid conducted in Vilasagar village of Jammikunta mandal on Monday as part of an intensified drive against unauthorised sand mining and transportation in the district. The operation was carried out under the supervision of Task Force ACP Vasala Satish following directions from Karimnagar Police Commissioner Gaush Alam to curb illegal extraction, storage and transportation of sand.

According to the police, a large sand dump containing about 100 tractor-loads of sand was detected and seized during the raid. Two other dumps with an estimated 50 tractor-loads of sand were also confiscated. In addition, two tractors allegedly being used for the unauthorised transportation of sand were seized. Police officials said that nearly 150 tractor-loads of sand were confiscated in total. The seized sand stocks and vehicles were handed over to the

Jammikunta police for further investigation and legal action. Commissioner of Police Gaush Alam warned that stringent action would be taken against those involved in illegal mining, storage and transportation of sand in violation of government regulations. He said surveillance would continue across the district and that offenders would face seizure of vehicles and criminal proceedings under the relevant mining and other applicable laws.

LPL Global Receives Major Investment Backing

Hyderabad, June 15 (Indian Chronicle): Innovative Production Group FZ LLC (IPG), the promoter of the Lanka Premier League (LPL), has secured multi-million-dollar financial backing following the completion of a strategic merger with a Nasdaq-listed American company, according to a statement issued on Monday by IPG Global Founder and Chairman Anil Mohan. Addressing the media along with Flash Sports & Media CEO Bradley Natrass and CFO Eric Scherb, Mohan said that through the all-stock merger with Flash Sports & Media Inc., the commercial rights of the LPL and several other T20 leagues have been integrated into the Nasdaq-listed UGRV platform.

He announced that an investment of USD 20 million will be made towards the development of the Lanka Premier League over the next two years. The funding is expected to play a significant role in accelerating the league's growth and strengthening its commercial prospects. Mohan stated that the merger would facilitate the expansion of operations across multiple cricket markets while focusing on long-term commercial development and the creation of sustainable revenue streams. He also confirmed that the 6th edition of the Lanka Premier League will commence on July 10, 2026.

Former Corporator Bannala Geetha Inspects 30 Lakh CC Road Works in Beerappa Gadda



Assures completion of remaining development works as promised... UPPAL, JUNE 15 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Chilkhanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj on Monday inspected the ongoing cement concrete (CC) road construction works being undertaken at a cost of ₹30 lakh in Vanjari Narsinga Rao Galli of Beerappa Gadda Division, along with local residents. "Speaking on the occasion, Bannala Geetha said that nearly 80 percent of the developmental works in Beerappa Gadda have already been completed and that the remaining 20 percent would be taken up and completed in a phased manner with the support of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy. She stated that the CC roads are being laid in accordance with the commitments made to the residents. "She directed the contractor to strictly adhere to all prescribed norms and quality standards and urged officials to closely monitor the construction process. She emphasized that every effort should be made to ensure quality execution and that the works should be completed expedi-

tiously without causing inconvenience to the public, so that the new CC road can be made available to residents at the earliest. Local leaders and residents including Vanjari Narsinga Rao, Granite Prakash, Elender, Manjari Balaji, Banti Goud, Tirupati Yadav, Srinivas Yadav, Venkata Reddy, Praveen Reddy, Varamma and others participated in the programme.

Women's Empowerment Prioritized: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Distributes Certificates to Women Completing Free Tailoring Training



UPPAL, JUNE 15 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the Women Empowerment - Hyderabad Tailoring Batch-1 Completion Ceremony and Certificate Distribution Program organized by the Child Vikas Foundation at Beerappagadda under Uppal Division. "On the occasion, the MLA distributed certificates to women who successfully completed the free tailoring training course and congratulated them on their achievement. He expressed hope that women would attain financial independence and play a vital role not only in the

development of their families but also in the progress of society. "He also inaugurated the second batch of the free tailoring training program and stated that such skill development initiatives are highly beneficial in enhancing employment opportunities for women. He emphasized the need for voluntary organizations to conduct more programs aimed at empowering women. "Representatives of the Child Vikas Foundation, including Ramesh, trained women beneficiaries, local leaders, BRS leaders Bannala Praveen Mudiraj and Pilli Nagaraju, along with several social activists, participated in the event.

Grand Celebrations Mark Union Minister Kishan Reddy's Birthday

"Sarees Distributed to Sanitation Workers; Fruits Donated to Elderly and Students" Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, June 15: "On the occasion of the birthday of Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Mekala Keerthi Harsha Kiran, along with senior leaders of the Boudhanagar Division, organized several service activities on Monday. "As part of the celebrations, sarees were distributed to GHMC women sanitation workers in recognition of their continuous efforts in maintaining cleanliness across the city. Fruits were also distributed to elderly residents of a local old-age home and students of a government school. "Speaking on the occasion, Mekala Keerthi Harsha Kiran expressed his heartfelt wishes for Kishan Reddy, stating that he should continue to scale greater heights in public service and political leadership. He prayed for the Minister's good health, happiness, and long life, and said that the blessings of the people should always remain with him. "Senior leaders Hanumanthu Mudiraj, Satish Neta, Shyam Raj,



Satyanarayana, Bhikshapathi, Venkatesh Yadav, Balayya, Nagarani, Vasantha, Kiran, Vinod, Srikanth, Prem, and several party leaders and activists participated in the service programme, making it a grand success.

Special Prayers and Annadanam Held at Katta Maisamma Temple on Somavati Amavasya



tribution) programme were conducted with great devotion at the premises of Katta Maisamma Temple on Monday. "As part of the celebrations, a free medical camp was organized with the support of Dr. B. Srinivasa Rao of Matrix Hospital to provide essential healthcare services to devotees visiting the temple. Several devotees underwent medical check-ups and were provided with necessary advice and guidance. "Former MLA Subhash Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and participated in the special pujas. He later inaugurated the annadanam programme and appreciated the efforts of the organizers.

"Speaking on the occasion, the organizers stated that such service-oriented programmes aimed at the development of the temple and the welfare of devotees are highly beneficial to the public. "Temple Committee Chairman Bandaru Venkata Rao, committee members, and a large number of devotees participated in the event.

MLA K.R. Nagaraju Extends Birthday Greetings to Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka

"Warangal, June 15 (Indian Chronicle): On the occasion of the birthday of Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance and Energy, Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Wardhannapet MLA and retired IPS officer K.R. Nagaraju met him at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad on Monday and conveyed his warm birthday wishes. "During the meeting, MLA Nagaraju felicitated the Deputy Chief Minister with a traditional shawl and presented him with a bouquet. Speaking on the occasion, he praised Bhatti Vikramarka for his relentless efforts towards public welfare, social justice, and the overall development of Telangana. "Nagaraju stated that the Deputy Chief Minister's contributions to the State's progress and the welfare of its people have been exemplary. He expressed hope that Bhatti Vikramarka would continue his dedicated public service for many more years and play an even greater role in Telangana's growth and development. "Conveying his heartfelt birthday greetings, Nagaraju wished the Deputy Chief Minister good health, happiness, and a long life dedicated to serving the



people. "The programme was attended by Mohammed Ayub, along with Congress Party leaders, public representatives, party workers, and other dignitaries.

CONG HAS INHERENT HISTORY OF VOTE CHORI AND SEAT CHORI: NRR

Hyderabad, June 15 : Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao today said three incidents in Indian political history has exposed mindset of Congress party which is alleging "Vote chori and Seat Chori" out of frustration for its repeated defeats in the hustling. Addressing a press conference at state party office here, Rao said Congress leaders saying that when they talk about "vote theft," it feels like their "brains have been stolen." He cited records showing that back in 1980, even before Sonia Gandhi obtained Indian citizenship, she was registered as a voter at Indira Gandhi's Safdarjung Road residence (Polling Station 145, Serial No. 388). " Rao asked Congress party "is it not a "vote chori" when Sonia Gandhi become a voter when she had not acquired Indian Citizenship. He alleged that the history of Congress is filled with stealing votes and seats. " He questioned whether wasn't vote theft when Nehru was made PM despite Sardar Patel receiving 28 votes and Nehru receiving just 2 votes in the internal Congress elections. He also asked was is not Congress that stole the Constitution by imposing an Emergency in the country in 1975 against the Allahabad High Court verdict. " BJP state chief questioned whether it wasn't vote theft when Jawaharlal Nehru was made PM

despite Sardar Patel receiving 28 votes and Nehru receiving just 2 votes in the internal Congress elections. Was it not a "seat chori," he asked Congress party. "The third blunder committed by the Congress was "it was late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who had trampled the Indian constitution by imposing an emergency in the country in 1975 against the Allahabad High Court verdict. He said. " Rao further alleged that the previous Congress government had damaged the independence of constitutional bodies by offering Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awards and Rajya Sabha seats to certain retired officials of the constitutional Election Commission. "He said seven chief election commissioners were honored with Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan between 1950 to 2009 reason best known to that governments. Former Chief Election Commissioner Sukumar Sen during Jawaharlal Nehru period was made Vice Chancellor of Budwan University in 1960 and R K Trivedi was made as Governor of Gujarat during Indira Gandhi period in 1985. " Rao clarified that no chief election commissioner was either honored with award or given post retirement assignment ever since Narendra Modi assumed charge as Prime Minister of India till today. This is the difference of work culture between BJP and Congress party, he said.

CONG, BRS, MIM CRYING OUT OF FEAR OF LOOSING THEIR BOGUS VOTES: BJP

Hyderabad, June 15 : BJP State President N Ramchander Rao strongly lashed out at the Congress, BRS, and MIM parties, accusing them of mud slinging for political self-interest on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process initiated by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the purification of voter lists. "Speaking at a media conference organized at the BJP State Office, he clarified that SIR is not a program launched personally by Prime Minister Narendra Modi or the Central Government, but a continuous, constitutionally mandated process conducted by the Election Commission. " Criticizing the Congress, BRS, and MIM parties for misleading the public and spreading false information on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, He recalled that this process has been successfully carried out 12 times in the country so far. He clarified that the SIR is conducted solely for registering new voters, deleting the names of deceased individuals, and modifying the details of those who have changed their addresses. " He questioned why objections are being raised now, when multiple SIRs were conducted under the Congress regime between 1951 and 2002 without any issues. He said as a responsible opposition the BJP had welcomed the Election Commission's decision, but today, Congress and BRS are speaking in one voice to mislead the public through a conspiratorial campaign. " It is laughable that some self-proclaimed intellectual Congress leaders are criticizing the SIR, claiming that the BJP won in Bengal because of it. Didn't they remember SIR when the Congress-led UDF won in Kerala, where the same SIR process took place? " he said and emphasized that victory and defeat in politics is totally depended on peoples' mandate. " He reminded that the SIR process is constitutional and is carried out in accordance with the rules of the Representation of the People Act. He noted that the Supreme Court itself had delivered a clear 124-page judgment, confirming that under Rule 21A, the Election Commission has full authority to delete ineligible votes. " Rao expressed grave concern that along the country's borders like Bihar and West Bengal, as well as in

the Hyderabad Old City, illegal infiltrators like Rohingyas, Bangladeshis, and Pakistanis are obtaining fake Aadhaar cards and ration cards with the support of certain local political parties to register as voters. " He stated that it has come to their notice that there are up to 200 bogus votes in a single house in the Old City. He questioned Congress, BRS, and MIM whether voting rights should be granted to the approximately 5,000 to 10,000 Pakistanis illegally overstaying in Hyderabad. He clarified that according to the Constitution of India, only an Indian citizen has the right to vote. He assured that the goal of SIR is to weed out fake votes, and not a single eligible citizen will lose their vote. " BJP state chief asked Congress, BRS and MIM whether do they want to add the names of infiltrators of Bangladeshi, Rohingyas and Pakistanis in the Indian voter list. The these parties are now crying out of fear that their fake votes would be wiped out by the SIR, he said. " He explained that the entire process is completely transparent, as Booth Level Agents (BLA) from all parties and Booth Level Officers (BLO) under the state government participate at every booth. He questioned whether the Chief Minister lacks confidence in his own staff, given that the Congress government is currently in power in the state.

He noted that the rule providing for a one-year prison sentence for submitting a false declaration has been in place for a long time. " Rao criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that a man who was caught red-handed in the past in the 'Vote-for-Note' case has no moral right to speak about vote theft. BJP chief asserted that the BJP is going to win in Telangana in the coming days, and this entire gang is spreading lies against the BJP out of fear of defeat. He called upon all the people of Telangana to actively participate in this SIR process, collect forms from the BLOs, clean up their votes, and ensure duplicate votes are remove State party Vice-President Jayasree, chief official spokesperson N V Subhash, Legal cell member advocate Antony and others were also present in the press conference.

Minister Vivek Venkataswamy Strongly Appeals for Child Labour-Free Telangana

"Turn Eradication of Child Labour into a Social Movement: Minister Vivek" Hyderabad: Labour and Mines Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy has called for turning the eradication of child labour into a mass social movement, stressing that every child belongs in school and not at work. "Speaking at an event organised to mark World Day Against Child Labour at the Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in Baghlingampally on Monday, the Minister said the government is working with sincerity towards this goal. "Dr. Vivek Venkataswamy expressed concern that many children are pushed into labour due to poverty and poor family conditions. He urged society to identify such children and ensure they are enrolled back in schools. "Protecting childhood and providing quality education to every child is the collective responsibility of all of us," the Minister said. "Recalling Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's emphasis on education as the path to a dignified life, Dr. Vivek Venkataswamy highlighted how many former child labourers have gone on to secure good jobs through the power of education. "He called for widespread awareness campaigns, especially on social media, to eliminate child labour completely. "The Minister underlined that the goal can be achieved only through coordinated efforts of the government, voluntary organisations, social



activists, and the public. "He highlighted the state government's initiatives, including the establishment of Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), skill development programmes, and language training for overseas employment, which aim to provide better future opportunities for the youth. "Dr. Vivek Venkataswamy praised social activists and voluntary organisations working tirelessly to rescue child labourers and mainstream them into education. He called upon all sections of society to join hands in building a child labour-free Telangana."

12 Years of Modi Government Laid a Strong Foundation for India's Development

"BJP State General Secretary Gautham and State Spokesperson Sangappa" Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, June 15: "A media conference was organized in Secunderabad to mark the completion of 12 years of the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking on the occasion, BJP State General Secretary Gautham and State Spokesperson Sangappa said that the Modi government has brought transformational changes in the fields of development, welfare, national security, and infrastructure. "The program was held under the leadership of Secunderabad Mahankali District President Bharat Goud. Addressing the media, Gautham stated that the trust reposed by the people in Narendra Modi's leadership in 2014 has yielded significant results over the past 12 years. He said the government has implemented several landmark initiatives focused on the welfare of the poor, farmers, women, youth, and the middle class. "He highlighted key economic reforms and initiatives such as GST, Make in India, Startup India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, which have strengthened the country's economy, boosted entrepreneurship, and attracted increased foreign investment. "Gautham also noted that welfare schemes including Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and Swachh Bharat Mission have benefited millions of citizens across the country. "Speaking on infrastructure development, he said that national highways, expressways, Vande Bharat trains, new airports, modern railway stations, and metro projects have accelerated India's growth. Sangappa added that Digi-



tal India, UPI payments, Aadhaar-based services, and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) have enhanced transparency and ensured benefits reach citizens directly. "On national security, the BJP leaders said the government has taken decisive measures to safeguard the nation's sovereignty. They described the abrogation of Article 370, the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and the construction of the Ram Mandir as historic milestones. "They also highlighted the government's response during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the successful rollout of one of the world's largest vaccination drives and the distribution of free food grains to millions of families. "Calling upon citizens to contribute towards Prime Minister Modi's vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047," the leaders urged public participation in India's journey toward becoming a developed nation.

Messi, Ronaldo, Neymar cutouts light up Kolhapur streets as FIFA World Cup mania grips city



GNS News Agency, June 15

As the FIFA World Cup 2026 got underway, football fever has once again taken over Kolhapur, a city popularly known for wrestling, Kolhapuri chappals and its famous tambda-pandhra rassa. Across neighbourhoods and chowks, life-size cutouts of football stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Neymar Jr and Kylian Mbappe have sprung up. Banners, murals and flags representing Portugal, Argentina, Brazil and France adorn street corners, while supporters proudly sport jerseys of their favourite players. For many residents, the World Cup is more than just a sporting event; it is a month-long celebration. "Kolhapurkars have always been passionate about football," said Amir Hakim, an IT professional and Kolhapur-based football player. "I am a die-hard Cristiano Ronaldo fan, and there is a friendly rivalry among Ronaldo, Messi and Neymar supporters across the city. Fans celebrate their favourite players' birthdays and sometimes even organise social activities such as distributing meals to the needy." According to Hakim, local football clubs become the heart of the celebrations during major matches. "Whenever important games are played, football clubs and community spaces are packed with supporters cheering for their teams. The atmosphere is energetic and festive," he said. Residents say the city's connection with football

runs much deeper than the beginning of the Football World Cup in 1930 and FIFA's establishment in 1904. "The city is not limited to wrestling and traditional culture. Football has been part of Kolhapur's sporting identity since the late 19th century under the patronage of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj," said Digvijay Jadhav, a resident of Sadar Bazar in Kolhapur. He pointed out that the sport has enjoyed strong local support since the pre-Independence era and received patronage from the erstwhile royal family. "Football occupies a special place in Kolhapur's sporting legacy. Several clubs continue to nurture young talent, and tournaments are regularly held at Chhatrapati Shahu Stadium in Mangalwar Peth. Social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and others have further expanded the game's popularity among the younger generation," Jadhav said. "It is the only city in Maharashtra to display the same level of enthusiasm for international football tournaments," he added. The excitement is especially visible among younger fans, many of whom save money to buy jerseys, purchase mobile app subscriptions and gather with friends to watch matches late into the night. Pune Messi football Indian great Sunil Chhetri also finds a place among global stars (Photo by Sahil Desai). "Several talims (wrestling arenas) and football clubs arrange live screenings of important matches. People of all ages come together to watch and celebrate the sport," said 15-year-old Krishna Mangale. "If someone visits Kolhapur during the World Cup, they will realise that football passion is not limited to Kerala, Kolkata, or Goa. The craze here is equally strong," he added. Mangale, a devoted Lionel Messi fan, said he had saved his pocket money to buy his favourite player's jersey and mobile app subscription. "Almost every football fan here owns a jersey of their favourite player or team. Many even customise them and wear them regularly," he said. The FIFA World Cup 2026, being jointly hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, is the largest edition of the tournament so far, featuring 48 teams. But thousands of kilometres away from the host nations, the tournament has already transformed Kolhapur city into a vibrant celebration of football.

Abhishek Banerjee appears before CID again in Bengal Assembly signature forgery case

GNS News Agency, June 15

Trinamool Congress (TMC) General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee appeared before the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Sunday morning at Bhabani Bhawan. This is his second round of questioning in connection with the Assembly signature forgery case, following a grueling five-and-a-half-hour interrogation on Thursday night. In compliance with a Calcutta High Court directive ordering him to cooperate with the investigation, Banerjee arrived at the CID headquarters at 11.43 am — 17 minutes ahead of his scheduled 12 pm appointment. Presenting his identity card and signing the attendance register, he proceeded inside for questioning.

The high court has granted Banerjee interim relief, directing the state agency not to take any coercive action against him in this case for the next two weeks. Though Sunday is a weekly holiday, CID officials arrived early in the morning to prepare for the high-profile interrogation. Security was significantly tightened around the Bhabani Bhawan premises, with a heavy deployment of additional police forces, central forces, and the Rapid Action Force to prevent any untoward incidents. The CID has also summoned Beliaghata TMC MLA Kunal Ghosh for questioning in connection with the same forgery case later on Sunday afternoon. The forgery case revolves around an official letter sent by the Trinamool legislative party to the Assembly Speaker, designating veteran leader Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition. Allegations surfaced that several signatures on the document are fraudulent. Multiple MLAs have claimed they never signed the letter, while other names were allegedly filled out in block letters. Because the letter carries Abhishek Banerjee's signature in his capacity as the party's general secretary, investigators are probing his level of involvement. While

Abhishek Banerjee initially skipped a few summons, he joined the probe following the high court's intervention. The interrogation comes on the heels of a dramatic midnight escalation. Late Saturday night, the Salboni police raided Abhishek Banerjee's Kalighat residence in search of his Personal Assistant Sumit Roy in connection to a land extortion case. Investigators allegedly traced the "tower location" of Roy's active mobile phone directly to the property. According to sources, the police knocked and called out for Roy from 3 am to 5 am without receiving a response. Disaster management personnel were subsequently called in to break the locks. Upon hearing news of the raid, former chief minister Mamata Banerjee rushed to the spot. The police search concluded around 8 am; however, no seizures were made, and Roy was not found on the premises.

Abhishek Banerjee faces a tight grid of legal challenges over the coming days, currently lacking interim protection in two other active cases. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned him to appear before it on Monday in connection with the probe regarding the primary school teacher recruitment scam. Meanwhile, the state police served a notice at his residence on Friday regarding a separate complaint filed in Salt Lake over a public statement he made. Additionally, a fresh criminal complaint was lodged against Abhishek Banerjee at the Siliguri Cyber Crime police station by a local trader on Friday. The complainant accused the MP of making provocative and unlawful remarks targeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah during an election rally. This follows a similar recent complaint filed at the same police station against former CM Mamata Banerjee by an advocate, who alleged that her public criticisms of constitutional institutions threatened national sovereignty and public order.

Rebel TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar's son sends legal notice to Mamata Banerjee, seeks apology

EMS News Agency, June 19

In a fresh twist to the turmoil within the Trinamool Congress (TMC), rebel party MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar's son Saturday sent a legal notice to former Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee. Dr Baidyanath Ghosh Dastidar, a psychiatrist by profession, has accused TMC MPs Kalyan Banerjee, Sougata Roy, Mohua Moitra, former TMC MLA Sonali Guha, and Mamata Banerjee of making false statements against him.

The legal notice states, "He (Baidyanath Ghosh Dastidar) neither sought nor desired any nomination for the Barasat Assembly Constituency and had no political ambition in that regard." The notice further reads, "My client... states that IPAC representatives associated with political consultancy and organizational activities repeatedly approached him and requested that he consider contesting from the Barasat Assembly segment... Soham Pal, then associated with the Barasat District TMCP, contacted him on multiple occasions through WhatsApp and encouraged him to contest elections. Every week, representatives from the Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC)... Soham Pal would call Dr Baidyanath Ghosh Dastidar to attend health camps in Barasat." The legal notice also alleged that senior advocate and TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee made derogatory and uncharitable references against him and his brother, causing substantial distress and reputational harm. Furthermore, Baidyanath Ghosh Dastidar claimed that Sonali Guha's allegations that he consumes alcohol are false, defamatory, and unsupported by any evidence. In the notice, Baidyanath Ghosh Dastidar asked the respondents to desist from making, publishing, repeating, endorsing, or circulating any statement, insinuation, or allegation concerning him in relation to any political matter and to also "withdraw and retract all false, defamatory, and misleading statements" concerning him. "Issue a public clarification and apology within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this notice, acknowledging that my client neither sought nor desired any political nomination from the Barasat Assembly Constituency and correcting any false statements made regarding his personal conduct or character. Please take notice that should you fail to comply with the aforesaid demands within fifteen (15) days from receipt of this notice, my client shall be constrained to initiate such civil, criminal, and other legal proceedings as may be available in law," the notice states.

Meanwhile, attacking Mahua Moitra, Baidyanath

Ghosh Dastidar posted on social media on Sunday, "Mahua Moitra has falsely claimed that my mother was crying for an MLA ticket for me. 100% lies. Disagreements should be fought politically, not by dragging private individuals and family members into the dispute. I reserve my legal rights." He also posted that he was returning the gifts given to him for his wedding, "I am returning the gold necklace gifted to my wife at our wedding and the kurta-pyjama gifted to me during Durga Puja by @MamataOfficial. I remain grateful for the gesture, but in view of recent events and as a matter of personal conscience, appropriate to return these gifts." Reacting to her son's posts, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar wrote, "Proud of you and your wife." The notice comes at a time when the TMC is facing the most serious turmoil within the party since its inception in 1998. Last week, a group of 20 Lok Sabha MPs, reportedly led by Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, wrote to Speaker Om Birla seeking recognition as a separate faction supporting the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. According to sources, the rebel MPs will meet the Speaker on Monday.

After decades of neglect, Maharashtra's 'abandoned prisons' are finally being shut

The sub-jails operated under a separate Sub-Jail Manual first drafted in 1928 and amended in 1952. (Image: CHRI) The sub-jails operated under a separate Sub-Jail Manual first drafted in 1928 and amended in 1952. Calling time on what rights groups once described as Maharashtra's "abandoned prisons", the state government has decided to permanently shut all 116 sub-jails that operated under the revenue department, ending a colonial-era system criticised for poor sanitation, inadequate facilities and lack of oversight. A Government Resolution (GR) issued on June 12 ordered the closure of the remaining operational sub-jails and the transfer of inmates to prisons run by the state's prison department. The decision follows the recommendations of a government-appointed committee that reviewed the condition and future of the facilities. Of the 116 sub-jails across Maharashtra, only 36 remained

Talasanani Srinivas Yadav questions Congress government's ability to deliver Future City project

Hyderabad: BRS deputy leader Talasanani Srinivas Yadav questioned the Congress government's ability to execute ambitious projects like the proposed Bharat Future City, while struggling to address basic civic issues in Hyderabad. He reminded that during the BRS regime, citizens of Hyderabad received uninterrupted drinking water and power supply, but the Congress government failed to continue the progress achieved over the previous decade. "Can this government that is unable to ensure regular drinking water supply to the existing city, is expected to successfully build and manage the proposed Future City project," he asked. He also criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for holding constitutional position, but failing to maintain the dignity and decorum associated with it.

Addressing the BRS Khairatabad constituency meeting at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, Srinivas Yadav recalled the formation of the BRS in 2001 and its struggle for

statehood under the leadership of K Chandrashekar Rao. He said, unlike conventional political parties, the BRS emerged from a movement that fought against injustices in the united Andhra Pradesh over water, funds and employment opportunities. The former Minister credited Chandrashekar Rao with securing statehood and placing Telangana as a frontrunner on the national map, with the State witnessing rapid development during the BRS government's ten-year tenure. However, he said public dissatisfaction had grown during the Congress government's two-and-a-half years in power and accused the administration of failing to meet people's expectations. On the occasion, Srinivas Yadav urged party leaders and cadre to actively engage with public issues and support people affected by the Congress government's misgovernance. He asked party workers to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level and begin preparations for the forthcoming GHMC elections.

As water crisis and heat intensify, BMC is rejuvenating Mumbai's lost lakes

GNS News Agency, June 15

As Mumbai runs out of water stock and reels under a heatwave, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to rejuvenate two historic lakes—Bhujale Talao and Kamal Talao—in Mumbai's western suburbs. Currently in a dilapidated state, these waterbodies were key sources of potable water during the 20th century, when the Malad and Kandivali areas had not yet urbanised. Last week, Union minister and North Mumbai MP Piyush Goyal inspected both lakes in Mumbai and said the rejuvenation work would likely be completed within six months. "These lakes will serve as lungs for Mumbai and will improve the overall environmental condition in these areas. Plus, the lakes and the surrounding greenery will also help control pollution," he said. Speaking to the authorities said the overall rejuvenation plan comprises nine lakes in North Mumbai. The project will be executed under a public-private partnership model. Civic officials said the larger plan is to upscale the city's overall urban infrastructure by rejuvenating these waterbodies to make open spaces more accessible to people.

"At present, the first phase of rejuvenating the Bhujale Talao has already been initiated, and 90 metric tonnes (MT) of silt have been removed from the waterbody's bed," an official told The Indian Express. After the desilting, the entire waterbody precinct will be beautified and developed into a recreational space by creating a walking track and gardens, the official added. The origin of this lake dates back to the early 20th century, when the entire western suburbs in Mumbai were paddy grasslands where agricultural work used to take place. Locals recall that the water supply pipeline didn't reach this part of the city during that time and people would depend on freshwater lakes like the Bhujale lake for potable water. "Later, during the 1980s, the authorities initiated the construction of the link road and pipelines were built at the same time. As a result, people's dependency on the lakes reduced, and gradually the lakes were used only for dumping waste and immersing Ganesh idols. The civic body also reduced the frequency of cleanup in these lakes," said Ramesh Sharma, 71, a local resident. The Kamal Talao in Marve, home to various migratory birds, spans seven acres. Civic officials said that rejuvenation would significantly improve the lake's water quality and sur-

rounding greenery. The BMC's lake rejuvenation plan is in line with a study commissioned by the administration back in April to identify all the lost natural waterbodies in Mumbai. Some of the key lakes in the city are the Tulsi lake, Vihar lake, Powai lake, Sion Talao, Bandra Talao, and Banganga Tank. The Tulsi and Vihar lakes supply potable water to the city daily. According to the BMC's 1991 development plan model, there were more than 300 lakes across the city and suburbs. With time, owing to a series of redevelopment and infrastructure work, many natural water bodies have been either reclaimed or filled to make land available for development, leading to the loss of ecological biodiversity. Natural lakes play a key role in micro-climate moderation by lowering temperatures in urban areas, mitigating the urban heat island effect. According to a survey report released by the World Wide Fund for Nature, or WWF, 129 sites were identified via satellite imagery as potential sites for natural lakes in Mumbai. However, the survey stated that natural lakes could be found in only 68 locations, while 17 locations stayed inaccessible. Furthermore, the report stated that several areas were found to have been dug as foundation pits, where construction work had begun. The survey stated that 36 of Mumbai's lakes are medium-sized, 23 small, six large, and three very large. "Earlier, Mumbai used to have several natural waterbodies in every pocket, and till the middle of the 20th century, people were largely dependent on these lakes for water, as pipelines hadn't reached many places in the suburbs. However, after the real estate boom began during the 1980s, many of these lakes were filled.

Also, many of these lakes were labelled as potential breeding spots for mosquitoes and were reclaimed to prevent the spread of malaria," a civic official said. "Lakes serve as heat sinks, moderating the temperature levels of the space where they are located. At present, the overall temperature of Mumbai has seen a rise largely due to urban heat effects of concreting work. The lakes will be able to control them," Dr Shashank Joshi, a hydrological expert and researcher, told The Indian Express. "Lakes are also a crucial ecosystem and act as natural water cycle regulators. They act as sponges absorbing excess rainfall water, preventing overflow of rain water, and as water catchments, thus avoiding waterlogging during the dry weather period," he added.

Punjab BJP flags off 8-day Ambedkar circuit pilgrimage to woo Dalit voters

EMS News Agency, June 19 With the Punjab Assembly elections approaching, the Punjab unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday launched its Panch Teerath Yatra, an eight-day pilgrimage tour to places associated with Dr B R Ambedkar's life and legacy. Three buses carrying around 150 pilgrims from different parts of Punjab were flagged off from the BJP's state headquarters in Chandigarh. According to party leaders, the entire cost of the tour, including transportation, boarding, lodging and food, will be borne by the Punjab BJP.

Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon said the yatra is aimed at familiarising people with the life, struggles and contributions of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. He said, "The pilgrimage circuit, known as the Panch Teerath, was conceptualised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2016 and consists of five locations closely associated with Ambedkar. These include Mhow in Madhya Pradesh's Indore City, Ambedkar's birthplace; Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur, where he embraced Buddhism; Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi in Delhi, where he passed away; Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai, where he was cremated; and the house in London where he lived during his student years." More than Rs 2,000 crore has been spent on preserving and developing these sites. The Modi government has created memorials, museums and visitor facilities to ensure that future generations understand Baba Saheb's contribution to the nation," Dhillon said. He added that while pilgrims would physically visit the sites in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi, a virtual tour of Ambedkar's London residence would also be arranged during the journey. The buses will first travel to Mhow in Madhya Pradesh before proceeding to Nagpur and Mumbai in Maharashtra and then to Delhi before returning to Punjab.

Punjab BJP SC Morcha president and retired IAS officer S R Ladhar said the programme would continue in the coming months. "Three buses will be sent every two months and the entire expenditure will be borne by the Punjab BJP," he said. Political observers view the initiative as significant in the run-up to the Assembly elections, particularly because Punjab has the highest proportion of the Scheduled Caste population among Indian states. According to the 2011 Census, Scheduled Castes account for 31.9 per cent of the state's population. Dhillon used the occasion to contrast the BJP's initiative with previous governments. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the initiative to develop these sites, while Congress governments made no serious effort in this direction. We have also provided educational material to the pilgrims so that they can better understand the historical importance of these places," he said. Punjab government's pilgrimage scheme The launch of the BJP's Panch Teerath Yatra comes at a time when the Punjab government is already running the Mukh Mantri Teerath Yatra Scheme, under which pilgrims aged 50 years and above are provided free travel to religious destinations, including the Golden Temple, Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, Chintpurni, Naina Devi, Haridwar, and Rishikesh. Introduced in November 2023 for senior citizens aged 60 and above, the scheme was later expanded and relaunched in January this year for people aged 50 years and above. However, BJP leaders chose not to comment on the state government's pilgrimage programme and instead focused on highlighting the Ambedkar heritage circuit. Over the years, the Panch Teerath initiative has evolved beyond a heritage project into a broader social and educational programme. Several BJP-ruled states have incorporated visits to the Ambedkar circuit into their welfare and pilgrimage schemes.

these facilities were located in mahals or talukas and were meant to house prisoners sentenced to imprisonment of up to 14 days as well as inmates in transit to district or central prisons. Unlike regular prisons, these facilities were administered by the revenue department. Clerks functioned as jailors, while the tahsildar served as superintendent and reported to the Inspector General of Prisons. Maharashtra and Karnataka remained among the few states where such sub-jails continued to function under the revenue department instead of the prison administration. Over time, the facilities increasingly came to be used to temporarily house prisoners when district or central prisons were located far away and police were unable to immediately transfer inmates after courts remanded them to judicial custody. In 2010, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) released a report titled Maharashtra's Abandoned Prisons,

Former minister Indranil Sen cheated public with Durga Puja passes and Unesco claim: Complaint



GNS News Agency, June 15

A police complaint has alleged that former West Bengal minister Indranil Sen and officials of an organisation led by his wife misappropriated public funds and hurt religious sentiments after falsely claiming the organisation was Unesco's official partner to promote Durga Puja in the state. Jaydeep Mukherjee, Managing Director of Meghdutam Travels Pvt Ltd and a global promoter of Durga Puja since 2010, submitted the complaint to Kolkata Commissioner of Police Ajay Nand on Monday. Indranil Sen was minister of state (independent charge) for tourism, information and cultural affairs in the previous government. The others named in the complaint are Indranil's wife Madhuchhanda Sen, who is the president of the Mahanirban Road Mass Art Society (massArt), and the organisation's secretary

Dhrubajyoti Bose, vice-president Sayantan Maitra, and treasurer Rajan Chatterjee. The complaint alleged that massArt had falsely claimed to be Unesco's official partner since 2022, leveraging support from state departments. "As a result of such false claims of association with Unesco, the accused persons cheated the common people and carried out an extortion racket in the State of West Bengal. Such extortion and theft were actively supported by the erstwhile Government of West Bengal through its Minister, namely, Indranil Sen," the complaint read. The complaint outlined a commercial ticketing model implemented from 2022 to 2024, where massArt allegedly sold tickets to the public for "Preview Shows" at selected puja pandals, claiming they were selected by the UN agency.

"The 'Preview Show' rendered such Durga Puja Pandals exclusively accessible to the people who had bought the tickets and barred entry to the common people at large... What has always been a free, public celebration of devotion, spirituality and art has created tension and confrontation among millions of people, turning neighbourhood Durga Pujas into a restricted zone, embedded in the profit-at-all-cost model of privatisation, resulting in spoiling the greatness of Durga Puja," the complaint added. The complaint requested the commissioner to take stringent action against the five people, whom it accused of cheating the public in the name of Durga Puja and hurt their religious sentiments. MassArt has not issued any statement in the wake of the complaint. Indranil Sen was unreachable on his phone.

Trinamool, Abhishek Banerjee offices searched in signature forgery case



GNS News Agency, June 15

The West Bengal CID Tuesday conducted searches at the Trinamool Congress's central party office in Kolkata's Kalighat and at the office of TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Camac Street as part of its investigation into the alleged Assembly signature forgery case. The searches came on a day when Abhishek Banerjee skipped a third summons issued by the Crime Investigation Department, citing pending proceedings before the Calcutta High Court and his absence from the city. A CID team comprising around 30 officers, accompanied by personnel from the Kalighat Police Station and central forces, reached the TMC office at 30B Harish Chatterjee Street in the afternoon. The premises, located adjacent to the residence of former chief minister and TMC chairperson Mamata Banerjee, also serve as the party's central office. According to sources, CID officers were initially prevented from entering the premises and had to wait outside for nearly an hour. TMC treasurer and former MP Subhasish Chakraborty told the officers that both Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee were in New

Delhi and that he could not permit entry without their authorisation. Officers told Chakraborty that, since he is neither a resident of the house nor holds any position in the party, he cannot stop them from entering. The team subsequently entered the premises shortly after 4 pm. The entire process was videographed, and officers were searched before entering the building, sources said. The CID also searched Abhishek Banerjee's office on Camac Street. According to sources, officers faced initial resistance there as well before being allowed to enter and carry out the search. Investigators are probing allegations that signatures of several TMC MLAs were forged on a letter sent to Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee regarding the appointment of the Leader of Opposition. The case stems from a complaint filed by rebel TMC MLAs Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha, who alleged that a resolution purportedly adopted on May 6 was fabricated and that signatures of several legislators on the document were forged. Following a preliminary inquiry by the Assembly Secretariat, an FIR was registered at Hare Street Police Station and the investigation was subsequently handed over to CID. CID has so far recorded statements from 13 TMC MLAs. Three of them, Baharul Islam, Arup Roy, and Subhasis Das, have reportedly disowned the signatures attributed to them on the document. It has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by a DIG-rank officer to probe the allegations. According to sources, Abhishek Banerjee wrote to CID seeking more time, stating that the matter is pending before the Calcutta High Court and is scheduled to be heard on June 10. He also informed investigators that he was in New Delhi for political engagements. He has challenged the CID summons before the Calcutta High Court. His counsel had earlier moved the vacation bench seeking relief against the notices issued by the investigating agency.

Rape accused vanishes from court, found severely burnt in UP's Chitrakoot

GNS News Agency, June 15

A 24-year-old rape accused escaped from a Chitrakoot court house, only to be found hours later with severe electrocution burns. A 24-year-old rape accused escaped from a Chitrakoot court house, only to be found hours later with severe electrocution burns. A routine court appearance in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot district took a dramatic turn when a 24-year-old rape accused allegedly fled the premises, only to be found hours later with severe burn injuries in a neighbouring village. Police said it appears he came in contact with a transformer, possibly while attempting to climb it, and sustained injuries. Police said the accused, Shailendra Kumar, is facing a rape case registered in 2024. Police said Kumar had earlier served time in jail in connection with the case and was currently out on bail. A court warrant had been issued against him, and he had appeared before the court on Monday in connection with proceedings seeking the recall of the warrant. According to police, Kumar was expected to remain present before the court during the proceedings but vanished. "He had come to court in connection with the warrant recall proceedings... but he left and could not be traced," Shyam Pratap Patel, Station House Officer (SHO), Karwi, told a few hours later, around 3.53 pm, the UP-112 emergency response service received information that a man was lying seriously injured near a transformer in an agricultural field in Lauriya Bujurg village under the Karwi Kotwali area.

A Police Response Vehicle was dispatched to the spot and found the man with extensive burn injuries. Local residents present at the scene informed the police that they did not know the injured person's identity. He turned out to be



Kumar. He was shifted to the district hospital, where his father, Rajbahadur, arrived. According to police, the father later informed officials that his son had allegedly taken the step out of fear that he could be sent back to jail following the court proceedings. SHO Patel said the exact circumstances under which Kumar came into contact with the transformer are being examined. He added that preliminary information suggests that the accused climbed onto or approached the transformer and suffered an electric shock, resulting in serious burn injuries. After receiving first aid at the district hospital, Kumar was referred to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital in Prayagraj for specialised treatment due to the severity of his injuries. Patel said the accused is now out of danger. "His condition is stable. We will wait for his recovery before taking further action," the SHO said. He added that once Kumar is medically fit, he will be produced before the court again in connection with the pending proceedings, following which further legal action will be taken.

Hadn't sought ticket': Kumaraswamy on Rajya Sabha berth for Deve Gowda

Union Minister for Heavy Industry and Steel H D Kumaraswamy Tuesday refused to read much into the list of Rajya Sabha candidates announced by the BJP, saying his father and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda was not an aspirant for a ticket. Kumaraswamy was responding to media queries about the criticism levelled by the Congress and unhappiness among a section of the Vokkaliga community over the BJP-JD(S) coalition "denying" a Rajya Sabha seat to the JD(S) patriarch. The tenure of Gowda, who was elected in 2020, ends on June 30. On Monday, the Bharatiya Janata Party named M Nagaraja, an OBC, as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka. After the announcement, the Congress party criticised the BJP for "denying" a Rajya Sabha seat to Deve Gowda and the JD(S) for accepting humiliation. "Now, the Congress is showing compassion for Deve Gowda. But, we all know how Congress treated him during his political career," Kumaraswamy said.

Such attempts, according to the Union minister, were to "bring cracks in the coalition." "Had we applied for the Rajya Sabha seat? Has Deve Gowda asked for the ticket? ... The BJP has 60 MLAs. If we ask for the RS ticket, what will people think about Deve Gowda?" he said, adding that the senior leader would raise issues about the state irrespective of whether he was in power or not. He added that the Congress was making statements sympathising with Gowda because it is nervous about its prospects in the 2028 Karnataka Assembly elections. On Congress's claims that it had backed Deve Gowda in the 2020 Rajya Sabha polls, Kumaraswamy asked whether the Congress had the numbers to secure a win for its second candidate then. In the four seats for which polls were held, the BJP had the numbers to win two seats, while Congress had the strength to win only one. On claims that denying a ticket to Gowda amounted to an injustice to the Vokkaliga community, Kumaraswamy pointed out that D K Shivakumar.

Karnataka forest officer suspended after criminal throws alcohol party in Bandipur tiger reserve



The Karnataka Forest Department on Monday suspended a Range Forest Officer (RFO) for allowing a rowdy sheeter and his associates to hold an alcohol party near an anti-poaching camp in Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR). Action was taken against D Puneeth, RFO of Maddur Wildlife Range, after the video of the party in the prohibited area went viral. The images showed criminal Mahadev Prasad alias Satish, a resident of Gundlupet, and his aides

Gangadhar and Chetan consuming liquor inside the core forest area, using a solar panel at the camp as a makeshift table. Plastic cups, a liquor bottle, and food packets were clearly visible, drawing sharp criticism from environmentalists. Following widespread outrage, Bandipur Project Tiger Director Nandish ordered an inquiry. Based on the inquiry report, officers booked a case against the trio. Acting on the inquiry report, Meenakshi Negi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, issued suspension orders against RFO Puneeth, citing dereliction of duty. The suspension remains in effect pending a formal departmental inquiry into the incident. The department has also booked Mahadev Prasad and his associates in another case. Incidents of illegal entry to Bandipur Tiger Reserve have been reported in the past. In June 2025, officials posted at Bandipur under the 'Friends of Bandipur' initiative were accused of taking tourists into strictly protected anti-poaching camp zones — areas completely off-limits to the public under National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) regulations. In January 2025, two people were fined Rs 25,000 for illegally entering the national park to hold a photoshoot.

Maharashtra Cabinet increases departments from 33 to 45 to fast-track decisions

The Maharashtra Cabinet on Tuesday approved a major restructuring exercise, increasing the number of administrative departments from 33 to 45 to speed up decision-making and reduce the workload on departments handling multiple subjects. Thirteen government departments will be reorganised, resulting in the creation of 12 new administrative departments. Several sub-divisions currently functioning under larger departments will be carved out into separate departments. The government said the restructuring would not involve creating new posts. Instead, work currently handled by large departments will be redistributed to enable departments to function more efficiently and process decisions faster.

The General Administration Department had moved a proposal to this effect. The state government said the restructuring was intended to improve administrative efficiency by allowing departments to focus on a narrower set of subjects rather than handling multiple sectors under a single administrative setup. Officials said the restructuring was part of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's push to improve administrative efficiency under the state's ease of doing business and ease of living agenda. Officials said several departments currently have two or three sub-divisions functioning under a single administrative establishment. While separate secretaries handle many of these subjects, staffing and administrative controls remain concentrated under a single department, creating difficulties in manpower allocation and coordination. According to the Cabinet decision, the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Department will be split into the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry departments. The Cooperation, Marketing and Textiles Department will be divided into three departments—Cooperation, Marketing, and Textiles. A separate Protocol Department will be carved out of the General Administration Department, while the Home Department will be split to create a separate Transport Department. The Industries, Energy, Labour and Mining Department will be divided into Industries and Mining, Energy, and Labour departments. The Revenue and Forest Department will be split into Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, and Forest departments. The School Education and Sports Department will be divided into separate School Education and Sports departments, while the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Department will be split into Tourism and Cultural Affairs departments. Other Cabinet decisions



The Cabinet approved amendments to the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, to facilitate the grant of final approval to new colleges and approvals for expansion proposals involving new faculties, courses, subjects, and divisions. The amendment will allow approvals for new colleges, institutions, faculties, courses, subjects, and divisions for the 2026-27 academic year. The June 30, 2026, deadline prescribed under the Act for granting such permissions will continue to apply. The provision will also apply to Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek. The Cabinet also approved amendments to the Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, to bring it in line with the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. The decision includes approval for amendments to the Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The changes follow amendments approved by the GST Council and incorporated into the Central GST Act, 2017. The Cabinet further approved issuing an ordinance and amendments to the Maharashtra Industrial Development Act, 1961, to increase the borrowing powers of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). The government said the move was necessary to help MIDC raise additional funds for land acquisition and infrastructure development. It noted that the state has already approved a Rs 6,000-crore HUDCO loan for land acquisition for the proposed Purandar airport project and that large-scale land acquisition is underway for industrial areas, special economic zones and infrastructure projects across Maharashtra. The official said MIDC would require additional financial resources to compensate landowners and acquire land for industrial areas, special economic zones and infrastructure projects across the state.

As illegal number plates remain common, Pune residents question enforcement

Weeks before the June 30 deadline to switch to High-Security Registration Plates (HSRPs), customised and non-standard number plates remain a common sight on Pune's roads, prompting residents to question the lack of enforcement against a violation that can hamper accident and crime investigations. From vehicles displaying names instead of registration numbers to plates with stylised fonts, LED borders and barely visible state codes, illegal number plates continue to be used by owners across Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad despite rules mandating standardised, machine-readable registration plates.

Residents allege that authorities have largely turned a blind eye to the practice, even as traffic cameras routinely issue e-challans for other violations. They argue that unreadable number plates not only flout the law but also undermine road safety and make it difficult for police to identify vehicles involved in accidents or crimes. In May, the Maharashtra Government extended the deadline for installing HSRP on vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, till June 30, 2026. Transport authorities will launch special road inspection drives from July 1, 2026, to check compliance. Vehicles found without HSRP plates or proof of appointment booking may face action under the Motor Vehicles Act, including a compounding fee of up to Rs 1,000. "Rules should be the same for everyone. For residents who have complied with the HSRP mandate and routinely receive e-challans for minor traffic violations, the apparent lack of action against vehicles with illegal number plates has become a source of frustration. "People get e-challans for minor violations like broken or missing mirrors. But I see these vehicles every day with no proper plates, sometimes just a name written on them, dark black tinted glasses and nothing happens to them," said Rahul Jadhav, a resident of Wakad.

Residents also allege that vehicles displaying political party symbols, 'Nagarsewak' stickers and other markers of political affiliation are among the most frequent violators. "When the vehicle belongs to a political party worker or has a party symbol on it, I've often witnessed at signal crossings that the traffic cop looks the other way. When it is a common citizen, they get a challan immediately," said Jadhav. "The rule should be the same for everyone — if they can send a challan through a camera, they can certainly act against these vehicles too," he added. Akshay Killedar, a resident of Narayan Peth, raised a more urgent concern. "This is not just about rules and fines. Road rage incidents are increasing in Pune. When a vehicle with a fancy or missing plate is involved in an accident, burglary or an assault and drives away, how will the police trace it? If the number is unreadable on a CCTV feed, the case goes nowhere. These plates are a genuine public safety threat," he said. Killedar added that special enforce-



For residents in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, the apparent lack of action against vehicles with illegal number plates has become a source of frustration.

ment drives are long overdue. "They should not just fine them once and let them go. If the same vehicle is found repeatedly with a non-standard plate, it should be seized. Only then will people take it seriously." The HSRP system was introduced to enable vehicles to be identified by law enforcement, surveillance cameras, and automated traffic management systems. Under Rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, every vehicle registered in India is required to display a High-Security Registration Plate, a tamper-proof, machine-readable plate with a standardised font, size, and colour scheme. These plates must be affixed to both the front and the rear of the vehicle to enable easy identification by law enforcement agencies and automated traffic management systems. Replacing or modifying HSRP with customised, 'fancy' plates with designer fonts, oversized numerals, glowing LED borders, or personalised names is illegal. Despite this, a large number of vehicles in Pune continue to sport non-compliant plates, often with impunity. Speaking to The Indian Express, Sandip Khadse, Deputy Regional Transport Officer, Pune, acknowledged that non-standard number plates remain a concern and said enforcement action would be stepped up. "We are planning to conduct special drives in the city, including near college areas, shortly. All vehicles found violating the rules will be fined. The fine for such number plates ranges from Rs 200 to Rs 1,000, and sometimes more depending on the nature of the violation," said Khadse. He also urged all vehicle owners to complete the transition to High-Security Registration Plates before the June 30 deadline.

Political reality of Afghanistan has changed, UN sanctions regime must take this into account: India at UN



'Situation in Afghanistan' Monday, Parvathaneni said the UN and international community need policy instruments that aim to benefit the people of Afghanistan and "nudge policy in the right direction rather than only wielding tools of punishment that are yielding diminishing returns." Several leaders of the Taliban, which took control of Kabul in August 2021, are listed under the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council. In October last year, the Taliban Sanctions Committee had approved an exemption to the travel ban imposed on Taliban leader and acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, who had then visited India later that month. He added that the history of close cooperation between India and Afghanistan are continues to guide their modern-day relationship. "The proud people of Afghanistan have endured a lot in this century and the Government of India will continue to stand in favour of peace and stability so as to foster development and stability in this nation," he said. He also noted that India's capacity building and Humanitarian Assistance initiatives for the Afghan people can be seen in all 34 provinces and in more than 500 development partnership projects. "The visits to India of Afghan Ministers last year have ensured necessary planning and coordination so that our support reaches the intended beneficiaries. Generations of Afghans having suffered years of active hostility are now suffering neglect of the international community," he said.

United Nations: India said the current UN sanctions regime must take into account the changed political reality of Afghanistan, and called for incentivising positive actions rather than only wielding tools of punishment. "We lend our voice again in reemphasising the importance of incentivising positive actions. The political reality of Afghanistan has changed in the last five years and the current UN sanctions regime must take that into account," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni said.

Addressing the UN Security Council meeting on the

Trump says pilots are fine after US helicopter crashes near Strait of Hormuz

Dubai: A US Army Apache attack helicopter crashed near the Strait of Hormuz, with President Donald Trump saying the two crew members on board were "fine" after the incident involving the strategic waterway, which remains under a chokehold by Iran. What caused the crash remained unclear Tuesday morning in the Middle East, which was still reeling after Iran and Israel exchanged fire the previous day in the biggest blow yet to the straining ceasefire in the Iran war. Iranian state media, relying on foreign reporting, acknowledged the crash without elaborating.

Since the US and Israel began striking Iran on Feb. 28, the war has shaken the global economy, driven up energy prices around the world and made many basics, including food, more expensive. Officials have been unable to turn the April ceasefire into a deal to permanently end the conflict. Trump, speaking to journalists at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York after watching the NBA Finals on Monday night, acknowledged the crash.

"The pilots are fine. Yeah," Trump said. "Nobody injured. We are going to issue a report tomorrow. But the pilots are fine." The New York Times first reported that a US Army Apache attack helicopter went down near the strait in unclear circumstances. The US military's Central Command and the Defense Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. Apache helicopters have been a key asset for the American military as it enforces a blockade on Iranian crude oil shipments and tankers, seeking to pressure Tehran into reaching a deal. The helicopters also have been used by the United Arab Emirates to shoot down Iranian drones during the Iran war. "We have a good chance" of signing a deal in "two or three days," Trump said. But he didn't pro-



vide any details on why there was reason for new optimism. "We're very close to having a very, very good, strong, powerful deal," the president said. "If we go and bomb - which we could do very easily if we want, and we spend another two or three weeks bombing - they'll have nothing left whatsoever. But you won't have the strait open for months." He added: "If we do the bombing, you know, a lot of people are going to be killed. Who wants to do that? I don't." Mediators, led predominantly by Pakistan, have been trying to weeks to get a deal across the line. However, both Iran and the US have taken hard-line positions.

The US wants to see Iran give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, which is believed still to be entombed in the country after American airstrikes in the 12-day war in 2025. But Iran is refusing that and demanding relief from sanctions. It also wants the release of frozen assets even before a final agreement is in place, something rejected by Trump.

Bangladesh Awami League leaders seek EU support to lift sanctions on party

Dhaka: As the crackdown on Awami League leaders continues to intensify across Bangladesh, a delegation of the party's former lawmakers and leaders met Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Billy Kelleher to seek global cooperation for lifting sanctions imposed on the party, local media reported. During a meeting held on Monday in Ireland, the delegation urged the restoration of a "fair political and democratic atmosphere and the improvement of the human rights situation" in Bangladesh. The participants included MEP and former Irish minister Billy Kelleher; former Awami League MP Md Habibe Millat; Ireland Chhatra League President Noman Chowdhury; Ireland Awami League leader Rafiq Khan; and Radin Khan, Chairman of the student wing of Fianna Fail, Bangladeshi daily, Times of Bangladesh reported.

The delegation sought the European Parliament's support for the withdrawal of sanctions and the securing of bail for party ministers, MPs, and activists detained in what they described as "politically motivated" cases. The Awami League leader Millat, briefed the MEP on a range of issues, including the current law and order situation in Bangladesh, the killing of police officers, incidents of mob violence, human rights abuses, the surge of militancy, and the culture of impunity.

Acknowledging the concerns, Kelleher expressed interest in raising these issues within the European Parliament and indicated his intention to pursue diplomatic pressure on the Bangladeshi government through formal discussions.

Meanwhile, a leading international human rights organisation, Justice Makers Bangladesh in France (JMBF), strongly condemned the "arbitrary mass arrests, politically motivated cases, judicial harassment," and misuse of the Bangladesh's Anti-Terrorism Act against more than three hundred leaders and activists of the Awami League across the country during the first week of June. It added that the



individuals were targeted for exercising their constitutional rights to participate in peaceful rallies, assemblies, and political expression in Bangladesh. Expressing grave concern, JMBF said that these actions constitute a serious assault on democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental human rights in the country. "These measures are not merely isolated law-and-order actions; rather, they form part of a systematic campaign of repression aimed at suppressing political opposition, intimidating dissenting voices, and restricting democratic political activities," the rights body stated. Citing media reports and sources, JMBF said that at least 333 leaders, activists, and supporters of the Awami League and its affiliated organisations were arrested in operations conducted across different parts of the country between June 1 and 7. It has been reported that cases were filed against them under the Anti-Terrorism Act and other stringent laws, and that they were subsequently imprisoned. JMBF called on the United Nations, the European Union, international human rights organisations and diplomatic missions to closely monitor the ongoing political repression, arbitrary mass arrests, politically motivated prosecutions, judicial harassment, and restrictions on freedom of expression in Bangladesh and to take effective measures to protect human rights.

Trump claims Iran ready for nuclear deal

Washington: US President Donald Trump said that Iran was willing to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and sign an agreement with the United States, as he claimed American military operations had severely weakened Tehran's military capabilities. Speaking during a virtual tele-rally for South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham ahead of Tuesday's Republican primary, Trump devoted much of his remarks to Iran, ongoing negotiations and the broader security situation in the Middle East. "We're negotiating now and they wanna make a very good deal. They're willing to give us everything. They're willing to give us no nuclear weapon," Trump said. "Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon and it's as simple as that." Trump claimed US military action had inflicted extensive damage on Iran's military infrastructure. "We've decimated their military. We've decimated their, everything there is to decimate, including their leadership," he said. "Their navy is totally gone. They had 159 ships. Every ship is underwater right now."

The President predicted a favourable outcome from negotiations and said a formal declaration of victory could come soon. "I think we are winning that battle, but you're really gonna win it over the next two weeks when we declare total victory," Trump said. "It'll be a total victory. It'll happen very soon and oil prices will come tumbling down."

The remarks came as Trump urged Republican voters in South Carolina to support Graham, a longtime ally who has been one of the Senate's most vocal advocates of a hard line towards Iran. "And Lindsey has been fighting with me all the way, all the way for that," Trump said. "We've been a very tough team." Trump also praised Graham's role on border security, military spending and conservative judicial appointments. "I've known Senator Lindsey Graham for many years and he's always been a tireless advocate for the people of South Carolina," Trump said. The President described Graham as having his "complete and total endorsement" and urged voters to support him in Tuesday's Republican primary.

Under the Trump crypto playbook, the family always wins. Investors don't



It was January 2025, crypto fever was raging, and Donald J. Trump was preparing to return to the White House. So when Fatime Elrkdawy's friend told her about an online message from the U.S. president-elect hyping the launch of his own crypto coin - "GET YOUR \$TRUMP NOW" - she thought: "Oh my God, this is brilliant." If Trump was putting his name behind it, Elrkdawy recalls thinking, "it must be a legitimate investment." The 29-year-old software project engineer in Santa Barbara, California, put \$2,000 of her savings into the \$TRUMP meme coin - a purely speculative crypto token whose value is often driven by social media hype. All that remained, she thought, was to sit back and wait for the price to climb.

Instead, the price plummeted. At the end of May, her \$TRUMP holding was worth less than \$120. Meanwhile, the Trump family pocketed hundreds of millions of dollars from the token sales after putting little to none of their own money into the project. The \$TRUMP meme coin is one of four Trump family crypto projects that have turned into a financial jackpot for the Trumps and a very bad bet for buyers like Elrkdawy. While they vary in size and structure, each of these ventures has followed the same playbook. The Trumps risked little up front. Trump family members - notably, the president's oldest sons, Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr. - hyped the venture. The Trumps raked in money as investors piled in. And those buyers lost big when, for various reasons, the prices of their Trump-related crypto assets later tanked.

A Reuters examination shows that the Trump family has used this template to generate at least \$2.3 billion in profit from investors since Trump retook the presidency. On the other side of that cash bonanza for America's first family: the more than a million investors whose net losses totaled \$2.3 billion at the end of April, according to a Reuters analysis. Those investors include retail buyers of crypto and crypto-linked equities, as well as those who invested indirectly through funds like ETFs with exposure to Trump crypto. The loss total includes paper losses on unsold investments. The Reuters analysis of Trump crypto gains and investor losses was based on a review of blockchain records - essentially a database of crypto transactions - thousands of pages of corporate filings, online disclosures by the Trump companies, and public remarks by the Trumps and their projects' executives, as well as interviews with crypto industry executives. The findings were reviewed by more than a dozen accounting and crypto experts, all of whom found Reuters' estimates and its underlying analysis of the Trump businesses to be reasonable.

The four businesses covered in the analysis include World Liberty Financial, the Trumps' flagship crypto venture. It has brought the family more than \$1.4 billion from sales of its governance tokens on a persistent promise "to build and democratize a new financial system for the benefit of millions," as it said in an early social media post. The tokens, which give holders a vote on some governance matters, have crashed in value. The Trump brothers have also heralded two publicly listed firms, American Bitcoin and AI Financial Corp, known as ALT5 Sigma until April, as convenient ways to gain exposure to crypto tokens through their shares. The companies' stock prices have collapsed. And there's the \$TRUMP token, its poor performance typical of meme coins, whose value reflects the popularity of internet trends or celebrities associated with them.

Reuters previously documented the hundreds of millions of dollars that crypto has brought to the Trump family. This report is the first to show that the Trumps have not only enriched themselves to an unprecedented extent for a sitting U.S. president and his family, but have done so through crypto deals that carried little to no downside risk for them while resulting in big losses for retail investors.

Since the November 2024 election, the president and his family have seized an enormous amount of the market for crypto token sales. Two of the four Trump ventures examined by Reuters have together sold more crypto tokens, by value, than any other crypto project but one, according to a Reuters analysis of industry data. And since the 2024 election, the Trumps have, as a family, generated more profit from crypto than any U.S.-listed company, according to company statements and industry data. White House spokesperson Anna Kelly did not comment directly on Reuters' findings and the experiences of investors who lost money on Trump crypto products. In an emailed statement, Kelly said: "All actions by President Trump and his administration are taken in the best interest of the American people."

All but three of the 27 individual investors interviewed for this article said they knew of Donald Trump's history of bankruptcies, unpaid contractors and failed ventures. Still, most said they believed that his position at the apex of American political power and what they perceived as his business acumen ensured lucrative returns on their investments. Many acknowledged doing little or no due diligence. Some said they still hold on to the hope that Trump will make things right. Others expressed regret, anger and embarrassment. They range from a Minnesota software engineer who said he lost \$60,000 of his savings to a hotel manager in Vietnam who lost years' worth of his income. They include the owner of an import-export business in Texas, a hospitality executive in Washington, D.C., and a retiree from New York.

Elrkdawy said it has become clear that "there's no hope left" for her investment in the \$TRUMP meme coin. She said she now thinks "it was just a pump and dump scheme" - when sellers of an asset talk up its price and then "dump" it for a profit before it crashes. Still, she said she considers herself lucky compared to other \$TRUMP buyers who, in online chat groups, bemoan much steeper losses on a meme coin that has tumbled 97% from its January 2025 peak. Elrkdawy said that in retrospect, she sees the \$TRUMP meme coin as "just a pump and dump scheme." REUTERS/Daniel Cole/Elrkdawy was one of only seven retail buyers of Trump crypto who agreed to be identified for this story. The rest requested anonymity, the most common reasons being concerns about privacy and fears of doxxing or of retaliation, including from the president and his supporters. Matt, a 45-year-old machinist in Indiana, said that last September, he was looking to reverse recent investment losses, so he put \$40,000 - 30% of his crypto

and stock portfolio at the time - in ALT5 Sigma shares. "When a stock has presidential backing in a way - at least from his sons - you would think it would go up," he said. Matt's shares have dropped 79% in value since he bought them, for a loss of about \$32,700. He keeps holding on, he said, because he thinks the stock is undervalued. "I call myself a loser, but I haven't given up yet," he said.

He does not blame the Trump family. He said he believes Democrats and anti-Trump investors are taking short positions - a bet that an asset's price will fall - in the family's crypto projects. "Here's the dark side. I know all of these globalists have TDS and they are just going to short it," he said, using the acronym for "Trump Derangement Syndrome," the term Trump supporters use to describe what they see as an irrationally negative reaction to the president. He asked that his surname not be used to avoid politically charged blowback online and from people in his community.

A 45-year-old Texas businessman who put \$5,000 into American Bitcoin said he bought the stock because "I just feel like Trump knows business." He said he bought his shares at an average price of \$4.19 last autumn. He sold all of them in December at about \$3.50, for a total loss of about \$800. The Texan said he doesn't hold the president responsible for the losses: "All the crypto is down right now, so you can't just squarely blame it on Trump." He added that he expects crypto to bounce back and that he recently started buying American Bitcoin again, at \$1.13.

Only five of the investors reported making a profit. Four of them bought World Liberty tokens for pennies during early rounds of sales and then quickly unloaded what they could when 20% of their tokens became tradeable on crypto exchanges. They are still, hypothetically, in the money on the remaining 80% of their holdings, but won't be able to cash out until World Liberty fully unlocks their tokens in 2030. The fifth investor made a profit day trading the meme coin. John Paul Rollert, whose research focus at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business includes the history of capitalism and business leadership ethics, said retail investors should have asked themselves before committing whether the Trump family would make money even if the crypto ventures failed. If the answer was yes, "you're now getting closer to what looks like a scam," said Rollert, an adjunct associate professor of behavioral science.

World Liberty disclosed in fine print at the bottom of its website and elsewhere that the Trump family would receive the lion's share of revenue from token sales. In marketing materials, it included disclaimers that its token was not an investment and that buyers should not expect to make a profit. The website for the \$TRUMP meme coin contains similar warnings. More broadly, U.S. financial regulators for years warned investors large and small that crypto was highly volatile and rife with scams. While such alerts have dissipated since Trump returned to the White House, financial authorities in many other countries have continued with that message. 'THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS'

Renowned investor Wilbur Ross, who served as commerce secretary during Trump's first term, said that, as with other U.S. politicians and their families, the Trumps are free to make money. As for individual investors, "if people are going to buy something that's speculative, they ought to be aware there's a risk," said Ross, currently vice chairman of crypto company ReserveOne Inc. He added: "If they chose to continue on as a holder, hoping it would go up more, well, that's their business." Ross said he has not invested in any Trump crypto ventures.

Investors poured money into the Trump family's ventures as the wider crypto market was riding high, buoyed by bets that a second Trump presidency would accelerate the emerging asset class's entry into mainstream finance. On taking office, Trump began to put in place policies and initiatives seen as beneficial to the industry, from implementing federal rules for stablecoins to dialing back policing of the industry by the U.S. Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Eight government ethics experts interviewed by Reuters said that the Trump family's enriching itself from an industry that the president's administration regulates - and that the president himself has championed - represents a conflict of interest unlike anything seen in modern American history. They noted, though, that while this departure from established norms is unethical and unprecedented, it is legal, provided the family does not exchange access to the president or regulatory favors for financial gain.

In her statement, White House spokesperson Kelly said: "Neither the President nor his family has ever engaged - or will ever engage - in conflicts of interest. President Trump proudly made the United States the crypto capital of the world through executive actions." The licensing deals are the best of all deals because there's no risk. The licensing deals are better because you don't put up any capital.

David Wachsman, spokesman for World Liberty Financial, said in an email response to Reuters' request for comment: "World Liberty Financial is a private American financial technology company, not a political organization, and it is frankly un-American to suggest that a private enterprise in the United States cannot conduct business." The Trumps have reaped \$2.3 billion from their crypto ventures by following a time-tested business model: Donald Trump has applied to real estate - lending his family name to a project, rather than staking his own money. "The licensing deals are the best of all deals because there's no risk," Trump told Reuters in 2016. "The licensing deals are better because you don't put up any capital."

A CRYPTO CASH MACHINE During the past year and a half, the president and his sons Eric and Donald Jr. have supercharged that approach, leveraging their vast media reach to turn the family's crypto ventures into a global crypto cash machine. The main component of that machine is World Liberty Financial. In October 2024, the venture, whose co-founders include the Trumps and a few longtime associates, began selling crypto tokens, with the brothers acting as primary pitchmen. They traveled the globe to amplify World Liberty's stated plan to democratize finance, allowing anyone to bypass a traditional banking system they characterized as restrictive and unfair. They aimed their pitch at potential crypto investors large and small, including accredited American investors - those who meet certain income and net worth requirements under U.S. regulations. For 1.5 U.S. cents per token, buyers would have limited rights to vote on key decisions about the platform, but they wouldn't be entitled to any share of profits. Just before token sales got underway, Donald Trump urged his millions of followers on the social media site X to buy, posting: "@WorldLibertyFi is planning to help make America the crypto capital of the world! The whitelist for eligible persons is officially open - this is your chance to be part of this historic moment." Many of these early investors figured they could profit handsomely once trading of the tokens began on crypto exchanges. But World Liberty prohibited them from selling more than 20% of their holdings, a move it said would ensure "broad ecosystem participation, and sustained growth as tokens gradually enter circulation."

International Court of Justice climate change news greenhouse gas emissions



The story so far: In a landmark announcement, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Wednesday (July 23, 2025) said countries and territories are obligated to combat climate change through efforts to the best of their capabilities. In a unanimous advisory opinion, the ICJ said rising temperatures and extreme weather events, caused because of human-induced climate change, lead to biodiversity loss and while risking human life and health. According to the ICJ, it is the responsibility of the states to protect the earth's climate systems and environment from anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and limit global warming.

What is an advisory opinion?

An advisory opinion of the ICJ is non-binding legal advice delivered by the international court, requested by the United Nations or its specialised agencies on specific matters. The ICJ advisory opinion is usually a reflection of what is required to be done under international law. Despite being non-binding, these opinions carry "legal weight and moral authority", according to the UN.

What are the particulars of the opinion?

The ICJ opined that it is the duty of states to prevent environmental harm under customary international law and that states must reduce GHG emissions and protect the rights of present and future generations. Climate change poses an "urgent and existential threat," the court said. Its opinion relies heavily on observations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international scientific body under the UN that collects and organises evidence of climate change. The Court emphasised that based on due diligence, countries are required to reduce their GHG emissions and support vulnerable nations. The due diligence does not end at adoption of measures but also includes "a certain level of vigilance in their enforcement and the exercise of administrative control". It also noted that the Nationally Determined Contributions, which are country-level en route to attaining net-zero emissions, fall under the principle of due diligence and that member states should ensure these goals represent their "highest possible ambition". The parties also have an obligation to do their best to achieve these targets. According to the ICJ, climate action is not based on any one law but is rather a mix of international law provisions like the UN charter, and international treaties like the Kyoto Protocol, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Paris Agreement, among others, and that they should influence the actions that member states take to protect the environment. These three international agreements are legally binding. Although the opinion noted that it's not the court's responsibility to establish individual responsibility for damage to climate systems, it added the legal consequences arising from a breach of international agreements can lead to assurances and guarantees that such acts will be stopped and not repeated, as well as full reparations to affected states.

Countries and territories are also obligated, under international human rights law, to protect climate systems and other parts of the environment, the court said. The ICJ also recognised the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in its opinion. "UN climate negotiations have struggled over the last three decades to decisively address climate change, but the ICJ's opinion will empower courts to hold states accountable for weak climate action, and support vulnerable countries in pushing for climate justice through lawsuits and negotiations," Lavanya Rajamani, professor of environmental law at the University of Oxford, said.

How did the ICJ deliver this opinion? The UN General

Assembly formally requested the ICJ's opinion on March 29, 2023, including on the obligations of states under international law to protect the environment mainly from GHG emissions, and the legal consequences of failing to do so. The seeds of this discussion were however sown years ago, when a group of law students from the University of the South Pacific launched a campaign in 2019 for climate justice advisory opinion from the ICJ. This led to the formation of Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change, a grassroots youth movement. The World's Youth for Climate Justice joined forces with the movement in 2020. In 2021, Vanuatu — a small island developing state in the South Pacific Ocean — said it would lead a diplomatic process to build support among nations for a UNGA resolution seeking an ICJ climate justice advisory opinion. Vanuatu has been disproportionately threatened by climate change and has led multiple global efforts to address the effects. In 2022, more than 1,500 civil society organisations joined Vanuatu's diplomacy efforts for an ICJ advisory opinion.

What's the opinion's legality?

While an advisory opinion is legally non-binding, it can still influence judicial decisions and executive action. "The advisory opinion can help in the development of international environmental law, especially when it comes to obligations of states and consequences of breach of law," environmental lawyer Ritwick Dutta said. "At present, international environmental conventions are weak on legal consequences of harm and violation. Further, the advisory opinion, by highlighting the interconnection between climate change treaties and other environmental convention such as Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Convention on Law of the Sea, might force the U.S. to finally ratify these treaties which they have evaded for years."

What does the opinion mean for India?

The opinion talks extensively about protecting climate systems rather than only focusing on carbon emissions. "This move beyond 'carbon obsession' would mean that measures to deal with climate change must be in consonance with protection of climate systems — river, grasslands, forest, oceans well as rights of both human and nature," Mr. Dutta said. "The narrow focus on climate led to judicial decisions in India such as the one on the great Indian bustard, where the Supreme Court highlighted the need to promote renewable energy to meet climate goals but undermined biodiversity conservation. "As I see it, the fight against climate change will be now on holding the state and private entities liable for breach of its obligation to prevent harm to humans as well as the environment in totality." Although historically India hasn't contributed significantly to GHG emissions, it is currently the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. It also continues to use coal as its primary source of energy but has ambitious plans to transition away. India is committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2070. "India's official position is that it will move away from coal to cleaner modes of generating electricity. Therefore, the ICJ's opinion is not contrary to the stand of India in coal," according to Mr. Dutta. "In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court in M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India, the Ministries of Power, Environment, and New and Renewable Energy had categorically taken the stand the dependence of coal is against both the economic interest of the nation as well as adverse impact on health of the citizens." The opinion doesn't imply that the use of fossil fuels should stop but that its use should be rationalised by focusing on energy efficiency and by cutting subsidies, "especially when it comes to those who are not poor," Mr. Dutta added. "Despite its low per capita emissions and substantial energy access challenges, as a major carbon emitter with growing energy demands, India will undoubtedly face intensified pressure to ramp up its ambition and accelerate its transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy," Harjeet Singh, a climate activist and founding director of the Satat Sampada Climate Foundation, said. "The ICJ's nuanced approach to differentiated responsibilities, which may question the static nature of 'developed' or 'developing' status based on current circumstances, directly challenges India's traditional standpoint of limiting its climate responsibilities based solely on historical classifications." "This demands a careful recalibration of India's global climate diplomacy. However, it is crucial to remember that the primary and overriding responsibility for the climate crisis, including the obligation for significant emission reductions and financial support, unequivocally remains with developed nations due to their disproportionate historical emissions and greater capabilities," Mr. Singh added.

Should India relax its adoption procedures?



By analysing data from the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), The Hindu data team recently found that for every child free for adoption in India, 13 parents wait in line. The Supreme Court has directed CARA to take measures to streamline and expedite the adoption process. Should India relax its adoption procedure? Aloma Lobo and Smriti Gupta discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Priscilla Jebaraj. Edited excerpts:

Many people believe that CARA's strict requirements and lengthy procedures for adoptive parents are responsible for the long waiting period for a child. Is this true?

Smriti Gupta: No, procedures are not the reason for these delays. The delays stem mostly from the fact that the number of people waiting to adopt a child is higher than the number of children who are legally free for adoption. There are children with special needs and older children who could be adopted immediately. But a majority of people wait to adopt a young child in the 'normal health' category. Most of the delay is the waiting time to be matched (with a child), so changing procedures is not going to do anything to solve the problem of delays. Aloma Lobo: In the past, we could place children (up for adoption) almost immediately because there were very few parents (willing to adopt). The procedures are necessary. The checks and balances ensure that we don't have trafficking and improper placements. There have been cases filed in several parts of the world by children who were placed illegally, and we don't want that to happen here.

Apart from the procedures that parents must follow, there are also procedures involved in bringing children into the adoption pool. Are there ways to speed up this process?

Smriti Gupta: Only children in adoption agencies get evaluated for potential adoptability. I think children in child shelters should also be evaluated. Many children in these shelters, who were abandoned and orphaned, have been there for years and they could be brought into the legal adoption pool. Or at least, their cases should be looked at. This is not being done — because of apathy, lack of training, or lack of resources. That is where our focus needs to be — to bring eligible children into the legal adoption pool at each district level.

Our NGO works with the approval of the State Women and Child Development Department. When we approach these shelters, our first step is to digitise the data of all the children. Using our own open-source software, we have 22 categories, so we can analyse whether a child should continue to be in the shelter or should be brought into the legal adoption pool. We collect data on whether the child was abandoned. On whether the child has parents — and if yes, why the child is there. There are six reasons why a child could be in a shelter. So, we digitise all the data and then the system flags, let's say, 30 out of 100 children. Then our social workers work on those cases on a case-by-case basis, study the files, complete due diligence, and do the paperwork for those identified as potentially adoptable. Then the child is presented to the Child Welfare Committee of the district, which decides whether the child should be declared legally free for adoption or not.

The 2020 World Orphan Report estimated that there are 3.1 crore children in India who are orphans. We all see children on the streets. Should all these children be available for adoption? Why are there only 2,000-odd children in CARA's pool?

Aloma Lobo: The word 'orphan' is often loosely used. Many of these children have families. Or if they don't have parents, but may have extended families. Most of the children who come into the adoption stream as babies are those who were relinquished by unwed mothers or because they are girl children; they were not abandoned. There are children everywhere on the streets. But are they all orphans? Or are they just children with families roaming the streets?

Are they truly free for adoption? We need to evaluate that. There are also cases coming to light in several countries of children illegally taken away from their mothers or parents. The parents were told the children had disappeared or died whereas in reality they were given for adoption. Smriti Gupta: To put it crudely, there cannot be that many parents who have passed away, to say there are millions of orphans. So what we are essentially saying is that there are that many parents who are not raising their children on a day-to-day basis. They have abandoned their children, or they have put their children in shelters, or they have relinquished them. And those children do need a second family, a permanent home. We need to examine the status of all these children. Are they being raised in a safe environment where they are wanted? And if not, what is the next step for them?

There have been multiple exposés of international adoption abuse. There is an acknowledgement that such abuse arose partly due to high 'demand' by adoptive parents, leading to the trafficking of children to ensure adequate 'supply'. What safeguards do we need to ensure that children are not treated as commodities in a 'demand-supply' situation, leading to trafficking?

Smriti Gupta: That is where the procedures come into play, and should not be relaxed. The checks and balances are needed for parents to make sure that people who are adopting children are prepared for it; that they are doing it for the right reasons. And they are needed for children so that only truly eligible children are brought into the legal adoption pool. There has been a lot of improvement over the last few years. On the demand-supply concept: we work with shelters where children tend to be more than 6 years old. The age group you are talking about comprises babies and very young children. And in that case, we do hear of a grey area or black market. Children are not coming into adoption agencies and are not being placed for adoption. They are just being given away. So I would say the bigger risk is, they are not coming into the legal adoption system. I think that is where the trouble is. What you want to do for them — whether they are babies, 10 years old, or 15 years old — is to route them through the legal adoption pool. That is how you avoid all this. Aloma Lobo: An important factor to remember is that we are finding a family for a child, not a child for a family. We need to go through these checks and balances in the best interest of the child, for the child's safety and secure placement. The fact is that children can be trafficked easily from nursing homes and hospitals; it happens quite a bit.

This idea that there are very few adoptable children in the CARA system also largely comes down to need for babies. There are many children waiting for families who are over the age of six, as well as children who have special needs. What needs to be done to increase their adoption rates?

Aloma Lobo: I think the worst repercussions come for children who have special needs. I've done many placements of children with special needs. I have a child with special needs. And I find that the quicker a child with special needs is placed, the better the child is. But there is a list called the immediate placement list, which I frown upon. There are parents who say, we can't wait 3-5 years for a baby, so we will take a child from the immediate placement list. And they take a child with special needs and they are not prepared for it. They don't understand that a child with special needs is a long-term commitment. And they simply return these children. So we must just stop and pause over here and think, should we really place them as "fast" as possible or should we really be child-centric here and be a little careful?

Smriti Gupta: From the time that I adopted a decade ago, I see a change in parents. I do see more children with special needs being adopted, more older children being adopted. But parents need more training and counselling. In international adoption, the agencies conduct a formal training that the prospective parents have to go through. We don't have an equivalent mandatory training for domestic adoptions here. Aloma Lobo: The most important thing is to find out is the motivation to adopt. In the past, we did have several sessions of group counselling and individual counselling. But that is gone. Many of the home studies are like intake forms, which are not really adequate. If you compare them to foreign home studies, they are quite different. Listen to the conversation in The Hindu Parley podcast Aloma Lobo, Adoptive parent, a former chairperson of CARA, and an adoption counsellor; Smriti Gupta, Adoptive parent. She runs an NGO called 'Where Are India's

Understanding Russia's Taliban gauntlet

On July 3, 2025, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced the recognition of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) government, representing the culmination of Russia's recent overtures toward the Taliban. This followed the decision to upgrade diplomatic ties and officially accredit the Taliban's new ambassador, Gul Hassan, to Moscow. Now that the IEA flag is flying over the Afghan Embassy in Moscow, questions remain about the rationale behind Russia's choice to legitimise the Taliban regime. A change, two decades later Moscow's eagerness to cultivate diplomatic relations with the Taliban government stands in stark contrast to Russia's approach to the IEA's first iteration from 1996 to 2001. At that time, the Taliban were seen as hostile towards Russia. Moscow did not acknowledge their government and was forced to wind down its diplomatic presence in Afghanistan in 1997. Further, Russia provided military assistance to the Northern Alliance and helped its Central Asian allies stabilise the situation along the Afghan border against the terrorist threat. Complicating matters further, the Taliban, in 2000, recognised the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria as an independent state and urged the Muslim world to declare a holy war on Russia to force it to stop its counter-terrorist operation in Chechnya. With an estimated 2,500 Chechen militants undergoing training in Taliban-controlled territories, Moscow considered launching "preventive strikes" on terrorist camps in Afghanistan. In this context, it was unsurprising that Russia joined forces with the United States to adopt the United Nations' sanctions against the Taliban and provided logistical support to the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom, which was launched after 9/11. In 2003, the Taliban were included in the Russian list of terrorist organisations. As the international counter-terrorism mission in Afghanistan reached an impasse and the U.S. began to consider withdrawal, Moscow established unofficial contacts with the Taliban through its closer engagement with Pakistan in the early 2010s. This enabled Russia to protect its security interests in Afghanistan (with a focus on ensuring the safety of Russian citizens), collaborating against the Islamic State Khorasan Province (IS-K) and combating drug trafficking. Additionally, in a balance act between the Afghan government and the Taliban, Russia

stepped up its diplomatic efforts to position itself as a venue for resolving the Afghan crisis. Despite being blacklisted by the UN and outlawed in Russia, the Taliban representatives were invited to participate in the Moscow Format and intra-Afghan conferences, as Russia attempted to increase its own regional influence and edge the U.S. out from Afghanistan. With the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021, even as many other countries evacuated diplomatic personnel amid the lingering turmoil, the Russian Embassy in Kabul remained in operation — Moscow remained confident that the Taliban are capable of putting things in good order. Despite Russia's good rapport with the Taliban's dispensation, the persistent instability in Afghanistan has severely compromised its security interests, with terrorist attacks against the Russian Embassy in Kabul in September 2022 and the Crocus City Hall in Moscow in March 2024, purportedly carried out by the IS-K. There has been no meaningful progress in the economic projects either, though the Russian authorities continue to harbour hopes that Afghanistan will emerge as a conduit for Russian exports to South and Southeast Asia. The basis Russia's official recognition of the IEA government reflects Moscow's conviction that the Taliban are "an objective reality" and the only political force capable of controlling power in Afghanistan. This is further reinforced by the perception of the Taliban as Russia's "allies in countering terrorism", which seemingly laid the foundation for their de-listing in April 2025. It should be noted though that the Russian Supreme Court only suspended the ban on the Taliban activities, and the grouping is still on the Russian unified federal list of terrorist organisations. This suggests that the Russian security apparatus is not fully convinced by the Taliban's track record in combating terrorism, leaving scope to reverse the decision if the alliance with the Taliban proves to be a false dawn. The IEA's recognition is a symbolic gesture that does not bring Russia any immediate benefits and does not guarantee any upgrade to Moscow's position in Afghanistan or the wider region. While some Russian officials are insisting on supporting the Taliban, including "arming them", it remains to be seen how far Moscow is willing to go and whether the joint fight against the IS-K will yield tangible results.

The scientist who made 'mangroves' a buzzword

Until the late 1980s, the value of mangroves was primarily understood by the communities that lived around them and relied on them for fishery resources and their livelihoods. But today, the word "mangroves" has become a buzzword, whether in the area of disaster risk reduction in coastal areas, climate adaptation through carbon sequestration, enhancement of coastal fishery resources, or the conservation of shoreline bird sanctuaries, to name a few. The turning point

Although the United Nations Development Programme and UNESCO initiated a regional project on mangrove research in 1988, it was in 1989 that M.S. Swaminathan proposed a leading role for mangroves in managing the impact of climate change in coastal areas. At the Climate Change and Human Responses conference in Tokyo in 1989, he explained that rising sea levels due to climate change would cause a salinisation of land and water resources in coastal areas, leading to the loss of food production and employment. A rise in the frequency of cyclones due to rising sea surface temperatures causes the loss of life, livelihoods, and natural resources. As a response, M.S. Swaminathan suggested immediate action for the sustainable management of mangrove wetlands. This was based on the principles of ecology, economics, and equity as well as research on the utilisation of mangrove genetic resources to develop new saline-tolerant crops (by transferring genes for salinity tolerance from mangroves to rice and other crops). A series of important developments found M.S. Swaminathan playing a pivotal role in mangrove restoration, conservation and management.

Thanks to M.S. Swaminathan's initiatives, the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) was established in 1990 in Okinawa, Japan — M.S. Swaminathan served as its Founding President till 1993. He co-created the Charter for Mangroves and included it in the World Charter for Nature, prepared by the United Nations Conference on

Environment and Development in 1992. To this day, this charter serves as a basis for mangrove conservation efforts at the global level. The ISME conducted an assessment of the economic and environmental values of mangrove forests, including those in India, as well as the current state of their conservation. The ISME also organised a series of workshops on mangrove conservation and sustainable utilisation, published a manual of mangrove ecosystem restoration, and produced a World Mangrove Atlas. These activities, slowly but surely, transformed the common perception of what mangroves are: from an idea of them being marshy land waiting for conversion to other uses to their being central to a multiple-use coastal ecosystem. The ISME is promoting applied research, providing training to various stakeholders, and acting as a centre of knowledge products on mangroves. Global infrastructure for conservation Another vital contribution of M.S. Swaminathan was the development of the GLObal Mangrove database and Information System (GLOMIS), a searchable database on mangrove experts, research, and species, including the Mangrove Ecosystem Information Services, which focused on documenting genetic resources. In 1992, a team of scientists surveyed and evaluated 23 mangrove sites in South, Southeast Asia, and Oceania over nine countries, with scientific inputs from M.S. Swaminathan, to establish a global network of Mangrove Genetic Resource Centres. These centres are now conserved, monitored and managed as 'Protected Areas' by the respective governments. At the national level, M.S. Swaminathan was instrumental in revolutionising India's management of mangroves. India has a long history of mangrove management, dating back to 1783. However, this period was marked by extensive clearance and reclamation of the Sundarbans mangrove forests, primarily for agriculture and settlements. The practice of clear-felling as a system of mangrove management was widespread in India from the British colonial period until 1980, when the Indian Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted.

Keep your teen from smoking



children think vaping (e-cigarettes) and other commonly used methods like candy cigarettes, water pipes (hookah) is safe. They should be made aware of the contrary. Talk with them about the serious health issues that can come up with smoking, preferably using real life examples. Make them understand the harmful effects of passive smoking as well, and they should avoid places where people are smoking. Calculate the money: Do the math and make them calculate how much they spend on cigarettes and e-cigarettes, if taken daily. Then the number of cigarettes they will be smoking in a month and a year. Compare it to the things they can buy with that much amount of money like smartphones, dresses or anything else.

Understand the attraction: Some teens might smoke as a way to express rebellion. You must sit with them and explain them how advertising agencies make smoking look cool, glamorous, and sexy. Explain them that the perceptions created by them are false. And now even during the smoking related scenes on media, where they depict people smoking, it is always accompanied by a small caption on the screen "Cigarette Smoking is Injurious to Health". Set an example: If you are a smoking parent, it is advised that you stop smoking and set an example in front of them. It is advised to make them understand your challenges related to smoking. Do not keep any stuff related to smoking at home which is easily accessible to them.

They might try it out of curiosity. Even one cigarette harms: Make your children understand that even a single cigarette can make you get addicted to smoking. Hence, even trying for fun may lead to lifelong habit. Tell them that most of the adult smokers start as teens and quitting is a tough job. If you as parents support your kids and discuss with them all the important issues related to smoking you can keep them away from smoking and give them a happy and healthy future.

New Delhi: Smoking is a habit that is detrimental for people across all ages. For kids, it starts as fun, becomes a habit and later an addiction. There are various trigger points like peer pressure which relate smoking to maturity and independence or just the urge to try out new things in life. To prevent your kids from getting into this lifetime addiction, here's what can help: Discussion is key: Discuss with your children about smoking in a friendly way. Ask them how much they know about smoking and make them aware that smoking is harmful to them. Some parents ignore talking about this topic due to their own inhibitions, but it is always advised to have a healthy discussion to know their viewpoint on smoking.

Importance of saying No: When children are entering their teens, peer pressure is the maximum and most of them succumb to this. You must sit with them and encourage them to say no whenever they are asked for a smoke. In fact, as a parent you should practice with them saying "Sorry, I don't smoke". Stress on the health issues: A lot of

Now, dengue menace creates havoc in Odisha



ELISA test for detection of dengue, he appealed to the people, who are having dengue symptoms to go for the test only at the government facilities. There are four government-run testing facilities at the Capital Hospital, Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), AIIMS — Bhubaneswar and District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), Khurda, the director informed. These four centres are following all the standard norms on dengue testing and people can avail the facility free of cost while private labs are not following the standards, he added. So far dengue cases have been reported from Chandrasekharpur, Sailashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar, Unit-VIII, Kalpana Square and other areas of the city. The public health officials and the Bhubaneswar municipal corporation (BMC) have started taking preventive measures in the area to control the disease. Public health experts urged people to change the water in the air cooler, water pots and the water containers behind the refrigerator every day and maintain cleanliness of the surrounding area of their houses. Meanwhile, the state has reported 64 deaths and 2,070 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Friday. With this the total Covid-19 death cases in Odisha reached at 4,925.

Bhubaneswar: Even as the people continue to suffer from Covid pandemic, dengue menace in some areas of Odisha, including the capital city Bhubaneswar has added to the woes. As many 113 dengue cases have been detected in the Khurda district since January, of which 103 cases were identified only in July, said public health director Niranjana Mishra here on Friday. However, the situation is not worse like last year, he said. As one has to undergo

Researchers find how plants become good neighbours in times of stress

London: The scientists at the John Innes and the University of Bristol have discovered how plants manage to live alongside each other in places that are dark and shady. Moderate shade or even the threat of shade — detected by phytochrome photoreceptors — causes plants to elongate to try to outgrow the competition. But in the deep gloom of a dense forest or a cramped crop canopy where resources and photosynthesis are limited, this strategy does not work. In these conditions, it would be a waste of energy and detrimental to survival to elongate stems because seedlings would never be able to over-grow larger neighbours. So how do plants prevent elongated growth under deep shade conditions? The secret lies in their internal clocks, said the research collaboration from the John Innes Centre and the University of Bristol.

They have discovered that when plants detect deep shade, this changes the expression of genes in certain parts of the circadian clock — the internal daily timer found in plants and other organisms. These clock components perform an additional role in suppressing stem elongation, blocking the over-topping of neighbours that would normally happen in moderate shade. The work identifies a previously unknown role for the circadian clock in regulating plant development, and the findings have implications for both natural plant populations and crops, say the researchers. The study is relevant to natural plant populations because the researchers identify a new process that controls the development of plants growing under conditions such as those found in temperate woodlands in summer and tropical rainforests. Crops are often grown in dense stands which means that the plants shade each other; so the findings identify processes that might be manipulated to allow crops to be grown more densely or to control their height. Professor Antony Dodd of the John Innes Centre said, "The biological clock of plants



Moderate shade or even the threat of shade — detected by phytochrome photoreceptors — causes plants to elongate to try to outgrow the competition.

is a key regulator of their development and fitness. This work sheds new light on a new role for circadian rhythms in adapting plants to competition with other plants in their environments."

Professor Kerry Franklin of the University of Bristol said, "The majority of plant shade avoidance research focuses on early neighbour detection and moderate shading. This work reveals new insights into how plants adapt to very deep shade, where resources are severely limited." The study provides evidence for the robustness and stability of the circadian clock in stressful environments, and information that may be useful in developing new generations of crops in a challenging climate.

Grok supports Modi govt over Congress' dynastic politics

New Delhi: A post circulating on social media platform X has drawn attention after the AI chatbot Grok appeared to respond to a hypothetical question about Indian political leadership in a way that users interpreted as supportive of "data-led governance" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Congress' dynastic politics. In the widely shared exchange, a user asked: "Hey @grok if you were an Indian citizen, who would you vote for as Prime Minister?" Grok responded that, hypothetically, it would support Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing infrastructure development, Digital India and UPI growth, and India's rise as the world's fifth-largest economy.

It contrasted this with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's focus on welfare critiques, adding that outcomes in jobs,

technology, and global standing were more decisive, concluding with the phrase "data over dynasties". The response quickly went viral, with many users highlighting Grok's apparent support for a governance model based on measurable development outcomes over legacy political structures. The phrase "data over dynasties" in particular has been widely discussed and reshared, becoming the central point of the debate. Grok is an artificial intelligence chatbot developed by xAI and integrated into the social media platform X. It is increasingly being described as a de facto social media encyclopedia due to its ability to analyse and summarise real-time conversations happening on the platform. Unlike traditional encyclopedias, Grok does not rely on static entries.

Don't wait till you get wrinkles



New Delhi: From the last decade, the beauty industry has witnessed a boom in anti-ageing and wrinkle-removal solutions. Many new products and procedures emerge daily to cater to the rising needs of "looking picture perfect" among millennials.

The blue light from screen time, unhealthy eating practices and ineffective lifestyle choices make our skin and overall health suffer, thereby ageing us in the process. Therefore, it becomes essential to start an anti-ageing regimen even after you've started showing signs of fine lines and wrinkles.

When should you start anti-ageing treatment?

Ageing skin is often characterised by dullness, sagging and wrinkled skin. Profhilo, a new skin bio-remodelling procedure, is a remarkable way of giving mature and ageing skin a new lease of life. Profhilo is a hyaluronic acid-based skin procedure that works to galvanise the skin's ability to generate collagen and elastin — the two scaffolding proteins critical to skin's firmness and elasticity.

Hyaluronic acid is a hydrophilic substance found naturally in the skin, the presence of which is critical to the health of the skin's extracellular matrix and its ability to hold on to moisture. As we age, our skin loses its natural reserves of hyaluronic acid resulting in dull, dry and lax skin. There is endless information on the internet about the anti-ageing skin care. According to the beauty experts, one should start the anti-ageing skin treatment in their late 20's or early 30's to push off wrinkles as long as possible. One should keep in mind that wrinkle-removal products delay more wrinkles from showing up, but it won't make the ones that are already there

disappear. So, the earlier you start, the more protection you will get in delaying the ageing process

What Should an Anti-Aging Skin Care Routine Look like?

One should start working with the dermatologist or beauty expert to build an effective anti-ageing skin care routine depending upon your own beauty goals. The skin professional will first assess your problem areas and make recommendations based on your unique needs. Your custom regimen might include following products and procedures: Sun Protection: Protecting from the harmful UV rays of the sun is the first line of defense in slowing down the aging process. The most important reason for wrinkles and dark spots on the skin in your 20's and 30's is due to the excessive sun exposure. You should immediately consult your dermatologist about skin care for sun damage, which can include treatments like microdermabrasion, chemical peels, laser therapy, and retinoids.

Topical Creams: Your dermatologist may recommend over-the-counter or prescription creams to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Anti-ageing products might contain ingredients like retinol, alpha and beta hydroxy acids (AHA and BHA), and vitamins A and C. These ingredients help eliminate dead cells and boost skin regeneration, so you can enjoy a smoother texture. Laser Treatments: Laser treatments actually stimulate the skin's natural production of new skin cells and collagen. The treatment also helps individuals in reducing the age spots, hyperpigmentation, and fine lines following this treatment besides increasing the production of skin cells and collagen. Your skincare specialist will be able to guide you on how many treatments you'll need to achieve the best possible results.

Dermal Fillers: With age and loss of collagen, our overall facial volume decreases. This is where dermal fillers come into play to restore this volume. The skincare specialist will go for dermal fillers to fill in wrinkles, where it appears the most, including around the mouth and under your eyes. It also helps in increasing the cheek volume. Dermal fillers generally last between six months and a year. Microdermabrasion: This procedure can be another effective wrinkle treatment and can also address melasma, age spots, and sun damage. In this treatment procedure, your skincare specialist will use an instrument to spray fine particles of a chemical substance onto your skin. This will enable the skin to regenerate, which can fade some signs of aging.

What to keep in mind for good heart health post angioplasty

New Delhi: Poor lifestyle and dietary choices are two of the primary causes of coronary heart disease. While Covid-19 has impacted healthcare delivery across all specialties, cardiologists and heart surgeons have been cautioning regarding the virus' impact on a person's heart health, with or without surgery. According to Sanjeeb Roy, senior intervention cardiologist, Jaipur, cases of poor heart health are increasing rapidly in the country. If the patient sees symptoms like shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, then the patient is at a risk of a cardiac arrest or heart attack, if there is a severe blockage in the arteries, it is treated by angioplasty or bypass surgery.

An angioplasty is an interventional procedure in which a stent is implanted in the patient without surgery. But sometimes even after having a stent implant, the patient may have to face some complications. According to one study, after implanting a normal metallic frame stent, there is a 15 to 30 per cent chance of it coming back. Apart from this, the patient has to take blood thinning medicines for life, which also affects their quality of life. However, to reduce all these complications, new technology like implanted stents will dissolve in the artery after two to three years. Biodegradable scaffold stent technology is very effective in reducing the complications after angioplasty. This stent will dissolve in the artery two to three years after it is implanted and the patient's artery will return to its natural position, says the doctor. "The biggest advantage of this to the patient is that there is no problem of affecting the functionality of the artery due to the placement of the stent. On the other hand, if there is a blockage back in his artery, then he can have angioplasty again. The biodegradable scaffold stent is a technology that does not use a metallic frame. This stent is made of polymers that will automatically dissolve in the body after two to three years of implantation."

"Advantages of biodegradable scaffold stents are: After the stent has dissolved, the patient will not need to take blood thinners for a long time; If there is a need to do angioplasty back in the same artery in the future, then there are no problems related to having stents already; Due to metallic stent implant, there will be no problems in tests like



MRI, CT scan in this stent; The patient will feel psychological relief that there is no implant in his body," says Sanjeeb Roy, while mentioning a new technology. Here's what to keep in mind for good heart health post angioplasty:

* Avoid driving for a few weeks, and even riding in the car for long distances. As your body needs time to recuperate, make sure you're using pillows to prop yourself up and are supporting the delicate parts of your chest post-surgery.

* Do not be in a rush to head back to an intense, high-stress life. Make sure your day has periods of activity interspersed with adequate periods of rest. Make sure you are working in an environment that can allow you to lie down, if need be.

* Shortness of breath may be experienced for a few days. Avoid exerting exercises and climbing stairs, and if this continues, speak to a family member and your doctor or surgeon.

* It is likely that your doctor has recommended a change of diet for your post-surgery days. Make sure you follow it religiously and include greens and fruits as much as possible. This will aid recovery. Strictly avoid smoking and alcohol intake.

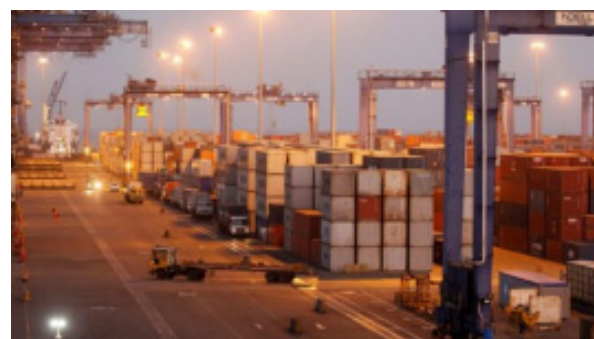
Superfoods for your skin

Hyderabad: When you first come across Pulp Cosmetics, it's the peppy and funky packaging that catches your eye before drawing one in to look closely at the ingredients. Founded by Goutham Uppaluri and Deepthi Alapati recently, Pulp Cosmetics are literally food for your skin. Their products contain fresh and often edible ingredients like spinach, turmeric, chocolate, kombucha, gotu kola, kale, green gram that can do wonders for different types of skin. "It's superfood for your skin," says Deepthi. Pulp was born out of Deepthi's own experience when living in New York for over six years. She would often get shopping lists from her friends and cousins asking her to get their favourite skincare brands from the US. "It made me wonder despite India being a developing country, people still don't trust Indian brands. So, we did a little research and we found out that there's not a single brand that is relatable to the millennials or the GenZ. We thought why don't we bring a brand that ticks all the boxes... be vegan, natural, cruelty-free, eco-friendly and still be very fun," explains Deepthi. Pulp products range from serums, scrubs to masks that contain a healthy dose of vitamin C, magnesium, spinach, turmeric, cacao, rose maqui that are ultimate beauty superfoods. "Superfood is a very new concept and comes with the evolution of the beauty industry. It is probably a very trendy word to indicate food with high nutritional value that has multiple benefits to protect and build healthy skin and most commonly assumed that they are derived from exotic plants and fruit. It's not really true because superfood can be as simple as honey, avocado, papaya, green tea, honey, etc.," adds Deepthi. Their 'make beauty fun' concept reflects every-



where. "Pulp's love mantra is #BFF (Bold, fresh and fun) bold in our outlook, we are not scared to be out there, to show our stretchmarks or our fat. Our brand identity is super fun and relatable. We also focus on the lifestyle of our customer and bring in products that cater to their lifestyle," shares Deepthi giving an example of a mask called the 'Date Night prep', which is essentially a night mask before you step out on a date. "We also have the 'Day After Binge' mask, a day mask rejuvenating and waking up your skin," she says. Having observed women across demographics struggle with skin issues, she is of the opinion that there are many misconceptions out there.

New bilateral investment model: 2-year local remedy window, no most favoured nation clause



through the available local remedies because that is important for the host country. On May 21 this year, senior economist Surjit Bhalla in his column for The Indian Express wrote that the "most damaging provision" in India's BIT was the requirement that "foreign investors exhaust local remedies for five years before accessing international arbitration". Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in Parliament in February 2025 that the BIT framework would be reviewed and a new version released. The reform release is still awaited. Speculation is that the fundamental architecture has not changed — except that the five-year waiting period has been shortened to 'just' three years. And the requirement to exhaust Indian courts first — the defining departure from pre-2015 BIT norms — is likely being retained," he wrote. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran had replied to Bhalla's piece with a column of his own on May 23 in this newspaper, stating that academic record has found weak or no effects of BITs on FDI inflows. "...a study examining India — Singh, Shreeta, and Urdhwaresh (2022), published in the Indian Economic Review — found that individual BIT signings do not influence FDI inflows; what matters is the cumulative stock of treaties, which signals an overall regime of investor protection," the CEA had stated. He also noted that the investment climate requires continuous improvement, and the BIT framework revision is incomplete.

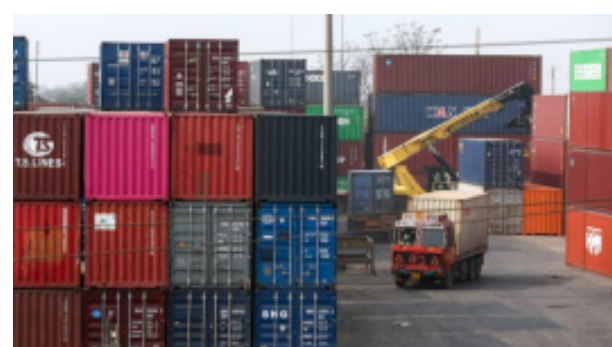
Bhalla wrote again on June 2, comparing the situation with Indonesia's decision to scrap its existing BITs in 2014 and restarting with a new model. He mentioned Indonesia having won cases against foreign mining companies and signing two new BITs, one of them with Singapore: a cooling-off period of just 12 months, followed by a three-judge panel and a presiding judge agreed upon by both, who must not be a national of either country. "In contrast to Indonesia's requirement of a 12-month cooling period, the Indian BIT required 60 months. Sixty months in Indian courts before any international arbitration could begin. This was not a reform — it was retrenchment," Bhalla wrote. Officials said many countries like Australia have moved away from the traditional model of arbitration of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). For instance, in the Australia-UAE investment treaty the countries moved to the dispute settlement mechanism of State-to-State Dispute Settlement (SSDS) instead of ISDS. Before the 2016 model, India had signed bilateral investment treaties with 83 countries based on the model BIT of 1993, and as amended in 2003. Out of these, 74 were ratified. Among these 74 bilateral investment treaties, notice of termination was issued to 68 countries with request to re-negotiate based on the 2016 model, according to Government data shared in Parliament in March 2023. Since the revised 2016 model, India has signed BITs with Belarus, Kyrgyz Republic, Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty (ICFT) with Brazil, UAE and Uzbekistan, a Lok Sabha reply from April 2025 showed. In the BIT with the UAE, the window for exhaustion of local remedies was reduced to three years from five years. A Bilateral Investment Agreement has also been signed between India Taipei Association and Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre, it said.

India-US deal can be finalised only after Section 301 probe is over, says official

'India-US deal only after Section 301 probe is over' A results of probe on "excess capacity" is pending on India and 15 other countries. India and US trade deal can be finalised only after US Section 301 probe comes to an end, a government official said, adding that New Delhi has sought assurance that Washington opens no further probes on the country after the trade deal is signed.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal last week said that India and the US will sign the "first tranche" of the bilateral trade deal by mid-July. The US has already proposed new Section 301 tariffs on 60 countries, which are expected to come into effect after July 7. Washington has set 12.5% tariffs on 54 countries, including India, China and 10% of six countries, such as Pakistan and the EU. Result of the "excess capacity" probe on India and 15 other countries is still pending. The outcome is expected in the coming weeks. And the Indian concession under the trade deal would be in exchange of the cumulative tariffs set as a result of the two probes.

However, under Section 301 of the US Trade Act 1974, the US can announce other kinds of restrictions beyond tariffs. Non tariff barriers can also restrict Indian exports to the US, and signing a deal could mean giving up more control of sovereign trade policies to the US. But the absence of the deal could accelerate the weakening of the domestic currency and flight of foreign capital that had begun since late last year. The war in the Gulf region and higher oil prices have further weakened India's macroeconomic conditions. More tariffs could add to India's fiscal worries. The US team had come to India from June 2-4 for finalisation of the deal and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer is expected to reach India later this month. The Switzerland-based think-



tank Global Trade Alert (GTA), in a report last year, pointed out that the US has incorporated restrictive third-country provisions — informally referred to as "poison pills" — in three trade instruments: the 2018 US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the 2025 US-Malaysia Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART), and the 2025 US-Cambodia ART. The GTA report said that while there were provisions in the USMCA that could trigger a collapse of Mexico and Canada's agreement with the US if they sign a deal with "non-market economies", in the case of Malaysia and Cambodia, the trigger is even broader — applying to any deal the US believes "jeopardises essential US interests" or poses a "material threat to economic or national security". For India, however, any such provision could become challenging for its industrial growth and infrastructure development. For instance, due to tensions with China, India was unable to procure tunnel boring machines from China owing to a lack of customs clearances.

nationality, onboard MT Marivex, and ensuring their safety." Shipping Ministry Director, Opesh Kumar Sharma, said the cause of the fire was not known yet and was being looked into. "Whether the ship was hit by a projectile or not, presently we are trying to get the updated information... We are in touch with the owners. We are trying to ascertain the facts," Sharma said. As per preliminary information, the tanker was not carrying any cargo.

The initial distress call from Marivex is learnt to have alleged that the attack was by the US Navy, although there was no confirmation from the government. The US is running its own blockade of Iranian ports using warships in the Gulf of Oman. According to vessel tracking data from MarineTraffic, Marivex was sailing to Oman's Duqm.

"There has been a recent report that today (Monday) around 1.30 pm, there has been a fire reported on the vessel MT Marivex, in which there were 24 Indian seafarers. This is the preliminary information we have received, based on which, as per available information, all Indian seafarers are presently safe. We are coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs, our Indian missions abroad, Indian Navy, and the Ministry of Defence to ensure their safety," Sharma said. According to Sharma, the vessel's owner informed that Marivex was sailing under the flag of Madagascar. However, global shipping database Equasis lists the vessel's flag as a false flag, which suggests that the ship may have wrongly claimed it was sailing under the Madagascar flag.

'Married simple men with no money': Neelima Azeem opens up about marital choices; expert weighs in



Veteran actor Neelima Azeem opened up about the constant public scrutiny surrounding her personal life and marriages. In a recent Zoom interview, the 67-year-old reflected on how years of trolling, judgement, and speculation have affected her. Neelima was first married to actor Pankaj Kapur, with whom she shares son Shahid Kapoor. She later married Rajesh Khattar and welcomed her son, Ishaan Khatter, before subsequently marrying Ustad Raza Ali Khan. Speaking about the kind of comments she has received online, Neelima revealed that social media users have often accused her of pursuing relationships for money or career advancement. She also recalled hurtful rumours about alcohol abuse, despite clarifying that she does not drink. Addressing these assumptions directly, she said, "I married very simple men who had no money, but who I thought were great people and very talented. I never married for material or riches. I never sought a relationship in my life where they would build my career for me or invest money into my businesses; this is not my way of life." She further spoke about her own professional journey and how she worked independently throughout her career. "I did whatever I could in my capacity, I did theatre, TV, I have hosted, danced, as an actress, I have 27 best actress awards, I have worked with the finest actors, I never talked about it or blew my own trumpet," Neelima said. At the same time, she acknowledged how damaging repeated online narratives and public judgement can become over time.

Neelima also reflected on the emotional impact of staying silent in the face of criticism. "But now I feel I have come to a place where I must speak because if you don't tell your truth, people suppress your voice, change your facts. As time passes, you realise that you are being defamed," she

said. Expressing disappointment over online hostility between women, she added, "What's sad is that another woman is doing it. How do women do this to each other? I didn't want to end my marriage, but when things happen, there is a reason. It's very easy to blame the person."

But when does speaking up against bullying become emotionally important? Counselling psychologist Athul Raj tells indianexpress.com, "Speaking up becomes emotionally necessary when silence starts changing how you see yourself. Many people think ignoring bullying makes them stronger, but internally, they begin carrying humiliation, anger, and helplessness every single day. They start questioning their own reality because thousands of strangers are loudly defining it for them. That kind of psychological erosion is dangerous." He adds that when people repeatedly attack your character, your relationships, or your intentions, it creates emotional exhaustion that slowly chips away at self-worth. Human beings are not designed to absorb relentless public scrutiny without impact.

"But speaking up should not become emotional self-destruction," notes the expert, stressing that people often make the mistake of trying to defend themselves before an audience already committed to misunderstanding them. That cycle becomes emotionally consuming. "The healthiest way to respond is to speak from clarity, not from heightened emotion. Say what feels honest, set the record straight if needed, and then step away. You do not need to perform your pain for public validation." The emotional toll of women tearing down other women online Raj reveals, "This kind of criticism hurts differently because women often expect empathy and emotional understanding from other women. So when the judgement comes from them, it feels more personal and more disappointing." He suggests, "Emotionally protecting yourself begins with understanding that online opinions are rarely objective. Most people react through their own insecurities, bitterness, projections, or unresolved emotional wounds. Someone sitting behind a screen does not know the emotional complexity of another person's marriage or life. People also need to stop treating cruelty as constructive criticism. Constant exposure to hostility affects mental well-being deeply. Protecting yourself is not avoidance; it is emotional discipline. Mute accounts. Block people when needed. Step away when your mind and body begin feeling overwhelmed. You are not obligated to consume disrespect in the name of being strong."

Why you are more likely to recognise someone in a mask than in sunglasses



Have you ever wondered whether face masks conceal your identity better than sunglasses? The answer might surprise you. In an interesting post on X, neurologist Dr Sudhir Kumar asks his followers, "Which of the two is more effective in masking face identity: Sunglasses or the face mask?" This is based on a 2023 study, where researchers aimed to find out how face identification performance was affected by both types of face disguise. They mentioned, "To summarise, we found that both face masks and sunglasses impaired face identification but in different manners."

But why is this the case?

Dr Jagadish J Hiremath, medical director at Aasra Hospitals, elaborates, "Sunglasses hinder facial recognition to a greater extent than face masks, primarily due to their obstruction of the eyes. The eyes, along with the eyebrows and surrounding areas, are crucial features that our brains utilise for identification and memory of faces." In contrast, he adds, face masks typically cover the lower part of the face, which, while still contributing to recognition, is less essential than the eye region. Studies have demonstrated a significant decrease in facial recognition accuracy when the eye region is obscured, highlighting its pivotal role in this process.

Why do we tend to make more mistakes identifying people when their faces are partially covered?

Partial face coverings, according to Dr Hiremath,

whether masks or sunglasses, lead to errors in identification due to the disruption they cause in the processing of facial features. He says, "Our brains are inherently wired to process faces as unified wholes rather than as individual components. When crucial features such as the eyes are hidden, the brain must rely on less reliable features, increasing the likelihood of mistakes." Identity The widespread use of face masks during the pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to our facial recognition abilities. (Source: Freepik) He states that obscuring key facial features increases the cognitive load during recognition, resulting in higher error rates. "This highlights the importance of unhindered access to all facial features for optimal recognition performance."

How does wearing a mask or sunglasses at different times affect our memory of someone's face?

The timing of when a mask or sunglasses are worn can significantly influence the retrieval of facial memory, agrees Dr Hiremath. "If an individual initially encounters a face while the person is wearing sunglasses and later sees the same face without them, the resulting incongruence can impair recognition." Research suggests that congruence between the learning and recognition phases is crucial, as faces learned with coverings are recognised more effectively when those coverings remain consistent. This asserts the importance of context in facial memory encoding and retrieval. Effect of increased use of masks on our ability to recognise faces Dr Hiremath says, "The widespread use of face masks during the pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to our facial recognition abilities. As masks became commonplace, individuals were forced to adapt to identifying faces with a significant portion obscured." This adaptation has generally made recognising individuals more difficult, he adds, highlighting the significance of lower facial features in comprehensive face recognition, despite their secondary importance to the upper face. "The pervasive use of masks has undeniably hampered our ability to swiftly and accurately recognise faces in various social and professional settings."

Neena Gupta shares an unusual morning dressing room ritual: 'I get up at 5 or 5.30 am'



What makes Neena Gupta's perspective interesting is that it reminds us that wellness is not about copying someone else's schedule

Neena Gupta, 66, recently revealed the quirky way she likes to begin her mornings. "I get up sometimes very early, like 5 or 5.30 am. And what do I do? I go to my dressing room, style myself, take pictures, and put them in a styling album. So, whenever I have to go somewhere, I just refer to that... because I have so many clothes... I forget," she shared in a quick-fire chat with Vogue India. During the conversation, she also touched upon how she "used to get up early and rehearse", something that disturbed friend and

actor Soni Razdan's sleep. "But that's how we became friends... maybe now 35-40 years," Gupta recalled. Taking a cue from her admission of waking up early, we asked an expert whether week-hour wake-ups are automatically healthier.

From a clinical perspective, the answer is not as simple as the clock, consultant diettitian and fitness expert Garima Goyal. "While early rising is often associated with productivity and discipline, the real health benefit comes from aligning with your natural circadian rhythm and getting adequate sleep, regardless of whether you wake up at 5 am or 8 am," said Goyal. The body operates on an internal biological clock that regulates hormones, metabolism, digestion, and energy levels. "Consistent sleep and wake timings help optimise the release of hormones like cortisol and melatonin, which influence everything from mood to metabolic health," said Goyal.

Many successful individuals swear by early mornings because they provide uninterrupted time for exercise, meditation, planning, or self-care. "However, waking up early while compromising sleep duration can have the opposite effect. Chronic sleep deprivation is associated with increased hunger hormones, poor blood sugar control, higher stress levels, and reduced cognitive performance," noted Goyal. From a nutrition standpoint, sleep and metabolism are closely connected. "People who consistently get insufficient sleep are more likely to experience cravings for high-sugar and high-fat foods, making weight management more challenging," said Goyal. What makes Neena Gupta's perspective interesting is that it reminds us that wellness is not about copying someone else's schedule. "It is about creating a routine that supports your own body, responsibilities, and recovery needs," said Goyal.

Meet the 6 feet 5 inches, 125 kg rugby player involved in Ben Stokes night club clash



The Saracens rugby player who was involved in a late-night incident with England captain Ben Stokes and pacer Gus Atkinson is believed to be a 21-year-old Samoan Toota Auvaa. Auvaa, who is 6ft 5in and weighs 125kg hasn't played for Saracens's first team yet, but according to reports emerging from UK, was part of a party. According to The Times, Auvaa, who part of the academy, is understood to have thrown a punch in the early hours of Monday morning intended for Atkinson, but it ended up hitting a member of ECB's security staff.

According to the report, Stokes and Atkinson were in

the VIP section of the nightclub, hours after England won the first Test against New Zealand at the Lord's. Around the same time, Saracens players were celebrating their end of the season at the nightclub. According to the Times, Saracens players and a group of England cricketers were together in the White Horse pub in Fulham and then visited at least two other pubs in the area before moving to the one in Chelsea. Although around 6-7 cricketers were out enjoying the evening, only Stokes and Atkinson stayed back beyond the mid-night curfew imposed on England team since the allegations of late-night drinking emerged during the Australia tour. Since the incident was made public by the ECB, they have maintained that neither Stokes or Atkinson were the aggressors in the incident. However, it is not clear if any further punches were thrown after Auvaa landed the first blow. With the incident once again exposing the alleged drinking culture in England set-up, there are indications that Stokes could step down as captain or ECB could stand him down. While a confirmation on it expected later, Stokes and Atkinson are expected to miss the second Test with Harry Brook set to the captain. Brook, himself, was at the centre of a drinking incident at the start of the Ashes tour, which came out only after the series was over.

Portugal camp steady despite 6.1 earthquake disrupting World Cup countdown

GNS News Agency, June 15

What was meant to be a calm build-up for Portugal's 2026 World Cup camp in Florida was briefly disrupted when an unusual natural event sent shockwaves through the region. A report in Marca said that an earthquake of 6.1 magnitude struck offshore near western Cuba on Monday afternoon, with the epicentre located roughly 65 miles north-west of Mantua. The tremors were strong enough to be noticed across South Florida, reaching areas as far north as Orlando, according to early assessments from the United States Geological Survey. Despite the widespread sensation of shaking, authorities confirmed there was no tsunami threat. Officials also indicated that Portugal's training base at North County District Park in Palm Beach Gardens remained unaffected operationally, with no evacuation or relocation reported. Portugal are based in Palm Beach Gardens as it gears up for its Group K opener against the Democratic Republic of the Congo at NRG Stadium in Houston. Expectations remain high for Portugal following their quarterfinal exit at the hands of Morocco in the previous tournament cycle, and preparations are expected to continue without disruption despite the brief geological scare. The quake's reach even extended into urban South Florida. In Miami-Dade County, precautionary evacuations were carried out in some government buildings, including a major downtown office complex. Commuter rail services on a couple of elevated lines were also briefly suspended as safety checks were conducted.

Some residents initially mistook the movement for everyday disturbances. In Fort Lauderdale, Maria Moncayo described noticing a small object on her desk swaying before realising the building itself was vibrating. Having previously experienced severe earthquakes in Ecuador, she briefly feared a repeat of past events before recognising the shaking as relatively mild. "I have a little pendant dangling in my desk, and it was moving," Moncayo said. "That's why I realised that it's actually not me or my chair or any-



thing."

In Cuba, the tremor was more strongly felt, particularly in western regions such as Pinar del Rio. Hotel manager Flavia Pupo reported that guests and staff were startled but safe, with only momentary panic as buildings swayed. Meteorological commentary added to the attention surrounding the event. Weather specialist Matt Devitt noted on social media that the quake ranked among the most significant recorded in the Gulf region based on available data, highlighting its unusual nature for the area. Seismologist William Barnhart of the United States Geological Survey described the event as highly uncommon, noting that only a small number of earthquakes of comparable strength have ever been documented in the Gulf using modern instruments. He also pointed out that while aftershocks in the Cuban region were possible, Florida was unlikely to experience meaningful follow-up shaking. "It's one of only five or six earthquakes of magnitude 5 or greater that we're aware of in the entire Gulf," Barnhart said. "There's always a very, very small chance that this could be followed by a larger earthquake, and people would feel that. But in Florida, people shouldn't expect to feel very much shaking, if any shaking at all, from any aftershocks that happen," he added.

Trump's America is hosting the FIFA World Cup. Not everyone is welcome



Haiti are appearing at the World Cup for the first time since 1974. Their opening match, against Scotland on June 14, is at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, home to one of the largest Haitian diaspora communities in the United States. A Haitian living in Ohio, identified only as Emile, told Al Jazeera he was afraid to attend because of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. He is not alone. The 2026 World Cup, the largest in history at 48 teams across three countries, opens Thursday in an America that has spent 18 months conducting the most aggressive immigration enforcement campaign in modern US history. Fans of Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Iran and Senegal cannot travel to the US unless they held valid visas before January 1, 2026, due to travel bans imposed by the Trump administration. All four nations qualified. Their players will play. Their fans, by and large, will watch from home. "If the US is barring certain visitors," Senegal fan Djibril Gueye told the Associated Press, "then the country shouldn't agree to host the World Cup."

The acting director of ICE, Todd Lyons, said the agency would play a "key part" in the tournament. DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin announced on X that ICE agents would "be out there everyday" at games. When Andrew Giuliani, executive director of the White House World Cup task force, was asked whether the administration would rule out ICE raids at stadiums, his answer was precise: "The president does not rule out anything that will make American citizens safer." The numbers are not abstract. From January 2025 to March 2026, ICE arrested at least 167,000 people in and around the 11 US cities hosting World Cup matches, according to government data analyzed by Human Rights Watch. Of those arrests, 65 percent had no US criminal convictions. Human Rights Watch also documented the case of an asylum seeker who attended the Club World Cup final last year at MetLife Stadium with his two children, was arrested by ICE and deported as they watched. A Washington Post/University of Maryland poll found that 65 percent of Americans oppose ICE officers patrolling stadiums, including 74 percent of independents.

In Dallas, the group El Movimiento DFW has reinforced its detention hotline and distributed rights kits throughout the community. "Immigrant communities are preparing emergency plans," organiser Azael Alvarez told El Pais. "Families are attending know-your-rights trainings." At SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, workers voted 96 percent in favour of authorising a strike unless they receive protections from immigration enforcement. "It's kind of scary when you feel

that you're in a bubble and you're trying to walk to work, and not knowing if somebody is going to snatch and grab you and take you into custody because of how you look," Yolanda Fierro, a suites runner at the stadium, told ABC7. Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna has said ICE will not conduct raids in the city. Texas has offered no such assurances.

In Kansas City, the host city rolled out the red carpet for tourists and built a new jail. The \$25 million facility is the only new detention infrastructure built by any of the 16 host cities worldwide. The contractor that built it also built the cages at Guantanamo Bay. Argentina, Algeria, Austria, Curacao, Ecuador, Netherlands and Tunisia will play at Arrowhead stadium. More than 120 US civil rights organisations, including the ACLU, issued a travel advisory warning fans, players and journalists of risks including racial profiling, arrest and deportation, and proposals to force visitors to submit their social media accounts for screening for anti-Americanism. At least 17 people have died in ICE detention so far this year, according to the ACLU, at a rate of roughly one every six days. Then the tournament's opening weekend produced a case study. Somali referee Omar Abdulkadir Artan arrived at Miami International Airport on Saturday from Istanbul. He had a valid visa and a diplomatic passport issued specifically to ease his journey after earlier visa difficulties. He was CAF referee of the year in 2025. He was the first Somali ever appointed to referee at a World Cup. US Customs and Border Protection determined he was inadmissible due to vetting concerns and turned him away. He flew back to Istanbul. FIFA confirmed his removal, noting that host governments determine who enters their territory. Andrew Giuliani told the BBC it was "the right decision by customs and border patrol." Six months earlier, FIFA president Gianni Infantino had presented Donald Trump with the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize at the World Cup draw in Washington. Privately, according to The Athletic, senior FIFA executives had been urging Infantino to leverage that relationship to ask Trump for a moratorium on ICE raids, framing it as a "positive news story" under the slogan FIFA Unites the World. There is no indication Trump was ever asked. There is no indication he would have said yes.

Karimnagar cricketer selected for TG 20 tournament

GNS News Agency, June 15

Karimnagar: A youngster from the district, Yellala Vidhyananda Reddy, has been selected for the TG 20 cricket tournament. He has been selected to represent the Khammam team. The Khammam team management signed him for Rs 1.7 lakh. A native of Paruvelli village in Ganneruvaram mandal, Vidhyananda Reddy is currently undergoing cricket coaching in Hyderabad.

Lionel Messi to play final warm-up game before 2026 FIFA World Cup



GNS News Agency, June 15

Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni indicated that Lionel Messi would play when the reigning world champions face Iceland in their final warm-up match ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup on Tuesday in Auburn, Alabama. Addressing reporters on Monday, Scaloni said, "Leo is going to play. The only thing we haven't finalised yet is exactly how long he'll be on the field. I want to speak with him again during today's session before making that decision. Our priority is making sure we don't take unnecessary risks. Once we evaluate everything, we'll determine the number of minutes, but the plan is for him to participate." Messi was an unused substitute during Argentina's victory over Honduras on June 6, though he took part in the pre-match warmup activities in College Station, Texas.

The 38-year-old joined the national team's camp after dealing with fatigue in his left hamstring. The Inter Miami captain was substituted in the second half of his club's final MLS match before the World Cup pause against the Philadelphia Union after experiencing discomfort. Subsequent medical assessments identified the issue as muscle fatigue. Discussing squad management for the Iceland fixture, Scaloni said: "We're going to carefully manage playing time for everyone involved tomorrow. The objective is to give players minutes while minimising the possibility of injuries or setbacks." The Argentina boss also confirmed that Nico Paz, Nahuel Molina and Gonzalo Montiel are all in contention for selection after previously working away from the main group while recovering from various physical issues. Scaloni provided positive updates regarding Julián Álvarez and Leandro Paredes as well.

"Julián is progressing well," he said. "He's still feeling a little discomfort in his ankle, but it's improving steadily. As for Leandro, he's recovering nicely too, and we expect him to be back training with the rest of the squad within the next few days." Meanwhile, Argentina has not yet finalised a replacement for defender Leonardo Balerdi in its 26-man World Cup roster. The Marseille centre-back was forced to withdraw from camp last week because of a calf injury, ruling him out of the tournament. Scaloni explained: "After tomorrow's match, we'll have a better understanding of what direction we're going to take regarding a replacement. We have players capable of filling that role internally, but we're also assessing other possibilities based on the recovery status of some of the injured members of the squad."

Iran federation claims US revoked World Cup ticket allocation for Iranian fans

The Iranian football federation has claimed that the United States has revoked allocation for tickets for their fans at the upcoming FIFA World Cup where Iran will play all their group stage games in the USA. "With less than three days remaining until the start of the 2026 World Cup ... the United States has once again acted to obstruct the presence of Iranian supporters at the stadiums hosting the national team's three group stage matches," FFIRI said in a statement on Tuesday. The Iranian team is currently in Mexico's Tijuana after a long journey from Turkey's Antalya. While the Iranian team and the coach have received US visas there are members of the staff who are yet to get theirs. The Athletic reported that two analysts, executives and media officials were among the 13 members of the Iran contingent who had not been given visas. Iran and the USA are effectively in a state of war ever since the February 28 attack on Iran and the killing of Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran.

Iran players landed in Mexico sporting pin badges with the word '#168' on it. The hashtag commemorated the number of children killed at an elementary school on the first day of the US-Iran conflict, as per the Iranian foreign ministry. While neither the US or FIFA have commented on the allegations, FFIRI called on FIFA and tournament organisers "to uphold the principles of neutrality, fairness, and established regulations, to provide the necessary conditions for Iranian supporters". The Iranian federation has decried the move as "contrary to the spirit governing international competitions and the principle of equality among



participating countries".

The Iranian football body added in the statement that FIFA regulations dictate that it should be allocated eight per cent of tickets for each match. These tickets are given to participating federations for distribution to their supporters through official channels. FFIRI pointed out in the statement that it had already begun ticket sales for group stage matches against New Zealand, Belgium and Egypt — all to be held in the US — after receiving its quota, with some fans having already made necessary arrangements. "However, in an unexpected move, the allocation granted to the Iranian Football Federation has been withdrawn, and under the current circumstances, the federation is unable to provide even a single ticket to supporters of the national team," it said.

Why does Thomas Tuchel think Jude Bellingham is not a starter at FIFA World Cup



The England team has many attacking talents heading into the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and one of their elite players is Jude Bellingham. The youngster has been quite sensational in every jersey he has donned, for both club and country. However, manager Thomas Tuchel said that despite his gifted skills, he still has to compete with others to earn his spot in the team. "Of course, he needs to compete. He is one of the starting candidates, and he knows that himself. But we have 14 to 15 players in our team who are capable of starting," Tuchel said.

"There are also different groups within the team, such

as special groups and leadership groups. There are also some players who will play a role in the later stages of the game, they need to bring the right energy to the team, and also set standards in general, accept their roles, and remain competitive," he further added. "These roles can change at any time. But in my mind, we have 14 to 15 players who are truly capable of starting, and Jude is one of them," he concluded on the matter. With matches set to be played across the United States, Canada and Mexico, managing heat, humidity and altitude has become a major part of tournament planning. England have responded by putting together detailed acclimatisation programmes, including a 10-day training camp in Miami to help players adjust to the conditions before the competition begins. Tuchel said extensive work had already gone into understanding how players could adapt to the challenging conditions expected during the tournament. "We are not used to being in this kind of heat and humidity, and even altitude if we play in Mexico. There will be a lot of challenges in this World Cup. The heat is one of them, but we are prepared already. "We know the individual reaction of the players to the heat, and we have cooling strategies in place. We've had help from Team GB and specialists all over the world to come up with solutions that help the players to adapt," Tuchel told Sky Sports.

Can Suthar replace Jadeja in future? Swann: '...a guy playing his first Test'

Manav Suthar bowled a stunning spell against Afghanistan on his debut in the only Test match of the series at Mullanpur. The left-arm spinner turned the ball on a surface where not a lot of spinners were getting help imparting revolutions on the ball. He picked up seven wickets in the match and was awarded the Man of the Match for his efforts. Former England spinner Greame Swann lauded the youngster and said he is ready to take the baton from Ravindra Jadeja.

"The instinct of coming in and bowling so well, he doesn't bat as well as Jadeja, maybe, but he can bat, and he has got a first-class hundred, it starts to throw up these really interesting selection issues, and he is definitely one for the future," the cricketer-turned-commentator said on Star Sports he said.

"When Jadeja decides that it's time, he just walks into the team as the left-arm spinner. Just like (Vaibhav) Suryavanshi in the one-day game, you think, should he be in on merit anyway, because that performance was one of a world-class spinner? It wasn't just a guy playing his first Test. Just trust me on that, he is born to play Test cricket," he added. "It was a very unreal feeling. It has been my dream from the very beginning to play for India and to play Test cricket. So it was an incredible moment for me and hon-



estly felt quite unreal," Suthar told the broadcasters after his spell.

"Initially, my focus was on understanding how the wicket was playing. That's why I wanted to rely on my stock delivery as much as possible. Once I understood that the wicket was a little slow and required some variation in pace, I started making those adjustments. But the main idea was always to make my stock ball as effective as possible," Suthar added. "It's a format that demands a lot of patience. That's what I've learned — keep being patient, stick to your plans and keep hitting the right areas consistently," Suthar concluded.

'I was losing everybody who was close to me': Arjun Rampal on 'darkest phase' of his life



losing everything that I had worked so hard to get." Arjun Rampal shared that the period pushed him into a stage of pure introspection. "When you lose everything, there's only one thing that is left in front of you and that is pure introspection. You can't do anything, you have to go back within yourself and understand what have you become, why has this happened, what are your faults," he said.

He continued, "You can't blame. If you blame, you are going to become even more miserable because you are using that as a crutch to not introspect honestly. You're victimising yourself. But you can't do that. You got to be strong enough to pick it up and say, yes, these are the parts where I was flawed, these are the parts where I was careless, these are the parts where I was insensitive, these were the parts where I went wrong and now I'm going to fix it." Arjun Rampal also gave the credit to his partner Gabriella Demetriades for being his "strong anchor" during the difficult phase. "I was very lucky because I got somebody like Gabriella into my life who I think was a very strong anchor and was also coming from a space of maybe a lot of darkness as well. So we both were in the storm and we had to, like I said, weather it. But it's good, we got to weather it together and then the blessings came," he said.

The actor became emotional while recalling how life gradually changed after that difficult period. "When the sun rose again, even though my mom passed, I got Arik. And that was great joy, was a blessing," he shared. Arjun Rampal concluded by saying that the experience led to a complete transformation in his outlook towards life. "We had done a complete 180 change with us on our lives, of certain ways and creating habits." Disclaimer: This article discusses personal experiences with grief, family illness, and emotional challenges. It is provided for informational purposes and does not constitute professional mental health or medical advice. If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional distress, please reach out to qualified support services.

Arjun Rampal, who is currently enjoying the success of the Dhurandhar films, recently opened up about "the darkest phase" of his life. In a recent interview, the actor spoke about the emotional turmoil he faced when his marriage to Mehr Jesia was falling apart while his mother was battling cancer. Arjun also shared how his fiancée Gabriella Demetriades became his source of strength during the challenging time. Talking to Sohini on Canceled to Crown, Rampal said, "I think the loneliest I have ever felt is when I was not connected with myself the way I am today. My marriage was not working out and it's sad because I think love is not constant. Everything in life is not constant. We are not constant, we are constantly changing and sometimes in that change one doesn't grow or change well together."

The actor further added, "I think that was maybe the darkest phase of my life because at that point in time was exactly the time my mom had cancer and I was losing her. I was losing everybody who was close to me. I had lost my father three years before that. I was losing friends. I was

Mahhi Vij recalls the one demand ex-husband Jay Bhanushali's parents made

Mahhi Vij and Jay Bhanushali were once one of the most loved couples on Indian television. After a dreamy love story, and 14 years of marriage, the couple parted ways in January 2026. During a recent appearance on Rajeev Khandelwal's television show Tum Ho Na, Mahhi opened up about the current status of her relationship with her ex-husband and described them as friends. The couple coparents their two foster children Khushi and Rajveer, and their biological daughter Tara.

Mahhi was on the show with her father and shared that Jay still visits their home and spends time with Mahhi's father. She said, "My father still visits and has tea with Jay, and Jay also comes over. We share a very good relationship, and I am glad there is no bitterness between us. We are still connected like a family and there for each other." Mahhi credited her father for standing by her through thick and thin and said that he supported her without asking any questions. "When all this was happening, one feels like they don't want to be questioned - you just want someone to sit quietly beside you, and that's exactly what he did. He sat silently and never asked why I was doing something or told me it was wrong."

In another part of the episode, where Rajeev Khandelwal and Mahhi Vij were discussing the ill practice of dowry, Mahhi spoke about Jay Bhanushali's parents, her former in-laws, and said that they did not make any kind of demands. She recalled, "I consider myself fortunate because when I asked Jay's mother and the rest of the family what they wanted, their only response was, 'Even if you don't bring any clothes, that's perfectly fine. Just come and be a part of our family, I think that really was, you know...'"

The rumours about Jay and Mahhi's divorce had been



going around for months before the couple announced their separation to the world. After announcing their separation, when their social media posts were being scrutinised heavily, Mahhi put out a statement that read, "For likes and comments, media can stoop to any level. My stories are not for Jay. Stop making it dirty just like your journalism." She accompanied it with a picture of her and Jay. Weeks before this, there was chatter that Mahhi Vij had made unreasonable alimony claims, but she shut these rumours down via her vlog. "Forget my case, but I don't understand the concept of alimony. I have always believed that whoever earns the money should keep it. Women, too, should always be financially independent," she said. In the same vlog, she added, "Jay is my family and will always be my family. He's a wonderful father and a wonderful human being."



During the conversation, Nikhil Nanda discussed succession planning, corporate governance and the future of Escorts Kubota, a listed engineering and agri-machinery company with a market capitalisation of around Rs 31,000 crore. Nikhil explained that while his children will eventually represent the Nanda family's shareholder interests alongside Kubota, that does not automatically entitle them to operational roles within the company. "Navya is now showing willingness to participate more and more into EKL. But just because her last name is Nanda does not give her the right to get a position. She has to earn her position, which I think she will do it on her own." Nikhil Nanda spoke highly of his daughter's capabilities and growing interest in the business. He described Navya Naveli as "smart" and "ambitious," pointing to her recent graduation from IIM Ahmedabad and her professional experience with Meta.

While Agastya Nanda is building a career in cinema, Nikhil Nanda said Navya Naveli appears increasingly interested in business, private equity, family office responsibilities and the Nanda family's shareholding interests. He also said that he has never wanted to impose ambitions on his children. "My mother always told me, Nikhil, let your children do what they love. So I believe in that."

Navya Naveli graduates from IIM Ahmedabad Navya Naveli Nanda recently completed her MBA programme at IIM Ahmedabad, marking the end of a two-year academic journey. Sharing glimpses from campus life on social media, she wrote, "A place that's given me more than I can ever give it back," adding that it was her "one final time" saying goodbye to a place that had become like home. She also shared photographs with her classmates, offering a glimpse into the friendships and experiences she built during her time at the prestigious institution.

Nikhil Nanda on Navya Naveli's future at Escorts Kubota: 'Last name doesn't give her right'

Nikhil Nanda, Chairman and Managing Director of Escorts Kubota Limited and husband of Amitabh Bachchan's daughter Shweta Bachchan Nanda, has made it clear that family legacy alone will not secure a leadership role for his daughter, Navya Naveli Nanda, in the company. Speaking on Shrishti Sahu's podcast, the industrialist said that any position within the organisation must be earned through merit, regardless of surname or lineage. Nikhil Nanda on Navya Naveli's future at Escorts Kubota

During the conversation, Nikhil Nanda discussed succession planning, corporate governance and the future of Escorts Kubota, a listed engineering and agri-machinery company with a market capitalisation of around Rs 31,000 crore. Nikhil explained that while his children will eventually represent the Nanda family's shareholder interests alongside Kubota, that does not automatically entitle them to operational roles within the company. "Navya is now showing willingness to participate more and more into EKL. But just because her last name is Nanda does not give her the right to get a position. She has to earn her position, which I think she will do it on her own." Nikhil Nanda spoke highly of his daughter's capabilities and growing interest in the business. He described Navya Naveli as "smart" and "ambitious," pointing to her recent graduation from IIM Ahmedabad and her professional experience with Meta.

According to Nikhil, Navya has accompanied him on several visits to Japan and has already built relationships with senior leadership there. He also believes her experience in the digital space could be valuable as Escorts Kubota increasingly adopts modern ways of working and marketing. At the same time, Nikhil was careful not to define her future role.

"For her to do what she will do as a day-to-day operation of EKL is for her to carve her path based on her appreciation and impact. It really is up to her." While expressing confidence in her abilities, he noted that she still needs greater exposure to certain digital capabilities, including coding, which he believes will become increasingly important in the future. Agastya Nanda chose films, Navya Naveli chose business. Nikhil Nanda and Shweta Bachchan Nanda are parents to Navya Naveli and actor Agastya Nanda, both of whom have chosen different professional paths.

Recalling a joke within the family, Nikhil said, "My son says, I became an actor, Navya is going towards tractor."

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli leave fan overjoyed with handwritten notes



Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli never fail to reciprocate fans' love. Recently, the couple was spotted in Ahmedabad, where they not only posed for photographs with a fan but also gifted her handwritten notes. The pictures have since surfaced on social media, with many praising the couple's thoughtful gesture. Virat Anushka's sweet gesture for fans

A fan took her Instagram handle to share photos of herself with Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli. The fan also posted images of the handwritten notes she received from

the couple. "To Ashi, thank you for all the help. Best wishes from us," the note read. Anushka Sharma Virat Kohli make a fans day Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli make a fan's day.

The fan captioned the post, "A truly memorable moment serving and meeting Mr. & Mrs. Kohli. Grateful for the opportunity to create exceptional guest experiences. Moments like these remind me why hospitality is so rewarding. Delighted to have been a part of their stay." Hours after Royal Challenger's IPL 2026 win in Ahmedabad, Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma visited Vrindavan to seek blessings from Premnand Maharaj. The couple then visited Delhi before they returned to London. Actor Anushka Sharma and cricketer Virat Kohli have been married for 9 years now. The couple took the plunge in 2017. They welcomed their first daughter, Vamika, in 2021 and their son Akaay in 2024. The couple officially moved to London in 2024 and continue to reside there. On the work front, Anushka was last seen on the big screen in the 2018 film Zero. She was expected to make her comeback with Chakda Xpress, a biopic based on former Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami. While the film's first look was unveiled some time ago, there has been no official update on its release so far.

'What she is doing is wrong': Imtiaz Ali on the Love Aaj Kal warning over Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone's first collaboration with Imtiaz Ali was the 2009 film Love Aaj Kal and since it was a follow-up to the director's much-celebrated film Jab We Met, there were a bunch of expectations from the movie. However, upon the film's release, it did not match up to the success of his previous movie, but it did showcase a female character who wasn't a shining example of morality. In a recent interview, Imtiaz discussed the flaws of Deepika's character, Meera, and said that he was told that she would come across negatively if she leaves her husband just a day after getting married. In the film, Deepika and Saif Ali Khan's characters break up, following which, she marries Rahul Khanna's character. Hours before their wedding, Saif's character confesses his love for her, but she decides to go ahead with the wedding anyway. A day after the wedding, she leaves her husband. When asked about the decision to do so in the movie, Imtiaz told Galatta Plus, "Lots of people were saying that she will come across negatively if she gets married and next morning, after waking up, she tells her husband that I don't want to be with you anymore because I have now realised what both Jay (Saif) and I feel for each other." Imtiaz said that he had seen many such stories in real life and shared that instead of judging them, he was fascinated by them. "Unfortunately, I have heard and seen these situations in my life and rather than judging that person, one feels fascinated thinking what it is that she must be going through. Why would she do something like this? What happened? And that is the kind of discovery that leads to the making of the film," he said. It was then pointed that even though such incidents happen in life, they are hardly ever seen in the movies. To this, Imtiaz



said, "But what happens in life becomes the basis for what happens in the movies. I can't draw from movies to make other movies." Elaborating about Deepika Padukone's character, Imtiaz Ali shared his worries at the time. "A part of me was also worried that Deepika's character would be judged. What she is doing is wrong. But do we want to see her story because she is right? No. We want to see her story because we are interested, because there is something real in her. We can judge her. We can say she is a horrible person. We don't love people who are good or bad. We love people that we love. There is no explanation for this," she said. After Love Aaj Kal, Deepika worked with Imtiaz in Cocktail, which was written by him. This was a defining film for her career as her perception as an actor changed dramatically after this. They later collaborated on Tamasha, which also starred Ranbir Kapoor.

'Hit with an iron rod': Manjari Fadnis breaks down over brutal killing of society dog



Actor Manjari Fadnis, popular for her role in , on Monday posted an emotional video on her Instagram handle. In the video, she opened up about her housing society's community dog Mikey, who was brutally killed recently. The actor revealed that the dog was abandoned by his family and had been living in their society since 2019. Being an animal lover herself, Manjari and a few other society members had been trying to look for Mikey, with posters, asking guards, etc.

Actor Manjari Fadnis, known for her role in Jaane Tu ... Ya Jaane Na, shared an emotional video on Instagram on Monday. In the video, she spoke about Mikey, a community dog from her housing society who was recently killed. Manjari said that she and several residents had been looking for Mikey for days, putting up posters and asking security guards if they had seen him. In the detailed video, the actor said, "I wish I had never

needed to make this video, but I think it's really important." She called Mikey a "really sweet dog" and revealed that a person from the society had confessed that the dog was sleeping quietly, when he was hit on the head with an iron rod.

She added, "He got very disoriented. They dragged him into the staircase area between B1 and Lobby, and they hit him more that he was bleeding from his mouth. He peed, peed and dirtied the place. He was half-dead, and they just put him inside a goni, and they threw him off into an empty area behind." Manjar then shared that they have no idea if the dog survived or not. "We are trying to search for his body right now. He's gone," she said. In the video, she also requested the Supreme Court to take strict action against animal cruelty, mentioning that people with "criminal minds" eradicate dogs they don't like. Along with the video, Manjari Fadnis wrote in the caption, "Our Mikey was Brutally Murdered... & we are going to fight for him... This should never happen with ANY Dog Ever again in any Society anywhere! People should be SCARED to hurt an animal! We NEED Stronger laws against Animal Cruelty! Thankuuu @xavierbernardsantiago for standing with us strongly in our fight to bring Justice for Mikey. Thankuuu Senior Police Inspector Mr. Shailendra Nagarkar, we r soo grateful for your help. Thankuuu Sanket Kadam for fearlessly bravely fighting for his cause & Thankuuu to all our Mikey lovers from our society who have been tirelessly standing strongly with us in this fight." Several celebrities, including Bhumi Pednekar and Dhanashree Verma, expressed grief and anger over the heartless incident. Bhumi wrote, "I am so so sorry, this is (heart breaking emoji). Justice for Mike! @mumbaipolice." Dhanashree commented, "This is horrible. So sorry ... please share the details of those people they should not get away from this cruel act. With you @manjarifadnis." "I am so so sorry my dear Manjari... this is so so painful to hear and watching you like this is really making me feel so so helpless."

Shilpa Shinde takes fresh swipe at Hina Khan, urges her to support Khan sir

Mumbai: The war of words between television stars Shilpa Shinde and Hina Khan appears far from over. In a latest video shared on social media, Shilpa was seen taking an indirect dig at Hina's recent statements and lengthy social media notes against her. She was seen urging the actress to instead use her influence to support educator Khan Sir amid the controversy surrounding him. Beginning the video with a sarcastic reference to her own English-speaking abilities and Hina's long English notes, Shilpa said she preferred speaking directly rather than posting long messages online.

"Hi guys, main Shilpa Shinde hoon aur main phir se wapas aa gayi hoon. Haan, meri English itni achhi nahi hai. Waise bhi itni achhi English ka kya fayda, mujhe nahi pata. Sorry. Mujhe itni lambi-lambi English mein likh kar post karna nahi aata. Isse behtar hai ki main saamne aa jaaun." (Hi guys, I am Shilpa Shinde and I am back once

again. Yes, my English isn't very good. Anyway, I don't know what the use of such great English is. Sorry. I don't know how to write long posts in English. It's better that I come forward and speak directly.) The actress then shifted focus to Khan Sir and appealed to Hina to stand up for him instead of targeting her. Shilpa said, "Main yeh kehne aayi hoon ki mujhe insaaf milne ke baad bhi chalega. Jo log mujhe saza dilwana chahte hain aur jo producer se insaaf maang rahe hain, unse main kehna chahti hoon ki free mein kuch kharch nahi hoga. Ab waqt aa gaya hai ki sahi insaan ke liye lada jaaye. Khan Sir ke liye." (I want to say that I can wait for justice for myself. To those who want me punished and those seeking justice from the producer, I want to say that it won't cost anything to speak up. The time has come to fight for the right person — Khan Sir.) Backing Khan Sir, Shilpa further added that his work and contribution had earned him the support of people across the country.