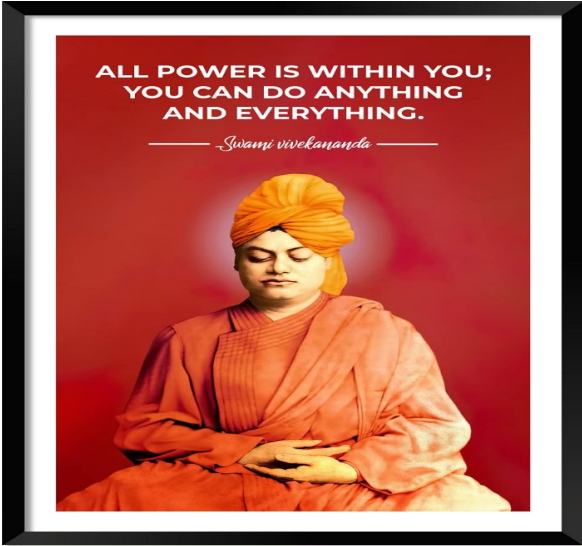
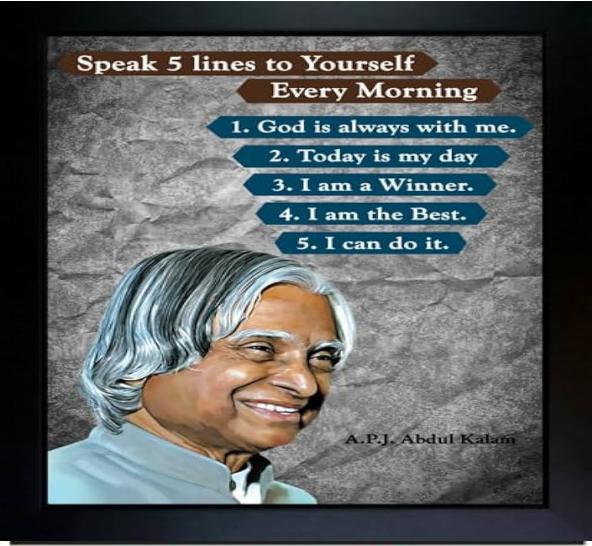




Sitharaman, Goyal in Singapore to Boost Trade and Investment Ties

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal are in Singapore for high-level talks aimed at deepening economic ties with the Southeast Asian financial hub. While a 70-member Indian business delegation accompanying Goyal will seek new investment, trade and technology partnerships, Sitharaman is leading a ministerial delegation that includes External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Goyal, and Minister of State for Electronics and IT and Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada

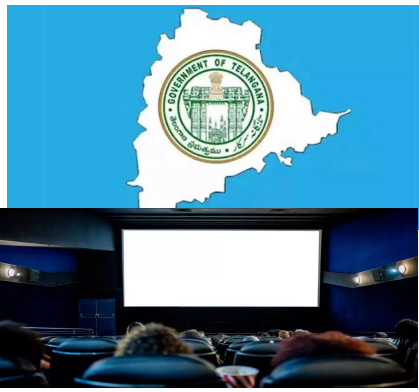


for the fourth India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMRT). The meeting is scheduled for August 20, according to official statements. The ISMRT, established in 2022, is the main high-level economic mechanism between the two countries and covers

advanced manufacturing, connectivity, digitalisation, health-care and medicine, skills development and sustainability. The fourth round will review progress in these areas and identify new opportunities to strengthen the economic partnership.

Telangana Government 20% Levy Draws 'Mixed' Response

The Telangana government has issued fresh directions on the sharing of additional revenue generated through movie ticket price hikes, making it mandatory for 20 percent of the incremental revenue to be contributed to the welfare fund for Telugu film industry employees. According to the latest orders, the 20 percent welfare contribution will be paid to the Telangana Film Development Corporation (TGFDC) and deposited into a designated account for the welfare of employees working in the Telugu



film industry. The government has authorised producers to collect the applicable contribution from

exhibitors on the additional revenue generated through increased ticket prices. Also Read - Attapur Police Return 25 Phones to Owners The directive will apply to films including Akhanda 2, The Raja Saab, Mana Shankara

ing 14 Reels Plus LLP, People Media Factory, Shine Screens India LLP and Vriddhi Cinemas LLP, authorising them to collect and deposit the 20 percent contribution through the TGFDC. The move provides clarity on how the additional revenue generated from ticket price hikes will be channelled towards the welfare fund. Producers will now have to coordinate with exhibitors to collect the amount and ensure that it is deposited into the designated account. Also Read - Telangana ACB Flags

Irregularities in Karimnagar Town Planning Section However, the decision has not gone down well with sections of the film industry. Telugu Film Producers Council secretary T Prasanna Kumar expressed his disappointment over the government order, saying it would affect the larger producer community. "It has come as a big shock," he said, noting that only a small percentage of producers seek ticket price hikes, while the decision affects the remaining majority.

Amit Shah to Chair Meeting of Southern CMs in Tamil Nadu



Chennai: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council on August 20 at Mamallapuram near here, the government said on Wednesday. The council serves as an excellent forum for resolving issues and

disputes between the Centre and the member States/Union Territories, the union government said in an official release here. The Southern Zonal Council comprises the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, and the

Union Territories of Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Amit Shah is expected to arrive here by 7.45 pm on Wednesday and proceed to Kovalam on the city's outskirts where the meeting is scheduled to take place.

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday handed over a cheque for Rs 200 crore as compensation to the representatives of Veligonda project displaced families. With this, the government has so far paid a total of Rs 518 crore in compensation, an official release said. "CM Naidu handed over Rs 200 crore compensation cheque to representatives of Veligonda project displaced families at the Assembly premises today," it said. Also Read - Cabinet Approves Four Multitracking Projects Worth Rs 9,450 Cr Across Eight Districts The latest compensation



ments the Rs 300 crore already provided on June 27 to more than 2,550 evacuee families. The government recognises the sacrifices made by farmers

and displaced families for the construction of major irrigation projects, the CM said. He assured that the remaining compensation amount would also be

Stage Beach Protest, Seek Govt Response on Demands The government is also providing infrastructural facilities in

seven rehabilitation colonies for the displaced families, the release said. Infrastructure works have already been completed in six colonies, except in Vemulakota, resulting in the displaced families gradually moving into the houses through the compensation distributed through the compensation projects, the CM said. He assured that the remaining compensation amount would also be ay. Also Read - AP Junior Doctors Stage Beach Protest, Seek Govt Response on constructed for them in the Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) colonies, it added.

Cyber Fraud Solved In 10 Days, Police Return Rs 1 Cr To Victim



Hyderabad: Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have arrested an accused in connection with a major cyber fraud in which criminals allegedly impersonated a saree shop owner on WhatsApp and duped the shop's accountant of Rs. One crore. Sharing the details with the media, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr.M. Ramesh on Wednesday stated that the case was solved in 10 days and the amount was returned to the victim. According to the police, the fraudsters used the saree shop owner's name and display picture on WhatsApp and sent fake messages to the accountant, asking

him to transfer a large sum of money. Believing the messages to be genuine, the accountant transferred Rs. 1 crore. Also Read - Telangana Government 20% Levy Draws 'Mixed' Response During the investigation, the Cyber Crime Police found that the transferred amount had been routed through a corporate current account maintained in the name of Royal Moda Pvt. Ltd., which was allegedly being used as a mule account for routing fraudulent proceeds. Police arrested Deepak Kumar (37), who was engaged in a water-plant business and a resident of Lucknow in Uttar

Pradesh, in connection with the case. He was produced before a Court at Lucknow, where transit remand was obtained, and he was brought to Cyberabad and produced before the IX Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Kukatpally, Cyberabad, who remanded him to judicial custody. Also Read - Attapur Police Return 25 Phones to Owners With court orders and police intervention, the entire amount was recovered and returned to the victim within just 10 days. Further investigation is in progress to identify the remaining accused persons, ascertain their respective roles and trace the complete money trail.

Andhra govt allays fears over data centres affecting water supply to Vizag

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh IT Minister, Nara Lokesh, on Wednesday defended the state government's decision to establish data centres in Visakhapatnam, claiming that misinformation was being spread over their environmental and water requirements. Speaking in the State Legislative Assembly, Minister Lokesh said Google's decision to invest in Visakhapatnam had triggered wider interest from other IT companies in the city. He was responding to a question raised by Jana Sena MLA, Lokam Naga Madhavi. Minister Lokesh said data centres are critical to the AI-driven digital economy and India's data sovereignty, particularly amid emerging geopolitical challenges. He explained that once the proposed data-centre ecosystem reaches the targeted 6.5 GW capacity, it is estimated to require around 3 TMC of water annually based on current technology, while stressing that newer cooling technologies are expected to reduce water consumption further.



He said water for data centres would come from the industrial allocation of water from Polavaram project, without diverting water meant for the city's residents. Minister Lokesh said the government is committed to supplying Visakhapatnam's urban water requirements through Polavaram, with gravity-based supply expected within 18 months. Dedicated pipelines would be provided for data centres, he added. Comparing water consumption, Lokesh said a 1 GW thermal power plant consumes nearly 10 times more water annually than a data centre, questioning why protests over water usage were focussed only on data centres. Minister Lokesh also said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

had set a clear ceiling of 6.5 GW for data-centre allocations, and declared that the target has now been fully achieved. He said the government would prioritise companies that demonstrate strong environmental responsibility. Data centres are coming up at Adavi-varam-Mudasarova, Taruvada, and Rambilli areas in Visakhapatnam. Citizens' groups in Visakhapatnam have opposed the data-centre hub, highlighting concerns over the strain on resources such as water and power, as well as its environmental impact. They cited the Super El Niño-like weather pattern that has put considerable strain on water resources across the State to oppose the project. The CPI and CPI(M) have been opposing data centre

Free Power for Ganesh Pandals, Says Bandi Sanjay



Karimnagar: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that electricity would be provided free of cost to Ganesh pandals within Karimnagar corporation limits. He said the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation would bear the electricity bills. According to reports, nearly 2,000 Ganesh

pandals are set up in Karimnagar every year. Bandi Sanjay said he had personally paid the electricity bills for Ganesh pandals for the past three years. Also Read - Telangana 20% Levy Draws 'Mixed' Response He said the municipal corporation had now decided to take responsibility for the electricity

was taking all necessary measures for the peaceful conduct of the Ganesh festival, keeping in mind the problems faced in previous years. He further said that the corporation was making elaborate arrangements for road works, with tenders worth nearly Rs.1 crore being issued for road construction and related works.

Recently inaugurated Falaknuma bridge develops pothole

Hyderabad: Less than a year after the inauguration of the parallel Road Over Bridge (RoB) at Falaknuma, a large pothole has developed on the bridge, posing a serious threat to motorists and raising questions over the quality of construction. The bridge, inaugurated on October 3, 2025, was built to ease traffic congestion between Chandrayanpeta and Charminar. However, commuters say the appearance of a large pothole within such a short period reflects poor workmanship and inadequate maintenance. The pothole, located on the carriageway, has become a nightmare for motorists, particularly two-wheeler riders. As vehicles usually gather speed while climbing the bridge, many riders fail to notice the damaged stretch until the last moment, increasing the risk of accidents.



“This bridge is not even a year old, yet such a huge pothole has appeared. It makes us wonder about the quality and standard of the construction work. Huge amount of public money has been spent, but the results are disappointing,” said Mohammed Abdul Rahman, a resident of Falaknuma. Another commuter, Syed Imran Ali, questioned the durability of the project. “A lot of rupees should last for

decades, not develop potholes within months. The authorities should fix the problem immediately and investigate whether proper construction standards were followed,” he said. Motorists also expressed concern over the danger during night hours when visibility is poor. “At night, riders may not notice the pothole while approaching the bridge at normal speed. If a two-wheeler suddenly

hits it, the rider can easily lose balance and fall onto the road, leading to serious injuries or even fatal accidents,” warned K. Ramesh, a daily commuter. Residents have urged the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to repair the pothole on a war footing and conduct a comprehensive inspection of the bridge to prevent further deterioration and ensure the safety of commuters.

Attapur Police Return 25 Phones to Owners

Hyderabad: The Attapur police on Wednesday handed over 25 recovered mobile phones, valued at approximately Rs.2 lakh to their rightful owners. The phones were successfully traced and recovered using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal. Inspector A. Seethaiah called the complainant owners to the police station and personally handed over the recovered devices after verification. The owners expressed their delight and expressed sincere gratitude to the Attapur police team for their swift efforts in recovering their lost property. Also Read - For 70 Years, Bandlapalem Village In Suryapet Has Banned Alcohol Speaking on the



occasion, Seethaiah stated, “If anyone loses their mobile phone or if it gets stolen, they should immediately block and report it through the

CEIR portal (ceir.sancharsaathi.gov.in/) or report it at the nearest police station.” “Blocking the IMEI number on the CEIR

portal prevents misuse of the device and significantly assists the police in tracking and recovering the phone promptly,” he added.

Telangana SIR draft electoral roll: How to check your name online



Hyderabad: As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll, the Telangana Chief Electoral Office has recently released the draft electoral roll, which has been made available on the Election Commission of India (ECI) website. To search your draft electoral roll details, you need to have the EPIC Number available on your voter card, Part Number and Part Serial Number. Firstly, how to search Part Number and Part Serial Number?

Open ECI website <https://www.eci.gov.in/>. Click on ‘Search Your Name in E-roll’ option available on the right side of the screen. You will be redirected to another website within the ECI domain. Use your EPIC number available on the voter card and State (Telangana) to search. Voter details can also be fetched via ‘Search by Details’ and ‘Search by Mobile Number’ methods available on the same website. After entering the captcha, search results

will be reflected at the bottom of the screen. Details comprise EPIC Number, Name, Age, Relative Name, State, District, Assembly Constituency, Part Number, Polling Station and Part Serial Number. Now, here is the simple way to check details in the draft electoral roll. Visit the ECI website <https://www.eci.gov.in/>. Click on the SIR-2026 Download Electoral Roll. You will be redirected to another website within the ECI domain. Select State as Telangana, Year of

Revision as 2026, Roll-type should be SIR Draft Roll-2026, District and Assembly Constituency concerned, and Language – Telugu/English. As you enter these details, the Part Numbers and Part Names appear at the bottom. Next, you need to search your respective Part Number from several in your respective Assembly Constituency. Enter the Part Number in the search box on the left side of the screen. If your Part Number is 231, the respective area attached to the number appears in the result for download. Select the result on the left side of the screen, enter the captcha and download the draft electoral roll in PDF format. Open the downloaded PDF and search your details via Part Serial Number, which is arranged in serial-wise order. If your Part Serial Number is 123, your details will be available at serial number 123. Your details will figure

22A restrictions leave ordinary families in distress, victims reach Telangana Bhavan for relief

Hyderabad: Hundreds of people affected by properties being placed in the 22A prohibited list and restrictions imposed in the name of Urban Land Ceiling (ULC) gathered at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday. They sought relief from arbitrary decisions of the Congress government that left their families in financial distress.

The victims me former Ministers and BRSLP deputy leaders T Harish Rao and P Sabitha Indra Reddy, and narrated their ordeal, explaining how they were unable to sell, register or access the value of properties they had purchased with valid documents. One of the victims, Mohan Reddy, said he had booked a registration slot and paid the entire stamp duty but was told on the day of registration that his property had been included in the 22A prohibited list. “If the government itself makes us homeless, who will hear our pain?” he asked.



Another person, Rajesh, said he bought a house in 2017 with a bank loan but decided to sell it after losing his job and start a business. When he went for registration on July 1, he was informed that the property was in the 22A list. Despite applying at the MRO office two months ago, he said there had been no resolution. He had already taken money from the prospective buyer, who was paying the loan EMI after the bank approved the loan transfer. However, the sale could not be registered. Devender Rao,

secretary of the HMT Housing Colony Society, said the layout received approval in 1995 and hundreds of houses had been built. However, survey number 330 was recently included in the 22A list. He said a representation submitted to Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in July had yielded no relief. “Normal employees and middle-class families are left with no option but to commit suicide,” he said. Residents of B N Nagar and Uppal said registrations in their colony, which has over 1,500 houses, took place

without problems earlier, but were now being blocked citing ULC restrictions. Srinivas of Ameenpur said he purchased his property 10 years ago with clear documents and a bank loan. Recently, he decided to sell the property for personal financial needs. After paying stamp duty to sell it, he was told it had been included in the prohibited list. Some victims alleged that restrictions were being used for commissions and settlements by officials and the Congress leaders. They said entire colonies were being listed in the 22A list based on survey numbers, without any valid reasons. Responding to their pleas, Harish Rao and Sabitha Indra Reddy assured the victims that the BRS would fight their grievances inside and outside the Assembly and continue the agitation until justice was delivered to those affected by the 22A restrictions.

Telangana ACB Flags Irregularities in Karimnagar Town Planning Section

Hyderabad: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has conducted a surprise check at the Town Planning Section of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation. During the surprise check, office records, revenue-related transactions, pending applications and the overall functioning of the section were verified. Certain irregularities and deficiencies were noticed with regard to supervision and maintenance of records, monitoring of revenue collections, disposal and pendency of petitions, accountability in field enquiries, and the use of official user credentials were found during checking. Also Read -

For 70 Years, Bandlapalem Village In Suryapet Has Banned Alcohol Certain deficiencies in providing information and facilitation to members of the public were also noticed. The surprise check also revealed indications regarding the presence of unauthorized middlemen and mediators allegedly collecting money from members of the public in the name of facilitating official work. Further verification in this regard is detailed report on the observations made during the surprise check will be submitted



to the taking further action as deemed appropriate, in accordance

with the findings of the detailed verification and applicable law.

Steady Inflows Boost Srisailem Storage; Godavari Flows Ease

Hyderabad: Six persons, including three from Hyderabad, have been arrested in connection with the alleged illegal hunting of a blackbuck at Chondi-Mamadapur grassland near the Honnikeri Reserved Forest area in Bidar district of Karnataka, the Forest Department said. The incident was reported on August 17 at the grassland, known to be a habitat of blackbuck (Antelope cervicapra). According to officials, three of the suspects were chased and apprehended by alert residents of Chondi Tanda and Mamadapur Tanda and handed over to the police and subsequently to the Forest Department. Three others allegedly fled the spot, prompting the department to constitute a special search team. “A coordinated operation involving the Forest and Police departments of Bidar and neighbouring Kalaburagi district, along with assistance from Telangana Forest



authorities, resulted in the arrest of the remaining three suspects on August 18,” said Sumit Kumar Subhashrao Patil, Deputy conservator of forests, Bidar. Officials said the six arrested persons included three local residents of Chincholi taluk in Kalaburagi district and three residents of Hyderabad. Two four-wheelers and a rifle allegedly used in the offence were seized. Video Player 00:00:00:42 The arrested are Shoaib Malik, resident of Karnataka,

Abdul Sayeed, resident of Falaknuma, Hyderabad, Mohd Hameed Uzzaman, resident of Malakpet, Hyderabad, Mohd Naseer, resident of Bahadurpura, Hyderabad, and Areef Khan and Md Haji, both residents of Karnataka. A wildlife offence case has been registered and the arrested persons were produced before a court for further legal proceedings. The investigation is being conducted by Praveenkumar More, Range Forest Officer, Bidar. The Forest Department

said the blackbuck is a Schedule-I protected species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and hunting or killing the animal attracts stringent legal action. Officials also said the preliminary investigation indicated the involvement of persons from Telangana allegedly equipped with sophisticated long-range rifles. Further investigation is under way to establish the full circumstances of the incident and identify any other persons involved, the official added.

AAP Leader Satyendar Jain, 5 Others Arrested By ACB In Delhi Jal Board STP Tender Case

New Delhi: Former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain and ex-Delhi Jal Board CEO Udit Prakash Rai are among six persons arrested by the Anti-Corruption Branch in connection with an alleged corruption case involving the tendering process for sewage treatment plant (STP) projects of the Delhi Jal Board, an official said on Tuesday. The other accused arrested in the case have been identified as Ankit Srivastava, former contractual consultant with the Delhi Jal Board; Nagendra Yadav, proprietor of M/s AN Enterprises; Raja Kumar Kurra, owner of M/s Euroteck Environment Pvt. Ltd.; and Pankaj Verma, proprietor of M/s Srijanhar, the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) said in a statement. The case was registered on May 11, 2024, on a complaint by the Directorate of Vigilance, over alleged large-scale irregularities, manipulation of tender



conditions and criminal conspiracy in the tendering process related to augmentation and upgradation of sewage treatment plants of the DJB. According to the ACB, the investigation found that

the tendering process allegedly contained restrictive technical specifications and conditions favouring a particular technology provider, Euroteck Environment Pvt Ltd, thereby limiting com-

petition and providing undue advantage to the private entity. The agency alleged that the proposed pilot study was not conducted, while restrictive conditions concerning the technology

and media to be used were included in the tender. It also alleged that essential parameters relating to treated effluent were excluded and technical specifications were changed, resulting in significant financial implications for the government exchequer. The investigation also revealed regular communication between private persons, public servants and intermediaries to manipulate the tender process. Analysis of electronic evidence showed an exchange of tender conditions, corrigendums and other documents which were subsequently incorporated into the DJB's tender notice, the ACB said. The agency further alleged that money in the form of commission or bribe was routed through intermediary entities, including Srijanhar and AN Enterprises, the statement read.

India, Bangladesh Seek To Keep Economic Ties From Spiralling Amid Political Tensions



New Delhi: The uncertainty surrounding Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's proposed visit to India has cast a shadow over ties between the two neighbours. Yet, even as political differences continue to complicate high-level engagement, Dhaka and New Delhi appear keen to keep the economic relationship from becoming a casualty of the diplomatic strain. Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktedir met with a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation in Dhaka on Tuesday. Discussions centred on restoring normal trade, easing visas, attracting investment and building new industrial partnerships, underlining the importance of the economic engagement between the two countries. According to reports in the Bangladesh media, during the meeting,

Muktadir said restoring a normal trading environment, easing visa procedures and involving the private sector in building a long-term economic partnership were necessary to realise the two countries' economic potential. The Commerce Minister told the media after the meeting that geographical proximity offered significant scope for Bangladesh and India to expand trade, investment, and industrial cooperation despite differences in size, population, and economic scale, a report in the Dhaka-based New Age news website stated. "He highlighted the potential to expand trade, connectivity and investment by leveraging Bangladesh's geographical position and India's northeastern region," it stated. The timing of Tuesday's meeting is particularly important. Bangladesh has

been signalling that a "conducive environment" is necessary for Rahman's visit to India, with the issue of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's presence in India and Dhaka's demand for her extradition emerging as a major complication. The two sides have continued discussing the proposed visit, but no firm date has been announced. Against that backdrop, the CII delegation's visit sends a potentially important message: the economic constituency on both sides has incentives to prevent diplomatic tensions from becoming a broader economic rupture.

The CII delegation, led by its director general Chandrajit Banerjee, proposed forming two joint task forces to expand cooperation in infrastructure and high-tech sectors.

ED Raids SP Leader Azam Khan's Trust And University In UP

Lucknow: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday raided premises linked to the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust and University of jailed Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan as part of a money laundering investigation, officials said. They said about 10 premises at Rampur and Saharanpur in the state and in Delhi's Jamia Nagar were being searched in the presence of a security team from the CRPF. The action came after the federal agency booked a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The premises include those belonging to a chartered accountant in Saharanpur, two companies and their promoters, who are linked to the Trust. The investigation pertains to alleged diversion of government contract funds through private contractors and their subsequent utilisation, including for creation of assets of the Trust and the university, according to ED officials. The Lucknow-headquartered Trust has Khan, former Cabinet minister of the state, as its main trustee along with some family members and associates. It runs the



Muhammad Ali Jauhar University, founded in 2006, and a public school in the Rampur district. The university was recently in the news when the Rampur Development Authority (RDA) in July directed the varsity administration to demolish 38 of its 40 buildings, alleging they had been constructed without approved building plans under the Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development Act,

1973. The students of the university subsequently launched a protest against this demolition plan, citing their concerns about disruption in studies. Soon after, the divisional commissioner stayed the proposed demolition and directed that no administrative action be taken until further orders, providing temporary relief to the institution in the long-running dispute with authorities.

The Samajwadi Party and other opposition parties have criticised the action against the university and alleged political vendetta. They had urged the administration to examine all land Development Act, 1973. The students of the university subsequently launched a protest against this demolition plan, citing their concerns about disruption in studies. Soon after, the divisional commissioner stayed the

proposed demolition and directed that no administrative action be taken until further orders, providing temporary relief to the institution in the long-running dispute with authorities. The Samajwadi Party and other opposition parties have criticised the action against the university and alleged political vendetta. They had urged the administrative aspects before taking any action.

Bareilly Youth Accuses Girlfriend's Family Of 'Honour Killing'; Body Exhumed From Field Near Village

Bareilly: A 17-year-old girl was allegedly murdered and her body buried in a field near Anirudhpur Gautiya village under Aliganj police station area of Amla in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly, police said. The girl's body was exhumed on Tuesday evening following an investigation after a youth, who claimed to be the girl's lover, informed Bareilly police that his girlfriend had been murdered and her body buried in a field. "Hello! SSP sir, my girlfriend was murdered and her body has been buried in the fields," claimed the guy in the phone call to police. Police sought permission from the District Magistrate (DM) before exhuming the body from the field. A forensic team collected evidence from



the spot and the body was sent for post-mortem. According to police, the girl, a Class 10 student, was allegedly in a relationship with a young man

from the same village. The youth had contacted the SSP and said the girl had been missing since July 28. He alleged that

Suspecting a possible honour killing, police took the girl's uncle into custody and questioned him. He allegedly told police that family members had stran-

gled the girl to death and buried her body in a field. Police then sought permission from the DM to exhume the body in the presence of a magistrate. The body was recovered on Tuesday evening and sent for post-mortem. Area Officer Hemant Upadhyay said, "The deceased girl is daughter of one Premal Kashyap. She was murdered and buried in a field. Police took the permission of the DM, exhumed her body in the presence of the magistrate and sent it for post-mortem. Further legal action will be taken after receiving the post-mortem report." Police said preliminary investigation suggests that the girl may have been strangled, though the exact cause of death will be confirmed after post-mortem report

NTA To Appoint New Experts, Get CISF-secured Offices: Education Ministry

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday announced a major overhaul of the examination system at the National Testing Agency, including a four-tier paper checking process, removal of 600 experts along with onboarding of new ones and CISF-secured office premises. Under fire over the recent lapses in the UGC-NET papers and earlier the NEET-UG exam paper leak, the Education Ministry has gone into overdrive to set things in order. After a meeting chaired on Monday by Education Minister Pralhad Joshi, who came in after his predecessor Dharmendra Pradhan had to resign following protests over the NEET-UG paper fiasco, the Ministry announced this evening that Joshi had directed that all necessary security and related infrastructural facilities should be put in place for the smooth conduct of examinations. Following directions from the Minister, NTA Director General Abhishek Singh apprised the ministry of actions taken by the Agency, which is responsible for several examinations in the country.

"A revamp of the examination team was undertaken with 600 experts being removed and new experts being onboarded," the ministry said while listing out the steps

taken so far.



A four-tier question paper checking system will also be put in place to strengthen the scrutiny of examination papers, it added.

Besides, 20-25 officials will be inducted in the next two to three weeks, while further induction plan was also reviewed. Also, NTA offices will be shifted to new premises on a war-footing, where security will be reinforced with CISF teams, the ministry said. Sources said the NTA office will be moved to Minto Road from Okhla in the national capital. The decisions come after the NTA faced renewed flak from opposition parties and several protesting student groups following the Sunday night announcement of the re-test for the UGC-NET examination for scholars. They were demanding that the NTA be scrapped, saying its "repeated lapses" have put students' academic and career plans at risk.

NTA sources, however, asserted that it had acted in the interest of students and said internal processes and protocols are being reviewed to ensure that all exams are fair and error-free in the future.

The agency proactively looked into the complaints and decided to conduct re-tests, with all corrective measures being taken in the overall interest of candidates and to strengthen the foundation of a more accountable examination system, sources said. It formed a committee to look into the lapses. "The committee identified the anomalies in the three subjects and recommended that, in the interest of holding a fair and error-free examination, these three papers should be re-conducted. It was recommended that papers carrying such defects did not meet the standards of fairness and error-free examination," the NTA said.

Over 92% Of Rs 8,452 Crore Corpus Parked In Fixed Deposit, Only 87.8 Lakh Spent During 2024-25

New Delhi: The PM CARES Fund saw a sharp decline in money spent on the Children Scheme during 2024-25 as over 92 per cent of the corpus remained parked in fixed deposits, reveals a study of the audited statements on the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund website. The PM CARES for Children Scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29th May 2021, aimed to support children who had lost both parents to the COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from other benefits, it offered an allowance of Rs 20,000 per child per annum to cover the school fees, cost of books and uniform, shoes and other educational equipment. However, during 2024-25, only Rs 87.8 lakh was spent on the Children Scheme, sharply down from Rs 15.37 crore in the previous year. The study of



the audited statements shows that the voluntary domestic contribution fell by 30 per cent to nearly Rs 479 crore during the financial year 2024-2025, while foreign donations also declined by 18 per cent to Rs 92.8 lakh. The total balance in PM CARES Fund stood at Rs 8,452 crore as on March 31, 2025, up from Rs 7,173 crore a year ago. Of this, Rs 7,846 crore (over 92%) was parked in fixed deposits and Rs 605 crore in savings bank accounts, the report said. The domestic donations received by the PM CARES in fiscal year 2023-24 stood at Rs 681.8 crore, while it

received foreign donations totalling Rs 1.13 crore. The contribution peaked at Rs 7,184 crore in 2020-21 and then fell to Rs 1,896 crore in 2021-22, before declining further to Rs 909 crore in 2022-23. Foreign contribution has also seen a sharper decline, registering a high of Rs 495 crore in 2020-21, before falling to Rs 40 crore and Rs 2.57 crore in the next two years. The foreign contribution now stands at Rs 92.8 lakh, the second lowest since Rs 39.7 lakh in the first year of 2019-20.

The Narendra Modi government set up the PM

CARES Fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like the one posed by the Covid pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected. It was registered as a public charitable trust. The prime minister is the ex-officio chairman of the fund that consists entirely of voluntary contributions and does not get any budgetary support. The fund has been used over the years to boost emergency care, including for setting up oxygen plants and purchasing ventilators in hospitals run by the central and state governments as part of the larger exercise to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic. In 2021-22, an amount of Rs 1,703 crore was spent on pressure-swing adsorption oxygen plants, besides spending Rs 835 crore on ventilators, out of a total expenditure of nearly Rs 1,938 crore.

Amit Shah To Meet 6 South CMs In Chennai Today; Water-sharing, IT, Education On The Table

Chennai: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will arrive in Chennai on Wednesday evening to chair the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting at Kovalam on Thursday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay will attend the high-level conference along with the Chief Ministers of other southern States and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The meeting will be held at a luxury hotel on East Coast Road in Kovalam, Chengalpattu district. Shah is scheduled to leave New Delhi aboard a special aircraft at 4.50 p.m. and arrive at Chennai airport at 7.40 p.m. Senior government officials and BJP functionaries will receive him at the airport. He will subsequently travel by road to Kovalam, where he will stay overnight before presiding over the conference. Apart from CM Vijay, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Kerala CM V.D. Satheesan, Telanga na CM A. Revanth Reddy, Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu and Puducherry CM N. Rangasamy are scheduled to participate in the deliberations.

home-minister-amit-shah-chairs-southern-



state-cm-meeting-in-chennai-august-19-wednesday
The six CMs of southern states/UT. (ANI photos) Chief secretaries, home secretaries and other senior officials from the participating States and the Union Territory will also attend the meeting. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs usually convenes the Southern Zonal Council meeting annually to promote interstate cooperation and resolve issues affecting the region. However, the conference has not been held since 2022, lending added significance to Thursday's deliberations. The meeting is expected to discuss interstate

cooperation, economic development, industrial investment, infrastructure expansion, water-sharing arrangements, education, healthcare, information technology and disaster management. Measures to prevent crime, improve coordination among law-enforcement agencies and address border-related disputes are also likely to figure prominently on the agenda. The conference assumes particular importance amid the continuing differences between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the sharing of Cauvery River water. It is expected to provide the two states with an opportunity to present

their positions and explore measures to improve coordination under the Centre's supervision. Officials are also likely to review the implementation of decisions adopted at previous council meetings and identify issues requiring coordinated action by the Union and State governments. Security has been tightened at Chennai airport, along HM Shah's convoy route and around the conference venue. Police personnel have been deployed at strategic locations on East Coast Road, while traffic arrangements are being closely monitored ahead of the Union Home Minister's visit.

Willie Walsh Assumes Charge As IndiGo CEO

New Delhi: Willie Walsh on Monday took charge as the CEO of the country's largest airline IndiGo. A pilot and an aviation industry leader who just completed his tenure as the Director General of the global airlines' grouping IATA, Walsh's appointment as the CEO was announced by IndiGo on March 31. In a release on Monday, IndiGo said Walsh has assumed charge as the CEO to lead the airline's next era of growth and global ambition. The appointment of Walsh was announced on March 31, less than three weeks after the sudden exit of Pieter Elbers against the back-



drop of massive operational disruptions at the airline in December last year. As CEO, IndiGo said Walsh would lead the airline's overall management and strategic direction, with a focus on accelerating its global growth trajectory, driving operational excellence, strengthening network and commercial

strategy, and further enhancing customer experience. "IndiGo has built a remarkable legacy over the last two decades, establishing itself amongst the largest airlines in the world in a short span of time. "With India becoming one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, the opportunities ahead for IndiGo are immen IndiGo than now," Walsh said. IndiGo Managing said Walsh's extensive global experience in the avia-

tion industry, combined with his operational and strategic expertise, will be instrumental as IndiGo accelerates its international expansion strategy. Walsh has served as the CEO of Aer Lingus, British Airways and International Airlines Group. He also served as the Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). With more than 430 planes, IndiGo operates nearly 2,200 daily flights. Shares of IndiGo rose 3.72 per cent to Rs 5,363.35 apiece while broader Sensex was nearly 1 per cent higher in the morning trade on the BSE.

Air New Zealand Appoints Outgoing Air India CEO Wilson As Board Member

New Delhi: Air New Zealand has appointed outgoing Air India CEO Campbell Wilson as a Director on its board. Wilson, who has been steering loss-making Air India and its transformation efforts, will be stepping down as CEO and MD of the airline in September. Air India had announced his resigna-



tion on April 7. "Former airline executives Campbell Wilson and Robert McDonald have

been appointed by the Board with effect from, and subject to their reelection by vote at the ASM," Air New Zealand said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday. The airline's Annual Shareholders' Meeting (ASM) is scheduled to be held on September 24. Wilson is a native of New Zealand.

Robert McDonald is a former Chief Financial Officer of Air New Zealand and is currently the Chair of ntly, the Air New Zealand Therese Walsh. One member, Larry De Shon, is set to retire next montof experience in aviation and has held various senior executive roles at Singapore Airlines.

Supreme Court Asks Centre To Preserve Ammunition Log Of RAF Used In NEET Protests

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a comprehensive, school-wise report from the Punjab government over allegations that Independence Day was not properly observed in some government schools, particularly in rural, remote and border areas. The NHRC took cognisance of a complaint alleging that in several government schools in Punjab, particularly those in border, rural, remote and underserved areas, Independence Day was not observed in the manner contemplated under the applicable governmental instructions. The complaint alleged that students in some schools were not meaningfully involved in flag-hoisting, the National Anthem and other activities related to India's freedom struggle, constitutional values, Fundamental Duties and national responsibilities. The Commission, however, noted that the manner in which an individual school observes Independence Day cannot by itself be treated as a human rights violation. It said the issue requires examination if administrative neglect, non-



compliance with government directions or geographical and socio-economic circumstances resulted in children being denied educational and civic opportunities available to others. Focus On Rural And Border School The NHRC has specifically asked the Punjab government to examine whether geographical factors such as remoteness, connectivity and administrative accessibility affected Independence Day activities in schools. It has also sought details on whether there was any district-wise disparity between urban and rural schools, accessible and remote schools, and ordinary and border-area schools. The state has been asked to explain whether any differences were caused by lack of supervision, inadequate resources, geographical

difficulties, absence of teachers or officials, infrastructure limitations or any other reason. The Commission has also asked whether corrective measures have been taken or proposed. NHRC Seeks School-Wise Details The Chief Secretary of Punjab has been directed to get a comprehensive verification conducted through the School Education Department and submit a state-wide, district-wise and school-wise Action Report within four weeks of receiving the notice. The report shall include the total number of government schools in Punjab, the number where Independence Day was observed on August 15, and the number where the National Flag was unfurled, the National Anthem was observed and students participated in the programme. The state has also been asked to provide copies of the instructions and circulars issued for Independence Day 2026, details of the monitoring

mechanism and action taken wherever the instructions were not followed. The commission categorically stated that the report must identify schools where Independence Day activities were not conducted or were substantially curtailed, particularly in rural, remote and border areas. It must also give reasons for non-compliance and details of complaints received before, during or after August 15 and the action taken on them. Centre Also Asked To Submit Report The NHRC has also sought a report from the Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, on the guidelines issued for Independence Day observance in schools in 2026 and steps taken to ensure equal participation of children across the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also been asked to examine the matter and take appropriate action. The Commission has further directed that future programmes relating to national days should not be reduced to merely formal or ceremonial events. Instead, they should, wherever appropriate and age-

'Terrorism Is Taken Very Seriously': India Vows To Continue Fight Against All Forms Of Terrorist Activities



New Delhi: India on Tuesday reaffirmed its resolve to counter all forms of terrorist activities, particularly cross-border terrorism, after Pakistan sought to dismiss the busting of an ISI-backed terror network as merely a distraction from internal security challenges. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said over 200 operatives of the ISI-backed terror group, Shahzad Bhatti Network, were arrested during coordinated operations in 14 states ahead of Independence Day, thwarting plans of the organisation to launch subversive attacks. In its reaction, Pakistan's foreign ministry rejected Shah's allegations link-

ing Pakistan to the arrests. Terrorism is taken very seriously by India, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his bi-weekly media briefing. He was responding to a question on cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. "India has been hit hard by terrorism. We have over the last several years taken a lot of effort to galvanise and strengthen global action to fight terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, and our fight to deal with terrorism will continue further," he said. "Whatever action is required to be taken on that account to defeat the scourge of terrorism, we

will continue to take," he added. The Indian government has put forth its position, and that is where it stands, Jaiswal said in the context of the busting of the Shahzad Bhatti Network. Shah said security forces seized IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices), grenades, pistols, ammunition and CCTV cameras used for espionage. Responding to Shah's statement, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi described the remarks as "baseless". He accused India of using Pakistan-related assertions to "divert attention from its domestic security challenges". To a separate question, Jaiswal said

the situation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is serious and that the people there need the sympathy and solidarity of the international community. Many people were killed and several others injured in the region because of a crackdown by Pakistani security forces, he said, adding that restrictions have been imposed on the supply of essential commodities. "The situation is such that the people there need the sympathy and solidarity of the international community and they should get that," he said. On a recent report by a UN Security Council body pointing to al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) attempting to set up cells in Bangladesh, Jaiswal said terrorism and security matters are a "common scourge". Randhir said, "Terrorism and security matters are something that should concern everybody because it is a common scourge for all of us, and we want to fight this problem together. You saw the report of the Monitoring Committee which came out recently. They specifically mentioned the group that was behind the Red Fort terror attack as well."

Liberia Agrees To Take 1,200 Third-Country Deportees From US

Monoriva: Liberia has agreed to accept up to 1,200 third-country deportees from the United States, authorities in the West African country said Tuesday, in one of the largest such arrangements under the Trump administration's broader crackdown on immigration.

The deportees will be received within a year, with the first batch of 20 expected on Thursday, Liberia's Information Minister Jerolinmek Piaah told reporters. The 1,200 deportees will include Africans as well as nationals from North America, South America and the Caribbean, Piaah said. Under a series of often-secret agreements, the Trump administration has deported thousands of people to nearly two dozen countries that are not their own, advocates say, with about 10 of them in Africa. A key issue in the agreements is that they can involve migrants with protection orders from a U.S. immigration judge not to be returned to their home countries because



of concerns for their safety. The Liberian minister did not say if the deportees expected in Liberia had such protection orders. Liberia's Justice Minister Natu Oswald Tweh said at Tuesday's briefing that the country has screened the list of migrants ahead of their arrival. "Most of them are people who had immigration violations and offenses," he said. They "may wish to seek asylum" in Liberia after their arrival or "can

leave the country whenever they desire," Piaah said. Piaah added that Liberia will receive support from the U.S. to manage the program and strengthen its migration system. "Liberia's gesture is entirely humanitarian and in keeping with the country's long-standing traditions," he said. "The government of Liberia intends to provide the transferred persons with the necessary support to seek protection in Liberia and to be safe during their stay

here." Immigration lawyers have said the Trump administration uses deportations to third countries as a legal loophole to indirectly force asylum seekers back to their home countries. In of Liberia intends to promany cases, migrants are deported to countries they've never been to or where they face safety risks and are left with little choice other than to return to the home countries they were fleeing from.

US Sanctions ICC Chief Tomoko Akane Of Japan



Washington: The United States on Tuesday imposed sanctions against International Criminal Court President Tomoko Akane of Japan and another senior official as part of its campaign against the body that it accuses of being "politicized." Washington also slapped sanctions on ICC Senior Trial Lawyer Abdoulaye Seye of Senegal in the Trump administration's latest salvo against the Hague-based court. "These individuals have directly engaged in efforts by the ICC to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute officials whose government has not consented to ICC jurisdiction," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement, without providing examples. The ICC retorted Tuesday, saying the US sanctions "undermine the rule of law." "When judicial actors are threatened for applying the law, it is the international legal order itself that is placed at risk," the court said in a statement. Established in 2002, the ICC prosecutes individuals accused of the gravest atrocities and acts as a last resort when countries do not have adequate legal systems to ensure accountability. The United States, which is not a party to the international treaty that established the ICC, has already imposed sanctions against several of the court's officials. The measures bar them from entering the United States and from carrying out transactions in the US financial system.

It is largely a response to ICC investigations targeting Israel, a US ally. In 2024, the court issued

an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the war in Gaza. In an X post Tuesday evening, Netanyahu applauded the US sanctions and called the ICC "a kangaroo court that cloaks its abuse of power in the language of international law." The Netherlands, where the ICC is based at the Hague, "disapproves of the latest sanctions against officials and staff of the ICC," Dutch foreign minister Tom Berendsen wrote in an X post. "International courts and tribunals must be able to freely carry out their mandates," he added. - Victims of war crimes - Last month, Washington launched a major diplomatic offensive against the ICC, accusing it of "threatening" Americans and calling on partners to withdraw from the body -- a move already announced by Chad and Venezuela, which has aligned with the United States since the capture and ouster of leader Nicolas Maduro.

The ICC expressed concern over those withdrawals, asserting that such countries risked undermining the collective pursuit of justice. The United States signed the Rome Statute establishing the ICC but never ratified the treaty. Israel and Russia are not ICC members either.

"The Trump Administration has been clear: the International Criminal Court is a corrupt and fatally politicized supranational court that has maliciously abused its authority and exceeded its mandate. We will not tolerate its assault on state sovereignty,"

Rubio's statement said.

Last week, four human rights groups sued US President Donald Trump in a New York court over his sanctions targeting the ICC, saying the measures block victims of war crimes from pursuing justice. One of the plaintiff groups, Human Rights Watch (HRW), issued a statement Tuesday decrying the new sanctions.

The sanctions are "just the latest example of the Trump administration's utter contempt for international law and a naked attempt to shield American and Israeli officials implicated in serious crimes from justice," HRW's Middle East and North Africa director Balkees Jarrah said in a statement. The ICC expressed concern over those withdrawals, asserting that such countries risked undermining the collective pursuit of justice. The United States signed the Rome Statute establishing the ICC but never ratified the treaty. Israel and Russia are not ICC members either.

"The Trump Administration has been clear: the International Criminal Court is a corrupt and fatally politicized supranational court that has maliciously abused its authority and exceeded its mandate. We will not tolerate its assault on state sovereignty," r the war in Ukraine, prompting Moscow to issue its own arrest warrants for senior court officials.

India Reiterates Support For Negotiated Two-State Solution In Palestine

Jerusalem: India on Tuesday reiterated its longstanding support for a "negotiated two-state solution" in Palestine and reaffirmed the country's consistent support for the Palestinian people, Sripriya Ranganathan, a secretary at the External Affairs Ministry, said. Ranganathan, Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs), is on an official visit to Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon from August 16-21.

Ranganathan on Tuesday called on Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine and also "conveyed India's concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza." "Amb Sripriya Ranganathan called on Varsen Aghabekian Shahin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine. The two sides reviewed the full spectrum of India-Palestine bilateral relations, including their extensive development cooperation initiatives," the Representative Office of India to



Palestine posted on X. "India reiterated its longstanding support for a negotiated two-State solution, and underscored the importance of addressing the humanitarian situation in Gaza through sustained humanitarian assistance and continued dialogue and diplomacy," the post read. India has been backing a vision of a "two-state" solution with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognised borders, consistent with international law. Both leaders dis-

cussed the full range of India-Palestine relations, with particular focus on the current situation in Palestine, developments in Gaza, humanitarian needs and India's long-standing development partnership with the Palestinian people, according to an official statement.

Ranganathan reaffirmed port for the Palestinian people and a negotiated said. She reiterated "India's support for efforts towards peace and stability and for a lasting political resolution of the conflict

through dialogue and diplomacy." Ongoing initiatives spanning health, education and capacity-building were also reviewed during the meeting. Recalling her successful visit to India in January this year, the Palestinian Foreign Minister expressed appreciation for India's continuing support through development projects, capacity-building programmes, scholarships, humanitarian assistance and contributions to Palestinian institutions and UN agencies, it said.

They Are All There: Trump Says He Can Take Down Top Iranian Leaders With 'One Shot' At Khamenei Funeral

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump has said that he has been following the funeral of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, adding that he could take all the leadership of Iran in "one shot", but would not do so, so that negotiations continue, Axios reported.

"They are all there. One shot [and we can take them all out], but we are not going to do that because then we would have nobody to negotiate with," Trump said, according to Axios. He added that he was surprised to see mourners grieving at Khamenei's funeral, saying he had believed people disliked the former Iranian leader. "Maybe it's fake tears," Trump said, as reported by Axios. Khamenei was assassinated on the first day of the war in a joint US-Israeli operation. The US President also said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has requested a meeting at the White House that could take place as early as next week after his return



from the NATO summit, Axios reported. "We get along very well. [Netanyahu] knows who the boss is," Trump said in a brief phone interview with Axios, referring to himself. According to the report, the proposed meeting would be the first between the two leaders since their February meeting in the White House Situation Room, where Netanyahu presented a plan for a joint war against Iran. An Israeli official told Axios that next week could be too soon for the visit because of Trump's trip to Turkey for the NATO summit scheduled for July 7-8, adding, "It might take place the

week after." The Israeli Prime Minister's Office said Netanyahu called Trump on Friday to congratulate him on the 250th anniversary of the United States' independence. "During their conversation, the Prime Minister said that the United States is a guarantor of global freedom, and that Israel greatly values the close relationship between the two nations. Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump agreed to meet soon in the United States," Netanyahu's office said. The report said people within Trump's inner circle have become increasingly sceptical of

Netanyahu in the months following their February meeting. "Many of Trump's closest advisers think that Bibi was wrong about everything," a US official told Axios. According to the report, Trump also criticised Netanyahu during a phone call last month over Israel's escalation in Lebanon, describing the Israeli Prime Minister as "crazy" and accusing him of ingratitude. Axios reported that the differences between the two leaders have widened in recent months, with disagreements over regional security, Iran and domestic political priorities. Despite Netanyahu's reserva-

UK Announces £250-Mn Package To Protect Jewish Community

London: Britain's government on Monday announced more than £250 million to boost police protection of the Jewish community, which in recent months has been targeted by a series of attacks. The fresh package will help fund the deployment of more than 500 police officers in districts where a lot of British Jews live, including 300 officers in London. It will also fund more police patrols outside synagogues and Jewish schools, and more plain-clothed officers. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said: "The rise in anti-semitism we have seen in recent years is a test



of our values as a country and tackling it has been central to my leadership from day one." This latest package is intended to be spent over a three-year period. Part of it will finance education measures in the fight against anti-semitism. "Jewish communities are facing an exceptional threat with

rising hate crime alongside terrorism and interference from hostile states," said Matt Jukes, Deputy Commissioner of London Metropolitan Police. In late April, two Jewish men were stabbed in London's predominantly Jewish Golders Green district, which the police said was a terrorist attack. It

was one of a series of incidents in spring that included arson and attempted arson attacks on Jewish targets, including London synagogues. An October 2025 attack on a synagogue in Manchester, northwest England, killed two people.

he government statement said £59 million would go to Britain's anti-terrorist police to tighten security and response to state threats. After April's Golders Green attack, Starmer pledged extra funding, at the same time accusing Iran of wanting "to harm British Jews". In May, London's Metropolitan Police announced the

Stamps of Nature — India's silent ambassadors of conservation



Since Independence, Indian postal stamps have quietly blossomed into miniature ambassadors of nature, carrying the splendour of India's flora and fauna across villages, cities and continents. Tiny in size yet immense in influence, these colourful stamps transformed envelopes into travelling galleries of the wild, introducing generations to majestic tigers, graceful cranes, rare orchids, medicinal plants, coral reefs, butterflies, forests and endangered species that many people had never seen in real life.

saving wildlife and wilderness. Through every carefully engraved issue, the postal service nurtured curiosity and pride for India's extraordinary natural heritage, while subtly reminding citizens of the urgent need for conservation.

Collecting Nature Growing up in Bangalore during the 1970s was sheer bliss. The city was a cool, green paradise where towering trees seemed to outnumber people, and life moved at a gentler pace. With no smartphones, the internet and endless television channels to distract us, our days were filled with simple pleasures like reading Enid Blyton adventures, cycling through leafy lanes and, above all, collecting postage stamps. The arrival of the postman was often the highlight of the day. As letters poured in from relatives across India and from pen pals in distant places, we would eagerly gather around, less interested in the contents of the letters than in the colourful stamps adorning the envelopes.

Stamps were miniature windows to the world, showcasing wildlife, flowers, monuments, leaders and faraway countries. Almost every classmate was an avid collector, proudly trading duplicates and displaying treasured finds in albums. What began as a childhood hobby often grew into a life-long passion, with some friends eventually building remarkable collections. In an age when communication travelled at the speed of a letter, stamp collecting nurtured patience, curiosity, knowledge and a sense of connection with the wider world — qualities that seem even more

precious in today's instant digital age.

Nature Delivered

Long before wildlife documentaries, nature channels and social media flooded our screens, postage stamps were miniature windows into the wild. These tiny works of art carried the forests, mountains and grasslands of India into homes, classrooms and collectors' albums, awakening curiosity and admiration for the country's remarkable natural heritage. For generations of children, naturalists and philatelists, stamps became silent ambassadors of conservation, narrating stories of biodiversity, endangered species and environmental stewardship through the simple act of sending a letter. They transformed everyday communication into a journey of discovery, planting the seeds of awareness long before ecology became a global concern. I vividly remember how stamps shaped my own understanding of wildlife. Until my 20s, the only panda I knew was the giant panda of China, the iconic black-and-white bear admired across the world. It was through Indian postage stamps that I first discovered another enchanting cousin, the red panda, a flame-coloured, bushy-tailed marvel inhabiting the misty forests of the Eastern Himalayas. Its fox-like face, chestnut-red coat and gentle appearance instantly captivated me. A decade later, while exploring the remote mountains of India, I was fortunate enough to see a Red Panda in its natural habitat in Darjeeling. The encounter was exhilarating, sobering, and thrilling because a stamp had come alive before my eyes, yet deeply moving because this charming creature was struggling to survive in a world of shrinking forests and mounting threats. In that moment, I realised how a humble postage stamp had not only introduced me to a species but had also quietly nurtured a lifelong appreciation for wildlife conservation.

Long before the digital age, India relied on its vast postal network of stamps, postcards, letters and special postmarks to encourage people to par-

ticipate in the national census. From the first census after Independence in 1951 to today's digital census, postal campaigns have helped build public trust, spread awareness, and promote the census as a vital tool for nation-building, development, and democratic planning.

By 1970, India had more than 1,00,000 post offices delivering mail to nearly 6,00,000 villages, making the postal system the country's most extensive communication network. According to the India Post website, there were 1,64,999 post offices as of March 31, 2025.

Philatelic Nation When viewed through the lens of philately, India emerges not merely as a nation that prints stamps, but as one of the world's most fascinating custodians of natural and cultural heritage. Among the great philatelic nations of the world, India occupies a uniquely distinguished position, where every postage stamp serves as a miniature canvas portraying the country's astonishing biodiversity, ancient wisdom, wildlife wealth, and ecological treasures. India's philatelic journey began with the legendary Scinde Dawk of 1852, Asia's first adhesive postage stamp, placing the nation among the pioneers of global postal history. Since then, Indian stamps have evolved into vibrant chronicles of nature and civilisation. While collectors worldwide admire the celebrated classics such as the Inverted Head Four Annas and the rare issues of the princely States, an equally remarkable chapter lies in India's unparalleled thematic philately devoted to wildlife, forests, medicinal plants, birds, butterflies, rivers, mountains, and conservation. Few countries can rival India in the sheer diversity of subjects depicted on its stamps. From the majestic Bengal tiger stalking through dense jungles and the mighty Asian elephant wandering ancient forests, to the elusive Snow leopard of the Himalayas and the endangered red panda of the Eastern Himalayas, Indian stamps have introduced generations of collectors to creatures many would otherwise

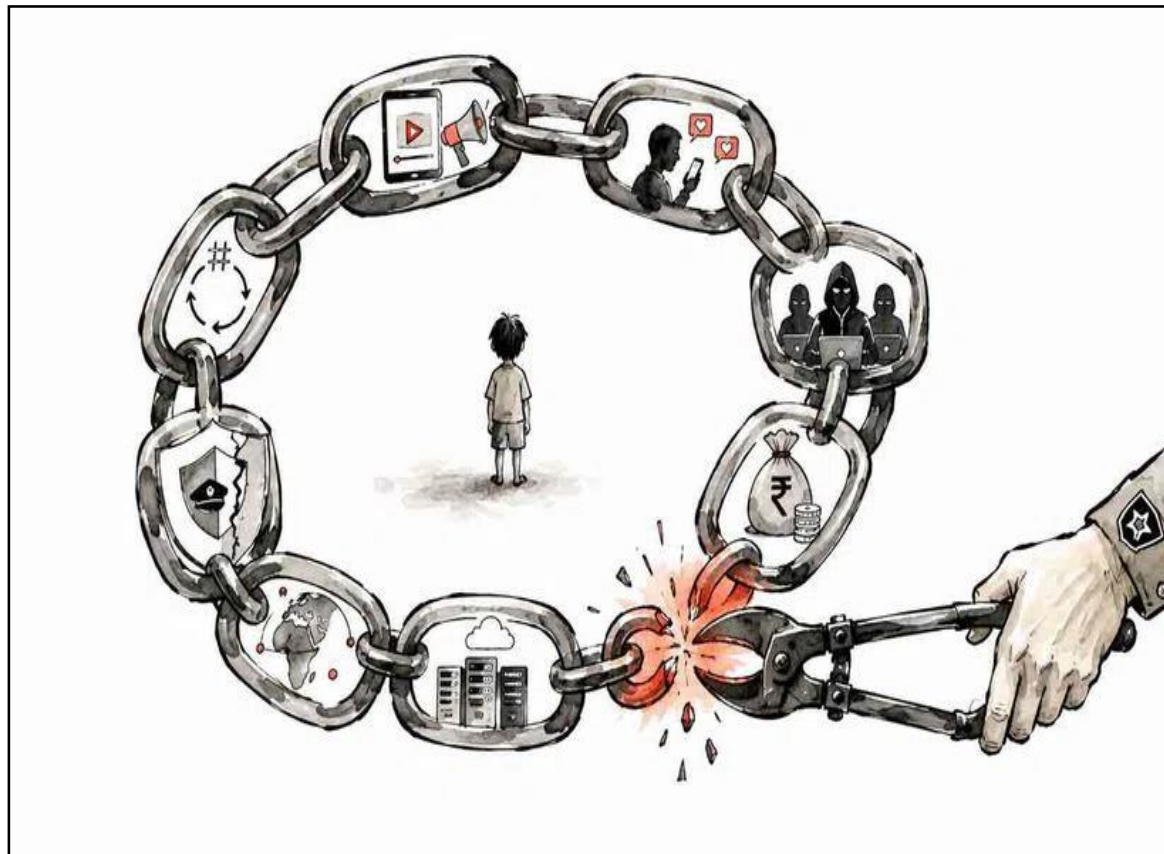
never encounter. Delicately engraved orchids, rhododendrons, lotuses, medicinal herbs, mangroves and rare endemic plants have transformed stamp albums into botanical gardens in miniature.

For countless school-children growing up during the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, stamps became their first field guides to the natural world. Before wildlife channels and the internet existed, a colourful stamp depicting a hornbill, a lion-tailed macaque, a blackbuck, and a Siberian crane often sparked a lifelong fascination with nature. Many naturalists, bird-watchers, botanists and conservationists trace their earliest encounters with India's flora and fauna not to a forest or wildlife sanctuary, but to a humble postage stamp affixed to a letter.

On the international exhibition circuit, Indian philatelists have earned increasing recognition through numerous awards and special distinctions at exhibitions conducted across the globe. Indian exhibitors are particularly respected in thematic philately, postal history, traditional philately and philatelic literature, often presenting world-class collections that blend scholarship with storytelling.

Today, despite the decline of traditional correspondence in the digital age, Indian philately remains vibrant among collectors, researchers and exhibitors. Increasingly, these tiny pieces of paper are being appreciated not just as collectables, but as enduring historical documents and powerful educational tools. They remind us that long before social media campaigns and environmental documentaries, India's postage stamps were already carrying messages of conservation, biodiversity and sustainable living to every corner of the world. My favourite stamp is India's first scented postage stamp, honouring the prized Sandalwood (Santalum album), which was issued by India Post on 13 December 2006. Designed by Sankha Samanta and printed at the India Security Press, Nashik, the Rs 15 stamp

Break the chain of online child sexual exploitation



India has the largest Instagram user base in the world, with more than 413 million people scrolling through an endless stream of content every day. A significant proportion of these users are young adults, constantly engaging with reels and posts that often present a curated and distorted version of reality. In India, Meta's Zuckerberg apologises to India over child abuse, deepfake content. Industry estimates suggest that nearly 81 per cent of Instagram users discover new products through reels. But products are not the only things being promoted and consumed.

CSEAM Ecosystems Hidden within this vast ecosystem is content that normalises, promotes, and even facilitates the consumption of child sexual exploitative and abusive material (CSEAM). Such content does not merely enable the circulation of these horrific crimes. It also creates demand by drawing in users, including those who may start out of curiosity but soon become consumers and even criminals. This trajectory makes social media platforms not just channels of communication, but also ecosystems that sustain and expand the CSEAM market.

The Supreme Court of India, in the landmark case of Just Rights for Children Alliance & Anr. v. S. Harish & Ors in 2024, categorically held that downloading, viewing, or possessing CSEAM, even in the privacy of one's home, constitutes a criminal offence. The Court further clarified that intermediaries such as Meta cannot claim "safe harbour" protection if they fail to discharge their legal obligations relating to child sexual abuse material. It was a judgment that clearly and urgently addressed the fast-growing claws of CSEAM. One expected the judgment to slow the rapidly growing menace of CSEAM. Yet, the problem persists.

Advertisement Lure An international media organisation recently reported that paid advertisements promoting CSEAM were being displayed on Instagram. The organisation reported one such advertisement to the platform. Twenty-four hours later, Instagram responded that the advertisement did not violate its Community Guidelines. The government of India promptly acted on this and ordered META to remove such advertisements from its platforms. India has once again made clear its intolerance towards CSEAM and rightly so. Advertising remains the backbone of Meta's business model, accounting for almost all of the company's annual revenue. Meta has consistently maintained that every advertisement undergoes a review process before publication, relying largely on automated systems to identify policy violations. The incident raises difficult questions about whether existing moderation systems are sufficiently equipped to detect and prevent content that facilitates the sexual exploitation of children.

Greater Danger But the problem is not just that these advertisements are slipping through the cracks. Platform failures are only one part of the story. The greater danger lies in how recommendation systems amplify demand while weak enforcement allows organised criminal networks to continue operating with relative impunity. The danger also lies in how ill-equipped the entire law enforcement machinery is to combat these crimes. Unless governments, law enforcement agencies, technology companies and international institutions work together to identify and dismantle every link in that ecosystem, children will continue to pay the price. First, once a user interacts with exploitative content, whether deliberately or even out of curiosity, platforms are designed to serve increasingly similar content to maximise engagement. In the context of CSEAM, this creates an extremely dangerous feedback loop, and this self-perpetuating loop will sustain itself until disrupted by an external intervention. This brings us to the second important challenge: building an agile and well-resourced enforcement system that not

only disrupts the inertia but also plugs the systemic gaps present at every juncture of this organised crime.

Currently, even as the law has evolved to recognise the seriousness of online child sexual exploitation, the institutions responsible for enforcing it have not always evolved at the same pace. Investigating digital crimes involving CSEAM requires specialised forensic capabilities, advanced cyber investigation skills, and the ability to track offenders who operate anonymously across multiple jurisdictions. Many investigating agencies continue to face significant capacity gaps in dealing with technology-enabled organised crime.

Chain of Exploitation Child sexual exploitation is no longer a localised offence. The production of abuse material may take place in one country, be stored on servers in another, distributed through platforms operating globally, and consumed by offenders spread across continents.

This makes international cooperation, real-time intelligence sharing, and coordinated investigations indispensable. No single police force or country can dismantle these networks in isolation. More importantly, enforcement cannot remain limited to identifying individual offenders who consume or circulate CSEAM. Every image or video represents an organised chain of exploitation involving recruiters, traffickers, producers, distributors, technology platforms, financial intermediaries and consumers. Breaking this chain requires a multi-pronged approach. Every image or video represents an organised chain of exploitation involving recruiters, traffickers, producers, distributors, technology platforms, financial intermediaries and consumers. Breaking this chain requires investigators to move beyond isolated incidents and trace the entire criminal network. The objective must not merely be to remove illegal content after it appears, but to disrupt the organised criminal networks that create, profit from, and perpetuate the of children.

Deepika Padukone Shares Funny Post On Pregnancy Struggles With Daughter Dua



Deepika Padukone is giving fans little glimpses of her pregnancy journey, and her latest Instagram Story is something many parents may instantly relate to. The actor, who is expecting her second child with husband Ranveer Singh, recently reshared a funny video on Instagram that highlighted the challenges of being pregnant while taking care of a toddler. The clip featured a pregnant woman lifting her little child in her arms. The video came with a simple but relatable caption: "Don't lift anything over 20 pounds during pregnancy. Me this entire pregnancy."

Deepika shared the post with a Spider-Man sticker, adding a playful touch to the relatable moment. While Deepika did not directly name her daughter in the Story, the post is being seen as a reference to her toddler, Dua. The little one will soon turn two, and Deepika has often spoken about how much she enjoys being a mother. Deepika Padukone Shares Funny Post On Pregnancy Struggles With Daughter Dua. Deepika Shares Funny Post On Padukone Shares Funny Post On Pregnancy Struggles With Daughter Dua (Photo: Instagram) In an earlier interview

with a newswire, she described her daughter as her "obsession", making it clear how central motherhood has become in her life. Dua is Deepika and Ranveer's first child. The couple welcomed their daughter in 2024 after tying the knot in 2018 in a wedding ceremony at Lake Como, Italy. The couple announced their ated the couple on the growing family. Deepika econd pregnancy in April this year. In a sweet announcement, they shared a picture of Dua holding a pregnancy test kit showing a positive result. The post quickly attracted attention from fans and

friends, who congratulated the couple on the growing family. Deepika has largely kept her pregnancy away from the spotlight and has not been regularly sharing pictures of herself on social media. Her latest post comes at a time when fans are waiting to see her return to the big screen. Deepika has several projects lined up, including Siddharth Anand's highly anticipated King, where she will share screen space with Shah Rukh Khan again. She is also set to be part of Atlee and Allu Arjun's Raaka, which will mark her first major collaboration with Allu Arjun.

Pamala Serena Reveals Fiance Cheated On Her Before Wedding



As the finale of Lock Upp 2 draws closer, the contestants were given one of the toughest tasks of the season. They had to reveal painful secrets from their personal lives. During the task, informer Apoorva Mukhija selected Pamala Serena to share her secret. Given the code word "fiancé," Pamala became emotional as she opened up about a heartbreaking chapter from her life. She revealed that her former fiancé had cheated on her and had even impregnated another woman while they were engaged. Recalling the incident, Pamala said, "5 years ago, I was in a long-term relationship. It was almost 8 years. We were from the Indian-UK background. We were engaged and about to get married. He was a big businessman, so he used

to work abroad." She then shared that her fiancé suddenly fell seriously ill after returning from a work trip. "He was once returning via flight, and when he landed, he had a big infection in his stomach. When he was taken to the hospital in an emergency, we found out that he had a huge abscess inside his stomach. It was the size of a melon, and he had to be operated on immediately or else it could burst," she said. Pamala revealed that while she was taking care of him in the hospital, she came across a shocking truth. "Anyway, the operation was over, and we were by ourselves. Our families were in London, and so his phone was with me. After a few weeks, I got a call from a girl, and she revealed that she had been in a relationship with him for the last 2

years and was pregnant with his baby." The revelation left Pamala devastated. However, despite the betrayal, she chose not to leave him immediately because of his medical condition. "I was very upset, and I thought of leaving, but how could I do that in such a condition, after 7-8 years with him? So I stayed back and took care of him for another month and a half. When he became healthy, I packed my bags and left without turning back," she shared. Pamala also admitted that the incident changed her forever and made it difficult for her to trust anyone again. "My trust broke, and I never trusted anyone again. I had relationships again, but that trust never happened. I always question myself in case I get close to someone, if I should

trust them or not," she said. Pamala did not reveal the identity of her former fiancé. Pamala Serena rose to fame with Netflix India's Desi Bling. Born in the United Kingdom to Indian parents, she later moved to Dubai in 2012 and made a name for herself in the beauty pageant world. She won the titles of Mrs Universe Dubai 2021 and Mrs UAE World 2022. Meanwhile, Lock Upp 2 has become more intense ahead of its finale. The latest episodes saw former contestants Harshad Chopda and Yogesh Rawat return to the show after winning comeback tasks against Sufi Motiwala and Dheeraj Dhoopar, respectively. Hosted by Farah Khan and Riteish Deshmukh, the reality show is streaming on Netflix.

Awarapan 2 Vs Batwara 1947 Box Office Collection Day 5: Hashmi's Film Nears Rs 100 Cr, Deol Starrer Yet To Reach Half



The Independence Day box office clash between Awarapan 2 and Batwara 1947 continues to remain heavily in favour of Emraan Hashmi's film. On Day 5, Awarapan 2 is once again recording a much stronger response than Sunny Deol's period drama. Both films have slowed down after the extended weekend, but Awarapan 2 is still maintaining a steady pace at the box office. The film is now very close to crossing the Rs 100 crore mark in India, while Batwara 1947 is still struggling to build enough momentum. Awarapan 2 Box Office Collection Day 5 According to the latest live figures, Awarapan 2 has collected Rs 4.93 crore in India so far on Day 5, as of Tuesday evening. The film had collected Rs 9.25 crore on its first Monday. With the latest numbers added, its total India net collection has reached Rs 95.93 crore so far.

The film's total India gross collection currently stands at Rs 114.83 crore. Awarapan 2 is running across 8,693 shows on Tuesday and has recorded around 23% occupancy. The film is now less than Rs 5 crore away from the Rs 100 crore India net milestone. If the film continues to maintain its current pace, it could cross the mark very soon. Batwara 1947 Box Office Collection Day 5 Sunny Deol's Batwara 1947 is also recording a better response on Tuesday compared to Monday, but its overall numbers remain much lower than Awarapan 2. The film has earned Rs 1.40 crore in India so far on Day 5, as of Tuesday evening. It collected Rs 2 crore on its first Monday. With this, Batwara 1947's total India net collection has reached Rs 29.90 crore. Its India gross collection currently stands at Rs 35.60 crore. The film is run-

ning across 5,894 shows and has recorded around 14% occupancy. The gap between the two films continues to be wide. Awarapan 2 is recording higher collections, occupancy and show counts, keeping it comfortably ahead of Batwara 1947. The Emraan Hashmi starrer is now on the verge of entering the Rs 100 crore club in India. Its strong performance over the opening weekend has given the film a solid base for its weekday run. Batwara 1947, meanwhile, has collected close to Rs 30 crore so far. The film would need a stronger hold in the coming days if it wants to move towards the Rs 50 crore mark. In Awarapan 2, a retired and grieving evening. It collected Rs Shivam Pandit (Emraan Hashmi) is pulled back into the dangerous criminal underworld of Bangkok when a young girl he cares for goes missing and gets trapped by a child-trafficking syndi-

cate run by a local drug lord. He infiltrates the gang, faces brutal torture, and teams up with unexpected allies like Zara (Disha Patani) and Nafisa (Shabana Azmi) to rescue the captive children. He ultimately fights his way through bloody betrayals to find redemption and keep the innocent safe. Batwara 1947, set during the 1947 Partition of India, follows Sikandar Mirza (Sunny Deol), his wife Hamida (Preity Zinta), and their children Javed (Karan Deol) and Tanno (Khushi Hajare) as they migrate from Meerut to Lahore. They are allotted a haveli, but find an elderly Hindu woman named Mai (Shabana Azmi) living inside who refuses to leave. Despite local extremists like Yaqoob Pahalwan (Abhimanyu Singh) trying to force her out, the family protects her and forms a deep mother-son bond, proving humanity transcends borders.

Aditi Sharma Files Domestic Violence Complaint Against Husband Abhineet Kaushik, In-Laws

: Television actor Aditi Sharma period mentioned in her com-



ment, arguments began over several issues, including her clothing. She has also alleged that her husband did not contribute adequately towards household expenses and would regularly take money from her. One incident mentioned in the complaint allegedly took place on January 1, 2025. Aditi has claimed that an argument over coffee escalated and was followed by further problems in the relationship. She has also alleged that her husband became suspicious about her character and accused her of having an affair. According to the complaint, he would check her mobile phone and eventually started sleeping in a separate room. Aditi has further alleged that she was prevented from speaking to her parents. The actress has also accused her mother-in-law of retaining her bridal jewellery, which she has described as part of her stridhan. The jewellery allegedly includes gold chains, rings, a diamond ring, a mangalsutra and bangles. Aditi's complaint, she repeatedly asked for the jewellery to be returned but did not receive it. The police have registered the case and started an investigation into the allegations. No response from Abhineet Kaushik or his family has been made public so far. For the unversed, the actor has appeared in several Hindi television shows and is known for performances in Kaleerein, Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka! and Rabb Se Hai Dua. Aditi has also worked across films and digital projects. She began her career with modelling assignments and music videos before making her mark on television. She appeared in the Hindi film Ladies vs Ricky Bahl and later featured in the Punjabi film Angrej.

has filed a complaint against her husband, actor Abhineet Vidyanand Kaushik, and her in-laws, alleging physical and mental harassment, domestic violence and misuse of her bridal jewellery. Based on her complaint, Goregaon Police registered an FIR against Abhineet, his mother Urmila Kaushik and sister Kirti Kaushik. The case is now under investigation. According to the complaint, Aditi has alleged that she faced harassment at the couple's Goregaon residence. The