

EYE SECRETS

Spy in every blink

English Daily

Rangareddy Vol No. 1 Issue 80

Date:Sunday, 2-8-2026

Price:2/-

Pages: 8

Telangana per capita income rose to Rs 4.19 lakh: Revanth

Hyderabad, August 1

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday, August 1, said the state's per capita income for 2025-26 was Rs 4,18,931 as against Rs 3,80,031 the previous year.

"We are India's top-performing state. Our per capita income for 2025-26 is Rs 4,18,931; an increase from Rs 3,80,031 in the last year," he said in a post on X.

The rise in per capita income became possible through hard work, focus on economic growth, investments, job creation, balanced development across

verticals, and a shift from ad hocism to policy-based governance, he said.

Taking a swipe at the previous BRS regime, Reddy said the Congress government reversed a decade of failed governance and sense of gloom, and infused optimism and hope in every citizen.

MS Degree College Admissions Admissions 2026-27

Observing that women, farmers and youth are the biggest beneficiaries of the government's success, he said the coming years would see greater success of people and the state.



Rs 50 lakh fine, 10-year jail: Amended anti-paper leak law kicks in with Prez nod

New Delhi , August 1

The amended law empowering states to set up fast-track courts for the speedy trial of those accused in paper leak cases, while also enhancing fines and prison terms, has received President Droupadi Murmu's assent.

In a gazette notification issued on July 31, the Law Ministry said President Murmu had given her assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, after it was passed by both Houses of Parliament earlier this week.

The Act seeks to further strengthen the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, by providing for fast-tracked investigations, speedy trials through special fast-track courts, the appointment of special public prosecutors, time-bound disposal of appeals and stricter penal provisions aimed at deterring unfair practices and organised malpractices in public examinations.

It also enhances the punishment for those resorting to unfair means by increasing the term of imprisonment to not less than five years, extendable up to 10 years, as against the existing provision of imprisonment for a term of not less than three years, extendable up to five years. The maximum fine has also been raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.

LoP Rahul Gandhi and MPs Pappu Yadav and Awadhesh Prasad have been booked in Varanasi for allegedly hurting religious sentiments over their skit on the Ram Temple donation theft at Parliament complex.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the amendment aims to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examination system.

"In recent years, there have been incidents of



question paper leaks and malpractices in examinations conducted by public examination authorities, which have affected the transparency and fairness of the public examination system," it states.

The law also empowers states and Union Territories to appoint one or more special public prosecutors to conduct trials in such cases and mandates day-to-day hearings to ensure completion of trials within three months of the filing of the chargesheet.

Amid nationwide protests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 23 announced the establishment of fast-track courts and tougher legal penalties for examination paper leak cases.

The law covers examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) and the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the NEET examination.

Students need PM's apology, not his forgiveness: Rahul

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks about "forgiving" students, saying they did not need the Prime Minister's forgiveness but that he owed them an apology. He alleged that the government had failed to understand the pain and struggles of students and their families affected by examination irregularities.

"India's students do not need his forgiveness. He owes them an apology," Rahul said in a post on X.

His remarks came after PM Modi, in a video posted on Instagram late on Friday night, said he had forgiven students who had abused him and his late mother. He added that it was society's responsibility to "guide the misguided".

Referring to the hardships faced by aspirants following cancelled examinations and paper leaks, Rahul said behind every student's suffering was a family forced to bear a lasting emotional burden.

"Leaked papers. Cancelled exams. Years of preparation destroyed overnight. Our students are told to work honestly in a system that is not honest with them. And the PM has the audacity to speak of forgiving students," he said.

He added: "Nothing is more painful than seeing a parent grieve their child. Behind every young life lost is a family carrying pain that will never leave them, while raising serious questions about a broken education system."



Rahul further alleged that the PM had not met families mourning the loss of their children or students whose careers had been disrupted by paper leaks.

"He has not met a single grieving parent. He has not sat with a single student whose future was stolen by a leaked paper," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also targeted the PM, accusing him of "playing the victim card" and using political rhetoric to deflect accountability.

Modi Sees Vizag As Top Economic Hub In Asia

Vizag, August 1

Framing VER as the centrepiece of Andhra Pradesh's growth strategy, the Prime Minister said every new facility in the region is contributing to the unified mission of transforming VER into a premier Asian powerhouse.

"Our ultimate target is to ensure that the Visakhapatnam Economic Region becomes the most prominent economic hub in Asia," the Prime Minister underlined, positioning the day's events as a turning point in the state's development trajectory. He described the newly inaugurated international airport, named after the legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, as a runway for growth and launchpad for the youth's future.

Highlighting the rapid expansion of civil aviation, the Prime Minister pointed out that India's operational airports have risen from 74 in 2014 to 166 today, in the process democratising air travel to smaller towns. He credited the UDAN scheme for enabling even the poorest families to fly and announced the launch of UDAN second phase with an investment of `29,000 crore. He referred to the success of the spoke airport model in Kashi, now extended to Amritsar, linking Punjab to over 25 international destinations.

Modi outlined a comprehensive vision for Andhra Pradesh's growth, detailing plans to fortify the Blue Economy by modernising heritage ports from Visakhapatnam to Krishnapatnam and building new maritime hubs at Mulapeta and Ramayapatnam. He highlighted the importance of expressway projects, such as the Visakhapatnam-Raipur corridor and announced railway projects worth `1 lakh crore, includ-

ing complete electrification and modernisation of 70 stations. These, he said, would seamlessly connect the region to national industrial centres under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, optimising logistics and boosting ease of doing business.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to harness young talent in futuristic industries, citing the foundation stone for a semiconductor plant in Visakhapatnam as a major step. He pointed to Google's \$15 billion campus announcement and the upcoming Pharma Park in Nakkapalli as evidence of global interest in the region. He highlighted the renewable energy investments exceeding `5 lakh crore in Rayalaseema, underscoring the government's commitment to sustainable growth.

Modi said the projects launched would serve as pillars for fulfilling the twin visions of Swarna Andhra and Viksit Bharat. The investments would directly translate into employment, exports, and improved living standards.

"When employment increases, people's incomes naturally rise, and the everyday lives of families significantly improve," the Prime Minister observed, expressing confidence that the myriad projects initiated would secure a prosperous future for Andhra Pradesh and firmly place the Visakhapatnam Economic Region on the Asian map.

Modi lauded the performance of over 13,000 tribal women and students who staged the Dhimsa dance, calling it a magnificent display of indigenous heritage and a cultural record alongside the infrastructural milestones.



people in the inundated areas and reassured them.

Seethakka checks facilities for 112 people displaced by flood

Hyderabad, August 1

Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka on Saturday, August 1, inspected the facilities provided to the 112 relocated individuals from 28 families belonging to areas affected by flooding due to backwater effects. She was accompanied by District Collector Borkhade Hemant Sahadevrao, District SP Sudhir Ramnath Kakan, and ITDA PO Lenin Vassal Toppo. The Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, and Women and Child Welfare visited the Godavari flood flow in Mangapet and the rehabilitation centre set up at the Zilla Parishad High School. Subsequently, she spoke to the flood-affected

Mumbai model Rhiya Ahir, who stopped police van with bare hands, alleges online ‘slut-shaming’, bullying



Rhiya Ahir blocks police van during NEET protestRhiya Ahir has filed a police complaint, alleging defamation, 'slut-shaming' and online harassment post her viral video | Source: Instagram/Cockroach Janta PartyRhiya Ahir, the 27-year-old Mumbai model who stood in front of a police van escorting detained Shivaji Park protesters, has approached the Mumbai Police, alleging sustained harassment, bullying, 'slut-shaming' and defamation on social media after her images and videos went viral during the protests in the city.One of the defining faces of the Shivaji Park protest, Rhiya Ahir also alleged in her complaint that she has been 'slut-shamed' and fears it could affect her real life, her family's safety and reputation.

In her complaint, Rhiya Ahir has accused several

social media content creators of falsely claiming that she produces and sells adult content through her social media accounts.Denying these allegations, Rhiya said her bank account is not linked to any such platform and claimed the allegations were being deliberately circulated to tarnish her reputation.She has urged the Mumbai Police to register an FIR and initiate legal action against those circulating such “defamatory” claims on social media.Deputy Commissioner of Police Datta Nalawade has confirmed receiving Rhiya Ahir’s complaint. It has been forwarded to the MIDC police station for verification. She is also expected to approach the Maharashtra Cyber Police regarding the circulation of defamatory content against her.“Her online complaint has been received and forwarded to the local police station for verification of the facts,” Nalawade said.Rhiya Ahir, aka Rhiya Yadav, became an overnight symbol of resistance after a video went viral showing her, in a rain-soaked hoodie, stopping a police van with her bare hands during the Shivaji Park protest in support of the Cockroach Janta Party-led (CJP) demonstrators in New Delhi’s Jantar Mantar.The van was carrying young protesters detained after demonstrations against leaks in most-competitive entrance exams, in in Mumbai. Since the NEET paper leak in May, the CJP movement, started as a political satirical on social media, has grown beyond police complaints, drawing thousands of youngsters, professionals and families onto the streets.The protest was withdrawn on Saturday, July 25, after Dharmendra Pradhan resigned as Union education minister.

‘Our kids will spread the word’: Delhi transporters turn to Gen Z for E20 fuel protest

To build momentum for their August 4 protest march to Parliament against ethanol-blended petrol, Delhi’s transporters are turning to an unlikely ally: Gen Z. They plan to enlist their children to create reels, amplify their message on social media, and rally support among young transporters and taxi drivers for the agitation.Sanjay Samrat, president of the Delhi Taxi Tourist Transporters and Tour Operators Association, said the idea emerged after the student-led protests at Jantar Mantar against the NEET paper leak.

“After the students’ protest (at Jantar Mantar), we saw the support they mobilised through the internet. Many of us transporters are old and not tech-savvy... I don’t know how to use Instagram and post videos online. So, we decided to ask our children to spread the word among young transporters and drivers active on social media,” Samrat said.He further said the Delhi Police has called them for a meeting on Monday to discuss the protest. “The aim is not to create a ruckus. Our protest is against the forcible implementation of ethanol-blended petrol without giving the public, especially those with older vehicle models not fit for such fuel, an option.”Samrat also stressed that they are not against the government. “We are raising an important issue which matters not only to us, but to the citizens of the entire country who drive and use a car. So, once we get permission from the police, we will start a campaign on social media and take help from the younger generation.”Bobby Jitendra, a member of the association, said the group was wary after seeing videos of people allegedly being assaulted during the

Jantar Mantar protest and wanted to secure permission before taking to the streets.“If we use social media, we can mobilise support within five or six days. But we want to follow the proper process first so that no one suffers any loss,” he said.A key demand of the association is an independent review of the E20 ethanol blending policy.Jitendra said, “Instead of converting entire fuel stations to ethanol, the government should install one or two ethanol dispensers. Those who want pure petrol or diesel should be able to buy it, while those who want ethanol-blended fuel can choose that...”Another member, Manish Thakur, who runs a luxury rental car service, claimed E20 petrol had reduced engine performance and mileage in some vehicles. “Why were we paying Rs 170 per litre for a blended petrol?” he asked.Referring to a recent court case involving a consumer and a car manufacturer, he said it raised questions about the readiness of vehicles for ethanol-blended fuel. “We are told new vehicles are compatible with ethanol-blended fuel. If that is so, why did the court direct the company to replace the vehicle? That suggests problems still exist.”The association claimed an internal survey found only four or five petrol pumps in Delhi selling pure petrol. It said its union represents more than 1.5 lakh transporters, including truck operators, taxi drivers and car owners.Samrat said the association would not seek political backing for the protest. “We will not seek support from any political party or approach the Cockroach Janta Party. We want to hold a peaceful protest and will soon give a call on social media to create campaigns, requesting people to join in large numbers against ethanol-blended petrol.”

Delhi cab driver robbed, killed for ‘easy money’; three arrested

The victim, Vijay Kumar, a resident of West Vinod Nagar, was found with multiple stab injuries inside his Maruti WagonR near Road No. 57 in Krishna Nagar on July 23. He was rushed to Dr Hedgewar Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.The victim, Vijay Kumar, a resident of West Vinod Nagar, was found with multiple stab injuries inside his Maruti WagonR near Road No. 57 in Krishna Nagar on July 23. He was rushed to Dr Hedgewar Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

A 40-year-old cab driver was stabbed to death allegedly by four people, including a teenager, in East Delhi’s Krishna Nagar last week. Police said the accused were intoxicated and targeted the driver in a bid to make easy money.Police said two men have been arrested and the juvenile has been apprehended, while the fourth accused is on the run.The victim, Vijay Kumar, a resident of West Vinod Nagar, was found with multiple stab injuries inside his Maruti WagonR near Road No. 57 in Krishna Nagar on July 23. He was rushed to Dr Hedgewar Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.Police registered an FIR under murder charges at Krishna Nagar police station and launched an investigation.Within 24 hours, teams from Krishna Nagar police station and the Shahdara district’s Special Staff cracked the “blind murder” case using CCTV footage, call detail records (CDRs), technical evidence and local intelligence.The arrested accused have been identified

as Ayan (20), Sahil (19), and a 17-year-old juvenile. Police said raids are on to arrest the fourth accused, Aman.During questioning, police said the accused claimed they had planned to rob a cab driver for money after consuming liquor on July 23.According to police, Aman allegedly arranged a knife. The group then booked a Rapido cab to V3S Mall using Ayan’s mobile phone.oice said near the Chitra Vihar red light, the accused allegedly stabbed the driver multiple times before fleeing with the cab. Midway, they dumped the body.Police said they lost control of the WagonR and rammed into another vehicle, whose occupants gave chase. Scared that they might be caught, they abandoned the vehicle near East Azad Nagar Metro Station and fled.Police have recovered the alleged murder weapon, blood-stained clothes of the accused, the blood-stained WagonR, mobile phones and other incriminating material.Police said Ayan was previously found involved in four criminal cases, including robbery and snatching, while Sahil had earlier been booked in a snatching case.Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Rajendra Prasad Meena said the case was solved through a combination of technical analysis and field investigation.“We apprehended three accused, identified the fourth accused and recovered the alleged murder weapon along with other crucial evidence. Efforts are underway to arrest the remaining accused,” Meena said.

Crude oil futures tumble nearly 8 per cent on easing West Asia tensions

New Delhi: Crude oil futures tumbled nearly 8 per cent to Rs 7,939 per barrel on Monday amid hopes of easing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, triggering a selloff in global oil markets and dragging domestic prices lower.On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude futures for August delivery slumped Rs 665, or 7.73 per cent, to Rs 7,939 per barrel in a business turnover of 12,994 lots.

The September contract also tumbled Rs 537, or nearly 7 per cent, to Rs 7,710 per barrel in a business turnover of 1,865 lots.Traders said the sharp decline mirrored losses in global crude oil markets after Washington and Tehran signalled a pause in military escalation.“MCX crude oil futures have continued their downward momentum in the domestic market on Monday amid easing concerns over supply disruptions in West Asia,” said Aamir Makda, Commodity & Currency Analyst, Technical Re-

search, Choice Broking.In the international markets, Brent crude futures for September delivery fell USD 7.66, or 8 per cent, to USD 89.12 per barrel on the Intercontinental Exchange.West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for September delivery declined USD 6.93, or nearly 8 per cent, to USD 82.38 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.“Crude has fallen sharply, with Brent dropping as much as 7 per cent to below USD 90 and WTI nearing USD 85 per barrel, after the US quietly suspended its strike campaign late on Friday and Iran indicated over the weekend that it would also halt its attacks as long as Washington does the same,” said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities.

However, he cautioned that the latest selloff reflects expectations of de-escalation rather than a lasting resolution.

Punjab developing backup for Centre’s Sarathi portal to avoid driving licence delays



Punjab is developing software to act as a backup for the Centre’s Sarathi Parivahan Portal after receiving repeated complaints from districts that driving tests had to be cancelled after the Sarathi server either slowed down or became unavailable.Punjab Transport Minister Harpal Singh Cheema told The Indian Express last week that the initiative was aimed at ensuring citizens were not made to suffer because of technical glitches beyond the state’s control.

“People have faced a great deal of inconvenience whenever the Sarathi server goes down. This initiative is aimed at resolving that problem. We are confident it will succeed and benefit not only Punjab but could eventually help other states as well,” Cheema added.The software, being developed by the Punjab government’s IT wing after obtaining approval from the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, is expected to be ready within the next fortnight. After real-time testing, it is likely

‘Save some Ladki Bahin money, don’t spend it on shopping’: Maharashtra Minister

Months after the Maharashtra Government disqualified 92 lakh women from its flagship Ladki Bahin Yojana, Women and Child Welfare Minister Aditi Tatkare said Sunday beneficiaries should refrain from spending the monthly assistance given to them on shopping.The scheme provides Rs 1,500 every month to women aged 21 to 65 years from families with an annual income below Rs 2.5 lakh. Government employees, income tax payers and beneficiaries of certain other welfare schemes are excluded.“The beneficiaries should not spend all the Rs 1,500 they receive entirely on shopping, but rather save a portion of that money,” Tatkare said at an event in Washim district.“We are telling all the beneficiary women not to spend all Rs 1,500 on shopping. Save a few hundred rupees in self-help groups (SHGs), banks, or cooperative societies, and use them wisely. This will benefit you in the future.”Tatkare said traders constantly ask them when the money for the Ladki Bahin scheme will be disbursed.“Traders are actually more inquisitive about this than the women themselves. Once, I asked a trader if anyone in his family was a beneficiary. To that, the trader replied, ‘The day the Ladki Bahin money is credited, the market is jam-packed with activity the very next day,’” she said.A large-scale verification drive has led to the removal of more than 92 lakh beneficiaries from Maharashtra’s flagship Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, according to government records examined by The Indian

Express. The figure is significantly higher than the roughly 80 lakh exclusions the state government has publicly acknowledged, meaning that nearly four out of every 10 women enrolled in the scheme have now been dropped.The biggest share of deletions — close to 62 lakh cases — was attributed to beneficiaries not completing the mandatory electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC) process.

The verification exercise also identified thousands of ineligible recipients, including those whose household income exceeded the prescribed limit, government employees, women already receiving assistance under other welfare programmes, applicants above the eligible age, and nearly 29,000 male beneficiaries who had been enrolled despite the scheme being intended for women.The decision came under fire from Opposition parties, which alleged that the Maharashtra Government had taken women voters for a ride.Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader Rohini Khadse said the expenditure on the Ladki Bahin scheme has increased from Rs 26,197.78 crore to Rs 33,697 crore, an increase of about Rs 7,500 crore.“This might have forced the government to cut down the names. However, it is not right to deprive women of their benefits just to cut down expenses. This is like backtracking on its promises by making cuts to a scheme initiated for the financial empowerment of women,” Khadse, the chief of the NCP(SP)’s women’s wing, said.

Ahmedabad village turns into island as Bhogavo river overflows in rain

Just a day after massive operations to rescue people from floodwaters in Dholka, Bavla, and Viramgam ended, another taluka in Gujarat’s Ahmedabad district witnessed flooding. Vanitalav Bhal village in Dholera taluka has turned into a veritable island after the Bhogavo river overran its banks on the intervening night between Sunday and Monday.The overflowing of the Bhogavo river caused flooding in Dholera, while the overflowing of the Sabarmati river and sheet flows from North Gujarat caused flooding in the three other talukas.

On Monday morning, the Ahmedabad rural police reached this small, nondescript village on the southern bank of the west-to-east flowing Bhogavo river, which is near the Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway and 100 km from Ahmedabad city.Superintendent of Police Om Prakash Jat said, “Due to heavy rain, the water flow in the Bhogavo river from upstream into Vanitalav Bhal village of Dholera taluka is continuously increasing, as a result of which the village has lost contact with the surrounding areas and the village has turned into an island-like situation.”The police, in coordination with the district administration and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), are carrying out rescue operations to move people trapped in the village to safety.“In addition, the police have closed the road due to the presence of

Bhogavo river water on the approach road towards Anandpur and Buranpur villages. Continuous patrolling and surveillance is being maintained to ensure that no person passes through the water in a dangerous manner,” he said.The police appealed to people not to use closed roads, not to attempt to enter rivers or waterlogged areas, and to rely only on official information and follow the instructions of the police and district administration.Dholera is home to the Special Investment Region, India’s first planned greenfield smart city and a massive industrial node on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).Around 10,000 people in Ahmedabad district have reportedly been affected by flooding since July 23, when heavy rain inundated large parts of three northern and western talukas. More than 2,400 people received aid in the Gallops Industrial Park (in the Bavla-Changodar region), where officials reported that around 1,000 people were rescued and 1,400 others were relocated to safety on Saturday. More than 400 people were rescued in Dholka town and its surrounding villages.Two major highways closed since July 23—the stretch of Ahmedabad-Rajkot NH47 between Ahmedabad and Bagodara and the stretch of the Ahmedabad-Viramgam SH17 between Sanand and Viramgam—were opened late on Saturday night and Sunday morning as floodwater receded towards Nalsarovar and rain stopped.

‘Protesters insulting Lord Ram’: Right-wing outfit chief slaps student over Jantar Mantar protest

Even as the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest at Jantar Mantar has wound up, a video has gone viral showing the president of a right-wing outfit allegedly harassing two young participants and slapping one of them.The Delhi Police said it had not received any complaint regarding the incident but were verifying the authenticity of the video.The man was identified as Satyam Pandit, a resident of Ghaziabad who claims to be the president of the Rashtra Hindu Veer Sena. The two students were from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. One of them, Ayush, told local media in Bareilly that he wanted action to be taken against the accused.Ayush said he had been staying at Gurdwara Bangla Sahib in Delhi and had been participating in the protest since July 23. He said that while he and his friend were walking to the protest site, they were harassed and assaulted. “A car stopped near us. A person sitting inside the vehicle abused us and slapped my friend. Another occupant was recording the video,” he said.Speaking to The Indian Express, Pandit said, “The video is from July 24... near Hanuman Mandir, which is not very far from the Jantar Mantar protest site.”When asked why he assaulted the two students, Pandit claimed he heard that people attending the CJP protest were abusing the Prime

Minister and Lord Shri Ram. “Chalo bhai kisi neta ko bhi gali sun lete, lekin koi agar hamare prabhu Shri Ram ko gali dega to hum nahi sunenge. (We can ignore abuses directed at politicians, but we will not tolerate anyone insulting our Lord Shri Ram). I checked the protest site before stopping these two youths,” he said.The one-minute video shows Pandit, wearing an orange scarf, questioning the two youths. He asked them, “Why are you supporting CJP? What is your name? Are you Hindu?... People here are raising anti-national slogans. Why are you doing this?”He also asked where they lived. The students replied they were from Bareilly and had come to participate in the CJP protest.The video shows Pandit grabbing one of them by the collar and slapping him twice. Both students could be seen pleading with him to let them go.The video was shared by several users on social media, including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav who criticised the incident.Pandit said that if the police initiated action against him, he was prepared to face the legal consequences.A final-year law student, he is facing around six cases in Ghaziabad between 2022 and 2026 including Yatra.

‘Kashmir, considered heaven on earth, turned into hell for us’: Pune family rebuilds life amid loss

For years, Kashmir had lived in their imagination as ‘Heaven on Earth’ — a place the family had long hoped to visit together. But for the Ganbotes, that dream turned into something they now struggle to even speak about. “Kashmir is considered heaven on Earth, but it has turned into hell for us,” says 33-year-old Kunal Ganbote, pausing between sentences that still seem difficult to complete even a year later.

On April 22 last year, his father, Kaustubh Ganbote, was among the 26 people killed in the Pahalgam terror attack. He had travelled to Jammu & Kashmir with his wife and members of the Jadgale family, close family friends, on their first trip to the region. “There was a lot of excitement. It was their first visit,” Kunal recalls. “No one could have imagined what would happen.” What followed, he says, still feels unreal. “The incident was so sudden and shocking that even today, we are not able to digest that my father is no more. We don’t know how long it will take to truly come to terms with it,” he says. In the immediate aftermath, support came from all sides: relatives, friends, government officials and well-wishers. “Everyone stood by us during that difficult time,” he says. Yet, the sense of loss has remained constant, quietly shaping each day since.

Kunal, who was then working in Pune as a research consultant in the food and beverages industry, found his life taking an abrupt turn. “That day drastically changed my life,” he says. His father had spent 35 years building a ‘farsan namkeen’ (savoury snacks) business — starting from a modest home-based setup and growing it into a network of 17 franchise outlets across Pune. It was work that both his parents managed together, with plans to expand further. “He wanted to build it into a national brand like Haldiram’s or Balaji,” Kunal says.

After his father’s death, Kunal left his job to take over the business. “Now, I am working to take forward his

dream,” he says, describing it less as a choice and more as a responsibility that came with the loss. Even as life moves forward, questions about the circumstances of the attack remain. According to Kunal, his father and other members accompanying them were not at the initial point of firing. “They were far away when the firing started. The attackers moved freely over a long distance and eventually reached them,” he says. “This was a clear security lapse — there were no CCTV cameras, no checkpoints.” He also points to what he describes as deliberate targeting. “The targeting of individuals was very disturbing and showed a clear intent to create unrest in the Valley.” A year on, he believes that while operations such as Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev have been projected as responses to the attack and a tribute to the Pahalgam victims, more needs to be done. “Such operations are seen as a tribute to the innocent lives lost during the Pahalgam attack. But incidents like the blast near Delhi’s Red Fort show that terror networks are still deeply rooted,” he says. “Security agencies need to completely dismantle these networks and their linkages.” For Kunal, the demand is as much about accountability as it is about prevention. “The action by security agencies should be so strict that even those planning such attacks think twice,” he says. The family has received the financial assistance promised by the government. However, when it came to the offer of a government job as compensation, they chose differently. “As I had to take care of the business, we requested that the job be given to someone more in need,” he says. In the end, what remains is a loss that cannot be replaced, only carried. “We have already lost our dear one,” Kunal says. “But no one in the future should have to go through this. There has to be stronger surveillance so that such incidents do not happen again.” Shubham Kurale is a journalist based in Pune and has studied journalism at the Ranade Institute.

Practice pushes, hacks to fool cops: How Siya-Chetan prepped for murder

DAYS BEFORE they allegedly pushed Ketan Agarwal (26) to his death from Lohagad Fort near Pune, his fiancée, Siya Goyal (20), and her boyfriend, Chetan Chaudhary, practised how they would execute the murder plan, the investigation has found. Police said this practice was conducted in an open space next to a club in Pune’s Lulla Nagar. A police team on Thursday took Siya to this open space. The investigation has also revealed that Siya and Chetan used social media and the Internet to find information on how they can escape the police net after committing an offence, a police officer said. “It is becoming increasingly evident as the investigation progresses that Siya and Chetan not only planned the execution of the alleged conspiracy but also took deliberate steps to ensure that the incident would not be detected by investigators as a case of murder, employing measures in both the physical and digital domains to conceal the crime and misdirect the investigation,” said an officer. “For example, we now know that Siya and Chetan conducted practice on how to execute the plan of pushing Ketan off the cliff. This practice was conducted near a club in Pune’s Lulla Nagar area. We are now investigating why this location was chosen and how the two practised. On Thursday morning, an investigation team took Siya to the location to find out how they practised,” the officer said.

The police officer detailed the measures Siya and Chetan took to cover their tracks. Police have earlier said they deleted their chat history. They also decided on a signal that would prompt Chetan to push Ketan from the fort. This signal was Siya sitting down on the ground. Siya Goyal, Ketan Agarwal, Siya and Ketan were engaged in February. A love triangle, then murder. The murder of 26-year-old Ketan Agarwal, director of a realty firm in Pune, has made national headlines after the investigation into



what was considered an accident revealed the alleged role of his fiancée, Siya, and her boyfriend Chetan. According to the police, the families of Siya and Ketan planned their wedding in February this year. The two were engaged on February 19, and the wedding was scheduled for later this year. Siya, police have found, was in a relationship with Chetan since October and did not want to marry Ketan. So she allegedly plotted his murder with her boyfriend, Chetan. On June 18, Ketan and Siya visited the Lohagad Fort near Pune. The investigation has found that Chetan was already there. Dressed in a hoodie to escape being identified, Chetan followed Siya and Ketan till the three reached the point from where they had decided to push Ketan. Siya sat on the ground — a cue to Chetan — and he allegedly pushed Ketan into the 350-metre gorge next to the Fort.

ED probes ex-TMC councillor Debraj Chakraborty’s ‘Rs 1300 crore’ properties



Debraj Chakraborty, Debraj Chakraborty ED probe, ED ECIR Debraj Chakraborty, former TMC councillor, disproportionate assets case, money laundering investigation, TMC leader probe, DC Global investigation, extortion allegations, land grabbing case, Kolkata crime news, Barasat court custody, Aditi Munshi, Enforcement Directorate investigation, Indian express news ED sources said Debraj Chakraborty is suspected of running a syndicate racket, and the agency is likely to question him further. (Debraj Chakraborty/X/Al enhanced) The Enforcement Directorate has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against former Trinamool Congress councillor Debraj Chakraborty, who was arrested Wednesday, and launched a probe into the properties allegedly owned by him.

ED sources said Thursday the investigation has begun into the assets and financial transactions, including scrutiny of multiple properties linked to Chakraborty, the husband of former TMC MLA Aditi Munshi. According to sources, there are several complaints against the former councillor, ranging from extortion and land grabbing to running syndicates and issuing threats. The Central agency is also examining allegations that Chakraborty owns assets worth close to Rs 1,300 crore, which officials say appear disproportionate to his known sources of income. ED is now attempting to determine the source of the alleged wealth and whether it was acquired through illicit means, according to sources. The sources said it is also probing whether properties were routed through a company named DC Global and is tracing the money trail to identify the individuals from whom funds were allegedly collected for Chakraborty, as well as those who facilitated the transactions on his behalf. The probe will

also examine the wider network involved in the alleged extortion operations and the end beneficiaries of the proceeds, including the possible involvement of other influential figures. According to ED sources, Chakraborty is suspected of running a syndicate racket, and the agency is likely to question him further and may seek his custody for detailed interrogation as the investigation progresses.

The police in Kolkata’s Baguihati produced Chakraborty before the Barasat court, which granted them a seven-day custody. The police had initiated an investigation against Chakraborty and Munshi over allegations of extortion, financial irregularities and misappropriation of property. The couple faces serious allegations, including possessing assets disproportionate to their income, concealing them, and engaging in money laundering. According to police sources, local promoters and auto unions had lodged complaints against Chakraborty, alleging he extorted money through his men. They said 10 FIRs have been filed against him based on these complaints. Chakraborty and his wife had moved the Calcutta High Court seeking anticipatory bail on the grounds of fear of arrest. While Munshi was granted anticipatory bail, Chakraborty’s plea was rejected by the court. Chakraborty was also linked to the alleged primary school recruitment scam and was interrogated by the CBI in connection with it.

Kakatiya University releases admission notification for distance and online courses

Hanamkonda: The admission notification has been released for the courses offered by Kakatiya University’s Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE).

The CDOE Director Prof. B Suresh Lal informed that admissions are open for undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, certificate and orientation courses. Applications will be accepted from July 1 to September 15.

Third conviction in Shivamogga ISIS case: NIA sentences key recruiter to 6 years’ rigorous imprisonment

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) special court in Bengaluru on Tuesday convicted and sentenced the third accused to imprisonment in the 2022 Shivamogga ISIS Terror Conspiracy case after he pleaded guilty. Accused Arafath Ali, 26, has been sentenced to six years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) on four charges of terrorism, apart from Indian Penal Code (IPC) charges of criminal conspiracy. Ali, a native of Shivamogga district who was deported from Kenya in 2023, was also sentenced for offences under Sections 18, 38, and 40 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967. Ali, who has been in prison since 2023, will serve an additional term of three years after the conviction.

Last November, the court had similarly sentenced two other accused — Mohammed Zabiulla and Nadeem Faizal — to six years of RI in the case, while the trial against the remaining nine accused, who have not pleaded guilty, is continuing. The Shivamogga module, which had members hailing mostly from the Thirthahalli region, was involved in terrorism attempts in Karnataka in the 2020-25 period. “The offender / Accused No.10 is sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of six (06) years and is liable to pay a fine of Rs.5,000/- for the offence punishable under Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. In default of payment of the fine, he shall undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of one month,” the special court said.

The sentences will run concurrently, and “the period of detention undergone by the offender / Accused No.10 in judicial custody shall be set off against the term of imprisonment imposed, as provided under Section 428 of the CrPC,” the court said. Ali had fled the country in January 2020 to evade arrest, fearing apprehension in connection with a separate terror module when he was accused of indulging in ISIS propaganda activities and planning terrorist acts. He was deported after his involvement in terrorist activities through the Shivamogga module was unearthed by the state police and the NIA. According to NIA, Ali was an active member of the Islamic State (ISIS) and was involved in the criminal conspiracy to propagate the violent terrorist ideology of the banned terror organisation on Indian soil. He was engaged in radicalisation and recruitment of vulnerable youth into the Shivamogga ISIS terror module, NIA investigations had revealed.

‘No material to show intent of causing death in accident’: Accused in Beetle crash seeks discharge from case

Volkswagen Beetle involved in the 2023 Sarangpur crash near the Botanical Garden in Chandigarh, where three people were killed and five injured. Volkswagen Beetle involved in the 2023 Sarangpur crash near the Botanical Garden in Chandigarh, where three people were killed and five injured. Arguing that there is “no material to suggest that the accused had either the intention to cause death or the knowledge that his actions were likely to result in death”, Paramveer Singh, accused in the 2023 Sarangpur Volkswagen Beetle crash that killed three persons, has moved a discharge application before a Chandigarh court.

The plea, filed before the court of Additional Sessions Judge Sonika, contends that the essential ingredients to invoke culpable homicide under Section 304 of the IPC are absent in the case, and seeks discharge under Section 227 of the CrPC (now Section 250 of the BNSS). The court has issued notice to the prosecution and posted the matter for May 25. The case pertains to an FIR registered on May 17, 2023 at the Sarangpur police station under Sections 279, 337 and 304 of the IPC, with Section 338 added later. The FIR relates to an incident in which a speeding Volkswagen Beetle allegedly rammed into a group of people near a bus stop close to the Botanical Garden, leaving three dead and five injured.

Court orders FIR against Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara over ‘Rs 500 bet’ remark at kabaddi event

The Bengaluru city court Tuesday directed the Tumakuru police to register a First Information Report (FIR) against Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara over his alleged admission of placing a Rs 500 bet during a kabaddi tournament. The order was passed by the 42nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) court judge, K N Shivakumar, following a private complaint filed by H R Nagabhushan, who argued that the Karnataka home minister’s statement amounted to promoting an illegal activity.

Taking cognisance of the matter, the court directed the Kodigehalli police in Tumakuru to register an FIR against the Karnataka home minister and conduct a detailed investigation. According to the complaint, the incident pertains to a state-level pre-university students’

kabaddi tournament held in Tumakuru. During the event, Parameshwara allegedly placed a friendly wager of Rs 500 with Deputy Commissioner Shubha Kalyan, backing the Vijayapura team. However, the Dakshina Kannada team went on to win the final 36–26. The complaint states that while distributing prizes, the Karnataka home minister publicly acknowledged losing the bet, which subsequently led to legal scrutiny. Although the amount involved was small and the remark was allegedly made in a light-hearted manner, the complainant argued that betting is illegal and that public figures must avoid endorsing or engaging in such activities. He also contended that a person holding constitutional office should refrain from statements that could be seen as promoting unlawful conduct.

NIA further found in its probe in the case, which was originally registered by September 2022 by the Karnataka Police, that Ali was in touch with an online ISIS handler. He also worked as a funding channel for the Shivamogga terror module by receiving terror funds through cryptocurrency and disbursing the same among his co-accused. According to the NIA’s probe, an online handler identified as ‘Colonel’ provided funds to the accused members of the module “in cryptocurrency to crypto wallets of the accused and their friends to further the activities of IS”. The Karnataka Police had arrested two people in the case, and later, the NIA arrested 10 others after it took over the investigation. NIA had subsequently filed charges against all 12 accused. The case involves the conducting of trial blasts on the banks of the river Tungabhadra, near Shivamogga in 2022. The Shivamogga ISIS terror module was accidentally unearthed in 2022 after a stabbing incident that occurred in the city of Shivamogga on Independence Day, where Zabiullah was arrested for attempting to kill an innocent bystander in a communal incident. The main accused in the 2024 Bengaluru Rameshwaram Cafe blast case of 2024 — Abdul Matheen Taha, 32, Mussavir Hussain Shazib, 32 — and the accused in the 2022 Mangaluru cooker blast case, Mohammed Sharif, 27, are also accused of being part of the Shivamogga module but have not pleaded guilty and have chosen to face the trial in the case. The Shivamogga module is alleged to have been handled by a missing accused from a 2012 Bengaluru LeT terror conspiracy case, Mohammed Shahid Faizal, who is currently based abroad. Faizal is also suspected to be linked to the Kashmir doctors module accused in the November 10 Red Fort blast case, and an October 23, 2022, Coimbatore suicide scare bomb case on account of similar modus operandi employed by the separate modules in the blasts.

In the application, filed through advocates Terminder Singh, Madhu Vani, Manjinder Singh and others, the accused has claimed false implication and denied any negligence on his part. It has been argued that the accident occurred due to the fault of a motorcycle rider who was allegedly coming from the wrong side and did not possess a valid driving licence. The defence has maintained that even if the prosecution’s version is accepted at face value, the case would, at best, attract Section 304-A IPC (causing death by negligence), and not Section 304 IPC. It emphasises that there is no evidence to indicate intention or prior knowledge that could elevate the offence to culpable homicide. Referring to the material on record, the application cites the mechanical inspection report of the car, stating that the damage pattern and deployment of airbags suggest a sudden impact, allegedly caused by the motorcycle entering from the wrong direction. It also claims that the CCTV footage from the accident site was not preserved, which, according to the defence, could have supported its version. The plea further relies on the statement of a co-passenger in the vehicle, who has reportedly corroborated the claim that the motorcycle was at fault. It also points out that there are no allegations of intoxication against the accused and that he has no prior criminal record.

Anxiety grips Telangana NRIs in Dubai over electoral rolls verification



Dubai: A sense of anxiety grips Sonapur in Dubai amid mounting legal challenges and growing apprehension about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls verification that has begun back home in Telangana. The neighbourhood of Sonapur houses thousands of Telangana migrant workers who have lived hand-to-mouth for years, mostly doing marginal jobs. Some of their passports or visas have expired, making

them illegal residents in a foreign country. Yet, all of them are Indian citizens and possess voter identity cards as well as Aadhaar. A significant number of NRI workers are also worried about discrepancies in their official documents, a common yet complex issue that prevails in rural areas and continues to haunt them. They now fear that they may have to make sudden and expensive trips back home to retain their names on India’s electoral rolls. For most NRI workers, an unplanned trip home means extra costs and lost wages against the backdrop of a volatile employment market and surging airfares amid geopolitical developments in the region. Chintala Srinivas, who works in Dubai, is a registered voter in his village in Jagtial district and has all the required documents. “There has been no problem so far, but I don’t know what will happen now,” he said. Srinivas is just one among thousands of anxious workers abroad who are looking for the next course of action, with no one to help them. The prescribed documents are not sought from every elector at the time of submitting the enumeration form, and this is compounding anxiety and tension, said Mohammed Abdul Jabbar, a Telangana activist in Saudi Arabia.

EYE SECRETS
Editorial

7-point agenda for CJP — the bigger battle for future of India’s youth

The resignation of a Union Minister following sustained student protests is much more than a political event. It demonstrates that peaceful, organised youth movements can influence public policy. Perhaps the most inspiring statement came from one of the movement’s leaders: “Don’t make a hero out of me.” Democracies are strengthened not by heroes but by ideas and institutions.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has won its first battle. The greater challenge now is whether it can evolve from a protest movement into India’s most respected youth policy movement. History shows that movements lose direction when they become partisan or rush into electoral politics. The CJP should remain independent, evidence-based, and focused on reforms that improve the lives of students. The three young faces who emerged at the forefront of the movement came from completely different worlds. Abhijeet Dipke studied journalism and public relations and built a career in political communications, including higher studies in Boston. Saurav Das pursued journalism and investigative reporting, focusing on governance and public accountability. Ashutosh Ranka graduated from IIT Kanpur, later specialised in public policy at the London School of Economics, and worked in global management consulting.

They did not grow up in the same city. They did not attend the same school or college. They did not build careers in the same profession. There was no traditional institutional network connecting them. Yet, when a national issue touched millions of students, they found one another, combined their complementary strengths, and transformed public anger into an organised, disciplined, and evidence-based movement. Equally significant is what they represent. None of them is a doctor, even though they led a movement centred on medical admissions. Their collective expertise lay in communication, journalism, engineering, public policy, and strategy—skills that proved just as critical in influencing national debate. This may well be the new face of India’s Generation Z leadership. The NEET agitation highlighted examination integrity. The next phase must focus on opportunity. Millions of young Indians are not defeated by examinations; they are defeated by the shortage of affordable, high-quality educational opportunities and the growing mismatch between education costs and employment outcomes. India’s largest youth constituency is not the students who obtain subsidised government seats—it is the much larger group that does not. Every year over 22 lakh students write NEET while only a small fraction obtain government MBBS seats. In engineering too, more than one million aspirants eventually depend on private colleges. The challenge today is therefore not merely capacity—it is affordable access to quality education. The first reform must be expansion of medical education. India continues to compare doctors per million population with other countries. That benchmark measures healthcare availability after graduation. It does not measure educational opportunity. A second metric is required—medical seats per million youth (18–22 years), because young people, not the entire population, compete for these seats.

Kejriwal announces National Town Hall against E20 fuel: ‘This is only the beginning’

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal Monday announced that the party will hold a “National Town Hall Against E-20” on August 1 to bring all stakeholders and experts on a single platform to raise the issue. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal said, “Congratulations to the country’s youth. They have forced an arrogant government to bend, and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had to resign.”

“Now, I appeal to the Prime Minister to also resolve the E20 issue. People are facing immense hardship. Their vehicles are getting damaged and fuel efficiency has declined. Before this issue snowballs into a larger movement, the Prime Minister should step in and resolve it.” Kejriwal said thousands are expected to participate in the Townhall. “The programme will begin at noon. Those from Delhi and neighbouring cities who can attend in person should reach Constitution Club by 11.30 am. People from outside Delhi who cannot attend physically can join online,” he said. “Those interested can send a WhatsApp message to the number they have shared. By Friday evening, we will send them a link through which they can join the discussion on Saturday,” Kejriwal said. The AAP chief said the event will bring together experts and others affected by or interested in the issue. “Everyone will have an opportunity to speak. We will also chalk out the future course of action to press the government to withdraw the E-20 policy.” This is only the beginning. Earlier, I had launched an online petition addressed to the Prime Minister, and more than two lakh people signed it. After Saturday’s programme, I will visit the Prime Minister’s residence to submit the petition,” he said. On police action against students Responding to a question on reports of police action against students in states such as Bihar and West Bengal despite the Centre’s assurance, Kejriwal said, “It is wrong to take such action against our own people. The government had promised the entire country that no action would be taken against students. Yet, students are facing police action, FIRs are being registered against them and lathi-charge is being carried out. This only shows that the government does not stand by its word.” “Look at the PM’s statements over the past four or five years. Many of them are now circulating on social media. Two years ago, he said in Parliament that stringent laws had already been enacted. Yet the alleged mastermind of the 2024 (NEET) paper leak case, who was arrested with much fanfare, was granted bail within three months... and only last week, the CBI gave him a clean chit,” he said.

Can taxpayers claim I-T exemption in sale of redeveloped flats? What ITAT Tax Appellate Tribunal ruled



Can sale of your redeveloped old flat be counted as a long term gain under Income Tax Act, 1961, entitling you – as a taxpayer – for indexation benefits and exemption under Section 54F of the Income-Tax (I-T) Act, 1961? Yes, as the Mumbai bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) recently held that capital gains arising from the sale of a flat, received under a redevelopment scheme, are long-term capital gains, qualifying the taxpayer for tax exemption.

What does exemption under Section 54F mean for taxpayers?

Section 54F of the I-T Act allows individuals to avoid tax on long-term capital gains if they reinvest the residential house sale proceeds – money received from selling the property – within prescribed timelines. The matter came to light when a bench of Judicial Member Siddhartha Nautiyal and Accountant Member Vikram Singh Yadav was hearing a plea by a Mumbai couple, challenging denial of long-term capital gains and Section 54F exemption on the sale of a redeveloped flat in 2018. The assessment year in dispute was 2018-19, and the appeal arose from a December 30, 2025 order of the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals), NFAC. Rajesh Shamji Furia and

his wife had originally purchased a 510 sq ft flat in 2006, which became part of a redevelopment project under a development agreement executed on February 15, 2013. Under the redevelopment scheme, Furia became entitled to a new flat comprising his original area, an additional 30 percent area without consideration, extra area purchased from the developer and 185 sq ft received as a gift from his mother. In 2018, he sold the redeveloped flat for Rs 1.95 crore and claimed exemption under Section 54F of the I-T Act, 1961. However, the Assessing Officer (AO) treated the redeveloped flat as a “completely new capital asset” and taxed the gains as short-term capital gains, and denied the Mumbai couple indexation and Section 54F relief. Later, the Commissioner of Income Tax (CIT-Appeals) also upheld the AO’s decision, prompting Furia to approach ITAT. The ITAT rejected the AO’s approach, denying Furia indexation and Section 54F relief, and observed that “a redevelopment scheme does not result in extinguishment of the owner’s proprietary rights followed by acquisition of an altogether fresh capital asset.” It added, “The ownership rights of an existing member continue throughout the redevelopment process and merely undergo substitution from the old structure to the newly constructed premises.” The ITAT also held that the Permanent Alternate Accommodation Agreement (PAAA) “neither creates ownership for the first time nor results in acquisition of an independent capital asset” but “merely identifies and records the permanent alternate premises allotted in substitution of the existing premises”. In Furia’s case, the tribunal concluded that even if the holding period is reckoned from the 2013 development agreement, the asset was held “for almost five years” – well beyond the threshold for a long-term capital asset. “The redeveloped flat was continuation of the existing capital asset and not acquisition of a fresh capital asset for the first time on January 1, 2018,” the Bench held. It directed removal of the AO’s addition of Rs. 80.14 lakh and allowed indexed cost of acquisition to grant exemption under section 54F in accordance with law.

NCRTC submits DPRs for 4 Namo Bharat RRTS corridors to boost Delhi-NCR connectivity



Namo Bharat RRTS corridors: The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has submitted detailed project reports (DPRs) for four proposed Nam Bharat RRTS corridors. The projects are aimed at expanding high-speed regional transit and improving connectivity across Delhi-NCR. At present, the only operational Nam Bharat RRTS corridor is the 82.15-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut route. The project was sanctioned by the Central Government in March 2019. In a written statement in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Tokhan Sahu said that the NCRTC has submitted Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for four Nam Bharat RRTS corridors: Delhi-Karnal, Delhi-Bawal, Bawal-Behror, and Ghaziabad-Noida International Airport. The minister said the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), in its Functional Plan on Transport for NCR-2032, has identified eight Regional Rapid Transit System

(RRTS) corridors to connect key towns across the Delhi-NCR through a semi-high-speed rail-based commuter network aimed at improving regional rail connectivity. These are: The Union Minister was responding to questions raised by Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, who sought details on the progress of the Phase-I Nam Bharat corridors: Delhi-Gurugram-SNB-Alwar and Delhi-Panipat-Karnal. Chadha also asked about the current status of the proposed Nam Bharat connection to Noida International Airport and the government’s plans to expand the Nam Bharat network to other parts of the country. Responding to the query, the minister said that the Task Force appointed by the erstwhile Planning Commission of India (now NITI Aayog) had prioritized three RRTS corridors for implementation, namely, Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Gurugram-Alwar and Delhi-Panipat. “The Nam Bharat RRTS projects are cost intensive proposals and therefore, undergo intensive examination at different levels in Central Government. After such examination, Central Government considers financial assistance to RRTS projects, based on feasibility of the proposal and availability of resources,” Sahu said. Anish Mondal is a journalist with over nine years of experience covering the railways and roadways. Currently a member of the Indianexpress.com editorial team, Anish specializes in high-impact sectors. Professional Journey Anish began his career at the public broadcaster Rajya Sabha Television (now Sansad TV), where he developed a foundational understanding of legislative processes and national governance. In 2018, he transitioned to digital financial journalism at FinancialExpress.com, spending nearly six years refining his expertise in market trends and corporate reporting.

UP man kills ailing 1-year-old daughter, frames neighbours to settle old feud

Police brought Bablu in for detailed questioning on Saturday, during which he broke down and admitted to having killed his daughter himself. (File Photo/Enhanced using AI) Police brought Bablu in for detailed questioning on Saturday, during which he broke down and admitted to having killed his daughter himself. Last Thursday, a grieving father walked into a police station in Uttar Pradesh’s Farrukhabad, accusing four neighbours of killing his one-year-old daughter in a stone-pelting attack. Days later, the case took a startling turn: police said the complainant himself had strangled the child, allegedly driven by mounting debt over her medical treatment, before trying to frame his neighbours over an old rivalry. The breakthrough came after the post-mortem revealed that the child had died due to strangulation. Doctors found no injuries consistent with stone-pelting, officials said. The accused, Bablu alias Dablu, a resident of Gaugaura village, was arrested on Saturday. Police said Bablu and his neighbour, against whom the original complaint had been filed, are from the Jatav community. Ram Sahay Singh, Station House Officer of Kamalganj police station, said, “Bablu admitted to killing his daughter, who was undergoing treatment for a medical issue for a long time, and tried to frame his neighbour.” According to police, Bablu had approached the police station on Thursday alleging that four neighbours had pelted stones and bricks at his house, and that one of the stones struck and killed his daughter. He also claimed the neighbours, with whom his family had an old enmity, threatened him against reporting the incident. Police, however, found several inconsistencies in Bablu’s account. First, the four persons named in the FIR were not in the vicinity when the alleged attack took place. Second, no local resident could corroborate that any clash or altercation had occurred between Bablu and his neighbours. Investigators also found that a week earlier, one of the accused neighbours, Surendra, had filed an assault complaint against Bablu and his two brothers for allegedly beating up his brother. Further, doctors who carried out the autopsy did not find any injury marks on the child’s body consistent with being struck by stones.

Police brought Bablu in for detailed questioning on Saturday, during which he broke down and admitted to



having killed his daughter himself. He told police that his daughter had been suffering severe malnutrition and her health had shown no signs of improvement despite treatment. Police said Bablu told them he had borrowed money to pay for her treatment and had fallen into debt. Overwhelmed by the financial burden and emotional distress, he allegedly strangled the child before concocting the story of a stone-pelting attack to divert suspicion and settle old scores with his neighbours.

KNRUHS releases rescheduled timetable for postponed theory examinations

Hyderabad: Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS), Telangana, on Monday released the rescheduled timetable for the theory examinations that were postponed on July 24, 2026.

According to an official notification issued on Monday by the Controller of Examinations, revised dates have been announced across multiple undergraduate health science courses. On July 29, B.Sc. MLT 2nd Year (Biochemistry-I), 3rd BNYS Part-I, B.Sc. Audiology and Speech Therapy Final Year, and B.Sc. Optometry Final Year. On July 31, 2026:

2020 Delhi riots IB officer murder: Police seek death for Tahir Hussain, other convicts



2020 riots IB Officer murder case: Delhi Police on Monday demanded the death penalty for ex-Aam Aadmi Party leader Tahir Hussain and four others convicted of the torture and ‘cold-blooded’ murder of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 riots in the national capital. The convicted persons, the police told a city court, ‘turned into animals’ who inflicted 51 injuries on Sharma – seven of which were fatal on their own.

Hussain’s counsel opposed the demand, arguing the death penalty its only to be given in the ‘rarest of rare cases’. Hussain’s counsel said the penalty could not handed down merely on the basis of injuries sustained. The counsel also cited the former AAP leader’s good conduct while in prison. Hussain’s counsel also argued that since the entire Delhi police force had failed to control the violent mob, a single individual could not then be held responsible for the murder.

Bengaluru cracks down on garbage dumping, registers first FIR against 4



In a first for the city, the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) last Saturday registered a criminal case against four people accused of dumping garbage at a site that civic authorities had recently cleared as part of an anti-littering drive. The action comes amid the Greater Bengaluru Authority’s Safe Footpath Campaign and a city-wide effort to clean vacant plots and eliminate garbage black spots.

“This is the first time an FIR has been registered for illegal garbage dumping. If violators are caught and refuse to pay fines despite being given time, we initiate criminal proceedings against them,” a civic body official said. Ward marshals on night patrol spotted the four people allegedly dumping waste at the location on 7th Main Road in Banaswadi on July 16, according to civic officials. When the marshals intercepted them, the accused allegedly refused to pay the prescribed fines and proceeded to dump the waste.

Following the incident, the assistant general manager of the Sarvagnanagar division of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) lodged a complaint at the Banaswadi Police Station on July 25. When the violators did not pay the fine, the police booked them for allegedly polluting the environment and endangering public health. The offence is non-cognisable and bailable, and carries a maximum fine of Rs 1,000. Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner, BNCC, said the civic body would continue to pursue legal and penal action against those found dumping waste at sites that have been cleaned. After restoring the Banaswadi location, officials conducted awareness campaigns to discourage indiscriminate dumping and deployed ward marshals to monitor the area.

Asked not to take video of CPR treatment, patient’s son assaults doctor at Sassoon hospital

A doctor at the Sassoon General Hospital was assaulted allegedly by the son of a patient, who was later booked by the police. According to police, the incident happened when the doctor asked the accused not to record the video of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) treatment. Police said the patient died of a heart attack.

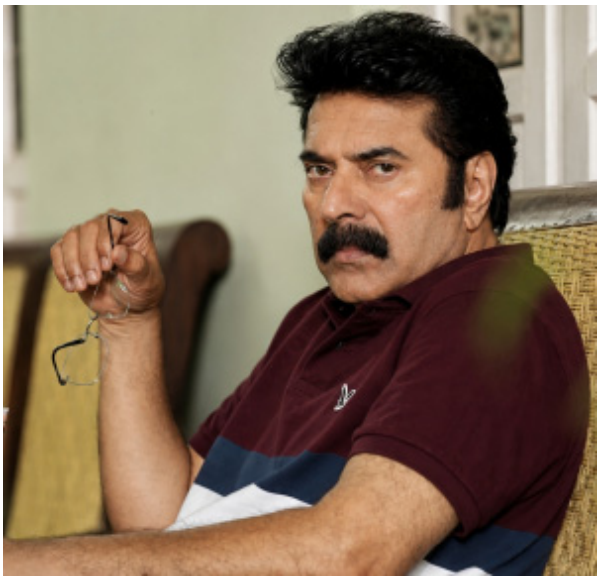
An FIR in this case was registered at the Bundgarden police station on Saturday. Police said the accused, a 30-year-old man from Ghropadi, brought his father who suffered cardiac arrest to the government-run Sassoon General Hospital for treatment on Saturday.

Police said the patient was taken to the emergency ward. In an attempt to save the patient, when the trainee doctor at the hospital was giving him CPR, the accused started recording a video of the procedure on his cell phone. When the doctor asked him to not record the video, he allegedly turned angry and assaulted the doctor.

Based on a complaint filed by the doctor, police have booked the accused under Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) sections 132 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from doing their duty), 352, 351 and sections of the Maharashtra Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions. (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act.

Sub-inspector Ganesh Wankhade said that the father of the accused was pronounced dead at the hospital. Police did not arrest the accused.

‘Cried like a child’: Cochin Haneeefa kept his fatal illness a secret from friend Mammootty



Cochin Haneeefa was renowned not just as a phenomenal actor but also as an exceptional writer-director. In a career spanning close to 40 years, he appeared in over 300 films across Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, and Telugu languages, winning the hearts of audiences wherever he set foot. Haneeefa was also a beloved figure among industry insiders, and almost everyone still has only the nicest things to say about him.

The unbreakable bond between Mammootty, Cochin HaneeefaWhile he shared a warm bond with almost everyone around him, Malayalam megastar Mammootty held a special place in Cochin Haneeefa's heart. In fact, the only time Malayalees saw Mammootty, widely considered as the regional film industry's Valyettan (big brother), cry in public was when the actor-director died. The image of a highly emotional Mammootty struggling to pacify a sobbing Maniyanpilla Raju during one of the moments following Haneeefa's death still remains etched in Malayalees' minds.Cinema Anatomy | Jana Nayagan: Vijay's propaganda film makes even Sura and Villu look like masterpiecesFor the unfamiliar, Cochin Haneeefa died at the age of 59 in February 2010. He had been unwell for some time due to liver-related problems. However, not even his closest friends in the industry knew about his illness till the last minute, as he did not wish to burden others with his woes. By the time the megastar and others learned of his condition, it was too late.During a 2023 episode of his podcast, Mukesh Speaking, actor-politi-

cian Mukesh recalled the Malayalam megastar's reaction to Haneeefa's illness and eventual death. He recalled Mammootty "sobbing like a little child," heartbroken that he couldn't save Haneeefa."When talking about Haneeefa, there's no way one can skip mentioning Mammootty's name. I can only wonder why they weren't born as brothers. Mammootty had that much love for Haneeefa, and the latter had double the love for him. While Haneeefa was expressive, Mammootty wasn't as much. Yet, his love for Haneeefa was always evident," Mukesh shared.Mukesh recalls Mammootty's grief over Cochin Haneeefa's demiseHe continued, "That's why when Haneeefa left us, Mammootty burst out crying like a little child. His crying was mostly because... until the very end, until his condition got very bad, Haneeefa didn't tell anyone about his disease or that his condition was serious. He kept it a secret, and only in the final days did people realise it. By then, his condition had reached such a stage that he could no longer be saved. That's why Mammootty cried.""Those were heart-melting scenes. Mammootty wasn't just crying; he was scolding Haneeefa, saying, 'Couldn't he have told me at least? I would have taken him anywhere in the world for treatment.' Those were the moments that made us realise how innocent he is as a person," Mukesh added.Following Haneeefa's death, Mammootty wrote on social media, "I lost my best friend. My heartfelt tribute to Cochin Haneeefa... pray for him."From villain roles to master director: Cochin Haneeefa's cinematic journeyCochin Haneeefa made his acting debut in 1972 with Azhimukham. However, most of his early roles were villainous. By the 1980s, Haneeefa had become a notable actor. In 1985, he made his directorial debut with Oru Sandesham Koodi, starring Mammootty. In 1986, he wrote and directed the legal drama Moonnu Masangalku Mumbu, also starring the megastar.He also helmed movies such as Oru Sindoor Pottinte Ormaykku (1987), Aankiliyude Tharattu (1987), Paasa Paravaigal (1988), Paadatha Thenikkal (1988), Veena Meettiya Vilangukal (1990), Pagalil Pournami (1990), Vatsalyam (1993), and Bheesmacharya (1994), before shifting his focus entirely to acting.Cochin Haneeefa is best known for his performances in movies such as Kireedam, Chenkol, Punjabi House, Mannar Mathai Speaking, Devaasuram, Praja, Arayannangalude Veedu, Sathyam Sivam Sundaram, Swapnakoodu, Mazhathullikkilukkam, Meesa Madhavan, Kunjikoonaan, CID Moosa, Kilichundan Mampazham, Pulivaal Kalyanam, and Thilakkam, among others.Meanwhile, a big dream that Haneeefa left behind 16 years ago finally became a reality recently as the family of the beloved actor moved into their own home.

Who is Samreen Kaur? Meet actor-model who is dating cricketer Arshdeep Singh

Actor-model Samreen Kaur is making headlines after Indian pacer Arshdeep SinghIndian cricketer Arshdeep Singh has confirmed his relationship with actor and model Samreen Kaur.Weeks after fuelling dating rumours, Indian fast bowler Arshdeep Singh has officially introduced Samreen Kaur as 'my person' on Instagram. The cricketer put an end to weeks of dating speculation by making his relationship with actor-model Samreen Kaur Instagram official.The cricketer shared two loved-up pictures confirming what fans had long suspected, and the post went viral in no time. The post now has more than 2.2 million likes, along with congratulatory messages pouring in from fans and fellow cricketers.Born on September 7, 1999, Samreen Kaur hails from Jammu and Kashmir. She first stepped into the spotlight as a finalist representing the state at the Femina Miss India 2018 pageant before pursuing a career in modelling and acting. She later completed her B.Com (Honours) from Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune.Actor-model Samreen Kaur is making headlines after Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh Samreen Kaur hails from Jammu and Kashmir.

Samreen made her acting debut with Kabir Khan's 83 and later appeared in the ZEE5 web series Nail Polish and featured in the film Sardaar Ji 2. She has also featured in Punjabi projects and gained immense popularity through music videos with artists including Badshah, Guru Randhawa, Jubin Nautiyal, Jass Manak and Maninder Buttar, making her a familiar face among young audiences.Actor-model Samreen Kaur is making headlines after Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh Samreen Kaur is an actor and model.Apart from films, Samreen has built a massive social media presence, where she regularly shares fashion, travel and lifestyle content. Her popularity has continued to grow over the years, making her one of the emerging faces in the entertainment industry.Before her relationship with Arshdeep Singh became official,



Samreen Kaur was also rumoured to be dating popular YouTuber Ashish Chanchlani. However, both had dismissed the speculation, clarifying that they were close friends and not romantically involved. In a later interaction, Samreen revealed that their bond had changed over time due to personal reasons, while emphasising that they continued to have mutual respect.Actor-model Samreen Kaur is making headlines after Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh Samreen Kaur was earlier rumoured to be dating popular YouTuber Ashish ChanchlaniSamreen Kaur and Arshdeep Singh's dating rumoursRumours about Samreen and Arshdeep's relationship first surfaced during the IPL 2026 season, when she was spotted cheering for the Punjab Kings pacer and the duo was seen together on multiple occasions.While both remained silent initially, Arshdeep's latest Instagram post has now officially confirmed their relationship.

Niharika NM recalls rejecting a film due to intimate scenes: ‘Actor didn’t want body double’

Niharika NM, who is gearing up for her upcoming film Bhai tera Star Hai opposite Raghav Juyal, started her journey as a content creator. However, she revealed in a recent interview, that making humorous reels and sketches wasn't her ultimate goal. The actor-influencer wanted to become an actor but the journey as a newcomer was challenging in Bollywood. She also recalled rejecting a film due to its 'intimacy clause'.During a chat with News18, she shared, "When I had moved to Bombay three-four years ago, I spent three years training under a production house. I had gone to film school and I've a background in theatre."

The actor-content creator continued, "I definitely wanted to give acting a shot. I didn't know how far it would go or what I exactly wanted to do. All I knew was that I was passionate about it and I enjoyed it." But, she soon decided to stop struggling for an offer in Bollywood and started auditioning in South cinema, implying Hindi film industry's unrealistic beauty standards."I tried in Hindi films first but I didn't enjoy the standards that were set for women – how they should look or how their skin tone should be. I thought that it's not the space I should fight in. It was also a very crowded space," she said.

Later on, Niharika went on to sign a three-film deal with Karthik Subbaraj's production house, Stone Bench

Films. She added, "But midway through my training process with them, I turned down really good South films which did wonders at the box office. I couldn't believe it! I was bound by contract. That will remain one of my biggest regrets. But I'm happy for whoever did it. And once the contract ended, there was no stopping me. Then I phoned like raita across films of different languages."But, that was another difficult path to walk, as she didn't want to do intimate scenes on-screen. "There were so many reasons why I got rejected from films. It all sounds hilarious at this point. There was one particular film I was supposed to do. It was being made by this great director. I grew up watching him. He handpicked me. I had auditioned for the part. The look test was done."She shared, "The contract was sent to my house and I had signed it. There was this intimacy clause in it and I had told them that I'm not comfortable doing onscreen intimacy. They were fine with it and were planning on going ahead with a body double. But the actor wasn't okay doing the scene with a body double. He wasn't interested. It was his call. Then it became a situation of this or that."Niharika NM marked her international debut with a guest voice role in the American sitcom Big Mouth season 7 in 2023. She also made her South debut in the Tamil film Perusu last year, followed by Mithra Mandali and Idhayam Murali.

Pankaj Tripathi’s Ohh My Dog postponed, director says ‘won’t repeat’ OMG 2 clash mistake



Pankaj Tripathi's upcoming film Ohh My Dog has been postponed by a week amid Spider-Man Brand New Day releasePankaj Tripathi's upcoming film Ohh My Dog has been postponed by a week amid Spider-Man Brand New Day releasePankaj Tripathi's upcoming family entertainer Ohh My Dog was set to hit the theatres in July 31. However, the release date of the film has been postponed by a week. It is now scheduled to debut on the big screens on August 7. While talking to SCREEN exclusively, the film's director Amit Rai revealed that the reason behind the postponement is lesser screens and a clash with other big releases. He also admitted making a mistake by releasing his Akshay Kumar, Pankaj Tripathi starrer OMG 2 with Sunny Deol's Gadar 2, in 2023.When asked about pushing the release date of his film Ohh My Dog, he shared, "We made a practical decision because the screens will get occupied with Spider Man. Already Odyssey has taken over the theatres, and Dhamaal 4 is also screening in two shows. So, our base is a family audience and it will be scattered in all these films, a big chunk will go to Spider-Man Brand New Day. There won't even be a chance of increasing the number of screens."

The director also opened up about the positive response the upcoming movie received from his close friends and family. "I can't say no to close friends, so we

have been doing special group screenings. I wanted reactions, so we have done it in Jaipur, Lucknow, and Calcutta. The reactions are very positive, and that made me take the decision overnight. The reaction of the audience, especially children, was tremendous, more than expected," he said.Rai also recalled making a big mistake of releasing his film OMG 2 on the same date Gadar 2 was premiering, and the latter turning out to become the winner. "I didn't want that positive response to stay limited to close friends. It has to go to people and become big. My last film had the same fate, the crew and my friends loved it. They wanted it to be showcased in schools, but it got an 'A' certificate. Despite that, I kept saying that the release date should be changed," he elaborated.He continued, "But, it was announced by then and the film was released with Gadar 2. Even with the competition, my film earned Rs 188 crore, but Gadar 2 collected Rs 500-600 crore. If OMG 2 had a solo release, it would have comfortably earned Rs 300-350 crore. It shouldn't have been released with Gadar 2, so I don't want to repeat history. I will not make the same mistake again."

In a statement to the media, filmmaker Amit Rai spoke about the decision and said that Spider-Man is expected to "create history" with an opening of "around Rs 50 crore," leaving little room for other films. "Even after making such a good film, the reason won't be anything else... the reason will be that we simply won't have the space to occupy screens," he mentioned.Explaining the postponement of Ohh My Dog, Rai said the team decided to "step aside briefly," delay the release by a week, and return when audiences had already watched the bigger releases. "By then, there will be a little space, and we might be able to grow there."Besides Tripathi, Ohh My Dog also stars Pavan Malhotra and Maahi Rai. The family drama tells the story of a young child's pure bond with a stray dog and handling the major problem of dog trafficking. It also features canine stars Oscar and Bruno, along with more than 250 real dogs.Major clash with Odyssey and Spider ManFor the unversed, Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey hit the theatres last week and has been performing well at the box office. It has already crossed \$600 million globally. On the other hand, Marvel's much-awaited Spider-Man: Brand New Day is also releasing next week, on July 31.Having said that, Spider Man is missing an IMAX release because Nolan's The Odyssey secured a world-wide four-week IMAX exclusivity window from July 17, 2026. This block leaves no IMAX screens available for the Marvel release.

Aishwarya Lekshmi calls Kangana Ranaut a ‘mad genius,’ praises her Parliament speeches

Actor Aishwarya Lekshmi has offered a glowing endorsement of Kangana Ranaut, calling the actor-turned-politician a "mad genius" and praising her growth as a public speaker and her work in Parliament."I love Kangana Ranaut. I feel like she is a mad genius," Aishwarya said in a conversation with Galatta Plus. "I like how she taught herself to talk well and be a good orator. I love the speeches she gives in Parliament."

Kangana Ranaut arrived in Mumbai as a teenager from Manali in Himachal Pradesh with no backing, no formal training in acting, and limited command over English or Hindi. She has spoken openly about how she was mocked in the early years of her career for her accent and her lack of polish. Over the next decade, she taught herself to speak fluently in both languages, worked on her diction, and went on to win four National Film Awards for Best Actress, a record matched by very few in Hindi cinema. Her performances in Queen, Tanu Weds Manu Returns, Fashion and Manikarnika established her as one of the most acclaimed actors of her generation.

In 2024, she entered politics, winning the Mandi Lok Sabha seat as a BJP candidate, and has since made several interventions in Parliament, including speeches during the Women's Reservation Bill debate. Her political positions and confrontational public style have made her a deeply polarising figure, but even her critics have acknowledged her oratory skills on the floor of the House.Aishwarya Lekshmi's trajectory has its own version of that story. Born in Thiruvananthapuram, she completed her MBBS from Sree Narayana Institute of Medical Sciences in Ernakulam before entering modelling in 2014 and making her acting debut in 2017 with the Malayalam film Njandukalude Nattil Oridavela. Her breakthrough came the same year with Mayaanadhi opposite Tovino Thomas. She went on to work across three languages, appearing in Varathan and Kumari in Malayalam, Gargi and



Ponniyin Selvan in Tamil, and Ammu in Telugu.Like Kangana, Aishwarya has no family connections in the film industry. She has spoken in the past about the pressure women face in the industry to conform, including in interviews where she has been vocal about society's obsession with marriage and the limited space given to female-led stories.The comments have drawn a mixed response online, with some appreciating Aishwarya's willingness to express admiration for a controversial figure, and others questioning the praise given Kangana's political positions. Neither actor has responded to the online reaction so far.

Karan Johar to host The Traitors Season 2, premieres on August 13

Mumbai: Filmmaker Karan Johar is all set to return as a host for the second season of the reality show "The Traitors", which will start streaming from August 13.

Collaborating with independent distributor All3Media International for the local adaptation of IDTV's BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning global format, season two is produced by Dharmatic Entertainment.21 celebrity players will battle for the grand prize and the coveted title.

Nikhil Madhok, Director and Head of Originals, Prime Video, India said: "The Traitors has become one of Prime Video India's most defining reality franchises, transforming the genre with its unique blend of intelligent gameplay, psychological strategy, and riveting entertainment.""Audiences across the country were hooked by its emotionally charged mind games and raw, unfiltered drama. With season two, the stakes are higher, the gameplay is sharper, the drama is more intense, and the new line-up of players will keep audiences on the edge of their seats at every turn.""We're thrilled to have Karan Johar return as the host and master orchestrator, and we can't wait for audiences to experience another extraordinary season.""The Indian adaptation of The Traitors struck a powerful chord with viewers in its very first season, and we couldn't be more delighted to see it return for another thrilling chapter.

