

TELANGANA'S DEVELOPMENT IS INDIVISIBLE: CM

Revanth Reddy urges MPs across party lines to adopt a unified stance in Parliament for pending Central clearances; flags IIM-Hyderabad, Metro Phase-II, and river disputes as top priorities.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**HYDERABAD, JULY 13*In a bid to forge a consensus on state development ahead of the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday exhorted Members of Parliament cutting across party lines to subordinate political differences to the collective interests of Telangana."Addressing a high-level briefing of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan, Mr. Reddy presented a comprehensive dossier on the State's long-pending proposals awaiting Central approvals and fiscal allocations. He underscored that Parliament must serve as the primary forum to secure Telangana's equitable share in national growth.

Key Priorities Flagged by the State*

Institutional Infrastructure: The Chief Minister highlighted that despite Hyderabad's status as a premier economic engine, the city remains without an Indian Institute of Management (IIM). MPs were urged to petition Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for its early sanction.

Urban Transit & Mobility:* Securing swift clearances and financial support for the Metro Rail Phase-II expansion, the Regional Ring Road (RRR), and high-speed rail corridors linking Hyderabad with Bengaluru, Chennai, and Mumbai." *** *Environmental & Civil Projects:*** Expeditious approvals for the Musi River Rejuvenation Project, airport developments in Adilabad and Warangal, and the establishment of Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) aviation hubs.###

Riparian Rights and Deliberations*On the water resources front, the Chief Minister emphasized the urgency of safeguarding the State's interests in inter-state river water disputes. Specifically, he flagged the Tungabhadra project, the Godavari-Cauvery river-link scheme, the Tummidihatti project, and pending No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from Andhra Pradesh for legacy pre-bifurcation projects."Mr. Reddy appealed to all representatives, including BJP MPs, to leverage their offices with the Union Jal Shakti Ministry and neighboring states to unlock these gridlocks."

"The State Government is maintaining a highly constructive engagement with the Centre in the larger interest of Telangana. It is now imperative for our legislative representatives to ensure effective follow-up," the Chief Minister stated."

"To ensure seamless legislative advocacy, Mr. Reddy announced that a dedicated institutional mechanism has been operationalized at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi. This cell will supply MPs with real-time technical inputs, empirical data, and official documentation to bolster their representations to the Union Government."The high-level briefing was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Advisor A.P. Jitender Reddy, and MPs representing various political denominations, including Mallu Ravi, Anil Kumar Yadav, Eatala Rajender, and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, alongside senior administrative officials.



Hyderabad Six-Murder Case Accused Dies in Kothrud

Chevella, July 13

Chevella DCP Yogesh Gautam revealed that the body of Rajkumar who brutally murdered six people, including a young girl, in Shabad, Ranga Reddy district was found dead near Kothur. He stated that Rajkumar had committed suicide in Panjarla village (Kothur Mandal), which is his maternal uncle's village.

According to the DCP, locals alerted the police after spotting a body in suspicious circumstances at a real estate venture near Kothur. Police arrived at the scene, recovered the body, and initiated an investigation. The DCP confirmed that the body was of Rajkumar.

The DCP stated that Rajkumar committed suicide by consuming poison. Police have collected evidence from the scene and are investigating the matter from all angles.



It is well known that the incident involving the murder of six people in Shabad had caused a massive sensation across the state. While the police had launched an extensive search for the accused in connection with the case, his body was discovered today.

Rs1,271 Crore Road Push for South Telangana

Foundation Stones Laid for HAM Road Projects in Makthal, Gadwal and Wanaparthy

*****Mahabubnagar/Gadwal/Wanaparthy, July 13:*****In a major boost to road infrastructure in South Telangana, the State Government has launched road development projects worth ₹1,271.48 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) across Makthal in Mahabubnagar district, Dharur in Jogulamba Gadwal district, and Wanaparthy district. Telangana Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy laid the foundation stones for the



projects on Monday, describing them as a significant step toward strengthening regional connectivity and accelerating economic growth."The projects include ₹573 crore for roads in Makthal Assembly constituency, ₹339.39 crore for Dharur in Gadwal district, and ₹359.09 crore for Wanaparthy district. Once completed, the upgraded road network is expected to improve connectivity between rural and urban areas, facilitate faster movement of agricultural produce, support industrial development and reduce travel time across the region."Addressing the gatherings, the Minister said the HAM model ensures long-term qual-

ity as contractors remain responsible for the maintenance of roads even after construction. He stated that the Telangana Government is committed to building world-class roads that meet national standards and contribute to sustainable development. He added that better road infrastructure would attract investments, create employment opportunities and improve overall public mobility. The projects form part of the State's larger HAM programme aimed at upgrading more than 6,000 km of roads across Telangana."The Minister said the government is simultaneously focusing on infrastructure creation and welfare initiatives, asserting that quality roads are essential for balanced regional development. Improved transport facilities, he noted, would enhance access to markets, educational institutions, healthcare services and commercial centres, thereby strengthening the rural economy."The Makthal programme was attended by Ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and Vakiti Srihari, along with MLAs Yennam Srinivas Reddy and Veerlapalli Shankar. At Dharur, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar and other public representatives participated. The Wanaparthy event was attended by Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, MLAs Megha Reddy, Biyyani Manohar Reddy, Kuchukulla Rajesh, G. Madhusudhan Reddy, SAP Chairman Shivasena Reddy, senior officials and local leaders."Officials said the three road packages would significantly improve transport infrastructure in South Telangana by enhancing road safety, reducing logistics costs and promoting agricultural, commercial and industrial activity. The projects are also expected to provide a long-term boost to the region's socio-economic development through improved connectivity and durable road infrastructure.

DGP Sri C.V. Anand Chairs Young India Police School (YIPS) Society Committee Meeting



***** DGP expresses serious displeasure over delay in construction works***** Negligence and delay in execution will not be tolerated: DGP*** Directs officials to complete all pending works on stipulated time*** Calls for Young India Police School (YIPS) into a model institution of national excellence*** Constitute new committees to strengthen YIPS governance***Hyderabad, July 13:***Director General of Police, Telangana, and President of the Young India Police School (YIPS) Society, Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, chaired the Society Committee Meeting to review the progress of the Young India Police School (YIPS), its academic standards, infrastructure development, institutional governance and future roadmap. The Young India Police School, established at Manchirevula village, Ranga Reddy district, is a flagship initiative of the Government of Telangana aimed at providing world-class education to the children of police personnel as well as children from the general public."Reviewing the progress of the institution, the DGP expressed serious displeasure over the delay in the execution of construction works. Stating that the project is one of the Government's most prestigious initiatives, he made it clear that negligence and delay in execution would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He directed the concerned officials and representatives of the executing agency to complete all pending works within the stipulated timelines, while ensuring the highest standards of quality through continuous monitoring. The DGP reiterated that the vision of the Young India Police School is to emerge as one of the world class educational institutions in the country by providing value-based, technology-enabled and globally benchmarked education. He stressed that the institution should focus on nurturing disciplined, responsible and socially conscious students equipped with leadership qualities, creativity and strong ethical values."During the meeting, the Society reviewed the progress made by the school as it enters its second academic year. Officials informed that student strength has increased from 345 students during the 2025-26 academic year to 360 students in 2026-27. While classes from Grade I to Grade V were offered during the previous academic year, Grade VI has been introduced from the current academic year."The committee was informed that the school currently (academic year 2026-27) offers education from Nursery to Grade VI. Of the 360 students enrolled, 184 are children of police personnel and 176 are from non-police families, reflecting the growing confidence of the public in the quality of education being imparted by the institution. Officials also presented the design and development plan of the new Academic Block comprising 17 classrooms, which forms a key component of the school's expansion plan."Emphasising holistic development, the



DGP directed that equal importance be given to academics, sports, character building and life skills. He stressed the need to provide modern infrastructure, a safe and secure learning environment and contemporary teaching practices. He observed that encouraging sports among students would promote physical fitness, mental resilience, discipline and help keep children away from social evils, including drug abuse."The DGP further stated that parents have placed immense trust in the institution by entrusting their children to the school and emphasised that every member of the institution has a collective responsibility to uphold that trust by ensuring the highest standards of safety, education and student welfare."To further strengthen institutional governance, the Society constituted new operational framework of the Procurement Committee, Academic Committee, Infrastructure Committee and Coordination Committee. These committees will oversee key functional areas and ensure effective planning, execution and monitoring of academic, administrative and infrastructure-related activities."The School Principal and faculty made a detailed presentation on admissions, academic programmes, teaching methodologies, infrastructure and future development plans. DGP directed officials to accelerate the construction of the new Academic Block and maintain excellence in every aspect of the institution."The meeting was attended by DG (Law & Order) Sri Mahesh Bhagwat, IPS; DG (Greyhounds & OCTOPUS) Dr. Anil Kumar, IPS; Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, Sri Ramesh Reddy, IPS; IG (Provisioning & Logistics) Sri Gajjarao Bhupal, IPS; Financial Advisor Sri Sharath Kumar; AIG (Law & Order) Sri Ramana Kumar; Young India Police School Principal Ms. Anita Reddy; CSR Coordinator Ms. Deepti; GM Rajesh; Vishal; Satish; Sakshi; members of the Society; and other senior officers.

TODICHERLA-II COAL BLOCK FUTURE OF SINGARENI IN TELANGANA: KISHAN REDDY



“ Hyderabad, July 13 : Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy today alleged that there was massive corruption took place in the allocation of coal blocks during Congress party UPA government led by Manmoha Singh in the country. “ The coal scam of around Rs 2.60 lakh crore become a major talking point across the nation, Kishan Reddy said while addressing a meeting of Singareni workers and Intellectuals at Kothagudem on first day of “ Singreni Bharosa Yatra”.“ In view of massive coal scam surfaced during Congress party tenure, the Supreme Court intervened and cancelled the coal block allocations made by the Congress government, he revealed and said in 2014, the Supreme Court made it clear that in the future, coal blocks must be allocated strictly through auctions, whether to public or private entities.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government respecting the Supreme Court’s verdict, has allocated coal blocks to all government undertakings, including Coal India and Western Coalfields, strictly through auctions, the union minister said.” Reddy announced that he is proud to state from this very soil of Singareni that after nearly eleven years, Tadicherla-II is the only coal block that has been directly allocated to Singareni without conducting an auction.” He said keeping the future of Singareni in mind and love for Telangana Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government allocated this block which has been demanded by Singareni workers, local citizens, public representatives, and various political parties for nearly twenty years to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). This is the only coal block in the country allocated to a public coal company without an auction, the union minister Reddy said.” Expressing concern in declining revenues of Singareni Kishan Reddy said Tadicherla-II is an extremely valuable coal block and this block offers the potential for coal production for nearly 40 to 50 years. “ The number of employees is also gradually decreasing. The workforce, which once stood at around 70,000, has now come down to approximately 40,000. Additionally, over 30,000 contract workers depend on Singareni for their livelihood. New coal blocks are absolutely essential to secure their future, he said.” The negligence of the previous BRS government is the main reason for Singareni reaching this state. While other public sector undertakings across the country participated in auctions and secured new coal blocks, the then-government failed to utilize the opportunities available to Singareni, he alleged.” There were instances where the then-government even prevented Singareni from par-

icipating when two coal blocks came up for auction. At such a juncture, PM Narendra Modi allocating the Tadicherla-II block to Singareni serves as a great reassurance for the organization’s future, Reddy said.” He said the centre has already allocated the Naini coal block in Odisha to Singareni to cater to the power needs of Telangana. At that time, he personally held discussions with the then Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, and secured the necessary cooperation for coal production. However, because the then state government failed to complete the required clearances and procedures in a timely manner, that project could not move forward, he said.” Later, after the formation of the BJP government in Odisha, and through the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the process related to the Naini coal block was fast-tracked. The tendering process has been completed. Currently, coal production is commencing there under the management of Singareni. This will bring additional revenue to Singareni. This stands as proof that the Central Government is supporting the development of Singareni in every possible way.” Keeping in view the concerns being expressed over falling production and the declining number of workers in Singareni, the central government took special initiative regarding the Naini and Tadicherla-II coal blocks, he said.” Union minister said taking into account the opinions expressed by the Telangana government, public representatives, Singareni leaders, and labor unions, we coordinated with all departments, secured the necessary clearances and took this historic decision.” Kishan Reddy said on behalf of the Singareni workers, the people of Singareni, and the people of Telangana, he is expressing his heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking this decision.” Reddy said whether it be the BRS party or the current Congress government in Telangana, they must honestly acknowledge the support provided by the Modi government at the center for the development of Singareni and questioned stating that certain individuals who are boasting about Singareni today must answer to the public as to why they lost the opportunities that came Singareni’s way in the past.” Singareni supplies coal to the state government’s power utilities. The electricity generated at the Singareni Thermal Power Plant is also consumed by the state government. Despite this, the previous BRS government allowed massive dues owed to Singareni to accumulate, he alleged and said even under such circumstances, the central government constantly stands by Singareni to strengthen the organization and protect the future of its workers. Our commitment to the development of Singareni and the welfare of its workers will continue in the same manner in the future.” Kishan Reddy said whichever party’s government is in power, it is the responsibility of governments to clear the dues owed to Singareni on time. However, both the previous BRS government and the current Congress government have acted negligently regarding the clearance of dues to Singareni, he lamented.” Union minister explained

that the previous BRS government and the current Congress government jointly owe dues amounting to approximately Rs 54,000 crore to Singareni. Out of this, the current government also owes a substantial amount of dues.” Reddy demanded that the state government immediately release the funds due to Singareni, rather than limiting themselves to just holding V Subhash, BJP Chief Spokesperson & Media Incharge Telangana in Hyderabad on 13/07/2026”“Congress and BRS are two sides of the same coin: BJP”“Hyderabad, July 13: The Telangana BJP on Monday came down heavily on the ongoing war of words between Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and BRS senior leader T. Harish Rao over the issue of protecting farmers’ interests, stating that both the Congress and the BRS have consistently failed the farming community.”“Both the Congress and the BRS are anti-farmer, and this is evident from the Chief Minister himself admitting that he had warned farmers to shift to alternative crops instead of cultivating paddy due to the anticipated water shortage.”“Ironically, Revanth Reddy’s statement mirrors that of his predecessor, former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who too had advised farmers against cultivating paddy when his government failed to ensure procurement of their produce,” Telangana BJP chief spokesperson and Media In-charge N. V. Subash said in an official statement.”Subash also strongly condemned the Chief Minister’s choice of words against his political opponents, describing them as unbecoming of a person holding a constitutional office.”“It is unfortunate that the Chief Minister has chosen to speak the language of violence against his political opponents. It is wholly unbecoming of a Chief Minister. Though the BJP holds no brief for the BRS, the office of the Chief Minister is a constitutional institution that must be upheld with dignity, restraint and responsibility,” he said.”He observed that political differences between the ruling party and the Opposition are natural in a democracy, but rhetoric that incites violence only lowers the standards of public discourse.”“Telangana deserves statesmanship, not sensationalism,” he remarked.”Questioning the government’s preparedness, Subash asked, “If the government knew there would be a water crisis, why was it not prevented?”“He said that if the Chief Minister himself admits that the government had been warning farmers for the past six months to cultivate less water-intensive crops, it amounts to an admission that the government had prior knowledge of the looming crisis.”“If the admin-

istration foresaw the crisis, what concrete measures did it take to augment irrigation, improve water management and safeguard farmers’ livelihoods? Forewarning without effective action is nothing but an admission of governance failure,” he asserted.”“Subash further reminded the BRS that it had adopted an identical approach during its tenure.”“Did not K. Chandrasekhar Rao also advise and warn farmers against cultivating paddy, urging them instead to shift to commercial crops that consumed less water? Both parties have followed the same failed approach whenever they found themselves unable to address the real issues confronting agriculture.”“He alleged that the public spat between the Congress and the BRS was merely political theatre.”“While the Congress and the BRS are busy trading accusations, Telangana’s farmers are paying the price. Their public confrontation is nothing but political drama intended to deceive the farming community. Instead of exchanging insults and settling political scores, both parties should explain what they have done to ensure irrigation security, drinking water availability and agricultural stability. Telangana needs governance, not a daily political slugfest.”“Since the Congress is in power, it must answer with facts rather than fiery speeches, he said.”“The BJP demands clear answers from the government. How much water is available in the state’s reservoirs? What is the district-wise contingency plan? What compensation or support will be provided to farmers likely to be affected by water scarcity? The people deserve transparency, not theatrics.”“Subash said both the Congress and the BRS continue to display political arrogance instead of administrative competence.”“The Congress came to power promising change and better governance. Today, instead of delivering results, it has resorted to provocative rhetoric. Farmers need confidence that the government is in control—not speeches that deepen political bitterness.”“Reiterating the BJP’s commitment to farmers, he said the party stood for responsible politics, accountable governance and sustainable agricultural development.”“Telangana’s farmers deserve respect, reliable irrigation, scientific crop planning, timely assistance and transparent governance. The BJP will continue to fight for policies that secure farmers’ livelihoods and ensure the state’s future is not jeopardised by administrative failure, political vendettas or inflammatory rhetoric,” he added.

MODI GOVT COMMITTED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SINGARENI



“ Hyderabad, July 13 : Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy today assured that the central government is committed to the development of Singareni and safeguarding the rights of the workers.” While interacting with Singareni workers near Manuguru coal mine, he emphasized that worker welfare remains ultimate goal of Narendra Modi government.” Union Minister Reddy as part of Singareni Bharosa Yatra visited PKOC-2 Mine at Singareni- Manuguru and held a face-to-face meeting with labor union leaders and workers to discuss their issues and working conditions. On the occasion BJP state president N Ramchander Rao and BJP Legislative party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy were also present.” During the meeting, the Union Minister held detailed discussions regarding the welfare

of Singareni workers, challenges faced in the mining sector, safety standards, and the demands of the workers. “ BJP MLAs and MLCs, district party leaders, leaders from the BJP-affiliated labor union BMS leaders, representatives from various other labor unions, and a large number of workers attended this meeting.”Earlier, Singareni Bharosa Yatra arrived in Manuguru in Bhadradi Kothagudem district from Kothagudem. The yatra led by Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy and Telangana BJP State President N Ramchander Rao was received a warm and enthusiastic welcome by local BJP Karyakartas. They also paid rich tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar by garlanding his statue.

BJP'S Madari Chandrasekhar Meets National Commission for Scheduled Castes Chairman in Hyderabad

“Hyderabad, July 13:On the occasion of the visit of Shri Kishor Makwana, Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), to Hyderabad, Madari Chandrasekhar, BJP Telangana State Leader and Contested Corporator from Lalitha Bagh Division, paid a courtesy visit on July 13 and held a meaningful discussion on the key issues and challenges faced by the Scheduled Caste communities in the state of Telangana.”“During the meeting, Chandrasekhar highlighted several important concerns affecting the welfare, rights, and development of Scheduled Castes in the state and appealed for the Commission’s continued support and intervention to ensure effective implementation of constitutional safeguards and welfare measures.”“As a mark of respect and appreciation, Chandrasekhar ceremonially honored Shri Kishore Makwana by draping him with a traditional shawl and extending warm greetings on behalf of the people.”“The meeting reflected a shared commitment towards safeguarding the interests of Scheduled Castes and strengthening social justice through constructive dialogue and coordinated efforts.



SASS Strengthens Telangana Leadership with Appointment of Akaram Ramesh as State Co-Convener

National General Secretary Nayini Buchi Reddy Urges Volunteers to Transform Devotion into Selfless Service at Chennai National Meet



““Chennai:“In a significant development ahead of the forthcoming Sabarimala pilgrimage season, the Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam (SASS) held its National Executive Meeting in Chennai, where National General Secretary Nayini Buchi Reddy delivered a powerful message emphasizing that serving Ayyappa devotees is one of the highest forms of spiritual worship.”“Addressing representatives from across the country, Buchi Reddy stated that every pilgrim undertaking the sacred journey to Sabarimala should be regarded as a manifestation of Lord Ayyappa. He stressed that fulfilling the basic needs of devotees and providing Annadanam (free meal service) is a

noble spiritual mission that reflects the true essence of selfless service.”“He highlighted that offering food and support to pilgrims who endure physically demanding treks through hills, irrespective of harsh weather conditions, is equivalent to rendering direct service to Lord Ayyappa Himself. He called upon SASS volunteers to ensure that this year’s Annadanam programme is organized with the highest standards of discipline, hygiene, quality, and compassion.”“Buchi Reddy further stated that SASS is making comprehensive preparations to extend seamless services not only to lakhs of devotees traveling from Telangana but also to pilgrims from other states who halt along the pilgrimage route. He reaffirmed the organization’s commitment to strengthening its disciplined volunteer network in line with the National Committee’s vision and delivering service with efficiency, dedication, and unwavering devotion.”“He urged every volunteer to consider bringing a smile to the face of a devotee as the greatest blessing from Lord Ayyappa and to perform every act of service as a sacred spiritual responsibility.”“The National General Secretary also noted that the Chennai meeting provided clear strategic direction for Telangana’s upcoming service initiatives and expressed confidence that the Telangana unit is fully prepared to deliver exemplary services during the upcoming Sabarimala pilgrimage season.”“Akaram Ramesh Appointed Telangana State Co-Convener”“On the occasion, Akaram Ramesh was appointed as the Telangana State Co-Convener of the SASS Ayyappa Annadanam Seva Kendra. Expressing his gratitude, Ramesh thanked National General Secretary Nayini Buchi Reddy for entrusting him with this prestigious responsibility.”“He affirmed his unwavering commitment to serving Lord Ayyappa’s devotees with sincerity, humility, and complete dedication while strengthening the organization’s service initiatives across Telangana.”“The meeting witnessed the participation of Telangana representatives K. Gopal Reddy, CH. Siddanna, G. Sai Prasad, Allenki Sudarshan, and Akaram Ramesh, along with delegates from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, reflecting the organization’s united national commitment towards serving millions of Sabarimala pilgrims.

Probe into ‘corrupt Punjab cop’ tied to US action on Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang

In a major revelation emerging from a sweeping international law enforcement operation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the US, an alleged “corrupt Punjab police officer” has been directly implicated in fabricating murder charges and running extortion rackets on behalf of a ruthless India-based transnational crime syndicate.According to federal indictments unsealed in Los Angeles as part of ‘Operation Hard Ball’, Gurinderjit Singh Nagra, a law enforcement officer in Punjab, worked hand-in-glove with members of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria organised crime group to target perceived rivals with false accusations and demands for money.The FBI has charged Nagra, the Station House Officer of Tanda police station in Tanda, Hoshiarpur, with helping gangsters extort \$400,000 from a family in Los Angeles by threatening to file false murder charges against their relatives in India. While Nagra claimed that he had no idea why he was named, an inquiry was ordered against him on Wednesday. He was also shifted to Police Lines, Hoshiarpur.According to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jalandhar Range, the superintendent of police, Jalandhar Rural, an IPS officer, will probe the allegations and submit a detailed report at the earliest.

The details, laid bare in US court documents, show how corruption at the local level in Punjab enabled global criminal enterprises to thrive across continents. A US Department of Justice official made these revelations in a press statement in California late on July 7.In April 2026, Gurlal Singh, a 22-year-old illegal immigrant from India living in Stockton, California, and an alleged member of the Bhagwanpuria syndicate, provided the name and details of a victim (identified in court papers as Victim 2) to Nagra.Nagra then allegedly contacted the victim’s father and threatened to implicate the entire family, including the victim’s sister, in the January 2026 murder of a man identified as “B.S.”.As per the FBI, on April 13, 2026, Nagra told the victim’s father that charges would be filed against him for the murder. On April 16, he allegedly demanded payment, warning that failure to pay would result in all three family members being named as accused. In May 2026, following a press conference in Punjab where In-

dian authorities publicly accused the family, Nagra allegedly continued pressuring the victims for money, explicitly referencing instructions from Gurlal Singh and complaining that “they didn’t pay us the whole amount what was agreed upon”.The indictment states that members of the Bhagwanpuria group “corrupted law enforcement officers in India and partnered with corrupt government officials” to assist in extortion schemes and to file baseless criminal cases against rivals.

This Punjab-based corruption was not an isolated incident but part of an alleged deliberate strategy by the syndicate to use the police in India as tools for intimidation and profit.Bishnoi, Bhagwanpuria, and DhandaThe exposure of Gurinderjit Singh Nagra’s role came amid a coordinated international takedown announced on July 7 by the US Department of Justice, the FBI, and partners in Canada and Europe. Law enforcement arrested 24 defendants connected to three India-based transnational organised crime groups.The groups—the Bishnoi enterprise (led by Lawrence Bishnoi from a prison in Punjab), the Bhagwanpuria enterprise (led by Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, also imprisoned in Punjab), and the Dhanda group (led by Ravinder Singh Dhanda from Canada)—face charges including racketeering conspiracy, extortion, narcotics trafficking, firearms offences and murder-for-hire.The syndicates are accused of orchestrating violence that extend beyond India’s borders.

This includes the 2023 assassination of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, a killing Canadian authorities had earlier linked to Indian criminal networks.First Assistant US Attorney Bill Essayli stated that the criminal organisations “have engaged in widespread violence, including targeted killings, extortions and kidnappings” and “have preyed in particular on communities in the United States and Canada with ties to India”.The FBI’s Los Angeles Field Office led the US investigation, with assistance from the Los Angeles Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and international partners including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Spanish authorities.

Meet Berty Ashley, the quizmaster shaping Bengaluru’s quiz culture



Hang around Bengaluru’s quizzing scene long enough, and you are bound to run into Berty Ashley. Whether it is at a larger event or a cozy pub quiz in Indiranagar, the molecular biologist-turned-quizmaster is known for bringing a distinctive style to quiz format that often follows familiar patterns.Berty Ashley, who hails from Madurai, has been quizzing since he was a Class 5 student. Recalling how he got involved with quizzing in Bengaluru, he said, “The city has a very strong quizzing history. Earlier, when I was in Chennai, I used to travel to Bengaluru just to attend the KQA (Karnataka Quiz Association) quizzes... whenever they conducted quizzes, we used to cross state lines just to attend them. There was always this sense that the KQA quizzes were like the pinnacle of quizzing. And if you could do well in one of those, then that kind of seals your CV as to how good you are.”After permanently moving to Bengaluru in 2014, Ashley began conducting quizzes for the KQA before expanding into the wide range of quiz events he is known for today.Beyond the quiz stage, many Bengalureans may also recognise his name on bookstore shelves — the 42-year-old has authored and co-authored eight quiz books. They had their roots in a series of quizzes that he does for The Hindu’s Sunday Magazine – after which Rupa Books approached him in 2020 to compile them into a book,

Quizzes for Quirky Minds. The other seven were all independent books, built on the pattern that Ashley incorporates into his quizzes – from topics as far apart as science, literature, and even the Indian Premier League (IPL).

There is one major difference between the quiz books and how he likes to manage a quiz. However, a book can never have an audiovisual component. He explains, “The one major difference is that none of these books can use any other media rather than print....There are no visuals, there is no audio or video, and I can’t do any cluing in terms of visuals....the quizzes that I host are heavily visual and only around five per cent of the questions are fully text based.”

However, he isn’t necessarily only aiming at people looking to prepare for a quiz. Ashley said, “My quiz books are written in such a way that they are more like entertainment. So a lot of people just pick it up and leave it on the coffee table. They give it away as gifts because you can just randomly open it up, as they have a lot of interesting themes. A lot of schools stock them as well. One thing which I also promote is purchasing the books so that people can run quizzes among circles themselves, among friends, and among family.”Ashley has been partnering with schools to establish quiz clubs, hoping to draw younger participants into the city’s quizzing scene. While Bengaluru’s quiz circuit has traditionally been dominated by older men, he says the demographic is slowly changing, with more women and students now taking part.As far as the quizzes he has been conducting are concerned, he bucks the trend again, with quizzes tending to go for a unique theme – possibly incorporating humour or even memes as he goes along. He explains, “I’m working on a quiz for the Tata Institute of Genetics and Society – all to do with genetic disorders and genetically inherited diseases. It’s a very serious topic, but I’m using a lot of GIFs and memes – using fun facts and comedy to get a very serious subject across.”Readers interested in participating in quizzes across Bengaluru are advised to join one of the WhatsApp groups of the Karnataka Quiz Association to keep an eye on timings.

Crash averted at Mumbai airport as two Air India flights come face-to-face



A major tragedy was prevented on Tuesday, July 7, due to the timely intervention of the Air Traffic Control (ATC) in Mumbai after two Air India and Air India Express aircraft came face-to-face on a runway at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.The incident occurred around 10 pm when Delhi-bound Air India flight AI 816 was preparing to take off from the same runway where an Air India Express aircraft was still parked.

Following ATC’s prompt instructions, the crew discontinued the take-off run, preventing the two aircraft from coming into conflict.Confirming the incident at the Mumbai airport, an Air India spokesperson noted that a major mishap was averted due to the prompt intervention of the ATC. “The crew operating flight AI816 from Mumbai to Delhi on July 7 discontinued the take-off run after receiving an instruction to do so from the Air Traffic Control and returned to the bay,” the spokesperson said.The airline said the aircraft would undergo mandatory inspections before being cleared for service.“The aircraft will undergo necessary checks as per standard operating procedures. Meanwhile, alternative arrangements are being made to

fly the passengers to their destination at the earliest. Air India regrets the inconvenience caused to passengers due to this unforeseen situation. At Air India, the safety and well-being of our passengers remain a top priority,” the spokesperson added.No injuries or damages were reported in the incident.The authorities refrained from disclosing why the Air India aircraft was cleared for departure while the runway was still occupied by an Air India Express flight. It is unclear whether the incident led to any further delays in the scheduled landing or take-off of the other aircraft.The incident comes amid heightened scrutiny of aviation safety and is likely to be examined in accordance with standard procedures.

Congress infighting in Nalgonda turns violent, police resort to lathi charge

Tension prevailed at Arvapally mandal headquarters in Suryapet after followers of MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and Tungaturthy MLA Mandula Samuel followers entered into heated arguments over appointments of party mandal president posts.Accusing that the MLA was taking unilateral decisions in appointment of mandal president posts, the followers of MP raised objections.The MP’s followers conducted a rally to reach Gandhi Bhavan to complain against the MLA. However, the legislator’s followers obstructed the MP’s group.Both the groups carried stones and sticks to attack each other. Despite the police trying to persuade them, the situation went out of control, forcing them to resort to lathi charge at Bajireddygudem.

Bengal rape-murder accused killed in police encounter, his mother reacts

Baruipur Bengal rape murderPrabash Mondol was shot when he snatched a policeman’s weapon and opened fire, police saidPrabhash Mondol, the main accused in the gangrape-murder of an 11-year-old in West Bengal’s Baruipur, was shot dead in an encounter after midnight. According to a police statement, a police team took Mondol to the crime scene last night to reconstruct the crime as part of the investigation. At the crime scene, police said, the accused snatched the firearm of a policeman, fired one shot at the police party and tried to escape. Police opened fire in retaliation. Mondol was injured in the firing and rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead, the police statement said.spoke to Prabhash’s mother, Sandhya, after the encounter that killed her son. “He got the punishment for the crime he committed,” she said. Sandhya Mondol said she had told police that she did not want to see her son’s body. “I grieve as a mother, but I am at peace that he got the punishment for his crime.” She said she would not even receive his body. “I don’t want to see him. No one will go. He did not listen to us,” she said, adding that Prabhash was an “addict”.A town on edge

Located about 30 km from Kolkata, Baruipur in Bengal’s South 24 Parganas district has been on the edge after the body of an 11-year-old girl was found dumped in a pond on Sunday. An autopsy confirmed sexual assault and police registered a case under charges of murder and gangrape. The stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has also been invoked. Four people have been arrested in connection with the heinous crime and a six-member Special Investigation Team is probing the incident.Three accused, Pravash Mondol, Ananda Sardar and Dibakar Sardar, were arrested earlier. Another accused, Kabir Mollah, was arrested in Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, on Tuesday night. According to police sources, Mollah fled Baruipur after the incident and was arrested after police got information that he was in Basirhat.Earlier, in a chilling development, a man suspected of being involved in the heinous crime was lynched in Baruipur, hours after the 11-year-old’s body was found dumped in a pond. Protesters also blocked roads and set tyres on fire before police brought the situation under control.According to police sources, CCTV footage from near the crime scene led to breakthrough in their investigation into the 11-year-old girl’s rape-murder. The footage showed the victim shortly before she went missing on Saturday. A day later, her body was found in a sack dumped in a pond. In the footage, Prabhash was seen accompanying her.According to police, the accused abducted her. They then consumed alcohol or ganja near a pond and raped her. Later, they drowned her into a nearby pond. During the autopsy, doctors found water in her lungs, suggesting that she was alive when the accused put her into a

ED files chargesheet against hacker Sriki, others in crypto laundering probe

Karnataka bitcoin scam , hacker Sriki, Sriki, Srikrishna Ramesh, ED chargesheet, crypto money laundering, cryptocurrency hacking, Unocoin hack, Indian Express news, Bengaluru crime newsSrikrishna Ramesh, also known as Sriki, Khandelwal, and Hegde were arrested on May 8 by ED in connection with its probe into the laundering of stolen material from crypto exchanges and gaming sites. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday filed a prosecution complaint against five people, including hacker Srikrishna Ramesh, and a private firm in connection with the laundering of funds generated by Ramesh through the hacking of multiple cryptocurrency exchanges, poker, and gaming websites.The ED prosecution complaint, which is the equivalent of a police chargesheet, was filed against Ramesh, alias Sriki, his accountant Robin Khandelwal, a close associate Sunish Hegde, a private Bengaluru IT firm, Infizy Solutions, and two officials of the firm who allegedly facilitated the transfer of funds stolen from a poker site by the hacker.Sriki, Khandelwal, and Hegde were arrested on May 8 by ED in connection with its probe into the laundering of stolen material from crypto exchanges and gaming sites. The prosecution complaint was filed by ED through its public prosecutor, Madhu N Rao, before the completion of 60 days of their custody.

Before arresting them, ED conducted searches at 12 premises linked to Sriki, his associates, and the properties of Mohammed Haris Nalapad and Omar Farook Nalapad, sons of a Congress MLA and Bengaluru Development Authority Chairman N A Haris, who have also been the hacker’s associates.According to investigation findings placed in court by ED in the course of a bail plea filed by Hegde, which was rejected on June 25, Sriki and his associates were involved in “repeated incidents of hacking, theft of VDAs (Virtual Digital Assets), data theft, extortion, and laundering of proceeds through cryptocurrency exchanges, traders, bank accounts and other financial channels.”

ED has stated that stolen VDAs, like Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies, “were liquidated through crypto trad-

sack and threw it in the pond.

Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari visited Baruipur on Monday and met the victim’s family. He stressed that the family was satisfied with the progress of the police probe. “I am satisfied after talking to them, and I think they are also satisfied,” he said. Adhikari also said the man lynched on suspicion of being involved in the crime was innocent. “The youth killed in the mob lynching, Indrajit Mondal, was also innocent. This is what the police told me; these are not my words. He (Mondal) will also get justice. I have met his family members also,” he said.The Chief Minister said the 200-odd people accused of damaging public property during a protest against the rape-murder had been identified and action will be taken against them. “All of them will be arrested. Not a single person will get respite,” he said. “Those who have instigated from behind, including those rejected by the people in the recent (assembly) elections, those who gained one seat from zero, and also some radical and anti-national forces, have been identified. The government will teach them a proper lesson,” Adhikari said. Police have so far arrested 20 people in connection with the violence during the protests. An FIR has been filed against against CPM’s central committee member Sujan Chakraborty and the party’s youth leader Layek Ali.The Chief Minister also responded to allegations that the police delayed the search for the girl after she went missing. “When we filed a missing person complaint at Baruipur police station, it was around 9 pm on Saturday. Had the police started a search operation then, went through CCTV footage, my daughter could have been found alive,” the minor’s mother had told The Indian Express. The Chief Minister said he has asked the state’s police chief to submit a report within 72 hours. “If there is any negligence regarding the time taken after the complaint was lodged, even if it is one per cent, action will be taken,” he told reporters. Family members of the victim have said they were satisfied after the Chief Minister’s visit. “He listened to us and assured us of justice. We have requested him for a police outpost, and he promised us to look into it,” one of her relatives said.

Mahua Moitra interview, Mahua Moitra, Trinamool Congress Loyalists, TMC rebel camp, Sayoni Ghosh TMC rebel camp, Mala Roy TMC rebel camp, Abhishek Banerjee, Kalyan Banerjee, Sougata Roy, TMC rebel camp, Kakali Ghosh, Trinamool Congress, Trinamool Congress, Mamata Banerjee, Sayoni Ghosh, Mala Roy, Sayoni Ghosh TMC rebel camp, Mala Roy TMC rebel camp, Kolkata news, WEST Bengal news, Indian express, current affairs Mahua Moitra slammed Bengal police over the encounterTrinamool MP’s ‘jungle law’ barbMahua Moitra, Trinamool Congress MP in the Mamata Banerjee camp in the ongoing tussle within the party, has criticised Bengal police over the encounter.

ers, particularly Robin Khandelwal, who acted as a conduit for converting illicit digital assets into fiat currency.”After the hacking crimes committed by Sriki, stolen materials were “layered through multiple bank accounts, cryptocurrency platforms and other channels before being utilised by the accused persons, including the Petitioner, for personal benefit and further criminal activities,” ED has stated.ED also stated that Sriki and his associates were involved in the hacking of the Poker Dangal, Spartan Poker, Poker Saint, GG Poker, and Poker Baazi poker websites, as well as the Unocoin cryptocurrency exchange and the Karnataka Government’s e-procurement tender platform, where Rs 11.5 crore was stolen between 2017 and 2020.The agency has said several FIRs filed against Sriki, involving similar modus operandi, common accused persons, and interconnected transactions, have been incorporated into the money laundering probe against the hacker and his associates.It has placed reliance on statements recorded under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, by the accused regarding their modus operandi as well as “digital evidence, bank account records, cryptocurrency transaction records, blockchain analysis reports and materials recovered during investigation.”ED has indicated that further investigations are underway into the exact quantum, movement, layering, and utilisation of the proceeds of the hacking crimes.Among the hacking crimes which form the basis of the money laundering prosecution complaint filed on Monday against Sriki and others is a 2018 hacking of the Poker Baazi website and a 2017 hacking of the Unocoin cryptocurrency exchange.ED has stated that Sriki, who hacked the Unocoin exchange, diverted funds through concealment to Hegde and others.“The stolen Bitcoins (proceeds of crime) were disposed of through various cryptocurrency trading platforms. The sale proceeds were routed and layered through multiple bank accounts and were utilised for the personal expenses of Srikrishna and his associates, namely Omar Farook Nalapad, Mohammed Haris Nalapad, Aqeeb Khan, Sunish Hegde and Sujay Raj,” ED said in its court filings noted by the district court last month.

Why is Mumbai seeing record rain in an El Niño year?

Between July 1 and 7, the India Meteorological Department’s (IMD) Colaba observatory recorded 791 mm of rainfall, surpassing its entire July climatological average of 768.5 mm. Meanwhile, the weather bureau’s Santacruz observatory recorded 879 mm of rainfall against its monthly average of 919.9 mm.The heavy rainfall has come even as the country continues to experience the effects of El Niño, a climate phenomenon in which sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean become unusually warm, often delaying the onset of the southwest monsoon. Although the monsoon reached Mumbai nearly two weeks later than usual, it entered an active phase by the end of June, bringing intense rainfall to the city and several parts of coastal Maharashtra.Scientists said there is no contradiction. While El Niño continues to influence when the monsoon arrives and how active it is, global warming is increasingly changing the way it rains. Once weather systems become active, rainfall is becoming more erratic and more intense.The latest spell also fits a longer-term trend. Between 1981 and 2000, Mumbai recorded an average annual rainfall of 2,325.8 mm. Between 2001 and 2024, the average increased to 2,672.7 mm, an increase of 346.9 mm, or nearly 15 per cent.A scooter drives

past a boy in Mumbai on a flooded Mumbai road (PTI) A scooter drives past a boy in Mumbai on a flooded Mumbai road (PTI)Science behind the high-intensity rainClimate scientists said a warmer atmosphere and rapidly warming oceans are allowing the air to hold more moisture. As a result, rainfall is increasingly occurring in short, high-intensity bursts instead of being spread over many days. Such spells can overwhelm drainage systems, trigger flash floods and expose weaknesses in urban infrastructure.“During El Niño years, the number of rainy days is lower. But we know that the character of the monsoon has changed permanently due to global warming. Rainfall now tends to occur in short-duration, high-intensity spells, whether there is an El Niño or not,” said Dr K. J. Ramesh, former Director General of the IMD.Dr Raghu Murtugudde, Emeritus Professor at the University of Maryland and former professor at IIT Bombay, said several weather systems had come together to produce the exceptionally heavy rainfall.“Mumbai saw a delayed onset, which is partly explained by El Niño. But the global warming pattern over West Asia and changes in Arabian Sea winds have also played a role, as expected.

EYE SECRETS
Editorial

India’s stand vindicated in Nijjar’s case

In September 2023, Justin Trudeau, the then Canadian Prime Minister, stood in the House of Commons and made a sensational allegation, linking the murder of pro-Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar to Indian government agents. He went on to peddle this narrative without producing any credible evidence, thereby setting bilateral relations on an unprecedented collision course. Nearly three years after Trudeau’s political harakiri, the Canadian and American authorities have now declared that there was no evidence of any official involvement by India in the killing of Nijjar, an active supporter of the Khalistan Tiger Force, in Vancouver in June 2023. The Indian position has been vindicated, but not before considerable damage was caused to its international image by reckless charges hurled by the previous regime in Ottawa. The investigators have indicted jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his close aide Goldy Brar for the murder. New Delhi had steadfastly denied the involvement of its officials at any level in the assassination. It is well-known that there are warring factions within the extremist pro-Khalistan groups operating on Canadian soil, and they are often engaged in violent clashes with one another. India has argued that Nijjar’s killing could have been the result of one such conflict. More importantly, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has red-flagged the growing global threat posed by transnational criminal syndicates. The well-coordinated “Operation Hard Ball”, involving law enforcement agencies from the US, Canada and Europe, demonstrates an unprecedented level of international cooperation against criminal networks engaged in murder, extortion, drug trafficking and racketeering.

These syndicates, which respect no borders, are exploiting the Indian diaspora to sustain their operations. The outcome of the probe into Nijjar’s killing has come as a major diplomatic relief for India. It augurs well for India-Canada relations, which have been put back on track ever since Mark Carney succeeded Trudeau last year. The new regime has been taking sagacious steps to revive the relations. Carney’s pragmatic approach towards India helped send an unambiguous message to anti-India elements that they cannot take Canada’s freedom for granted in order to malign India. In fact, the key issue festering for decades is a free hand given to anti-India extremist elements operating on Canadian soil. For India, the real issue remains Ottawa’s consistent failure to act on specific evidence regarding criminal activities being carried out by Canada-based organisations and individuals. Now, things are changing for the better. Ottawa has repeatedly given the impression that it no longer links India to criminal activities on its soil. The latest findings also highlight the importance of allowing criminal investigations to proceed on the basis of evidence rather than political speculation. The indictment reinforces New Delhi’s long-standing concerns about organised crime networks operating across continents despite their leaders’ incarceration. It is clear that criminal organisations have evolved into highly networked enterprises that can strike at any time, anywhere.

4 of a family electrocuted in Maharashtra’s Satara



Satara electrocution, Maharashtra electrocution, family electrocuted, live cable, overhead power line, heavy rainThe Satara district police said the accident took place at 6 am in Khamgaon village in Phaltan taluka, which has been receiving heavy rain. Four members of a family were electrocuted in Maharashtra’s Satara district on Wednesday morning after a cable, which had come in contact with an overhead power line, turned live.The Satara district police said the accident took place at 6 am in Khamgaon village in Phaltan taluka, which has been receiving heavy rain.

The police identified the family members as Satish Kisan Shinde, 45, his wife Gangu Shinde, 42, and their children, Sachin and Aarti.“Preliminary probe suggests that a cable snapped and became live upon touching an overhead power line. One family member came into contact with this cable and received an electric shock. Others tried to rescue him, and they too received shocks,” Satara Superintendent of Police Nikhil Pingle said.The police have registered a case of Accidental Death at Phaltan Rural Police Station.The police said the exact circumstances leading to the cable snapping and coming into contact with the power line are being investigated.The police and electricity distribution officials are also probing whether the recent heavy rainfall in the area contributed to the accident, including by weakening infrastructure or causing the cable to come in contact with the overhead power line.

2 Mumbai lakes are overflowing: Should you worry about flooding?



Vihar and Tulsi, two of Mumbai’s smallest potable water-supplying lakes, filled on Tuesday night following heavy, relentless downpours and have begun overflowing.Vihar Lake hit 100 per cent capacity and started spilling over at 9 pm on Tuesday, followed shortly by Tulsi Lake, which began overflowing at 11.43 pm. Both reservoirs are located within the dense foliage of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and are part of the seven-lake network that meets Mumbai’s daily drinking water demands.Tulsi is Mumbai’s smallest lake reservoir, with a total holding capacity of 8,046 million litres. Vihar is the second-smallest, with a storage capacity of 27,698 million litres, supplying 90 million litres of water to the city every day. Commissioned in 1860, Vihar is the oldest man-made reservoir in the city, its origin coinciding with the historical growth of the erstwhile Bombay city. Tulsi Lake’s water was formally channelled into the city by the then-Governor, Sir Richard Temple Bart, on March 15,

Shinde Sena distances itself from accused corporator in Thane hospital assault; 3 held



Shiv Sena’s Kalyan MP Dr Shrikant Eknath Shinde on Wednesday distanced the party from the alleged assault on doctors and medical staff at Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC)’s Shastri Nagar Hospital in Dombivli, Thane, saying no individual involved in the attack would be shielded.Dr Shrikant, a doctor and son of Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, said strict disciplinary action would be taken within the party against those found guilty.His remarks came as the Thane police arrested three associates of Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre in connection with the incident. The police named Mhatre as an absconding accused and have formed multiple teams to track him down. Another woman, named an accused, is also absconding in the case.The healthcare staff of the KDMC hospital alleged they were assaulted Tuesday by Mhatre and some of his supporters following a dispute over the referral of a pregnant patient, triggering a strike by hospital staff.“Patient service is not merely a job”Dr Shrikant Eknath Shinde said he would stand firmly with all doctors, nurses, and medical staff at KDMC Hospital.

“As a doctor myself, I know that patient service is not merely a job but a service to humanity. In extremely adverse and stressful conditions, doctors, nurses, and other health workers labour day and night for the public’s service,” he posted on X.The accused, who were arrested, have been identified as Ramesh Pawar, 50, Pramod Nikam, 35, and Akshay Karande, 30, who were seen assaulting the hospital staff.“We have arrested three associates of the corporator who are seen in the CCTV footage

1879.Why overflow means continuous monitoringThe overflow from both Tulsi and Vihar lakes drains directly into the Mithi River, which cuts through the heart of Mumbai before emptying into the Arabian Sea. For city administrators, the overflow from these twin reservoirs underscores the need to monitor the Mithi River’s water levels, especially if heavy rains persist.“The overflow of Vihar Lake goes into the Mithi River. We will now be closely monitoring the situation,” Mumbai Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide said Wednesday.

For the average citizen, there is no immediate cause for alarm, but those living in low-lying areas near the Mithi River should remain vigilant.The concern stems from recent history. Heavy, incessant downpours between August 18 and 19 last year caused Vihar Lake to overflow intensely, pushing the Mithi River near its dangerous 4.2-metre breach mark.The resulting surge caused the Mithi and an adjacent major storm drain to overflow onto city streets, inundating low-lying areas near the airport lands in Kurla. In a preemptive move, the BMC and the Mumbai Police evacuated more than 350 residents from the area.Lake levels overallWhile the Vihar and Tulsi lakes have reached 100 per cent of their capacity, the total water stock in the seven lakes on Wednesday was at 41.36 per cent of 5.98 lakh million litres.Besides Tulsi and Vihar, Mumbai draws its daily water supply from Bhatsa, Upper Vaitarna, Middle Vaitarna, Modak Sagar, and Tansa, which together have a storage capacity of 14.47 lakh million litres.Earlier on Wednesday morning, lake levels reached 28.92 per cent, up from 16.92 per cent on Tuesday. This steady rise in lake levels has been driven by heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of the water supply lakes at the beginning of the month.

assaulting the hospital staff. The accused will be produced before the local court, and their custody will be sought for further interrogation,” Suhas Hemade, ACP, said.Meanwhile, the Maharashtra State Nurses Association (MSNA) on Tuesday announced a three-day statewide black-ribbon protest from July 10 over the attack on medical staff. The association has warned of stronger agitation if no action is taken against those responsible by July 13, and indicated that the state government would be responsible if the stir affects patient care.In a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the association described the assault by corporators as “serious and condemnable”, stating that the government has a primary responsibility to ensure the safety and security of healthcare workers, particularly women employees, at their workplace. It said the involvement of public representatives in such an incident had raised serious concerns about the safety of doctors and nurses on duty.Dr Manisha Shinde, president of the state nurses’ body, said the recurring attacks on healthcare workers reflected a lack of fear of the law among offenders.“People have no fear of law and order and think they can get away easily after assaulting doctors, nurses or any other medical staff deployed to treat them. There has to be strict action against such people so that no one dares to repeat such acts. There are laws and amendments, but most of them exist only on paper. In the past, too, similar incidents have occurred where the accused secured bail and nothing really happened thereafter. Doctors and nurses are already treating an overwhelming number of patients despite being understaffed and overworked,” Shinde said, demanding a serious step from the chief minister. The association demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible and sought stringent action under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Maharashtra Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act, 2010.The association also raised long-pending staffing issues in government hospitals. It urged the government to sanction additional posts in all medical institutions in view of the rising patient load and to immediately provide adequate nursing and support staff for the additional hospital beds that have been made operational across the state

Rs 9-crore US injection offers hope for Ludhiana toddler with rare genetic disorder, family seeks help



A toddler from Ludhiana, battling a rare genetic disorder that has left him unable to walk or sit without support, has been prescribed a life-saving injection available only in the US and costing around Rs 9 crore. The family has appealed for financial assistance, saying the treatment is far beyond their means.Aarav Thakur, who will turn two on July 22, was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type II, a rare and progressive genetic disorder that affects the nerve cells controlling muscle movement. Children with SMA gradually lose the ability to sit, stand, walk, move independently and swallow properly, and in severe cases, even breathe without support. Without timely treatment, the loss of muscle function can become permanent.

According to a prescription issued by Dr Renu Suthar of the Department of Pediatrics at PGIMER, Chandigarh, Aarav urgently requires Zolgensma (Onasemnogene ABEPRAVOVEC), a single-dose intravenous gene therapy. The global cost of the treatment is estimated at 1.7 million USD (around Rs 16 crore).“However, since we are raising funds through a registered crowdfunding platform and not through our personal bank account, the injection will cost us around Rs 9 crore after tax exemptions and other concessions. It will be imported from the US. My child is racing against time because the injection should ideally be administered before he turns two. He will turn two on

July 22, leaving us with just two weeks,” Radhika Thakur, Aarav’s mother, told .A resident of Subhash Nagar in Ludhiana, Radhika said her husband, Gaurav Thakur, works as an engineer in Dubai.

“My baby was born in Dubai, but we soon started noticing problems with his physical development. He could not stand, stopped crawling, and now he cannot even sit without support. His developmental milestones kept getting delayed. At first, we thought some children simply take longer to walk, but eventually we realised something was seriously wrong. Genetic tests confirmed SMA Type II. I left my job in Dubai, returned to India and began his treatment at PGIMER Chandigarh,” she said.“

Armed Delhi taxi driver fights man on Dwarka Expressway



A heated road rage confrontation involving the drivers of three cars near the Dwarka Expressway Tunnel in Delhi, captured on video and widely shared online, is now under police investigation.The purported video of the incident which took place on Monday evening shows

Consumer consent not required for installation of smart meters: Gujarat Electricity ombudsman



CAN A power utility replace your electricity meter without your permission? As smart meters replace old meters in several parts of Gujarat, a Vadodara businessman’s challenge has settled the question.The Gujarat Electricity Ombudsman has upheld Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited’s (MGVCL) decision to replace the consumer’s existing meter and subsequently disconnect supply over unpaid dues of Rs 235.

M D Patel, who runs a commercial establishment in Pratapnagar, challenged a May 12, 2026 order of the Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum (CGRF), Baroda City Circle, which rejected his objections to the installation of a smart meter and the subsequent disconnection of his power supply.According to Patel’s representation, MGVCL “unilaterally, without prior specific written notice, safety warnings, or the explicit consent of the Appellant” replaced his working meter with a smart meter on December 18, 2025. He claimed this triggered a “system-side server mismatch” that broke his bank auto-debit mandate – even though his other electricity connections on the same mandate continued functioning without a single default.When his electricity supply was disconnected on March 27 this year, Patel argued, the MGVCL had failed to issue the mandatory 15-day individual notice required under Section 56(1) of the Electricity Act. Patel pointed out that a routine bill footer “cannot legally take the place of” a statutory notice. He also alleged that MGVCL’s silence on his RTI queries about the legal basis for mandatory smart meters amounted to an admission that no such mandate existed, and sought Rs 25,000 in compensation along with restoration of his old meter.The MGVCL, however, argued that the smart meter installation formed part of a larger rollout undertaken under the Central Electricity Authority’s 2019 Metering Regulations and the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission Supply Code, both of which empower distribution companies to upgrade metering infrastructure without obtaining individual consumer consent.The utility rejected Patel’s contention that the meter replacement had interfered with his payment mandate, arguing that auto-debit instructions are linked to the consumer number rather than the meter number itself.According to MGVCL, no payment had been received against the connection since December 2025 and the disconnection was carried out during a routine drive against defaulting consumers in March 2026. It also maintained that the statutory requirement of notice had been satisfied through warnings incorporated in the billing cycle in line with a 2021 advisory issued by the Ministry of Power.

Electricity Ombudsman R G Devdhara found no fault in either the meter replacement or the disconnection process. “The material placed on record establishes that the Smart Meter was installed by the Respondent in compliance with the aforesaid provisions,” the Ombudsman observed while rejecting the challenge to the installation on June 29.The order also dismissed the auto-debit claim, noting that “except the appellant’s contention, no technical evidence has been produced to establish any nexus between installation of the Smart Meter and failure of the banking auto-debit facility.”On the issue of disconnection notices – which were the core of Patel’s case, the Ombudsman held that the argument that a separate individual notice was mandatory before disconnecting supply was “not acceptable”, observing that the applicable supply code permits disconnection warnings to be incorporated within regular electricity bills.The order concluded that the smart meter installation was carried out in accordance with the prevailing statutory and regulatory framework. The order held that “...the installation of the smart meter by the respondent was in accordance with the prevailing statutory and regulatory framework, the allegation regarding failure of the auto-debit facility due to installation of the smart meter has not been established and the disconnection of electricity supply was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the GERC Electricity Supply Code, 2015 and its Amendments. Accordingly, no error apparent on record or legal infirmity is found in the Order (of the) Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum, Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited, Baroda City (Circle).”Accordingly, the Ombudsman upheld the CGRF’s order and dismissed Patel’s appeal.However, the order directed MGVCL to restore electricity supply through the smart meter already installed at the premises once the consumer clears outstanding dues, reconnection charges and other applicable charges.The utility was also directed to monitor the functioning of the smart meter during subsequent billing cycles to ensure accurate recording of consumption and billing, and to facilitate third-party testing of the meter in the event the consumer seeks an independent verification in future. No costs were awarded.

a taxi driver holding a wooden rod, grabbing the driver of a Wagon R by the collar, and shouting at him on the Dwarka Expressway. The driver of a Kia Seltos stopped his vehicle nearby, got out, and began arguing with both men.According to police, they received information after a PCR call was made around 7.44 pm on July 7.“The caller alleged that following a minor collision between his WagonR and a white Maruti Ertiga taxi, the taxi driver attempted to assault him with a stick. In self-defence, the caller reportedly pushed the taxi driver, who fell against a parked Kia Seltos, causing minor damage to the vehicle. The owner of the Kia Seltos stopped the caller seeking compensation, while the taxi driver allegedly fled the scene,” a police officer said.

PCR personnel reached the spot, where the caller informed them that the taxi driver had already left. The caller and the owner of the Kia Seltos subsequently resolved the matter, the officer said.

‘Consent to capture not consent to share’: Karnataka revenge porn order

The Karnataka Police Monday ordered all law enforcement officers across the state to mandatorily register FIRs in cases involving the non-consensual publication or dissemination of intimate photos and videos. The order follows a spike in complaints that local police personnel were either delaying or altogether dismissing cases when victims approached them regarding sextortion, blackmail, and revenge pornography. In several instances, it was revealed that officers turned down complaints under the flawed assumption that the victim had originally consented to the content being captured.

In the order dated 15 June, Director General of Police M A Saleem stated, "Consent to capture and consent to disseminate are two entirely separate legal concepts. Even if a victim had agreed to be photographed or filmed, sharing that content with a third party without their permission constitutes a cognisable offence." The order cited the Supreme Court's ruling in Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India (2017), which established the Right to Privacy, including bodily privacy and the right to control dissemination of personal information, as a fun-

Ex-TMC minister Udayan Guha, linked to 2021 post-poll violence, held in Kolkata

Trinamool Congress leader Udayan Guha on Wednesday became the third minister from the Mamata Banerjee government to be arrested after the BJP came to power in West Bengal. The police have yet to reveal details of his arrest, but sources hinted at post-poll violence and fraud cases. The police picked Guha up from his Phulbagan home in Kolkata in the afternoon and will take him to Cooch Behar, sources said.

Guha, who was the minister for North Bengal development and also handled the TMC's organisational responsibilities in Cooch Behar, has kept a low profile since losing the May elections to the BJP by a huge margin. He had since left Cooch Behar for Kolkata. Guha, who wielded considerable influence under TMC rule, often made controversial remarks and issued public threats. Multiple police cases, including on charges of fraud and intimidation, have been registered against Guha. He was also linked to incidents of post-poll violence in 2021, and

‘Even Yamraj can’t open files they close’: Yogi Adityanath’s jab at IAS officers

In a jibe at the bureaucracy, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday said IPS officers were earlier "suppressed" by IAS officers, buried in files, in such a way that the files would never be opened. "Yaani Yamraj bhi aa jaye to IAS se file khulwana kathin hi ho jaat hai. Yahi hota tha. Wo khulti hi nahi thi... pata nahi kahan wo padi rahti thi (In other words, even if Yamraj comes, it is difficult to get a file opened by an IAS officer. That used to be the situation. The files were never opened... no one knew where they were kept)," he said. CM defends Police Commissionerate system The CM made the remarks while referring to the Police Commissionerate system in Uttar Pradesh at an event to distribute appointment letters to newly recruited computer operators in the UP Police. He said the system had been under consideration since 1972 but no one "dared to bring it into existence". "I have enforced the commissionerate system in seven districts. This is part of police reform. Those who do not know about police reform raise their fingers at the commissionerate system."

What is the Commissionerate system?

He wanted to marry boy’s mother: Why bank manager killed a 6-year-old

A 28-year-old private bank manager allegedly lured a six-year-old boy from outside his Meerut home and killed him by slitting his throat — all because he wanted to marry the child's mother, police said. The accused, Arpit Parashar, a resident of Muzaffarnagar, was arrested on Wednesday. Police said they recovered the boy's body from a field located about 10 km from his house.

Abhijeet Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police, Meerut, said when questioned, Parashar tried to mislead police by claiming that he had disposed of the body in a canal. The accused eventually admitted that he had allegedly killed the child by slitting his throat with a sharp-edged weapon. Police are also questioning the boy's mother, Gurpreet Kaur, who has so far denied any knowledge of the alleged crime, said Additional SP Kumar. The victim, Angadveer, lived with his family in Meerut. His father, Gursevak, works as a truck driver in Dubai.

A senior police officer said the accused told them that he had known Gurpreet for around three years after meeting her in connection with some work and had hoped to marry her. During questioning, he allegedly claimed that he viewed the young boy as an obstacle to those plans, leading him to plot the child's abduction. According to police, Angadveer was playing outside his home in

Room locked, Rs 1.15 crore gone: South Delhi burglary echoes ‘kaccha baniyan’ gang

In May, Delhi Police arrested six alleged members of the 'kaccha baniyan' gang who had carried out two back-to-back robberies in South Delhi's Sarvodaya Enclave. Forty-seven days later, burglars using a strikingly similar modus operandi targeted another upscale South Delhi neighbourhood, escaping with diamond jewellery and Rs 50,000 in cash worth around Rs 1.15 crore in all. On June 19, 54-year-old Amitabh Prasad and his wife woke up around 8 am to find themselves locked inside the bedroom of their ground-floor house in Vasant Kunj's D Block.

"They used a set of spare keys to unlock the door. When they came out, they found to their shock that their whole house had been turned upside down," a police officer said. The cupboards had been ransacked, and dia-

damental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. Saleem stated that violating this rule constitutes voyeurism, and a case can be filed under Section 77 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The order states, "Capturing or distributing images of a woman engaged in a private act without her consent can result in imprisonment for one to three years for a first offence, and three to seven years for repeat offences." Beyond BNS provisions, offenders can also be booked under Sections 66(e), 67, and 67(a) of the Information Technology (IT) Act. Capturing or publishing images of a person's private areas without consent under the IT Act is punishable by up to seven years' imprisonment. Crucially, these specific sections of the IT Act are gender-neutral. DGP warns of disciplinary action The DGP warned of strict disciplinary action against any officer who denies or delays the registration of an FIR involving non-consensual intimate content. For female victims, officers are instructed to invoke Section 77 of the BNS alongside relevant provisions of the IT Act.

sources said the police had been searching for him. Guha is the son of former Forward Bloc heavyweight Kamal Guha. He won the 2011 Assembly elections as a Forward Bloc candidate but later joined the TMC and won the 2016 polls for the party .

According to police sources, Rupam Saha has filed a complaint alleging that at least Rs 20–25 crore was collected from Udayan Bazar for a government hospital's children's unit after the 2021 Assembly elections, but work worth even Rs 40–45 lakh was not carried out. Dinhata BJP MLA Ajay Roy said Guha faced several cases, ranging from those related to BJP worker Ratan Barman's murder to allegations of cut money, fraud, and more. "His name was also linked to post-poll violence in 2021. He should have been arrested long ago. We demand strict punishment," the MLA said. Sujit Basu and Ullwal Biswas are the other two former ministers arrested after the new government took over in the state.

Under the commissionerate system, the Commissioner of Police (CP) is the head of a unified police command structure, is responsible for the force in the city, and is accountable to the state government. The office also has magisterial powers, including those related to regulation, control, and licensing. The CP is drawn from the Deputy Inspector General rank or above, and is assisted by Special/Joint/Additional/Deputy Commissioners. Expansion of police training capacity On police recruitment, the CM said that earlier, police training centres in UP had the capacity to train up to 3,000 policemen only. "In 2017, we had to rely on training centres of the military and para-military in other states to train our policemen." Now, he said, the centres available have been developed with enough capacity to accommodate and conduct the training of thousands of policemen. Stating that the government expects from the policemen efficiency in performing the duty, Adityanath said, "We often see policemen making reels during duty hours. This is indiscipline. We have to be alert towards our duty instead of making reels. We should not do such an activity which makes us an object of mockery. Fingers are raised at the system," he added.

Ramraj village on Tuesday morning when he suddenly disappeared. As the hours passed and the six-year-old failed to return, panic spread through the family. His grandmother, Balvinder Kaur, later filed a kidnapping complaint at the Hasuma police station, naming Parashar as a suspect.

During the probe, police collected footage from CCTV cameras installed in the neighbourhood. The recordings purportedly showed Angadveer walking and playing outside when a person inside a white car appeared to call out to him. The boy was seen approaching the vehicle and getting inside without resistance, suggesting he may have recognised one of its occupants. Police said the footage quickly became a crucial lead in the investigation, reinforcing suspicions that the child may have willingly approached the vehicle because he recognised someone inside. Police then shifted the focus of the investigation from kidnapping by unknown persons towards people known to the family. Acting on leads gathered during the preliminary inquiry, police detained Parashar for questioning. During questioning, he allegedly admitted to the crime and said he took the victim from outside his home before driving away with him and killing him. SHO Kumar added that police are still questioning the accused to establish the full circumstances of the case.

mond jewellery and Rs 50,000 in cash were missing. Prasad also found the living room window open. "CCTV footage from the area showed four people scaling the boundary wall to enter the locality. They then reached the house and accessed its rear by jumping over the gate," said the officer. Police said CCTV footage from inside the house shows two men, both shirtless and wearing trousers. One had a saffron dupatta around his neck, while the other was wearing a white mask. The two are seen moving through adjoining rooms, searching them before briefly stopping to speak to each other. "They got out from a window, and stayed on the rear porch for some time before leaving," said a police officer. D Block comprises a cluster of white and cream four-storey residential buildings with flats valued in crores of rupees.

Royal Bengal Tiger spotted in Himachal forest, may be missing big cat from Uttarakhand’s Rajaji Park

The unexpected appearance of a Royal Bengal tiger in the forests of Paonta Sahib has put forest officials from two states, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, on alert, who are now closely monitoring the big cat's movements in the region. The tiger was captured on camera in the Khara block of the Paonta Sahib forest range in Sirmaur district on June 14. The image, recorded by a trap camera mounted on a tree, has provided the first concrete evidence of a tiger's presence in the area, following months of claims by residents of Tokka and Lie villages, located around 7-8 km from the forest block.

What makes the sighting particularly significant is the possibility that the animal could be the same tiger that has remained undocumented in the nearby Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand for nearly a year. Although the aerial distance between Khara and Rajaji National Park is estimated at only 30-40 km, the road distance is around 85 km. The two regions share a contiguous forested landscape, making the interstate movement of wildlife a distinct possibility. Forest officials in Himachal Pradesh have yet to ascertain the tiger's gender. However, they have found pugmarks and claw marks on trees near the camera trap, indicating the animal may have been frequenting the area for at least two to three days. A tiger left the claw marks on trees and a mixture of urine and anal gland secretions on trees to mark its territory.

Director of Rajaji National Park, Dehradun, Dr Koko Rose, confirmed that information regarding the sighting had been shared with Uttarakhand authorities. "Forest officials of Himachal Pradesh have informed us about the tiger sighting in Paonta Sahib. At this stage, we are not ruling out the possibility that it could be the same tiger that has not been documented in Rajaji National Park for nearly a year. The Paonta Sahib forest range and Rajaji National Park share the same landscape and ecological corridor. There is considerable scope for interstate movement of wildlife," Dr Rose told. He said a team from Rajaji National Park would visit Paonta Sahib to inspect the site and examine the camera trap images. Dr Rose recalled that a Royal Bengal tiger had also been recorded in the Simbalbara National Park area of Paonta Sahib in 2023. "That tiger had moved from Rajaji National Park into Himachal Pradesh before eventually returning to Uttarakhand. The tiger that has remained undocumented in Rajaji over the past year is a female," he said.

Forest officials believe the recently operational elevated stretch of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway, which passes through Rajaji National Park, may also be facilitating safer movement of wildlife between Uttarakhand and neighbouring states. The nearly 12-km elevated corridor has been designed to maintain ecological connec-

Lawyer’s call leads police to woman’s body, boyfriend arrested for murder in Bengaluru

A phone call from a lawyer led the Bengaluru police to the body of a 20-year-old woman in a locked Malleswaram house, and to the arrest of her live-in partner on murder charges Tuesday, two days after the killing. According to the police Wednesday, the murder of N D Anusha came to light after a lawyer told them that a man named Sharath had called him Sunday, June 14, saying he had killed his live-in partner. After getting the lawyer's call, the police said they immediately rushed to the rented house and opened the door with the key kept on a window. They found Anusha's body in the kitchen.

The police said Anusha, an orphan, met Sharath, 27, on Instagram and fell in love with him. They arrived in Bengaluru from Sakleshpur in Hassan district six months

Delayed monsoon forces rethink on kharif sowing: Farmers advised to use more seeds, cut acreage

With the monsoon yet to gain momentum across Maharashtra, agricultural universities have recommended a series of contingency measures for farmers, including increasing seed usage by up to 30 per cent, adopting intercropping patterns and reducing the area under cultivation to minimise losses from delayed sowing. The recommendations form part of the state's Kharif Preparedness Report for 2026-27 and are aimed at helping farmers cope with a prolonged delay in rainfall, extended dry spells, rain deficits and possible drought-like conditions. Agriculture experts have cautioned farmers against sowing cotton and soybeans beyond the third week of July, warning that delayed sowing could severely impact yields and increase financial risks.

The state expects kharif sowing over 145 lakh hectares this year, down from 157 lakh hectares last season. Officials fear the actual area under cultivation could shrink further if the monsoon remains weak. In its submission to the Agriculture Department, agricultural universities stressed that crop selection, seed varieties and sowing schedules would have to be adjusted according to rainfall patterns. "The delayed monsoon and drought-like conditions call for careful crop planning. Otherwise, productivity will fall, and farmers may suffer substantial financial losses," an official familiar with the report said. The Dr Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth in Akola has recommended that farmers increase cottonseed usage by 20 per cent if the monsoon is delayed by two to three weeks. For sowing between July 2 and July 15, it has advised cultivators to opt for suitable American and in-

Hyderabad’s viral Korean Ice Cup craze takes over supermarket aisles

Hyderabad: A new social media craze has landed in Hyderabad, and this time, it is unfolding inside a supermarket aisle. The viral Korean Ice Cup has arrived at Q Mart Convenio in Sattva Knowledge City, with drinks by Quenchery, drawing curious shoppers who are stopping by not just for a beverage, but for the experience. Priced at ₹235, the experience begins with customers picking up a cup filled with ice before heading to the refrigerated section to choose a Korean drink pouch. Flavours include Blueberry, Mango, Peach, Green Apple and Strawberry. The pouch is then poured into the ice-filled cup, recreating the viral drink that has been making

tivity and reduce disturbance to wildlife habitats. According to the latest tiger census, Rajaji National Park is home to 51 Royal Bengal tigers. Wildlife experts note that an adult tiger typically requires around 20 square kilometres of territory, often prompting dispersal into adjoining forest landscapes in search of space and prey.

Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Aditya Sharma of Paonta Sahib described the sighting as both encouraging and cautionary. "The presence of a tiger in the Khara forest block is encouraging from a conservation perspective, but it also requires us to remain vigilant. We are increasing the number of camera traps in the area to monitor its movement," Sharma said. He pointed out that the forests of Paonta Sahib closely resemble those of adjoining Uttarakhand, with extensive stretches of sal and teak (sagwan) forests. "The movement of Asiatic elephants between Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh is already well documented. Elephants regularly move through these forest corridors and even reach Kalesar National Park in Haryana. Similar movement by tigers is entirely possible," he added.

Officials said the abundance of prey species, including nilgai (blue bull), sambar and other ungulates, makes the Paonta Sahib forests an attractive habitat for large carnivores. Interestingly, local residents have long referred to the elusive animal as a 'dhariwala tiger' and claimed to have spotted it on multiple occasions over the past several months. Some residents also reported seeing vultures circling overhead in the area, a sign often associated with predator activity. Until now, however, there was no photographic evidence to substantiate these claims. The June 14 camera-trap image has finally validated those accounts, a forest officer said. No immediate threat to humans Officials said the tiger has so far remained 4-5 km away from human habitations, reducing the immediate risk of conflict. The area is also frequented by the Gujjar and Gaddi shepherd communities, as well as other nomadic grazers who move through the forests seasonally.

Meanwhile, ACF Sharma has constituted a monitoring team comprising Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ved Parkash, Forest Range Officer Surinder Sharma, Forest Block Officer Mudsar, and Forest Guard Virender Chauhan to closely monitor the tiger's movements. Notably, in February 2023, a tiger was captured on a camera trap in Simbalbara National Park for the first time, marking the park's first recorded tiger sighting. Forest officials believe the latest sighting could indicate that the forested landscape of Paonta Sahib is increasingly emerging as an important wildlife corridor connecting Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana.

ago and began living in Ramesh Babu PN's house as tenants. They said Babu was unaware of the murder. A fight over cleaning the kitchen The police said they traced Sharath through his Call Detail Records (CDR) Monday and formally arrested him the next day. An officer said Sharath confessed to the murder during interrogation and said he strangled Anusha, following a fight over not cleaning the kitchen. Sharath worked as a water tanker driver and Anusha stayed at home, the officer added. "There is no evidence to say that Sharath and Anusha were married, and even her sister was unaware of it," the police officer added. The police said that they have registered a case of murder based on Babu's complaint. According to the First Information Report (FIR), Babu stated that Anusha and Sharath told him they were married and often fought over trivial issues.

digenous cotton varieties and adopt intercropping with jowar and tur.

The university has also suggested increasing seed usage for jowar by 20-25 per cent. For soybeans, farmers have been advised to use 75-80 kg of quality seeds per hectare. The recommendations become more stringent if the monsoon is delayed beyond five weeks. "In situations where the monsoon is delayed beyond five weeks, farmers should avoid cotton sowing. If sowing is undertaken between July 23 and July 29, farmers should use indigenous varieties, increase seed use by 25 to 30 per cent, reduce the area under cotton and give preference to tur," the report states. For soybeans, the advisory recommends completing sowing by July 25 and avoiding fresh sowing beyond that period. Farmers have also been advised against cultivating moong and urad during late sowing windows.

The Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth has prepared crop-wise recommendations based on different rainfall scenarios. According to its assessment, most kharif crops can be sown if adequate rainfall is received between However, if rains are delayed beyond July 8, farmers should focus on crops such as cotton, jowar, bajra, soybean, tur, sesame and sunflower, while avoiding crops such as moong and groundnut. The university has also advised caution in cotton cultivation if rainfall arrives only in the second half of July. Similarly, the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth in Rahuri has recommended that if rainfall arrives by the first week of July, farmers should prefer crops such as bajra, groundnut, tur, castor and sunflower and adopt intercropping practices to reduce risk.

the rounds on Instagram and other social media platforms. The experience has quickly turned into a content creator's delight. Videos show shoppers browsing through the flavours, picking their favourite pouch, pouring it over the ice and taking their first sip, often with a phone camera recording every step. For many, the supermarket has become the newest backdrop for Hyderabad's latest viral reels. The internet, however, remains divided. While many are excited that they can finally try the Korean favourite without leaving the city, others are questioning whether the ₹235 price tag is worth it. "No need to fly to Seoul for the viral ice cup experience, found the ultimate Korean pouch drinks right here in Hyderabad," wrote one creator while sharing a video.



Iran targets sites in Bahrain, Kuwait after wave of US strikes



Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they targeted U.S. military sites in Bahrain and Kuwait on Wednesday after the U.S. launched a wave of military strikes on Iran in response to attacks on tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. In the latest blow to the fragile ceasefire agreement, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it carried out a joint missile and drone operation against key U.S. military sites in Bandar Salman, Bahrain's Fifth Naval District and Ali ?Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, and shot down a U.S. MQ-9 drone attempting to interfere in the operation. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

Air raid sirens sounded in Bahrain and Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti army said air defences were confronting "hostile" missile and drone attacks. There was no immediate comment on the strikes from the U.S. military. The U.S. earlier unleashed fresh military strikes and revoked a licence allowing Iran to sell oil in response to attacks on three tankers in the strait. The U.S. Central Command said more than 60 small boats of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps were among the targets hit during the operation, which was ?intended to impose a heavy cost on Iran for strikes on shipping in violation of the ceasefire. "The unwarranted aggression by Iranian forces is a clear and dangerous violation of the ceasefire and undermines freedom of navigation," CENTCOM said ?in a statement. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte told reporters before a summit of NATO leaders in Ankara that the new attacks by the U.S. on Iran were "absolutely necessary." "When you have a ?ceasefire and Iran is basically violating the ceasefire, I think it is totally crucial that the U.S. forcefully react," Rutte said. Iran's top joint military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, condemned the U.S. strikes as a "blatant act of aggression," threatened a "crushing response," and ?warned that Tehran would not allow U.S. interference in the management of the strait.

A top Iranian negotiator, parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, accused the U.S. of breaching the ceasefire agreement. He cited not only the latest U.S. military strikes, but renewed oil ?sanctions, violations of Iranian "adjustments" in the Strait of Hormuz, and Israeli attacks against Lebanon. "The era of bullying and extortion is over," Qalibaf said in a post on X. "We don't fold." Iranian media earlier reported explosions in Iran's main oil hub of Kharg Island, on Qeshm Island and in the southern port cities of Sirik and Bandar Abbas. Iran's Press TV reported several blasts were heard in southern Kharg Island. CENTCOM made no mention of Kharg Island, from which Iran exports 90% of its crude oil. A U.S. official told Reuters that strikes targeted Iranian air defence systems, coastal surveillance systems, surface-to-air ?missiles,

anti-ship cruise missiles and drone launch sites. No civilian deaths were reported in Iran, but several people were injured by shrapnel from an "enemy projectile" that hit a commercial pier in Sirik, according to an Iranian state TV reporter. The reports said strikes also hit fishing piers in Sirik and in Bandar Abbas. The incidents were the latest threat to the fragile ceasefire agreement the U.S. and Iran struck last month, pausing the conflict that started with U.S. and Israeli strikes across the Islamic Republic. OIL PRICES RISEItem 1 of 2 Smoke rises from a fire after an explosion, amid reports of explosions by Iranian state media, in Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Province, Iran in this screengrab obtained from a social media video released July 8, 2026. Social Media/via REUTERS[1/2]Smoke rises from a fire after an explosion, amid reports of explosions by Iranian state media, in Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Province, Iran in this screengrab obtained from a social media video released July 8, 2026. Social Media/via REUTERS Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabIn a potentially major blow to that agreement, Washington moved on Tuesday to withdraw a key concession that had allowed Iran to sell oil on international markets. Oil prices rose more than 3% after the U.S. announced the move. A U.S. official said earlier that negotiators continued to work in good faith toward a final agreement with Iran. But control of the strait has given Tehran immense leverage, effectively allowing it to force a stalemate with the world's most powerful military. Analysts say Tehran uses attacks on ships to underscore that leverage as it negotiates a long-term peace deal with the U.S. Under the interim U.S.-Iran agreement, the U.S. Treasury issued a June 22 general licence to allow the sale of crude oil and petrochemical and petroleum products of Iranian origin through August 21. In revoking that licence on Tuesday, it gave Iran ?until July 17 to wind down any transactions. ANY MEASURE NECESSARYIran's ?foreign ministry condemned the move as a breach of ?the framework agreement to end the war and said Washington would bear responsibility for the consequences. The ministry said early on Wednesday that Iran would take any measure it deemed necessary to safeguard its interests and national security. While Tehran denied responsibility for the latest strikes on ships in the strait, Qatar blamed Iran for attacking the vessels, including the huge Qatari liquefied natural gas tanker, ?the Al ReKayyat, which reported being struck by a drone that caused a fire in its engine room. The crew were safe and being evacuated. A Saudi-flagged crude oil tanker, believed to ?be the supertanker Wedyan, was also ?damaged off Oman, maritime security sources said. The cause was not immediately clear. Iran's foreign ministry said Qatar's accusations were perplexing and that Tehran was diligently fulfilling its commitments. Even so, it said commercial vessels faced risks for using routes not coordinated with Iran. A second U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said initial indications were that Iran had fired at three commercial vessels. Iran's clerical rulers aim to install a permanent system to collect fees in what would amount to a huge shift of the balance of power in a region ?where Washington has long ?acted as guarantor of security.

The U.S. strikes came after huge crowds mourned Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in the holy city of Qom. Khamenei was ?killed with his daughter, granddaughter, son-in-law and daughter-in-law on the war's first day. The ceasefire was intended to provide a 60-day window for negotiations on a permanent agreement, but indirect talks in Qatar ended last week with no sign of headway. U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to resume bombing unless Iran agrees to "make a deal.

A fire in its engine room. A Saudi-flagged crude oil tanker, believed to be the supertanker Wedyan, was also damaged ?off Oman, maritime security sources said. The cause was not immediately clear.

The attacks renewed concerns about tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which carried cargoes equal to about one-fifth of global energy supply before the war began in February. Iran is asserting its control of the Strait and has ordered ?ships to use ?a route closer to its coast rather than one nearer to Oman, which also borders the waterway. The U.S. insists the waterway must remain free to all as it was before the conflict started. Since the war started, nations have drawn down their inventories to make up for ?the supply ?shortfall. U.S. crude oil inventories fell again last week, market sources said on Tuesday, citing data from the American Petroleum Institute.

Thousands march as Khamenei's funeral procession crosses into Iraq

NAJAF, Iraq Mourners marched through Iraq's holy city of Najaf on Wednesday, following the coffin of slain Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as his six-day funeral procession, which drew huge crowds in his home country, pressed on across the border.

People carrying large portraits of ?the late leader gathered along the route and chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" as Khamenei's coffin was driven on a large truck through the streets. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.



Iraqi and Iranian flags fluttered above the crowd, alongside the banners of powerful Iran-backed Iraqi militias whose supporters joined the procession. Najaf holds special significance for Shi'ite Muslims worldwide as the burial place of Imam Ali, the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammad. Khamenei's coffin arrived on Tuesday evening at Najaf's international airport, where Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi, senior officials and religious figures attended an official reception. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commanders also arrived to take part in the procession.

US to seek Bishnoi extradition from India



Washington: The United States plans to seek the extradition of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi from India to face sweeping federal racketeering charges, with investigators saying the move is aimed at preventing him from continuing to run a global criminal network from behind bars. The announcement came after US authorities unsealed an indictment charging Bishnoi, along with alleged lieutenant Satinderjeet Singh, also known as Goldy Brar, with directing a transnational criminal enterprise accused of murder, extortion, kidnappings and large-scale drug trafficking across North America and beyond.

Speaking after the indictments were announced, RCMP Deputy Commissioner Lisa Moreland said US authorities intend to pursue Bishnoi's extradition from India. "So what I think is the charges that were brought forward today, obviously under the RICO laws in the United States, it brings through that, as stated today, that they will bring him forward for extradition, to get him moved forward and to face charges in the United States," Moreland told CBC News. The comments came in response to questions about allegations that Bishnoi has continued directing criminal operations despite being lodged in an Indian

Danish PM says her country is 'ready to defend' Greenland as Trump joins NATO leaders in Turkiye



Ankara: Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Wednesday rejected President Donald Trump's renewed demands that the U.S. should take control of Greenland from NATO ally Denmark, saying that "Greenland is of course not for sale." "We hope that all, including all allies, will respect the Greenland people's right for self-determination," Frederiksen said ahead of a meeting of the leaders of NATO member countries in Turkiye. "We are sovereign states and we need everybody to respect our territorial integrity and our sovereignty." Trump reopened old wounds over Greenland on the eve of the meeting by insisting that the United States should control the semiautonomous island. NATO is founded on the principle that its 32 members will defend each others' territory, not threaten to seize it. Frederiksen said Denmark is "ready to defend every inch of NATO including our own territory" in the event of an attack, and would rely on NATO allies to honor their commitment to defend each other.

Iceland's Prime Minister, Kristrun Frostadottir, said Greenland "belongs to the people of Greenland," and called for unity among the NATO allies in the face of external dangers. "We have threats coming from outside the alliance," Frostadottir said. "Russia is their biggest threat when it comes to these NATO allies. We need to focus on us and how we stick together." NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said from Ankara on Wednesday that he believes the United States is fully committed to the military organization, and praised Trump for taking forceful action against Iran overnight. "I think it was absolutely necessary because when you have a ceasefire and Iran is basically violating a ceasefire, we see what happened yesterday," Rutte said of the series of US strikes on Iran after Tehran struck three merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz. "I think it is totally crucial that the US forcefully react," Rutte said. The US strikes on Iran, as well as the revoking of a license allowing it to sell its oil on global markets, were retaliation, and underscored the fragility of an interim deal to end months of fighting between the two countries. Trump launched the attacks shortly after leaving a dinner hosted by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and so far has not spoken about the strikes. It is rare for US presidents to launch military action while outside the US, though in 2011 former President Barack Obama authorised strikes in Libya while on a trip to Brazil. The meeting in Ankara of NATO's 32 member countries was meant to focus on progress made toward meeting the alliance's spending targets. Rutte said US demands for all allies to spend the same in terms of gross domestic product "is completely fair," and noted that Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Denmark and Greece are already investing more. "The commitment is there, no

Tehran targets Bahrain and Kuwait after US strikes and limits Iran's oil sales over ship attacks

Dubai: The US military attacked Iran early Wednesday after it said Tehran struck three ships in the Strait of Hormuz, part of an American effort that also revoked the Islamic Republic's ability to openly sell crude oil in the world market. Iran retaliated with strikes targeting Bahrain and Kuwait. The regional crossfire raised the risks that an interim agreement to halt fighting in the war could break down, putting the Middle East again at risk of a wider conflict. However, the fire followed a pattern of similar attacks during the deal's shaky ceasefire and neither country immediately signaled they'd step away from the negotiating table. The attacks on shipping and the resulting strikes came during the dayslong funeral for Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed Feb. 28 in the war's first moments at age 86. The funeral, which ends Thursday, had been thought to be a period of lower tensions – though mourners have repeatedly called for the killings of US President Donald Trump and Israeli

prison. According to the US indictment, Bishnoi allegedly used contraband mobile phones and voice-over-internet communication devices smuggled into jail to direct political assassinations, murders, extortion, kidnappings, drug trafficking and human smuggling carried out by members of the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised Crime Group across several countries. Asked whether transferring Bishnoi to a US prison would significantly weaken the organisation, Moreland said removing the gang's leadership would be a major setback. "I think when you take this in totality... being able to take out the leadership, not only the top person, but the next layer down is significant in order to disrupt how they operate," she said. She added that removing both Bishnoi and his senior leadership would have "a direct impact on public safety here in Canada and abroad."

During the Los Angeles press conference announcing Operation Hard Ball, First Assistant US Attorney Bilal A Essayli also expressed confidence that another jailed gang leader would soon face American justice. Referring to Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, who faces separate racketeering and drug trafficking charges, Essayli said: "He'll be coming to our jails here soon, hopefully in the next few weeks." Moreland also confirmed that Indian authorities cooperated with investigators during the multinational probe. "What I can say to you is in this investigation, as you noted from our US partners, that the Indian government was cooperating in this investigation. We work shoulder and shoulder with the FBI and other agencies to address this," she said. "Through the course of this investigation, it would highlight that that's where we're striving for." US authorities have charged 37 defendants across three separate indictments targeting organised crime groups. Twenty-four suspects have been arrested in the United States, Canada and Europe, while several others remain fugitives.

doubt," Rutte said before chairing the summit of NATO leaders, but noted that the Trump administration expects "the Europeans and Canadian will equalize their spending with the United States." NATO leaders sought to show Trump they were boosting defence NATO summits are designed to be a show of unity aimed at deterring any potential adversary – a resolve more important than ever as Russia continues to wage war on Ukraine, and concerns mount that other European countries could be targeted. In an attempt last month to mollify the U.S. leader, Rutte went to Washington to hail the "Trump Trillion" – the \$1.2 trillion that European allies and Canada have added to defense spending since Trump came to power in 2017. Yet Trump has demanded "loyalty" and branded NATO a "paper tiger" after some allies refused to grant open access to their bases for US forces to attack Iran. As leaders converged on Ankara, Rutte hosted a "big reveal" event to showcase the many deals planned for the increased spending – much of it to be spent on US companies, creating thousands of jobs for Americans. NATO diplomats and officials had hoped that Trump would take the win, but judging by some of his remarks since arriving in Turkey, they are in for yet another dressing down. NATO braces for Trump's grievances Trump has long argued that the US carries more than its fair share of the defense burden for NATO. At last year's summit, the allies had agreed to invest 5% of their gross domestic product on defense – 3.5% on their defense budgets and 1.5% on roads, bridges and ports so troops and equipment can move faster in times of conflict. New figures released by NATO on Tuesday showed that Slovenia, Belgium, Spain and the Czech Republic could be in hot water with the Trump administration as they struggle to meet the alliance's old target of investing 2% of their GDP. The Trump administration wants to see a more lean and lethal "NATO 3.0," with Europe taking responsibility for its own security, including Ukraine, with conventional weapons while America would continue to provide its nuclear umbrella. However, the Pentagon has launched a 6-month review of U.S. military presence in Europe, leaving allies to seek clarity on just how deeply Trump intends to cut U.S. force numbers. The drawdowns could depend on how fast the European allies increase defense spending, and whether they are prepared to allow greater use of their bases. Ukraine's Zelenskyy pushes for NATO entry President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a fresh appeal Tuesday for Ukraine to be allowed to join the alliance, saying Ukrainian armed forces are highly experienced and would only boost NATO's defense capabilities. Zelenskyy, who is expected to meet with Trump in Ankara on Wednesday, highlighted Ukraine's adaptability and its ability to strike deep inside Russia, hit Moscow's oil refineries and other energy targets.

He said Ukraine's armed forces are "eliminating" on average 30,000 Russian troops every month. Concern has been mounting among some northern, central and eastern European countries that Russia might be preparing a hybrid attack – a combination of conventional warfare with tactics like cyberattacks – on the continent as Russian President Vladimir Putin struggles to secure victory in Ukraine. Trump will also meet with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, a former insurgent who led the offensive that unseated autocrat Bashar Assad in December 2024. Despite having once been an al-Qaida fighter, al-Sharaa has won Trump's backing as he seeks to rebuild Syria and restore its long-shattered ties with the West.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Negotiations to reach a final deal had been due to start after Khamenei's burial and focus on the toughest matters, including fully reopening the strait and rolling back Tehran's disputed nuclear program. But the new attacks threw that into question. "The era of bullying and extortion is over," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf wrote on X. "It leads nowhere. We don't fold." Overnight US strikes target Iran The US military's Central Command said American forces launched the strikes "to impose heavy costs for targeting and attacking commercial shipping crewed by innocent civilians in an international waterway." It said it hit Iranian targets including air defense systems, radars and over 60 small boats used by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. Those boats have been key in harassing ships in the strait.

Rajkummar Rao recreates Sourav Ganguly’s historic shirt-swinging moment



The makers of Dada, the upcoming biopic of ace Indian cricketer Sourav Ganguly, have unveiled the film’s first look on his 54th birthday. The film, which features Rajkummar Rao as Ganguly, is seen recreating a historic milestone of the former Indian cricket team captain in the first look. Ganguly even shared the film’s poster on X, calling it the “best gift ever”.Dada first lookGanguly took to his X handle on Wednesday morning and shared the first look poster. “The Best Gift Ever! Can’t wait to see you play my cover drive! #RajkummarRao,” he wrote in the caption. Rajkummar, as well as Dada director Vikramaditya Motwane, also shared the poster on their Instagram handles, wishing “our dearest Dada” a very happy birthday. The tagline on the poster aptly reads, “He didn’t just play the game, he changed it.”In the first look, Rajkummar

Satluj and DDLJ: Two Punjabs from ’95, the fantasy of sarson ke khet vs the brutal killings



In 1995, Shah Rukh Khan stood amid the glistening mustard fields with his arms spread out as Kajol ran towards him in Aditya Chopra’s now iconic film Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ). It was then that the idea that Punjab was all about ‘sarson ke khet’ and the NRIs singing ‘ghar aaja padesi’ was solidified all across the diaspora. Indians who lived abroad liked to remember their motherland through those rose-tinted glasses, and those living here somehow accepted that this was all Punjab was about. But was it?The recently released (and then pulled down) Satluj, which was previously titled Panjab 95, is set during the same time when Raj and Simran were pleading with Bauji to let them be together. The fantasy was packaged in a filmy way, and the after-effect has been such that the realities of Punjab during this time have been glossed over and forgotten, almost completely. No wonder why none of the authorities wants to acknowledge the horrors that went on in the state, and the activists, namely Jaswant Singh Khalsa, who dared to speak up against the atrocities, are actively being erased from the history of the nation.

In hindsight, it almost appears that the image of the green grasslands and the glowing mustard fields was like a PR activity to sell an image of Punjab that was miles away from its truth. The package was exported to millions around the world, and continues to be romanticised by those who have never been exposed to the horrors that Punjab has faced in the last few decades. And when a film like Satluj dares to speak about that nightmarish era, it is abruptly shut down by those in power.At this point, it’s not even about who was at the Centre and who was running the state government; it just exposes the rotten system that we, as Indians, have somehow come to accept because there is no scope for rebellion in the land of Bhagat Singh. And those who dare to speak out, like Jaswant Singh Khalsa, are bound to have a fate much

bears an uncanny resemblance to Ganguly, given the hairstyle and the physique. He also recreates precisely the very specific expression of Ganguly during the historic moment from 24 years ago. Back in 2002, when Indian cricket team defeated England on the latter’s home turf of the Lord’s Cricket Ground in London in the finals of the NatWest Series.The impressive performance by his teammates — Yuvraj Singh and Muhammad Kaif — was made even more memorable by the moment when Ganguly, then the captain of the Indian cricket team, took off his blue jersey and swung it out of joy from the balcony to celebrate the historic win. It’s still considered one of the most noteworthy moments in the history of Indian cricket.

How Ganguly defended taking his shirt off at Lord’sOf course, Ganguly’s move didn’t go down well with certain sections of the sport, who was accused of dishonouring the Lord’s protocol and tarnishing the image of the “gentleman’s game” that is cricket. However, Ganguly later defended his actions, claiming that his intention was just to recreate a similar moment executed by Andrew Flintoff. The British cricketer took off his shirt at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai earlier that year after England defeated India in a One Day International series final, setting the ball rolling for a fierce rivalry with Ganguly.Dada: The Sourav Ganguly Story will reunite Motwane and Rajkummar 11 years after their 2016 survival drama Trapped is produced by Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg’s Luv Films. It also stars Tanya Maniktala as the cricketer’s wife Dona Ganguly and Saswata Chatterjee as his father Chandi Ganguly among others. Written by Abhay Koranne of Bhavesh Joshi Superhero, Rocket Boys, and Matka King-fame, It’s slated to release in cinemas on May 14 next year, during the extended Eid weekend.

worse than many who came before him. The ones holding the power might be different individuals, but the treatment given to those who dare to ask the questions is pretty much the same.

Satluj isn’t the only film that has dared to speak about the systemic failure that has plagued the state of Punjab. A decade ago, Abhishek Chaubey’s Udda Punjab was met with a lot of resistance and the film’s release was almost jeopardised. The film spoke about the rampant drug problem within the state that continues to destroy an entire generation. Aditya Dhar (and many of his bhakts) might point fingers at Pakistan for the drug problem, but blaming the world for the mess in your backyard doesn’t really solve the problem. In fact, it further raises the question that if you claim to know the cause, where’s the solution?Udda Punjab somehow managed to get a release, Satluj, sadly, was pulled down in two days. It never even secured a CBFC certificate, and was not allowed to screen at international film festivals.In the last few years, mainstream Hindi films and shows have started to pay attention to what’s hidden behind the lush green fields of the state. Netflix’s Kohraa, which has had two seasons so far, traces what’s hidden behind the jovial face of a state that is mostly popular for its foot-tapping music. At large, Kohraa is a police procedural, but it doesn’t shy away from admitting that the grimness in the state is the result of the trauma that the locals have been carrying for generations.Amar Singh Chamkila, the biopic of the singer who was assassinated in broad daylight, also starring Diljit Dosanjh, also touched upon the time in Punjab when the state was still struggling with the aftermath of 1984. Chamkila faced heavy opposition from all corners, and his killing by unknown assailants suggested that Punjab was going through a lawless time.

Most of the content mentioned above has faced some resistance, and much like Vir Das’s Two Indias, they have constantly been told that they must not speak about the problems that trouble the country, especially in front of an international audience. In a significant scene in Satluj, even Diljit’s Khalsa is told by a local politician that he shouldn’t have spoken about the extrajudicial killings in Punjab during his visit to Canada. This speech, which was recorded in April 1995, is now the last recorded speech of Jaswant Singh Khalsa, where he provided grave details about the events that were transpiring in Punjab at the time.It was here that Khalsa spoke about the darkness that had swallowed his surroundings, and the lamp that needed to be lit to fight the oppressors.

kiss.”“Censor board yet to address Satluj and related issuesHer remarks have resurfaced amid renewed criticism of the CBFC’s certification process following the fate of Satluj (originally titled Punjab 95). The film underwent years of delays and was asked to implement 127 modifications before eventually opting for an OTT release. Even then, it was removed from the platform within 48 hours, with the streamer citing “current developments” without offering further details.The controversy has reignited questions about transparency in the certification process. Critics argue that the board’s decisions often appear inconsistent, with similar themes or scenes receiving different treatment across films.Examples frequently cited include the A certificate for OMG 2—despite its focus on sex education for adolescents—contrasted with more lenient certifications for mainstream commercial entertainers like Housefull 5 containing sexual innuendo. Similarly, the board initially objected to the protagonist’s name in Janaki vs State of Kerala, reportedly because it referenced Goddess Sita, before later approving the film after the makers modified the title. Yet names such as Sita, Durga and Janaki have appeared in films like Alpha without any objection. The debate extends beyond individual films. Violent action dramas such as Dhurandhar, The Kashmir Files, The Bengal Files have often reached theatres with relatively minor changes, while other films like Satluj dealing with similar political, historical or social issues have faced prolonged scrutiny, multiple revisions or release delays. The differing outcomes have fuelled calls for greater consistency and transparency in how certification guidelines are interpreted and applied.

Sikh body urges public screenings of Satluj; Honey Trehan says Diljit did film for free



The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) has called for public screenings of Satluj after the film’s removal from ZEE5, describing it as an attempt to suppress Jaswant Singh Khalsa’s story. Amid the controversy, director Honey Trehan recalled that Diljit Dosanjh agreed to do the film without charging a fee and stood by the project throughout its troubled journey.“Even before I told him I wanted to make a film on Jaswant Singh Khalsa, he immediately said, ‘There’s only one story from Punjab worth making if it isn’t about 1984.’ I showed him my research book. He looked at Mr Khalsa’s photograph, picked up the book, placed it on his forehead and simply said, ‘Waheguru ji... tell me when and where to come. You’ll find me there,’” recalled Honey, who revealed Diljit didn’t charge even a penny for the film.

The filmmaker also revealed that Diljit remained extraordinarily patient despite repeated production delays. “There were days when he reported at six in the morning, and I couldn’t take his first shot until four in the evening because schedules had gone haywire. I kept apologising. Every single time he would tell me, ‘Paaji, no problem. Whatever you’re doing, you’re doing for the film. I’m here to support the film,’” Honey told Mid-Day.“Diljit’s support has always been there. Whenever I speak to him, he really tries to empathize with me. It’s not something in our control. We all know the reasons. It’s sad, but we can’t do anything beyond a point. Diljit has been very vocal. He shows up whenever and wherever he can,” Honey said on Screen Spotlight earlier this year.Honey on when he first met Diljit

In the same interview, Honey also recalled casting Diljit in Udda Punjab, which marked the singer-actor’s Bollywood debut a decade ago. “Sarta’j’s character had a lot of innocence, given what his family was going through. When you already have Alia Bhatt, Shahid Kapoor, and Kareena Kapoor, then you can definitely take a chance

on a newcomer,” argued Honey.“When I was doing readings with Kareena because the lingo was Punjabi, she came up with the suggestion, ‘Why can’t we cast somebody from Punjab?’ When we narrated the script to Diljit, he was in tears. He’s a very simple person. It’s very difficult to meet a person like Diljit in life today,” added the then-casting director.Diljit Dosanjh and Kareena Kapoor in Udda Punjab. Diljit Dosanjh and Kareena Kapoor in Udda Punjab.

Sikh group to hold public screenings of SatlujLeading Sikh body, the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) on Tuesday criticised the removal of Satluj from ZEE5. “Since this film is a biographical portrayal of Jaswant Singh Khalsa, it depicts how a social activist opened people’s eyes to the truth. He uncovered evidence of 25,000 bodies that had been cremated as ‘unclaimed’ and raised the issue not only within the country, but also internationally, highlighting the dire situation in Punjab,” the body said in a statement.“Suppressing this story, preventing the events of that dark era from reaching the public, is deeply wrong, and it has sparked immense outrage across the Sikh community,” it added. “We have asked all Gurdwara committee members to download and screen the film in their respective areas to ensure that it reaches the public,” said the body.“Furthermore, we will soon convene a meeting with the chairpersons of our schools and colleges. Seminars on Jaswant Singh Khalsa will be organised in every college to discuss his life and legacy. We want people to realise the impact a single social activist can have on society. If one individual can achieve so much, there is no reason why we cannot all work together to do the same,” it concluded.

Satluj’s long censorship battleSatluj, previously titled Punjab ’95, has been fighting censorship for over three years now. When its world premiere was announced at the Toronto International Film Festival 2023, the makers were forced to withdraw the film despite the film not requiring CBFC certification for a festival screening. Then the Central Board of Film Certification, after multiple delays, demanded 127 cuts in the film, which the makers refused to execute.The makers have alleged that they were later prevented from holding private screenings. They also claimed that despite favourable observations during court proceedings, they were pressured to withdraw the case. According to the filmmakers, similar hurdles arose when they attempted an international theatrical release.Last week, renamed as Satluj, the film was suddenly dropped on ZEE5. After getting rave reviews and a lot of attention from the streaming audience, Satluj was unceremoniously removed from the platform. While ZEE5 just stated its commitment to bring back the film by following the “due course”, an Information and Broadcasting Ministry official told ANI that the film was removed because it evaded the certification process and released on OTT with another name instead.Satluj is based on the life of Khalsa, who brought to light the extrajudicial killings and cremations of over 2500 people in Punjab during the 1990s, with the involvement of Punjab Police. Khalsa was later abducted and killed. An investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) led to the arrest and life imprisonment of several police officers from Punjab.

Hema Malini says was never highest paid actress: ‘Got me fee in an envelope, like bhiksha’



Hema Malini hasn’t acted in a Hindi film for over a decade now. Her last release was Ramesh Sippy’s 2020 romantic comedy Shimla Mirchi, which was also shot six years before that, and didn’t find any buyers since 2014. Now, stressing that she doesn’t want to do more films, unless somebody offers her a “good role”, Hema has also put to rest a long-lasting rumour about her remuneration when she was at the peak of her career in the 1970s.In a recent interview, Hema rubbished the rumour that she was once the “highest paid actress” of Hindi cinema. “No, no, not at all. Who told you that? I used to get a very small amount. I never got so much,” Hema shot back. She clarified that while the filmmakers of that time “liked me a lot”, she never worked for the money.“The more you got famous, your price increased very gradually. I never got the exuberant prices that actresses get today. I didn’t even get a fraction of that. But the work we did even within that money was the actual earning than the actual money,” Hema said on Hindi Rush’s YouTube channel.

Hema agreed that she followed in the footsteps of her late husband and legendary actor Dharmendra by never increasing her fees voluntarily and always charging only what the producer could afford to pay. “If the producer wanted to give (a high price), he was most welcome. Otherwise we never demanded that we wouldn’t do the film if we weren’t paid this much. I never did that,” Hema maintained.Hema added that this approach also stemmed from her late mother, producer and costume designer Jaya Chakravorthy, who also acted as her manager in early days of her daughter’s career. “She was very liberal to all the producers. If they said they can’t pay for a shoot, she said, ‘No problem.’ Even when I did Meera, the producer didn’t have any money at all. We never asked for money then. We just took home whatever money the producer gave to us in an envelope, like a bhiksha,” she recalled, referring to Gulzar’s 1979 film based on the worshipper of Lord Krishna.Hema also revealed why she stepped back from films in the past decade. “I’ve done too many already. I’ve worked in the golden period. We’re all lucky, the artists who have worked in the ’70s and ’80s, when we got such great songs and the opportunity to work with such great actors. You can’t compare that time

with today. Today, it’s different,” argued the veteran actor.She also clarified that since a lot of good films are being made today, she doesn’t want to say today’s cinema is inferior to that of the 1970s and the 1980s as they’re both “hatke” (different) in their own right. “The golden period happens only once. It can’t come back again,” she added. “If they offer me some nice role, I’ll see. Maybe I’ll do it,” assured Hema.Hema is mostly busy with her classical dance recitals, her duties as a Member of Parliament, and spending time with her family. “I make time to go to my constituency. I have to stay amid the public and get their work done. I’ve to get roads and flyovers made for them. It’s also a pleasure to do such things. I’m looking into the floods now. You wonder, ‘What will I do?’ But they’ll demand from me as an MP. I’m learning so many things and helping so many people. That’s a good thing too. Since I’m busy with all of this, working on a film looks difficult,” explained the actor-turned-politician.Hema began her career as a dancer in the early 1960s, before making her Hindi cinema debut with Mahesh Kaul’s Sapno Ka Saudagar (1968). After breaking through with Vijay Anand’s 1970 spy film Johnny Mera Naama, she went on to deliver memorable performances in Sippy’s Andaz (1971), Seeta Aur Geeta (1973), Sholay (1975); Gulzar’s Khushboo (1975) and Meera (1978), Pramod Chakravorty’s Dream Girl (1977), Yash Chopra’s Trishul (1978) and Veer-Zaara (2004), Ravi Chopra’s The Burning Train (1980), Manoj Kumar’s Kranti (1981), Manmohan Desai’s Naseeb (1981), Raj N Sippy’s Satte Pe Satta (1982), Kamal Amrohi’s Razia Sultan (1983), and BR Chopra’s Baghban (2003).Hema joined the Bhartiya Janata Party in 2004. After serving as a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 2003 till 2009, Hema became the political party’s general secretary in 2011. She subsequently contested the Lok Sabha Elections in 2014, winning the seat in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh by a huge margin. She’s gone on to retain her seat for the next two terms.

Anshula Kapoor ties nuptial knot with Rohan Thakkar

New Delhi: “You are my safest place and easiest choice” said entrepreneur Anshula Kapoor as she tied the knot with screenwriter and director Rohan Thakkar.

Anshula, daughter of producer Boney Kapoor and the late Mona Shourie Kapoor and sister of the Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, shared a series of pictures from the celebrations on her Instagram on Monday. It featured the couple holding hands and other pictures from the celebrations.Anshula wore a peach-coloured lehenga, which she complemented with a golden scarf and statement jewellery. Rohan wore an ivory-gold sherwani.“06.07.2026. Of all the people. Of all the places. Of all the timing. It was you. And somehow, through every twist, detour, and surprise, it is still you. My favourite conversation.