

IMD Predicts Rainfall for Across Telangana

IMD issues alert for Telangana as rains likely to hit several places in the state. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast rainfall across Telangana for three days — June 10, 11, and 12 — due to ongoing cyclonic activity in the Bay of Bengal. Thundershowers are expected throughout the state. June 10 and 11: Thundershowers and gusty winds with speeds of 40 to 50 kmph are likely across all districts of Telangana. Today (June 10): Also Read - TN sees fewer heatwave days, higher rainfall this summer: Regional MeT Centre Heavy rainfall is expected at isolated places in the following districts: Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, Jogulamba Gadwal. Scattered light rain with thunder and lightning is likely in these districts: Adilabad, Komarambhim Asifabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanmakonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajigiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, Jogulamba Gadwal.

High suspense in Congress after Uttam Kumar Reddy urgently summoned to Delhi



GNS News Agency, June 10

Hyderabad: In a sudden development that has set rumour mills working overtime inside and outside Gandhi Bhavan, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy was summoned to New Delhi by the AICC even as Chief Minister A Revanath Reddy was holding meetings with the high command since Monday.

The Irrigation Minister, along with his wife and Kodad MLA N Padmavathi Reddy, has already left for the national capital, triggering speculations. Suspense is high since the

Unmoved by mass protests, Congress government to go ahead with ethanol plant at Pedda Dhanwada

GNS News Agency, June 10

Hyderabad: Barely a week after violent protests erupted in Pedda Dhanwada village of Jogulamba Gadwal district against the construction of an ethanol plant, the State government has announced that it will go ahead with the controversial project, brushing aside environmental and livelihood concerns raised by farmers and residents. Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu on Tuesday made it clear that the ethanol plant would be established, even as he accused the Opposition, particularly the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), of provoking farmers with ulterior motives instead of engaging with their concerns. "It could get delayed by a few days, but the ethanol plant will be established," he said, adding that the Centre was actively promoting ethanol units and the State government was facilitating the project "duly following Central government norms." "If there are any violations of rules stipulated by the Centre, we will not support it," he said. He also claimed that the plant would not cause pollution due to the use of advanced technology. "Farmers were taken for a field visit and convinced, except for a few who are obstructing the plant after being instigated by the BRS," he alleged.

When asked about cases being booked against farmers and journalists, Sridhar Babu dismissed political motives behind the police action. "If anyone violates rules, action will be initiated as per law," he said, while accusing the BRS of "trying to create hurdles" in the State's progress. "I appeal to the Opposition not to politicise the issue. They should not damage the State's reputation and stall investments and progress," he said, claiming that the Congress had supported the State government on several occasions in the past and "never stood in the way" of industrialisation. On being reminded that the Congress had previously opposed the plant, the Minister clarified that the

MUDA ‘scam’: ED attaches sites worth Rs 100 crore in Mysuru

GNS News Agency, June 10

Mysuru MUDA scamThe ED initiated an investigation based on an FIR registered by the Lokayukta police in Mysuru against Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and others. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday provisionally attached 92 immovable properties in Mysuru, with a market value of Rs 100 crore, in connection with the alleged Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. The ED attached the MUDA sites under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, stating that the properties were registered in the name of entities such as individuals and housing co-operative societies serving as fronts or dummies for influential people, including MUDA officials. The ED initiated an investigation based on an FIR registered by the Lokayukta police in Mysuru under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others. The investigation revealed "a large-scale scam in allotment of MUDA sites by flouting various

Chief Minister has been in New Delhi since Monday to discuss allotment of portfolios to the newly inducted three Ministers. With the Irrigation Minister being summoned to the national capital, discussions are gathering steam over a possible reshuffling of portfolios apart from allotment of departments to the three new Ministers. The Chief Minister had met AICC general secretary KC Venugopal on Monday night. This was followed by another meeting with AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi at Indira Bhavan, which lasted for over an hour. Amidst these meetings, the high command instructing the Irrigation Minister to reach New Delhi has left many guessing. In fact, Uttam Kumar Reddy was slated to fly to the national capital on Wednesday to meet a few officials and Union Ministers to discuss pending official issues, a senior party leader said. "There is no clarity over the high command's sudden orders to the Irrigation Minister," the leader said.

The cabinet expansion had triggered dissent among aspirants who were expecting a berth. While Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Rangareddy insisted that one MLA should be appointed as Minister from erstwhile Rangareddy district and stuck to his earlier vow of quitting as MLA if the party failed to consider his plea, supporters of Bodhan MLA Sudarshan Reddy have issued an ultimatum to the party that their leader should be inducted into the cabinet before the local body elections. With the three vacancies still remaining in the cabinet, speculation is also rife over whether the disgruntled MLAs might be pacified with berths to avoid further mutiny within the party.



objection then was over the use of "obsolete technology". "Now, the use of advanced technology is being ensured," he claimed. The Minister's statements, however, appear to have had little impact on the ground. Tension has been simmering in Pedda Dhanwada for the past one week, particularly after the plant management allegedly resumed construction last Tuesday under the cover of darkness, despite earlier assurances from the State government that the project would be paused pending review. For nearly a year, residents of Pedda Dhanwada and 10 surrounding villages have waged a sustained agitation against the plant, fearing that it will pollute the environment, contaminate water sources and deplete already strained groundwater reserves vital for agriculture. Earlier this year, similar protests in Dilawarpur of Nirmal district forced the government to cancel another proposed ethanol plant. Since then, the Pedda Dhanwada agitation has gained significant public and political support. Leaders from Opposition parties, including the BRS, have visited the protest site to express solidarity with the villagers.



statutes and government orders/ guidelines and by other fraudulent means", the ED said in a statement. The central agency further said that the role of ex-MUDA commissioners, including G T Dinesh Kumar, has emerged as "instrumental in illegal allotment of compensation sites to ineligible entities/individuals". The evidence, with respect to obtaining bribes for making illegal allotments in the form of cash, bank transfer, movable or immovable properties, has been gathered during the investigation, the ED said. According to the agency, the modus operandi for making illegal allotments involved the identification of ineligible beneficiaries and making allotments using fake or incomplete documents in direct violation of government orders and also backdating of allotment letters in some cases.

Hyderabad sees 10 new Covid cases amid rising seasonal flu

Hyderabad: Cases of Covid-19 and seasonal influenza have been steadily surging across Hyderabad and other Telangana districts over the past week. While symptoms remain mild, private hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes in Hyderabad are reporting a rise in Covid infections. The Department of Public Health (DPH), Telangana, confirmed 10 Covid-positive cases in the last seven weeks. "I have seen nine Covid-positive cases in the last 48 hours from three different families," said a senior pediatric specialist from a private hospital chain. "All are being treated in the outpatient department. Two of those positive cases are infants. The symptoms, however, are very mild, almost like a mild flu—in fact, often milder than a severe flu," she added.

India's population touches 1.46 billion, fertility drops below replacement rate: UN report



GNS News Agency, June 10

New Delhi: India's population is estimated to reach 1.46 billion in 2025, continuing to be the highest in the world, according to a new UN demographic report, which also revealed the country's total fertility rate has fallen below the replacement rate. UNFPA's 2025 State of World Population (SOWP) Report, The Real Fertility Crisis, calls for a shift from panic over falling fertility to addressing unmet reproductive goals. Millions of people are not able to realise their real fertility goals, it asserts.

This is the real crisis, not underpopulation or overpopulation, and the answer lies in greater reproductive agency — a person's ability to make free and informed 150 per cent choices about sex, contraception and starting a family, it says. The report also reveals key shifts in population composition, fertility, and life expectancy, signalling a major demographic transition. The report found that India's total fertility rate has declined to 1.9 births per woman, falling below the replacement level of 2.1. This means that, on average, Indian women are having fewer children than needed to maintain the population size from one generation to the next, without migration. Despite the slowing birth rate, India's youth population remains significant, with 24 per cent in the age bracket of 0-14, 17 per cent in 10-19, and 26 per cent in 10-24. The country's 68 per cent of the population is of working age (15-64), providing a potential demographic dividend, if matched by adequate employment and policy support. The elderly population (65 and older) currently stands at seven per cent, a figure that is expected to rise in the coming de-

India would strike deep into Pakistan if provoked by terror attacks, warns Jaishankar

GNS News Agency, June 10

India would strike deep into Pakistan if provoked by terrorist attacks, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has warned, asserting that there will be retribution against the terrorist outfits and their leaders in case of barbaric acts like the Pahalgam attack. Mr. Jaishankar, who is travelling to Europe a month after India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, also said that Pakistan was training "thousands" of terrorists "in the open" and "unleashing" them on India. "We are not going to live with it. So our message to them is that if you continue to do the kind of barbaric acts which they did in April, then there is going to be retribution, and that retribution will be against the terrorist organisations and the terrorist leadership," he told Politico on Monday.

"We don't care where they are. If they are deep in Pakistan, we will go deep into Pakistan," he added. Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 which claimed 26 lives. India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7. The on-ground hostilities from the Indian and Pakistan sides that lasted for four days ended with an understanding of stopping the military actions following talks between the directors general of military operations of both sides on May 10. Mr. Jaishankar warned that the root causes of the conflict remain unchanged.

"It (Pakistan) is a country very steeped in its use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. That is the whole issue," he was quoted as saying by the Politico. When asked if the conditions that led to the outbreak of war last month were still in place, he said: "If you call the commitment to terrorism a source of tension, absolutely, it is." When asked about losses, Mr. Jaishankar said the relevant authorities would communicate on the matter when they were

In attempt to escape fire, father and 2 children jump to their deaths at apartment in Delhi's Dwarka

GNS News Agency, June 10

Delhi Dwarka Fire Incident Update: Three members of a family died after jumping from a balcony to escape a blaze at a flat in a residential society in Delhi's Dwarka Sector 13 Tuesday morning. Two children, a boy and a girl, both aged 10, were declared dead on arrival at Akash Hospital. Their father Yash Yadav, 35, who was reportedly engaged in the flex board business, also jumped from the balcony and was declared dead at IGI Hospital, said the police. According to initial reports, the fire, which broke out at 9.58 am, engulfed the eighth and nine floors of the Shabad Apartment complex. Five fire tenders were rushed to the scene to contain the blaze, officials from the Delhi Fire Services said. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) have been notified to assess the structural stability of the building, said the police. Medical and support teams have been deployed at both Akash and IGI Hospitals to assist the affected family. The incident comes barely a day after two people died in a fire after an E-rickshaw caught fire while charging in Dilshad Garden. Around a month ago, a massive fire also broke out in Dilli Haat after a short circuit, gutting around 30 shops in the area.

cadates as life expectancy improves. As of 2025, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 71 years for men and 74 years for women. According to the UN estimates, India's population at present stands at 1,463.9 million. India is now the world's most populous nation, with nearly 1.5 billion people — a number expected to grow to about 1.7 billion before it begins to fall, around 40 years from now, the report said.

Behind these numbers are the stories of millions of couples who decided to start or expand their families, as well as the stories of women who had few choices about whether, when or how often they became pregnant, the report said.

In 1960, when India's population was about 436 million, the average woman had nearly six children. Back then, women had less control over their bodies and lives than they do today. Fewer than 1 in 4 used some form of contraception, and fewer than 1 in 2 attended primary school (World Bank Data, 2020), the report said. But in the coming decades, educational attainment increased, access to reproductive healthcare improved, and more women gained a voice in the decisions that affected their lives. The average woman in India now has about two children. While women in India, and every other country, have more rights and choices today than their mothers or grandmothers did, they still have a long way to go before they are empowered to have the number of children they want, if any, when they want them. The UN report placed India in a group of middle-income countries undergoing rapid demographic change, with population doubling time now estimated at 79 years. "India has made significant progress in lowering fertility rates — from nearly five children per woman in 1970 to about two today, thanks to improved education and access to reproductive healthcare," said Andrea M Wojnar, UNFPA India Representative. "This has led to major reductions in maternal mortality, meaning million more mothers are alive today, raising children and building communities. Yet, deep inequalities persist across states, castes, and income groups. "The real demographic dividend comes when everyone has the freedom and means to make informed reproductive choices. India has a unique opportunity to show how reproductive rights and economic prosperity can advance together," she said.



ready.

He said that India's fighter aircraft and missiles had inflicted far more extensive damage on the Pakistani Air Force than vice versa, forcing Pakistan to sue for peace. "As far I'm concerned, how effective the Rafale was or frankly, how effective other systems were — to me the proof of the pudding are the destroyed and disabled airfields on the Pakistani side," he said. "The fighting stopped on the 10th for one reason and one reason only, which was that on the 10th morning, we hit these eight Pakistani, the main eight Pakistani airfields and disabled them," he said, adding that images are available in Google showing runways and those hangars which have taken the hit. During his week-long visit to Europe, Jaishankar will also hold talks with leaders of the European Union, Belgium and France to boost bilateral ties and reaffirm India's policy of zero-tolerance against terrorism.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This to inform to the general public at large that, Rayella Krishnaveni W/o Rayella Venkat Narsaiah R/o H.No. 5-32, Raja Rajeshwara Nagar, Dist. Adilabad is the owner of Plot No. 75, measuring 30'x60'=1800 Sq Ft, in Sy. No. 56/1, 56/2, 56/3 & 56/4, situated at Mavala, Adilabad. That, the original link document No. 686/2003 is been lost. If anyone has any claim, right, title or interest of any kind in the said property, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days of the publication of this Notice, with all documents of claim and title. If anyone finds the above document kindly handover to undersigned. If no objection is received within 7 days, and if any claim and objection arise, it shall be deemed to have been waived. Dt: 10-06-2025

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Indian Chronicle

English Daily

TN remains an enigma for the saffron lobby

As NDA 3.0 completes its first anniversary today, the perennially in election mode apparatus of the alliance must already be working overtime for the slate for the later part of the year. Bihar, one of the states readying for the Assembly elections, is slowly but surely seeing changes, ostensibly in favour of an overwhelming saffron win at present. Whatever that may be, the 2026 elections must be making the war rooms of various political parties working with a different game plan as it is where the INDIA bloc sees its chances. Tamil Nadu, by this time, next year would have had a new government in place. The question is, which party will get to run the state which is now seeing aggressive posturing by NDA and counter attacks by the DMK government. Once a formal alliance was sealed by the Centre with the principal Opposition party and old ally, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), the BJP must have felt relieved that it has made the first move, well. Given that the MGR-founded party is facing an identity and existential crisis in its 53rd year of existence, the cobbling together of the alliance with smaller parties being wooed establishes the fact that the saffron party is happy to ride piggyback on the Dravidian big brother this time around. Amit Shah's latest statement that the new alliance will sweep the 2026 polls has not entirely been rejected by the political pundits and as expected, pooh poohed by the DMK leaders. Its top-rung icons say that of the Dravidian ideology resonates with the people, it is high impossible for the BJP to set its foot in Tamil Nadu. While a few still consider the earlier elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as a 'lost opportunity' for the BJP to have made inroads into the Tamil psyche.

T.N. government opposes Hindu Munnani's Lord Murugan conference in Madurai; cites Bengaluru stampede

GNS News Agency, June 10

The Tamil Nadu government opposed the Hindu Munnani's plea for extended pre-event celebrations ahead of the Murugan devotee conference in Madurai, informing the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court that it apprehended potential law and order issues and "a situation like the recent stampede in Bengaluru". Hence, it was willing to grant permission for only three days to the outfit for installing temporary miniatures of the six abodes of Lord Murugan at the 'Muruga Bakthargalin Aanmeega Maanadu'. To get today's top stories from the State in your inbox, subscribe to our Tamil Nadu Today newsletter. The Hindu Munnani, represented by State secretary S. Muthukumar, had filed a petition before the High Court seeking a direction to the police to grant permission for installing miniatures of the six abodes of Lord Murugan at Amma Thidal near the Vandiyur toll gate and conducting pujas.

The petitioner said the Hindu Munnani had decided to arrange a gathering of devotees of Lord Murugan on June 22. The miniatures of 'Arupadai Veedugal' were planned to be installed at the venue from June 10 to 22. Pujas would be performed and prasadam would be distributed to the devotees, he said, adding that the Shthalapuranam of the six abodes would be displayed and devotees would chant Kanda Shashti Kavacham and Thiruppugazh. Spiritual and cultural programmes would be held at the venue, which is a private land, and the land owner had given his consent, he said. A representation was made to the Madurai City Police for permission to use sound amplifiers at the event. A representation was also made for arranging darshan of the miniatures from June 10 to 22. The police rejected permission for using microphone sets and installing miniatures and temporary models, the petitioner said. He alleged that a police team went to the place where the miniatures were being made and threatened workers and volunteers not to proceed with the work. He sought a direction to the police to grant permission for installing the miniatures of the six abodes of Lord Murugan at the venue and conducting the pujas. The government told the court that the Hindu Munnani had not responded to all the questions put forth by the police. The organisation, however, submitted that it had done so. Justice B. Pugalendi directed the Hindu Munnani to furnish its response to the questions and the police to take a decision by June 12. The court permitted the petitioner to proceed with making the miniatures. However, no puja shall be conducted for now, the court said. It posted the matter for hearing on June 13.

FSDC looks into enhancing cybersecurity, easing KYC norms

GNS News Agency, June 10

The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), an apex regulatory body chaired by the Union Minister of Finance, on Tuesday (June 10, 2025) examined various ways to enhance the cyber resilience framework of the Indian financial sector and ease the compliance burden on customers.

The FSDC held its 29th meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday (June 10, 2025). Apart from the chairperson, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Choudhary, senior officers of the Ministry of Finance, and the heads of various financial sector regulators. "In light of the analysis of cybersecurity regulations, sectoral preparedness, and the recommendations of Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP) 2024-25, the FSDC considered strengthening the cyber resilience framework of the Indian financial sector through a financial sector-specific cybersecurity strategy," the Ministry of Finance said in a release. The FSDC also looked into ways to implement past decisions, such as reducing the amount of unclaimed assets in the financial sector, including in bank deposits, dividends, shares, post office accounts, insurance and pension funds and a quick and seamless refund of such assets to rightful owners. Another issue the FSDC looked into was to prescribe common know-your-customer (KYC) norms and simplify the KYC process including for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the Indian securities market.

Police Bust Major Counterfeit Pesticide Racket; Key Accused Arrested

Fake Agrochemicals Worth more than INR 2 Crore Seized in Multi-State Crackdown



Hyderabad: In a significant breakthrough, Telangana Police have arrested Rajendra Chechani—also known as Raju Chechani one of the prime accused in a large-scale counterfeit pesticide racket. The police arrested him on 28 May 2025 from his farmhouse located at Bassi village,

Chittorgarh district, Rajasthan during a coordinated operation with the local police authorities. The bust exposes the growing menace of counterfeit pesticides in India's agricultural sector, where innocent farmers are frequently duped by such infringers with spurious/fake products. These fake chemicals, though packaged to resemble genuine brands, often lead to crop damage and reduced yields due to their harmful or ineffective ingredients. The latest arrest is expected to significantly disrupt the supply chain of counterfeit agrochemicals that spans several states.

Chechani is alleged to run a sophisticated such illicit trade and illegal network for over seven years, manufacturing and distributing fake pesticides across India through his associates based out in over 11 states in India. He supplied counterfeit products—bearing the labels of reputed agrochemical companies—through a wide network of associates operating in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. Investigations revealed that Chechani also has a shop with the name Maheshwari Seeds and Pesticides in Bassi. He was reportedly a key supplier of both packaging materials and finished counterfeit products to various infringers across the country. The arrest stems from FIR No. 831/2024 registered at LB Nagar Police Station under the Insecticides Act., following the discovery of fake pesticides from the godown of an infringer E Rajesh in Hyderabad in July 2024. Further investigation has uncovered multiple criminal cases filed against Chechani in several states, highlighting the extensive reach and repeated offenses of his operation.

Telangana TDP Organizes Balakrishna's Birthday Celebrations

TDP Politburo Member Bakkani Narsimhulu



On the occasion of Hindupur MLA and Padma Bhushan Nandamuri Balakrishna's birthday, an archana (ritual offering) was conducted in his name at the TTD Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Jubilee Hills under the aegis of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). TDP Politburo member and National General Secretary Bakkani Narsimhulu presented silk clothes to the Brahmin priests. The event saw participation from Zaheerabad Parliament

Convener Paidi Gopal Reddy, former state official representative Nellore Durgaprasad, former state ITDP president Talikota Harikrishna, Malkajigiri Parliament Ad Hoc Committee member Janagam Narsingarao, former Sattupalli constituency in-charge Koti Naidu, Jubilee Hills constituency party key leader Raja Chowdary, former Secunderabad Parliament women's president Vijaya Sri, state ITDP executive committee member BA Naidu, and others.

TUDA Offers Affordable Plots for Low and Middle-Income Groups, says Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy



“June 10, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator” In a move to make the dream of homeownership a reality for the poor and middle class, the Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) is offering plots at affordable prices, announced TUDA Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy. He urged the public to capitalize on this valuable opportunity. “On Tuesday, Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy, accompanied by TUDA officials, inspected the Padmavathi Nagar TUDA layout in Surappakasam, Renigunta Mandal. During the visit, officials briefed the Chairman on the layout's plan, detailing the designated plots for commercial and residential purposes with the help of a map. “The Chairman instructed the officials to expedite the jungle clearance, es-



tablish essential infrastructure as quickly as possible, and prepare the layout for auction. “Speaking to the media, Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy stated, “There are currently 270 plots available for sale in the Surappakasam Padmavathi Nagar TUDA layout. We are taking measures to sell these plots at a favorable price, keeping the needs of the poor and middle-class citizens in mind. We encourage everyone to make the most of this opportunity.” “The inspection was attended by TUDA Secretary Srikanth, Land Acquisition Officer Sujana, Superintendent Engineer Krishna Reddy, Chief Planning Officer Devi Kumari, Joint Planning Officer Vasudeva Reddy, Executive Engineer Ravindraiah, Divisional Engineer Nareish, and other officials.

Student activists march to Israeli Embassy over Gaza crisis, Detained by Delhi Police

GNS News Agency, June 10

Visuals from the protest site showed students holding placards and chanting slogans demanding an end to India's diplomatic and economic ties with Israel. Visuals from the protest site showed students holding placards and chanting slogans demanding an end to India's diplomatic and economic ties with Israel. Several student activists were detained by the Delhi Police on Tuesday afternoon while they were marching towards the Israeli Embassy to protest the ongoing crisis in Gaza and the recent detentions linked to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC). Among those detained were Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union President Nitish Kumar and All India Students' Association's Secretary at Jamia Millia Islamia, Saurabh. The group was protesting what it called the “inhuman siege of Gaza” and the “illegal arrest of activists on board the Freedom Flotilla.”

a pro-Palestinian humanitarian mission aimed at breaking the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza. In a statement released after the protest, AISA alleged that the police “violently detained” students and activists from Delhi, terming the action “brutal.” “AISA condemns the brutal detention of students and demands boycott and divestment from Israel and an end to the joint ventures, weapons deals, and business exchange,” the statement read. According to a senior Delhi Police officer, around 30 individuals were detained for protesting without prior permission. “They were taken to Bawana police station and will be released after some time,” the officer said. Visuals from the protest site showed students holding placards and chanting slogans demanding an end to India's diplomatic and economic ties with Israel. While AISA called the detentions an attempt to “muzzle democratic dissent,”

Disha General Assembly Meeting on Thursday. District Collector Jitesh V. Patil.



“Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem, June 9 (Indian Chronicle) The Disha Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at 3 pm at the IDOC office, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil said in a statement. The meeting, which will be chaired by Disha Committee Chairman and Khammam MP Rama Dawan Raghurami Reddy, will be attended by Co-Chairman Mahabubabad MP Porika Balaram Nayak, Legislative Council MLAs from the district, Disha Committee members, and officers of all departments. The Collector said that the officers of all departments were directed to attend the meeting with reports on the work being done in their departments.

Thane train tragedy: Masterplan to avoid mishaps in the works, there are plans to operate AC local trains without fare hike, says CM Fadnavis

GNS News Agency, June 10

Taking lessons from the Thane train tragedy, the Central and State governments are working on a master plan with adequate measures to avoid mishaps on local suburban trains and ensure passenger safety, said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday.

Reflecting on the train tragedy on Monday that claimed four lives and left many injured, Fadnavis admitted that the delay in the completion of Metro railways has proved detrimental in decongesting crowded local trains, he admitted. “Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw held two-hour-long discuss with me post incident on Monday. We deliberated on effective measures to address the problems of overcrowding in local trains during the peak hours,” the CM told reporters in Mumbai as part of a media interaction organised to outline the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government in 11 years.

The accident occurred after several passengers fell off two overcrowded moving trains near Mumbra railway station in Thane. “Amongst the measures under consideration is putting doors to avoid mishap. When we say doors in local trains, it will be designed completely with adequate ventilation,” he said.

The CM admitted that the local trains are overcrowded during peak hours. According to Fadnavis, the Mumbai local trains got maximum funds during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regimes in the last 11 years. CM Fadnavis said that the government is planning to operate air-conditioned local trains without hiking the passenger fares. “At the same time, we will ensure the commuters are not financially burdened. The ticket fares will be affordable,” Fadnavis revealed. “Whether it was modernisation, upgradation of tracks, laying new railway lines, improving basic amenities, elevators in railways stations, expansion work and adding new railway lines, a lot of work took place in the last 11 years for which there was no paucity of funds from the Centre. Yet, train incident on Monday was unfortunate. We have to learn lessons from it and provide measures to avoid any mishap,” he noted.

The Thane train accident occurred due to a sudden jerk when one of the trains navigated a sharp curve between Diva and Mumbra stations, leading to the passengers on footboards of the trains bumping into each other and falling off, according to officials. The Metro project, which Fadnavis has fast-tracked since his first tenure in 2014-2019, was allegedly stalled during the Uddhav Thackeray government of 2019-22. Though CM Fadnavis did not name any leader or party, the mention of the Metro delay was a subtle comment on the Opposition, which is questioning the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti government for the tragic train incident.

Gurgaon records 11 new COVID-19 cases; active cases stand at 61

GNS News Agency, June 10

covid 19, gurgaon, delhi news, indian express A healthcare worker collects a swab sample from a woman, amidst the spread of the coronavirus disease test (covid) at a local health centre in New Delhi.

The Haryana health department said it identified 11 new COVID-19 cases from the 356 samples tested in Gurgaon on Tuesday. The number of active cases in the district now stands at 61, with 35 patients having recovered so far this year from a cumulative of 96 cases. Only one among Tuesday's cases, involving a 31-year-old man residing at Sector 65, has a travel history to Thailand.

There have been no COVID-19 deaths yet in Haryana in the latest spread of cases, and all patients in Gurgaon are under home isolation. The health department had earlier stated that the situation was under control and that there was no cause for concern with the rise in symptomatic COVID-19 cases. “All the pandemic-era precautionary measures and advisories, including mask-wearing, have been reissued and reiterated to hospitals. For now, we have made available 500 beds across isolation wards in government hospitals and other sites for any rise in serious cases. We will increase the number if and when the need arises. We have told hospitals to carry out tests for those showing symptoms. There is no reason to panic, the situation is well under control,” Dr Alka Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Gurgaon, told.

Fourth Utkarsh Samaroh Concludes Grandly



ceremony was a symposium titled 'Kulapati Samvadam' (Vice-Chancellors' Dialogue). Speaking at the event, Prof. G.S.R. Krishnamurthy, Vice-Chancellor of the National Sanskrit University, Tirupati, highlighted how scholars and academicians engaged in vibrant discussions on the profound knowledge contained within Sanskrit scriptures throughout the festival. He emphasized that "Sanskrit knowledge serves as a guiding compass for modern society." "The symposium also featured deliberations on contemporary topics, including the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Sanskrit studies and the role of the language in shaping the future of the next generation. A comprehensive five-year roadmap outlining key objectives for the development and promotion of the Sanskrit language was also established." "The festival was described as a 'Triveni Sangam'—a sacred confluence of three rivers—symbolizing the collaborative spirit of the three Central Sanskrit Universities. "In a significant announcement, Prof. G.S.R. Krishnamurthy formally declared that the fifth Utkarsh Mahotsav will be hosted by the National Sanskrit University in Tirupati. "The event saw enthusiastic participation from faculty members and non-teaching staff of various university departments, contributing to its resounding success.

•Tirupati to Host Next Edition“

“June 10 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator” “The fourth edition of the 'Utkarsh Mahotsav', a prestigious national Sanskrit festival organized by the Central Sanskrit University, concluded today with a grand ceremony in Nashik, Maharashtra. "A key part of the closing

Congress Elevates Srinu Babu: Surayyapalli Youth Celebrate Milestone Appointment with Grandeur.



““PS Ashokan” Indian Chronicle “Manthani, 10” “In a vibrant expression of joy and political solidarity, the Surayyapalli Youth Congress orchestrated jubilant celebrations to honor the appointment of Duddilla Srinu Babu—a dynamic youth leader and brother of Telangana Minister for IT, Industries, and Legislative Affairs, Duddilla Sridhar Babu—as the General Secretary of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC).” “The celebratory event, held at Surayyapalli Road, featured a spectacular display of fireworks and the distribution of sweets, symbolizing the collective pride of the community. Speaking on the occasion, senior Youth Congress members conveyed their profound gratitude to Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, TPCC

Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, KC Venugopal, and the broader Telangana Congress leadership for bestowing this prestigious responsibility upon Srinu Babu. “Local leaders lauded the Congress Party’s recognition of Srinu Babu’s unwavering dedication to public service, especially his compassionate outreach to the underprivileged. Known for his accessibility and proactive support in addressing healthcare needs among the poor, Srinu Babu was hailed as a people’s champion who embodies the party’s core values of service and inclusivity.” “The gathering echoed aspirations that the Duddilla family would continue to ascend to higher echelons of leadership in public life. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from **mandal and town-level Congress leaders, senior party workers.

Schools should open in a festive atmosphere on June 12:



Additional Collector Local Body Vidya Chandana. “Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem, June 9 (Indian Chronicle): On the auspicious occasion of the resumption of school on June 12, all schools should be beautifully decorated, decorated with mango arches, and welcome students in a festive atmosphere, said District Additional Collector, Local Body, Smt. Vidya Chandana. They want to ensure that the free textbooks, notebooks, and uniforms that should be provided to students reach the schools before the start of school. They want to consult with the relevant departments and complete arrangements in this regard. Appropriate steps should be taken to go door to door and survey the schoolchildren as per the school visit schedule and admit them to government schools. They want to educate the people about the facilities provided by the government in government schools, such as free uniforms, free textbooks, free notebooks, nutritious midday meals, digital teaching of classes, quality education through Artificial Intelligence (AI), and buildings with infrastructure. They want to set up cisterns in every school depending on the area where water is stored. Speaking at this meeting, District Education Officer Venkateswara Chari said, “On the occasion of the commencement of schools on the 12th, they want to clean the wild plants and bushes in the school

premises and clean and prepare the classrooms in the school without poisonous insects.” On June 12, in a festive atmosphere, they want to invite students, parents, village elders, alumni, and local retired employees and hold a parents’ meeting and prepare the school education plan for the 2025-26 academic year. With the help of Anganwadi teachers, the 5th graders in the village. It was suggested that efforts should be made to ensure that every child who is full of money should definitely join a government school. If there are any out-of-school children in the village, they should be immediately admitted to schools, and the village should be treated as an out-of-school child-free village. As per the instructions of the Collector, appropriate steps should be taken to grow six types of trees and five types of medicinal plants in all schools.

The school walk program should be organized as per the daily schedule, and the principals should register the school walk report and uniform details every day in the ISMS (School Education App). The principals should update the Village Education Register (VER). Additional DRDO Nilesh, District Education Coordinators S. K. Saidulu and N. Satish Kumar, DPMs Ranga Rao and Nagajyothi, and MPDO, MEO, and APM participated.

‘Under Modi, India can defend itself against attack with indigenous weapons’: Paatil shares govt’s achievements in 11 years

GNS News Agency, June 10

Paatil said that it has been a mantra of PM Modi to give more than people’s expectation, to give with quality, in time and to every class and his government strives to accomplish the same. Paatil said that it has been a mantra of PM Modi to give more than people’s expectation, to give with quality, in time and to every class and his government strives to accomplish the same. India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not just developed but can defend itself independently against an attack with indigenously made weapons, asserted Union Jal Shakti Minister and Gujarat BJP president C R Paatil while crediting the PM-led central government for providing a “new example of transparency”. Paatil made these remarks while addressing media persons at Gujarat BJP state headquarters, Shree Kamalam, over achievements of the Modi government in the last 11 years.

Sharing about how an “entire book can be written” on the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government in the last 11 years, Paatil also counted the execution of Operation Sindoor as one. Modi had first taken oath as Prime Minister in 2014. In its third term, the Modi government took oath on June 9, 2024. Paatil said, “Along with achievements with which an entire book can be written, there are a number of examples of strength. India has not just developed, but we have also seen that it can defend itself independently against an attack with indigenously made weapons and sour the teeth of enemies.” Talking about Operation Sindoor, Paatil said, “Under Operation Sindoor, nine terror camps on the other side of Line of Control (LOC) have been decimated. More than 100 terrorists have been killed. Pakistan and the entire world has seen India’s strong reply that it will not spare those who do mischief with it.” “The specialty was that this war was fought mostly with the weapons made in our coun-



try. The test of its perfection and sturdiness was witnessed by the world... many countries are feeling uneasy. Because, in the market of weapons, a new player, a new manufacturer is entering. It has come to the notice of the entire country,” Paatil added. The Union minister also said that, “The BJP government under PM Modi has changed the political culture of India. After the arrival of PM Modi, a responsible government has been established. People have faith in him and the governance under him. People have full faith that a decision will be taken in the interest of the country.” “Without taking any name, Paatil said, “In the last 11 years, the BJP government has provided a new example of transparency. Before 2014, the government was corrupt and involved in scams and was full of negativity. After 2014, optimism has been awakened.” Paatil said that it has been a mantra of PM Modi to give more than people’s expectation, to give with quality, in time and to every class and his government strives to accomplish the same. CM Patel too highlighted the achievements of the Modi government in the last 11 years and added that the confidence of the citizens of the country towards the government has increased.

Opp scared of losing minority vote bank, silent on foreign invaders in past: CM Yogi Adityanath

GNS News Agency, June 10

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday targeted the Opposition parties, hitting out at the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) in particular, and claimed that “fear of losing minority vote bank” prevented these parties from uttering a word against foreign invaders of the country in the past. Adityanath was in Bahraich to attend an event, ‘Vijayotsav of Maharaja Suheldev’, during which he inaugurated a memorial dedicated to Maharaja Suheldev and unveiled his equestrian statue. He also questioned why national icons such as Maharaja Suheldev were not honoured earlier and no grand memorials, universities or medical colleges were named after such personalities in the past.

The CM said, “While the BJP commemorates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with the Statue of Unity, the SP sings praises of divisive figures such as Jinnah. When we talked about celebrating Suheldev’s valour, the SP and the Congress argued over holding weddings for Ghazi Miyan. We have made it clear — glorifying invaders must end and national heroes must be honoured.” The state government has built the memorial at a cost of around Rs 40 crore and has also established a 40-ft bronze equestrian statue of Maharaja Suheldev.

Adityanath also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 384 development projects worth Rs 1,243 crore and planted a sapling under the ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ campaign. He thanked those who discontinued events held in the name of Ghazi Miyan and also remembered Maharaja Balbhadra Singh on his birth anniversary. The CM pointed out that Maharaja Suheldev, a millennium ago, had presented a strategic and valiant response to foreign invaders, yet never received the honour he deserved in history. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s campaign for development and heritage inspired our double-engine government to honour Maharaja Suheldev,” he said. He added that Bahraich’s medical college has been named after Maharaja Suheldev, as has the state university in Azamgarh. The hospital is named after Rishi Balark. “Our main events in Bahraich will now be dedicated to Suheldev, Rishi Balark and Maa Pateshwari—not any foreign invader,” the CM said.

He said that Salar Masud, a foreign invader who marched into India with an army of around 300,000, was “systematically stopped from Mathura to Bahraich by Maharaja Suheldev’s strategic brilliance”. By the time Masud reached Chittora (the place in Bahraich where Suheldev’s memorial and statue are built), half of his army had been defeated. In the decisive battle, Suheldev’s 20,000-25,000 warriors eliminated around 150,000 of Masud’s soldiers.



Masud was captured alive. Thanking BJP workers, the CM said, “Your enthusiasm since morning shows that the fair must celebrate Maharaja Suheldev, not invaders such as Salar Masud.” Referring to PM Modi’s ‘Panch Pran’ (five pledges), the CM said, “Respecting heritage means honouring Suheldev. Freedom from colonial mindset means ending events held in the name of Masud.” He declared that while history may have been unjust to Maharaja Suheldev, the double-engine BJP government will not allow that injustice to continue. “He was a symbol of valour and bravery. Those who fought alongside him to protect India’s land and faith from foreign invaders were also long deprived of recognition and benefits.” The Chief Minister also announced that a grand memorial would be built in Lucknow in honour of Maharaja Bijli Pasi, who defeated foreign invaders. He recalled that four women warriors from the 1857 revolt had dealt major blows to the British forces. The medical college and university in Jhansi have been named after Rani Laxmibai. In Budaun, a women’s PAC battalion has been formed in the name of Veerangana Avantibai Lodhi, and her equestrian statue will be installed there. In Lucknow, construction is underway for a women’s PAC battalion named after Veerangana Uda Devi—about 35-40% of the work has been completed, and her statue will be installed upon completion. A similar battalion is also being established in Gorakhpur in the name of Jhalkari Bai, along with a grand statue. The CM also informed that a memorial and cultural centre is under construction in Lucknow in honour of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, which will be completed by December. He added that scholarships for SC/ST students are being arranged and would be implemented from this platform. The Chief Minister proposed that from next year onwards, the event should be held over three days. “This will ensure that no one can erase the legacy of national heroes such as Maharaja Suheldev from the pages of history,” he said.

HC holds BMC ‘negligent’, orders Rs 50 lakh each to kin of 8 victims of Hotel City Kinara fire

GNS News Agency, June 10

Nearly a decade after eight persons lost their lives in a fire at Kurla’s Hotel City Kinara in 2015, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday held Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) negligent and directed it to pay Rs 50 lakh each to their kin within 12 weeks. Slamming BMC for “gross negligence” over granting approvals without following norms, the HC observed that “an utter failure of its officials in the discharge of their statutory duties” was a “proximate cause of the fire”. It said the BMC can be held “vicariously liable for acts and commission and omission of its officials”.

ine level of a hotel restaurant that killed eight people. Among the victims were seven undergraduate students from Don Bosco Institute of Technology and College and a 32-year-old employee of Sterling Engineering Consultants. A bench of Justices BP Colabawalla and Firdosh P Pooniwalla passed a verdict on a plea filed in 2018 by parents of seven victims and wife of the eighth deceased challenging the order of the February, 2017 Lokayukta order. The Lokayukta had rejected their plea seeking an investigation, observing that a compensation of Rs 1 lakh each has already been paid to them by the state government, prompting them to move HC. Senior advocate Naushad Engineer for the petitioners argued that the restaurant was operating without proper permission, including no-objection certificate (NOC) from the fire department, it was the duty of BMC inspectors to shut it down.

Senior advocate AY Sakhare for the BMC claimed that the incident was a direct result of “reckless and negligent actions of hotel owner and operator, who violated safety norms”, and the civic body cannot be made liable to pay compensation. However, the bench quashed and set aside



Lokayukta’s order noting that it failed to consider that Rs 1 lakh was merely an ad-hoc compensation and it did not consider the actual compensation to be paid to the petitioners. The HC observed that BMC should have maintained “higher standard of care” in matters concerning public safety and that no action was taken despite civic officials were aware of the breach, which was a “fire hazard” that the mezzanine floor/loft area, which can be only used for storage purposes was being used to serve customers. The court said it was “even more shocking” that Kinara was granted an eating housing licence without obtaining any fire NOC from the Fire Brigade Department and said the same was “one of the most egregious breaches committed not only by the owner of Kinara but also by BMC”. It also noted that the BMC had permitted the use of LPG cylinders without licence and their storage in the loft area of the restaurant. The HC said BMC neither acted on complaints made about violations by the restaurant nor its own inspection reports.

Land pooling policy aimed at collecting money, will ‘destroy’ agriculture: Warring



GNS News Agency, June 10

The land pooling policy approved by the Punjab Cabinet is only aimed at “collecting money” and will lead to destruction of the state’s agrarian economy, state Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring Tuesday said. “Acquiring 24,000 acres of agricultural land will shake the agricultural economy of the state and it will eventually hit every section of the society. Punjab’s entire economy, trade and industry depends on agriculture that keeps the economy moving. When you undermine the base, the entire economic edifice will collapse,” Warring warned. He was speaking with reporters after addressing a meeting of the constituency coordinators at the PCC headquarters in Chandigarh. He claimed that the government had not taken the stakeholders into confidence regarding the policy. Besides, he asked whether there really any need for this policy was when there was no demand for residential or industrial plots anywhere. He said there are a large number of resi-

dential colonies set up by private builders with so many plots left unsold. The same is the case with the residential apartments, he added. “When there is already abundance of the residential plots, where is the need to create more,” he asked. The Punjab Cabinet Monday gave its nod to the land pooling policy with Cabinet minister Aman Arora asserting that not even a single yard will be forcibly acquired from landowners.

Under this policy, a landowner will be given 1,000 square yards of residential plot and 200 square yards of commercial plot in fully developed land in lieu of one acre of land. The PCC president also strongly defended the re-induction of party leaders into the Congress saying there were no differences on the issue, and everybody was welcome into the party. “Every party likes to expand its base and strengthen itself and the more the people join the party, the better it is”, he said, while reacting to the joining of the leaders from various parties recently. Phillaur MLA Vikramjit Singh Chaudhary Monday returned to the Congress fold after the party revoked his suspension.

Two days back, Aam Aadmi Party Kamaljit Singh Karwal joined the Congress in Ludhiana. On the June 19 Ludhiana West assembly bypoll, the Punjab Congress president claimed that his party was far ahead of others. He expressed confidence that the party will win the by-election with a record margin. To another question on BJP state president Sunil Jakhar and Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu taking a swipe at him, Warring said, “The two of them were enough to sink the BJP’s boat as they had sunk the Congress boat a few years ago.

Delhi Police bust pan-India cybercrime syndicate

GNS News Agency, June 10

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has dismantled a sprawling, pan-India cybercrime syndicate allegedly involved in a range of illegal activities, including sextortion, banking fraud, and cyber scams, officials said on Tuesday. The criminal network operated across Delhi, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, according to the police.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 28 mobile phones, 30 SIM cards, two laptops, eight cheque books, 15 debit cards, and several bank account credentials used for illegal financial transactions, the police stated. Videos and photographs used to blackmail victims were also recovered, and a money trail amounting to over Rs 5 crore has been identified, officials added. The operation was initiated on May 24 following a tip-off regarding the movement of a suspicious consignment containing synthetic bank account kits in the New Ashok Nagar area, the police said.

“These kits were reportedly being used in various high-tech crimes such as sextortion, cyber fraud, banking scams, debit or credit card cloning — crimes that have seen a recent surge both in frequency and sophistication,” Aditya Gautam, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch, said. The intelligence indicated that the kits were to be delivered and distributed near the vicinity of Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Extension, DCP Gautam said, adding that “an immediate and decisive operational response was formulated”. The operation resulted in the arrests of three men, identified as Ujjawal Pandey, 30, Gaurav Barua, 24, and Yug Sharma, 19. The accused were allegedly arrested with the synthetic kits and associated paraphernalia, including pre-activated SIM cards, forged bank documents, and digital devices used to carry out fraudulent transactions, the police said. These kits enabled fraudsters to bypass KYC norms and execute untraceable financial operations, the police added. Further investigation based on inputs from those arrested led to a raid in the Mundka area where a fake call centre was masquerading as a bank loan provider, according to the police. Here, seven more people were caught.

According to the police, the operation was led by Dilshad Ali, who ran the centre along with his associate, Amit, who is currently absconding. The call centre’s modus operandi involved luring victims with attractive loan offers, collecting their identification details, and then extorting money under the guise of processing fees before cutting all contact, the police said. Ali, who was previously involved in a 2019 case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the IT Act in Maharashtra, acted as the team leader,



the police said. Six call centre employees were also arrested. The police said they were mostly young telemarketers who were computer literate and earning between Rs 8,000 and Rs 9,000 per month. Building on leads from the arrested individuals, another raid was conducted in New Ashok Nagar, resulting in the arrest of four more accused and the exposure of a well-organised sextortion racket, the police said. “These individuals employed a deceitful method to lure and exploit victims. Initially, they would send friend requests on Facebook and obtain the victim’s mobile number through Facebook Messenger. Subsequently, they would initiate a video call on WhatsApp, during which they would stream pornographic clips, secretly recording the victim’s screen and reactions using screen recording tools. The recorded content was then used to blackmail the victim under threats of publicly circulating the video on social media platforms, thereby coercing them into transferring money,” said DCP Gautam. The accused in the case come from diverse backgrounds and regions, the police said. Pandey, originally from Krishna Nagar, Delhi, came into the cyber fraud world through his cybercafe venture, according to the police. Barua, a graduate from IGNOU, allegedly transitioned from a legitimate job in an insurance company to fraudulent financial operations. Sharma, the youngest among the arrested, assisted in supplying fake SIM cards and account kits, and Ali, who had a corporate background, played a central role in managing the fraudulent call centre, as per the police. The accused in the sextortion gang were identified as Jahid, 20, Raheesh, 21, and Sohil, 18, all from Deeg in Rajasthan. Jahid, a third-year student, was identified as the alleged ringleader of the sextortion racket, while Raheesh and Sohil allegedly assisted in blackmail operations. Jayshree, a 24-year-old graduate from Alwar University and a former SBI BPO employee, also played a vital role in making calls and luring victims, the police said.

Paddy straw-based fuel use mandatory in brick kilns of Punjab, Haryana from Nov 1



GNS News Agency, June 10

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Tuesday directed Punjab and Haryana governments to make it mandatory for brick kilns in non-NCR districts to use paddy straw-based biomass pellets as part of their fuel mix starting this winter season. The measure aims to tackle

the problem of air pollution due to stubble burning, one of the major contributors to the poor air quality in the Delhi-NCR region every winter. In an official order, the CAQM said the use of biomass pellets made from paddy residue is a cleaner and practical substitute for coal, which is commonly used in brick kilns.

The CAQM said that brick kilns across Punjab and the non-NCR districts of Haryana must start co-firing paddy straw-based biomass pellets or briquettes in a phased manner starting November 1. According to the timeline specified in the order, brick kilns must use a minimum of 20 per cent paddy straw-based pellets in their fuel mix. This should increase to 30 per cent from November 1, 2026; 40 per cent from November 1, 2027; and 50 per cent from November 1, 2028. The order covers all brick kilns, including those using the zig-zag firing technology. State governments have also been asked to submit monthly progress reports to the CAQM starting November 2025 to ensure proper monitoring of the implementation of its order.

Stopped from gambling, man strangles wife to death in Khanna: police

GNS News Agency, June 10

A man allegedly strangled his wife to death after she stopped him from gambling at Jeerakh village of Malaud in Khanna Sub-Division late on Monday, police said Tuesday. The 38-year-old victim, Paramjit Kaur, married Lakhvir Singh around a decade ago, and the couple has two daughters together, aged 6 and 2 years, police said. The victim’s brother Kuldeep Singh told police that Lakhvir had a severe gambling addiction. Kuldeep told police, “Lakhvir would lose money in gambling daily. To keep peace at home, Paramjit would often borrow money from her parents to give to her husband to save herself from physical abuse.” Kuldeep said, “Despite her best efforts, things only

got worse. Lakhvir lost lakhs of rupees in gambling. Lakhvir mortgaged their house, jewellery, and even a motorcycle. On June 2, a heated argument ensued when Lakhvir asked for money to gamble, and Paramjit refused. Enraged, he strangled her with a rope.” “After the murder, Lakhvir placed her body on a cot and covered it with a bedsheet to make it appear as if she was asleep. Suspicious neighbours, however, alerted Paramjit’s family. When her relatives arrived, they noticed strangulation marks around her neck and immediately informed the police,” police said. DSP (Payal) Hemant Malhotra said, “A murder case has been registered against Lakhvir Singh based on Kuldeep’s statement. The body was handed over to the family after the postmortem.”

Battery swapping stations to come up at 31 Metro, Monorail stations in Mumbai



GNS News Agency, June 10

The Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Ltd (MMMOCL) has collaborated with Honda Power Pack Energy India Pvt Ltd. to set up battery swapping stations at 31 main Metro and Monorail stations in Mumbai. The project that was rolled out on Tuesday, ahead of World Environment Day, will benefit electric vehicle (EV) users, particularly those using two- and three-wheelers for daily use and delivery runs.

The collaboration will feature Honda’s ‘E:swap technology’ installed at 25 Metro stations on Lines 2A (Yellow Line) and 7 (Red Line), as well as six Monorail stations. These battery replacement facilities will enable EV owners to replace their spent Honda Mobile Power Pack with a new, fully charged battery in less than two minutes. The instant swapping capability obviates the waiting time that comes with traditional refuelling and overcomes the increasing problems of range anxiety, making EV adoption more convenient within the dense city. For commuters, particularly for delivery personnel, fleet operators, and frequent two-wheeler riders, this innovation adds convenience. “Rather than hunting for charging points or

waiting for hours, users will be able to just drive into a specific Metro or Monorail station and exchange their battery quickly before resuming their commute. This not only conserves time but guarantees uninterrupted access to power while commuting through daily city life,” an MMRDA official said. Metro stops like Gundavali, Andheri West, Malad West, Dahisar East, and Goregaon East are among the numerous places that will be equipped with these battery swap centres. Monorail stations like Chembur, Wadala, Naigaon, and Mint Colony will also be prepared for the same.

The facility will be made available to users of Honda-compatible electric two- and three-wheelers, with each station following all possible technical, safety, and environmental regulations. According to officials, it not only encourages environment-friendly commuting but also provides economic value to the transit agency. MMOCL anticipates generating about Rs 30 lakh in non-fare box revenue from this association, increasing the financial sustainability of mass transit systems. The project is also a component of MMOCL’s wider Electric Vehicle Policy, sanctioned under the guidance of Metropolitan Commissioner and MMOCL Chairman Dr Sanjay Mukherjee in its 29th board meeting. The statement from Mukherjee said, “This partnership with Honda is an important step towards fulfilling our vision for a sustainable low-emission urban environment. Through the facilitation of rapid and easy battery swapping at Metro and Monorail points, we are building the foundation for future-capable transport.” According to him, the policy is looking to develop integrated, future-capable urban mobility solutions through private sector involvement in the development of green infrastructure. With the initial station already up at Dahisar East, the network will be growing fast throughout the city, making Mumbai among the first Indian cities to combine battery swapping with public e-transport infrastructure, he added.

Congress MP Randhawa writes to PM Modi, seeks Amritsar be declared ‘no-war zone’

GNS News Agency, June 10

Gurdaspur MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to declare the holy city of Amritsar as a “No-War Zone” and “work with international bodies to establish enduring protections for it”.

Describing it as “a matter of profound spiritual and national significance”, the MP said, “The holy city of Sri Amritsar Sahib, home to Sri Harmandir Sahib (The Golden Temple), is not merely a geographical location, it is the spiritual heartbeat of the Sikh faith and a lighthouse of love and peace for humanity. Its sacred aura transcends religious boundaries, offering comfort, unity and compassion in a world increasingly torn apart by conflict and division.” “With due respect, I wish to clarify that this appeal is not a request for political sovereignty akin to the Vatican City, but rather a plea for international spiritual recognition and enduring security protections. In an era marked by rising global tensions and militarisation, it is imperative that Sri Amritsar be shielded from the threats of war and violence — now and forever,” the MP wrote.

The Congress MP said the universal teachings of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, based on peace, humility and universal brotherhood, serve as a potent moral counterforce to the escalating tide of militarism around the world. “As many global powers lean increasingly toward conflict, the Sikh ethos of ‘Sarbat da Bhala’ (the welfare of all) must be elevated and preserved as one of humanity’s last hopes for coexistence and peace. Recent geopolitical tensions, particularly during the Indo-Pak standoff, have revived legitimate concerns about Sri Amritsar’s potential vulnerability in the event of military conflict,” he said. Randhawa said



these concerns, voiced by the Sikh community and civil society alike, necessitate a broader vision, one that goes beyond regional anxieties and calls for an international framework to guarantee the safety and sanctity of this revered city under all circumstances. “For the Sikh faith, Sri Amritsar holds the same spiritual gravity as Mecca to Muslims and the Vatican to Christians. It is, therefore, my humble submission that the global spiritual significance of Sri Amritsar is officially recognised and that appropriate international security mechanisms—akin to those safeguarding the Vatican—be considered and adopted,” he said. He urged the PM “to initiate necessary diplomatic and legislative steps toward declaring Sri Amritsar Sahib a ‘No-War Zone’ and work with international bodies to establish enduring protections for this sacred site”. “I trust in your wisdom and statesmanship to consider this appeal not merely as a political request, but as a commitment to safeguarding the soul of a faith and a beacon of peace for all humanity,” the MP added.

HPPCL chief engineer death case: Shimla SP moves HC against CBI probe order, says ‘my professional integrity has been tarnished’



GNS News Agency, June 10

Feeling “aggrieved and dissatisfied” as his professional integrity was “tarnished” by the May 23 order of the single bench of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, transferring the probe into HPPCL chief engineer Vimal Negi’s death case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Shimla Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjeev Gandhi has moved a Letter Patent Appeal (LPA) against the order and sought an HC-monitored probe by the state police’s Special Investigation Team (SIT). Gandhi stated, “The LPA appeal is being filed in personal capacity being aggrieved on account of the opinion, findings derived on the basis of affidavits of the respondents, specifically respondent number 3 (DGP) in the petition whereby the impugned judgement was passed by the single judge bench. Applicant feeling aggrieved and dissatisfied with the judgement dated May 23 begs to prefer the present LPA on the following amongst other grounds, the professional integrity has been tarnished, thereby findings are such SIT-2 held erroneous for ill-founded reasons facts qua such were misrepresented in such manner caused grave injustice, needs to be redressed urgently, in the impugned judgment arbitrarily assumed the suspicion about the professional integrity thereon adverse findings affected the reputation, so much so under particular design being targeted personally, there are well-founded reasons, if not redressed every likelihood of being falsely implication, penalization the remarks in the impugned judgement are unfair caused immense damage to the reputation, professional integrity as well...” “Gandhi, thus, prayed, “...the LPA kindly be allowed and the impugned judgment May 23 kindly be ordered to modified to the extent that instead of handing over the probe to CBI the same may very be kindly be ordered to be handed over to any Special Investigation Team being constituted by the honourable Himachal Pradesh high court rather handing over the CBI or any cen-

tral agency which is under the control of Union of India, in order to avoid any conflict of interest...” “Gandhi further stated, “The affidavit filed by the then director general of police (DGP) Atul Verma was ‘ultimately motivated’; therefore, the scathing observation qua the investigation based upon the said affidavit may also be very kindly set aside.” The LPA further states, “It is pertinent to mention the incident of gas blast in the middle Bazaar Himachal Rasaoi Restaurant. This was an incident qua LPG gas blast, but in a very shocking manner, the then DGP Himachal Pradesh and officers who remained on the central deputation called the teams of National Security Guard (NSG). The NSG affirmed the presence of RDX in the above-mentioned blast. So much so, the then DGP Himachal issued a letter dated August 10, 2023, mentioning the action: SP Shimla and Shimla police on the border for criminal conspiracy and to destroy the evidence. This was affirmative action on the part of the then DGP and other officers, who are still serving in the police headquarters, to implicate the officers of Shimla police, including the applicant.” The LPA further states, “The above-mentioned facts ipso facto qua the ill-will and malignant proclivities towards the applicant (Sanjeev Gandhi) to which extent harboured by the superior officers, such engagement of the central forces.” “Gandhi, a 1992-batch IPS officer, filed the LPA in his personal capacity on Monday, and it was accepted for listing on Tuesday. Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) chief engineer Vimal Negi had gone missing on March 10, and his body was found on March 18 under mysterious circumstances in Bilaspur district. The chief engineer’s wife Kiran Negi alleged that his seniors harassed him and demanded a CBI probe into his death. Family members protested by placing the engineer’s body outside the HPPCL office in Shimla on March 19. On May 23, the high court transferred the Vimal Negi death case to the CBI after the former DGP submitted a status report in the court, questioning the impartiality of the probe by the SIT headed by Gandhi. On May 29, the state government asked DGP Atul Verma, Shimla SP Gandhi and Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Onkar Sharma to proceed on leave. Atul Verma retired on May 31, while Gandhi is on medical leave. Gandhi further stated in his LPA that during the investigation, “a black diary of Vimal Negi was found, mentioning the name of ACS Onkar Sharma”. Gandhi named the ACS, the HPPCL, the DGP, the CBI, the Union of India and Kiran Negi as respondents. The CBI has undertaken an investigation into the Negi death case after registering a fresh FIR at their Delhi headquarters. A four-member CBI team has visited Shimla and has been recording the statements of family members of Vimal Negi and others.

At Bihar hospital where rape victim died waiting for treatment, 2 top officials are suspended



GNS News Agency, June 10

Two days after the death of a minor rape survivor at Patna Medical College Hospital on Sunday due to alleged delay in treatment, the deputy superintendent of PMCH, Dr Abhijeet Singh, who was in charge on the day of the incident, has been removed from his post citing “administrative failure”, while the superintendent of Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) in Muzaffarpur, Dr Kumari Vibha, has been suspended, Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey said Tuesday. Pandey said that the action has been taken based on preliminary investigation.

“The victim was treated at two facilities — first at SKMCH in Muzaffarpur, then at PMCH in Patna. I was out of Patna, but upon returning last night, I held discussions with senior officials, gathered all details, and directed a high-level inquiry. A team led by three Directors-in-Chief — Dr. Aryan Chaudhary, Dr. B.K. Singh, and Dr. Pramod Kumar — has been formed to investigate the events at both SKMCH and PMCH,” the minister said. “In the initial findings, Dr. Kumari Vibha, the superintendent of Muzaffarpur Medical College, was found to have failed to discharge her duties properly and has been suspended. Similarly, Dr. Abhijeet Singh, the deputy superintendent and in charge at

PMCH that day, has been removed from his post for administrative failure,” the minister said. The minister said the team is investigating the sequence of events at both hospitals and based on the team’s findings, “further action would be taken”. The minor, aged between 8 and 10, was purportedly raped on May 26 in Muzaffarpur allegedly by Rohit Kumar Sahni, a 30-year-old fish vendor, who according to police, lured her with “Kurrure and chocolates”, assaulted her near a pond, and slit her throat and chest with a knife. She was found hours later by her family and treated at SKMCH for five days before being referred to the PMCH on Saturday. Her family alleged that “she was made to wait in an ambulance for hours before admission, finally being admitted around 5 pm after intervention by Congress leaders”, including Bihar Congress president Rajesh Ram. He denied negligence on PMCH’s part, stating that the hospital acted “swiftly as soon as it came into the administration’s notice and admitted the girl to the gynaecology ICU by 3:43 pm as there was no vacant ICU available in the ENT department”. “She was examined by specialist doctors from various departments round the clock. Since she was sent to us in a critical condition following five days of treatment at SKMCH, our doctors couldn’t save her despite their best efforts,” he had said. Muzaffarpur Rural SP Vidya Sagar said the accused was arrested on the night of the incident and “police will soon file a chargesheet in the case and will request for a speedy trial from the court”. Since the incident, Congress and RJD leaders have been targeting the Nitish Kumar-led government, accusing it of negligence in both the girl’s safety and medical care. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in an X post, had called the incident “extremely shameful,” demanding “strict action against the culprits and negligent officials”, while asserting that timely treatment could have saved the girl’s life. “If she had received timely treatment, her life could have been saved. But the double-engine government was negligent not only in providing security but also in saving her life,” his tweet read.

‘Thank you, Minister Aunty...’: 3-year-old behind viral video that prompted Kerala govt to bring biryani to anganwadis

GNS News Agency, June 10

When the Kerala government on Tuesday revised the food menu at anganwadis in the state, prompted by a viral video featuring them, three-year-old Trijal S Sundhar and his mother, Ashwathy, were taken by surprise. Shanku, as Trijal is fondly known, turns four next month and lives with his family at their home at Prayar North in Kerala’s Alappuzha district. He had joined the Khaseriel anganwadi at Devikulangara panchayat in Alappuzha last year.

In a video recorded by Ashwathy on January 26 at their home, Shanku is heard telling his mother, “I want biryani and chicken fry at the anganwadi instead of upma.” Ashwathy posted the video on Instagram, and it went viral in the following weeks. It even came to the notice of Kerala Health, Women and Child Welfare Minister Veena George, who said the government would consider Shanku’s suggestions and revise the food menu at anganwadis. On Tuesday, she kept her promise and unveiled the revised menu, which included egg biryani and pulao. After hearing the news that he had been instrumental in introducing the new menu, Shanku said in a video on Tuesday, “Thank you, Minister Aunty, I have seen the news.” Ashwathy said the family were surprised by the decision. “Although the minister had promised to review the menu, we did not expect such a decision in such a short period of time. We are all happy. Next month, we are planning to enrol him in lower primary class,” she said. Her husband, Somasundhar, works in Qatar.

On the famous video, Ashwathy said, “I had recorded the video when he was eating biryani. I used to take short videos, showing different moments in his life in Kerala to



share with his father, who is in Qatar. We have a lot of videos, right from when he was a toddler, showing various stages of his growth. The video of him eating his favourite biryani was one such happy moment that we shared on Instagram.” “He was not happy about having upma day after day. Children are happy when they get a variety of food. His favourite items are biryani and kanji-payar (rice and green gram porridge),” she said. As per the new food menu for anganwadis, children will have milk, pidi (balls made of rice flour), and kozhukkatta (a steamed sweet made from rice flour, coconut and jaggery) for breakfast on Mondays. At noon, they will get rice, green gram curry, spinach, and payasam. On Tuesday, the menu comprises nutri laddu for breakfast, egg biryani/pulao, fruit cup and ragi ada (a pancake made of finger millet). On other days, the menu comprises soya dry fry, idli, sambar, puttu, omelette, and a mix of rice flakes with jaggery and banana.

to which, eventually, untreated water enters the river. “For such drains, solutions need to be considered, such as tapping 26 out of 182 sub-drains and treating the remaining at their outlets,” read a government document. Officials said 9 out of 22 drains that flow directly into the river have been trapped. Two drains have been partially trapped. Full trapping of drains is set to be completed by December 2027. “Trapping work for two drains is in progress and is likely to be completed by the end of this year. Meanwhile, 7 drains have not yet been trapped, and no diversion has been made to the sewer/STP for treatment. The deadline to complete this work has been set for December 2027,” said an official. Under this project, the Delhi government also plans to install sewer connections in all unauthorised colonies. Recently, the central government approved Rs 804 crore for this project under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme 2.0. The government plans to install around 13,000 new sewer connections in slum areas, and 2.5 lakh sewer connections in unauthorised colonies and other residential areas.

Send beer samples every month for analysis: Delhi Excise dept to hotels, restaurants with microbreweries

GNS News Agency, June 10

The Excise Department in Delhi has directed hotels, cafes, and restaurants, which hold the L-11 licence, to share beer samples every month for analysis in the department’s laboratory. The L-11 licence grants permission to hotels, cafes, and restaurants to set up microbrewery plants and sell them at their premises. At present, there are around half a dozen such plants in Delhi in Saket, Connaught Place, among other places. “As per the terms and conditions of the L-11 licence, the beer produced in the microbrewery shall be released for sale only after the said chemist certifies that such beer is fit for human consumption daily,” said the Excise Department in an official order, adding, “Further, the licensee shall arrange to draw the beer samples once in every month and forward the same to the excise laboratory for analysis.” The department has also asked the licencees to display the report obtained from the excise laboratory on the premises of their microbrewery. “

‘By the time they found her, animals had eaten her arm’: Family of teen killed by DU student at Delhi’s Sanjay Van



GNS News Agency, June 10

The 22-year-old regrets not picking up her younger sister’s calls the day before she was murdered. A few days shy of her 19th birthday, her sister had called several times to discuss which laptop she wanted for her birthday. Tired after coming back from work, the woman had fallen asleep. The next day, on Sunday, she woke up late and saw a slew of missed calls from her mother. Her sister was missing. Nearly 24 hours later, her sister’s body would be found inside Sanjay Van in South Delhi’s Mehrauli. “She was so friendly, so gregarious... she made friends with whom-ever she met. I was always worried she’ll meet the wrong kind of person and get into trouble,” the woman said. In their family’s mind, no one else could have been behind it except one person — an 18-year-old youth, who was later arrested by the Delhi Police.

On June 1, the accused called the victim to Sanjay Van. “The girl left home in the morning. Around noon, she called her mother and said she would return shortly...,” DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan had said on Monday. During questioning, police said the accused claimed that it was the girl who first attacked him with a knife, injuring him — he retaliated and stabbed her thrice. “... After killing her, he tried to burn the body. He fled and went to a hospital for treatment... he had sustained minor injuries during the altercation,” the DCP had said.

The girl’s family said the two allegedly met through a common friend at a school farewell party and had begun talking on social media at the beginning of the year. By March, the girl’s sister said, the accused had begun showing controlling tendencies. “He was manipulative and controlling,” she said. “He would try to turn my sister against our family... he even stopped her from talking to her childhood friends from our neighbourhood... he’d keep a track of all her interactions by logging into her social media,” the woman claimed. In April, concerned for her younger daughter’s well-being, the girl’s mother spoke to the boy’s father, asking him to end their children’s friendship. The boy allegedly responded by meeting the mother and attempting to urge her to let him continue talking to her daughter. The woman claimed, “He met my mother near the gurdwara (close to our house). When my mother confronted him about his coercive behaviour, he grabbed my mother’s hand and tried to snatch my sister’s phone from her... my sister was there when this happened. The three of them had a shout-

ing match... the youth backed off when my mother threatened to go to the police.” “He used to often threaten my sister with suicide, which would scare both her and my mother,” the woman alleged, explaining that her sister would often give in, fearing that he’d follow through on his threats. On Sunday, the girl would leave home after telling her parents that she was going to Qutub Minar with some friends. “We were in touch with her till 11.30 am... my father had called her because he was facing some issues with our home theatre. She gave him instructions over the phone... and told him she’d be back home by 1.30 pm,” said the woman. An hour after the girl was supposed to come home, her mother received a call from the boy’s father asking where the girl was. The woman said, “He told us his son had been beaten up by two of my sister’s friends and had been stabbed. Then we heard someone from behind him say, ‘No, no, [my sister] was stabbed too.’ He then hurriedly told us that the two had met in a park near Qutub Minar and cut the call.” What followed was a blur. The family would rush to Jahangirpuri police station, from where they were redirected to Mehrauli police station. They would then attempt to look for their daughter in the wilderness near Qutub Minar in the heavy rain before making their way to the police station. A missing person’s complaint was filed, and CCTV footage of Sanjay Van’s gates was checked. The boy can be seen entering the forested area at 8.30 am and exiting it in the afternoon. The girl is seen entering the forest at 10 am and never returning. “Police told us to come back the next day,” claimed the woman. “My mother then called the women’s helpline... after some time, the SHO gathered a search team to look for my sister in the forest,” she said, alleging that all this took place around 11 pm.

The search would continue late into the night, concluding around 3-4 am. The family would be informed of the murder a few hours later, at 10 am. “By the time they found her, animals had eaten away part of her arm... she was completely burnt... and her hair...” the woman broke down in tears. “She had such beautiful hair, longer than mine... and she’s gone.” Throughout the search, the woman said she had called the boy multiple times, begging him to give them any information. “He refused. He said he didn’t know anything.” Police sources claimed the two had been in a relationship since the beginning of the year, after they began talking on Instagram. “On Sunday, they sat and talked about their relationship for almost two hours before he killed her... she had apparently told him that she was betrothed to someone else, which was when the situation escalated,” said a senior police officer. Meanwhile, in a cramped gali in North Delhi, a two-storey house remained shuttered to outsiders. “We have nothing to say,” a relative of the boy said coldly, peering from the second-floor balcony. The boy’s neighbours couldn’t believe what he had been accused of. “He was the quietest boy you’d ever see... his eyes were always trained to the ground,” said a grocer. A neighbour, who was also the boy’s senior in school, added, “He was the type who was bullied by the neighbourhood boys... He didn’t have many friends, maybe a couple of them in the locality. He always kept to himself.”

‘It was the centre of attention’: Delhi mourns loss of iconic Lodhi Garden tree

GNS News Agency, June 10

On a mellow June evening in Delhi, the setting sun cast a golden glow over the Shish Gumbad in Lodhi Garden. Children tumbled across the lawns, birds flitted from bush to hedge, and picnic blankets lay scattered, where couples sat in quiet conversation. But among this gentle bustle, something was missing. Or rather, something had changed.

Behind the 15th-century Shish Gumbad, where the dome casts a long shadow at dusk, a majestic, weather-worn tree now lay collapsed — its roots were exposed, its trunk split, branches now motionless on the green. This was no ordinary tree. Though already dead, it remained standing, its bare branches outstretched, a witness to countless sunsets in this park at the heart of Delhi. “I used to sit here under this tree and admire the monument,” said Shweta Sharma, 42, a resident of nearby Jor Bagh and a regular evening walker. “It was a centre of attention — everyone clicked their photo near this large tree. A few days ago... it was gone. But people are still clicking photos, now, standing atop it.” The Shish Gumbad itself, as the plaque outside details, is a product of the Lodi Sultanate, built possibly during Sikandar Lodi’s reign between 1489 and 1517. But for many, it was the now-fallen tree that added warmth to the monument’s presence.

The fall, said locals, happened during one of Delhi’s recent storms. “There was a lot of rain,” said Soam Vir, 40, who sells water and snacks nearby with his brother. “The area around the tree was filled with water. Maybe its roots grew weak. This happened early in the morning — luckily, no one got hurt.” Vir, originally from Badhau in Uttar Pradesh, has worked here for 20 years. He spoke of the tree like one might speak of an old companion. “We’ve been looking at



this tree for eight years now. It had lost all its leaves... can’t even make out what tree it is anymore. My guess is that this was a kikar tree.” “This is not the first tree to fall in Lodhi Garden,” said Vijay Kumar, 72, a retired corporate employee who has walked these paths for over a decade. “These trees must be decades old.” An official at the New Delhi Municipal Council’s horticulture department said, “The tree was around 50 years old and served as a home to many birds. It had been dry and dead for a couple of years, so we had planned to cover it with a creeper to make it look green. Unfortunately, due to the strong winds in Delhi a few days ago, it collapsed.” “The tree is commonly known as the Dhau or Chakwa tree, and its scientific name is Anogeissus acuminata. Once we realised it had dried up, we planted another tree of the same species elsewhere in Lodhi Garden,” said the official. “Given the current weather conditions, we are focusing on regular pruning, and our disaster management teams are on high alert,” added the official. The tree, meanwhile, remained on the lawn for now. Its presence has shifted, but not vanished.

Delhi cop who ‘stole’ Rs 51 lakh from malkhana sent to one-week police custody

GNS News Agency, June 10

Malkhana Khurshid was arrested Saturday morning shortly after he was seen in CCTV footage carrying items found missing from the storehouse. A Delhi court on Tuesday sent a policeman, who has been accused of stealing Rs 51 lakh in cash and two boxes of gold from a malkhana, to 7-day police custody. The theft at the malkhana (storehouse) of the Delhi Police Special Cell’s old office on Lodhi Road took place. Head Constable Khurshid, the accused, was produced before Chief Judicial Magistrate Shriya Aggarwal on Tuesday. Police sought his custody for making recoveries and to unearth the conspiracy behind the alleged act. Officers also said that police wanted to confirm if other persons aided him in committing the alleged offence.

The Head Constable had been deployed with the Special Cell — he was one of the security personnel at the same malkhana where he allegedly committed the theft — till May 24. As per the police, he had been transferred to the North-east Delhi district after he made a request. Khurshid was arrested Saturday morning shortly after he was seen in CCTV footage carrying items found missing from the storehouse. After a duty officer noticed that the door to the storage room was ajar, he decided to check the CCTV footage, which eventually led to the Head Constable’s arrest.



As per the police, Khurshid had allegedly executed a similar heist at the malkhana about 45 days ago, when he was deployed as an assistant to the malkhana-in-charge. The malkhana, which is under high security, has a deployment of Nagaland Police personnel. There also exists a duty officer who checks the details of everyone who enters the complex. Another duty officer checks entrants for the final time before they enter the malkhana. According to police, Khurshid allegedly committed the crime because he wanted to repay his debts after he lost a huge amount of money in online gambling.

Trump promises to hike steel, aluminium tariffs to 50%

Pakistan too sends delegations abroad to present its case



GNS News Agency, June 10

U.S. President Donald Trump has promised to hike nearly all of his tariffs on foreign steel and aluminium to a punishing 50% on Wednesday (June 4, 2025), a move that would hammer businesses from automakers to home builders, and likely push up prices for consumers.Foreign-made steel and aluminium are used in household products like soup cans and paper clips as well as big-ticket items like stainless-steel refrigerators and cars. Economists warn that the latest tariffs will significantly squeeze the wallets of both companies and shoppers alike.

What's the tariff rate on imported steel and aluminium now?

Steel and aluminium imports are currently taxed at 25% — a rate that both metals have faced across the board since March 12, when Trump's order to remove steel exemptions and raise aluminium's levy from his previously-imposed 2018 import taxes went into effect.That's about to double. In a proclamation issued Tuesday, Mr. Trump confirmed that the U.S. will begin taxing nearly all steel and aluminium imports at 50% after the clock strikes midnight Wednesday. Steel and aluminium from the UK, meanwhile, will continue to be levied at 25% due to a recent trade deal.

Why is Trump raising these tariffs?

Mr. Trump says it's all about protecting U.S. industries. He reiterated that argument on Friday, when he first announced the 50 per cent tariff during a visit with steelworkers in Pennsylvania, where he also discussed a "planned partnership" between US Steel and Japan's Nippon Steel.In his speech at U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works–Irvin Plant in suburban Pittsburgh, Trump said that the tariff hike would "further secure the steel industry in the US." Shortly after, he took the same tone when sharing plans to also raise tariffs on imported aluminum.In Tuesday's proclamation, Trump also said that the higher tariffs would ensure that imported steel and aluminum would "not threaten to impair the national security." "In my judgment, the increased tariffs will more effectively counter foreign countries that continue to offload low-priced, excess steel and aluminum in the United States," he said in the proclamation.

How is the industry responding?

While some analysts have credited the tariffs Trump imposed during his first term with strengthening domestic production of steel and aluminum, many others have warned that stark new levies can make it difficult for the industry to adjust.Some organisations representing metal workers also note that tariffs aren't the only solution needed to boost US manufacturing."While tariffs, used strategically, serve as a

valuable tool in balancing the scales, it's essential that we also pursue wider reforms of our global trading system," David McCall, international president of the United Steelworkers union said in a statement, noting that work must be done "in collaboration with trusted allies" like Canada — the top exporter of steel and aluminum to the US — to help "contain the bad actors."Matt Meenan, vice president of external affairs at the Aluminium Association, added that the trade group "appreciates President Trump's continued focus on strengthening the U.S. aluminium industry," but that "tariffs alone will not increase U.S. primary aluminium production.""We also need consistent, predictable trade and tariff policy to plan for current and future investment," Mr. Meenan said.

What kinds of products could be impacted by heightened steel and aluminium tariffs?

A range of businesses that rely on foreign-made steel and aluminium have already begun feeling the impacts of Trump's previously-imposed levies. But the latest anticipated hikes could drive up costs even more.Steel and aluminium are used in a range of products like washing machines, consumer electronics and cars. Much of the auto industry relies on a global supply chain. And even if you aren't in the market to buy a new vehicle, repairs could involve parts that use imports of either metal, driving up overall maintenance and ownership costs.In the grocery aisle, steel and aluminum are ubiquitous in the packaging for many foods, including canned tuna, soup and nuts. Experts warn that hiking import taxes on these materials could led to higher grocery prices overall, further straining consumers wallets.The aluminium and metal tariffs also carry wider implications for construction and transportation as a whole, as many key building parts and materials are made with these metals. Economists further warn of spillover impacts.

Even if a product isn't directly packaged in steel or aluminium, there could be higher costs to build the shelf it's sold on, for example, or truck used to transport it to the store. And all of that could trickle down to the consumer down the road.If foreign competition becomes "priced out" due to these new tariffs, U.S. steel and aluminium producers may also find room to raise their own prices. As a result, even companies that don't buy these foreign metals could end up paying more.Steel prices have already climbed 16 per cent since Trump became president in mid-January, according to the government's Producer Price Index. And as of March 2025, steel cost USD 984 a metric tonne in the US, significantly higher than in Europe (\$690) or China (\$392), per the U.S. Commerce Department.

Will there be any exceptions?The new 50% tariff rate will apply to nearly all steel and aluminium coming into the U.S. from other countries. But the UK, which recently reached a sweeping trade agreement with the US, will see an exception.As part of a trade deal reached between the two nations on May 8, the U.K. said that the U.S. had agreed to eliminate its current 25% duties on British steel and aluminium down to zero. That exemption had yet to go into effect in the weeks following — but in his proclamation issued Tuesday, Mr. Trump acknowledged that it was "necessary and appropriate" to implement the deal, and would "accordingly provide different treatment" for these metals coming from the UK.

India and U.S. can only finalise ‘mini’ trade deal this year: Sources

GNS News Agency, June 10

Any India-US trade deal this year would only be a "mini-deal", according to a senior government official, who added that the two countries are still quite far from a comprehensive deal. This comes at a time when U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick has said that a trade deal between India and the United States will materialise in the "not too distant future".

"The two countries are still quite far from a comprehensive deal," the senior government official told The Hindu. "But the commitment of the two leaders [Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump] is to have something to show by fall this year, so that's the attempt." Fall in the US is typically from September to November."First of all, any deal that will be announced this year will be in limited sectors," the official explained. "Trade negotiations usually span multiple years. And when it comes to deals between huge economies like India and the U.S., matters become even more complicated. So, you'll have a mini-deal."The Hindu has also learnt that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is also internally discussing what to do about the higher tariffs the Trump administration has levied on steel and aluminium. A stakeholders consultation meeting is likely, another official said.Mr. Trump on May 31



announced via his Truth Social account that he would be raising import tariffs on steel and aluminium from the existing 25% to 50%, effective June 4.Even before this hike, the Indian government had already informed the World Trade Organisation that it reserves the right to impose retaliatory tariffs on the US for the 25% rate on steel and aluminium imports that had been imposed since March 2025. "After this most recent hike [to 50%], the government is looking into what it can do, whether this can be taken up in the trade deal negotiations itself, or if it is separate," the second official said.

U.S. accuses two Chinese researchers of smuggling in 'potential agroterrorism weapon'



GNS News Agency, June 10

U.S. federal prosecutors have accused two Chinese nationals of smuggling a dangerous biological pathogen that had the potential to be used as an agricultural terrorism weapon into the United States for research.The U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday (June 3, 2025) identified the pathogen as Fusarium graminearum, a fungus it said was classified in scientific literature as a potential agroterrorism weapon. In a statement it said that the fungus causes "head blight" in some crops and is responsible for billions of dollars in economic losses globally each year.According to an FBI criminal complaint, Zunyong Liu (34), a researcher currently in China, brought the fungus into the United States while visiting his girlfriend, Yunqing Jian (33), in July 2024.He admitted to smuggling in the fungus so he could conduct research on it at a University of Michigan laboratory where his girlfriend worked, according to the complaint.The university did not immediately respond to a request for comment.According to the complaint, an examination of electronic communications between the two

indicated that they discussed shipping biological materials and research being done in the laboratory prior to Mr. Liu's arrival.Ms. Jian and Mr. Liu were accused in the complaint of conspiracy, smuggling goods into the United States, false statements and visa fraud.Cheyvoryea Gibson, special agent in charge of the FBI Detroit Field Office, said the pair's actions "posed an imminent threat to public safety."

Trump ‘open’ to attending Ukraine-Russia peace talks in Turkey, only if Putin and Zelenskyy attend it

GNS News Agency, June 10

US President Donald Trump is "open" to meeting his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts in Turkey, the White House said, after the two sides failed on Monday (June 2, 2025) to make headway towards an elusive ceasefire.Delegations from both sides did, however, agree on another large-scale prisoner exchange in their meeting in Istanbul, which in mid-May also hosted their first round of face-to-face talks.Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan proposed that Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Mr. Trump come together for a third round later this month in either Istanbul or Ankara.Mr. Putin has so far refused such a meeting. But Zelenskyy has said he is willing, underlining that key issues can only be resolved at leaders-level.Mr. Trump, who wants a swift end to the three-year war, is "open" to a three-way summit "if it comes to that, but he wants both of these leaders and both sides to come to the table together", White



GNS News Agency, June 10

In what appears to be a move to copy India's outreach to countries after the four-day conflict and May 10 ceasefire after Operation Sindoor, Pakistan on Monday (June 2, 2025) sent parliamentary delegations to various capitals to discuss its version of events, call for an international "role" in the region, and plead its case for the restoration of the Indus Waters Treaty, suspended by India after the Pahalgam terror attack. Unlike the seven Indian delegations, comprising 59 MPs and former diplomats that are visiting a total of 33 countries, the two Pakistani delegations will visit only five capitals, with a nine-member delegation led by former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto going to New York, Washington DC, London, and Brussels, where the European Union headquarters is located. Another delegation led by Special Assistant to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Syed Tariq Fatemi travelled to Moscow on Monday, indicating a special emphasis by Pakistan on engaging Russia.

Significantly, both the Indian delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, and the Pakistani delegation led by Mr. Bhutto will be in Washington over the next few days, and are expected to meet members of the U.S. Congress,

India-Australia defence ties beyond American shadows

GNS News Agency, June 10

Donald Trump's return to the White House has sent shockwaves through the global security landscape. With the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) being put on a burden-sharing timeline and Mr. Trump's cold transactional approach to security commitments worldwide, the Indo-Pacific too faces a pivotal moment. Yet, this represents a strategic opportunity for middle powers such as India and Australia to deepen their defence relationship.

Australia's strategic geography — bridging the Indian and Pacific Oceans with territories and military presence near Southeast Asia — complements India's maritime ambitions. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is experienced in coalition operations and can effectively enable Indian military capabilities, as seen in the recently implemented air-to-air refuelling arrangement. Australia's established relationships with Pacific Island nations align with India's growing interests. Most importantly, both nations share concerns about China's assertiveness and a common vision for sovereign resilience and regional stability.While Japan, South Korea, and Europe are all valuable partners for India, the New Delhi-Canberra defence relationship has quietly built bureaucratic muscles, which are skeletal in other relationships. Over the past decade, successive Australian Prime Ministers and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi have elevated this partnership, with Canberra viewing New Delhi as a "top-tier security partner". This foundation now provides the perfect launch pad to navigate a world where American security guarantees appear increasingly conditional.

The bureaucratic muscles of the New Delhi-Canberra relationship include the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) 2020 and the 2+2 ministerial dialogue launched in 2021 for high-level strategic coordination. Practical co-operation has advanced through arrangements such as the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), which streamlines logistical support during joint exercises and humanitarian missions, and the November 2024 Air-to-Air refuelling arrangement allowing the Royal Australian Air Force to extend the operational reach of Indian aircraft. Further, key military exercises —AUSTRAHIND (Army), AUSINDEX (Navy), and participation in multilateral exercises such as Pitch Black and Malabar, demonstrate a decade of careful relationship-building.Neither New Delhi nor Canberra can be expected to fill the gap left by the United States alone. India remains tied to its continental predicament, with an active border dispute with China and both conventional and sub-conventional challenges from Pakistan. Similarly, Australia is undergoing substantive churn in the strategic imagination of its regional role, which involves a complete overhaul of its armed forces, acquisitions of new technologies under the AUKUS (Australia, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.), and increased outreach to smaller island states in its maritime geography.Given all this, how can both sides ensure that they rise up to face challenges in the regional security architecture? Five aspects need immediate attention:

First, it is time to rebalance defence engagement beyond comfortable silos. While Navy-to-Navy cooperation has flourished, there is a need to break down service barriers. This could be achieved through joint military exercises that reflect real world operations, and moving towards a dedi-

which will be in session this week. While Indian MPs will return to New Delhi this week, the Pakistani delegation that includes former Ministers Sherry Rehman, Hina Rabbani Khar and Khurram Dastgir Khan, is travelling from June 2-18 to the Western countries. Two former Foreign Secretaries will accompany them.Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the delegations had been directed by Prime Minister Sharif to "present Pakistan's perspective on recent Indian aggression and Pakistan's measured and responsible conduct", referring to India's strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan on May 7 and the military escalation that followed."The delegations will underscore the imperative for the international community to play its due role in promoting a lasting peace in South Asia", said an MFA statement issued in Islamabad. "The need for immediate resumption of the normal functioning of the Indus Waters Treaty will also be a key theme of the delegations' outreach," it added.

On April 23, a day after the Pahalgam attack in which 26 men, mostly Indian tourists, were shot dead by terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba front TRF group, India announced it was holding the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance "until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism", amongst a number of other diplomatic measures. At an international conference in Tajikistan, Mr. Sharif accused India of holding "millions of lives...hostage to narrow political gains".Speaking in Colombia at a press briefing where Indian MPs were asked about the decision, Mr. Tharoor said: "The Indus Waters Treaty was offered by India to Pakistan in the early 1960s in a spirit of goodwill and harmony...But the time for acting on the basis of goodwill unilaterally is frankly no longer with us," a stance he is expected to stress during the visit to Washington by the Indian delegation that begins on Tuesday.



cated forum for joint staff talks. Further, both sides should work towards a major joint, combined exercise within the next decade — one that truly tests their collective capabilities.Second, India's defence footprints in Canberra need to reflect the strategic importance of this relationship. It should consider upgrading its Defence Adviser (DA) position in Canberra to a one-star rank. Since this position has always been held by a Navy official, the addition of dedicated Army and Air Force personnel as assistants could help balance the service participation. Further, it needs to have dedicated people for its engagement with the Pacific Islands — work that is currently handled by the very efficient DA in Canberra.

Third, India needs to elevate ground-up ideas from working-level personnel. Too often, strategic dialogues become exercises in diplomatic niceties rather than forums for hard truths. Including more uniformed professionals with operational insights and creating spaces for classified discussions can generate fresh thinking that both nations need. Simple initiatives such as fellowships for staff college graduates or regular war-gaming exchanges would build the mutual understanding that underpins genuine cooperation.Fourth, India should explore cooperation with Australia in the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) of naval vessels. New Delhi has successfully displayed its capabilities in this sector with active contracts with the U.S. and British navies. Further, exploring joint manufacturing and provision of patrol boats for small island security forces in the Indian Ocean Region and in the Pacific would again showcase the joint intentions and capabilities of the two sides. These aspects of cooperation in MRO and patrol boats may seem small, but their second and third-order impacts on exposure to each other's technologies and platforms can be immense.Finally, defence industry collaboration demands a reset. Given that most of the bigger Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM)s in Australia are field offices of European, East Asian, or American firms, Indian OEMs have preferred to deal directly with their main offices in these countries. Cooperation in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has been a missed opportunity. Defence and aerospace startups in both countries are at the forefront of cutting-edge technologies. Their outputs in components and dual-use technologies make them ideal to work with each other. Just like New Delhi, Canberra is also implementing an indigenisation programme in the defence sector. Therefore, there is potential to align the MSME sectors in both countries. To enable this, they could explore something similar to the U.S.-India INDUS X model.



all severely wounded soldiers and captured fighters under the age of 25.Russia's lead negotiator Vladimir Medinsky said it would involve "at least 1,000" on each side.The two sides also agreed to hand over the bodies of 6,000 soldiers, Ukraine said after the talks."

Does the civil services examination need reform? | Explained



The foundations of the present format of the civil services examination can be traced to the Macaulay Report of 1854 which introduced selection by merit and designed an examination on the principle of ‘transferability of academic talent to administration’. After Independence, the Kothari Committee (1975) recommended a three-tier examination comprising a preliminary exam, a descriptive main examination and an interview.

The preliminary exam comprised of an optional subject and a common general studies paper with a weightage of 2:1 respectively. After the preliminary exam, only the names of the shortlisted aspirants for the main examination were released by the UPSC. The question paper, the marks scored by the aspirants, and the minimum qualifying mark were kept classified and not made public. For many years this ‘black box’ nature of the preliminary exams ensured its smooth conduct as there was no ‘locus standi’ for an aspirant to question the result. In 2005, with the passing of the Right to Information Act, aspirants flooded the UPSC with queries regarding the rationale of the exams and the UPSC had to disclose its methods which were raised for judicial scrutiny. To resolve this issue, the government appointed the S. K. Khanna Committee in 2010. In 2011, based on its recommendations, the optional paper was replaced with a common paper and the preliminary examination was reconstituted to comprise two papers — Paper-I, covering all conventional areas in General Studies, and Paper-II comprising questions on quantitative aptitude, reasoning and English comprehension. However, this format favoured students from urban centres with a good foundation in English.

Bacteria found at Rajgir hot spring shows antibacterial activity



GNS News Agency, June 10

To live a cozy life on the earth, a temperature of around 25° to 30° C is ideal. But during a heat wave, where temperatures can cross 40° C, the consequences can be deadly. Humans and most complex multicellular organisms are not built to tolerate such heat. Bacteria called thermophiles (meaning “heat lovers”) have been known to tolerate 45° to 70° C of heat. Such a high temperature can give human skin third-degree burns.

While such an environment may seem hellish to people, thermophilic bacteria see an opportunity. Places on the earth with temperatures like this — including hot springs, deep-sea thermal vents, and compost piles — offer a mineral-rich neighbourhood with relatively few competing life forms. To gain an edge, some thermophilic bacteria produce potent antibiotics as weapons to neutralise their competitors. This is exactly why scientists have deemed hot springs around the world to be unexplored mines of antibiotic-producing bacteria. For example, thermophiles isolated from hot springs in the Asir and Jizan regions of Saudi Arabia have been found to produce a variety of potent antibiotics effective against gram-positive pathogenic bacteria. The hot springs of India are not very well studied, however. But driven by their putative value, researchers at the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) in Tamil Nadu examined the Rajgir hot spring lake in Nalanda district of Bihar. Their findings were published last month in the Indian Journal of Microbiology.

“People take holy baths in these hot spring lakes, thinking diseases can be relieved,” K.V. Bhaskarrao, professor at VIT and corresponding author of the study paper, said. “As a microbiologist, I know that along with the elements that are present in the water, some of the microorganisms can also be responsible for this so-called curative activity.” Studying which microbes are present in these hot spring lakes is challenging because researchers have to collect water and soil samples from a hot environment. At Rajgir, the temperature of the water can go up to 45° C, and the soil nearby can range between 43° and 45° C. After collecting the samples, the researchers identified the microorganisms present in them, for which they used 16S rRNA metagenomics. This technique relies on identifying the 16S

As only the combined score of Paper- I and Paper-II were taken, they could qualify at the prelims even though they scored relatively less in Paper-I. This led to more protests and consequently the government made Paper-II a qualifying paper and the marks were not added to determine merit. The preliminary exam continues in the same format.

In 2012, the Government appointed the Arun Nigverkar Committee to suggest a new model. The Committee made many recommendations with the aim of making the exams a less cumbersome process. The accepted changes were incorporated from 2013. The new scheme comprised re-structured papers in General Studies covering diverse areas like Indian Polity, Governance, Economy, Science and Technology etc. The scheme continues to date. However, there are still distortions that must be addressed. First, the preliminary examination, which was designed to select the most deserving, has now become a ‘jealous gatekeeper’ with the sole objective of reducing over five lakh aspirants to around 10,000. Paper-II, which is a qualifying paper, favours students with a background in Sciences and Engineering and is a challenge for Humanities students. Paper-I, which comprises questions that test knowledge in areas that are needed for a career in the administrative services has become increasingly unpredictable. Due to this an aspirant who appears for the exam with a genuine desire to serve the country and is devoting his prime time to prepare for the same, incurs a huge opportunity cost. The main examination also needs a few changes. The General studies papers have 20 short answer questions and feedback from aspirants indicates that marks are being awarded for factual points than analyses. There are no ‘long form questions’ which test the much required analytical skills of the future civil servant. Also, the Annual reports of the UPSC indicate that majority of the aspirants select optionals that are more scoring than their own domain. This aberration needs to be corrected, and the optional may be replaced by common papers which are appropriate for a career in administration like Governance and Policy. Additionally, as the social background of the selected aspirants is reflective of the much needed inclusivity for achieving the goal of a representative bureaucracy, the upper age limit and the limit on number of attempts to crack the exam may be retained till 2030 and then appropriate changes be made.

rRNA gene, which is found in all microbes but has slight variations across species, thus helping scientists to identify bacteria accurately.

Researchers found many species of bacteria but one group that particularly caught their attention was the Actinobacteria, which made up 40-43% of the microbial diversity at the lake. Bacteria belonging to this group are known producers of antimicrobial compounds. Well-known drugs like streptomycin and tetracycline were first discovered as the products of Actinobacteria. “Hot springs studied till now showed very little diversity of Actinobacteria: — sometimes it is like 20% — but in our study I saw them to be abundant at Rajgir,” Aparana Kumari, a PhD scholar and first author of the study, said.

Discovering antibiotic-producing bacteria has become more pressing in the era of antimicrobial resistance — a silent epidemic fuelled by the unwarranted use of antibiotics. Bacteria have responded by developing ways to resist the drugs, reducing the latter’s potency. One outcome is the rising cost of healthcare, since multiple antibiotics may be required to treat a single infection. The World Health Organisation has projected antimicrobial resistance will add up to \$1 trillion in healthcare costs worldwide by 2050. Additionally, on average, pharmaceutical industries have been known to require a decade to bring novel antibiotics to the market whereas bacteria develop resistance in much less time. Thus, the discovery of any bacterium that can produce a potent antibiotic against pathogens is considered good news. Not all thermophiles produce antibiotics, however, and to find out which ones do, the VIT researchers conducted an antibacterial efficiency experiment. They cultured the prospective bacteria with different pathogenic strains: Escherichia coli, Salmonella typhimurium, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Staphylococcus aureus. If the test bacteria could inhibit the growth of the pathogenic bacteria on a culture plate, it was confirmation that an antimicrobial compound was being produced. In this way, the team was able to identify seven strains of Actinobacteria that produced potent antimicrobials against several pathogens. Going a step further, researchers aimed to isolate the specific antibacterial compounds produced by these bacteria. In another paper published in Chemical Papers, an antibacterial compound was successfully extracted from a bacterium identified as Actinomycetales bacterium spp., obtained from the Rajgir hot spring. (While the Chemical Papers study was published before the Indian Journal Microbiology one, the work it describes came after.) This bacterium produced a range of compounds. To isolate the one with antibacterial activity, the researchers used gas chromatography mass spectrometry, a sophisticated technique to separate compounds based on their chemical properties. The compound was found to be diethyl phthalate and it inhibited the growth of Listeria monocytogenes, a pathogenic bacterium that causes listeriosis, a fatal foodborne infection.

thanks to deadline extensions. However, this was the first time that multiple arms of the government congregated to deliberate on whether FGDs were required in the first place. Their verdict draws on three reports by the CSIR-NEERI, the National Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. The lead scientists of these three institutions — each “supported” by different arms of the government — were at the meeting on April 23, along with representatives from the Office of the PSA, the Union Power Ministry, and the NITI Aayog. They were all largely unanimous that FGD “was not necessary.”

The guiding principles informing the committee’s recommendation are that: SO2 levels in ambient air across the country are around 10-20 micrograms/cubic metre, well below India’s air quality norms of 80; Indian coal is low in sulphur; SO2 levels in cities near plants with operational FGD units do not differ significantly from those without these units, and all of these were anyway well below permissible levels. The committee opined that concerns about sulphates

Putting her stamp on governance



Rekha Gupta, a first-time MLA, did not figure as a probable Chief Minister when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the Delhi Assembly elections after 26 years this February. But now, after more than 100 days in the hot seat, Ms. Gupta is gradually putting her stamp on governance in the capital city, and carving out a space for herself in a highly male-dominated party. Ms. Gupta, who started her political career as a member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad at the University of Delhi in 1992, holds 10 portfolios, including Revenue and Finance. In comparison, former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) held only the Water portfolio for about two and a half years, during his tenure from 2015 to 2024.

“From the first day, she has been going on field visits to understand the ground realities. She also conducted separate review meetings of all departments,” an aide at the Chief’s Minister’s Office (CMO) said, adding that Ms. Gupta has also been attending public functions regularly. Ms. Gupta also goes on field visits of departments that are governed by other ministers, possibly to establish that she is in charge. When she started off, she would sometimes hold “12-14 meetings and events” a day, an official said. But the frequency of these has come down, the official added. Ms. Gupta continues to live in her own house in Shalimar Bagh instead of moving to a government bungalow in central Delhi. She holds public meetings (jan sunwayi) during several mornings at home, and people with grievances line up

outside. Compared to the hostile relationship between the Central government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Delhi government, led by the AAP, in the past, there is now a cordial relationship between the two. In March, Chief Minister Gupta announced an annual budget of ₹1 lakh crore, the highest in Delhi’s history, as the Central government promised more financial aid. An official said that apart from increasing funds, the Centre has also been helping the Delhi government plan schemes. They have held meetings on cleaning the Yamuna river, and the Ministry of Home Affairs has brought everyone to the table to find a solution. Ms. Gupta has slowly become a stricter administrator, officials observed. “Earlier this month, there was severe waterlogging in Delhi. During a meeting with the department heads of different agencies, she pulled up senior officials,” an official recalled. The official said that at the beginning of her tenure, Ms. Gupta often looked “vulnerable” during meetings. “But she would still try and pick up the broad contours of various issues and prioritise tasks. She is clear-headed. But she knows that she has little time to prove herself as all the other ministers are also her competitors in a way.”

An official said that while Mr. Kejriwal functioned mostly out of his camp office at Civil Lines, Mr. Gupta comes to the Secretariat almost every day except on Sundays. The official also said that the functioning of the CMO has changed under Ms. Gupta. Files from ministers on policy decisions come to the CMO, and a brief is made and put up to the Chief Minister and also to the concerned Central government departments for technical assistance. “This is done by the deputy secretaries and joint secretaries at the CMO. Such coordination was not there under the AAP,” the official said. Ms. Gupta is also conducting verification drives to check the beneficiaries of various schemes. The Chief Minister also faces several challenges. Solving legacy problems such as urban infrastructural issues, air pollution, or a polluted Yamuna river is easier said than done. During her first 100 days, there have also been various protests. There has been growing outrage over the arbitrary fee hikes at private schools. Slum dwellers have said that they have not been provided in-situ rehabilitation, as promised. People have also complained bitterly about power cuts and the increase in electricity charges. Being Chief Minister when there are other prominent faces in the party is also not easy. At times, there have been disagreements over who takes credit for the work done by different departments, sources said. However, with the BJP coming back to power in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi last month, the ‘double engine’ government has given Ms. Gupta a chance to work more seamlessly for the people of Delhi.

A ban, a split verdict, and a health concern

Rapeseed-mustard oil (hereafter ‘mustard oil’) is the third-largest edible oil consumed in India. Two executive and judicial decisions on mustard oil — one from 2021 and another from 2024 — have major public health implications, but have hardly received the public attention and scrutiny they deserve. In the first decision, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) prohibited the manufacturing and sale of blended mustard oil in India, effective from June 8, 2021. As per Indian food safety laws, selling an edible oil mixed with another edible oil is permitted, provided the proportion of an oil blended with another oil is within 20%. Reports suggest that FSSAI’s ban decision was aimed at preventing the adulteration of mustard oil and boosting domestic mustard crop output. In the second, the Supreme Court ruled on July 23, 2024, against approval granted by the Central government for the environmental release of India’s indigenously developed genetically modified (GM) mustard named Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11). A major ground on which one of the two judges pronounced a judgment against DMH-11 was the insufficient assessment of the impact on human health of DMH-11. A common policy goal behind these two decisions was to protect the health of Indian mustard oil consumers. However, a closer look at the facts shows that this goal cannot be fully achieved through these two decisions. Erucic acid The mustard oil extracted from the Indian mustard crop contains high levels of a unique fatty acid called erucic acid (40% to 54% of total fatty acid). This is significantly higher than the internationally accepted level of <5%. Mustard oil containing high erucic acid is considered undesirable for human consumption, particularly in advanced countries such as the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Lab experiments demonstrated that animals fed with high erucic acid-containing mustard oil suffered from heart diseases, retarded growth, premature tissue death, and adverse changes to the liver, kidney, skeletal muscle, and adrenal glands. Though there is no conclusive evidence of a similar health impacts on humans, the stigma of the high erucic acid in mustard oil prevails in advanced economies. In those countries, the erucic acid content of mustard oil is strictly controlled by using canola oil for culinary purposes. Canola crop (oil), developed by Canada, contains less than 2% erucic acid content.

Edible oil blending Due to unfavourable climatic conditions, India has not succeeded in developing a high-yielding canola-quality mustard crop. Hence, the easiest way to reduce the high erucic acid content in mustard oil is to blend it with other edible oils. Several scientific studies have proved the lower presence of erucic acid in blended mustard oil. Also, since blended mustard oil is rich in unsaturated fatty acid, consuming it lowers LDL cholesterol and increases HDL cholesterol. One primary concern with edible oil blending is adulteration with artificial flavours and poisonous substances. A nationwide survey by FSSAI in August 2020 found that 24.21% of the 4,461 edible oil samples collected



did not meet the quality parameters criteria. A maximum number of adulteration and contamination was found in mustard oil.

Instead of a ban, the sale of blended mustard oil can be allowed but in packaged/branded form with an explicit declaration regarding the oils that have been blended. The share of branded edible oil consumed in India is less than 30%. Strict implementation of the food safety and standards laws and strengthening of food safety infrastructure are also essential in preventing adulteration. Since health is a State subject, the food safety administration at the State level has to play a vital role in this regard. As per industry sources, the proportion of other oils blended with mustard oil in India ranges from 5% to 50%. Though this does not conform with the law, which allows blending up to 20%, it has the unintended positive consequence of reducing the erucic acid content. Hence, the sale of blended mustard oil should not be banned entirely. Alternatively, the erucic acid content in Indian mustard oil can be reduced by cultivating the indigenous GM mustard crop DMH-11, which, apart from higher yield, has a lower erucic acid content (30-35%) compared to the traditional Indian mustard crops (40-54%). As a result, the oil extracted from DMH-11 requires a lower quantity of other edible oils for blending to reduce erucic acid content. This, in turn, helps to reduce the imports of other edible oils. India is the world’s largest importer of edible oils. Its edible oil import bill is pegged at \$20.56 billion by NITI Aayog. Therefore, the erucic acid-reducing property of DMH-11 and the associated health and economic benefits (in terms of reduced edible oil imports) need to be factored in by all the stakeholders while deciding on the approval of the GM mustard crop. The development of the indigenous DMH-11 with a lower erucic acid content is by no means a notable achievement by Indian genetic scientists. After years of research, Canada and Europe have successfully introduced low-erucic acid traits into their rapeseed cultivars. Hence, plant breeding programmes aimed at reducing the erucic acid content in the mustard crop to an internationally accepted level of <5% should be given top priority in India’s indigenous GM mustard crop development programmes.

Sulphur-cleaning device in coal plants not necessary: Central scientific committee

A high-powered committee of experts, chaired by Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) Ajay Sood, has recommended that India do away with a decade-long policy of mandating equipment, called Flu Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) units, in all coal-fired thermal power plants (TPPs), according to documents perused by The Hindu. These FGD units are required to be retro-fitted in TPPs to cut harmful sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions. While 92% of India’s 600 TPPs have not yet installed FGD units, the recommendation would exempt about 80% of them from needing to install such equipment.

The limited number of vendors capable of installing such equipment in India, the high installation costs, the potential rise in electricity bills, and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been some of the reasons historically cited by the Power Ministry, the overseer of India’s TPPs, for plants’ inability to adhere to previous deadlines. In theory, the costs of non-compliance could run to crores of rupees in fines, though these have not materialised

— a potential by-product when SO2 emissions reach certain atmospheric levels, thus forming particulate matter (PM) — are unfounded. They cited an analysis of 5,792 PM samples across the country, which found “low elemental sulphur” content (max 8 micrograms/m3 after outlier removal) which was deemed “insignificant — for considering PM removal as a benefit of FGD.” FGDs may worsen carbon emissions. One argument mentioned in the report was that using FGDs might result in additional carbon dioxide emissions and accentuate global warming. “Installing FGDs in all TPPs by 2030 will increase the Auxiliary Power Consumption (APC) of the TPPs, thereby adding approximately 69 million tons of CO2 emissions to the atmosphere (2025-30) while reducing SO2 emissions by —17 million tons. Adding more long-lived CO2 emissions while removing short-lived SO2 emissions by installing FGDs indiscriminately in all TPPs in India despite the low Sulphur content of Indian coal will enhance global warming.” On the other hand, given that burning coal is India’s primary source of electric-

ity, India’s annual SO2 emissions has risen from 4,000 kilotonnes in 2010 to 6,000 kilotonnes in 2022. By comparison, Indonesia, a source of imported coal to India has averaged about 2,000 kt in the same period, according to data from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), a Helsinki-based think tank. This is when India’s emission standards, at 100 micrograms/m3 (thus requiring FGD), is lower than Indonesia’s 800. Environment Ministry ‘studying’ order

Those who attended the meeting included the Secretary, Minister of Power and three other senior officials; Secretary, Environment and Forests and two other officials; four officials of the Office of the PSA; representatives of the NITI Aayog, Central Electricity Authority (the power regulator), Central Pollution Control Board, and academicians. A detailed questionnaire to the Power Ministry was unanswered until press time. Tanmay Kumar, Secretary, Environment Ministry, told The Hindu that his Ministry was “studying” the order.

‘To understand all perspectives, do what’s the best for the economy’: RBI Governor-designate Sanjay Malhotra



Sanjay Malhotra RBI, inflation, business news, indian expressAs Sanjay Malhotra steps into his role as the RBI Governor, the growth-inflation balancing act will rank among his top priorities amid concerns in some quarters of the Indian economy having slipped into a cyclical slowdown phase.

A day before he is supposed to take official charge at the helm of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, the Governor-designate Sanjay Malhotra said all perspectives have to be taken into account and that he'd strive to do what is "best for the economy". "One has to understand the turf, all perspectives and do what's best for the economy," Malhotra told reporters outside the Ministry of Finance at North Block in Delhi.

Malhotra will take charge as 26th RBI Governor on Wednesday. The outgoing RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das will demit office this evening. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Monday gave its nod for the selection of the 56-year-old Malhotra as the 26th RBI Governor with effect from December 11 for a period of three years.

A B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1989, Malhotra later pursued his Master's in

IT Ministry to prepare roadmap for power supply to AI data centres



The IT ministry is in discussions with the ministries of power, and new and renewable energy, and other related agencies to prepare a roadmap to ensure that the growing numbers of data centres in India – a function of the global artificial intelligence (AI) boom – are offered enough power supply, a top government official said Monday. "Today, the biggest question is the availability of power... As we adopt AI more and more, (the question is) do we have enough power supply to power that – otherwise, where do you make sure that this power supply comes up in a way that we are able to address this issue," said IT Secretary S Krishnan.

His comments are significant given the massive energy requirement of data centres that big technology companies are building around the world, owing to the spectacular popularity of AI solutions, which rely on such facilities for computing power. As per the International Energy Agency, data centre electricity usage could double by 2026, making the challenge for companies to become net zero or carbon negative by 2030 increasingly unattainable. This has forced companies like Google and Microsoft – who have big stakes in the AI game – signing deals with nuclear power plants to purchase energy for their data centres.

In India, the government is looking to subsidise setting up of data centres to capitalise on the AI boom, and make access to computing capacity easier for smaller entities like start-ups and research institutions. As per a September report by S&P Global, India currently has a leased data centre capacity of 1-3 GW, which is the highest compared to other emerging markets like Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.A majority of the capacity is located in Mumbai (55 per cent), followed by approximately 12 per cent each in Chennai and Delhi-NCR. Savills, a real estate consultancy, expects additional supply of over

Adani Group to invest Rs 30,000 crore in Kerala over five years

The Adani Group plans to invest Rs 30,000 crore in Kerala over the next five years, with a particular focus on the state's port and airport infrastructure, a top official said Friday.The investments would include Rs 5,500 crore to expand operations of the Thiruvananthapuram airport, and an additional Rs 20,000 crore investment in the Vizhinjam port, aimed at turning the facility into one of the largest transshipment ports in the world, said Karan Adani, managing director, Adani Ports and SEZ, during his address at the Invest Kerala Global Summit.The ports-to-energy conglomerate will also invest in a logistics and e-commerce hub in the city of Kochi, and the group's cement-handling capacity in the city Kochi will also be scaled up, Adani said.The investments in Thiruvananthapuram airport will expand the facilities to handle 12 million passengers from the present 4.5 million passengers annually, he said."Under the leadership of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and former Chief Minister the late Oommen Chandy, the Vizhinjam port works have progressed steadily. Vizhinjam made history by docking the largest container ship with 24,000 containers recently," he said.The Kerala government is organising the two-day summit in a bid to attract domestic and internal investors in the state, with a particular focus on tourism, food processing, health innovations, fintech, aerospace, defence, and sustainable technologies.With the summit, the state is also making an attempt at shunning its old image of being a destination that may not have been the friendliest to big businesses. Organised by the Kerala government's industries department, the event is scheduled to have 28 sessions that will be attended by representatives from six countries. More than 3,000 people are attending the conference."The changes we have brought about now are

Public Policy from Princeton University. He's currently Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and before this was the Secretary, Department of Financial Services.

As Malhotra steps into his role as the RBI Governor, the growth-inflation balancing act will rank among his top priorities amid concerns in some quarters of the Indian economy having slipped into a cyclical slowdown phase. A near two-year low 5.4 per cent GDP growth rate in July-September has already resulted in the RBI slashing its growth forecast by 60 basis points to 6.6 per cent for FY25. It has, however, maintained a neutral stance for monetary policy amid a continuing prolonged battle to bring down inflation within the range of the mandated medium-term target of 4 +/- 2 per cent.

Malhotra is taking charge at a time when indications of a slowdown in the economy are coming in from multiple quarters — a marked slide in credit growth, flagging consumption demand, especially in urban areas, and continuing softness in states' and central governments' capital expenditure.A prolonged pause in monetary policy has already widened the gulf between the government and the RBI. The outgoing RBI governor Das has tried to resolve some of these concerns raised by the government — whether it involved reducing the high FY25 GDP growth forecast of 7.2 per cent to 6.6 per cent or attempting to address credit slowdown with a 50 basis points cut in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) that is aimed at boosting liquidity in the financial system.However, the perceived delay in cutting the key policy rate has been a matter of difference between the RBI and the government as a high interest rate regime along with other macroprudential measures taken by the RBI such as higher risk weights on unsecured personal loans, a discussion paper on higher provisioning for project loans, and steps for digital lending seem to have had a collective impact in dampening growth.

2,000 MW capacity between 2024 and 2028.

Power consumption and related infrastructure costs are a key part of a data centres' capital and operational expenditure. According to CareEdge Ratings, 40 per cent of capex of such facilities goes towards electrical systems and 65 per cent of operating cost is on account of electricity consumption. It takes between Rs 60-70 crore to set up one MW of data centre capacity in India.Naturally, the country is looking at the energy mix it can offer to data centres in India, where data centres are looking primarily at renewable energy to run operations. For instance, the Adani group will supply roughly 61 MW of electricity from its upcoming solar-wind hybrid project in Gujarat's Khavda to Google's cloud operations in India.

As per a report released in September by Tata Power Company, the company is planning two pumped storage plants (PSPs) near Pune with a cumulative capacity of around 3,000 MW, for which the Central Transmission Utility of India (CTUIL) has received applications for drawal of 1,400 MW from data centre loads in Mumbai beginning January 2027."The applications are under process and connectivity is being proposed at South Kalamb S/s to address the requirement of drawal of such huge quantum of power," the transmission planning authority said in a September report.

In October, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) discussed the anticipated surge in power demand from data centres during a National Committee on Transmission (NCT) meeting, where CEA chairperson Ghanshyam Prasad directed the Power Data Management and Load Forecasting Division to study the load pattern of data centres.The direction followed an assessment of a major grid event in north India this June, which caused a load reduction of approximately 16.5 GW. An executive from Grid-India told the NCT that existing load modelling approaches need to be reviewed in light of changing load behaviour."Further, as a large quantum of electrolyzer and data centre load is also envisaged to be connected at ISTS (Inter-State Transmission System) level in near future, it is important that adequate reactive power compensation is planned nearby such ISTS load feeding stations," the executive said. Reactive power compensation near load centres helps prevent tripping and load shedding by stabilizing voltage levels and reducing strain on the grid.Data centre developers in India are aiming to increase energy efficiency, which is indicated by a low Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) ratio. In India, the PUE averages around 1.9 while for green data centres, the PUE is lower at 1.3.



The investments would include Rs 5,500 crore to expand operations of the Thiruvananthapuram airport, and an additional Rs 20,000 crore investment in the Vizhinjam port,

not incremental but substantial... We have ensured that no investor coming to Kerala will have to face the cobweb of procedural delays and meet the barriers of red tape. We have made major strides in simplifying procedures as regards investments," said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.Soumyarendra Barik is Special Correspondent with The Indian Express and reports on the intersection of technology, policy and society. With over five years of newsroom experience, he has reported on issues of gig workers' rights, privacy, India's prevalent digital divide and a range of other policy interventions that impact big tech companies. He once also tailed a food delivery worker for over 12 hours to quantify the amount of money they make, and the pain they go through while doing so. In his free time, he likes to nerd about watches, Formula 1 and football. .

Liver expert shares pic of ‘weekends only’ alcohol drinking man’s liver; find out how having it even once a week can affect you



Sometimes, what seems like a harmless indulgence can have a profound impact. Choices we make in the name of relaxation or celebration may leave lasting impressions on our health, often going unnoticed until it's too late. The silent yet significant role of alcohol drinking is now sparking renewed attention, urging us to rethink its influence on our well-being.

Dr Cyriac Abby Philips, popularly known as "The Liver Doc," recently went viral for a post comparing the livers of two individuals—a regular weekend drinker and his wife, a healthy liver donor. The image, showing the stark difference between the drinker's spotted, dark liver and the donor's pink, healthy liver, sent shockwaves across the internet, reigniting discussions about the dangers of alcohol consumption.

Dr Philips' post explained that even seemingly moderate alcohol consumption can severely damage the liver

Kavita Kaushik on playing Chandramukhi Chautala in ‘FIR’: ‘She’s like my alter ego’

She may have taken a backseat from television, but Kavita Kaushik's name remains synonymous with FIR, one of the most popular shows in Indian television history. Ask her if she misses playing her character on the show — Chandramukhi Chautala — and pat comes the reply: "Absolutely...she was unapologetically real, just like me."

The actor spoke to indianexpress.com on the sidelines of the Crime Literature Festival in Dehradun, talking more about her journey and why she no longer enjoys television. During the interaction, she also opened up about her fitness routine, becoming a yogini, and becoming an entrepreneur. Read the edited excerpts below.

Q: Did you recently announce your decision to quit TV?

Kavita Kaushik: No, I haven't said anything like that. I said that I don't enjoy the regressive content on television. I've reached a stage where I feel responsible for the kind of work I do. Shows like Naagin, Chudail, or saas-bahu dramas don't appeal to me. Television hasn't evolved much in the past 10-15 years, and I don't find the current offerings exciting. I was fortunate to do FIR for 10 years. It gave me creative satisfaction. Unless it's something challenging or a guest appearance, I wouldn't commit to the long, exhausting hours that TV demands.

Q: You're best remembered for playing Chandramukhi Chautala. Do you miss being her? If yes, what was the best thing about it?

Kavita Kaushik: Absolutely! Chandramukhi Chautala is like my alter ego. What I miss most is her limitless energy and her freedom to do anything. At times, I felt my real personality was overshadowed by hers. The love and admiration I've received make it all worth it. Even today, young kids are introduced to FIR by their parents, which speaks volumes about the character's impact.

Q: What made Chandramukhi Chautala strike a chord with the audience?

Kavita Kaushik: Her authenticity. She was unapologetically real, just like me. I speak my mind, which sometimes works in my favour and sometimes doesn't. Chandramukhi's rawness and her commanding personality resonated deeply with the audience.

Q: Did you ever feel that Chandramukhi's portrayal belittled cops?

Kavita Kaushik: Not at all. We never showed cops in a negative light. In fact, I've always respected the uniform. For 10 years, I refused offers worth lakhs to perform or

Skipping breakfast vs dinner: Fasting method that works best for your health is...

Fasting has become a popular practice for those looking to manage their weight or boost their health. Among various fasting schedules, two common approaches stand out: skipping breakfast and skipping dinner. While both involve skipping meals for a certain period, the timing of the fast can influence the body in different ways. Some claim that skipping breakfast helps with a more efficient start to the day, while others swear by skipping dinner to avoid nighttime cravings and support better sleep.However, the effects of these fasting methods vary, depending on individual goals and lifestyle. To understand which option might be more beneficial, indianexpress.com consulted an expert.

How does skipping breakfast differ from skipping dinner in terms of metabolism and energy levels throughout the day?

Kanikka Malhotra, consultant dietician and certified diabetes educator, shares, "From a physiological standpoint, skipping breakfast and dinner have distinct metabolic impacts. Skipping breakfast disrupts the body's morning metabolic reset, leading to decreased insulin sensitivity, reduced energy expenditure, and potential metabolic slowdown. This can trigger compensatory overeating later and impair cognitive function." Conversely, Malhotra adds that skipping dinner may trigger longer overnight fasting periods, potentially enhancing metabolic autophagy and insulin sensitivity. However, it can also cause evening energy crashes, disrupt sleep hormones, and potentially lead to muscle catabolism. "Breakfast skipping tends to have more pronounced negative metabolic consequences compared to dinner skipping, primarily due to its impact on daily metabolic programming and energy regulation," she mentions.The dietician mentions that people with high morning cortisol levels or stress-related conditions could experience better hormonal balance by skipping evening meals. Skipping breakfast can trigger significant psychological dis-

over time. He wrote, "Hello. Just wanted to show the inside of the liver of a 32-year-old, 'weekends only' alcohol drinking man, and the healthy donor liver of his wife that he received, that will help him survive to see their little daughter grow up."Dr Srinivas Bojanapu, a liver transplant surgeon at Kauvery Hospitals, explains that alcohol, even in moderate amounts, acts as a toxin to the liver. The organ metabolises alcohol, producing carcinogenic byproducts and depleting resources needed for other bodily functions. The effects of alcohol vary depending on several factors, including:Weekend drinking may appear harmless, but it can trigger liver damage due to the cumulative stress on the organ over time.While it is possible for severe liver damage to result from weekend drinking, assessing alcohol consumption retrospectively is challenging, said Dr Bojanapu. People often underestimate or misreport their drinking habits. Factors like individual susceptibility, genetic variations, and coexisting health conditions also play a role in determining the extent of liver damage.

Should you avoid alcohol altogether?

The consensus among medical professionals is clear: the best way to protect your liver is to avoid alcohol altogether. While occasional consumption may not harm everyone equally, the unpredictability of how alcohol affects different individuals makes abstinence the safest option. Moreover, staying away from alcohol also reduces the risk of other severe health conditions, including cancer, heart disease, and neurological disorders.If you suspect liver damage or have concerns about your drinking habits, consult a healthcare provider for guidance and support.



attend events in a police uniform because I didn't want to disrespect it.Q: You're a certified yogini. Tell us about your fitness routine.Kavita Kaushik: My fitness routine is simple. I avoid eating out and focus on home-cooked meals. When I feel I've gained weight, I get back to working out.

Kavita Kaushik Kavita Kaushik at the Crime Literature Festival, Dehradun. (Photo: PR handout)

Q: One myth about yoga you'd like to debunk?

Kavita Kaushik: If you see someone doing yoga with heavy makeup, don't take it seriously. Yoga isn't about glamour but mindfulness, connecting with your inner self, and achieving oneness with divine energy. It's more than physical postures; it's about creating positive energy through asanas and dhyana.

Q: What's the best and worst part of being an actor?

Kavita Kaushik: The best part is people's immense love and appreciation. The worst part is that people often forget you're human and expect you to be perfect always. They tend to ignore that you, too, have flaws and bad days.

Q: What's in the pipeline for your homemade beauty brand?

Kavita Kaushik: I'm very proud of my brand. My husband and I are working on several new products that will soon be available nationwide and internationally. You can explore them on our website.

Q: Does being an actor and being constantly in the limelight affect mental health?

Kavita Kaushik: Yes, being in the spotlight comes with challenges, and it can affect mental health. It's important to stop ridiculing people who are struggling. Mental health is serious; anyone acting unusually might be dealing with real issues. Let's practice compassion.



stress related to appetite and cravings. (Source: Freepik)

How does the timing of the fast affect the body's ability to burn fat or regulate blood sugar levels?

The timing of fasting can significantly influence fat oxidation and glycemic control. "Morning fasting typically occurs when glycogen stores are depleted, potentially enhancing fat burning and insulin sensitivity. The body's morning hormonal environment, characterised by elevated cortisol and growth hormone, can optimise lipolysis," notes Malhotra. Evening fasting, conversely, occurs after daily energy expenditure, potentially reducing metabolic efficiency. Late-day fasting may disrupt circadian rhythms and decrease insulin sensitivity. "Research suggests morning fasting might be more effective for metabolic health, as it aligns with the body's natural metabolic peak and can improve glucose regulation and fat metabolism more effectively than evening fasting periods," she says.Psychological impacts of skipping breakfast versus skipping dinnerSkipping breakfast can trigger significant psychological distress related to appetite and cravings.

From Ottoman Empire to Berlin streets: The evolution of the döner kebab



In 1990, as globalisation entered its swaggering adolescence and McDonald’s made its Moscow debut, a peculiar debate unfolded at Oxford’s venerable Symposium on Food and Cookery. Textile specialist Robert Chenciner presented a paper titled The Bayeux Tapestry Shish Kebab Mystery, questioning the authenticity of the famous Norman embroidery. His evidence: a panel depicting Norman knights grilling meat skewers over an open fire.To Chenciner, this was culinary anachronism. He argued that Hastings, the English town depicted in the tapestry, didn’t have kebab stalls in 1066. The shish kebab, as the story went, didn’t reach France until much later, brought by Ottoman envoys to Versailles in the 18th century. French academics were scandalised. Julia Child, ever the culinary populist, applauded as if she’d just rediscovered crème brûlée. Curators at the Bayeux Museum, however, pushed back. The issue, they suggested, wasn’t with the tapestry — it was with the kebab itself. Was this iconic snack even Turkish in origin?

Few foods inspire as much cultural pride or culinary debate as the kebab. Across millennia and continents, variations on the simple concept of skewered, fire-cooked meat have emerged: satay in Indonesia, souvlaki in Greece, and tikka in the Indian subcontinent.But nowhere is the debate more intense than in Germany, where the döner kebab is practically a national dish — unofficially, if not legally. German streets are dotted with kebab shops offering a greasy, comforting antidote to late-night regrets. According to market research by Germany’s Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germans consume over two million döner kebabs daily, fuelling a €7 billion industry. Yet this beloved snack has become the focal point of a bitter feud between Berlin and Ankara.For Germany, the döner is more than fast food; it’s a symbol of multicultural identity, woven into the fabric of its streets and social life. For Turkey, it’s about cultural pride and culinary integrity. For everyone else, it’s a reminder that food, as much as politics or art, tells a story — of migration, adaptation, and the ever-shifting boundaries of culture.And so, as Europe debates what makes a kebab truly döner, the age-old question lingers: who, if anyone, owns the right to claim it?

Though often attributed to Turkish ingenuity, the kebab’s origin remains contested. Arabic, Persian, and Central Asian cuisines influenced its development. However, while variations of skewered meat exist globally, the Turkish kebab, or kebap, holds a unique place, intertwined with the Ottoman Empire’s legacy and the evolution of Middle Eastern cuisine.According to food historian Mary Isin, the Turkish kebab’s roots trace back to a 1433 account by Bertrand de la Broquière, a French traveller who described Turkish nomads roasting sheep on spits and slicing the cooked surface. “This method of eating roasted meat – taking slices as they cook – reflects a practical approach for travellers. It’s easy to see how this evolved into the horizontal spits depicted in Ottoman miniatures,” Isin, the author of Bountiful Empire: History of Ottoman Cuisine (2018) told indianexpress.com. The earliest written mention of döner kebab doesn’t appear until 1908, but the practice of layering meat on horizontal spits dates to the 17th century. Two miniature paintings in an Ottoman translation of the Shahnameh, an epic poem written by Persian poet Fardowsi, depict kebabs as central to outdoor feasts. Later, the iconic vertical spit emerged in kebab houses, likely as a space-saving innovation. By 1853, English photographer James Robertson captured an Istanbul street vendor carving meat from a vertical spit, a precursor to the modern döner kebab.

The kebab’s versatility has also contributed to its longevity. In Ottoman cuisine, kebab was any meat cooked slowly, whether roasted, grilled, or prepared in a tandir (clay oven). Ottoman elites savoured elaborate dishes like tandir kebabi, while urban middle classes enjoyed affordable skewers of sis kebabi. Yet, as Isin explains, “Many kebabs were tied to professional cooks and communal settings, home preparation was rare due to the resources and skill required.”Religion shaped kebab preparation as well. Turkish kebabs have traditionally adhered to halal practices, with meat slaughtered under Islamic law. As Engin Akin notes in Essential Turkish Cuisine (2015), the preparation often involved a spiritual dimension, with imams reciting verses from the Quran during slaughter.What began as a humble spit-roast transformed into a global symbol of Turkish culinary identity, paving the way for adaptations like Germany’s beloved döner kebab.As Isin notes, the modern döner has strayed from its origins. “In the 1970s, döner was always lamb. Today, beef dominates because people believe lamb is greasy. The simple onions once served alongside have given way to tomatoes and peppers,” she remarked.

Döner kebab’s evolutionThe rise of the döner kebab as a cultural and culinary emblem in Germany is deeply intertwined with the history of Turkish migration. In 1961, West Germany signed a recruitment agreement with Turkey to address labour shortages during its economic boom. Young men from rural Turkey, known as Gastarbeiter (guest workers), migrated in large numbers to work in industries

like construction and manufacturing. As economic challenges persisted back home, many extended their stays, and by the early 1970s, Turks became Germany’s largest immigrant group.The döner kebab’s evolution into a portable street food staple is widely attributed to Kadir Nurman, a Turkish immigrant in Berlin. In the early 1970s, Nurman began serving shaved meat, salad, and sauces wrapped in flatbread, catering to the fast-paced lifestyle of Berliners. While the idea of assembling a kebab into a sandwich format wasn’t entirely novel, Nurman is credited with introducing this version to German street food culture. In 2011, the Association of Turkish Döner Manufacturers formally recognised his contribution.Over time, the döner kebab has undergone significant changes. According to Manik Soi, a Mumbai-based chef, “Initially, döner kebabs in Germany were prepared with sliced veal, but by the 1980s, demand led to shifts in production.” Soi says that subsequently minced meat became common, allowing the classic döner cone to be mass-produced. Concerns over quality and cost, alongside health scares like mad cow disease, prompted a rise in chicken döner kebabs.“Turkish Germans played a pivotal role in the industrialisation of döner production,” says Soi with “entrepreneurs like Remzi Kaplan, the son of Gastarbeiter, turning döner into big business.” Kaplan Döner Production, one of the industry’s largest players, expanded beyond Germany, leveraging lower production costs in countries like Poland.

Kebabs across culturesIn any conversation about the origin of the kebab, or food in general, it’s worth noting how migratory patterns and cultures influenced their development in the food that we see today. The primitive döner may have originated in Turkey to the best of our knowledge, but its composition and salient features were influenced by traders and cultures that passed through the land of the Turks.By the Middle Ages, Constantinople had emerged as a global hub of trade, the largest of its kind on the European continent. It served as a bustling crossroads of commerce, exchanging both rare treasures and everyday goods with distant lands like China, while also anchoring trade routes closer to home — connecting with the Rus, the Caliphate, and the Western world. Within this magnificent ‘Queen of Cities,’ a vibrant and eclectic cuisine blossomed. Rooted in Roman and Greek culinary traditions, it was elevated by the bold flavours of exotic spices and condiments sourced from far corners of the earth, creating a rich tapestry of tastes that truly embodied its cosmopolitan spirit. The spices used in early kebab recipes likely originated in India, while the oil used for cooking came from the Levant.During the Byzantine era, Turkish dining patterns centered around the home, especially for the rich. Meat was a scarcity so while there were limited street food stall offerings scattered across Constantinople, they largely provided accompaniments to meals, rather than meals themselves. By the Ottoman period, according to food scientist Ali Batu, kebabs were found primarily in the palaces and homes of the rich. In Historical background of Turkish gastronomy from ancient times until today (2018), Batu writes, “Culinary culture of the Ottoman Empire was divided into two: the palace kitchen and the public kitchen.” While the palace kitchens adopted meats such as mutton, veal and duck, and embraced new cuisines, the public kitchens, relied on meals heavy in bread and cereals.Claudia Roden in The New Book of Middle Eastern Food says that meat had always been labelled in Arabic literature and folklore as food of the rich and aristocratic – a mark of status. For the rest of the populace, meat was a special treat reserved for feast days and festivals.

So how did the kebab come to dominate the streets of Istanbul and beyond?

To answer that, we first have to look at street food patterns. As established, Turkey already had a bazaar culture by the 1800s. However, the food served at those bazaars was for the poor and middle class. This changed, not in Turkey, but in Iran.The rise of chelow kebab in 19th-century Iran under Nasser al-Din Shah marked a turning point. As Margaret Shaida recounts in The Legendary Cuisine of Persia (2002), the Shah’s fondness for this Azari specialty led to the establishment of a restaurant near Tehran’s Grand Bazaar, sparking a nationwide culinary movement. Vendors soon expanded beyond royal grounds, offering kebabs in urban centers as an accessible, street-friendly meal. Unlike most Iranian dishes, chelow kebab thrived in public spaces, becoming the country’s first widespread restaurant staple. As Shaida writes, “Where the court led, the rest of the country followed” and soon chelow kebabs were the dominant street food across Persia.How that impacted Turkey is an interesting anecdote.

A traveller passing through Persia on route to Constantinople had remarked on these household kebabs being sold on the street. The streets of Istanbul were cramped and couldn’t accommodate horizontal skewers, so the vendors opted to flip them up vertically instead. This made it more space conscious, allowed the sauces to drip back into the meat, and distributed the cooking time.This tradition influenced Turkish migrants in Germany, where döner kebab became a fast-food phenomenon in the 1960s and 70s. Eberhard Seidel, in Döner: A Turkish-German Cultural History (2022), notes that Berlin is now the “döner kebab metropolis of the world.” Originally served on plates, the dish was adapted into a portable snack with local flavours, such as garlic sauce and raw onions, catering to Germany’s urban lifestyle. The döner’s rise reflects both the integration of migrant cuisines and the tensions of cultural adaptation.The döner kebab’s evolution in Germany exemplifies food’s dual role as a unifier and divider. Celebrated as a symbol of multiculturalism, it also illustrates the power of food to transcend boundaries, adapt to new contexts, and embody both the promise and challenges of migration.

designed to navigate the gastrointestinal tract and transmit real-time, high-resolution images directly to physicians. Unlike traditional endoscopy, PillBot offers a non-invasive, sedation-free alternative that enhances both patient comfort and diagnostic accuracy.Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals, said “

This cutting-edge technology represents a monumental leap forward in the field of gastroenterology. PillBot combines precision with patient convenience, offering a glimpse into the future of diagnostic care.”The top gastroenterologist in the country said that PillBot’s ability to provide high-resolution insights without the need for invasive procedures marks a pivotal moment in patient care. “By integrating robotics and AI, we are paving the way for more efficient, accurate, and patient-friendly diagnostic solutions that can potentially redefine GI care in India by not only saving lives but also making diagnosis cost-effective.”

Bashar al-Assad is gone, what’s happening in Syria now?



Prime Minister Mohammed al-Bashir has been trying to stabilise the country, consolidate its ethnic groups, and engage with the international community before the term of his transitional government ends on March 1 next year.At the same time, Kurdish-controlled Northwestern Syria (Rojava) has been bracing for renewed hostilities following a potential Turkish invasion. The US-mediated ceasefire between the Kurds and rebel forces backed by Turkey has broken down, despite the Kurds ceding the key town of Manbij to the rebels.How has the so-called ‘transition’ in Syria progressed since the fall of Bashar al-Assad on December 8? What role has the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the Sunni Islamist group that led the overthrow of the Baathist regime played so far?Progress of the transition

Prime Minister al-Bashir has a background as an administrator with the Syrian Salvation Government (SSG) that has ruled rebel-held Northern Syria — especially Idlib — since its formation in 2017. Under him, the country’s caretaker administration has focused on both internal and external fronts.First, there has been an effort to present a united Syria.Leaders of the HTS/ SSG have said that all armed factions that fought to oppose Assad would be brought under the new defence ministry. Mohammad Yasser Ghazal, who has been brought from Idlib to head the Damascus City Council, has said the Salvation Government will be disbanded under the new Syrian Republic.The new regime has also taken over key apparatus of the Assad state, including the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) on December 15. The success in commandeering state institutions, albeit with the objective of reforming them, has enabled it to focus on the second, external, aspect.The caretaker administration has been working for the lifting of international sanctions on the groups that now run Damascus. Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, the leader of the HTS, has secured direct engagements with British, French, and German diplomats, as well as the UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen. On December 16, the UN Secretary General “welcomed” the commitment of the caretaker administration to full humanitarian access through all border crossings, continuity of essential services, engagement with the “wider humanitarian community”, and the protection of minorities.The issue of allowing humanitarian aid to pass through certain border crossings has long been contentious — Russia has used its UN Security Council veto to block the movement of aid without the “authorisation of and in coordination with” the Assad regime. The efforts at ending this impasse help boost the international profile of the new government.

Differences between international and Syrian expectations and objectives continue to persist, however.So, while the UN readout of Pedersen’s meeting with Jolani highlighted the need for a credible and inclusive political transition based on UNSC Resolution 2254, SANA reported that Jolani had requested certain amendments to “update” the resolution before it could be implemented. Note that the preamble of 2254 calls for the inclusion of women in the UN-facilitated transition.Indeed, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller has called for caution in dealing with the new administration, which the US does not yet officially recognise. The international community would be wary after the experience

How political drama let Constitution debate down

It is difficult to say whether the ongoing posturing over the Constitution is funny or tragic. In this year, when the Constitution entered the amrit moment — 75th year — there has been a lot of unfruitful manthan — churning — in the political arena over what our Constitution means and why we should protect it. Unfortunately, the noise generated does not seem to have led to any meaningful lessons for political players and citizens.Following the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the top leadership of the Congress went into overdrive over the “red book”. They attacked the ruling party for its violation and subversion of the Constitution and, to some extent, made it an election issue. While there is no evidence that voters were swayed away from the BJP because of this, at least the Constitution became a talking point. However, this initiative of the Congress was rather vacuous because the party did not convert it into a mass movement. In all probability, Congress workers continue to be clueless about the substantive import of this invocation of the Constitution. Cynically, this move was seen as an attempt to win over the Dalits — as if the Constitution mattered only to them.As the year comes to an end, the Prime Minister has paid back in the same coin of empty symbolism and harsh polemic, arguing that the Congress always subverted the Constitution. The small difference is that while Congress argued that the Constitution was being violated today, for the ruling party, the violations of yesterday matter the most. Isn’t this both funny and tragic?There seem to be three different ways in which the Constitution has come under attack. Right from the time of its commencement, criticism was offered that the Constitution was an alien document, that it was not Indian enough; more specifically, it was not based on the values of the Hindu society. Through the Seventies, when those offering this criticism realised the value of political/civil liberties, this criticism became somewhat muted. Today, even as the PM is extolling the values of the Constitution, criticism in the English language is gaining intellectual respectability. It argues that the Constitution exemplifies colonial legacy. So, it becomes a complicated question whether to be proud of what our forefathers drafted or to bring a rupture and build a new Constitution. The PM would have done better if he had clarified this. The urge for indigenous laws, ideas, interpretations and indeed for an indigenous founding document is expanding under his leadership in the judicial, legislative and academic universes. Is this funny or tragic?The second attack has been through practice. Unless those for whom the Constitution is drafted adopt a healthy respect for it and translate it into actual practice, it is bound to remain a mute idol. In India, even as the Preamble was recited in schools and colleges, we the people always gave short shrift to its objectives — liberty, equality,

with the Taliban in Afghanistan, who have reneged on several promises even as they continue to seek sanctions relief.

On its part, the new Syrian administration has sought to reduce sources of tension with the West in other areas. Hence, while Jolani has criticised Israel’s fresh occupation of the Golan Heights and its continuing bombardment of Syria, he has sought “diplomatic” solutions instead of committing to a military response that would distract from the focus on rebuilding. The HTS has at least seven years’ experience in running an administrative arm (SSG) in Idlib that governed while it fought.The SSG’s rule was a mix of traditional state-like administration and ideological Islamist revivalism. While the latter meant social repression, forced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings, the former allowed alternative avenues for the delivery of state services to the people in the face of sporadic bombardment by the Assad regime.The local response to the SSG administration in Idlib mimicked that of the larger Syrian population under Assad’s control. The SSG too, faced expressions of popular discontent — including protests over economic and humanitarian distress, and repressive actions of the HTS.In terms of economic performance, the SSG-governed areas in Idlib did better than regime-held territories. Rebel-held regions were spared some international sanctions such as those imposed under the US Caesar Act on Assad-controlled Syria; however, the HTS’s attempts to better economic conditions through the use of the Turkish Lira since 2020 backfired after Turkey’s economy unravelled in subsequent years.But the SSG did learn crucial lessons in administration and providing humanitarian services through its experience in running Idlib, especially during crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2023 Turkey-Syria earthquakes.SSG leaders commissioned for duties in Damascus are now looking to apply their local experience on a country-wide scale. Their challenge will be to check the jihadist inclinations of some of its affiliated fighters, as well as the potential armed and unarmed resistance to Islamist tendencies of the type seen in Idlib in 2022.One, the group must reconcile its brand of ‘pragmatic’ jihadism with the needs of a stable government — this means following norms that are accepted by the international community, but which will necessarily require concessions on their Islamism. Making this concession could mean ceding space to other jihadist forces, including remnants of ISIS, who might seek to fill the Islamist vacuum.

This is the reason that the Taliban ostensibly give for their inability to concede on women’s rights, in the face of threats from groups like the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKAP). In Syria, the site of jihadist violence by the Islamic State across the 2010s, this threat is arguably much higher.Second, are the questions of Syria’s relationships with Turkey and Israel.The decision that Turkey makes on whether to militarily engage the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) will determine its dynamics with HTS-controlled Damascus.Israel has over the last five days, not only re-occupied the Golan Heights and decisively breached the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement with Syria, but has also focused on destroying Syria’s military, especially its air power. On December 15, the Israeli government made a unilateral announcement that it was looking to build new settlements in the Golan Heights — deemed illegal by the international community, including India — to “double the population” of the region.The Israeli bombardment of Syria’s military infrastructure arguably presents a lesser threat to the new administration than Israel’s expanded and entrenched occupation of the Golan does. The Israeli occupation, as it intensifies, will be increasingly harder to ignore for both Jolani the ‘pragmatist’ focused on rebuilding Syria and protecting its sovereignty, and Jolani the Islamist militant whose nom de guerre draws from the term ‘Golan’.It is useful to recollect that Jolani showcased his inherently sectarian motivations years after he rebranded himself as a pragmatist — in a 2020 speech to HTS fighters, he declared: “The enemies of God are striving against the Sunnis not only in al-Shaam (Syria) but all of the region. Therefore, you are not just defending displaced people, but the ummah in its entirety.”

justice and, above all, fraternity. No wonder the government and its institutions often found ways of using the Constitution as an instrument of repressive control rather than reasoned regulation. If today the government is undermining the Constitution, it is due to the deep-rooted rejection of the idea of limited government. The last 75 years stand testimony to our penchant for sacrificing constitutional morality at the altar of the wisdom of rulers. This line of attack often invokes national interest, collective good, welfare, etc. to underplay the importance of constitutional morality.Against this backdrop, the third attack has often been through attempts to amend, change, reform, review — and now, Indianise the Constitution. In his speech in Parliament, the PM spoke of controversial amendments. If he meant the Emergency-era amendments, then most changes have been wisely undone subsequently. If the PM had the amendments from the late Sixties in mind — the 24th and 25th amendments for instance — then those have been corrected by the 1973 Kesavananda Bharati ruling.But as is customary these days, no analysis is complete without blaming Jawaharlal Nehru. PM’s attack too implied the mistake Nehru made in the matter of the First Amendment. While it is a political tragedy that a PM presiding over the most vicious application of existing laws targeting dissent should remind us of this, let us face Nehru’s mistake. Nehru’s mistake was that he was a child of the democratic movement which believed in the capacity of the power-holders to be constrained — it trusted their discretion and ability for self-regulation. Therefore, he sought to empower the state with a belief that democratic politicians will not trespass and also that institutional mechanisms will function against misuse. Both were misplaced.What needs to be learned from this mistake? One lesson could be the need to evolve political consensus on adequate protection for citizens from the state and ensure that unseemly effects of the First Amendment are undone. Since both the BJP and the Congress stand by the Constitution, that should not be difficult. Pending this, all parties can pledge that they will not harass dissenters, arrest citizens at the drop of a hat, oppose bail except when evidence or witnesses are likely to be tampered with, or unleash government agencies against opponents. Moreover, self-doubt rather than self-assurance should mark law-making and its implementation when there is a clash between state power and citizen rights.most readAs for the government, lofty praise for the Constitution sits ill with a Chief Minister coming out in support of a judge who openly defied the Constitution. The criticism about amendments could not have come at a more inopportune moment when the government is set to fundamentally rewrite parts of the Constitution in its ambition to streamline the electoral cycle.

Now, tiny swallowable robotic pill lets doctors see inside body

Hyderabad: It’s time to say goodbye to invasive endoscopy employed by doctors to view inside the patient’s stomach! A tiny digestible pill of the size of multivitamin tablet, when swallowed starts beaming live images of the patient’s stomach to the doctor. This is not a scene from some sci-fi movie but a cutting edge robotic capsule PillBot, which made its debut for the first time in India at AIG Hospitals, Gachibowli on Thursday.Developed by US-based medical innovator Endiatx, the PillBot is a remote-controlled (robotic) disposable endoscopy capsule, measuring just 13mm by 30mm, can be ingested by a patient, who does not have to be sedated to undergo endoscopy.On Thursday, AIG Hospitals collaborated with Endiatx to demonstrate the immense potential of the robotic pill live at its Gachibowli facility in the presence of Dr. Vivek Kumbhari, Chair of the Department of Gastroenterology at the Mayo Clinic, USA and Dr. Alex Luebke, Co-founder of Endiatx.Equipped with advanced cameras, sensors, and wireless capabilities, the device is



After robust January-March quarter growth, high-frequency data suggests weaker April; all eyes on rural consumption



GNS News Agency, June 10

With growth this fiscal widely seen below 6.5 per cent, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to reduce the policy repo rate on Friday to 5.75 per cent. With growth this fiscal widely seen below 6.5 per cent, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to reduce the policy repo rate on Friday to 5.75 per cent. The Indian economy seemingly had a slow start to 2025-26, with a number of high-frequency indicators suggesting activity levels weakened after the GDP grew by a faster-than-anticipated 7.4 per cent in the final quarter of FY25.

Data released last week showed growth in factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), edged down to an eight-month low of 2.7 per cent in April 2025. Before that, the uncertainty caused by the US' reciprocal tariffs before their quick 90-day suspension saw the merchandise trade deficit widen to a five-month high of \$26.42 billion in the first month of the current fiscal. Meanwhile, the HSBC India Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipped to a three-month low of 57.6 last month from 58.2 in April 2025, which was little-changed from 58.1 in March. Banks' non-food credit growth cooled to 10.2 per cent year-on-year as on April 18 from 19 per cent a year ago and 11 per cent as on March 22, 2025.

Is Indian economy witnessing cyclical moderation?

According to data tracked by Nirmal Bang Institutional Equities, early data for April 2025 shows 75 per cent of indicators were in positive territory on a year-on-year basis compared with 80 per cent in March 2025. When seen month-on-month, the proportion of indicators that were up in April

declined to 40 per cent from 82 per cent in March. "Our proprietary output index is indicating continued cyclical moderation in April 2025; the rebound in March has failed to sustain," Teresa John, deputy head of research and economist at Nirmal Bang, said in a note. HSBC too sees April as being "a shade weaker", with 64 per cent of the indicators its economists track growing in April 2025 as per early data, slightly down from 66 per cent in January-March 2025. Further, Nomura's India Composite Leading Index has been below 100 since the last quarter of 2024, pointing towards below-trend growth.

The 7.4 per cent growth print for the final quarter of the last fiscal has, admittedly, pushed most experts to review their projections for the current year. On Tuesday, UBS Securities raised its growth forecast for FY26 by 40 basis points (bps) to 6.4 per cent. Its India Composite Economic Indicator, a lead indicator of activity was up 1.1 per cent month-on-month in April 2025. While this was slightly down from the average 1.2 per cent growth seen in the quarter ended March, the marginal decline suggested "economic momentum held up in April despite the trade war". The key to ensure growth in FY26 does not drop too far from 6.5 per cent last year could be the rural economy, which is expected to get a leg-up from the good monsoon and lower inflation, and especially food inflation. While agricultural sector growth slowed in January-March 2025 to 5.4 per cent, it has now posted three consecutive quarters of 4 per cent-plus expansion. Tractor sales data has been encouraging as well, with the first four months of 2025 seeing 14.3 per cent higher domestic sales according to the Tractor and Mechanization Association. Leading manufacturer Mahindra & Mahindra reported a 10.4 per cent year-on-year growth in domestic tractor sales in May 2025, according to data released on Sunday.

With growth this fiscal widely seen below 6.5 per cent, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to reduce the policy repo rate on Friday to 5.75 per cent, aided by benign inflation. The central bank expects the Consumer Price Index of inflation to average 4 per cent in FY26, in line with its medium-term target, providing it room to keep cutting rates and to spur economic activity. Nomura economists Sonal Varma and Aurodeep Nandi, who see retail inflation averaging 3.3 per cent in FY26, expect the MPC to lower the repo rate by another 100 bps to 5 per cent by the end of December 2025.

In Conversation with Malika Sadani: Building The Moms Co., Family Road Trips & Lessons from a Life in Motion

GNS News Agency, June 10

In a heartfelt episode of Magical Memories, presented by Club Mahindra in association with The Indian Express, host Khyati Rajvanshi chats with Malika Sadani, founder of The Moms Co. Their candid conversation goes beyond business, exploring family traditions, resilience, and the simple joys of holidaying together. Malika Sadani's path began with engineering, an MBA, and corporate roles—until motherhood changed everything. "Entrepreneurship just happened by chance," she says, after struggling to find safe skincare for her daughter in London. That challenge led to The Moms Co., inspired by conversations with fellow moms.

"We wanted to create products that we could use fearlessly on our kids and ourselves," she explains. Her husband Mohit joined as her "first hire — and the toughest one," she laughs. Together, they embraced "work-life integration," blending business with family life. Redefining Holidays: From Hustle to Heartfelt Getaways

In the early days of building The Moms Co., holidays were rare. But as the brand grew, Malika and her family made time off a priority. Today, vacations are all about family, fun, and freedom. "We love driving holidays," Malika shares. "Whether it's a glacier trek in Iceland or a food trail in Lucknow, we find ways to connect." From a 22-day Iceland road trip to a spontaneous Coldplay concert in Zurich and a vow renewal in Santorini, their travels are full of memorable moments. Planning is a family affair, with Mohit and their older daughter leading the way while everyone adds their own wish list. Whether it's rafting in Bali during a surprise rainstorm or watching glaciers shift in Iceland, Malika's holiday stories are equal parts thrilling and heartfelt. Family traditions include road trip games like creating chain stories and spotting cars in rainbow colours, or listening to travel playlists curated by their younger daughter. The family balances exploration with relaxation. "We look for places with scenic beauty and enough activity to keep everyone engaged," Malika explains. A perfect holiday for her? A beach



destination with mild weather, calm vibes, and a chance to simply unwind. When not globetrotting, Malika finds peace in simple pleasures: board games like UNO and Mastermind with her daughters, or zoning out with a feel-good chick flick on Netflix. "At the end of a long day, you need something that doesn't require your brain," she jokes. As the episode wraps, Malika leaves viewers with heartfelt advice for anyone navigating the demands of work and family: "You may be doing great work, but memories aren't made at your desk. Step out, explore, and create moments outside the ordinary. That's where real magic lies." From sun-kissed beaches to lush jungles, serene backwaters to majestic hills, vast deserts to captivating international locations—Club Mahindra has it all! Create unforgettable memories by embarking on a magical journey with our 140+ resorts across different terrains and amazingly unique experiences. This content is sponsored and does not reflect the views or opinions of IE Online Media Services Pvt Ltd. No journalist is involved in creating sponsored material and it does not imply any endorsement whatsoever by the editorial team. IE Online Media Services takes no responsibility for the content that appears in sponsored articles and the consequences thereof, directly, indirectly or in any manner. Viewer discretion is advised.

All India-Abu Dhabi traffic rights exhausted, time for aviation authorities to explore expansion of bilaterals, says Etihad CEO

Etihad Aviation Group CEO Antonio Neves argued that being restrictive on seat quotas amid growing demand was not in the interest of Indian consumers. (Credit: Etihad website) Etihad Aviation Group CEO Antonio Neves argued that being restrictive on seat quotas amid growing demand was not in the interest of Indian consumers.

The emirate of Abu Dhabi could be the next Gulf territory to approach India seeking an expansion of the bilateral air services agreement as existing traffic rights have been exhausted by Abu Dhabi-based Etihad as well as India's airlines. According to Antonio Neves, the Group Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Aviation Group, it is time for aviation authorities of India and Abu Dhabi to initiate discussions on expanding traffic rights, also called bilaterals in aviation parlance. While almost all major Indian airlines fly to Abu Dhabi and share the 50,000 seats per week per direction of the traffic rights among themselves, Etihad is the only carrier from the emirate and accounts for all the 50,000 seats in Abu Dhabi's quota. Till one-and-a-half years ago, both Etihad and Indian airlines had room available to add seats on India-Abu Dhabi routes. In fact, Indian carriers were together utilising just about 30 per cent of the seat quota at the time, while Etihad was using around 50 per cent, Neves said. But within the last one year, both sides have fully exhausted their respective traffic rights. Currently, there is no discussion between India and Abu Dhabi on expansion of bilaterals. "We have about 170 flights per week. About one-and-a-half years ago, we were using only half of

the bilaterals, but now we're using all the traffic rights, and India too. IndiGo added a lot (of flights), and Akasa (Air) added some. IndiGo now is actually flying from 13 cities into Abu Dhabi...I think now we have all the conditions for starting a discussion again about traffic rights, because it's going to be good for the Indian carriers as well as us," Neves said. The exhaustion of India-Abu Dhabi traffic rights comes at a time when another UAE carrier Emirates has been urging India to increase seats under the India-Dubai bilateral air services agreement beyond the limit of around 66,000 seats per week per direction, but the Indian government appears to be unwilling to lend an ear. Unlike air services agreements with most countries, India's bilaterals with the UAE are emirate-specific.

The Indian government and major Indian carriers like Air India and IndiGo have ambitions to have more direct international connectivity from India and to turn the country into an international aviation hub.

A significant number of passengers flying to far-off destinations from India take connecting flights through major global hubs outside the country, Dubai and Doha for instance. India wants its carriers to ramp up wide-body operations, instead of facilitating foreign airlines, particularly Gulf-based carriers with deep pockets, in ferrying passengers—transfer traffic from India—to Europe and beyond via their large hubs. Put simply, increasing seats under bilateral pacts does not sit well with India's grand aviation ambitions.

When hustle becomes harm: mental health and India's overworked youth



In a world that demands constant productivity, the cost of keeping up is often invisible, until it becomes impossible to ignore. For young Indians today, hustle culture isn't just a lifestyle but a survival strategy in an uncertain world with growing unemployment. Behind the facade of ambition, deadlines, and curated success stories lies a quiet, growing crisis: the mental health of an entire generation. Coming of age amidst a pandemic, many young people began their professional lives in lockdown, interviewing for their first jobs over patchy Zoom calls, entering an economy struggling to stand on its feet. As the world rolls back to normal, there's always something erupting: war, layoffs, inflation, rising living costs.

For the economically vulnerable, the largest group of youth in India, the ability to find employment, feed their dreams, and succeed is becoming impossible. Young people throw themselves into work with an unspoken belief: Do more, and earn my way to security. This constant hustle, a work culture that thrives on exploiting youth, comes at a steep and deeply human cost. Hustle culture sells a dangerous dream: that success is solely a function of hard work, and rest is for the weak. Burnout isn't seen as a problem, it's worn like a badge of honour. Several CEOs in recent years have made headlines for glorifying overwork. Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys, sparked a national debate when he suggested young Indians should work 70 hours a week to improve national productivity. Elon Musk once said, "Nobody ever changed the world with 40 hours a week." These statements, often delivered from places of enormous privilege, ignore a basic truth: most people are already working far beyond what is healthy.

In Indian metros, it's not uncommon for young professionals to work 10–12 hour days, respond to messages late into the night, and spend weekends catching up on "urgent deliverables." Anxiety, insomnia, and disconnection are not rare symptoms, they're the emotional tax of simply showing up to work. According to a 2022 Deloitte report, 80% of Indian professionals reported mental health issues during the year, with millennials and Gen Z workers most affected. And for some, the pressure becomes unbearable. In 2023, a young employee at Ernst & Young died by suicide, citing work-related stress. Similar incidents have occurred across industries, from finance to tech to advertis-

A good death, demystified

Benjamin Franklin, in 1879, observed that certainty is limited to two things - death and taxes. Time and technology have proven him only half wrong. Sigmund Freud on the other hand, had remarked that we are all convinced of our immortality. Discussing death is considered, varying, macabre, ghoulish, grim or in morbid taste. Serious discussions on definitions of death, of personal, moral, legal and economic issues involved in death-related-decisions, seldom occur in Indian families. Do clinicians constantly exposed to death, become insensitive, forgetting that for the bereaved family, it could be the first experience?

From time immemorial, a doctor's primary avocation was "to cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always". Until recently, there was no conflict of interest with this approach, when a doctor did his best to preserve life. However, the increasing availability of sophisticated medical technology and life support systems has changed the picture. The process of dying is now more protracted, and can be influenced to be prolonged. The importance paid to 'quality of life' should now also be paid to 'quality of death'. Death (apoptosis) commences even in the unborn, where cells are programmed to die. Different organs die at different rates. Death is an ongoing process, not an isolated event. Saving lives is the raison d'être for our existence as doctors, but at what cost? In the irreversibly critically ill patient, how long does one continue treatment? What is the purpose of such treatment? Today, one can keep a person biologically alive - heart, lungs, kidney and other organs functioning - but in coma, "living" in a critical care unit setting. In 2018, the Supreme Court held that the right to die with dignity, is a fundamental right.

When the patient is unable to take part in the decision-making process of medical treatment, who will be the surrogate decision maker? Even if full information is given, is it reasonable to expect a calm, untroubled calculated decision to be taken, with death hovering around? Do we factor in the patient's desire? When is enough, enough? Should management decisions be based only on irrefutable scientific evidence and available technology? Do increased 'options' compound the issue? Do we spend quality time with caregivers understanding psychological, social and spiritual needs when death is imminent? Illustrations from neurosurgical practice

A 92-year-old woman with a stroke that has affected both sides is encouraged to be taken home. She also has multiple hip fractures secondary to a trivial fall. Two months have elapsed. The patient is in coma for four weeks. Morphine patches are used for analgesia. The 70-year-old son cannot stand her suffering. After a discussion, the Ryles tube feeding is stopped, to facilitate an irreversible cardiac arrest. The heart goes on beating for another 72 hours, with the elderly children going through an agonising time. How does one discuss a "good death" with a just-married wife, when her husband has had a devastating bleed in the brain? How does one inform a retired professor of surgery that he has multiple secondaries not only in the brain but everywhere, and therapy will only postpone the inevitable?

In 'good death', treatment preferences, quality of life/death and maintenance of dignity is as per the patient's desires. There is no distress or suffering for the patient, family and caregivers, and attempts are made to ensure little or no pain (through the use of morphine for instance). Death is consistent with prevailing clinical, cultural and ethical standards. Excessive, futile treatments are not used to prolong life. There is trust, support and comfort with the team and an opportunity to discuss all beliefs and fears and to bid farewell to one's near and dear. When end of life is inevitable and patients/families consent, aggressive therapies,

ing. These stories often disappear under institutional silence, but they represent a very real cost of our current model of success. The hustle doesn't just play out in glass-walled offices, it's even more pervasive in the informal sector, where regulation is almost non-existent and survival itself demands overwork. Street vendors, delivery personnel, construction workers, and gig workers navigate unstable hours, unsafe working conditions, and daily uncertainty, without the safety net of contracts, healthcare, or fair wages. The mass migration to urban centres is driven by hope but sustained by a system that thrives on invisibilised labour. Here, hustle is a lived reality with no exit. The mental health toll is enormous, but rarely understood. It's important to acknowledge that not everyone can "opt out" of hustle culture. Many young Indians are the first in their families to earn a stable income, support siblings' education, or pay off loans. For them, hustling isn't aesthetic, it's survival. Telling someone to rest when their rent depends on a bonus is cruel. But acknowledging the lack of choice doesn't mean we stop questioning the system. In fact, it makes the conversation even more urgent. We need to build workplaces, communities, and economies where mental health is not a personal luxury, but a collective priority.

What can we do?

We must start treating mental well-being not as an HR formality but as a core metric of success. Companies need to ask: are employees sleeping well? Can they take leave without guilt? Do they feel psychologically safe? To shift the needle, organisations must go beyond token gestures like webinars or therapy reimbursements. They must redesign their systems: revise workload expectations, normalise boundaries, provide access to mental health professionals, and reward sustainable performance. But change cannot stop at the corporate boardroom. In the informal sector, where most of India's workforce operates without protections, mental health support must be built into larger structural reforms. Community-led and government-backed solutions are key: public clinics, helplines, rest and safety in labour laws, guaranteed minimum wages, and portable benefits like insurance, sick leave, and childcare. NGOs, local bodies, and municipal governments can play a powerful role in creating "care infrastructure" in informal work zones: rest areas, mobile counselling units, or peer support groups. When people are working 12-hour shifts just to survive, rest should not be a luxury. It should be a right. More broadly, our schools, homes, and public discourse must stop treating mental health as a personal failing and begin offering real tools for resilience. We need to inculcate emotional education, safe spaces to talk, and language to navigate fear, fatigue, and failure. At a societal level, we must redefine what it means to succeed. Can "making it" include community, calm, and care? Can it mean having enough, not endlessly doing more? If we don't build systems that centre well-being, we're not just risking their mental health, we're risking a future built on broken people. A more honest future. The mental health crisis among Indian youth isn't a footnote. It's a silent crisis. The pressures of hustling, surviving, and performing in work environments that de-prioritise mental health over results is debilitating. Slowing down is a privilege and hustle is a lifestyle. We may not all be able to step off the treadmill right now. But we can, and must, start asking better questions about where it's taking us.



medications and interventions are stopped but care is never withdrawn. A good death is not a single final event, but a series of social events. The team commiserates with the family, empathises, sympathises with the individual who has placed his/her life in our hands. Support is necessary throughout the dying process. Earlier understanding facilitates a good death. Dying at home is an important component of good deaths. Terminal illnesses offer time for discussion and resolution of unfinished psychological and practical business. A good death includes not being a burden to the family, leaving affairs in order and having a sense of fulfilment. A bad death is being kept alive against one's wishes, a loss of dignity, an inability to communicate one's wishes, the excessive use of medical technology and dying alone. India was ranked 67 out of 80 countries, on the 2015 Quality of Death Index, published by the Economist Intelligence Unit, signalling the urgent need to legislate on, and implement good death policies in our country.

Hindu Kush Himalaya in a risk of losing 75 pc of ice by century's end: Study

New Delhi: The Hindu Kush Himalaya, where glaciers feed rivers supporting two billion people, could lose up to 75 per cent of its ice by the end of the century if global temperatures rise by 2 degrees Celsius, according to a new study. If countries can limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the study published in the journal Science said 40-45 per cent of glacier ice in the Himalayas and the Caucasus would be preserved.

In comparison, the study found that only about one-quarter of glacier ice globally will be left if the world warms by 2.7 degrees Celsius by the end of this century, the path the world is on if today's climate policies continue. Glacier regions most important to human communities, such as the European Alps, the Rockies of the western US and Canada, and Iceland, would be especially hard hit, it said. These regions could lose nearly all their ice at 2 degrees Celsius, with only 10-15 per cent of their 2020 levels remaining. Scandinavia could face an even grimmer future, with no glacier ice left at all at this level of warming. The study highlighted that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a target set by the 2015 Paris Agreement, would help preserve some glacier ice in all regions. It predicted that 54 per cent of present-day glacier ice would remain globally and 20-30 per cent in the four most sensitive regions, if this goal is met. These findings come as global attention turns to the melting of glaciers and its impact,

Fabiano Caruana has painful slip up vs Arjun Erigaisi, Gukesh's winning streak ends, 'Human' Magnus Carlsen blunders whole piece in loss



GNS News Agency, June 10

"This tournament could have very easily been over," declared Hikaru Nakamura on the Norway Chess broadcast with an undisguised smile on his face as he watched his ashen-faced compatriot Fabiano Caruana extend his hand in resignation to Arjun Erigaisi in round 8 of the strongest invitational tournament of the year. But with two rounds remaining at Norway Chess, the tournament is anything but over. Arjun's victory in 71 moves over leader Caruana ensured that at least five players head into the second rest day of the tournament with their tails up: leader Caruana (12.5 points) finds himself being chased by Magnus Carlsen (12), Nakamura (11.5), Gukesh (11.5), and Arjun (10.5). Wei Yi is last with eight points, but each outright win earns players three points, meaning two straight wins against his next two opponents Gukesh and Nakamura might just ensure him a title. It's very unlikely. But on a day when Carlsen had blundered an entire piece against him for no compensation in return — and then lost! — the Chinese grandmaster cannot be faulted for believing in miracles.

Arjun's win over Caruana was another reason to believe in miracles. Till Arjun had made his 49th move, the American was winning. The game, and possibly, the Norway Chess title. But the time control at Norway Chess — with players getting just 120 minutes on the clock, with 10-second increments kicking in from move 41 — has been brutal for all players. World champion Gukesh struggled with it for his first two games. So have other players. On Tuesday, it was Caruana's chance to blink under time pressure. "I'm not sure where the help is coming from (for Arjun), there are so many threats. Caruana is getting to your king, one way or another," said Cristian Chirila, one of Caruana's seconds and the co-host of the C-Squared Podcast with the American GM, at one stage on the Norway Chess broadcast. But at that stage, Caruana had just 40 seconds on his clock. Arjun had a minute and 54 seconds. Over the next eight moves — 49... Be4 (mistake with Re4 being the best as per engine) 50. Qf4 Qxc3 (inaccuracy with Ra2 being the best move) 51. Be3 Bg6 52. g4 hxg4 53. h5 Bxh5 54. Qf5+ Bg6 55. Qxg4 Qe5+ (blunder with Qc7+ being best move) 56. Rg3 Qh5+ (mistake with Qxg3+ being best move) — Arjun and the oppressive clock had fashioned a turnaround. What was also notable was

that in that phase, Caruana had gobbled up three of Arjun's pawns. And yet, his position was worsening on the board. "This game pretty much symbolises Arjun's style. Go crazy, try to play for tactical chances everywhere, sometimes it's going to work, sometimes it's not going to work!" Nakamura said. "If you look at yesterday, I got the sense that when Arjun was down a pawn and then down two pawns, he was still trying to play for complications and trying to win the game. I feel that this is a similar situation. Always going for complications. It's insane actually."

For the last two games, Gukesh has managed to turn around losing positions to fashion wins over Carlsen and Arjun. But Nakamura was in no mood to allow the Indian teenager similar concessions. Nakamura gained an edge on the board by move 20 and never relinquished his grip on the game — unlike Carlsen and Caruana — gaining tiny advantages till Gukesh resigned on move 50. "Gukesh's results have been very good. But if we're being objective about the chess, I think he's played horribly (at Norway Chess)," Nakamura told Indian media after the win. "He should have lost to Magnus. He was completely lost against Arjun. Even against Fabiano, he was also losing in that game. So it's very, very hard to judge what his play is." "When I look at his game, one of the big things that he has that I would say Arjun and Praggnanandhaa don't have is that he's very mentally strong. I think he's a lot less emotional than the other two players. And that has served him very well, especially in this tournament," said Nakamura before praising Gukesh's defensive skills.

"Today, I thought there were probably three or four moments when I was winning. But even then I still had to find more moves to convert. He's definitely showing very, very strong defensive skills." Elsewhere, the Wei Yi vs Carlsen game saw the world no 1 blunder a knight in the Armageddon after he had evaded his opponent's tactic to play out a quick draw in the classical portion. As soon as Wei picked off Carlsen's undefended knight, the former world champion laughed at himself for making such an error.

Wei explained later that because of his defeat in the previous round, he had been unable to sleep. Consequently he had tried to play out an easy draw in the classical against wantaway Carlsen and then take his chances in the Armageddon format, where the player with white pieces (in this case Wei) has 10 minutes to get a win while the player with black pieces has just seven minutes, but they only need to draw to be victorious. "I was happy to beat Magnus but I want to say sorry this time," Wei said later like tennis players do when they win a point with the ball hitting the net cord. "In Armageddon he just blundered in a solid position." "I think Magnus is getting used to joining the club, being human. Obviously, as you get older, you start to make more mistakes," Nakamura said in an interview with Take Take Take. "I actually thought my game against him yesterday, Armageddon, was extremely sloppy by both of us, so it's not a huge surprise. But I think after that loss to Gukesh, Magnus just kind of zoned out completely. Happens."

Virat Kohli opens up on Anushka Sharma's support: 'What she's gone through emotionally, watching me, being down and out...'

GNS News Agency, June 10

Moments after he won the Indian Premier League title for the first time in his 18-year-long league career, Virat Kohli opened up on the 'support and sacrifices' spouse Anushka Sharma made behind the scenes, which enabled him to focus on his on-field tasks. In his 18th year with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Kohli finally won the IPL after his team, led by Rajat Patidar, beat Punjab Kings in the final by six runs on Tuesday. The victory triggered emotional scenes at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Kohli teared up mid-way through the 20th over after it became all-but certain that RCB would be crowned the champions for the first time in their history. Once the result was official, Kohli embraced Bollywood star Anushka Sharma, married to him since 2017. Virat Kohli of Royal Challengers Bengaluru celebrating RCB's win with wife Anushka Sharma at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. (Sportspics for IPL) Virat Kohli of Royal Challengers Bengaluru celebrating RCB's win with wife Anushka Sharma at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. (Speaking to broadcasters Star Sports afterwards, Kohli said that Anushka, who was raised in Bangalore, has been 'supporting RCB since 2014'. "So it's been 11 years for her as well, you know. Relentlessly coming to games, watching tough games, watching us just miss out. What your life partner does for you to be able to play, and the sacrifices, and the commitment, and just back-



ing you through thick and thin, is something you can't explain in words. Only when you play professionally, you understand the amount of things that go on behind the scenes, and what they go through as well," Kohli said after the match. Kohli hailed Anushka's support when he was 'down and out' during the years RCB could not win the title. The former franchise captain said he'd even lost hope that he'd get to lift the trophy. "What Anushka has gone through emotionally, watching me, being down and out, her coming to games, being so connected with Bangalore, she's a Bangalore girl as well, and being connected to RCB, this is a very, very special for her as well, and she's going to be so, so proud," he said.

Sunil Gavaskar brushes away talks of Shreyas Iyer as India captain: '...first need to look at Shubman Gill'

GNS News Agency, June 10

Shreyas Iyer's astonishing run as captain in the Indian Premier League (IPL) of different franchises has led to an increasing chorus of voices questioning why he has never been considered as a skipper for the Indian team itself. Shubman Gill is India's new Test captain after Rohit Sharma retired from the format in May but in the days since, Iyer has led the Punjab Kings to their first final in 11 years, leading to questions over how he was never considered. Former captain and batting great Sunil Gavaskar has however stated that any talks of Iyer as captain should be only after Gill has been given a fair run. Regardless of whether is worthy of being the captain or not, we first need to look at Shubman Gill, who is the Test captain. We need to give him opportunities. If we talk about such things, then we are creating undue pressure on Shubman Gill," Gavaskar said on Sports Tak. "There is no need to create pressure on Shubman Gill before the England tour. You first need to realise that Shreyas Iyer is not even in the Indian team. There should be no talk about him being made the next Indian captain," he added. Iyer was a notable absentee in the Indian squad for the five-Test tour of England later this month. The last of his 14 Test appearances came in February 2024. He was dropped from BCCI's list of centrally contracted players that month but after that, Iyer led the Kolkata Knight Riders to their first IPL title since 2014. He then played a crucial role in India's run to the 2025 Champions Trophy title and before that, Iyer led Mumbai to victory in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. KKR incredibly chose to not retain Iyer and he ended up being signed by PBKS for INR 26.75 crore, momentarily becoming the most expensive in the history



of the IPL auction before LSG broke the record just minutes later to acquire Rishabh Pant. Unlike Pant, though, Iyer has arguably had his best IPL season ever with the bat while leading PBKS to the final, scoring 603 runs and maintaining a strike rate of 175.80 in 16 matches going into the final. Gavaskar said that while Iyer's candidacy for India captaincy can be considered if and when he makes a comeback into the Indian Test team, Gill needs to be shown "tremendous confidence". Gill starts his tenure with the rather unenviable task of leading India in five Test matches in England. "When he makes a return to the side then you can have a look at whether he can be made the captain or not. We need to show tremendous confidence in Shubman Gill, who has just been made the Test captain. He is our India captain," said Gavaskar. You shouldn't create doubts in his mind, there should be no pressure on him. You shouldn't create pressure, saying, 'Oh look, there is Shreyas Iyer', said Gavaskar.

Novak Djokovic has been blemishless at the French Open so far, but real test begins with quarterfinal against Alexander Zverev



GNS News Agency, June 10

The 24-time Major winner was rolled out to bid farewell to Rafael Nadal in a ceremony at the start of last week, and recorded a message for the departing Richard Gasquet as well. He has hired and fired former rival-cum-friend Andy Murray as his coach. He has dealt with a serious thigh injury that halted the momentum he had garnered in reaching the semifinals at the Australian Open. He toiled, for nearly a year, to win his 100th career title, which he finally grasped in Geneva last week, just before Roland Garros.

To sum up, the Serb has won everything there is to win in the sport, is saying goodbyes to his former rivals in tearful farewells, and dealing with the inevitable toll that age is taking on his already-worn-down 38-year-old body. Excuse him if the task of winning a fourth title on the unforgiving clay of Roland Garros may feel out of reach, not even part of his remaining ambitions. But to give up on Djokovic's chances at a Major, when history is on the line, is to underestimate the most unconventional of tennis champions, as has often happened in the career of men's tennis' greatest-ever player. This time around, over four matches, 12 sets have been won by controlling the controllables, limiting errors, and fine-tuning his game. Also, no grimaces have been pointed to gutsy rivals or chattering crowds. "I feel good, I expect each day to play better and better. I've played 12 really good, solid sets so far and everything is looking good," Djokovic said after sidestepping Cameron Norrie 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 to reach a record 19th quarterfinal, the most a male player has managed at Roland Garros. With a 100th win at the French Open, he also became only the second player (behind Nadal's 112) to cross the triple-figure mark at the

clay Slam.

A month ago, the Serb was winless in three matches, with two first-round losses in Masters 1000 events on clay. The buzz around him had been minimal, some had claimed he need not even be considered a contender in Paris. But 10 days into the tournament and Alexander Zverev, the third seed and last year's runner-up, is certain he does not arrive into Wednesday's quarterfinal as the favourite. "The guy won 24 Grand Slams. He's never going to be a (dark) horse. He definitely knows how to play tennis," Zverev was quoted as saying by AP. "He definitely knows what it means to be on the big stage and to play big matches. There is no doubt about that." Hitting form at the right time by winning matches first in Geneva and then taking advantage of weaker opposition in the first four rounds, Djokovic has found his feet on clay. But the real test will begin now, with the Serb having to potentially face the three best players in the world if he is to leave the French capital with a record-extending 25th Major.

If the next hurdle is crossed, World No.1 Jannik Sinner, who has won 30 of his last 31 matches and is on an 18-match winning streak at Majors, may lie in wait in the semifinal. Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz may be the opposition in the final. It was Zverev who took advantage of Djokovic's injury in Melbourne earlier this year, their semifinal only lasting a set before the Serb was forced to retire. But against the 28-year-old German, he holds the edge in head-to-head contests, leading 8-5. Zverev's big-hitting game, aided by a dominant and accurate first serve, finds the right counter with Djokovic's elite returning and his ability to take Zverev's strong backhand head on in crosscourt exchanges. Where Djokovic has been particularly good in this tournament so far is in sticking tight to the baseline and taking the ball early, which may not bode well for Zverev's rather one-dimensional baseline power game. But despite all strengths and weaknesses laid out, Zverev represents a significant level up in challenge for Djokovic, against whom his genuine title credentials will be put to the test. Predictably, he remains in contention, but Wednesday's highly-anticipated quarterfinal will show to what extent, especially with the high bar set by Sinner and Alcaraz. Not quite king versus regicide yet, but an enthralling contest can be expected nonetheless.

Should Indian-origin fans in Australia support India or Australia? Cricket Australia CEO answers the Tebbit Test and wants Kohli to play BBL

GNS News Agency, June 10

As witnessed during the last Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Cricket Australia has been actively marketing their product to the Indian and Asian communities who live in Australia but what is its new CEO Todd Greenberg's views on whether the second and third generation Asian-origin fans should support Australia or still clamour for their country of origin?

Or in other words, what's CA's take on the old 'Tebbit Test' from the 90's in England. Norman Tebbit, a member of the Conservative party and considered the then UK prime minister Margaret Thatcher's blue-eyed boy, had devised a provocative test: "A large proportion of Britain's Asian population fail to pass the cricket test. Which side do they cheer for? Are you still harking back to where you came from or where you are?" It came to be known as the Tebbit Test, a test of loyalty of British Asians, and created a huge furore whose ramifications are felt to this day.

Greenberg has no confusion about the answer to that test. "It's an interesting one because I think if you're second, third, fourth, fifth generation, wherever you come from, if that's the team that you support, we should encourage you to support that because, ultimately, everyone must come from somewhere, and we should all be really proud of where we come from. And in a country like Australia, with our beautiful multicultural base, we should all be very proud of the different styles, people, genders, races, and religions, and where people come from. And if people choose to support where they came from, we should encourage that," the CA CEO told reporters on June 3. "Equally, if someone's been here and is the next third generation and wants to support the country of which they live, we should be equally supportive of that as well, but we shouldn't judge people on the decisions we make. We should only make them feel included, proud, and a part of the sport. And that's the most important part. Cricket must be a sport for all that's inclusive, and people should feel safe, and they should feel welcome to barrack for whoever and whatever they like. And we should support their choice." Later this year, India are set to tour Australia for a one-day series and the CEO reckons it would be great for fans to see Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma for one last time possibly in Australia.

"This might be the last time that we get to see Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma play in our country. And if that is the case, who knows it might not be, but if it is, we wanna make sure we give them a great send off and a reflection of the incredible contribution they've made to international cricket. During Covid pandemic in 2020, it was reported that Cricket Australia had to take a loan of A\$300 million from Commonwealth Bank. The Indian series in 2021 helped the Australian board. And in October last year, they announced a deficit of A\$31.9 million (\$21.34m). The last 2024-25 series against India in Australia further boosted the finances of the CA.

Greenberg acknowledged India's role. "With the billions of people in India, it brings scale and global significance to the touring events when they come here. And that's evidenced by the crowds, it's evidenced by the ratings, and it's evidenced by the imagination that it captures both here and abroad. So India are a very important partner, and I get a sense that, and it was before my time, but, you know, those efforts through COVID create relationships between our two countries, between the leadership of our countries to make sure that we are playing each other regularly both here and abroad. When our team tour is India, we know the numbers in their broadcast markets are enormous as well. So they're a very important partner of ours."

Tapping the large Indian and Asian-origin fans who live in Australia is one thing, but what about providing the pathway for young Asian-origin kids to play for Australia. Is Australia open enough to do that? "I agree we've still got a lot of work to do, and, we would like to be attracting more of those communities to be playing cricket, but part of that challenge is on us in how we offer participation. I think our participation offerings in this country are very traditional, and they have historically been offered in the same way to the same types of people over generations. And if we're going to at-



tract a new generation of participants, then we need to do things differently. We need to think differently. We need to communicate differently, and we need to make sure that the clubs and our environments are both safe and welcoming and inclusive," Greenberg says. And I know our participation network and the leads of our participation base here in this country are thinking about those things as we speak, and they're trying to make sure that we have a welcoming and offering that will allow everyone to feel welcome to come and play cricket, whether you're a boy, girl, male or female, Indian, Pakistani, wherever you're from, that there's an opportunity for you to play. So I think there's a real opportunity for us to do better in that regard."

"That's certainly some conversations that we will continue to have with the BCCI. I mean, I would love to see, Virat Kohli playing in the BBL this year. That would certainly create some interest in crowds and ratings, I'm sure. But at the moment, that's not happening, but we do have our ambitions to do those types of things. And as you're seeing all over the world, 20 leagues are going down a lot of the private investment opportunities. We're seeing that in England recently with the hundred. A number of the IPL franchises are now taking ownership stakes in the hundred. We've got to continue to evolve and innovate the way we run our business here in Australia and making sure that we have an open mind to new things. But the short answer to that question is if we could find opportunities for Indian cricketers, either retired, recently retired, or current players to play in the BBL, they'd be very welcome, and it's a conversation we'll continue to have," Greenberg said.

Surya Kumar Yadav named 'most valuable player'



HYDERABAD: Mumbai Indians' star batter Surya Kumar Yadav has been named 'Most Valuable Player' of the IPL after Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Punjab Kings by six runs at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday night. Gujarat Titans' pace bowler Prasidh Krishna got the 'Purple Cap' for being the leading wicket-taker with 25 wickets while his teammate Sai Sudharsan got the 'Orange Cap' for scoring most runs, 759. Sai Sudharsan also got the award for scoring most fours (88) in the season. Kamindu Mendis of Sunrisers Hyderabad got the special award for the catch of the season for his stunning effort to send back Chennai Super Kings' Dewald Brevis. Lucknow Super Giants' explosive batter Nicholas Pooraj got the special prize for hitting most sixes this season — 40. Hyderabad's Mohammed Siraj.

127 cuts, no release: Diljit Dosanjh’s Punjab 95 is caught in a cycle of postponements, disappointments, says director Honey Trehan



An Indian film screened on the sidelines of the recent Cannes film festival which caught the eye of a group of visiting Indian and international journalists was Punjab '95, produced by Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP Movies, directed by Honey Trehan, and starring Diljit Dosanjh, Kanwaljeet, Arjun Rampal, Suvinder Vicky and Geetika Vidya Ohlyan, among others.

It was a private screening organised by the director who has been running from the proverbial pillar to post for the past two years to get the film released. In September 2023, it was meant to premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), but the filmmakers were told by Indian authorities that they would have to pull out the film. Since then, there's been a stand-off between the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and the filmmakers, causing the film to lie in limbo, joining other recent films which have been stopped from releasing, including Sandhya Suri's 'Santosh', which officially screened in Cannes in 2024.

Punjab '95 tells the story of an ordinary man who became extraordinary through his dogged attempts to help those who could not help themselves. Jaswant Singh Khrala, a bank manager in Amritsar, got sucked into the murky goings-on in the state at a time when terrorist activity was rife. After some digging, it was found that the legitimate action against militants was being used to target innocents, leading to an unconscionable number of extra-judicial killings. Khrala's initial attempts to discover what happened to a family he knew well led him to uncovering a massive cover-up, and he became a thorn in the side of those in power. In September 1995, he was abducted from his home, and taken to the police station; after a few days, he was found dead, his body showing signs of torture.

Dosanjh plays Khrala with a quiet conviction, taking care not to bring any awareness of his own celebrity status into the role. A man pitch-forked quite inadvertently into a slice of contentious history, Dosanjh as Khrala is shown at sea, to begin with: he has no idea where, how and why people are disappearing, and how the nameless dead are piling up at mortuaries, only gradually unravelling the stealth and conspiracy behind the killings. The ensemble cast does a good job, with Suvinder Vicky in a stand-out turn as the dirty cop who cracked the whip at the state's command. Director Honey Trehan has turned Khrala's powerfully moving story into a telling document of a time when Punjab was in the throes of militancy, and how one man's

tireless crusade blew the covers off a crime against humanity. Diljit Dosanjh making of punjab 95 Honey Trehan and Diljit Dosanjh during the making of Punjab '95. During an impassioned conversation in Cannes after the screening, he spoke about his efforts to keep the film's letter-and-spirit intact even as the number of cuts have kept climbing from the initial 21: at last count they numbered more than a hundred. 'Shuru shuru mein maine mann maar ke 21 cuts kare, socha chalo picture nahi atkey', says Trehan (at first instance, I made the 21 cuts reluctantly, thinking this way the film wouldn't get stuck). They wanted the name changed right from the beginning (it started off by being called 'Ghalughara'), and they also wanted us to drop the line 'inspired from true events'. We made the cuts, created a new DCP (print) and gave it in, they came back with some more cuts. We made those also, and gave in a fresh print yet again, and again there was silence'.

All through 2024, it was more of the same. Fresh cuts, submissions, followed by a demand for more cuts. Earlier this year (2025), hope was held out that the film could be released out of the country, but that plan also had to be dropped. As things stand now, the number of cuts demanded is about 127 or so, and there is no news of when the film can, or will, release. Amongst the cuts demanded are the ones that 'we have verbally been told are non-negotiable', says Trehan. 'Change Khrala's name. Drop any visuals of the Indian flag. Take out all sounds of the 'gurbani'. Don't say Punjab police, when it is clearly the state police in turbans that's on screen. Take out the names of the places mentioned in the film where the bodies were discovered in the morgue. And change the name of the film. What is left then?' 'What I don't understand is the reason behind these cuts, he says, 'no reasons have been given formally. I am willing to cut anything if it is a directive from a court as I am a law-abiding Indian citizen, but I am not being allowed to fight in court.' Honey Trehan and Diljit Dosanjh during the making of Punjab '95. Honey Trehan and Diljit Dosanjh during the making of Punjab '95. The case was, in fact, being heard at the Bombay High Court in the early stages (2023), but at a crucial juncture, the producers were told that the film would have to be withdrawn from court. Ever since, it has been a case of continual postponements, and disappointments. We have taken utmost care to stick to facts, compiling them from police records and news reports, says Trehan. 'Khrala's family, which was reluctant to give the rights to anyone else, was happy for us to bring alive his legacy. They have seen the film and are satisfied with it. So has the Akal Takht. If all stakeholders are happy with it, why isn't the film being allowed to release? Last heard, he says, the film will be called 'Sutlej', and all the cuts that have been demanded, have been made by the production team. 'But this is not my film, and I'm withdrawing my name from it. So is Diljit, who has been with me through and through, saying paaji main aapke vision ke saath khada hoon (I'm standing by your vision). That is Diljit for you, when he surrenders, he surrenders completely'.

'I feel so demotivated', he says. 'There's a strong sense of betrayal. I truly feel that if I cannot stand by the person who fought fearlessly for so many people, I don't deserve to make the film on him. It is my moral, ethical duty to stand by him, and my film. Thirty years later, it feels as if Jaswant Singh Khrala is being abducted again'.

Mountainhead movie review: Like watching the BTS of a Nikhil Kamath podcast, HBO’s Succession successor punches up at plutocracy

When Nikhil Kamath interviewed Ranbir Kapoor on his podcast, he admitted that he hasn't quite figured out the art of detachment like Marcus Aurelius. "You like Marcus' writing?" Kapoor asked. "Yes, I like a couple of his books," Kamath said. This bizarre exchange deserves to be unpacked in a separate article, but, for the purposes of this one, let's focus on two things. One, the Zerodha founder reads the work of a Roman emperor in his spare time, and two, the star of Jagga Jasoos probably thinks they were talking about someone who wrote a self-help bestseller. Several conversations of this nature unfold in Mountainhead, the new film from Jesse Armstrong, creator of HBO's Succession. Marcus Aurelius is invoked as well; in fact, so are Mark Antony and other great historical figures.

The movie follows four men — three billionaires and one millionaire — who get together in a snowy mountain retreat for a weekend getaway, while the 'outside world' descends into chaos. "No deals, no meals, no women in heels," is the motto of the get-together, which seems like something of a tradition. Steve Carell plays a veteran named Randall, who has just received a disheartening cancer diagnosis. Corey Michael Smith, who was so good in May December and Saturday Night, plays Ven, the owner of a Twitter-like social media app. He's the richest man in the room. Rami Youssef plays Jeff, whose company is making waves in the field of artificial intelligence, and Jason Schwartzman plays Souper, who feels insecure about being the only person whose net worth hasn't hit a billion yet.

While the agenda is to have no agenda, the four men arrive at Souper's snowy chalet with ulterior motives. Ven wants to acquire Jeff's company so that he can curb the spread of disinformation on his platform — not because he's an altruistic hero, but because he wants to avoid accountability. Randall wants Ven to consider starting work on uploading human consciousness onto computers, mainly to prolong his own life; Souper, on the other hand, plans on pitching his meditation app to the others. Each of them is petty, vindictive, self-centred — sort of like the characters in Succession. Jeff is the only one who seems concerned about the anarchy unfolding outside; much of the violence has been demonstrably incited by the disinformation being spread on Ven's app. The news says that 400 people were burned alive in a riot-like situation in Gujarat. There's violence in Azerbaijan, in Turkey, in regions all around the world. Ven keeps trying to deflect blame, pretending like this is the best advertisement for his app that he could've asked for. Things get real when he receives a call from the President, who gives him a slap on the wrist for his (significant) role in causing the global catastrophe. Jeff, meanwhile, knows that he's sitting on the cure for this disease. His AI system can sift through the fake news and provide real-time fact-checks.



Unsurprisingly, his net worth sky-rockets over the weekend, much to Randall's chagrin.

Mountainhead is like watching the BTS for one of Kamath's day-long podcasts, as if it were shot by a Stanley Kubrick devotee. It doesn't take the four men too long to plan a global takeover; Souper, it is decided, will become President of Argentina. He's delighted. Like Randall and Ven, he views this as an opportunity for humankind to 'evolve'. They actually view themselves as Roman emperors introducing the masses to the idea of civilisation. Nero fiddled while Rome burned; Souper, on the other hand, keeps talking about snacks. Through much of the movie, Schwartzman plays him like a needy tag-along who's used to being picked last during sports period. His significant wealth is basically loose change when compared to the fortunes that the other three are sitting on. For the most part, Mountainhead feels like an extended episode of Succession — directed by Armstrong himself, the narrative is photographed through long lenses, which, like it did in the HBO show, gives the impression that you're looking at zoo animals from a distance. The writing, as expected, is as sharp as anything that Armstrong has done before — besides Succession, he also worked on The Thick of It, Four Lions, and Veep. Most of the humour in Mountainhead is directed at the insecure personalities of the four men. Not a single punch is thrown — although, at one point, Randall drops a bowling ball on someone — but these dudes inflict more violence (upon more people) than Unni Mukundan did in Marco. The tone shifts drastically in Mountainhead's final act, when Randall and Ven peer pressure Souper into committing a murder. The zinger-a-minute dialogue remains intact, but the satire makes way for farce. Randall continues quoting historical figures, Ven plays with his baby by putting it on the floor and looking at it from a distance, Souper does just about anything to feel included; people fall over each other in a comical fashion.

Abhishek Bachchan said ‘I will put a bullet in your leg’, shot hairdresser Aalim Hakim with prop gun: ‘Couldn’t walk for 10 days’



Celebrity hairdresser Aalim Hakim recalled a story about being shot with a prop gun while working on a film in Canada. He said that he was hired as a hairdresser, but found himself working as an assistant director when the real ones fell ill. The film was Dus, starring Abhishek Bachchan and Sanjay Dutt. In an interview, Aalim recalled that Abhishek jokingly told him that he'd shoot him in the leg if he messes up in any way, and actually ended up shooting him while fooling around with a prop gun. In an interview

Bhuvan Bam responds to claims of getting plastic surgery to change ‘facial structure’: ‘I underwent a lip surgery because...’

YouTube and actor Bhuvan Bam got ahead of a debate as he shared a statement on Reddit after netizens claimed that he has undergone a surgery to change his facial structure. A Reddit thread had Bhuvan's 'before and after' photo and claimed that the actor has undergone surgery and was looking remarkably different. The post said, "Has Bhuvan Bam undergone any sort of surgery? Plastic Surgery – Doctor gives what God doesn't give you." It also added, "So did he undergo any procedure? He looks very different nowadays. Please don't say it's diet and ageing. Hahaha, don't make us a fool." The YouTuber himself replied to the post and giving a clarification about the change on his face. "Hi doston, Had a great time reading all the comments regarding my "surgery" ?? I also felt the same after looking at my changed facial structure, as if I've gone under the knife. But it's just 60 minutes of cardio and one hour of strength training supported by a strict diet. It does wonders trust me," he wrote.

Bhuvan Bam added further, "Also, the second photo is almost a decade old. So naturally people's appearance changes. A few weeks ago, I underwent a lip surgery because of a painful boil also known as 'mucocele'. It had to be removed because I've been prepping up for a show and had to be in a certain look." He concluded by saying, "But thank you for your opinions which are just 'andhere mein ?? ghumaana' ?? Take care all. Lots of Love."

In February the actor had shared a mirror selfie and



wrote that he is working on his body. He wrote, "Kaam jaari kyunki kaam bhaari (The work continues because the work is heavy)." In March, the actor did shared a post with the caption, "Missed you. Will be back soon. Till then, here's the recent dump from life, 1. Adjusting to this new look. ?? 2. Random lunch. 3. Got a surgery done. 4. Beautiful reflection of my watch on a flight. 5. Took Dixie for a walk. 6. Had a visitor. ??." On the work front, Bhuvan Bam was last seen in Disney+ Hotstar series Taaza Khabar season 2 in September 2024. His posts have made it clear that he is up for some big project which is yet to be announced by him.

Jaya Bachchan hits the paparazzis with a jab as they click her as she awaits her car: ‘Why don’t you come along’

Actor Jaya Bachchan, who recently celebrated her 52nd wedding anniversary with Amitabh Bachchan, finds herself locking horns with the media on several occasions, and most of it is with photographers who try to catch a glimpse of the stalwart at events and gatherings. In another episode of the same nature, the veteran actor felt that the paparazzi around were crowding her, and she decided to let them know. After saying her piece, the actor walked away visibly irritated with the whole thing and got inside her car as soon as possible.

The interaction occurred while Jaya was coming out of a prayer meet with her daughter, Shweta Bachchan-Nanda, and the path to their car was completely filled by fans and photographers. While Shweta kept walking ahead, Jaya decided to pull a page from Saif Ali Khan's notebook and said, "Chaliye aap log bhi saath mein (Why don't you guys come along?). The people in the crowd became a little awkward with the comment and started backing up from their positions, while a few uncomfortable smiles were exchanged. While this is similar to Saif Ali Khan's reply to the paps, this one seemed more serious.

The actor mumbled a few other words as she walked towards her daughter, and both of them got in the car. The mother-daughter duo was there for a prayer meet organised to honour filmmaker Rono Mukherjee, who passed away a couple of days prior. Rono was Deb Mukherjee's brother



and also Rani Mukherjee, Ayan Mukherjee and Kajol's uncle. Ayan's father, Deb, also passed away earlier this year due to a prolonged illness. Jaya has been called out on several occasions for her reaction to the paparazzi, due to the frequency of such episodes. An entire controversy erupted when actor Moushumi Chatterjee posed in front of the cameras and said, "Don't call me Jaya Bachchan; I am a better person." Even though she later admitted herself that sometimes the photographers can get on someone's nerves, she still maintained that she, in fact, is a 'better person'.

How Dolby FlexConnect could change the game for speaker-loving gamers

Let me begin this week's column with an admission — I'm not a headphones guy when it comes to video games. I've always preferred speakers, and over time, surround sound systems. I like being immersed in the sound of the games I play. Despite my parents' many staple complaints over the years — "Are you turning the house into a stadium?", "Your room isn't a warzone," and "Why is the music from your game so catchy but so loud?" — I've continued to pair my PCs and consoles with a variety of speaker, soundbar, and home theatre setups. I am aware that sound from such devices can be delayed by a millisecond or two, and if I were playing a high-stakes FPS game, I'd be at a disadvantage. But there's just something about listening to game audio on a good set of speakers that immerses you in the moment like nothing else. For example, games like God of War, Dragon Age, or even this year's Clair Obscur are bewitching, to say the least, on a surround sound speaker setup. Some of you might agree, and for those who do, I'd like to direct your attention to last week's announcement of Dolby's new FlexConnect tech. At the moment, this technology is available only on TCL's new lineup of QD-Mini LED TVs from its "Precise Dimming" series. The tech is

designed to allow speakers to be placed anywhere in a room and still create the best possible acoustic environment — regardless of the room's size. Sound is transmitted via Wi-Fi, with the TV functioning as the main control device. Impressively, all of this is accomplished wirelessly, as the television identifies speaker placement and adjusts the audio output accordingly by using microphones on both the TV and the speakers. At first glance, this might seem like a minor development in the home theatre space. But if you've ever gone through the hassle of speaker placement, cable management, and hiding wires running through your house, then you'll fully understand how significant this shift is. Dolby's Atmos technology, powered by FlexConnect, will be both mobile and adaptable to your needs. From a gaming perspective, this could be ideal for anyone buying a TV for their console. There's no need to worry about whether the console itself supports Dolby's technology. Additionally, the flexibility in speaker configuration and room size means that whether you're working with a simple single-monitor gaming setup or a complex multi-monitor station, the sound experience can still be immersive.