

EYE SECRETS

Spy in every blink

English Daily

Rangareddy Vol No. 1 Issue 111

Date: Tuesday, 8-9-2026

Price: 2/-

Pages: 8

Revanth to Expose Land Scams Under BRS Rule

Though the revenue minister had earlier announced that BRS top leadership's land dealings would be exposed, sources said there was delay in obtaining information linking people who got the land registered in their name with the BRS top brass.

Hyderabad, Sept 8

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will lead the attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi by exposing the land scams during the previous regime, when the contentious inclusion of land in the prohibitory list under Section 22A of the Registration Act, preventing their registration, would be taken up for a short discussion in the ongoing Monsoon Session of the Assembly.

The Chief Minister and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy held a detailed review on the issue on Sunday with senior officials and collectors of Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Hyderabad

and Sangareddy districts. "We wanted a debate on the issue and pressed for a short discussion in the business advisory committee meeting. We will not shy away from the debate. We are seeing it as an opportunity to expose the BRS," Srinivas Reddy told media persons in an informal chat in the Assembly lobbies.

According to the minister, the Congress government did not include an inch of land under Section 22A and had indeed removed nearly five lakh acres from the prohibitory list. Official records showed that there were 1.01 crore acres in the prohibitory list before the Congress took over, and the number came down to 96 lakh acres. "We are taking steps to re-

move some more land on which regularisation proceedings were issued," Srinivas Reddy said.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister that the lists of properties earlier included under Section 22A were mechanically submitted to the High Court in December 2025, because of which owners of several genuine properties were affected. The officials should have examined each case and recommended inclusion or deletion, the minister said, explaining why he had offered an apology to the people on behalf of the revenue officials.

Sources said the Chief Minister had prepared a detailed note on land scams indulged by the top BRS

leaders, with details of survey number, extent and the nature of irregularity. Though the revenue minister had earlier announced that BRS top leadership's land dealings would be exposed, sources said there was delay in obtaining information linking people who got the land registered in their name with the BRS top brass.

With regard to the complaints by residents of layouts in meetings organised by BRS leader T. Harish Rao, the minister said those layouts would still be in prohibited list because they came up in land declared under Urban Land Ceiling Act and no final proceedings regularising them were issued till now. Similarly, prohibitory orders will continue for land which are in litigation in different courts, Srinivas Reddy said.

BRS Leaders Assaulted Cops, Insulted Speaker; KCR Must Take Blame: Minister Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad Sept 8

Launching a blistering counter-attack on the opposition, Legislative Affairs and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu on Monday condemned BRS MLC Tata Madhu's disparaging comments against Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, stating that the regional party had stooped to language repulsive to civilised society.

Addressing a press conference alongside senior party leaders, Sridhar Babu said BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao bore direct responsibility for the outrage. "If KCR fails to condemn this incident, people will naturally suspect that the attack was orchestrated at his behest," the minister warned.

Accusing the BRS of unprecedented rowdiness on the Assembly premises, Sridhar Babu alleged that BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao and other legislators physically assaulted police personnel on duty.

"Television footage clearly shows a senior legislator grabbing a uniformed officer by the collar. Visuals indicate that KTR raised his hand against the police, seemingly trying to throttle a personnel member. Such unruly behaviour towards law enforcement never occurred even in the combined state. People's representatives must conduct themselves with decorum; the BRS members' conduct was disgraceful," he said.

Defending the security curbs at the gates, Sridhar Babu pointed out that the ban on carrying political badges, placards, and slogan-bearing T-shirts into the legislature was introduced under rules framed by the previous BRS regime itself.

"The Speaker merely acted according to existing service and security rules. While KTR questions why rules differ for Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha, the truth is Rahul Gandhi never enters Parliament wearing slogans printed on his T-shirt. The BRS MLAs

wore slogans that lowered the dignity of the House," he noted, adding that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had already taken serious cognizance of security lapses after women legislators raised complaints.

Taking exception to Tata Madhu's remarks targeting the Speaker's mother, Sridhar Babu said the unprovoked abuse brought the Speaker to tears and firmly exposed the BRS's "anti-Dalit mindset."



"The BRS has not uttered a single word condemning Madhu's vile remarks. How can any political leader justify abusing the Speaker's mother? Furthermore, BRS leaders are brazenly issuing threats to police officials. KTR insulted the sanctity of the legislature by describing it as a 'Dushyasana Sabha'. A party that governed Telangana for five full years without a single woman minister in the cabinet has zero moral authority to lecture on women's respect," the minister said.

Dismissing KTR's warning to bring a no-confidence motion against the Speaker, Sridhar Babu asserted that the Congress government would not be cowed down by political posturing.

"There is no question of succumbing to these hollow threats. The BRS must tender an unconditional apology to the Speaker before any other legislative business is taken up. The Speaker and the Council Chairman exercise complete, undisputed authority over the Assembly premises," Sridhar Babu said.

Telangana Assembly session kicks off on a stormy note

Hyderabad Sept 8

The first day of the monsoon session of the state legislative Assembly witnessed high drama outside the House with BRS legislators and cops jostling one another amid tense moments at the main gate of the Assembly when the police restricted BRS MLAs wearing black T-shirts emblazoned with slogans from entering the premises.

The BRS MLAs and MLCs, as per their practice on the first day of the Assembly, paid tributes at the Martyrs Memorial at the Gun Park. The BRS public representatives were seen wearing black t-shirts emblazoned with slogans such as 'Congress failure in implementing the assurances, 1,000 days rule fruitless'. After paying tributes, while the BRS legislators were approaching the main gate, they were stopped by the police personnel. When the BRS leaders questioned the police action, the police personnel said that the chief marshal had asked them not to allow the members with slogans on the t-shirts.

Since the police personnel were not allowing the BRS members, BRS Deputy Leader T Harish Rao, MLAs KP Vivekananda and others removed their t-shirts (thereafter, they were in banians) and asked the police personnel to allow them inside.

However, the police personnel did not allow the

members to enter the Assembly premises but arrested the legislators.

During the scuffle, BRS senior legislators Harish Rao and G Jagadish Reddy fell. Other legislators including BRS working president KT Rama Rao, Kalvakuntla Sanjay, M Rajashekar Reddy and others sustained injuries. KTR said that the Congress government promised fulfilling '420 assurances' within 100 days by writing on a bond paper but failed to implement them even after 1,000 days. This is the reason why the BRS was taking up protest, he said. While KTR was speaking to the media, the police personnel forcefully pushed him into the vehicle and arrested other members as well. The party called its cadre to take up protests in the districts against the government which prevented BRS MLAs from entering the Assembly premises.

While all this was happening, the women MLAs of the BRS V Sunitha Lakshma Reddy and P Sabita Indra Reddy were pushed along and dragged by their hairs and sarees. The women legislators were seen in tears after one police personnel caught the throat of Sabita Indra Reddy.

Sabita Indra Reddy said later that the police behaved in an abnormal way on the directions of the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

ECI Extends Special Intensive Revision Schedule In Telangana; Final Electoral Roll On Nov 9

HYDERABAD, SEPT 7

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday extended the date of final publication of electoral roll by 20 days to November 9, to allow for the completion of the special intensive revision (SIR) process. This is the third extension of the SIR.

The time for new voter registration, filing claims, objections and corrections, has been ex-

tended to October 7 and disposal of claims and objections till November 5. SIR notices list will be available in the public domain within a day or two, said a source from Hyderabad district election authority (DEA).

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had recently requested the ECI to extend the SIR schedule following which the poll panel sought a response from the Telangana Chief Electoral Office (CEO). Around 60

lakh notices are yet to be served out of a total of 93 lakh voters under several categories. It was stated that it would not be possible to complete the task by September 16, the previous deadline. On Monday, CEO Sudharsan Reddy held a video conference with the Hyderabad DEA R.V. Karnan, the GHMC commissioner, and DEOs of other districts, with the meeting focused on issues relating to the delivery of notices and the conduct of hearings.



Maharashtra Minister orders ILS Law College to return Rs 1 lakh ‘excess’ fees to student



Maharashtra Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil on Wednesday ordered ILS Law College to return Rs 1,04,863 excess fees along with interest to alumni Mayur Garud. ILS Law College had challenged an order by the Director of Higher Education ordering the fee refund in the Bombay High Court. The order says that the 'Other than Other Fees' charged by ILS Law College does not seem to have prior permission of Savitribai Phule Pune University as mandated under the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016. "Therefore, the amount should be refunded to Mayur Garud along with six per cent interest from the date of the receipt of the fees till the date the refund is made," the order said.

Earlier, Higher Education Director Shailendra Deolankar on April 15 this year had similarly ruled that

They hid Rs 1 crore flat sale in domestic violence case, Bombay HC takes stern action

The Bombay High Court on Thursday, September 3, issued contempt notices to a senior citizen couple and their married daughter for “suppressing” the transfer and subsequent sale of a flat that had been protected as a shared household in a domestic violence case. Calling it a “serious and shocking case” of fraud played on the court, a single-judge bench of Justice Madhav J Jamdar directed the Court Receiver to take “immediate forcible physical possession” of the flat where the married daughter currently resides and evict anyone found occupying it.

The court also directed that police protection be provided to the receiver while implementing the order. The court was hearing an application filed by the senior citizen couple in proceedings initiated by their daughter-in-law under the Domestic Violence Act. In February 2024, a Metropolitan Magistrate had allowed the daughter-in-law to reside in her matrimonial home, or shared household, and directed her husband and in-laws not to disturb her possession. In May 2024, she agreed before the High Court to reside in rented accommodation near the matrimonial home. In August 2025, the high court was subsequently informed that Rs 30,000 per month was being paid to the woman pursuant to the May 2024 order, which it accepted. However, on Thursday, Justice Jamdar observed that the applicants had failed to disclose that they had executed a gift deed in May 2024 transferring the flat

‘Want Swatantra Bhardwaj arrested’: CJP vs ‘influencer’ over attack

The Cockroach Janta Party has called for the arrest of Swatantra Bhardwaj, a self-styled 'influencer' who purportedly admitted to have attacked a Jantar Mantar protester's father in June. CJP spokesperson Saurav Das, co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka and others marched to the Parliament Street Police Station in Delhi from Patel Chowk to press for Bhardwaj's arrest. "There is a minor who has been associated with our protest right from Day One. Her father, Sanjay Ji, also comes with her. When we were holding a peaceful sit-in protest when some members of a criminal gang entered our protest and resorted to violence. After the FIR was registered, we continued putting pressure on the police, saying that this was an attempt to murder and that the relevant section should be added. We also demanded that the SC/ST Act be invoked because they belong to a Dalit family. There is also a caste angle to the matter. But the police did not take any such action. When we pressured the police, they told us to approach the court and obtain an order," he told mediapersons outside the police station. Around 50 CJP supporters are staging a protest outside the police station while Ashutosh Ranka and Das are negotiating for Bhardwaj's arrest. Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress president Akshay Lakra, along with Nishu Aazad and her father, and Azad Samaj Party chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad also joined the CJP in demanding Bhardwaj's arrest. Purnea MP from Bihar Pappu Yadav later joined the CJP protesters at the sit-in protest outside the police station. Swatantra Bhardwaj, a right wing activist, purportedly confessed during a podcast that he had cracked the skull of a protester. The claim relate to an incident at Jantar Mantar, when Ghaziabad resident Sanjay Kumar (38) sustained a head injury during a scuffle.

In the video, Bhardwaj is seen claiming that he attacked the father of a CJP protester and avoided jail due to the intervention by a politician. He also is heard saying that the person he allegedly attacked suffered 60 stitches and was on the verge of death, and that a case under Section 307 of the IPC, relating to attempt to murder,

Hyderabad doctors save 16-year-old boy after he ingests multiple razor blades

Hyderabad: Doctors at Osmania General Hospital (OGH) saved the life of a 16-year-old boy from Hyderabad, who was admitted to the hospital after ingesting multiple razor blades. The youngster, Md Mujibur Rehman, who has a history of mental health illness, was brought to the hospital at around 2 am on Thursday and was immediately taken to the casualty ward, according to OGH authorities. The youngster immediately underwent an X-ray, which revealed multiple radio-opaque blade pieces in his stomach and was immediately referred to Medical Gastroenterology.

The hospital's Medical Gastroenterology team, led by Professor and Head Dr. B. Ramesh Kumar, immediately conducted a technically challenging, life-saving



to their married daughter. The daughter subsequently sold the flat to a third party through a sale deed in May 2026 for Rs 1 crore, the court noted.

“This is a serious case where an order (August 2025) has been obtained by playing fraud on this Court,” Justice Jamdar observed, adding that “such type of tactics should not work”. The court recorded a prima facie finding that the couple and their daughter had committed contempt and directed all three to remain personally present at every hearing. The Court Receiver’s charges of Rs 50,000 will ultimately be recovered from the couple and their daughter, the court said. The matter will be heard next on September 7.



should have been registered against him. This guy is openly admitting that he attacked people at Jantar Mantar and that BJP leaders provided him immunity from police action afterwards. Bhardwaj said another accused in the case was released from jail the following day and that he himself did not have to go to prison. He is heard boasting that police personnel received a call from a Delhi-based politician, whom he compared to an “elder brother” in another video, Bhardwaj is seen boasting about how he attacked protesters with a kada (a thick bangle worn for religious reasons) that he has the “guts” to admit his crime after committing it. He is also seen boasting how he “drenched a blue pigeon in blood”, seemingly a reference to the ASP’s choice of blue colour. “We are the one’s who do things... We’ll do this in future, too. There will be belt treatment; there could be katta (country pistol) treatment as well,” he said. A huge police force was deployed outside the Parliament Street Police Station. Police as CJP workers gathered, demanding Bhardwaj’s arrest. Posting a video of the police deployment, CJP said on X: “Goons kept committing horrendous crimes. Cracked open the skulls of peaceful protesters, and not a single Delhi Police officer came to their aid. We asked for their arrest, and suddenly thousands of police personnel showed up... Even if a 10th of it had been used to arrest the criminal openly accepting his crimes, we wouldn’t be here in the first place. [sic].”



minimally invasive procedure to safely remove three razor blade pieces from the youngster's stomach.

Karnataka Lokayukta orders safety audit of schools after roof collapse injures 6 students



A day after six students were injured when a concrete ceiling of a government primary school in Karnataka collapsed, the Lokayukta on Thursday initiated suo motu proceedings and ordered a wider inspection of government schools in Bagalkote district. The Lokayukta has also directed that students must not be allowed to attend classes in any portion of a school building found to be unsafe.

The ceiling of Mugalolli Tanda Government Primary School in the district collapsed on Wednesday, September 2, when classes were underway, injuring six students. The students were rushed to hospital, and their injuries were reported to be minor. According to sources, one of the girls sustained a head injury and remains under observation in hospital. The Lokayukta, in its statement, has directed its police wing to conduct random inspections and submit a comprehensive report on the condition of government school buildings. The Education Department has also been asked to undertake a safety audit of all schools in the district. It has raised concerns over the allegedly dilapidated state of the school building. Parents had also reportedly raised concerns about the safety of the structure before the incident. "If any part of the school building is identified as unsafe, classes should not be

Bengaluru cops detained her for deportation. Then helped deliver her baby

When the Bengaluru police took a 22-year-old alleged illegal immigrant from Bangladesh into custody in July, they expected the deportation process to be routine. Except Asma Khatoon was eight months pregnant. What followed saw a police team monitor her health, ensure a smooth delivery, and later care for her newborn daughter while awaiting her deportation. Khatoon, the wife of Rabibul Badsha, was taken into custody on July 17 under 'Operation Mukta' after she was found allegedly residing illegally within the Parappana Agrahara police station limits. She was subsequently produced before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and, as per its directions, placed in a special ward at a detention facility. The police personnel handling her case began accompanying her for medical check-ups, arranging necessities, and ensuring she received the required prenatal care. A little over a month later, on August 24, Khatoon went into labour and gave birth to her second daughter. This meant that the police now had to ensure her deportation, along with her four-year-old daughter, and also look after a newborn when they were eventually sent to Malda in West Bengal, from where they would be sent to Bangladesh.

Under a pregnant police official's care Police Sub-Inspector Kalavathi of Parappana Agrahara police station, who was part of the team handling the detained immigrants, said special arrangements were made for Khatoon. Kalavathi, who is herself six months pregnant, was assigned to ensure that Khatoon received the necessary care. "As she was in her eighth month of pregnancy, we would take her to government hospitals for regular scans and check-ups. Since her treatment was at government hospitals, there was no significant medical expenditure. However, we ensured that all her other necessities, including sanitary pads and items required for the baby, were provided," Kalavathi said. Khatoon was kept in a special ward at the facility, where women police personnel took turns attending to her. "Every day, one of us would be with her. The women constables and officers

Maharashtra food safety body rolls out hit list for upcoming festivals



Ever since Tukaram Mundhe took over as the commissioner of the Maharashtra food safety body, the regulator has relentlessly kept food businesses on their toes. Nobody can tell where the food safety officials would turn up next, find violations, and hand over a licence suspension notice. However, after months of a relentless crackdown on food adulteration, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has introduced a year-round "Festival Enforcement Calendar" to systematically target food adulteration during festivals, fairs, urus, and religious events across the state, and this is a first for Maharashtra. FDA calendar: Who can be targeted next?

The standing order divides festivals into three tiers based on their scale and geographical spread and lists, in advance, the foods to be checked, likely adulterants, sampling plans, and enforcement action. The enforcement cycle will begin 21 days before a festival and continue for up to 30 days. The first phase will involve identifying risk areas, gathering intelligence, forming squads, and ensuring testing kits, reagents, and laboratory capacity are available. Fourteen days before the festival, the officers will inspect manufacturing units, mills, markets, color stores, godowns, and wholesale markets, and also check transportation during night and early-morning hours. During the festival, the FDA officials will also carry out market surveillance, inspections, and on-the-spot

conducted in such part of the building, and the concerned authorities have been directed to make suitable arrangements for conducting classes at an alternative location until the building is certified safe for use. It has also been ordered to conduct a structural safety inspection of the entire school building through a qualified engineer and submit a report," the Lokayukta said in a statement. The Lokayukta has also sought records of previous inspections and safety certificates relating to the Mugalolli Tanda school, details of complaints or representations made by parents and information on whether funds had previously been sanctioned for repairing or reconstructing the building. In its statement, the Lokayukta said that the district-wide audit will cover not just the structural condition of school buildings but also basic safety and infrastructure, including compound walls, toilets, drinking water facilities, playgrounds, cleanliness and hygiene. The Lokayukta has sought a detailed inventory of government primary and high school buildings in Bagalkote that have been classified as dilapidated, hazardous or structurally unsafe. The information sought includes the location and taluk of each school, year of construction, present condition of the building and student strength. It has also sought details of action taken by the government, Zilla Panchayat and Panchayat Raj Engineering Department on unsafe school buildings, including repairs, renovation or reconstruction. Officials have been asked to provide details of funds sanctioned and released, the status of ongoing works and pending proposals, along with timelines for making unsafe structures fit for use. As part of the proceedings, the authorities have been asked to furnish details of the Mugalolli Tanda incident, including the circumstances and date of the collapse, the number of students present in the classroom, details of the six injured students, their injuries and the treatment provided. Notices have been issued to officials from the State Education Department, Dharawad division; the Bagalkote district administration; Zilla Panchayat;



ers would take turns and make sure she was taken care of," Kalavathi said. On August 24, when Asma developed labour pains, Woman Police Constable Chandrakala accompanied her. She was taken to Ghosh Hospital in Shivajinagar, where she delivered her second daughter. It was during the hospital visit that police also learnt that Khatoon had contracted chickenpox. "Even after the delivery, we made sure that she had everything she needed. The officers cooperated and took care of the requirements of both the mother and the newborn," Kalavathi said. Khatoon remained at the hospital until August 28. Following her discharge, she and her baby were taken back to the centre, with police personnel continuing to monitor the arrangements until the FRRO's deportation order was executed. With the baby only nine days old, transporting the mother and child to Malda required additional arrangements. A woman head constable, Sheela, was assigned to accompany Khatoon and look after the newborn as they travelled to Bengaluru railway station and onward to Malda. Police personnel arranged food, clothing, and a baby suit for the newborn. They also ensured the mother and child had all the necessities during the journey on August 30. Police Sub-Inspector Mahesh K, attached to Begur police station and part of the police escort team, said the newborn was given special attention during the journey. "The baby was taken care of separately," he said.

And safety body rolls coming festivals

testing. After the festival, the FDA will follow up on the laboratory reports, prosecution, and disposal of seized food. Risk categories: The FDA has identified 11 high risk categories, including milk and dairy products, meat, sweets, fasting foods, edible oil, fruits, dry fruits, gram flour, water and ice, bakery products, food sold through e-commerce, and imported food. Fasting foods such as bhagar, kuttu, singhada flour, sago, and rajgira will also be tested for mycotoxins. Milk and dairy products will be tested during their early-morning movement, while meat outlets, cold chains and slaughterhouses will face enhanced scrutiny during Eid. The FDA will test frying oil for total polar compounds (TPC) before and during major festivals. Those with more than 25 per cent TPC will be destroyed. Sweet shops will be checked for unauthorised colours and adulterated silver leaf. Anyone found using newspapers or printed paper for food wrapping will face FDA action. Special checks will be conducted at bakeries, restaurants, and quick-commerce warehouses. Food served collectively at mahaprasad, iftar, annachattar, langar, and bhandara will also be checked. Organisers must use licensed caterers and provide advance intimation to the FDA.

KNRUHS announces first phase of BDS web options for 2026-27

Hyderabad: Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) on Friday has issued a notification for the first phase of web-based counselling for Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) admissions under the Competent Authority Quota for the 2026-27 academic year.

EYE SECRETS Editorial

Multi-pronged strategies to check cyber frauds

tal revolution has been the growing incidence of cybercrimes. In fact, India has the dubious distinction of registering the highest number of cyber frauds in the world. Among the various forms of cybercrime, 'digital arrest' has emerged as the most devious one. It poses a threat not only to the country's financial security and stability but also to public trust in the law enforcement machinery. In digital arrest scams, fraudsters impersonate law enforcement officials through video calls, claiming that victims are under investigation for serious crimes. Using leaked personal data for credibility, they create fear and urgency, keeping victims on calls for hours with fake IDs and arrest warrants. Victims are coerced into transferring large sums to avoid arrest. Many elderly victims have lost their life savings. Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court's suggestion to formally define digital arrest in criminal law and declare it a standalone offence with harsher punishments merits serious consideration. A more robust legal framework will add to the multi-pronged efforts being put in place to tackle the menace. Between 2022 and May 2026, India recorded nearly 3,00,000 digital-arrest complaints, with losses estimated at over Rs 4,000 crore. According to data tabled in Parliament, Indians lost Rs 22,845 crore to cyber fraud of all kinds in 2024. A whopping 22 lakh cybercrime incidents were reported during the year. Cyber threats are no longer sporadic occurrences but a continuous everyday reality. HistoryEnabled by artificial intelligence and automation, cybercriminals are now resorting to sophisticated fraud schemes and account take-overs. It is an uphill battle that requires strong preventive and reactive strategies. Any systemic gap is easily exploited, and new forms of cybercrime emerge overnight. Financial operations cannot do without real-time fraud detection and proactive response mechanisms. Even large-scale crackdowns have failed to instil fear. Clearly, a more effective counter-strategy that includes stricter punishment is imperative. Cyber risks are inescapable in a data-centric world. Dealing with fraudsters ultimately requires mass awareness, precise technology-backed institutional support and a collective resolve. Since existing laws do not have specific provisions to tackle cybercrimes such as digital arrests, the courts and police are faced with severe limitations in bringing perpetrators to justice. The Information Technology Act, 2000, was enacted primarily to facilitate e-commerce and electronic records, but it was not designed for tackling digital arrest scams, AI-enabled frauds and deepfakes. Digital evidence collection, cross-border intelligence sharing and cooperation and technical expertise are among the challenges facing the investigators.

Two-wheelers banned on Bengaluru airport road; traffic curbs on 3 flyovers

Bengaluru traffic restrictions, Bengaluru traffic rules, Bengaluru flyover restrictions, two-wheeler ban Bengaluru, Bengaluru airport road traffic restrictions, International Airport Road Elevated Corridor, BGS flyover restrictions, Peenya flyover restrictions, double-decker flyover Bengaluru, Electronic City flyover ban, Bengaluru traffic police, goods vehicle restrictions Bengaluru, Indian express newsWhile the restrictions on all other flyovers will be enforced from September 4, restrictions on the Electronic City elevated corridor will come into effect from September

A ban on two-wheelers on the expressway to Bengaluru International Airport took effect Friday morning, along with traffic restrictions on three other city flyovers enforced by the traffic police. The Bengaluru traffic police said they have enforced restrictions on specific types of vehicles on the International Airport Road Elevated Corridor, the BGS flyover, Peenya Elevated Corridor, and the double-decker flyover (Silk Board to Ragigudda). "This initiative undertaken by the Bengaluru Traffic Police in the interest of public safety and smooth traffic movement will be under CCTV surveillance," the department said in a statement Thursday. The traffic police have also announced a ban on two-wheeler traffic on the Electronic City flyover, starting next Friday, September 11. Bengaluru traffic restrictions, Bengaluru traffic rules, Bengaluru flyover restrictions, two-wheeler ban Bengaluru, Bengaluru airport road traffic restrictions, International Airport Road Elevated Corridor, BGS flyover restrictions, Peenya flyover restrictions, double-decker flyover Bengaluru, Electronic City flyover ban, Bengaluru traffic police, goods vehicle restrictions Bengaluru, Indian express news Details of restrictions on Bengaluru roads.

On the BGS flyover in West Bengaluru, all goods vehicles, including three-wheelers, are barred during morning and evening peak hours, while heavy goods vehicles are prohibited throughout the day. On the Peenya flyover, auto-rickshaws are banned all day, and goods vehicles are banned during peak hours. Heavy goods vehicles are also prohibited throughout the day on the double-decker flyover between Silk Board and Ragigudda. Key factors considered while taking decisions on restrictions were road safety, road design and the width of the flyover, reducing the severity of accidents and mitigating traffic congestion caused by vehicle breakdowns," proach," Reddy added.

A new bridge for an old Mumbai bottleneck – How Byculla’s Rs 287-crore project will cut travel time



For decades, the 104-year-old Y-bridge has been a familiar bottleneck for motorists crossing Byculla. That could soon change. The BMC is racing to complete a Rs 287-crore cable-stayed bridge by December 2026, along with a new flyover linking it to Mazgaon, in a bid to cut the CSMT-Byculla journey from up to 45 minutes to less than 10.

What is the project?

Built in 1922, the uniquely shaped Y-bridge in Byculla has long catered to traffic to and from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT). The bridge passes over the railway lines of Sandhurst Road Station and Byculla Station. However, an IIT-Bombay-led audit found the old British-era structure unsafe in 2018, nudging the BMC to

construct a new cable-stayed bridge over the existing one. The project commenced in 2020, which the civic body is executing with the Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (MRIDC), also known as MahaRail. Commencing from Mahanagar gas station near CSMT side, the bridge will have two arms — one ending near Deccan Merchant Cooperative Bank in Byculla East and the second ending towards Byculla West. (File photo) While work on the new cable-stayed bridge takes shape, the civic body has also initiated works on a separate 892-metre flyover — which will connect with the Byculla cable-stayed bridge — and provide seamless connectivity for commuters heading towards Mazgaon. Once the entire corridor becomes operational, the distance between CSMT (Fort) and Byculla will come down to less than 10 minutes, which, at present, takes 30-45 minutes depending on traffic. "Work on the Byculla cable-stayed bridge is progressing, with work underway on the approach roads of the structure. We are targeting to complete the work on the project by the end of this year, in December. After work on the cable-stayed bridge is complete, the traffic will be diverted to the new structure, and then work on connecting the existing Y bridge will be initiated. This will ensure that road traffic remains unhindered," a senior BMC official told The Indian Express.

No direct link to kickbacks, 27-month delay in arrest: Why Satyendar Jain got bail



Satyendar Jain gets bail in STP tender scam case as Delhi court notes no direct link to alleged kickbacks and questions 27-month arrest delay. Satyendar Jain gets bail in STP tender scam case as Delhi court notes no direct link to alleged kickbacks and questions 27-month arrest delay. Granting bail to AAP leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in the alleged multi-crore sewage treatment plant (STP) tender scam, a Delhi court on Thursday noted that none of the corrigendums that changed the specifications of the work were approved by him.

Jain did not sign corrigendums Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of Rouse Avenue Court said all the corrigendums – a formal correction for a mistake found in a contract or notice after it has been published or released – were approved and signed by former Delhi Jal Board (DJB) CEO Udit Prakash Rai, who is also an accused in the case. "None of the corrigendums that changed the specification of the work was approved by the applicant. All were approved and signed by the CEO, Udit Prakash Rai (A-2)," the judge said. Allegations primarily against other accused The court said the allegations in the case were primarily against the other accused, while Jain's

alleged role was that of the minister who was allegedly in conspiracy with them and aided the illegal transactions. "...even if the statements on record and the materials gathered are taken into account, the applicant's complicity will have to be established at trial, and, if convicted, the applicant will be sentenced," it added. The court said that a few decisions taken by Jain raised eyebrows, but the same couldn't be the reason to deny him bail. "A few decisions taken by the applicant... as evident from the contents of the notes... do raise eyebrows, and he may not be innocent, but by themselves they are not enough at this stage to deny bail. The investigating agency ought to have first conducted a thorough investigation and gathered more evidence before rushing to arrest him," it added. The court noted that there were no WhatsApp chats, call records or SMS messages that, at this stage, connected Jain to the alleged kickbacks and hawala transactions involving the other accused. Prima facie, none of the WhatsApp chats links the applicant," Judge Singh said, adding that there were no other phone records or SMS messages that might at present connect him to the alleged transactions. 27-month gap in arrest Further, the court questioned the "unexplained and extraordinary" 27-month gap between registration of the FIR and Jain's arrest. The FIR was registered on May 11, 2024, while Jain, Rai and four others were arrested on August 18 this year. The court said the delay indicated that the investigating agency had not considered Jain's physical custody necessary for more than two years. It also said the prosecution had failed to identify any new circumstance that warranted his arrest after such a prolonged gap. The court noted that the case largely rested on documentary and electronic evidence, including notes, files, technical proposals, minutes of meetings and bank transaction statements. These materials had already been seized by the ACB, it said. The court also noted that the ACB had not sought police custody of Jain, indicating that there was no active requirement for custodial interrogation.

Question papers handed out in resorts: What Karnataka vet recruitment probe found

A Karnataka Police investigation into the recruitment of veterinary doctors for 400 vacancies in the state government has revealed that some successful aspirants allegedly received leaked question papers at resorts and hotels before the examination. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probe has found evidence from Internet Protocol Details Records of a flurry of calls via the internet on the day of the entrance exams—January 8 and 9—between select candidates, middlemen, and Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) officials like the arrested controller of exams, IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, and the suspended KPSC chairman Sahukar S Shivashankarappa, sources said. The investigation has revealed that Gangwar, who finalised the question paper, allegedly facilitated access to it to a middleman—Basavaraj Kannale, a BJP-linked businessman from Bidar. Kannale allegedly provided the questions to aspirants, who reportedly paid Rs 40 lakh to Rs 80 lakh and were lodged at resorts and hotels just before the exams. "In Bengaluru, the candidates who made payments were kept at a resort near Devanahalli (on the outskirts of the city)," a source said. The aspirants who received the question papers in advance were also trained by middlemen to answer the OMR sheet and were dropped off at the exam centres on the day of the entrance tests, sources added. Exam-day communication under scanner The investigation allegedly found a flurry of communication via the internet on the day of the entrance exams between Gangwar and Shivashankarappa, whose relative scored 456.75 marks in the entrance and is alleged to be one of the 29 beneficiaries of the leaked question papers, sources said. "On the day of the examination, many things have happened," state Public Prosecutor B N Jagadeesh told the Karnataka High Court on Thursday after providing the high court a glimpse of evidence suggesting Shivashankarappa's involvement in the alleged fraud. Gangwar, who was arrested on August 29 based on evidence of his frequent communication with Kannale and suspended on Thursday, has been tight-lipped during the investigation, sources said. He had disappeared for over a week amid Enforcement Directorate searches linked to the veterinarians' exam fraud but resurfaced on August 27. "The exam controller is all powerful when it comes to conducting the KPSC exams. He gets a few versions of the question papers to be set and then decides on the questions that will be finally provided for the exams," a source said. The modus of leaking the questions just before the exam was adopted as other methods of fraud could be detected through forensics, sources said. The CID is also awaiting forensic reports for 758 OMR sheets—329 originals and 329 candidate copies—to de-



termine if more than one mode of cheating was adopted for the exams.

Money trail to key middleman being probed The CID is also looking at the money trail of candidates suspected of paying Kannale to access the question papers. Investigators are reportedly examining funds transferred through his intermediaries. "The CID is looking at bank details at several co-operative banks in Bidar which are suspected to have received the payment deposits," a source said. Kannale was previously a personal aide to former BJP minister and Bengaluru MLA Dr C N Ashwathnarayan. He rose from humble beginnings in Dongapur village in Bidar to a prospective aspirant for the BJP ticket for the Bhalki Assembly constituency. Kannale reportedly built ties with Gangwar when the IAS officer was posted as the Bidar CEO in 2019. This association continued when Gangwar was posted as the KPSC exams controller in February 2024—a post he held until March 2026. In recent years, Kannale has started multiple businesses, including a dairy farm, a travel agency, and a real estate project, apart from building a plush new home in Bhalki in Bidar. He also conducted campaigns in Bhalki, projecting himself as a future BJP Assembly candidate. Local BJP leaders in Bidar, like former Union minister Bhagwanth Khuba, however, claimed that he was not a party worker. Kannale was arrested at the New Delhi airport on August 30 while allegedly trying to flee to Uzbekistan. Searches indicate deeper rot in KPSC exams The CID searches at properties linked to Kannale unearthed a few OMR sheets and admit cards for a KPSC exam held in 2020 to recruit 384 gazetted probationers for the Karnataka Administrative Services, indicating a deeper rot, sources said. Over 2 lakh aspirants wrote the preliminary exam in 2024 for the gazetted probationers recruitment through the KPSC, where the chairman has a direct role in the selection process at the interview stage. Shivashankarappa,

Bengaluru businessman arrest: Andhra FIR names wife too in murder bid case



Days after Bengaluru businessman Ravi Prakash was taken into custody from his farmhouse by the Andhra Pradesh Police — a move his family has described as kidnapping — details of the First Information Report (FIR) behind the arrest show that both Prakash and his wife Sabina have been named as sixth accused in an alleged attempt-to-murder case of also a businessman.

The Andhra Police have clarified that Bengaluru Police were informed of Ravi Prakash's arrest, following questions over the manner in which the 65-year-old businessman was taken from Bengaluru on August 30. Prakash has been named the fifth accused in the case. The Andhra Police have booked the couple and four others based on a complaint by Chaganaboina Murali Mohan, a 45-year-old businessman, on July 22 after he was allegedly attacked with iron rods and knives. The other accused are K N Kushal Kumar of Yelahanka, Bengaluru; Venkata Siva Prasad of Kadapa; Vara Prasad and Balaraju alias Baludu, both of Kamalapuram. According to the complaint, acting on the instructions of Prakash and his wife, four of the accused allegedly barged into Murali Mohan's house on July 22 and attacked him, causing bleeding injuries to his left shoulder and back. The complaint also stated that the assailants attacked another person who tried to intervene, injuring his right shoulder and the left side of his back. A senior Andhra Pradesh Police officer said Sabina, who has been named as the sixth accused in the case, was yet to have her specific role in the alleged offence established. "Sabina Prakash has been named as the sixth accused in the FIR, but her role is yet to be established. The other five accused named in the case have been arrested," the officer said.

The FIR attributes the alleged attack to a property dispute involving a site in Bengaluru between Murali Mohan, Putta Ravi Kumar – son of local Andhra MLA and former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) chairman Putta Sudhakar – and Ravi Prakash. Ravi Prakash was subsequently arrested by the Mydukur police and is currently in judicial custody. Four others who allegedly carried out the assault were also arrested.

The 65-year-old businessman was leaving his farmhouse on the outskirts of Bengaluru on August 30 morning when a group of men in unnumbered vehicles allegedly blocked his way, assaulted him, and forced him into a car. Responding to allegations that the Andhra Pradesh Police had taken him into custody without informing the Bengaluru police, the senior officer said, "After arresting Ravi Prakash, the team sent an email and a message to the Bengaluru police. An SI was also sent to the local police station, where he explained the case and informed them about the arrest." He also said an Andhra Pradesh Police personnel was sent to Ravi Prakash's family to inform them about the arrest. However, the officer claimed that family members and local people gathered around the vehicle and prevented it from leaving. The vehicle used by the AP Police team was subsequently seized by the Bengaluru police. However, questions remain over whether the prescribed procedure for taking an accused from one state to another was followed. In such cases, the accused is ordinarily required to be produced before the local jurisdictional magistrate for transit remand before being taken to the state where the case was registered. The accused must then be produced before the appropriate court there within the prescribed period. Police sources said these procedural requirements were allegedly not followed in Ravi Prakash's case. Ravi Prakash's daughter Rupali has disputed the allegations against her father and described his removal from Bengaluru as kidnapping. She told reporters that her father was forcibly taken from the farmhouse and the family was initially not told where he had been taken or what condition he was in. Rupali also alleged that the family had faced threats and attempts at assault in connection with a land dispute, which she said was already before a court. She questioned why the dispute was not being resolved through legal channels and alleged that Putta Sudhakar and his son Putta Ravi have filed a fake case against her father in Andhra Pradesh. She said the family had approached the National Human Rights Commission, the National Commission for Women and the SC/ST Commission, alleging that the police had not adequately cooperated with them. She also questioned why the family had not been given proper notice if there was a case against her father.

95-year-old man mauled to death by stray dogs in Dandepalli

Mancherla: In a heart-wrenching incident, a 95-years lone man was mauled to death by stray dogs at Dandepalli on Thursday, triggering panic among locals.

Locals and police said that Oruganti Poshm sustained serious injuries after a pack of four dogs attacked him when he was alone, resulting in spot death for him. He suffered profuse bleeding and died on the spot. None of his caregivers were not present when the incident happened. Posham was bed-ridden after he was diagnosed with multiple age-related ailments for quite a long time. He was staying alone ever since his wife died long back. His son migrated to Karimnagar in search of livelihood. He was looked after by his brother's family who reside slightly away from his home. Meanwhile, locals expressed concern over the stray dog menace. They said that the stray dogs, moving in the streets, were attacking people at regular intervals. They urged the officials to take steps to address the challenge and to prevent attacks.

Political instability, constitutional change, and the military’s hold over Pakistan



On December 4, 2025, Pakistan witnessed something both familiar and unsettling. Field Marshal Asim Munir was formally appointed the country’s first Chief of Defence Force (CDF) while still serving as Chief of Army Staff (COAS). Recent constitutional amendments handed him extensive authority. Many analysts quietly described it as a silent coup, as no military on the streets, no dramatic announcements, just a slow tightening of control.By late 2025, Pakistan had already experienced yet another shift in real power. The 27th Amendment ushered in legal immunity, curtailed judicial oversight, and centralised unprecedented authority in the hands of the military leadership.

Gen. Asim Munir’s rise did not happen overnight. After Operation Sindoor, where the public was told that Pakistan gained the upper hand against India, his stature grew. His meetings with world leaders, sometimes overshadowing the civilian Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, reinforced the impression that Pakistan’s elected government was no longer steering the ship.

The first coupPakistan’s early years were turbulent. After Partition in 1947, seven Prime Ministers came and went within just 11 years. Behind these political tremors lay a society divided along ethnic, linguistic, and regional lines.One of the major factors behind political tension was language. The founding fathers made Urdu the national language, contemplating it to be a unifying force. However, Urdu was spoken by only 3-5% of the population. Bangla, on the other hand, was the mother tongue of more than 50%. In 1952, widespread protests erupted in Dhaka demanding the recognition of Bangla and protesting the systemic neglect of East Pakistan. This mobilisation on linguistic grounds gradually led to the rise of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In 1958, a dramatic confrontation between Prime Minister Feroz Khan Noon and President Iskander Mirza opened the door for the military’s entry into politics. Mirza dismissed the Prime Minister, imposed martial law, and appointed General Ayub Khan as Chief Martial Law Administrator. Gen. Ayub had his own ambitions. Within weeks, he ousted Mirza, sent him abroad, and assumed control.Gen. Ayub justified the takeover in his political autobiography, Friends not Masters. “From a soldier’s position. There would be large-scale disturbances across the country, and the civil authority, already groaning under the heels of politicians, would be incapable of dealing with the situation. It was the Army alone that could step into the breach.” Thus, by imposing martial law, Gen. Ayub thought he was shaping Pakistan’s destiny.In 1959, Gen. Ayub declared himself Field Marshal without having won any war. It was Field Marshal Ayub Khan, who later planned Operation Gibraltar and Grand Slam in 1965. Operation Gibraltar was to invoke a local uprising in Kashmir, while Grand Slam aimed to capture Akhnoor, which, according to him, was the “jugular vein of India”. These plans failed. The war that followed left Pakistan shaken, and Gen. Ayub politically vulnerable and unpopular across the country.

From Ayub to Yahya KhanAs the 1960s drew to a close, Ayub’s rule became increasingly fragile. Economic inequality grew, protests erupted, and the once-popular military ruler found himself unwelcome on the streets. In 1969, exhausted and isolated, he handed power to another military chief, General Yahya Khan.Gen. Yahya presided over Pakistan’s first general elections in 1970, a moment filled with promise. But when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won a majority in East Pakistan, while Zulfikar Ali Bhutto dominated the West, the military and the West Pakistani elite refused to accept the democratic outcome. What followed was brutal repression in East Pakistan, a mass uprising, and eventually the 1971 war with India that ultimately left Pakistan divided, with the emergence

of Bangladesh. The defeat and surrender in Dhaka dealt a severe blow to Pakistan’s national psyche. Facing public anger and opposition within the army, Gen. Yahya stepped down in December 1971.

The Zia yearsAs Pakistan attempted to rebuild, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto emerged as the political leader. But even Bhutto’s charisma and brilliance could not bridge Pakistan’s internal divides. His political style alienated various groups, especially Urdu-speaking citizens who felt marginalised. Moreover, the disputed 1977 elections plunged the country into chaos.At this juncture, Army Chief General Zia-ul-Haq seized power under Operation Fair Play, ousted Bhutto, and later sent him to the gallows — a wound that still aches in Pakistan’s collective memory.Gen. Zia ruled for 11 years. Always smiling in photographs, he combined discipline and ruthlessness. Under his regime, blasphemy laws were tightened, jihadist ideology took root, textbooks were rewritten, and opponents were crushed. Contrarily, Pakistan’s economic growth improved, but Ayesha Siddiqi, in Military Inc., calls it “rentier economic growth,” fuelled by foreign aid and the Afghan jihad rather than domestic strength. Smuggling networks, weapons trafficking, and informal markets flourished under Gen. Zia. It was also Gen. Zia who planned terrorism in Kashmir.His death in a mysterious plane crash in 1988 ended an authoritarian era, but not the military’s hold over Pakistan’s destiny.

A General as Chief ExecutiveBenazir Bhutto won the 1988 elections, becoming the hope of a wounded nation. But the Army establishment soon clipped her wings, and her government fell within two years. The main reason was that Benazir was asserting herself and developing differences with the then Army chief Mirza Aslam Beg.The 1990s saw a cycle of hope and disappointment. Governments fell one after another — Sharif, Benazir, Sharif again — as Pakistan struggled to define democracy. In 1999, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reached out to India. The image of Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s bus rolling into Lahore inspired many across South Asia. But while the leaders extended hands of peace, the Pakistani Army was planning something else. General Pervez Musharraf secretly launched Operation Koh-e-Paima (Kargil), hoping to seize strategic heights in Kashmir. This operation, carried out during India’s peace efforts, damaged Pakistan’s credibility and destroyed trust between Gen. Musharraf and Mr. Sharif. By October 1999, Gen. Musharraf overthrew the elected government.

Unlike past dictators, Gen. Musharraf presented himself as a reformer,?promoting media openness, decentralisation, and “enlightened moderation.” But beneath the modern veneer, the military footprint remained strong. A series of crises, the suspension of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, the Lal Masjid siege, and Benazir’s tragic assassination eroded Gen. Musharraf’s support. His party collapsed in the 2008 elections, and he stepped aside.From favourite to foeBetween 2008 and 2018, Pakistan saw four Prime Ministers — Yousuf Raza Gilani, Raja Pravez Ashraf, Nawaz Sharif, and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi — none completing a full term. The civilian–military tension remained a defining feature of governance.In 2018, Imran Khan, once the Army’s favourite, rose to power with promises of reform and justice. Many in the Pakistani army believed he would be different. But like Bhutto and Mr. Nawaz, he eventually challenged the very institution that had helped elevate him. The moment he tried to assert autonomy, he faced resistance. Mr. Imran Khan became the first Pakistani Prime Minister to be removed through a no-confidence vote. Soon after, he was entangled in court cases, his party’s election symbol was stripped, and he was jailed.Yet in the 2024 elections, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed independents won more than 90 seats, a testament to his enduring popularity. Even so, a coalition led by Shehbaz Sharif, supported implicitly by the Army, formed the government.Mr. Imran Khan remains popular but powerless, a reminder that in Pakistan, public support alone does not guarantee political survival.Why the pattern persists

Since its birth, Pakistan’s civilian governments have struggled to control the state. The early loss of Jinnah, deep ethnic and linguistic divides, corruption, radicalisation, geopolitical entanglements, and the persistent weakness of civilian institutions have all allowed the military to emerge as the country’s most cohesive and powerful organisation.The rise of Gen. Asim Munir is, therefore, not extraordinary. It is simply another chapter in the same story.

Indore water contamination: 20 new diarrhoea cases detected during screening; 142 in hospitals



As many as 142 people are currently hospitalised amid an outbreak of diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water in Indore, including 11 in ICUs, even as 20 new patients were detected during screening of over 9,000 people in Bhagirathpura area, the ground zero of infection.Health teams examined 9,416 individuals from 2,354 households during an ongoing survey in Bhagirathpura, where six persons have lost their lives due to contaminated water, and identified 20 fresh cases, officials said on Sunday (January 4, 2026).According to officials, 398 patients had been admitted to hospitals so far following the outbreak. Of them, 256 patients have been discharged after recovery.They stated that 142 patients are currently undergoing treatment in hospitals, including 11 admitted to intensive care units (ICUs).The outbreak is under control now, they added.Indore water contamination: 20 new diarrhoea cases detected during screening

As many as 142 people are currently hospitalised amid an outbreak of diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water in Indore, including 11 in ICUs, even as 20 new patients were detected during screening of over 9,000 people in Bhagirathpura area, the ground zero of infection. | Video Credit: The HinduChief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Madhav Prasad Haasani said a team from the Kolkata-based National Institute for Research in Bacterial Infections (NIRBI) has arrived in Indore to probe the health crisis.He said experts from NIRBI, which is affiliated with the Indian Council of Medical Research, are providing technical support to the health department to contain the outbreak.The administration has confirmed six deaths so far. Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava had put the death toll at ten, whereas locals claimed that 16 people, including a six-month-old child, died due to the diarrhoea outbreak.Amid the outrage over deaths, the Congress staged bell-ringing protests across Madhya Pradesh demanding the resignation of senior Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya over the usage of the word "ghanta" while responding to reporters' questions about the developments in Indore.

Mr. Vijayvargiya sparked a row on the night of December 31 when he responded with the expression “ghanta” to a question by reporters on camera when asked about the water contamination crisis.The Congress demanded a judicial inquiry and sacking of Mr. Vijayvargiya, who holds the Urban Development and Housing portfolios, since Bhagirathpura is part of his Indore-1 Assembly constituency.State Congress president Jitu Patwari threatened to launch an agitation on January 11 if the party’s demands for rectification measures were not met.He demanded registration of a culpable homicide case against Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava and concerned civic officials.“Sixteen persons have died. These deaths are

the murder of the mandate that people gave to the BJP in the previous elections. There must be a judicial probe into the deaths caused by contaminated drinking water, and those guilty should be given strict punishment," Mr. Patwari told reporters.He claimed residents of Bhagirathpura had been complaining for the past eight months that contaminated water was coming from municipal tap connections, but no action was taken."They are also saying water currently being supplied through municipal tankers in Bhagirathpura is also contaminated," Mr. Patwari alleged.Meanwhile, a sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) in neighbouring Dewas was suspended on Sunday for allegedly referring to a minister's (read Vijayvargiya) controversial remark and Congress's allegations in an official order amid the Indore water contamination crisis, officials said.Ujjain division revenue commissioner Ashish Singh suspended the SDM on charges of serious negligence, indifference, and irregularities in the discharge of official duties.The officials said the SDM had issued a government order on Saturday (January 3, 2026) to deploy subordinate revenue officers to maintain law and order in view of a Congress protest held in Dewas."The wording of a portion of the Congress memorandum was copied verbatim in the SDM's order issued for official purposes. This amounts to serious negligence," an official told PTI.

The Congress memorandum had targeted the BJP government and stated that Mr. Vijayvargiya’s use of the objectionable word reflected “inhumanity and authoritarianism.The word "Ghanta" has different shades of meaning, but in common parlance, its usage conveys nonsense.Renowned water conservationist Rajendra Singh termed the deaths due to contaminated drinking water a "system-created disaster," alleging that deep-rooted corruption is to blame for the tragedy.Watch: Indore water tragedy sparks protests, officials suspendedThe Magsaysay Award winner, popularly known as the “Waterman of India," expressed alarm that such a crisis could unfold in Indore, which has been consistently ranked as India’s cleanest city."If such a tragedy can occur in the country’s cleanest city, it shows how serious the condition of drinking water supply systems must be in other cities," Mr. Singh told PTI.Government officials admitted the sewage overflow from the toilet spilled over into the water mains, causing the outbreak of severe episodes of vomiting and diarrhea."Indore’s contaminated drinking water crisis is a system-created disaster. To save money, contractors lay drinking water pipelines in close proximity to drainage lines," Mr. Singh claimed.

He alleged “corruption” has ruined the entire system. The Indore tragedy is the direct result of this corrupt system, he added.“The year-on-year decline in ground-water levels in Indore is the most worrying. I visited Indore for the first time in 1992. Even then, I had asked how long the city would depend on water from the Narmada river?” Mr/ Singh said.A large amount of money is lost to corruption in the project to bring Narmada water to Indore from 80 kilometres away, the water conservationist charged.Indore depends on the Narmada River for its water needs. Through pipelines laid by the municipal corporation, water from the Narmada river is brought to Indore from Jalud in neighbouring Khargone district, located 80 km away, and supplied to households on alternate days.According to civic officials, around ?25 crore is spent every month from the municipal corporation’s treasury only on electricity bills for this project.The huge expenditure involved in the project can also be gauged from statements made by Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava.

Presentations at work: Where influence often begins

It was a glass-walled boardroom on the 18th floor of a large enterprise client’s office. The kind of room where every decision carries reputational risk.The sales leader had prepared well.As he presented, the room stayed calm. Heads nodded. Notes were taken.Halfway through, the client leaned back and said, “This is interesting. But help me understand what should I do differently after this?”The seller moved to the next slide. Internally, he felt a bit of discomfort. Maybe the value will land by the end, he told himself.When the presentation ended, the client smiled and said, “Thank you. We’ll come back to you.”Walking out of the building, the seller felt uneasy with his shoulders drooping. Not rejected. Just... unclear.

Two weeks later, after follow ups, the client got back saying -? ‘we don’t have the budget’.? Looking back, the problem wasn’t trust. The client trusted him enough to give time and attention. The problem was influence.The presentation had explained the solution, but it hadn’t helped the client see their problem differently or feel confident about a decision. And that is why, even in 2026, sales presentations still decide outcomes.In sales, most deals are not lost because the product is weak or the price is high. They are lost because the seller failed to influence the audience in the right moment. That moment is almost always the presentation.In 2026, a sales presentation is no longer about informing prospects. Buyers arrive informed. What they are evaluating instead is clarity, credibility, and confidence. In other words, they are deciding whether you can influence their thinking and help them make a safe decision.This is why presentations continue to sit at the heart of successful sales, not as slide decks, but as influence tools.Influence is the real objective of a sales presentationMany sales professionals believe presentations are meant to “explain” offerings. That belief is outdated.A modern sales presentation has one job: to influence how the buyer frames the problem, evaluates options, and chooses next steps.Buyers today are overwhelmed: with data, vendors, opinions, and internal pressure. In such an environment, the seller who brings clarity influences the room. The seller who structures thinking influences the decision.This is where presentations quietly win or lose deals.Attention has shrunk. Influence hasn’t.Research shows that audience disengagement begins within seconds if relevance isn’t established early. Buyers don’t lack intelligence, they lack patience. They are scanning for signals:Do you understand my problem?

Can you simplify complexity?

Are you helping me decide, or just selling?If the answer isn’t clear quickly, influence is lost, no matter how good the solution is. This is why influence today is not about persuasion or pressure. It is about earning attention through relevance.

Why most sales presentations fail to influence

Despite years of experience, many sales teams still



struggle to influence their audience during presentations. The reasons are consistent:

1. Seller-centric narratives
Presentations often start with company history, features, or credentials. The buyer is forced to wait to see relevance. Influence drops before it even begins.
2. Information overload
Long decks filled with data create cognitive fatigue. Instead of influencing clarity, they create confusion.
3. Generic storytelling
A standard deck signals a standard understanding. Buyers feel spoken at, not spoken to.
4. Lack of presence
Influence is not only in slides — it’s in how confidently and calmly the seller guides the conversation, handles questions, and pauses at the right moments.
Influence starts with a mindset shiftAs I like to put it: “The moment you shift your thought process from, ‘Selling is convincing’ to ‘Selling is helping’, the pressure eases and you are more relaxed.”This mindset shift is critical because influence does not come from force. It comes from helping the audience think better.When sellers stop trying to convince and start trying to help, their tone changes, their structure improves, and their presence becomes more assured. Buyers sense this immediately.How to influence your audience through sales presentationsInfluence in presentations is built deliberately, not accidentally. Here’s what works today:1. Frame the buyer’s problem better than they canInfluence begins when the buyer feels understood. Start by articulating their challenge clearly, including risks they may not have fully verbalised. When you help buyers see their problem more clearly, you earn the right to propose a solution.2. Lead with insight, not featuresFeatures inform. Insights influence. An insight changes how the buyer looks at their situation and positions you as a thinking partner, not a vendor.3. Structure thinking for the roomA strong presentation guides the audience through a logical journey:

SBI to promote India-Israel trade in rupee

Amid deepening strategic ties and discussions around Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Israel gaining momentum, the State Bank of India (SBI), the only Indian bank with a presence in Israel, is looking to facilitate bilateral trade in Indian rupees."In view of India’s significant trade flows from/to its partner countries and growing interest among the global trading community to trade in the Indian rupee, it has been envisaged by our banking regulators, i.e. Reserve Bank of India, to permit Indian banks to facilitate settlement of exports and imports of their respective corporate clientele in INR. Israel has been identified as one of the partner countries under this mechanism," CEO of SBI Israel, V. Manivannan, told PTI.Israeli entities undertaking exports/imports through this mechanism shall receive and make payments in INR, which shall be credited into the Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA), against invoices for the supply/purchase of goods or services from the Israeli seller/buyer, the SBI executive said.

"SBI Tel Aviv has all the requisite approvals in place to facilitate these transactions", he added.The SBI branch has held several meetings and organised webinars recently in collaboration with the Israel-India Chamber of Commerce to promote trade in rupees. It has also involved most of the major defence entities in Israel in these discussions.Indian workers in Israel

With more than 40,000 Indian workers joining the Israeli workforce recently, SBI is also looking to facilitate the flow of remittances to India by facilitating the opening of their NRI accounts in India at its Tel Aviv branch."There has been an influx of the Indian workforce in the Israeli labour market, especially in construction and agriculture. SBI Tel Aviv is now facilitating the services for the Indian diaspora by connecting them with NRI accounts facility on the Indian side and exploring collaborating with fintech and local banks to facilitate their INR remittance busi-



ness," Mr. Manivannan said.SBI opened its branch in Israel in 2007 and has since managed to retain a full-fledged operation, demonstrating resilience in the face of the pandemic and more than two years of turmoil in the region due to the ongoing war.It has a presence in 29 countries through 241 'points of presence' outside India.Situated in the Diamond Exchange in Ramat-Gan, next to Tel Aviv, the SBI Branch caters to local corporates offerings trade finances, bank guarantees for India-related projects, business account and related operations.'As cooperation between India and Israel is on the rise, the branch is already acting as a bridge to facilitate activities. With SBI's vast global network (across all time zones and correspondent relationships across the globe), support from SBI Treasury and connect with India, presents a unique capability and outreach for local corporates dealing with India or any other part of the world," the SBI CEO noted.The branch is committed to further strengthening the connection with its present and prospective clientele and be a trusted

BCCI promises kinder FTP cycle, rest between series and tour games



With an eye on managing players’ workload, providing them adequate rest and recovery time between series, and thus limiting the possibility of picking up injuries, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has promised a better-planned Future Tour Programme from the next cycle. Some of the proposed measures include chalking out the calendar in such a way that the players get more rest between series, and sufficient time to get acclimatised to conditions, more so in SENA countries, including warm-up games before series. “We have instructed our FTP persons who will be meeting very soon in various international forums that our FTP should be in such a way that there is proper rest for the players as well as some kind of acclimatisation or friendly matches before any major series in SENA countries,” BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told media after a meeting with captains Shubman Gill (Test and ODIs), Shreyas Iyer (T20Is, coach Gautam Gambhir and head of Centre of Excellence (COE) VVS Laxman. Ajit Agarkar, the chairman of selectors, couldn’t attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

In the review meeting held in the board headquarters here to discuss the roadmap of Indian cricket in an important season, they discussed the frequent incidence of injuries, possibly due to a packed calendar. Saikia admitted: “Individual players are having injuries because they have to play a lot of matches. If you look at their schedule, in England, three-four players of the 15-member ODI squad got injured. We have to think that they have played two months of IPL before that. All this takes a toll on the health of the players.” The schedule is not getting kinder, with India set to feature in seven Tests, 14 ODIs, and 16 T20Is, apart from the Asian Games, until the next IPL in late March. The board, though, has assured the team management and its captains that they will plan

better so that players get sufficient rest. “To avoid those kinds of situations under the present FTP, we are trying to find some ways out. We have a protocol in place for how a player can come back to international matches after injury. We are taking feedback from the captains and head coach to chalk up a proper strategy to avoid these unwanted situations,” the secretary assured. He also asserted that, “everybody is on the same page.” “BCCI is working very well, like a well oiled engine. There is proper coordination amongst all the wings of BCCI, whether it is women’s teams committees or their technical staff or their coaches, vis-a-vis the COE, vis-a-vis the Indian men’s team’s coaching staff and the head coach. There is no difficulty in the coordination, everything is moving in the right direction.” “The only challenge we are facing is that there are too many matches in the year and that is why in the next FTP, we will do certain things. We will take certain measures,” he added.

The board secretary defused speculation on former captain Rohit Sharma’s future. “He is playing superbly in all matches. So what more do you want? Last match he scored 138 runs so why is there speculation? I do not want to give some fodder for the speculators,” he said, stubbing rumours that he was not in the selectors’ scheme for the World Cup in southern Africa later next year. He also said they didn’t discuss the future of Agarkar, and clarified that the talks revolved only around the roadmap for the 2027 World Cup. “Today he was out of station. He could not be a part of the meeting because this meeting was called at a very short notice, and our head of the selection committee was not in town, so he could not join it. He was in such an area that he could not join online also, in spite of all these efforts,” he said.

No issues in Asian Games Regarding concerns on facilities and accommodation in Asian Games, he said: “We are not going to have any difficulties in Japan.” There were reports that the cricketers had raised complaints about being put up in container villas of cruise ships. But the secretary said: “If any kind of situation arises, we’ll take an appropriate call at the right time, so that we ensure that our players and the support star will get the best of facilities in Asian Games, whether it is from their organisers or us. If required, BCCI will have its own system in place to provide the best facilities to our players,” he replied. Meanwhile, three bowlers—Rasikh Salam, Kartik Tyagi and Vicky Ostwal will travel with the Indian team to the Asian Games.

Spanish World Cup winner Marcos Llorente retires from international football

Spain midfielder and World Cup winner Marcos Llorente has retired from international football just six weeks after the final. He made 27 senior appearances for the Spanish team. In a farewell letter, the Atlético Madrid player said it was, “a personal decision, one I’ve thought through very carefully and, above all, one that comes from the heart.” He also clarified that the outcome of the tournament would not have made a difference on his choice, saying, “regardless of whether I had gone to the World Cup or not, or whether we had won or not, I had already made this decision.”

While he mostly operates as a midfielder, Llorente played as a right-back for his national team during this World Cup where he provided the assist to Álex Baena during Spain’s 1-0 win against Uruguay. The La Liga player, still only 31, addressed the relatively young age at which he is retiring, saying, “I realize that I’m still young and that, perhaps, if I continued to perform well, I’d still have years left to play in this jersey.” He further said, “I know many of you won’t understand this, and I probably wouldn’t have understood it either if I were looking at it from the outside.” He signed the letter off by thanking his



Spanish teammates for the journey he has been on. “I’ll cherish everything I’ve experienced, but above all, these last 52 days. With a wonderful group that fought until the very end to put Spain at the top. And that’s exactly what they did.” Llorente currently plays for Atlético Madrid and signed an extension with the club just 5 months ago. While his contract runs out by 2027, in an interview with Sport, he said, “if I am honest I would like to retire at Atlético de Madrid.”

Cricket can be dangerous in Asian Games, says former India batter



Cricket’s inclusion at the 2023 Asian Games had raised questions about the nature of pitches prepared in the multi-sport events, and ahead of the 2026 iteration, former India batter Aakash Chopra has questioned the relevance of the sport in the continental tournament. Cricket at the forthcoming Asian Games in Japan will be played at the Korogi Sports Park in Nisshin, one of the few venues designed to host the sport in the country. However, the ground was re-modelled from a baseball facility, with works of the ground only completed in late March, with a hybrid pitch square. Chopra, however, cautioned that under-prepared pitches at the Games could be dangerous for the players involved. “There is a different uproar going on about the Asian Games. We saw it last time as well. Whether it’s in China or Japan, these countries have all kinds of top-quality infrastructure, but not for cricket. They also wake up late for cricket. By the time they wake up, they realize that making it is a very difficult job,” Chopra said.

“They have tried, but we saw last time as well that if a top-flight bowler bowls fast, the pitches aren’t ready at all. They are actually dangerous to play. You feel the safety of your own players is on the line. They prepare the ground but are unable to prepare the square, and no cricket would have been played on it. You shouldn’t be surprised at all if it becomes dangerous,” he added. Chopra added that there is not enough awareness yet about the suitability of cricket in such multi-sport events. Cricket has previously been played only in three editions of the Asian Games in 2010, 2014 and 2023. “The second problem is that there probably isn’t enough realization that cricket is a different kind of sport. The facilities that are required just to perform

at the highest level aren’t ready at all. They say they can’t provide hotels, two people will stay in a room, and that they are using cruise ships or converted containers as hotels. This is not how cricket actually happens,” he said. “You can call it slightly elitist or classist, as to why it is not right for them when it is right for everyone else. You may have a point, but the truth is that cricket is not played like that. When you go to play cricket around the world, you get a single room to stay. You get your privacy, and you are used to that,” Chopra observed. Twelve nations will compete in cricket in the men’s and women’s formats between September 17 and October 3. The Indian men’s and women’s will begin their gold medal defence with a direct berth in the quarter-finals.

Kidambi Srikanth loses to Lee Cheuk Yiu in China Masters quarterfinals

Shenzhen: Kidambi Srikanth’s campaign at the China Masters, a BWF Super 750 tournament, ended after losing to Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong in the quarterfinals here on Friday. Srikanth suffered a 16-21, 16-21 loss at the hands of Lee at the Shenzhen Arena. It was Srikanth’s first quarterfinal appearance at a BWF World Tour Super 750 event or above in three years.

Lee’s lead in their head-to-head record was also increased as a result of the defeat, as Srikanth has now lost their last four matches in a row with Lee. In the first round of the 2018 India Open, he was victorious over the Hong Kong player for the only time in his career. In the pre-quarters, Srikanth pulled off a stunning upset over Canadian World No. 9 and recent World Championship bronze medallist Victor Lai, winning 21-18, 21-19. He had defeated Chinese Taipei’s World No. 21 Chi Yu-jen 21-16, 21-15 in just 35 minutes in the opening round. Later in the day, former World No. 1 pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty,

Yuvraj Singh wishes mentee Abhishek Sharma on his 26th birthday



New Delhi: Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh on Friday shared special wishes to his mentee Abhishek Sharma on his 26th birthday. Yuvraj has been a mentor to Abhishek, helping in his rise to international cricket as he became the No. 1 T20I batter and reinvented the T20I batting template for India.

Sharing a cheeky video, Yuvraj wished Abhishek in the caption on his cakeday. “Sir Abhishek, it’s your birthday. What an auspicious day. Love the person you have

become – sharing and caring for those around you, and a leader! Always learning from your failures and willing to put in more hard work each time! Wishing you a year of runs and tons! Lots of love always,” Yuvraj wrote on Instagram. He shared a humorous video with Abhishek, where he can be seen asking the youngster not to play rash shots and making him do sit-ups for his errors. “Bol mai pehli ball te lappa nahi maaranga,” Yuvraj can be heard saying as Abhishek holds his ears in sit-ups. “Mai pehli ball te lift nahi maranga,” Abhishek replied.

The video further pictured the close bond between the two, with some light-hearted digs from Yuvraj. It also films Yuvraj, Abhishek and Sanju Samson attending the Wimbledon event from the stands. “Kya chahiye apko?” Yuvraj asked Abhishek in the video shared as the trio watched the SW19. “Aapka Aashirwaad,” Abhishek said, as Yuvi replied, “Always”. Abhishek has tasted success at the international level and has become a fearsome T20I batter. He has two centuries with 11 half-tons to his name in 55 innings. Abhishek holds the second-fastest century in T20Is for India, having smacked a ton in just 37 balls last year against England. He is only behind former skipper Rohit Sharma in this list, with the 2024 T20 World Cup-winning captain having hit a hundred in 35 balls against Sri Lanka in 2017. Abhishek will be in action next in the upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghanistan in New Delhi and will look to make the most of the opportunities after having mixed outings against Ireland, England and Zimbabwe. The Southpaw has only one fifty in the last 10 innings and has been dismissed in single digits in the last four innings.

Smriti Mandhana says inspiring young girls matters more than cricket records

Dubai: India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana believes her biggest measure of success will not be the records she breaks but the number of young girls she can inspire to pick up a bat and ball and dream of playing cricket for India. Mandhana made history with a breathtaking 124 off 64 balls against Hong Kong China in the Women’s T20 Asia Cup on Thursday, becoming the leading run-scorer in women’s international cricket after surpassing former India captain Mithali Raj’s tally of 10,868 runs.

However, reflecting on her record-breaking performance, Mandhana said she has never viewed personal milestones as the ultimate measure of her career. “I always felt this is my job. I never thought of anything else than records and numbers and the amount of matches you win for India. That is a measure which you take back; you don’t take back how many runs or records you’ve broken,” Mandhana said in a video released by BCCI.

The left-handed opener, who also became the first Indian woman to score multiple T20I centuries, said she would take greater pride in helping the next generation of Indian women cricketers reach the highest level. “If anything of mine could inspire even like 10% girls to pick up a bat and ball and start playing cricket, I feel that would be something which I’ll always be proud and happy about,” she said. Mandhana also spoke about her desire to see more Indian batters join her among the leading run-scorers in women’s international cricket. “Hopefully there will be three-four more in the list of 10,000 from the Indian set-up and that is something which I would like to be measured with. If I come back to the question, taking three or four with you would be great to have in the top five list, and there will be like three or four Indians. I think that’s something which I’ll measure my career with,” she said. The 30-year-old admitted that she never imagined she would surpass Mithali, whom she grew up watching and idolising. “All grown up watching Mithali Di back, she’s been such an idol for everyone growing up. I never in my dreams ever imagined that I would get 10,000 and go past her,” Mandhana said.



Despite her landmark achievement, Mandhana insisted there was still plenty of room for improvement in her game. “I wouldn’t say that you’re ever complete as a batter or a bowler, and if you feel that, cricket will always show you that you’re not,” she said. Mandhana also highlighted her efforts to improve her six-hitting ability, an aspect that was on full display against Hong Kong China as she smashed seven sixes during her record knock. “I’ve been constantly trying to improve my six-hitting abilities in terms of being able to even clear the long-off and the long-on fielder or have the confidence to do that,” she said. Her 124, which came with 14 fours and seven sixes, was also the highest individual score in Women’s T20 Asia Cup history, surpassing Chamari Athapaththu’s unbeaten 119 against Malaysia in 2024. The knock was Mandhana’s 18th international century, taking her past Meg Lanning and Laura Wolvaardt for the most hundreds across formats in women’s international cricket. She also became the first Indian woman to register multiple T20I centuries and set a new record for the highest individual score by an Indian woman in T20Is. Mandhana’s innings helped India post 193/5 in 20 overs, which proved to be too much for Hong Kong, as they got bowled out for just 56 runs and lost the match by 137 runs.

‘Serve like Sachin’: BCCI reveals long-term plan for Sooryavanshi’s career



Within two years of bursting onto the professional circuit, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has captured the imagination of Indian cricket fans at a level no other youngster has come close to. The 15-year-old has risen through the ranks at rapid speed, breaking records within two series of his international debut this year. The Bihar prodigy’s future was a part of the crucial review meeting held by the various stakeholders at the Board of Control for Cricket in India’s (BCCI) headquarters in Mumbai on Thursday. Sooryavanshi, who broke Sachin Tendulkar’s record as the youngest male cricketer to represent India during the T20I series in England in July, has now been backed to emulate the legendary Mumbaiakar.

“We want Vaibhav Sooryavanshi or any player of his stature to continue and serve like Sachin Tendulkar did for the country or other players who in the past became legends,” BCCI secretary Saikia told reporters.

“So we look at Vaibhav in a very serious manner. He’s monitored from every angle and every step he is taking forward in his international career. The BCCI is taking a very close look at his future.” Saikia also said that the BCCI will not make the mistake of fast-tracking him for bigger assignments and will take the left-hander’s progression one step at a time. The secretary also said that the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence are tracking up to 15 players in the same age group as Sooryavanshi with the future in mind. “We are very cautious that every right step he should take forward so that it should not be a one series or one year wonder. “We are looking at all the players, not only Vaibhav’s relevance, but there are about 10–15 players who are in our targeted group,” Saikia said. “They are constantly monitored by our COE head,

VVS Laxman, who is taking keen interest in their future and their training and skill development.” Following his underwhelming T20I debut in England with scores of 14, 13, and 15 in three innings, Sooryavanshi emerged as the Player of the Series during India’s 3-0 triumph in Zimbabwe. He later sizzled with the fastest-ever List A century during India A’s Tri-Nation series win in Sri Lanka. Sooryavanshi was also elevated as East Zone’s vice-captain in the domestic season-opening Duleep Trophy. Sooryavanshi came close to recording his maiden First-Class century during the semi-final victory against Central Zone, with a quickfire fifty making him the youngest half-century in the Duleep Trophy.

Naomi Osaka beats Siniakova to reach US Open third round

New York: Four-time Grand Slam titlist Naomi Osaka debuted a new daytime kit for her second-round match and then recovered from losing the second set to overcome Katerina Siniakova in the decider, progressing to the third round of the US Open in New York on Thursday. Osaka, the two-time champion in New York with titles in 2018 and 2020, recovered after losing a 5-3 lead in the second set to defeat Siniakova 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 in 2 hours and 2 minutes. While her first-round walkout outfit was inspired by Allen Iverson, with sweatbands and a hoodie embellished with news-making moments from her career, in addition to a long tulle skirt, Thursday’s ‘fit’ was a bit more understated. The white outer layer is collared and adorned with beaded tennis racquets, and features a long mesh train with strips of fabric that fluttered as she walked. Things were not as smooth on the court once again. Osaka had needed two tiebreaks to scrape past No. 101-ranked Anastasia Zakharova, who broke the former World No. 1’s serve four times, in the first round; after that tussle, she admitted to being “so nervous” during it. Against Siniakova, she did not face a break point through her first seven service games — but then dropped serve three times in a row before resetting in the decider.

Tannaz Irani married at 20, became Mrs India runner-up; illness left her wheelchair-bound



Some people are born positive, while others spend a lifetime learning how to find good in the bad. For actor Tannaz Irani, optimism seems to have come naturally. Throughout her career, she has often played cheerful, happy-go-lucky characters—the friend or family member who brings warmth and perspective to the lives of the lead characters. Off screen, too, Tannaz appears to have consciously embraced that role. Always brimming with energy and positivity, Tannaz, however, hit rock bottom around the COVID-19 pandemic. She reached a point where she no longer wanted to live the life she had and struggled to recognise herself. The actor says she became increasingly negative and jealous, with dark thoughts beginning to take over her mind.

Tannaz married at 20, became a mother at 21Tannaz has always been someone who follows her heart. She often made decisions without worrying too much about the consequences, and many of those choices worked in her favour. One of the most significant decisions of her life came when she got married at the age of 20, even before beginning her career."I got married to a Muslim: Farid Currim. He was 18 years older than me. My parents knew that I would do only what I wanted. He is a very sorted man and a theatre actor. I got married and had my first child, who is my best friend now," she told Hutterfly. However, by the time she turned 28, Tannaz realised that while she may have found the right man, they had met at the wrong time.

"I was with the right man at wrong time""I ended that marriage after eight years. The age difference started to reflect because when you are 20, you are growing rapidly. He was a great man, but I was looking for something else. I wanted to go out and party, while he was very mature because he had been there and done that. I was too immature to understand," she said. Speaking to Siddharth Kannan about her first marriage, Tannaz said that she had led a sheltered life and was drawn to her husband's talent as a theatre artist."I was very innocent. I had a very sheltered life. He used to work in theatre, and it used to be a huge thing back then. I just fell in love with the way he used to sing and act. I got married and became pregnant. I had to drop out of college because my baby bump wouldn't fit under the table," she recalled. "He was a wonderful man with a wonderful family. We just met at the wrong time. It was my decision to move on. He must have been hurt then, but today, we are all great friends," she added.

However, the divorce affected her relationship with her daughter, who continued to live with her father. "My daughter stayed with him, and I couldn't spend a lot of time with her. There were many changes in our relationship. She must have been very hurt," Tannaz said. Speaking to Hutterfly, she added, "After a divorce, you do feel sad, scared and doubtful, and you second-guess yourself. My relationship with my daughter hit a block. She had her own turmoil. The problem with me is that I forget my problems at a surface level, but my daughter isn't like that. It was difficult for her. She was young."

Her first marriage gave her a career push, and financial disciplineDespite the challenges in her personal life, her first marriage introduced Tannaz to full-fledged theatre productions—a dream she had nurtured since the age of eight. Her work on stage eventually opened doors to television and films. Her former husband, Farid Currim, also helped the young actor understand the importance of managing her finances. Around the same time, Tannaz became the first runner-up at Mrs India 2002."I married Farid Currim at 20. I started doing plays after that. Vivek Vaswani saw me there and cast me in Zabaan Sambhalke. After that, I received multiple offers. Then, I attended a wedding where I met Rakesh Roshan. He asked me why I wasn't doing films. I said, 'Because nobody offered me.' From there, I got Kaho Naa... Pyaar

Hai. That was my entry into films," she told Siddharth Kannan.

She added, "I was in the eighth grade when I started doing theatre. My first pay cheque was Rs 100. My ex-husband helped me a lot in sorting out my finances. He built a beautiful portfolio. After I got divorced, I learned it too. I have invested my money."When Tannaz broke normsTannaz has always believed that where there is a will, there is a way. At a time when the entertainment industry remained largely silent about the marital status of its actors, she entered the industry at the age of 21 as a mother, breaking several conventions. When Tannaz found love for a second timeA few years after her divorce, Tannaz met her now-husband, Bhaktiyar Irani, on the reality show Fame Gurukul. Recalling their first meeting, she said, "We met on a reality show. He teased me, and I found him to be the worst human being on the face of the earth. He played a prank on me. I never wanted to talk to him. He made me cry. I thought he was rude and mean." "Eventually, he apologised to me, but I was still very guarded. Once, he fell sick, and while I was helping him, he fell in love with me. I am much older than him," she added. Their relationship was not easy, especially because of their seven years age difference and Tannaz's status as a divorcee.

In another interview with Siddharth Kannan, Tannaz revealed that both families initially opposed their relationship. "There was resistance from both sides because Bhaktiyar was not well-settled. We lived together and decided that we would wait until both our families agreed to the wedding. That same year, my father passed away. My daughter was not in favour of the relationship either. But our dynamics changed after Zeus was born," she said.

The couple eventually tied the knot in 2007 and went on to welcome a son, Zeus, and a daughter, Zara. Tannaz later spoke openly about undergoing amniocentesis during her pregnancies. Embracing motherhood in 30s and 40s

"Zeus was born when I was in my late 30s, while Zara was born when I was in my late 40s. So, I had to undergo amniocentesis. It is a test to determine whether the child has any biological issues because of the mother's age. The test was negative," she said. For years, life seemed to be going well for Tannaz, who had always found positivity even in difficult circumstances. However, her health began to deteriorate around the COVID-19 pandemic, pushing her into a phase where she believed her life and career were over. "I fell sick in the early 2020s. There was pain around my hips. I thought it was a simple twist or perhaps because I had gained weight. However, that negligence only made it worse. There came a point when I couldn't even stand. It felt like my life was over. My 25-year career was finished. I started limping," she told Siddharth Kannan. She added, "I was pushed into such a phase that I couldn't recognise myself. My self-confidence and identity were shaken. The worst part was that no doctor could understand what had happened to me. I underwent multiple tests and took so many steroids that I gained more weight. I was only getting worse with every doctor's appointment." "From a size medium, I became an extra-large. That pushed me into depression. I didn't want to live my life. I took several injections and painkillers. Obviously, I ran out of work and started rejecting offers. I was in pain 24/7 for two long years." The situation became so difficult that Tannaz began planning what she believed could be one final holiday with her family. "I went to a doctor and told him to give me one painkiller injection. It was a very expensive one. That doctor told me that the pain would not go away without surgery, and he was right. I took the injection and went to London in a wheelchair. I had become very negative and jealous," she said.

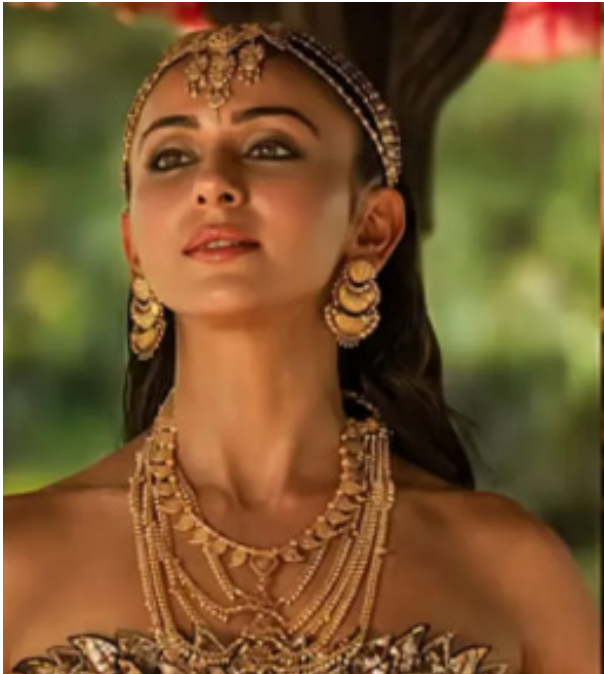
At a time when she believed there was no way back to her cheerful and optimistic self, Tannaz discovered neuro-linguistic programming, or NLP. "It was around this time that I came across neuro-linguistic programming. I took up a class because I couldn't do anything else. That alone changed the way I thought and my perspective towards life," she said. The experience had such a profound impact on her that Tannaz went on to complete the required training and certifications to become an NLP coach herself. She believes the shift in her mindset also changed the trajectory of her life. After being out of work for nearly two years, Tannaz began receiving offers again. She credits her surgery and her experience with NLP for helping her reclaim the identity and confidence she felt she had lost.

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur has issued a stern warning against the misuse of her identity through deepfake content. The actress, on Tuesday, stated that anyone creating or sharing such material using her 'likeness' could face legal consequences. Taking to her social media account, the actress shared a strongly worded note addressing the growing issue of AI-generated fake content. The note read, "Creating or sharing deepfake content using my likeness is illegal and unacceptable. Consider this your formal notice to stop immediately. Any further misuse of my identity will result in legal action."

The actress has, however, not specified which particular deepfake content or account prompted her latest warning. Talking about the actress, she recently was in news for her dance performance at a friend's wedding, that took the internet by storm. On the work front, Mrunal had began her acting career with the television show, Kumkum Bhagya before making a successful transition to films. She was seen essaying the role of Bulbul, the younger sister of the lead, Sriti Jha in the show. After making her switch to Bollywood, she went on to receive good reviews for her performances in her movies such as such as Love Sonia, Super 30, Batla House, Sita Ramam, Hi Nanna,

The Family Star and Son of Sardaar 2 amongst others. Mrunal was last seen in the movie, Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai which also starred Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde. The movie marked the last directorial of ace filmmaker David Dhawan. He had announced the project to be his last at the trailer launch of the movie.

Rakul Preet Singh on why she chose Surpanakha in Ramayana: 'So much more to her story'



Director Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana has dominated online conversations ever since its four-minute trailer was unveiled last week. While the visually ambitious first glimpse has been met with some praise, it has also sparked several debates, from questions around actor Ranbir Kapoor's casting as Lord Rama and discussions about the film's costume design to the surprise appearance of actors like Vivek Oberoi.

'Hope audiences discover her with an open mind'Among the many talking points from the trailer is Rakul Preet Singh, who appears as Surpanakha, the sis-

ter of Ravana. Although her screen time in the trailer is brief, her casting has generated considerable interest, with many curious to see her interpretation of one of the epic's most layered and often misunderstood characters.

Recently, Rakul took to X to explain what drew her to the role. Responding to a fan who praised her decision to portray Surpanakha, the actor shared that it was the character's emotional complexity that convinced her to join the film. She replied, "Thank you for this beautiful letter. What made me say yes to Surpanakha was exactly what you mentioned – her complexity. History often remembers her for one moment, but there is so much more to her story. As an actor, roles that challenge perception are the most exciting. I hope audiences discover her with an open mind when Ramayana arrives." Surpanakha is one of the pivotal figures in Valmiki's Ramayana, whose actions set in motion the chain of events that ultimately culminated in the war between Lord Ram and Ravana. The sister of the powerful demon king Ravana, she played a crucial role in shaping the epic's central conflict.

Following the death of her husband, Surpanakha spent much of her time wandering the forests of South India. During one such visit to Panchavati, she encountered Lord Ram and was immediately captivated by him. Using her powers of maya, she transformed herself into a beautiful woman and proposed to him. However, Ram, devoted to Sita, rejected her advances. She then approached Lakshmana, who also refused her. Humiliated and enraged, Surpanakha attempted to attack Sita. In response, Lakshmana severed her nose and ears, an incident that became a defining turning point in the epic. Seeking revenge, Surpanakha first turned to her brother Khara, who sent his warriors to confront Ram, only to be defeated. She then approached Ravana and urged him to abduct Sita. Ignoring the counsel of his younger brother Vibhishana, Ravana carried out the abduction, setting the stage for the great battle of Lanka.

'India maa hai, Pakistan mausi': Batwara 1947 star Sunny Deol recalls Dharmendra's words



Ahead of the release of his highly anticipated period drama Batwara 1947, actor Sunny Deol interacted with the media in Patna, Bihar, as part of the film's promotions, during which he shared his opinion on Pakistan as a nation. When a reporter asked him for his views on the neighbouring country, given that Batwara 1947, helmed by Rajkumar Santoshi, is set against the backdrop of the India-Pakistan Partition, Sunny quoted his father, Bollywood legend Dharmendra, and referred to Pakistan as Indians' "mausi" (aunt). He also confirmed that the movie was shot entirely in India and not in Pakistan. "Hum feel ki baatein nahi karte because pura mulk ek hi tha. Jaise papa ne kaha ki ye meri maa hai aur vo meri mausi hai — ye toh aap log sab achi tarah se jante hain. Hum sab ek tarah se hain toh jude hue kahiin na kahiin se (We don't talk about sentiments because the entire country was once one. As my father used to say — and as you all know very well — this (India) is my mother, and that (Pakistan) is my aunt. In a way, we are all connected some-

Imran Khan confirms comeback with 'age-appropriate' rom-com Adhure Hum Adhure Tum



For nearly a decade, social media has kept one question alive for Imran Khan: 'When are you returning to the movies?' Ever since the actor stepped away from the big screen after Nikkhil Advani's Katti Batti (2015), co-starring Kangana Ranaut, fans have repeatedly urged him to make a comeback. Earlier this year, he briefly appeared in a tongue-in-cheek cameo in Vir Das' Happy Patel: Khatarnak Jasoos, but his return as a leading man remained uncertain.

'I have just finished shooting a new movie'Now, Imran has finally broken his silence and confirmed that his comeback film is ready. Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter India, the actor revealed that he has wrapped shooting for a mature romantic comedy titled Adhure Hum Adhure Tum, which is currently in post-production and is set to release on Netflix later this year. "I have just finished shooting a new movie. It's my first movie in 10 years and we're in post-production right now. It's called Adhure Hum Adhure Tum. It's for Netflix and is scheduled to come out at the end of this year. It's a grown-up romantic com-

where or other)," he said.

"Main us sab me zyada jana nahi chahta... hum actors hain, we are makers. Hum kahaaniyaan chunte hain aur kahaaniyan banate hain. Usko phir hum yahan vahan, usko politically nahi le ke jate hain aur na jana chahte hain. Isiliye main us sabki baat hi nahi karuga (I don't want to delve too deep into all that because we are actors; we are makers. We choose stories, and we create stories. We don't take them in a political direction, nor do we wish to. That is why I won't speak about those matters at all)," Sunny Deol, who also served as a BJP MP representing the Gurdaspur constituency from 2019-2024, added. Sunny Deol took a short break and paid a visit to the Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib in Bihar. Sunny Deol at Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib in Patna. (ANI photo) For those unfamiliar, Batwara 1947 unfolds in Lahore, Pakistan, and the movie's logline states, "During India's Partition, families face chaos and heartbreak as their lives are shattered. Amid violence and upheaval, they rely on courage, compassion, and resilience to survive in a world divided by fear."

Sunny Deol offers prayers at Sri Harimandir SahibWhile the promotions for the period drama were progressing at full swing, Sunny also took a short break and paid a visit to the Sri Harimandir Ji Sahib in Patna, Bihar. He was accompanied by his son Karan Deol, who also plays a key role in Batwara 1947, and they offered prayers at the historic shrine, the revered birthplace of the tenth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. They also received Kada Prasad during their visit, news agency ANI reported. Besides Sunny Deol and Karan Deol, Batwara 1947 also stars Shabana Azmi, Preity Zinta, Ali Fazal, and Abhimanyu Singh in key roles. Bankrolled by Aamir Khan and Aparna Purohit under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions, the movie will hit the screens on August 14.

edy... age-appropriate to where I am now." Describing the project as one that was worth the long wait, Imran suggested that the film reflects where he is in life today, both personally and professionally. Instead of returning with a conventional commercial entertainer, he has chosen a story that aligns with his own growth over the past decade. "I've just worked with a really great young actor, Gurfateh Pirzada," he added. "Adhure Hum Adhure Tum. It's the one I simply had to make after 10 years." Earlier, Imran had revealed that the film is directed by Danish Aslam, with whom he previously collaborated on Break Ke Baad. Speaking to Hindustan Times, the actor explained why the project feels like a natural continuation of their earlier work. "The movie is just like what the team of Break Ke Baad would be doing 15 years later in life. It's a natural progression. Danish and I now have collective life experience. He's been married, I've been through a divorce. It's just the film we should make 15 years later. This is very much a personal project that came from the creative urge of wanting to tell a story and working with friends. The shoot is complete and it's in post production. We are looking at releasing it once the streaming platform decides on the date."

Nithiin's next titled 'Alias Rukmini'; makers unveil title glimpse

Hyderabad: The makers of director Murali Kanth Devasoth's upcoming Telugu entertainer, featuring Telugu star Nithiin in the lead, on Monday announced the title of the film as 'Alias Radha', much to the delight of fans and film buffs. The film, which is being presented by well known Telugu actor Nani, is being produced by Deepthi Ganta. To announce the title of the film, the makers released a title glimpse video on Monday.