

Monday 20.7.2026	Pages: 4 Price: Rs.2	Volume: 1 Issue: 62	Published from Jagitial Circulated to Telangana	PRGI Regd: TGENG/26/A3325 www.tricolourestate.com
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Centre To Make Insult To Vande Mataram Offence

NEW DELHI, July19
Union home minister Amit Shah is set to introduce the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, seeking to extend legal protection to the national song “Vande Mataram”.

The proposed amendment aims to accord the national song the same statutory safeguards as the National Anthem, “Jana Gana Mana”. The Bill has been cleared by the Union Cabinet and has been listed in the Rajya Sabha for consideration and passage.

Once enacted, the legislation will amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, to make insulting “Vande Mataram” a punishable offence, placing it on par with the National Anthem.

Under the provisions, a person found guilty of intentionally insulting or obstructing the singing of the national song could face imprisonment of up to three years, a fine, or both.

The 1971 Act currently provides protection to the National Flag, the Constitution of India and the National Anthem against acts of intentional disrespect. The amend-

ment expands its scope to include “Vande Mataram”.

On July 9, the Union home ministry directed all states and Union Territories to play “Vande Mataram” before the National Anthem at official functions.

Earlier this year, the government announced a nationwide campaign to mark 150 years of “Vande Mataram”, recognising its role in the freedom movement.

Government ministries, educational institutions and public bodies have been encouraged to organise cultural programmes, discussions and events highlighting the song’s contribution to the independence struggle.

Revanth Links SIR Work To Nominated Posts

HYDERABAD, July 19
Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday warned party leaders that a lack of participation in the ongoing SIR exercise would affect their prospects for nominated posts and party positions.

During a virtual meeting attended by deputy chief minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, PCC president B. Mahesh Goud, AICC state in-charge Meenakshi



Natarajan, AICC secretary Sachin Sawant, MPs, legislators and constituency in-charges, the Chief Minister directed leaders to ensure that voters meet the August 3 deadline for submission of Enumeration Forms.

“Some leaders are merely staying in Hyderabad, instead of engaging actively on the ground. Do not hover around the Gandhi Bhavan seeking chairman posts or party positions. Appointments will not be granted to such

individuals. Leaders should not visit Gandhi Bhavan until August 3,” he said.

The Chief Minister said 489 SIR-related meetings had been held across 119 constituencies and called for immediate attention to segments lagging behind. He directed district in-charge ministers to conduct reviews and said they would be held accountable for progress.

“In-charge ministers must focus on supervising the SIR process. They bear the ultimate responsibility. MPs must conduct regular reviews, even while attending Parliament sessions. Strict action will be taken against MPs who fail to perform their assigned tasks. Those designated as SIR in-charges for the party must ensure complete coordination,” he said.

He cautioned against relying solely on Booth Level Officer (BLO) reports and stressed on the role of Booth Level Agents (BLAs). He said the top 100 BLAs would get an opportunity to meet Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

“Leaders must effectively utilise the BLAs working on behalf of the party. MLAs, constituency in-charges, and chairpersons must examine the reports submitted by BLAs (Booth Level Agents) rather than just those from BLOs,” he said.

The Chief Minister directed ministers, MLAs, constituency in-charges and party functionaries to undertake intensive constituency tours over the next 10 days, comparable to an election campaign, and remain available in the field.

He said the Gandhi Bhavan team would monitor BLA and BLO reports continuously, and a comprehensive review meeting would be held on July 30 with constituency-wise reports. He also asked the PCC president and deputy chief minister to strengthen coordination among ministers, MLAs and party in-charges.



Spain Dethrone Argentina to Become FIFA World Cup 2026 Champions

Lionel Messi's battle-hardened Argentina take on silky Spain in the World Cup final on Monday as the first 48-team tournament in history reaches a climax in New Jersey.

The South Americans are striving to become the first team since Brazil in 1962 to win back-to-back World Cups, while Spain are eyeing a second title after their maiden victory in 2010.

The showpiece at the MetLife Stadium, the culmination of the 104-match tournament, is likely to be the final World Cup appearance for Messi, widely considered the greatest player of all time.

The three-time champions have shown an astonishing never-say-die attitude during the 2026 tournament.

They recovered from 2-0 down in the closing stages against Egypt in the last 16 and mounted another dramatic comeback in the final minutes of their semi-final against England.

Spain, on the other hand, have been almost flawless, conceding just a single goal in their seven matches so far and sweeping past France in the semi-finals, building momentum with each match.

Cultural SpeIndour Marks Sri Jagannatha Ratha Yatra
Thousands join the Hare Krishna Movement's Sri Jagannatha Ratha Yatra with great fervor and devotion



Narsingi-Kokapet, Hyderabad | July 19th, 2026 (Sunday):The Hare Krishna Movement, Hyderabad, joyously celebrated the Grand Sri JagannathaRatha Yatra in Kokapet on July 19th, drawing thousands of devotees into a vibrant display of devotion, tradition, and communal harmony. The magnificently decorated chariotcarrying the divine Deities of Sri Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra was pulled withgreat enthusiasm by devotees from all walks of life, accompanied by resounding Sankirtansand the generous distribution of prasadam throughout the procession.The Ratha Yatra commenced at the Trilight, Golden Mile Layout Road, Kokapet, with theceremonial first pull of the Ratha by ISKCON Founder Acharya Srila Prabhupada, andproceeded through the streets of Kokapet, passing through Rajapushpa Atria and GoldenMile Road, culminating at the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower, Narsingi. Residents along theroute joyfully offered prayers and received darshan as the majestic chariot passed throughtheir neighborhoods.The procession offered



participants a deeply spiritual experience, with devotees performi ngPuja and Archana at designated spiritual pit stops. Many offered coconuts, flowers, fruits,and other sacred items as tokens of devotion. The chariot, adorned with vibrant lights,flowers, and modern safety features—including air brakes, steering mechanisms, andcanopy adjustment systems—represented a harmonious blend of traditionalcraftsmanship and contemporary engineering. Over 500 devotees pulled the chariot inunison, symbolizing collective dedication and community solidarity, supported byvolunteers, announcement systems, and dedicated safety teams.The celebrations began with an inaugural Puja, Prathama Arati, and the customarybrooming ceremony performed by dignitaries. The event was graced by the presence of;Honorable Justice Sri Suddala Chalapathi Rao, Telangana High Court (Chief Guest);Sri Prakash Goud, MLA, Rajendra Nagar; Sri Sudarshan Reddy, Advocate General;and Sri Mungi Jaipal Reddy, TPCC Spokesperson , Rajendranagar; as distinguishedguests, and presided over by His Grace



Sriman Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuj(MTech, IIT-Madras), President of the Hare Krishna Movement, Hyderabad, andRegional President of The Akshaya Patra Foundation (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh).Thousands participated in devotional singing, prayers, and the distribution of Vedic literature.Cultural performances—including skits by Basil Woods School children, colorfulrangoli presentations, and lively kolatam dances—enriched the festivities, and more than20,000 devotees were served Donna Prasadam. A grand fireworks display illuminated theeveining sky, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.The program concluded at the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower, Narsingi, with Mega Kirtansand a Special Pravachan by Sriman Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuj, followed by theFinal Arati to Sri Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra and dinner prasadam.In his address, Prabhuj highlighted the historical and spiritual significance of the RathaYatra, connecting it to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Sankirtana movement andVishwaguru Srila Prabhupada's global mission to spread Krishna consciousness.Vishwaguru



Srila Prabhupada explains that participating in the Ratha Yatra meansassociating directly with Lord Krishna. Anyone who takes darshan of the Lord seatedon the chariot, offers even a little service by pulling the ropes, or joins the kirtanreceives immense spiritual benefit. Such participation opens the doors to liberation. RathaYatra is a divine festival where the Lord Himself comes out to bless everyone, entering ourhomes and hearts to relieve us of anxieties and uplift our consciousness.Prabhuj also expressed heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, devotees, volunteers, police personnel, media, and government authorities for their support in making the event a grand success. The Hare Krishna Movement reaffirms that festivals like the Ratha Yatra play a pivotal role in nurturing spiritual awareness, unity, and peace, while offering devotees a memorable and sacred experience. Elaborate arrangements for prasadam distribution and visitor convenience ensured a seamless and spiritually uplifting celebration.

Thanks & Regards,
Public Relations Officer (PRO),
Hare Krishna Heritage Tower,
Hare Krishna Movement, Hyderabad,
Phone: 96400 86664 / 93964 16341 .

EDITORIAL

Mental Health: Challenges

Mental health is no longer a silent issue confined to hospitals or counseling rooms. It has emerged as one of the most pressing public health challenges of the 21st century. Depression, anxiety, stress-related disorders, and substance abuse are rising across all age groups, affecting productivity, relationships, and overall quality of life.

The World Health Organization estimates that mental disorders account for a significant share of the global disease burden, making mental well-being as important as physical health. The modern world has brought remarkable technological progress, but it has also created new pressures. Long working hours, academic competition, financial uncertainty, social isolation, and the constant influence of social media have intensified stress levels.

Young people, in particular, face unrealistic expectations fueled by digital platforms, while older adults often struggle with loneliness and declining social support. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the fragility of mental health systems worldwide, leaving lasting psychological effects that continue to be felt. Despite growing awareness, mental illness remains surrounded by stigma.

Many individuals hesitate to seek professional help for fear of being judged or discriminated against. In many developing countries, access to trained psychologists, psychiatrists, and counseling services remains inadequate, especially in rural areas. Mental healthcare is often underfunded, even though untreated mental illness can contribute to chronic diseases, unemployment, family breakdown, and even suicide.

Addressing this crisis requires a comprehensive approach. Governments must integrate mental healthcare into primary health services, expand counseling facilities, and invest in trained professionals. Schools and workplaces should promote emotional well-being through awareness programs, stress management, and early intervention. Equally important is encouraging open conversations that normalize seeking help rather than suffering in silence. Technology, when used responsibly, can also be part of the solution. Telemedicine, mental health apps, and online counseling have expanded access to care, particularly for those living in remote areas.

However, digital solutions should complement—not replace—human support and professional treatment. Mental health is not merely a personal issue; it is a societal and economic priority. A healthy nation cannot be built on physical fitness alone while emotional well-being is ignored. Investing in mental health today is an investment in stronger families, productive workplaces, and resilient communities.

The time has come to treat mental health with the same urgency, compassion, and commitment as any other public health challenge.



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Paresh Rawal claims OMG 2 was his idea: ‘Akshay Kumar took the script, didn’t give me credit’



When OMG 2 was gearing up for release in 2023, it ran into trouble with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) over its blend of sex education and religious themes. After multiple delays, the film was eventually cleared with an A certificate, even though the makers had hoped for a U/A rating as they intended to target adolescents. Several modifications were also made, including changing Akshay Kumar's character from Lord Shiva to 'Shiv ka Doot'. However, according to Paresh Rawal, much of the controversy could have been avoided had the makers stuck to his original story, which, he claims, centred on the relationship between a father and son and did not involve any divine intervention.

Speaking to Vickey Lalwani, the veteran actor claimed he had conceived the original story for what later became OMG 2 and shared the idea with director Amit Rai, with whom he developed the screenplay. According to him, the project took a different turn after Akshay Kumar came on board. 'The story was never meant to have God! Recalling how the project began, Paresh said, "I had approached Amit Rai, the director of Road to Sangam, and asked him if he was planning another film. I admire him a lot. I told him, 'I have an idea. Let's sit and write it.' I told him I wasn't a writer but I could contribute ideas and help identify where we were going wrong because I understand screenplay to some extent." He continued, "The story was about a boy who gets caught masturbating, and a video of the incident goes viral, making his life miserable. His father was a tourist guide at the Khajuraho temple. Amit suggested making him a part-time priest at the Mahakal Temple. We developed the script together and even brought sexologist Dr Prakash Kothari on board. We had several meetings because our intention was to make the film educational, entertaining and not vulgar. We were deeply

involved in the process." Rawal said the script was later narrated to filmmaker Anurag Kashyap and subsequently to Somen Mishra from Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. "Somen outright said it wouldn't work," he recalled. "We didn't need God in the story."

Rawal further revealed that the original concept was vastly different from the final film. "Our main idea was to have a biker guiding the father, not God. In the first OMG, God appeared because the case was against God. But this film was about a father's fight to get justice for his son. There was no need for a divine character. We wanted someone like Kader Khan's character in Muqaddar Ka Sikandar." According to Rawal, he approached Ajay Devgn and Salman Khan for the role of the biker. "I didn't approach Akshay because people would have assumed it was OMG 2, whereas that wasn't the plan." Paresh alleged that the project changed course after Akshay Kumar expressed interest in it. "I was under the impression that we were still figuring things out. We even had a meeting with Vipul Shah of Optimystix. They also asked about Akshay, and I said if I wanted to make it with him, I would have approached him directly. Akshay and I were partners in OMG. I didn't need anyone to bridge the gap." He added, "A few days later, Amit Rai called and told me Akshay wanted to do the film. The issue was that Amit had tentatively written 'OMG 2' on the script because the genre was similar." Rawal believes the script reached Akshay through producer Ashwin Varde. "In one of our meetings, Ashwin Varde was present. That's when they decided they wanted to do it with Akshay." He continued, "I told Amit that I didn't want to go ahead with it. Amit said, 'But they want to make it.' They took the script from him. I told Amit I couldn't fight him; he's my friend. If that's what he had chosen, I wished him well. I repeatedly told them not to make it a franchise because it wasn't one. But they still went ahead." The veteran actor said Akshay Kumar later personally asked him to be a part of the film. "I spoke to Akshay. He asked me to do the film. I told him, 'No. This isn't the film I had envisioned. There is no role of God in this story.' He tried to convince me, but I had lived with the script from the beginning. I knew exactly what it was supposed to be. That's why I walked away." The role eventually went to Pankaj Tripathi. Rawal also claimed he did not receive credit for the story. "The saddest part is that I wasn't even given credit for the story or the concept. My name wasn't mentioned anywhere." He further claimed that everyone he had narrated the script to was aware that the idea originated with him. "Amit, Akshay, Ashwin, Ajay Devgn, Karan Johar and Salman Khan... all know it was my idea and my story. Ajay and Salman probably said no because of the subject. They thought it could become controversial. I tried explaining the concept to them."

‘Amitabh Bachchan ko noch dala’: Paresh Rawal says Big B was persecuted, he only wants peace



Paresh Rawal is known not just for his acting prowess but also for speaking his mind. Never one to shy away from expressing his opinions, the actor recently weighed in on the buzz surrounding Amitabh Bachchan's cryptic X post, in which the veteran star wrote, "Wanted to say something, but thought – NO!! Don't say it." Reacting to the post, Paresh said he believes fear is what is stopping Amitabh Bachchan from speaking his mind. Speaking to Vickey Lalwani, Rawal said: "People are afraid. They fear harassment from those in authority. Earlier, some people spoke unapologetically. If you notice, the number of such people has also reduced over time." He then reflected on Bachchan's own political experience. "What will he do at this age? He has seen how people tore him apart after the VP Singh episode. If power comes after you, it can ruin your life. We don't know everything he went through. He suffered a lot. Amitabh is not someone who believes in conflict. He prefers peace. He folds his hands and ends the argument there itself. Many mistake that for weakness. He doesn't like fights, toxicity or negativity around him." Talking in the same interview, Paresh Rawal also recalled the time he almost starred alongside Amitabh Bachchan in 102 Not Out, only to be dropped from the film at the last minute. Speaking to Vickey Lalwani, Rawal said, "Politics never really played a role in the reduced number of films I did. The number reduced because I refused to do them. I am using the word 'refuse' and not 'reject'. Many times, I simply didn't find merit in the scripts or the stories." He added, "Even while being a politician, I had enough time to do films. Parliament functions for around 110 days a year. I still had about 265 days to myself. I had even reduced my theatre shows."

'Someone refused to work with me' Rawal then recalled how he unexpectedly exited 102 Not Out. "In 102 Not Out, I was supposed to play the role that Rishi Kapoor eventually did. I was associated with the project for two to three years. Then suddenly, I was out. I asked Umesh what happened, and he told me someone had refused to work with me. He never named that person. I still don't know exactly why I was removed, but I can tell you it had nothing to do with my political stint." When asked whether he tried to find out who had objected, Rawal replied, "I didn't pursue it because Umesh is a friend. I asked him once, understood that there were issues, and didn't want to embarrass him. I could have dug out the truth. I was the victim in that situation. I know who wanted me out, but I don't want to say it publicly. I even confronted that person, but they denied knowing anything about it. I let it go. Whenever I have a problem with someone, I prefer calling them directly instead of speculating." At the peak of his acting career, Amitabh Bachchan entered politics in 1984 at the request of his close friend, then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Contesting on a Congress ticket, he won the Allahabad Lok Sabha seat by defeating veteran politician Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna by a massive margin. Around the same time, Vishwanath Pratap (VP) Singh became Finance Minister in the Rajiv Gandhi government. During his tenure, he launched a high-profile crackdown on tax evasion and expanded investigations by the Enforcement Directorate into suspected violations of foreign exchange laws. Given Amitabh Bachchan's close friendship with the Gandhi family, media attention also turned towards the Bachchan family during this period. Allegations surfaced regarding possible foreign exchange violations, although no charges were ultimately proven against the actor. The controversy intensified after the Bofors scandal broke in 1987. Around the same period, a Swedish newspaper alleged that Amitabh Bachchan and his brother Ajitabh Bachchan held secret Swiss bank accounts linked to alleged kickbacks in the Bofors deal. The Bachchan brothers consistently denied the allegations.

VP Singh later resigned from the Congress government, alleging corruption in the Bofors deal and emerging as Rajiv Gandhi's principal political rival. Amitabh Bachchan's name frequently surfaced in the political discourse surrounding the controversy, despite his repeated denials. Facing mounting political scrutiny and media attention, Bachchan resigned from Parliament in 1987 and announced his exit from politics. However, the scrutiny didn't end. In 1988, VP Singh formed the Janata Dal and went on to win the Allahabad by-election from the seat vacated by Bachchan, cementing his position as the face of the anti-Congress movement. After becoming Prime Minister in 1989, Singh's government continued investigations into the Bofors affair and related financial matters. Amitabh and Ajitabh Bachchan remained under scrutiny for years in connection with Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) and tax-related investigations. However, they consistently denied any wrongdoing, and over time, the allegations against them were not substantiated. Various investigations and court proceedings ultimately did not establish their involvement in the alleged kickback scandal. In 2012, the actor was officially cleared of involvement in the scandal.

Madhuri Grover doubles down on ‘rich vs poor’ childbirth remark: ‘Wealthy running country’

Ashneer Grover's wife, Madhuri Jain Grover, recently got evicted from Netflix India's Lock Upp Sach Ya Sazaa. After her eviction, Madhuri sat down for a special conversation with actress Tejasswi Prakash, where she addressed her remark that "if poor people have more kids, poverty will increase." Madhuri also got emotional and pledged to give Rs 1 crore to someone who went to jail because of her personal battles.

Madhuri Grover revisits her 'rich vs poor' childbirth logic On the first judgement day of the season, Madhuri Jain Grover shared a secret from her life. She said that she wanted to plan a third child with Ashneer Grover. However since their families opposed the decision, they didn't go ahead with that decision. During that discussion, Madhuri went on to say that she believed that if the rich had more children, they would contribute more to the country's economy. She said, "We wanted to have a third child, but we got influenced by our family's circumstances. Despite being educated and having so much, we were not able to make that decision. We got influenced by Ashneer's mom's idea that two kids are enough, and later, when we wanted a third child, it was too late. We have that regret. All the rich people have a third child, and he makes you feel young. If the rich people have more kids, wealth will increase, and if poor people have more kids, poverty will increase."

Now, in a special curated interview segment called Shut up with Tejasswi, hosted actress Tejasswi Prakash. Madhuri revisited her controversial statement. She said, "I never stopped anyone from having kids. The problem with this generation is that people don't want to have kids. I said, 'If the rich give birth to more kids, the country will get richer; if the poor give birth to more kids, poverty will increase.' We resonated with that." When Tejasswi pointed out how her remark came across as 'insensitive' on social media, Madhuri added, "The wealthy people are only running the country; others are getting employment through the rich." Tejasswi disagreed and said, "Poor people are also running the country, ma'am." Responding to this, Madhuri added, "While the poor also drive the nation, not all of them are doing so. You seriously think the poor are running the country? I never stopped anyone from having kids. On social media, people like to pity themselves. Humein gareeb bold diya. If they consider themselves poor, then they will stay poor." While Lock Upp Sach Ya Sazaa is said to be a journey of redemption for its contestants, an emotional Madhuri Jain Grover said her journey is not yet complete. Soon after her eviction, Madhuri teared up and told Tejasswi Prakash, "While I am still in the Lock Upp area, there are a few things I couldn't say. I was in London when the show was offered to me. It was not easy for me to say yes to it. My inner voice told me that this was a chance for redemption. I wanted to give the winning amount to that one special person who had to face Lock Upp in real life due to my personal battles. I unfortunately could not win the show, but I will still give Rs 1 crore to that person; only then will my journey of redemption be over."

In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, Madhuri Jain Grover also revealed that a lot of her fellow contestants were insecure about her. "When someone is so soft spoken and



calm, people, of course, underestimate you in the first week, thinking how she would be seen on camera. All the TV personalities on the show kept saying I was a weak player since I wasn't fighting. They gradually figured they were wrong; those who thought I was weak started feeling insecure about me because they thought I would come across as a very different person outside. They thought their fights would show them in a negative light, and I would be seen positively. Honestly, I didn't do things for the camera; I was just the way I am. Many people knew I was a strong player, but they were in denial. I could feel the insecurities in them."

Tamannaah starts filming ‘date night horror’ Ragini 3 in London

Mumbai: Actor Tamannaah Bhatia has started shooting for her upcoming film "Ragini 3", the latest installment in the horror franchise, in London. The film, directed by Shashanka Ghosh, is slated for a theatrical release in 2027, the makers said in a statement. Billed as a "date night horror" entertainer, "Ragini 3" is expected to blend horror, romance and comedy while taking the franchise in a new direction. Tamannaah shared the update with fans on Instagram Stories, posting a behind-the-scenes photograph holding the film's clapperboard. The "Ragini" franchise began with "Ragini MMS" (2011), starring Kainaz Motivala and Rajkumar Rao, followed by "Ragini MMS 2" (2014), headlined by Sunny Leone. The franchise later expanded with the streaming series "Ragini MMS: Returns", starring Karishma Sharma, Siddharth Gupta and Riya Sen.

Ramayana actor Addinath Kothare and Urmila Kanetkar part ways after 15 years of marriage



Ramayana actor Addinath Kothare and Urmila Kanetkar confirm divorce after 15 years of marriage. Ramayana actor Addinath Kothare and Urmila Kanetkar confirm divorce after 15 years of marriage. Actors Addinath Kothare and Urmila Kanetkar have officially announced their divorce, bringing an end to their 15-year marriage. The couple shared the news in a joint statement on social media on Thursday, saying the decision to part ways was mutual. They also said they would continue to co-parent their daughter, Jizah.

Taking to their Instagram handle, the duo shared a long

note about navigating this new chapter of their lives. "To our friends, media, and well-wishers, After much thought and consideration, Urmila Kanetkar and I, Addinath M. Kothare, have mutually and amicably decided to part ways as partners. While our journey as a couple has ended, our commitment to our daughter, Jizah, remains absolute. She is our utmost priority. We are happily and dedicatedly co-parenting her to ensure she grows up surrounded by love, security, and support," the statement read. It further read, "We hold the deepest mutual respect for one another and the years we shared. We are incredibly grateful to the media and the public for the immense love and support you have given us over the years, and we sincerely hope and pray that you will continue to bless us with the same as we step into this new chapter of our lives." "In this spirit, we kindly request our friends in the media and the public to respect our privacy. This will be our only statement on this matter, and we will not be commenting further. Thank you for your continued warmth and understanding," the statement concluded. Addinath Kothare and Urmila Kanetkar first met on the sets of Shubh Mangal Saavdhan in 2006. They got married in 2011 and welcomed their daughter Jiza in 2018, after seven years of marriage. While Urmila is known for projects like Duniyadari, Mala Aai Vhhaychy! and Ti Saddhya Kay Karte, Addinath, on the other hand, is a prominent name in Maratha cinema,

Anushka Sharma’s rare London appearance gets fans talking, see viral video



EMS News Agency, July 18

Anushka Sharma may have stepped away from the spotlight, but every glimpse of the actor continues to send fans into a frenzy. Most recently, a fan spotted Anushka on the streets of London and shared a video of the actor on Instagram. The clip quickly made the rounds on social media, with admirers expressing excitement over seeing

Anushka, who has largely kept a low profile in recent years. In the clip, Anushka can be seen strolling through the streets of London dressed in a blue shirt paired with beige culotte pants. Keeping her look effortlessly chic, the actor opted for a minimal, casual ensemble that perfectly complemented her low-key outing.

As fans celebrated her latest appearance, an old interview featuring Anushka Sharma and Shah Rukh Khan also resurfaced online. The clip, from an episode of Yaaron Ki Baraat, reminded fans of the duo's effortless camaraderie and Anushka's witty sense of humour. During the chat show, host Sajid Khan asked Anushka what she would steal from Shah Rukh if she had the chance. Anushka replied, "Kitni saari cheezein hain (There are so many things)." She first joked that she would take his expensive watch collection because she could sell it. However, when asked what she really wanted, Anushka Sharma didn't hesitate before saying, "Mannat. Obviously."

Referring to Shah Rukh Khan's iconic Mumbai residence, her candid answer left everyone on the set laughing. The fun banter continued as Anushka jokingly added, "Abhi kuch toh chhod deti hoon," prompting Shah Rukh to respond with his trademark wit. The superstar quipped that if Anushka took Mannat, he would simply move into his vanity van with his family, drawing laughter from the audience. Anushka Sharma has consciously chosen to stay away from the limelight in recent years, prioritising her personal life with husband Virat Kohli and their two children, Vamika (5) and Akaay (2), over frequent public appearances. Unlike many of her contemporaries, Anushka is rarely spotted at Bollywood events or on social media, making every candid photo or fan-recorded video a special moment for her admirers.

Forty years after the hand of God, England meet the right foot of God



GNS News Agency, July 19

It was stoppage time of the World Cup semi-final. Argentina had already rescued themselves once, and now sensed one last opportunity to avoid extra time. Inside England's penalty area stood a wall of white shirts. One defender rushed out to close Messi down, another threw out a desperate leg to block the cross. Three more occupied the six-yard box, each standing exactly where a delivery ought to land. Jordan Pickford lurked behind them, waiting for anything overhit. Messi's right foot clipped the ball into the night sky. It rose over the first challenge, skimmed above the heads of England's defenders by inches, drifted beyond Pickford's reach, left him in a dilemma whether to commit or leave, and, almost impossibly, dipped at precisely the moment Lautaro Martínez arrived at the far post. By the time the Argentina striker nodded home the winner, guiding the defending champions to a second successive final, the ball had travelled over almost the entire England defence before landing gently on his forehead. Zlatan Ibrahimović, the Swedish great, gushed on Fox: "I had said yesterday that you're going to see the left foot of God. You got to see the right foot of God ... beautiful moment." Football has always celebrated players who beat defenders with feints and dribbles.

Diego Maradona's 'Goal of the Century' against England in 1986 remains perhaps the sport's greatest act of individual brilliance. Starting inside his own half, he dribbled past five outfield players, rounded Peter Shilton and rolled the ball into an empty net. Forty years on, against the same opponents, Argentina produced another moment that be-

longed in the same conversation. Maradona erased six Englishmen by carrying the ball. Messi erased six with a cross. Messi has made those weaving runs, too. The slam against Getafe, that run through Athletic Bilbao and countless solo goals for Barcelona belonged to a footballer who bent matches at his will, with his legs. That version of Messi is gone. Argentina's Lionel Messi in action during the World Cup semifinal vs England. (AP) Argentina's Lionel Messi in action during the World Cup semifinal vs England. (AP) Age takes away the explosive first step, the relentless dribbles and the ability to outrun younger players for 90 minutes. What it cannot touch is vision. If anything, it sharpens it. Against England, he wasn't looking at defenders. He was looking beyond them. Where most footballers would have seen a penalty area crowded with bodies, Messi spotted a passing route that wasn't through defenders but above them.

The margin for error was microscopic. A fraction lower and it strikes a defender. A fraction longer and Pickford claims it. A fraction slower and the opportunity disappears. The window existed for barely a second. Messi found the only solution: going aerial. Perhaps even more astonishing was the foot he used. For nearly two decades, coaches have devised plans around forcing Messi onto his weaker side. Every full-back who has faced him has been told the same thing: don't let him come inside onto his left. England did exactly that. For a fleeting moment, it even looked as though Messi would check back and recycle possession to a teammate waiting outside the box. Instead, he trusted his weaker right foot. The cross he produced is one many elite wingers would struggle to deliver with their stronger one. As much as the execution, it was the imagination that made it extraordinary. He saw an angle that didn't appear to exist and a space that revealed itself only after the ball had travelled through it. This assist deserves to sit alongside the greatest goals Messi has scored. Not just because it was spectacular at first glance, but also because every replay makes it seem even more impossible. Watch it once and it looks like a fine cross. Watch it again and you begin counting the defenders it clears. Freeze the frame and you wonder how the ball found its way through a corridor that appeared not to exist. At 25, Messi might have dribbled through six defenders. Now, he simply looks up, trusts his weaker right foot and lifts the ball over them, and Argentina into another World Cup final.

The baby in the bathtub with a legend: Messi & Yamal's 19-year journey to World Cup final



GNS News Agency, July 19

The photograph was taken in a Barcelona dressing room in late 2007. A 20-year-old Lionel Messi, with a shy smile and a head of untamed curls, held a six-month-old baby in a blue plastic bathtub. Neither of them knew, in that fleeting moment, that the world would one day look back at the image and see the beginning of something extraordinary. Almost two decades later, that baby, Lamine Yamal, will face Messi in the FIFA World Cup 2026 final on Sunday in New Jersey, a generational showdown that feels scripted by football's gods.

Defending champion Argentina secured their place in the title clash with a 2-1 victory over England, setting up a

meeting against Spain, the reigning European champions. It will be the first time Messi and Yamal have played against each other, but their story began long before either had kicked a ball on the world's biggest stage. Spain, meanwhile, thrashed pre-event favourite France 2-0 in the semifinal courtesy of goals from Mikel Oyarzabal and Pedro Porro. Yamal's dazzling rise for Spain and Barcelona has inevitably drawn parallels with Messi (AP Photo) Yamal's dazzling rise for Spain and Barcelona has inevitably drawn parallels with Messi

The unlikely origin of their connection dates back to a charity raffle organised by the Spanish newspaper Diario Sport and UNICEF in 2007. Local families in Catalonia were offered the chance to participate in a promotional calendar photo shoot with FC Barcelona players. Yamal's family won one of the slots. The shoot took place inside the Camp Nou dressing room. Messi, then a rising star for Barcelona, was paired with the infant Yamal. The resulting image, Messi holding Yamal in a plastic bathtub, was published in the 2008 charity calendar and largely forgotten. That changed during the 2024 European Championship, when Yamal's father, Mounir Nasraoui, posted the photo on Instagram with the caption: "The beginning of two legends." Now, almost 20 years after that photo shoot, the baby from the picture and the legend himself are set to face each other on the biggest stage in football.

India vs England Playing 11, 2nd ODI: Will Shubman Gill return after Injury scare? Brar's fitness in doubt



GNS News Agency, July 19

India vs England 2nd ODI Today Match Playing 11, Full Squad: After a morale-lifting win over England in the first One-Day International, Shubman Gill-led India will look to seal the series in the second ODI at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff on Thursday. India chased down England's total of 259 with ease, reaching the target in the 46th over. Captain Gill anchored the chase with an unbeaten 80 before retiring hurt, while Axar Patel and Washington Sundar chipped in with crucial half-centuries to see the side home. Axar had earlier starred with the ball, picking up four wickets to restrict the hosts to a below-par score.

Veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, whose inclusion was the central theme of the series, failed to impress in the opener. Both senior pros got out cheaply; Rohit fell for 11 while Kohli managed just 5, leaving the middle order to do the heavy lifting. Their lack of runs, however, did not hurt India on the day, but the team will hope for more from the experienced duo in the remaining games. There were injury scares for both Gill and pacer Gurnoor Brar during the first game, but it is being reported that the India skipper is fit and will be available for the second ODI. There is still no clarity on Brar's availability, however. Should he miss out, either Prince Yadav or Arshdeep Singh could come into the playing XI. England probable XI: Jacob Bethell, Ben Duckett, Joe Root, Harry Brook (c), Jos Buttler (wk), Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Jofra Archer, Liam Dawson, Josh Tongue, Adil Rashid. India probable XI: Shubman Gill (c), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Washington Sundar, KL Rahul (wk), Axar Patel, Shivam Dube, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar/Prince Yadav/Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah. India: Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill (c), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan (w), Axar Patel, Washington Sundar,

Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Gurnoor Brar, Prince Yadav, Shivam Dube, Prasidh Krishna. England: Ben Duckett, Will Jacks, Joe Root, Harry Brook (c), Jos Buttler (wk), Jacob Bethell, Sam Curran, Liam Dawson, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Saqib Mahmood, Tom Banton, Josh Tongue, Gus Atkinson, James Coles, Rehan Ahmed.

'My father sold a property to help me follow my ambition,' reveals shooter Sonam Maskar

New Delhi: Kolhapur's Sonam Uttam Maskar went from casually taking up shooting to preparing to represent India at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. She revealed that her father sold a property to provide her with the necessary equipment to follow her ambitions. The 23-year-old 10m air rifle shooter will be part of the Indian team heading to Japan, where the shooting events at the Asian Games are set to take place from September 17 to October 3 at the Aichi Prefectural General Shooting Gallery. Sonam's ascent to the global stage was preceded by financial struggles. As she committed to shooting seriously, the expense of professional gear became a barrier, especially as her family faced economic hardships after the Covid-19 pandemic. There was a time when we were facing financial difficulties, especially around the lockdown period. When it became clear that I needed my own equipment to progress further in shooting, my father sold a property so that we could buy it. It was a big decision for our family, but they have always supported me," Sonam recalled. Sonam's first encounter with shooting was in 2018 during her studies at Tolani College of Commerce in Mumbai, and a professional career in the sport was never part of her original plans. "I was always interested in sports and I used to play chess as well. I thought I should try something different, so I initially took up shooting. I started shooting as a hobby, but it soon became something I wanted to build my career around," she said. Following the pandemic disruption of her early progress, Sonam started focused training in 10m air rifle shooting at the Kolhapur range in 2021. She quickly rose to prominence, with one of her proudest accomplishments being the silver medal at the 2024 ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi.

Leaving Rajasthan Royals was the toughest decision of my career, says Sanju Samson on trade to CSK



New Delhi: India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson has revealed that leaving IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals after more than a decade long association was one of the toughest decisions of his career. South Asians & Diaspora But the strong bond he shared with Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Ruturaj Gaikwad made his move to Chennai Super Kings an easy transition.

"Moving on from RR was a very big decision for me. I believe that after playing for a team for some time, you start to feel like this is your team and nobody can remove you. But, I always had the awareness that there is a limited time for everyone at one place," Samson, who led the Royals for five years before moving to CSK through a trade ahead of IPL 2026, told JioStar's 'Superstars'. "You do your part, and you move out and after the end of IPL 2025, a point came when I felt that I should move on. I told myself that the boys are ready, and RR is ready to play without Sanju Samson. That is when I thought of leaving," he added. The Kerala cricketer said he had a few options on the table after quitting RR but chose Chennai Super Kings because it felt like the perfect fit for his game. Samson added that finally donning the iconic yellow jersey was a special feeling. "There were two or three options at that time. But honestly, CSK, Mahi bhai's influence, the franchise itself, and my friends there, espe-

cially Ruturaj, meant I had great connections. Based on what I had heard about CSK from other players, I felt that this franchise was my type. "If I go there, it will be very good for me. I had wished for that, but a trade is a tricky thing. I want to go there, but do they want me? And the original team needs to get what they want in return. Everyone has to agree. It was a major turning point. Luckily, I ended up in CSK. It was a great feeling," he said. Indian entertainment news Growing up, the 31-year-old Samson idolised Dhoni and his fearless batting style, often going to bed dreaming of the day he would get the chance to represent India. The way he carried himself and his aggressive batting style really attracted me. He used to appear in the ads, and I would cut out his picture and stick it in my diary. Every kid has an idol, and Mahi bhai was mine. "As a child, I used to watch India play every day. Mahi bhai would be captaining and winning matches. I would go to sleep thinking, 'I have to play one day too.' I used to dream of batting with him, building a partnership, and fielding alongside him." Now part of the CSK setup, Samson said one of his biggest dreams is to bat alongside Dhoni. Dhoni missed the entire 2026 IPL season with a calf injury, but Samson said he hasn't given up hope of playing alongside him.

Recalling how he got his first IPL opportunity, Samson said he spent the first few matches on the Rajasthan Royals bench before finally gathering the courage to approach then captain Rahul Dravid. "He calmly explained that I needed to be patient and that my time would come. I was frustrated and disappointed after hearing that, so I took out all my anger in the nets. I would go to the nets and hit sixes, thinking, 'I'll show them.' His lucky break came when wicketkeeper, Dishaant Yagnik bhai, got injured. "There was no plan to play me, but Dishaant bhai got injured for one match. So, they played me against Punjab (then KXIP), which was my debut in the IPL in 2013, and I won that game for the team. "It was my first match. I scored 27 not out batting at number 6. I also got three-four dismissals while keeping the wickets. But in the next match, Dishaant bhai was fit again, and I was dropped."

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli will bring calmness and confidence to ODI squad, says Cheteshwar Pujara



New Delhi: Veteran India batter Cheteshwar Pujara believes the return of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for the ODI series against England will provide the Indian dressing room with much-needed confidence after a disappointing 4-0 defeat in the preceding T20I series. Reflecting on India's struggles, Pujara attributed the batting unit's difficulties to its lack of experience in English conditions and expressed hope that the presence of two seasoned campaigners would help the team respond positively in the 50-over format. India's young batting group came under scrutiny after failing to consistently counter England's pace attack during the T20Is, with several batters troubled by the short ball. Pujara, however, felt the challenge went beyond technique and stemmed largely from unfamiliarity with white-ball cricket in England. "If you look at this Indian batting group, they had IPL experience but very little white-ball experience in English conditions," Pujara told JioStar.

He explained that success in England demands a different range of scoring options than those commonly used on batting-friendly surfaces elsewhere, saying, "In England,

you can't rely only on six-hitting. You need to play more flat-batted shots, access straight boundaries and use options like the upper cut and cuts over point against the short ball. We didn't see enough of those shots, and I think that was largely down to a lack of experience in these conditions." Pujara also widened the discussion to the balance between bat and ball in T20 cricket, arguing that conditions should offer bowlers greater assistance to preserve the contest, as he stated, "Even in the IPL, you don't want matches where teams can easily chase 260. There has to be something for the bowlers." He believes increasingly powerful and inventive batting has made it essential for pitches to provide at least some early assistance. "In T20 cricket, the margin for error is already very small, especially on flat pitches with short boundaries, while batters continue to get stronger and more innovative. That's why it's important to have pitches that offer bowlers a little assistance, whether through some turn or a bit of movement in the first two or three overs," Pujara added. Looking ahead at the ongoing ODI series, Pujara said the return of Rohit and Kohli would extend beyond their individual contributions with the bat, bringing invaluable composure to a relatively inexperienced squad. "What Rohit and Virat will bring is calmness and confidence, and that only comes with experience. The T20I squad lacked experience, so having players who have consistently performed against England across Tests, ODIs and T20Is will give the dressing room belief because they know how to win," he opined. "It won't be easy. England have identified certain areas they can target, and after a 4-0 T20I series defeat, there will naturally be some pressure on the team. But the confidence Rohit and Virat bring can rub off on the rest of the squad. They have also had time to prepare before the ODI series, and that preparation should help them perform well. I hope they have a strong series," he added.

Abhishek Nayar urges patience with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi after India's tough England tour

New Delhi: Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar has urged patience in handling teenage batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi following India's underwhelming T20I campaign against England, insisting the youngster needs understanding rather than immediate technical intervention. Reflecting on India's recent struggles and the team's loss of momentum, Nayar explained why the England assignment unfolded differently from the successful tour of South Africa in 2024, while outlining how the support staff should approach one of the country's brightest prospects. Sooryavanshi entered the series carrying significant expectations after attracting widespread attention in recent months, but endured a difficult run with the bat as India struggled to find rhythm throughout the tour. Nayar believes the priority should be understanding the teenager's state of mind before discussing cricket. "The most important thing is to evaluate where the kid is today and how he's feeling. As a young player, you're already conflicted, that three games ago, the whole world was excited about your batting, and suddenly everything seems to have changed," Nayar told JioStar.

According to Nayar, communication from coaches should focus on helping the youngster process the experience rather than overwhelming him with technical advice. "The support staff's response has to be measured. First, understand how he's feeling. Maybe the conversation isn't even about batting initially, but about life and what international cricket is. Every bowler is coming at you, so can you find different solutions?" he questioned. He added that allowing the player to reflect on his own experiences would be more effective than prescribing immediate fixes. "You don't want him to see it as a problem, but as a tactical challenge. Instead of telling him what to do, have a conversation. Let him explain what he felt in that moment and what he was trying to do. The more he speaks, the clearer he'll become," he added. Nayar also highlighted the role of coaches in shielding young players from additional pressure during difficult phases, saying, "As support staff, you don't put your emotions onto the player; you absorb theirs, so that the next time he walks in, he's clear in his mind." Discussing India's broader struggles, Nayar rejected comparisons with the team's successful T20I tour of South Africa in 2024, arguing that the circumstances surrounding the two series were vastly different. "To be honest, the pitches in South Africa



were very good. The conditions weren't the issue. In T20 cricket, form and momentum are everything, and this team had neither," he said. He pointed to the lack of preparation following the IPL, the introduction of a new captain, and the heightened attention around Sooryavanshi as factors that disrupted India's campaign before it had gathered momentum.

"After the IPL, there was a break. So, they went into the Ireland series without much preparation. The only question over the team was that there is a new captain and a couple of new players. There was so much discussion about Vaibhav Sooryavanshi going into it, that I felt that the team didn't have tunnel vision," the former India player stated. While acknowledging that India's batters found the short-ball strategy challenging, Nayar insisted the issue should not be viewed as a long-term concern given the players' proven ability. "The players are talented. They struggled against the short ball, but it's not like players like Ishan Kishan, Abhishek and Sooryavanshi haven't handled it well before," he also felt the disappointing Ireland series had a lingering impact on the team's confidence heading into England, with fine margins ultimately proving decisive. "Ireland series hit them like a storm. Taking that momentum into the England series, where you haven't gotten runs, was in itself a challenge. If that over from Ravi Bishnoi had gone differently in one game, we might have been having a completely different conversation. A few small things haven't gone India's way, but I don't think it's a major problem yet," he opined.