

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Task cut out for Manipur's new CM Khemchand Singh

The restoration of popular government in Manipur is a political gamble worth taking in a State torn apart by ethnic strife and desperate for lasting peace. Yumnam Khemchand Singh of the BJP took charge as the 13th Chief Minister, nearly a year after the much-discredited N Biren Singh resigned from the post, paving the way for the President's rule. The appointment of two Deputy Chief Ministers — Nemcha Kipgen from the Kuki-Zo community and Losii Dikho of the Naga People's Front — serves a symbolic purpose in a State that has witnessed extensive bloodshed over the past two-and-a-half years. Khemchand Singh has his task cut out as the deep wounds of the State need a healing touch. The bitter divide between the warring Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities has not yet been bridged. It will be a Herculean task for the new government to regain the trust of aggrieved stakeholders. Ethnic violence has claimed over 260 lives and displaced thousands of people in the key north-eastern State since May 2023, after tribal groups in the hills rose up against a High Court order directing the then Biren Singh government to consider granting Scheduled Tribe status to the majority Meitei community. The root cause of the ethnic conflict — the tussle over the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status — must be addressed on priority to regain the trust of Kukis and Nagas. The Centre has no time to lose — Manipuris have already waited too long for the healing touch.

A political solution involving civil society is the only way forward. Manipur, like most of north-eastern India, is an amalgamation of multiple cultures, faiths and ethnicities, many with a history of mistrust and violence. The arrangement of having a Meitei CM and one deputy CM each from the Kuki and Naga communities is clearly aimed at signalling inclusivity. However, the symbolism will be put to the test on the ground. Protests in Kuki-Zo-dominated districts like Churachandpur, demanding a "political solution" before government formation, lay bare a lingering sense of alienation and fear. The Kuki-Zo Council, a leading civil society organisation in Manipur, has urged all MLAs belonging to the community to "respect the collective will, sentiments, unity and political aspirations of the Kuki-Zo people". The subtle warning to these legislators is that they should be ready to face the consequences if they choose to join the government. A tripartite agreement in September last year between the Centre, Manipur government and Kuki-Zo insurgent groups provided a ray of hope for restoring peace and normalcy in the strife-torn State. With a year left for the Assembly elections, the BJP is keen to project a rosy picture. However, the Kuki-Zo demand for a separate administration — a Union Territory with a legislature — might impede efforts to restore normalcy. The new dispensation must make reconciliation and consensus-building its top priorities.

Harihara Kshetram

Sri Chilukeshwara Anjaneya Swamy Temple Committee Felicitates Newly Elected Uppal Press Club Executive Members

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 6 (Indian Chronicle):“The Harihara Kshetram Sri



Chilukeshwara Anjaneya Swamy Temple Committee grandly felicitated the newly elected executive members of the Uppal Press Club. Vaddepalli Kishore was unanimously elected as the President of the Uppal Electronic and Print Media Club (Uppal Press Club).“The felicitating program was conducted under the leadership of Temple Committee President Dasari Krishna and General Secretary Gone Srikanth Mudiraj. Speaking on the occasion, the temple committee members highlighted the significant role played by journalists in the development of the Uppal Circle. They stated that journalists have the responsibility of informing the public about social issues, highlighting development activities, and bringing attention to public problems while creating awareness from time to time.“The committee members also requested the continued support and cooperation of journalist fraternity in the renovation of Chikanagar Shiva Temple.“A large number of Uppal Press Club executive members and temple committee members participated in the event, including Jelly Mohan, Gone Anjaiah, Gopal Reddy, Kavali Narasimham, Masa Shekhar, Paidipala Gouraiah, Dandu Anjaiah, Polaju Srinivas Chari, Rudrarapu Shankar, Madugula Srinivas Yadav, Kasula Ramakrishna, Mallesh Mudiraj, Nani Mudiraj, and others.

Digital education is necessary : OU Vice Chancellor Professor Molugaram Kumar Library Science Workshop begins at OU Arts College

“Indian Chronicle OU February 06:Osmania University Vice Chancellor Professor Molugaram Kumar said that online-digital education is necessary for everyone in today's society. A two-day workshop titled "KOH" (Open Source Integrated Library Management System) is being organized by the Department of Library and Information Science at the OU Arts College. OU VC Professor M. Kumar attended the inaugural function on Friday as the chief guest and spoke. He said that we should use digital tools and mobile phones with patience so that we can get the information and knowledge we need.“It is very important to get accurate and valuable information.“The VC urged students and faculty to enhance quality teaching at the university and publish quality research papers in world-class journals.“Explaining that citations to research articles bring great fame and name to the university and the individuals involved. He said that H index, G index, I index, Q index, E index, M index, etc. indicate the quality of research papers.“The VC advised students and faculty to also obtain patents through their research.“Arts College Principal and Workshop Director Professor C. Kaseem advised students and faculty to prepare appropriately for the changes in the education system that are taking place with the changing times. He said that many things can be accessed through the mobile in the palm of our hand.“The principal explained that in addition to conducting classes regularly in the college, we are encour-



aging students and faculty by organizing seminars and various programs.“ Telangana State Library Association State President Prof. N. Lakshmana Rao, Workshop Con- venger Dr. J. Viveka Vardhan, Resource Person Dr. Seshiah, Library Science Workshop Organizing Secretaries “Dr. Vijay Kumar, “Dr. Lakpathi, faculty, research scholars, and students were participated inthis programme.

People-Centric Governance Sets New Benchmarks in Bhadrachalam



perceptions associated with revenue offices, Bhadrachalam Tahsildar Daniyal Venkateswarlu has emerged as a model administrator by introducing transparent, people-centric governance and swift reforms within just six months of assuming charge.““Taking over as Tahsildar in July last year after serving as Deputy Tahsildar, Venkateswarlu has transformed a system often criticized for red-tapism and middlemen influence. Through decisive administrative measures, he has ensured that public services reach beneficiaries directly, effectively curbing the role of brokers and touts.““During his six-month tenure, 75 eligible beneficiaries were provided Kalyana Lakshmi cheques, while 679 new white ration cards were issued following transparent verification processes. In addition, over 900 families received inclusion of additional family members in ration cards, offering a permanent solution to long-pending issues.““Infrastructure Upgrade and Administrative Reforms““The Tahsildar office, which had deteriorated over the years, underwent immediate repairs and reorganization. Office interiors were modernized, staff seating was streamlined, and citizen-friendly service mechanisms were introduced to ensure quicker access to services.““Beyond infrastructure, Venkateswarlu initiated systemic reforms by eliminating intermediaries and directly communicating with beneficiaries through phone calls and official channels. This move restored public confidence in the revenue ad-



ministration and dismantled the long-standing broker-driven system.““Transparent Land Acquisition and Dispute Resolution““Under the Bhu Bharati initiative, 67 land-related petitions were received, of which 33 genuine cases were resolved after fair and transparent inquiries.““In a major administrative achievement, land acquisition for the expansion of Mada Veedhulu as part of the development of Sri Seetharamachandra Swamy Temple was completed efficiently. About 32.5 guntas of land were acquired by offering displaced families the highest compensation package, and the land was successfully handed over to the temple authorities.““Further, 78 displaced families are set to receive 2 acres and 34 guntas of prime urban land under the Rehabilitation and Re-settlement (R&R) package, reflecting the administration's commitment to justice and humane governance.““Key Role in Major Festivals and Public Events““The Bhadrachalam Tahsildar office plays a vital role in managing large-scale religious events, particularly the Sri Rama Navami and Mukkti Ekadasi festivals, which attract lakhs of pilgrims. Coordinating with departments such as Panchayat Raj, Irrigation, and Health, Venkateswarlu ensured smooth arrangements and essential facilities for devotees.““He also played a significant role in the successful conduct of the Eru Panduga and Nadi Harathi programmes, implemented under the close supervision of Bhadradi Kothagudem District Collector Jitesh V. Patil, strictly adhering to official guidelines.““Restoring Trust in Revenue Administration““By issuing certificates promptly to students and beneficiaries, remaining accessible during emergencies and disasters, and ensuring fairness in decision-making, Tahsildar Daniyal Venkateswarlu has redefined governance standards in Bhadrachalam.““His administrative efficiency and unwavering commitment to public service have earned him appreciation from higher authorities and recognition as a dedicated and people-oriented officer in the Bhadrachalam region.

All Kapu Community Members in Uppal Constituency Must Unite: State Kapu Association Chief Advisors Gaddam Ravikumar and S. Vaikuntha Rao

“ “ K I S H O R E VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 6 (Indian Chronicle):““State Kapu Association Chief Advisors Gaddam Ravikumar and S. Vaikuntha Rao have called upon all members of the Kapu community in the Uppal constituency to unite.They attended a meeting held on Friday at the Kapu Community Hall in Ramanthapur, Sai Krishna Nagar, as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, they emphasized the need for unity among Kapus in the constituency to collectively work towards resolving their issues. They assured that they would stand by the Kapu community in any difficulty and ensure solutions to their problems.“They advised local leaders to organize necessary meetings to bring all Kapu community members together in an organized manner. Urging the Kapu community in the constituency to demonstrate their strength and unity, they stated that they would make all possible efforts to ensure justice for Kapus in the upcoming Greater Hyderabad elections.“On this occasion, Kapu Association leaders felicitated Chief Advisors Gaddam Ravikumar and S. Vaikuntha Rao in a grand manner.The meeting was attended by Kapu leaders D. Kameswara Rao, N. Vaikunta Rao, V. Minna Rao, V. T. Naidu, V. Pratap, V. Vasudeva Rao, B. Deva, M. Vasu, K. Lakshminarayana, B. Kantha Rao, B. Vishwanatham, B. Balakrishna, B. Venkata Rao, B. Srinivasa Rao, B. Tirupathi Rao, V. Mohan Rao, and others.



structure in the area.“Additionally, CC road construction works were inaugurated at a cost of ₹54 lakh from Chikanagar Hanuman Temple via Maisamma Temple and Nagadevatha Temple up to the Chikanagar Grand Mosque. Another set of CC road works worth ₹54 lakh was launched in various lanes of Mallikarjun Nagar Colony in Chikanagar.Addressing the gathering, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy stated that over the past five years, development works worth ₹115 crore have been carried out in Chikanagar Division. He noted that Chikanagar has received the highest development funds in the constituency, crediting Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen for consistently engaging with the public and systematically addressing civic issues.Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen expressed her special gratitude to MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi for their support in mobilizing substantial funds for the division. She affirmed that all promises made to the people of Chikanagar have been fulfilled and stated that development works worth approximately ₹115 crore have been completed over the last five years. She added that the remaining works will also be completed in the coming days.“The program witnessed the participation of BRS Party Chikanagar Division members, colony and basti presidents and secretaries, women, and a large number of local residents.

AITUC Calls on NHM Employees to Make Feb 12 Nationwide General Strike a Success

““Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.February,06.““Komaram Bheem Asifabad District:"AITUC District General Secretary Boge Upender has called upon all cadre employees working under the National Health Mission (NHM) scheme to actively participate and make the nationwide general strike scheduled on February 12 a grand success.On Friday, under the leadership of AITUC, a strike notice was formally submitted to District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Seetharam in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. Speaking on the occasion,Boge Upender strongly demanded the immediate withdrawal of the four labour codes introduced by the Central Government, stating that



they are anti-worker and aimed at weakening labour rights.“He further demanded that contract and outsourcing employees be regularised without any conditions, and that a minimum wage of ₹26,000 be implemented along with the resolution of long-pending issues of NHM employees. He pointed out that NHM workers have been regularised in several other states, but despite Telangana being a state achieved through struggle, NHM employees here continue to face exploitation of labour.“Upender also demanded the grant of 240 days of maternity leave for women employees, calling it a basic right.“The programme was attended by NHM Union District Secretary Nagesh, Joint Secretary Ramdas,leaders Mamatha,Venkatesh, Praveen,along with several NHM employees.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Lays Foundation Stone for Rs 7.09 Crore Development Works in Chikanagar Division

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 6 (Indian Chronicle):““Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, along with Chikanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, laid the foundation stone for development works worth ₹7.09 crore in the Chikanagar Division.“As part of these works, a new trunk pipeline with a 1000 mm diameter is being laid at an estimated cost of ₹6 crore on the Chikanagar main road, from Chikanagar Crossroads to Kaveri Nagar culvert, which is expected to significantly improve drainage and infra-



structure in the area.“Additionally, CC road construction works were inaugurated at a cost of ₹54 lakh from Chikanagar Hanuman Temple via Maisamma Temple and Nagadevatha Temple up to the Chikanagar Grand Mosque. Another set of CC road works worth ₹54 lakh was launched in various lanes of Mallikarjun Nagar Colony in Chikanagar.Addressing the gathering, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy stated that over the past five years, development works worth ₹115 crore have been carried out in Chikanagar Division. He noted that Chikanagar has received the highest development funds in the constituency, crediting Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen for consistently engaging with the public and systematically addressing civic issues.Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen expressed her special gratitude to MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi for their support in mobilizing substantial funds for the division. She affirmed that all promises made to the people of Chikanagar have been fulfilled and stated that development works worth approximately ₹115 crore have been completed over the last five years. She added that the remaining works will also be completed in the coming days.“The program witnessed the participation of BRS Party Chikanagar Division members, colony and basti presidents and secretaries, women, and a large number of local residents.

Large-Scale Minority Joinings into Congress Party in Chiluka Nagar Division of Uppal Constituency

Uppal Congress In-charge Parameshwar Reddy Welcomes New Members by Draping Party Scarves“



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 6 (Indian Chronicle):““A large number of minority women from Chiluka Nagar Division in the Uppal Assembly Constituency formally joined the Indian National Congress. The joinings took place from areas including Zaid Nagar, Kalyan Puri, Bank Colony, Azmat Nagar, and Beerappa Gadda.”The mass induction was organised under the leadership of the Chiluka Nagar Division Congress Committee in the presence of Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy. He personally welcomed the new members into the party by draping Congress scarves. Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy stated that “people’s governance is being implemented in the state under the ‘Indiramma Rajyam’.” He said that due to the successful implementation of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s Six Guarantees, people from all parties are turning towards the Congress. The minority women who joined the Congress Party include: Uzma Jafar, Zainab Begum, Sabia Sultana, Sumayya, Gousia Begum, Razia, Ashra Fatima, Saïda Fatima, Saïda Humra, Shirikh, Nasreen, Firdaus, Akather, Muntaz Begum, Arafa Begum, Sultana, Arafa Unnisa, Nazim, Siltun, Saheen, Ghotsya, Shanaz, Noori, Muskan, and others. Several Congress leaders and party workers participated in the programme, including Chiluka Nagar Division In-charge Akiti Agam Reddy,



Division President Rajesh Mudiraj, senior leaders Kompalli Bal Raj Mudiraj, Bottu Raju, Sandeep, Mahender Mudiraj, Amareshwari, Sushila, and minority leaders Faheem, Manchala Raghu, Sriramulu, Moinuddin, Amar, Satyam, Radha Krishna, Shankar, Jagadish, Jangaiah, Shravan, Tailor Srinu, Balu, Kiran, Tailor Balaraj, Ramulu, Palle Ramesh, Ramu, Shailu, Vamsi Krishna, Geetha, Jyothi, Shabana, and other Chiluka Nagar leaders.

Corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkat Rao inaugurates floodwater drain pipeline works at a cost of Rs 28 lakh



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 6 (Indian Chronicle):““Floodwater drain pipeline installation works being undertaken at a cost of ₹28 lakh in Nehru Nagar of Ramanthapur Division were inaugurated by the local Corporator, Bandaru Srivani Venkat Rao.”Speaking on the occasion, the Corporator stated that during the

past five years, several development programmes worth crores of rupees have been successfully implemented across all colonies and bastis within the division. She emphasized that her primary objective is to resolve public issues promptly.”She further clarified that public service is her core mission and assured that she would always remain accessible to the people. The programme was attended by Nehru Nagar President Mutthineni Jagadish, Executive President Kompelli Upender, Treasurer G. Suresh, R. Srikanth

Chary, BJP leaders Sankuri Kumar Swamy, Padigam Nagesh, Masireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Erram Srinivas, President of Prajavani Organization, along with local residents and others.

Children’s Voices Promote Traffic Awareness at Radhika Chaurasta

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, February 06, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““An awareness programme on traffic rules was conducted at Radhika Chaurasta under the initiative of Gautam Model School, involving school children to educate the public on road safety. Traffic SI Lingareddy, ASI Narsimlu, and other traffic police personnel participated in the programme. As part of the initiative, students explained the importance of following traffic rules to commuters and pedestrians. The children created awareness on key aspects such as obeying traffic signals, precautions to be taken while crossing roads, and the necessity for motorists to strictly follow traffic regulations. The programme emphasized that awareness at a young age helps in shaping responsible and disciplined citizens in the future. Traffic officials stated that educating children on traffic rules plays a vital role in reducing road accidents and improving road safety awareness in society. The initiative attracted the attention of the public at Radhika Chaurasta and received appreciation from commuters. School Headmistress MV Seshu Kumari, PPT In-charge Swetha Reddy, teachers Ashwini, Rashmi, Sahana, Usha, Komal, Jitender, Naresh, PET Rajender, and others were present during the programme.



MLC Dande Vithal Participates in Door-to-Door Campaign at Sardar Basti



“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. February, 06 . “Kagaznagar:”United Adilabad District MLC Dande Vithal participated in a door-to-door election campaign held at Sardar Basti in Ward No. 5 of Kagaznagar Municipality. “Speaking on the occasion, MLC Dande Vithal stated that the people’s government has sanctioned ₹19 crore in development funds for Kagaznagar Municipality. He emphasized that development is pos-

sible only under the Congress Party, which is committed to welfare and inclusive growth.”He appealed to the residents to support and strengthen the Congress Party by casting their votes for the hand symbol, and to ensure the victory of Congress-backed candidate Solleti Vijayalakshmi with a huge majority.”The campaign witnessed active participation from party leaders, workers, and local residents.

UPPAL CORPORATER RAJITHA PARAMESHWAR REDDY Reviews Rs 50 Lakh Community Hall Construction Works at Uppal Hills



and assured them that the community hall would be made available for public use at the earliest.”Officials and local leaders who participated in the inspection include AE Raj Kumar, Durgam Naveen Yadav, Govind Kumar, Swamy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Prashanth Reddy, P. Ramachander, T. Srinivas Reddy, G. Ramesh, T. Vijay Singh, Govindu, Sudhakar Reddy, K. Ramulu, Akku Ravi, Madhu, Amrutha Raju, Mahesh Goud, Shekhar Goud, P. Mahender, Sanjay, B. Anitha, Satyanarayana Chary, Gorige Sattaiah, Medishetty Climate, S. Ramaswamy, Govind Komaraiah, Govind Narasaiah, Parvathalu Yadav, N. Giri, Gorre Sattaiah, K. Beerayya, G. Beerayya, Chandu, and others.

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 6 (Indian Chronicle):““Construction works of a Community Hall being built at Uppal Hills at an estimated cost of ₹50 lakh are progressing at a brisk pace. Uppal Corporator Mandamula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy on Friday inspected the ongoing slab works along with local residents. Speaking on the occasion, the Corporator instructed the concerned officials to ensure that the construction works are completed within the stipulated time and maintain quality standards. She also interacted with colony residents



BJP Urges Authorities to Protect Government Land Near Pedda Cheruvu Adjacent to Lakshmi Starch Company for Public Use



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, February 6 (Indian Chronicle):““The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) conducted an inspection of approximately two-and-a-half acres of vacant government land located beside Pedda Cheruvu, near Lakshmi Starch Company in the Chilkanagar Division, under the leadership of Uppal Assembly BJP Convener Devasani Balachander. Local residents expressed serious concern that the land has recently become a hub for anti-social activities. They recalled that during the Telugu Desam Party government, former Minister T. Devender Goud had developed and beautified the Pedda Cheruvu for public benefit. Subsequently, when encroachers attempted to illegally construct huts on the remaining land, BJP leaders, under the leadership of former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, launched an agitation and successfully protected the government land. Considering the present situation, BJP leaders urged that the land should not be allowed to fall into private hands, and stressed the need to prevent youth from being misled. They appealed to Member of Parliament Etela Rajender and local Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy to

ensure that the land is developed as a public park and sports ground, providing recreation for the public, resting space for senior citizens, and facilities for sports development. The BJP demanded that the government take immediate action and, through coordination among the Irrigation, Revenue, HY-DRA, and GHMC departments, convert this government land worth crores of rupees into a public asset. Given the high population density of the Chilkanagar area, leaders emphasized the urgent



need to establish a park and sports complex for residents. BJP leaders warned that if authorities fail to take appropriate action, the party will launch large-scale protest programmes. The inspection programme was attended by local leaders, youth, village elders, and BJP representatives including Uppal Assembly BJP Convener Sri Devasani Balachander, senior BJP leaders Tirupati Satyanarayana, Advocate Ale Narender, Shamirpet Chandraiah, Vidyasagar, Orsu Shekhar, Bhavanand, Mutyala Krishna Reddy, Sadashiva Reddy, Ramesh, Karthik, Vivek, and others



Collector K. Haritha Announces Accreditation Cards 2026–28 Process

“Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), February 6,” District Accreditation Committee Chairperson and Collector K. Haritha has announced that applications are being invited for the issuance of district-level accreditation cards. “In a statement, the Collector informed that the Information and Public Relations Department has launched an online accreditation module on its official website. Applications for accreditation cards for the period 2026–2028 will be accepted online.” She further stated that the validity of the existing accreditation cards will expire on the 28th of this month. New accreditation cards will be issued to eligible working journalists. “Media managements are requested to submit the names of their representatives for district-level accreditation cards to the Office of the District Public Relations Officer. Candidates whose names appear in the submitted lists must apply online through the official website: <https://ipr.telangana.gov.in> starting from the 9th of this month.

Focus on resolving the problems at the Bowenpally Market Yard



“Secunderabad Cantonment. February.6 (Indian Chronicle):” Immediate steps will be taken to address issues such as providing basic infrastructure, drinking water, toilets, and improving storage facilities in the market yards, as well as ensuring a transparent procurement process (e-NAM). Bowenpally Market Yard's senior secretary, Venkatesham, stated that continuous monitoring will be in place. Venkatesham recently assumed charge as the officer of the Bowenpally Market Yard, which is one of the largest vegetable market yards in the country. Speaking to an Indian Chronical representative at a meeting held in this regard, he said that he would work to reduce the role of middlemen and ensure that farmers receive a fair support price. He warned that strict action would be taken against those conducting business in the market yard in violation of the rules. He also said that plans would be formulated to identify vehicles causing traffic congestion and impose fines on them. He warned that those who possess licenses but are occupying roads instead of their allocated spaces, and engaging in illegal activities by renting out those spaces to others, thereby causing a loss to government revenue, would be identified, and legal action would be taken against them, including the cancellation of their licenses if necessary. He said that he would bring the major problems prevailing in the market yard to the attention of the concerned officials and the minister of the department and work towards resolving them. He stated that he would take steps to bring the biogas plant in the market yard into full operation and would instruct the officials to ensure that the garbage and vegetable waste from the market yard are regularly transported to the plant. He also mentioned that he would be inspecting the market yard soon. He warned those involved in illegal businesses to stop immediately, otherwise, legal action would be taken against them. He appealed to the traders and farmers to bring any problems to his notice. He said that he would work towards ensuring good prices for farmers' produce, providing basic infrastructure, and curbing corruption in the market yard. He added that he would formulate plans for the development of the market along with the governing body members and officials.

Strict Action for Exceeding Spending Limits in Municipal Polls



“Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), February 6,” Municipal Election Expenditure Observer Devender has directed candidates contesting in the 2nd General Municipal Elections to maintain clear and transparent records of their election expenses. “A meeting on expenditure management was conducted on Friday at the Integrated District Collectorate Complex with the contesting candidates. Addressing the gathering, the Observer emphasized that all candidates must properly document their expenses in accordance with election guidelines.” He instructed candidates to obtain prior permission for organizing public meetings, gatherings, and rallies. Expenditure details

must be recorded as per the Model Code of Conduct and submitted within the stipulated timeframe. “Candidates were also briefed on maintaining a separate bank account for election expenses, preserving records, and adhering strictly to the prescribed expenditure limits.” The Observer warned that any violation of election rules or exceeding the prescribed spending limits would invite action under the Model Code of Conduct. “The meeting was attended by Election Expenditure Nodal Officer Nadeem Khuddusi, Asifabad Municipal Commissioner Gajanan, Master Trainer Usanna, election officials, and contesting candidates.

During the municipal elections, duties must be performed responsibly without any room for even the slightest negligence: - Additional Collector for Local Bodies, Bhaskar Rao

“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 6):- Additional Collector for Local Bodies, Bhaskar Rao, stated that during the 2nd general municipal elections, duties must be performed responsibly without any room for even the slightest negligence. On Friday, the Additional Collector participated in the training classes for Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers at the MPDO office in Mothkur Municipality as part of the municipal elections. Speaking on the duties of the Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers, the Additional Collector said that their role is very crucial in the municipal elections. He stated that Presiding Officers have the responsibility to ensure that the elections are conducted smoothly at the polling stations. He advised them to thoroughly examine every piece of polling material and to check the ballot papers and polling boxes twice. He emphasized that opening and sealing the polling box is a very important aspect and therefore they should be careful. He said that care should be taken to ensure that voters coming to the polling stations do not face any difficulties. He stated that the entire election process must be impartial.” The Municipal Commissioner, Tahsildar, Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, and others participated in the training program.



Awareness Program on First Aid and Basic Life Support at Lalaguda Railway Degree College



“Kishore Vaddepalli, Hyderabad, February 6 (Indian Chronicle):” An awareness program on First Aid and Basic Life Support (BLS) was conducted at the Railway Degree College, Lalaguda, Secunderabad. The program was organized by Senior Civil Defence Instructor Sudheer Babu from the GM Office, South Central Railway, along with his team. During the session, Sudheer Babu delivered an impressive demonstration explaining critical emergency situations such as heart attacks, paralysis (stroke), and cardiac arrest. He practically demonstrated essential first aid techniques and basic life-saving methods required to handle emergency situations effectively. The program was attended by College Principal Dr. Sushil Tukaram Ambadkar, Academic Coordinator Govind, and Physical Training Instructor Dr. Samanta Kamani. Faculty members from various departments actively participated in the program. From the Commerce and Management Department, faculty members S. Abidha Banu, Dr. Chandrakala, Shwetha, Sunitha, and Aishwarya took part enthusiastically. English Department faculty Jamsheed Chaudhary and Kumari Reshma, Languages Department faculty Kumari Dhanalakshmi, Dr. Sandhya Das, and Sainath, Science Department faculty Sridevi, Kumari Deeksha, Devashish, and Kumari

Saba, and Computer Science Department faculty Mounika and Sucharita were also present. Along with teaching and non-teaching staff, a large number of students participated, making the program a grand success. Students appreci-



ated the informative demonstrations and interacted enthusiastically with the resource persons. “The Principal congratulated Business Management and Commerce faculty member S. Abidha Banu for successfully organizing the program. The event was coordinated by Jamsheed Chaudhary, while Kumari Reshma proposed the vote of thanks.

District Revenue Officer Jayamma said that students should make a plan and study hard keeping the upcoming exams in mind.



“(Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... February 6):- District Revenue Officer Jayamma said that students should make a plan and study hard keeping the upcoming exams in mind. On Friday, the District Revenue Officer made a surprise inspection of the ZPHS school in Chandupatla village of Bhuvanagiri mandal. “On this occasion, the District Revenue Officer spoke to the students and their parents, inquiring about student attendance, teaching methods, and exam preparation. “She held a special meeting with the students, especially those in the ‘C’ category, and advised them to study systematically keeping the upcoming exams in mind, and to review weaker subjects one or two times every day. She encouraged them, saying that they can achieve good passing results if they study hard. She also said that the students' parents should pay special attention to their children's studies. She instructed the school teachers to focus more on the ‘C’ category students and improve the results. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Secure Inter Exam Papers in Strong Rooms with Police Guard: Collector K. Haritha



“Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), February 6,” District Collector K. Haritha has directed officials to securely store Intermediate examination question papers and answer scripts in strong rooms under strict police security. “On Friday, the Collector inspected the vehicle carrying the question and answer papers allocated to the district. Speaking on the occasion, she stated that the Intermediate annual examinations will be conducted from February 25 to March 31, and therefore, all examination materials must be safeguarded in strong rooms with adequate police bandobust. “The Collector informed that 19 examination centres have been set up across the district for the Intermediate annual examinations, and a total of 9,716 students are expected to appear. “She instructed District Intermediate Education Officer Ramdas to make all necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the examinations. “Officials from the concerned departments were present during the inspection.

How a man’s death in hit-and-run accident near Bengaluru turned out to be a cold-blooded murder by his wife and her lover



The Sulibele police in Bengaluru Rural district Thursday arrested a woman, her alleged lover and two others for the murder of her husband, a crime that was initially allegedly made to appear as a road accident in Hoskote taluk. On January 24, the body of Ashok, 40, was found near a curve on a village road in the Siddhenahalli village of Hoskote taluk of the Bengaluru Rural district. The death was first believed to be the result of a hit-and-run accident. However, discrepancies at the scene and residents’ doubts led the police to conduct a deeper probe.

Investigations revealed that Ashok was killed as part of a premeditated conspiracy, the police said. His wife Pushpa, 33, and her alleged lover Devraj, 33, along with two associates, Munindra and Siddappa, were arrested and booked for murder. According to the police, Ashok and

Pushpa had been married for 17 years and had three children. Ashok recently developed a habit of consuming alcohol and allegedly subjected Pushpa to physical and mental harassment, said the police.

During this period, Pushpa came into contact with Devraj, a Nandini milk tanker driver from the same village who frequently visited her petty shop, the police said. The two had gradually grown close and been in a relationship for nearly two years, they said. Ashok reportedly began suspecting the relationship, leading to frequent quarrels. He allegedly closely monitored Pushpa’s movements, restricting her meetings with Devraj. Police said this prompted Pushpa and Devraj to hatch a plan to eliminate Ashok, with Devraj allegedly assuring her of support for her and her children. On January 24, Devraj, along with Munindra and Siddappa, allegedly took Ashok out on the pretext of drinking alcohol. Near a lake, Ashok was allegedly assaulted with an iron rod and killed. The accused then dumped the body near a roadside curve to make the death appear accidental, the police said. Pushpa later approached the police and lodged a complaint claiming her husband had died in a road accident. However, investigators found inconsistencies. “The nature of injuries and the crime scene did not match an accident. The post-mortem report confirmed it was a case of murder,” a police officer said. Based on further investigation and questioning, as Ashok was last seen with the accused, all four allegedly confessed to the crime. Further investigation is underway.

‘You are zero and will be zero’: Mamata targets BJP as Assembly discusses Governor Ananda Bose’s address

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tore into the Opposition BJP on Thursday in her response to Governor C V Ananda Bose’s address to the Assembly session, which will be the last before the next state elections. She also addressed allegations against her Government over illegal immigration and the electoral roll revision. “You are zero and will be zero. You can use all your agencies against us. Bengal’s people will not accept you (BJP). You people will lose many seats,” Banerjee said. Banerjee also replied to Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari’s criticism that the governor’s customary address, prepared by the Government, failed to mention women’s safety and the law and order situation. Adhikari said the governor decided against reading the full speech because of these “omissions”. However, the chief minister stated that the governor had said what needed to be said.

“The honourable governor, as far as I know—I don’t want to disclose what was discussed with me—he likely has a flight at 1.15. For that reason, he spoke for the time he had and wished to lay the rest with the permission of the chair,” Banerjee said. The governor’s address praised the Government’s social welfare schemes.

Banerjee pointed to what she said she used to do in Parliament when she was the railway minister. “I would not speak in full. I would speak as much as was necessary with the honourable speaker’s permission and leave the rest. That system exists in the parliamentary system,” she said. Banerjee further attacked the Opposition. “When there is nothing to say, an idle mind is the devil’s workshop—that is what we always feel. To those who are looting and lying, I say: the word ‘infiltrator’ has entered your heads and nothing else.” Referring to BJP MLA Shankar Ghosh’s claim that the number of voters had increased 70 per cent between 2009 and 2014, the chief minister said, “Will the new students and youths not be included? Will those completing 18 years of age not get voting rights? Tell me... I am answering because you mentioned these things in [the discussion about] the governor’s address. Secondly, you mentioned 70 per cent. Where did this calculation come from? I don’t think even a magician could prove this.” Further targeting

HC seeks Centre, Punjab response on PIL over relaxed rules for de-addiction drugs

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday issued notice to the Punjab government and the Union of India on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Dr Paramjeet Singh Ranu, raising concerns over the relaxation of regulatory conditions governing the dispensing of highly addictive de-addiction drugs such as buprenorphine and its combination with naloxone. The PIL came up before a division bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry, which sought responses from the Centre and the state on the issues raised, and fixed the matter for further hearing.

During the hearing, senior counsel for the petitioner submitted that the present petition was the fourth in a series of PILs on the same issue, with three earlier PILs and multiple special leave petitions pending. He said the Drugs Controller General of India had, on March 28, 2019, relaxed the conditions for dispensing buprenorphine-based drugs at the behest of a Punjab-based Association of Psychiatrists, allowing supply not only at designated government-run de-addiction centres but also at private psychiatric clinics and hospitals.

The petitioner argued that such relaxation was granted without inviting objections, expert consultations or public discussion, and was contrary to guidelines issued by PGIMER in a report dated October 9, 2014, which had been accepted by the Punjab government in July 2018. He said the drug was psychoactive in nature and required strict medical supervision, but the relaxed norms would allow dispensing from small private clinics without adequate checks and balances. The counsel further alleged that subsequent regulatory changes were a “concerted effort” to frustrate earlier court orders. He referred to amendments to rules framed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and later notifications, including amendments to the 2021 rules and the introduction of new rules in 2025, which he said sought to legitimise outpatient facilities for substance use disorder treatment. According to the petitioner, the new framework permitted outpatient centres with minimal infrastructure requirements, such as a doctor’s room of 100 square feet, which could enable fly-by-night operators to dispense addictive drugs.

The petitioner also submitted that the regulatory changes ran contrary to the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017,

and other expert recommendations, and warned that the opening up of outpatient facilities could lead to widespread misuse and illegal sale of de-addiction drugs. The bench observed that the issues raised were of public importance and directed the state and the Union government to seek instructions and file their responses. The petitioner also indicated that the matter required an early hearing, noting concerns that unregulated outpatient facilities could open the floodgates to misuse. The rules in question have been in force since December 12, 2025, and the petitioner sought an early date for further consideration. The bench granted four weeks for the respondents to file their replies.

Srinivas Goud slams Congress government for neglecting Mahabubnagar

Mahabubnagar: Former Minister V Srinivas Goud slammed the Congress government for neglecting Mahabubnagar and delaying projects initiated during the BRS government. “Women are complaining about insufficient supply of water. This apart, how can a library be established in a market,” the former Minister asked while campaigning in a few divisions on Thursday.

He said the Town Hall, located in the heart of the town, had been closed for a long time. The 1,000-bedded hospital constructed during the BRS government was yet to be opened for the convenience of the people. For the past two years, the Haritha Hotel had been left to rot, he alleged. The Congress government had to float tenders to arrange the required equipment for the hospital. He said he failed to understand the reasons for delaying these projects, which were taken up in the larger interest of the people. former Minister demanded that the State government drop plans to establish a library in the market. It should instead be set up at another location, keeping public convenience in mind, he said.

4.7-km double-decker elevated Metro rail-cum flyover extension to end Nagar road traffic nightmare



GNS News Agency, Feb 6

The Pune Metro rail has begun the second phase of work by undertaking the construction of extending the double-decker route from Ramwadi station, comprising a 4.7-km flyover at the first level and an elevated Metro line. We have started the process of developing the flyover-cum-Metro rail route on the Nagar road stretch. It is a very big work as the Metro stations would be constructed above the flyovers on the route,” said Atul Gadgil, Executive Director of Pune Metro.

This will be the third such double-decker project after the Karve Road project, spanning the two metro stations between SNDT University and Garware College, and the Ganeshkhind Road project, which has partially become operational. The latest project will be a 4.7 km-long elevated stretch from Ramwadi to Tuljabhavani after merging with the proposed line at Kharadi bypass station and spur line at Viman Nagar proposed till Pune Airport. The first level will have a six-lane elevated road of 4.7 km, including a solid ramp ensuring a minimum statutory vertical clearance of 5.5 metres to the Metro and Elevated Road. This will help

Minimum temperature in Pune steady at 14 degrees Celsius, clear sky ahead

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

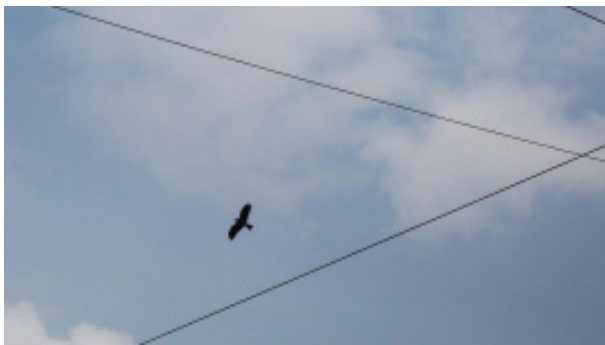
The minimum temperature in Pune and its surroundings appear to have stabilized in the range of 14°C, leading to relatively cooler mornings since the mercury touched 18.2°C at the end of January. According to the Shivajinagar station on February 4, the minimum temperature was 14.9°C, which was 2.9°C above normal. The Pashan station recorded almost the same morning temperature. NDA experienced the coolest morning, registering 13.1°C. The minimum temperature, however, changed as one travelled across areas. Magarpatta and Chinchwad had the highest minimum temperature at almost 20°C, while Lavale was 16.2°C.

According to SD Sanap, Scientist at the India Meteorological Department, there might be a normal increase of 2-3°C in the morning temperature over the next few days. The forecast is for Shivajinagar to record 15 °C morning temperature on February 5, falling to 14°C from February 6-8 and, then, rising again to 15°C on February 9 and 10. Chinchwad, Magarpatta and Koregaon Park will remain the warmest areas, with the morning temperature hovering around 18-19°C. “The South-Easterly winds are bringing moisture from the Bay of Bengal into the region, while the Northerly cold and dry winds have weakened, conditions that are responsible for the morning temperatures being on the higher side,” said Sanap. The minimum temperature was

resolve traffic on the highway from Pune to Ahilyanagar. Construction of platform and concourse girders, including the erection and casting of deck slabs at four stations at all levels, will be done. The construction of Metro route and spurlines, as well as the first-level six-lane elevated road, will be planned in such a manner that they do not obstruct or interfere with the existing roads, railways, and other utilities. “Where work is required to be carried out at locations adjacent to such roads, railways, utilities, structures, and monuments, suitable safety and protection arrangements will be ensured,” Gadgil said.

The elevated road is proposed to be constructed to six-lane configuration with the provision for widening to an eight-lane configuration in the future. In June last year, the Central government had approved the construction for the extension of the Vanaz-Ramwadi route — to Chandni Chowk on one side and Wagholi on the other. However, the existing work to be undertaken will be from Ramwadi to Tuljabhavani after merging with the construction of four stations: Vimannagar, Somnathnagar, Kharadi bypass, and Tuljabhavani. The Pune Metro has two operational routes from Vanaz to Ramwadi and Pimpri Chinchwad to Swargate.

The work on extending the Pimpri Chinchwad-Swargate route has already begun, with extension till Bhakti Shakti from Pimpri Chinchwad and Katraj from Swargate. These extensions are expected to serve key IT hubs, commercial areas, educational institutions, and residential pockets, increasing the share of public transport and ridership across the network. The Pune Metro has also started the work of extending the route from Vanaz to Chandni Chowk to 1,123 metres, which will be two stations — Kothrud Depot and Chandni Chowk. It is planning to develop a small flyover on the first level of the Metro route on a small stretch.



above normal across Maharashtra, with the departure highest in Central Maharashtra. Nashik woke up to 14.8°C on February 4, which was 4.8 °C above normal. Ahilyanagar had the lowest minimum temperature of 14.3°C, 2.2°C above normal, on February 4.

The day-time temperature has stayed steady at 30°C for several days. The maximum temperature in Pune was 30.5°C on February 4, which was only 0.5 degree below normal.

The weather office has said that the sky will be clear for the next couple of days, before one starts seeing clouds towards the afternoon and evening from February 8.

‘No escape route for Mamata’: Suwendu Adhikari leads celebrations after SC orders Bengal to pay DA dues



GNS News Agency, Feb 6 Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari arrived at the West Bengal Assembly on Thursday in a jubilant manner and hailed the Supreme Court’s order on dearness allowance (DA) dues for government employees as a “historic defeat” for the Mamata Banerjee-led Government. Adhikari, who arrived with supporters and traditional drum players (dhakis), described the order as a validation of a long-standing struggle of teachers, police personnel, and other state employees. The apex court has directed the Government to clear 25 per cent of dearness allowance dues to the employees by March 31.

Speaking to reporters at the Assembly gates, the BJP leader said the apex court had stripped the Government of its ability to delay payments further. “I thank the Supreme Court for three pivotal takeaways from the verdict,” he said. Adhikari claimed that the Supreme Court had ruled that employee dues are a fundamental right. “The court has formed a committee of retired judges to determine the dues, pointedly excluding any state government representative,” he said. “The Supreme Court has wiped away all conspiracies and interference. They have lost.”

The committee will decide on the remaining 75 per cent of dearness allowance. Adhikari asserted that every penny would be recovered under the court-appointed committee’s supervision, stating that approximately Rs 10,400 crore would be paid to the employees by March. Turning his attention to the legislative proceedings, Adhikari said the TMC Government lacked the longevity to implement proposals made in the vote-on-account. “Before a new Government arrives, other budgets will be presented. None of these current proposals can be implemented,” Adhikari said. He took aim at the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, suggesting that the current administration cannot fulfil the promised increases and that a future BJP government would be the one to honour such commitments and ensure women’s protection, like in Madhya Pradesh and Haryana. Adhikari further labelled the salary increments for civic volunteers, ASHAs, and ICDS

workers as “meagre” and insufficient to meet their demands. Governor stood his ground Adhikari also praised Governor C V Ananda Bose regarding his customary address to the Assembly session.

“I would like to thank the governor. He rejected the initial draft prepared by the state, which contained anti-Central Government and anti-BJP remarks,” Adhikari said. “The Government was forced to send a new draft, removing those comments. They had to swallow their pride.” Dismissing claims that the chief minister received favourable observations from the court, Adhikari said, “Where is she mentioned in the Supreme Court verdict? Her name is nowhere to be found. Mamata Banerjee has failed regarding the SLP (special leave petition).” Adhikari cautioned the public against “tea stall talk” regarding remarks made by advocates during the hearing, clarifying that only what is recorded in the court order carries weight. “If a BJP Government comes to power, we will honour this judgment in full. There is no escape route left for Mamata Banerjee,” he said.

Surat realtor Tushar Ghelani dies days after suicide attempt amid preparations for daughter’s wedding

IE logoThe police said Tushar Ghelani attempted to kill himself following some disagreements about the guest list and expenses for the wedding.

Noted Surat realtor Tushar Ghelani died of a heart attack on Thursday, four days after he allegedly attempted suicide, the police said. His eyes were donated after he was declared brain-dead on Wednesday. On February 1, Ghelani, 58, his wife Pallavi, daughter Tanvi, and other family members were at his Citylight Road home preparing the guest list for Tanvi’s wedding, which was slated for February 5.

Owing to some unknown reason, an argument took place between him and others, as a result of which he went inside his bedroom and attempted suicide, the police said.

“There were some arguments over differences of opinion about the guest list and expenses for the wedding,” Umra police Inspector J A Rathwa said.

Bhagwant Mann’s swipe at Radha Soami Satsang Beas chief sparks political storm, exposes unease within AAP

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann’s veiled attack on the head of Radha Soami Satsang Beas, Gurinder Singh Dhillon, days after he accused Rasokhana Nabh Kanwal Raja Sahib Gurdwara in Banga of possessing unauthorised saroops (copies of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib), has placed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at odds with religious institutions in the state.On Tuesday, Mann appeared to take a veiled swipe at Dhillon by describing him as a “visitor to an undertrial acting as a judge.” Mann’s remark, posted on X, came a day after Dhillon met Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia at Nabha jail and termed the charges against him “false and baseless”.

Without naming Dhillon, Mann wrote that only God could save the courts when visitors to an undertrial start acting as judges. After his meeting with Majithia, the second in a little over four months, Dhillon said he had discussed “certain matters like friends do”. “I cannot divulge everything in public, but the cases against him are false,” he added. When asked whether Majithia was being framed, Dhillon declined to comment, saying it would not be “in my dignity” to speculate.In January, Mann had accused Rasokhana Nabh Kanwal Raja Sahib Gurdwara of possessing 169 “unauthorised” saroops, claiming that 139 of them lacked proper records and were linked to the 328 saroops missing from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).The remarks triggered a backlash within the party. Banga MLA Sukhwinder Kumar Sukhi, who also chairs the Punjab State Container and Warehousing Corporation, or CONWARE, resigned from the post in protest. The issue was eventually defused after the intervention of Finance Minister Harpal Cheema, Education Minister Harjot Bains and Anandpur Sahib MP Malvinder Singh Kang, who visited the gurdwara and said there was no issue related to the saroops. The matter then died down.

Even as the party was still grappling with concerns that taking on religious institutions could hurt it electorally, Mann’s remarks on Dhillon have opened another front. Radha Soami Satsang Beas wields considerable influence among voters, prompting fresh unease within AAP ranks.Sources said Cabinet Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian was in touch with Dhillon. “Mundian is handling the issue. He is in touch with Baba ji. There is a feeling in AAP that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was behind the episode. We are trying to find a middle path,” said an AAP leader, requesting anonymity.

An hour after Dhillon met Majithia on Monday, the Supreme Court granted the SAD leader bail, paving the way



for his release after seven months in jail. Majithia was arrested by the Vigilance Bureau in June last year in a disproportionate assets case allegedly linked to laundering nearly Rs 540 crore of drug money. He was released on bail on Tuesday. Majithia is a close relative of the Dera chief.Amid the controversy, state AAP president Aman Arora appeared to distance the party from Mann’s remarks. “It was his private visit. Baba ji is honourable for me. I cannot raise questions on his statement or decision. I do not have that standing. We do not need to politicise it,” he said on Tuesday.

Cheema also downplayed the issue. “Anybody can go to meet anyone in jail if they are relatives. There is no controversy. The matter is sub judice,” he said, while reiterating that Majithia had amassed wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income and would be punished as per the law.BJP spokesperson Pritpal Singh Baliawal reacted to Mann’s post, saying on Instagram, “Excess of everything is bad. Now you have even started schooling spiritual leaders? Baba Gurinder Singh Ji is the nucleus of faith for millions.”

SAD chief spokesperson Arshdeep Singh Kaler described the post as “distressing,” saying it directly challenged constitutional values and sacred institutions.BJP leader Ravneet Bittu said the chief minister “has not shed his stage habit” and “thinks he can cross all limits.”Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Parthap Singh Bajwa demanded that AAP clarify whether Mann’s remarks reflected the party’s official stand or his personal opinion. In a social media post, Bajwa said he was deeply pained by the comment, which he claimed had hurt the religious sentiments of lakhs of followers in India and abroad. He said such remarks were alien to Punjab’s cultural and spiritual ethos, where saints and spiritual leaders have traditionally been held in high regard.

Death by Chinese manjha to be considered murder in UP: Yogi Adityanath issues orders after motorcyclist’s fatal injury

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

CM Yogi Adityanath ordered to hold officials concerned responsible to face action for not keeping a check on the sale of the killer kite string in the market across the state.CM Yogi Adityanath ordered to hold officials concerned responsible to face action for not keeping a check on the sale of the killer kite string in the market across the state. A day after a 36-year-old medical representative died after a Chinese manjha cut his throat in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday issued orders to lodge a murder case into all incidents of manjha-related deaths and also hold officials concerned responsible to face action for not keeping a check on the sale of the killer kite string in the market across the state.

A senior officer told The Indian Express that the chief minister took cognisance of the incident during a meeting held at his residence.The officer who was present at the meeting said the CM has instructed to conduct an extensive operation across the state to ensure a complete ban on its sale, and serious legal action against those selling Chinese manjha.On Wednesday, the medical representative identified as Mohammad Shoeb, a resident of Dubagga locality, met with a fatal accident while he was going towards the old city area of Lucknow on his motorbike, the police said.

The nylon string entangled around his throat while he was on the Haiderganj flyover, and heading towards the Eveready crossing. By the time he could stop his motor-



cycle, the string had caused a deep cut on his throat, leading to excessive blood oozing out, said an officer.Passers-by and local people came to his rescue and rushed him to the King George’s Medical University (KGMU) trauma centre, which is around three kilometres from the place. The doctors, however, declared the patient dead due to excessive blood loss.Shoeb is survived by his mother, wife, and two minor daughters, and was the lone breadwinner of the family.A Division Bench of the Allahabad High Court had issued a direction to the UP Government to enforce prohibition on manufacturing, sale, and use of Chinese manjha while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) last month. The PIL had prayed for a complete ban on making, selling, and using Chinese manjha, which is causing deaths.

Foreign patients drive 7-8% revenue: Why Delhi-NCR hospitals are cheering Budget announcement on promoting medical tourism

The medical and healthcare industry in Delhi NCR has welcomed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s announcement in the Budget on promoting India as a hub for medical tourism services through “a Scheme to support States in establishing five Regional Medical Hubs in partnership with the private sector”.NCR with its dense cluster of large corporate hospitals, international airports, and long experience in handling overseas patients is already an established centre for international healthcare.

The region now finds itself in a unique position to benefit from the Budget announcement, Dr Vinay Aggarwal, senior physician and former president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), said.Dr Aggarwal said 20-25 large corporate hospitals in Delhi NCR together generate an estimated monthly revenue of Rs 1,400-1,500 crore – and “around 7-8% of their business comes from foreign patients, which is a significant contribution.”These large facilities can handle complex and high-value procedures that attract international patients, Dr Aggarwal said. Patients come from countries in the Middle East, Africa, South and Central Asia, the CIS, and even some developed nations. Until recently, Bangladesh used to be a major source country too, he said.International patients come for advanced cancer care, organ and kidney transplants, cardiac interventions, complex orthopaedic and neurosurgical procedures, and other high-end elective treatments. Some patients from the United States come for procedures that are not covered by insurance, including cosmetic surgery, hair transplants, and dental care.

A centralised system could be transformative for medical tourism in the region, Dr Aggarwal said. “Information

about hospitals and their capabilities will percolate through a single portal, allowing hospitals to showcase their facilities globally,” he said. Approvals and documentation will be brought onto a single platform, and hospitals will be able to list their services in a way that would help patients make informed choices.“Medical tourism at Fortis is driven by a combination of clinical excellence, cutting-edge medical technology, internationally trained specialists, and transparent pricing,” Dr Ritu Garg, Chief Growth Officer, Fortis Hospital, said.The hospital attracts patients mainly from the Middle East, including Iraq and Oman; Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Tanzania, and Zambia in Africa; SAARC countries; and CIS countries like Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Patients travel primarily for advanced cancer care, organ transplants, bone marrow transplants, and complex neurosciences procedures, the hospital said.Dharminder Nagar, Managing Director, Paras Hospital, said their foreign patients require “complex, life-saving, or long-term treatments that may not be easily accessible or affordable in their home countries”. They commonly seek liver transplants, advanced cardiac care, oncology services, neuro and spine surgeries, and IVIG therapy for immune-related and neurological conditions, he said.Patients come from the Middle East (Iraq, Yemen), Central Asia (Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan), and Africa (Liberia, Kenya, Cameroon). The hospital has partnerships with 30-40 international medical travel facilitators who provide medical visas, accommodation assistance, interpretation services, treatment coordination, and post-discharge follow-up, he said.Anas Abdul Wajid, Senior Director and Chief Sales and Marketing

BJP faces uncertainty as NCP asserts control leadership question remains unresolved

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

With Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar joining the Maharashtra government, the Nationalist Congress Party NCP has moved to assert control over its organisation. However, uncertainty over who will ultimately wield authority within the party continues adding to the Bharatiya Janata Party BJP challenges in the ruling coalition.

In the absence of a leader who commands acceptance across the Sharad Pawar Ajit Pawar combine at the grassroots level, BJP leaders conceded that managing coalition politics may become more difficult. The task is complicated by the NCP’s strong Maratha support base, particularly after the death of Ajit Pawar, who was seen as a key mobiliser of that constituency.NCP SP president Sharad Pawar on Wednesday publicly expressed his displeasure over BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis questioning the proposed merger between the two NCP factions. His remarks were seen as a clear signal to party workers.

Officially, Pawar said, “I am happy that Sunetra Pawar has taken the oath of office as DyCM in the government. On the merger issue, the talks were going on between Ajit Pawar and Jayant Patil. What right does Devendra Fadnavis have to question the merger when he was not involved.” He added, “At the moment, he was focusing on family ties. There have been no talks on politics.”BJP strategists, meanwhile, acknowledged internal challenges but maintained their support for the Ajit Pawar faction. “The NCP versus NCP SP will be played out on multiple fronts. But our concern is to strongly back the NCP, which has pledged support to the NDA. We are committed to the family of Ajit Pawar and his NCP faction,” a party functionary said.

At the same time, senior leaders admitted there is no clear roadmap. “There are no final solutions as we don’t know how things will evolve ahead. From what we understand, Sunetra Pawar, along with NCP, will be able to keep the organisation intact and consolidate as it is in power,” a minister said, adding that with elections still three and a half years away, sitting MPs were unlikely to explore alternatives, including the Sharad Pawar-led NCP SP.Rajendra Kondhare, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Maratha Mahasangh, said sections of the Maratha community were unsettled. “A sizeable Maratha community, especially those connected with institutional and cooperative networks, has always looked upon Sharad Pawar as their leader for support and guidance. It was the same base which also followed Ajit Pawar. Now, some unrest in this segment is inevitable. We will have to see how it manifests with Sunetra Pawar stepping into government,” he said.He added, “To



attain the leadership and stature like Ajit Pawar requires 20 to 25 years. His death has created a vacuum for the community.”An NCP minister who served under Sharad Pawar noted that ideological continuity had kept the party’s support base intact despite the split. “Those who don’t subscribe to right-wing politics always found a credible alternative in NCP S. Despite the split in the party, we shared a common ideology and electoral base,” he said, adding that cadres did not distinguish between the senior and junior Pawar.

Now with Ajit Pawar death, they naturally see in Sharad Pawar their godfather. Therefore, sooner than later, both factions will have to take some concrete decision to address the unrest within the cadre,” he said while expressing confidence that a solution would eventually emerge.The BJP core electoral base has traditionally been among Other Backward Classes OBCs. Its 2024 Assembly victory was driven in part by OBC consolidation amid sharp polarisation over Maratha reservation demands. By bringing in leaders such as Shiv Sena Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and NCP Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, the BJP projected strong Maratha representation within the Mahayuti alliance.

However, the party has struggled to project an in-house Maratha leader capable of matching the influence of the Pawar family. Its strategy of inducting prominent Maratha leaders from other parties, including Ashok Chavan, Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil and Narayan Rane, did yield electoral gains.“In a three-party coalition government with inbuilt friction BJP always played Ajit Pawar versus Eknath Shinde. It gave them an upper hand in controlling the government and politics in the state,” a political observer said. He added, “With Ajit Pawar in the government ruling combine could tackle the Maratha backlash ably. As the NCP ensured it did not get out of control.”

‘There will be no jobs in the future anyway’: inside Pune students’ turn to gig economy

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

“There will be no jobs in the future anyway, only those who understand AI will be able to keep up,” says Dilip Wagh(name changed), a 19-year-old student who joined Swiggy Instamart as a gig worker around a month ago. Enrolled in a mechanical engineering degree course in Pune’s Balewadi area, he logs in during weekends or when incentives are lucrative. Disillusioned with classroom learning, he says he largely relies on online resources to learn.

Avinash and Ishaan(names changed), both 18, joined Blinkit as delivery partners at the beginning of 2026. Both are pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Applications (Honours) degree at a college in the Bund Garden area and started working to cover their monthly expenses. They pull regular shifts after college hours. When asked about their experience with classroom learning, the two quickly exchange a glance and offer a sneering smile in response.Many like them initially joined to sustain themselves financially. Nitin Parihar(name changed), 26, was enrolled in an MCom degree at a popular college in the Deccan area when he first started working part-time with Uber around the time of the Covid pandemic. He completely shifted to delivery work with Swiggy Instamart after completing college, as Covid clouded any conviction of campus placements.

Circling back to Covid while discussing similar cases among his friends, he pauses, then expresses his disappointment with education, “It is better to find a college and put up a stall in front of it, at least you will earn money.”Many others, like Parth Jadhav(name changed), 18, had joined the workforce while underage. Parth has been delivering food for two years after taking a gap year following his Class 12 studies at a city-based junior college. He says he will apply for a BBA degree this year.

Others, like Siddharth Sawant(name changed), have lost interest in returning to college. Siddharth, 20, has been working as a Swiggy Instamart delivery partner for one and a half years while managing his food stall nearby. He landed here after switching between a few part-time jobs after his Class 12. He says that studying till Class 10 was fine, after which he couldn’t understand much and lost interest. He



now looks forward to starting something of his own. “Ab interest hi nahi hai, ab kuch khud ka karna hai (There is no interest anymore; now I need to do something for myself).”So is the case with Gagan Yadav(name changed), 25, who graduated in political science from his hometown in Madhya Pradesh and took a job as a security guard at a Swiggy Instamart store in Pune. He has now transitioned and works as a gig worker. He prefers not to dwell on his degree.“What is the point of studying? What will I get out of it? You don’t get money by studying,” he comments. He plans to return to his hometown to take up farming in the near future.

Not all of them happy about gig workNimesh Gade (name changed), 19, also enrolled at the commerce college in Deccan, has been working as an Instamart delivery partner for a year now, following his father and uncle. He also signals dissatisfaction with college and speaks about wanting to start something of his own soon and eventually discontinuing this work.He recounts several incidents that have added to his bitterness. Speaking about the phone he now holds, bought with his own money, he recalls the day, his birthday, when he had to make a down payment for it. As he entered wearing the Swiggy T-shirt, the store employee gave him an earful about wanting to buy an iPhone as a delivery worker.He also makes a point of avoiding the mandatory Swiggy Instamart T-shirt while delivering to IT companies, unwilling to be identified as a delivery worker in those spaces. “It hurts me how they look at me when I enter wearing the delivery T-shirt. They think I am beneath them,” he says.

‘This was much needed’: Upper Arrival level at Kolkata airport gets new washroom facility

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

In a big relief to passengers arriving at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata, a new washroom block has opened on the Upper Arrival level, where travellers enter the terminal from the aerobridge. The new facility—the first of three planned on this level—opened on Monday, ensuring passengers will no longer have to make a frantic dash after disembarking. Two other washroom blocks are under construction and expected to be ready within the coming months.

The new washroom block addresses a significant design ‘oversight’ that had persisted since the terminal was built 13 years ago. While most airports provide washrooms right next to the aerobridges, Kolkata required passengers to walk the entire length of the Upper Arrival area and descend to the Lower Arrival level. Even then, they often had to cross the luggage belts before finding a washroom.Now, as soon as passengers step off the aerobridge, they are greeted by washrooms for men, women, and the differently abled.

“This facility was much needed and is extremely convenient. As soon as the pilot announces the landing, people start lining up for the plane’s toilets. The crew often closes them 20 minutes before landing for safety. It is particularly difficult for elderly passengers to wait,” Arvind Mehta, a frequent traveller from Ahmedabad, said.Frequent flyer Rashmi Jha was also relieved. “After a two-and-a-half-hour flight



The new washroom block at the Kolkata airport has fixed a 13-year-old ‘oversight’ that had caused great inconvenience to passengers.

from Delhi, those final 15 minutes felt incredibly long,” she explained.According to airport sources, the two other under-construction washroom blocks will be completed by April. These new washrooms will cater to passengers arriving at the 11 arrival gates (Gates 14 to 25) on the Upper Arrival Level.

Nvidia's AI chip sale to ByteDance hinges on conditions set by Trump administration



The Trump administration is willing to allow China's ByteDance to buy Nvidia's H200 chips, but the AI chipmaker has ?not agreed to proposed conditions for their use, according to a person familiar with ?the matter. The U.S. said it would approve the license about two weeks ago, ?the person said, but Nvidia has not accepted the U.S. government's Know-Your-Customer (KYC) requirement as now drafted, to ensure China's military does not access the chips, among other conditions. More broadly, Nvidia is negotiating with the U.S. over the terms of licenses to ship its H200 AI chips to companies in China, according to the person and two others familiar with the matter.

Nvidia said it was an intermediary between the U.S. government and potential customers that would have to comply with the U.S. restrictions. "We aren't able to accept or reject license conditions on our own," a company spokesperson said in ?a statement. "Although KYC is important, KYC is not the issue. For American industry to make any sales, the conditions need to be commercially practical, else the market will continue to move to foreign alternatives."

ByteDance, which owns TikTok and is one of the ?biggest AI companies in China, could not ?be immediately reached for comment. The Commerce Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Nvidia and

its Chinese customers have once again found themselves caught in the crossfire of the U.S.-China tech war. China has already granted preliminary approval to three of its largest tech companies - ByteDance, Tencent, ?and Alibaba - along with AI startup Deepseek to import the chips, though the regulatory conditions ?for China's approvals also are still being finalized. This news from the U.S. side represents the latest twist on whether China will get chip shipments first promised by President Donald ?Trump in early December, with a 25 percent cut to the U.S. government. The same arrangement applies to similar chips from firms such as Advanced Micro Devices and Intel. Trump's decision was decried by China hawks, ?who viewed it as a risk to national security, and fear that China will use the chips to strengthen its military capabilities.

On January 15, the Commerce Department issued a regulation formally loosening the licensing policy for the chips, but stipulating conditions. For example, it said the applicant had to certify and provide data to support that its customer will use "rigorous" Know Your Customer procedures to screen and prevent unauthorized remote access. In addition, it is required to provide a list of remote users tied to companies in Iran, Cuba, Venezuela and other countries of concern. Before the chips could go to China, a U.S. third-party lab also ?is required to test the chips to ensure they meet specifications, a requirement viewed by many as a way for the U.S. to collect its 25 percent fee. The ?Commerce Department typically circulates licenses pending approval to other agencies with the proposed conditions, according to a former Commerce ?official. Once they agree, the conditions may be sent to the license applicant, in this case, Nvidia, essentially asking the company if they can live with them. The applicant may suggest changes, which would be sent back to the agencies involved for their agreement. The departments of State, Defense and Energy are included. One source suggested at least some chips are likely to ?go to China by the time Trump plans to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in April.

US Senators unveil bill to prevent scam ads on social media platforms

U.S. Senators Ruben Gallego ?and Bernie Moreno have introduced anti-scam legislation requiring social media platforms to vet ?their advertisers. The bipartisan bill, called the Safeguarding Consumers from Advertising Misconduct Act, ?or the SCAM Act, would require social media platforms to take "reasonable steps" to combat fraudulent advertising or face legal action by the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general.

"We can't sit by while social media companies have business models that knowingly enable scams that target the American people," Moreno, a Republican from Ohio, said in a statement. "If a company is making money from running ads on their site, it has a responsibility ?to make sure those ads aren't fraudulent," said Gallego, a Democrat from ?Arizona. A press release outlining the bill cited Reuters reporting in November that revealed how Meta Platforms – the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp – expected to earn 10% of its 2024 revenue, or about \$16 billion, from ads ?for scams and other illicit products, according ?to internal company documents. Following the story, U.S. Senators Josh Hawley and Richard Blumenthal asked the heads of the FTC and the Securities and Exchange Commission to probe Meta over illicit advertising on its platforms.

Meta has said that its internal statistics overestimated ?the proportion of its revenue that came from scams and other ads that violated ?its own safety rules. "We aggressively fight fraud and scams because people on our platforms don't want this content, legitimate advertisers don't want it and ?we don't want it either," a Meta spokesman told Reuters last year. The text of Gallego's and Moreno's bill states: "Some online platforms have abandoned tighter advertiser verification processes to avoid driving away ?profits from advertisers." It notes that "online platforms have become a primary conduit for online scams or other digital advertising-related fraud."

50,000 crore investment being made in Energy Sector: Bihar Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav



Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited (BSPGCL) signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) on Wednesday (February 4, 2026) from the 185 MW solar energy with 282 MWh battery energy storage project at Kajra in Lakhisarai district, in the presence of Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav. "Currently, approximately 750,000 crore is being invested in the State's energy sector," the Minister announced.

"This is a historic day for Bihar. The Kajra solar energy project will ensure uninterrupted power supply in the State and give new strength to Bihar's energy sector," Mr. Yadav said. He emphasised that solar energy is a significant contribution to preventing global warming. Bihar's double-engine govt will work with more energy to realise PM's vision: Amit Shah "This project is not just about providing electricity, but is also an inspiration for green energy and the future," he said. Mr. Yadav added that this investment policy and work will ensure convenience and security for future generations as well, and the Energy Department is continuously working toward this goal. He asserted that the agreement marks a significant achievement for Bihar in the direction of self-reliance in the energy sector.

Energy Secretary and Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited, Manoj Kumar Singh (IAS), said, "Today is an important milestone for the Energy Department and after signing the PPA, the path for commercial operation will be paved." He mentioned that during the public hearing organised by the Pollution Control Board (PCB) for Pirpainti Thermal Power

Plant, approximately 3,500 people welcomed and gave their consent for the plant's construction, which was extremely significant and historic.

Managing Director of South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited and Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited (BSPGCL), Mahendra Kumar, said the signing of the agreement for Kajra Solar Power Project is not just a formal process, but a celebration of fulfilling a promise made to the people of Bihar. The work on 185 MW solar energy and 282 MWh battery storage capacity is in the final stage. The project was issued a work order on July 1, 2024, and was successfully connected to the 132 kV grid on December 31, 2025 – in less than 18 months. The under-construction second phase will add 116 MW solar energy and 241 MWh battery capacity at an estimated cost of ?1,055 crore. By January 2027, Kajra plant's total capacity will reach 301 MW solar energy and 523 MWh battery storage. This will not only strengthen energy supply but also maintain grid stability during peak demand. On this occasion, the Energy Minister also released a booklet titled 'The Power Year 2025 - Bihar Energy Highlights' based on key achievements in Power Sector of the year 2025.

Man gets 10 years rigorous imprisonment for cheating woman in Asifabad

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: A court here on Thursday sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs.20,000 for cheating a woman under the pretext of marriage five years back. District and Sessions Court principal judge MV Ramesh delivered the judgement awarding the term and fine against Bommena Prasanth after finding him guilty for cheating a woman from Asifabad and raping her several times under the guise of marriage. The then Inspector C Balaji Varaprasad launched investigations into the case and filed a charge-sheet before the court establishing the crime of Prashanth.

Trump, Xi discuss Iran in wide-ranging call as U.S. presses China, others to break from Tehran



GNS News Agency, Feb 6
President Donald Trump said on Wednesday (February 4, 2026) that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed the situation in Iran in a wide-ranging call as the U.S. administration pushes Beijing and others to further isolate Tehran. Mr. Trump said the two leaders also discussed a broad range of other critical issues in the U.S.-China relationship, including trade and Taiwan and his plans to visit Beijing in April. "The relationship with China, and my personal relationship with President Xi, is an extremely good one, and we both realise how important it is to keep it that way," Mr. Trump said in a social media posting about the call.

The Chinese government, in a readout of the call, said the two leaders discussed major summits that both nations will host in the coming year that could present opportunities for them to meet. The Chinese statement, however, made no mention of Mr. Trump's expected April visit to Beijing. Mr. Trump and Mr. Xi discussed Iran as tensions remain high between Washington and Tehran over Iran's bloody crackdown on nationwide protests last month. The U.S. President says he is weighing taking military action against the Middle Eastern country.

Mr. Trump is also pressing Iran to make concessions over its nuclear programme, which his Republican administration says was already set back by the U.S. bombing of three Iranian nuclear sites during the 12-day war Israel launched against Iran in June. White House officials on Tuesday (February 3, 2026) said special envoy Steve Witkoff is slated to take part in talks with Iranian officials later this week. Mr. Trump announced last month that the U.S. would impose a 25% tax on imports to the United States from countries that do business with Iran. China is Iran's biggest trading partner.

Years of sanctions aimed at stopping Iran's nuclear programme have left the country isolated. But Tehran still did nearly \$125 billion in international trade in 2024, including \$32 billion with China, \$28 billion with the United Arab Emirates and \$17 billion with Turkey, the World Trade Organisation says. China also made clear that it has no intention of stepping away from its long-term plans of reunification with Taiwan, a self-governing, democratic island operating independently from mainland China, though Beijing

Anil Ambani bank fraud case: If public funds are siphoned off, willingness to pay may not help, says Supreme Court

The Supreme Court on Wednesday (February 4, 2026) said even a willingness to pay up may not save those involved in an alleged bank scam linked to the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) and its promoter Anil Ambani from criminal prosecution, if the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) were able to unearth a deliberate intention to "siphon off" public funds. A three-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India Surya Kant directed the ED to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of senior officers to investigate the scam, while ordering the CBI to conduct a "fair, dispassionate" probe into the "nexus, connivance, conspiracy, collusion" among bank officials, authorities, and the managements of the companies.

"If there was an intention to siphon public funds from the very beginning, such kind of offences cannot be compounded just because you are willing to pay," Chief Justice of India Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, addressed senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Shyam Divan, appearing for Mr. Ambani and the ADAG, respectively. The court was responding to a suggestion made by Mr. Rohatgi that a committee could be formed, which could look into the amount due to the banks. "I am not opposing a SIT, but the gentleman could pay rather than face prosecution... They are saying there was siphoning of money. I am denying the allegation," the senior counsel offered.

Mr. Divan said the amounts "bandied about" in the court were not true. He sought, and was given time, to file a reply. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI and the ED, said the forensic auditor had pointed to the siphoning of approximately ?40,000 crore of public money. It was "not possible to compound" if the acts involved misappropriation of public funds, Mr. Mehta said. The top law officer said the acts in question involved the giving of "forged bank guarantees." "In the forensic report, it is shown money was taken from one bank to pay another," Mr. Mehta submitted. Advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, appearing for petitioner E.A.S. Sarma, who has sought the constitution of an SIT and a comprehensive investigation into what he termed as "one of the biggest financial frauds in the country", flagged the possibility of Mr. Ambani fleeing the country.

Taking strong objection to Mr. Bhushan's submissions, Mr. Rohatgi said he was giving a statement that Mr. Ambani had no such intentions and would remain in the country. In fact, Mr. Rohatgi said he was at the office every day. "I am not running. I am very much here," Mr. Rohatgi submitted on behalf of his clients. Mr. Bhushan said there was no point to a statement after the promoter flees the country.

"The gentleman who owns these companies has not been arrested to date. He is the kingpin. There are outstanding dues of ?1.78 lakh crore, and bankruptcy proceedings have only recovered ?15,000 crore... Only an ex-director of the company has been arrested so far, that too after the Supreme Court issued notice in the petition on January 23. Now, with the Supreme Court monitoring the case, some preventive measures have to be taken against his leaving the country," Mr. Bhushan submitted. The Supreme Court recorded the statement given by Mr. Mehta that the necessary preventive action would be taken to ensure the smooth conduct of the investigation. The Supreme Court was critical of the fact that the CBI and ED delayed registering a First Information Report in the case for about five years. It noted that findings of discrepancies had come to light in a forensic audit report way back in 2020, yet an FIR was registered only in 2025. "If the forensic auditor had said there was collusion, why was the RC [Regular Case] not registered?" Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked Mr. Mehta. The

claims it as its own territory.

The Trump administration in December announced a massive package of arms sales to Taiwan valued at more than \$10 billion that includes medium-range missiles, howitzers and drones. The move continues to draw an angry response from Beijing. "Taiwan will never be allowed to separate from China," the Chinese government statement said. "The U.S. must handle the issue of arms sales to Taiwan with prudence." Neither Mr. Trump nor the Chinese government in its statement raised whether the U.S. leader's repeated calls for a U.S. takeover of Greenland, the Arctic territory controlled by Denmark, came up during the conversation. Mr. Trump has made his case for the U.S. taking over the strategic island as necessary to rebuff Chinese and Russian encroachment, even as experts have repeatedly rebuffed Mr. Trump's claims of Chinese and Russian military forces lurking off Greenland's coastline. Denmark and Greenland as well as several European government leaders have pushed back against Mr. Trump's takeover calls. Separately, Mr. Xi also spoke on Wednesday (February 4, 2026) with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Xi's engagement with Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin comes as the last remaining nuclear arms pact, known as the New START treaty, between Russia and the United States is set to expire on Thursday (February 5, 2026), removing any caps on the two largest atomic arsenals for the first time in more than a half-century. Mr. Trump has indicated he would like to keep limits on nuclear weapons but wants to involve China in a potential new treaty.

"I actually feel strongly that if we're going to do it, I think China should be a member of the extension," Mr. Trump told The New York Times last month. "China should be a part of the agreement." The call with Mr. Xi also coincided with a ministerial meeting that the Trump administration convened in Washington with several dozen European, Asian and African nations to discuss how to rebuild global supply chains of critical minerals without Beijing. Critical minerals are needed for everything from jet engines to smartphones. China dominates the market for those ingredients crucial to high-tech products. "What is before all of us is an opportunity at self-reliance that we never have to rely on anybody else except for each other, for the critical minerals necessary to sustain our industries and to sustain growth," Vice President J.D. Vance said at the gathering. Mr. Xi has recently held a series of meetings with Western leaders who have sought to boost ties with China amid growing concerns about Mr. Trump's tariff policies and calls for the US to take over Greenland, a Danish territory. The disruption to global trade under Mr. Trump has made expanding trade and investment more imperative for many U.S. economic partners. Vietnam and the European Union upgraded ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership last month, two days after the EU and India announced a free-trade agreement. And Canada struck a deal last month to cut its 100% tariff on Chinese electric cars in return for lower tariffs on Canadian farm products.



court said it was rather "misconceived" of the Central agencies to think that a prior sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act was required to initiate investigation into the alleged collusion involving bank officials and other authorities. "The CBI and ED have taken their own time to swing into action, any further delay will not be tolerated... The ED has to constitute a SIT of senior officers and take all lawful measures to investigate the case to its logical conclusion... There has been an unexplained delay in the commencement of the investigation," the court underscored.

The Bench also flagged how the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was being used by family members to undervalue assets and acquire them at a fraction of their original market value.

"Reliance Communications Infra had ?47,000 crore of outstanding dues. In bankruptcy, it was sold off for ?455 crore to the brother's company," Mr. Bhushan submitted. Mr. Rohatgi objected, saying anyone could come forward and buy. But the Bench took a skeptical view, saying more such cases of undervalued buying, taking advantage of the IBC platform, were making their way to the apex court. "Unfortunately, the IBC platform is being misused like anything. You get the company and assets undervalued. Then you indulge in a kind of an auction which is also pre-planned. Friends or family come and buy. Valuation of the assets would not be even 1% of the original market value," the Bench said.

Tiger sightings rumoured across Telangana villages, officials on alert

GNS News Agency, Feb 6Hyderabad : Rumours of sightings of tiger or pugmarks in fields at different villages are keeping the forest officials on their toes. On Thursday, while the forest teams were busy tracking the tiger in Jangaon district, their phones kept ringing with villagers reporting spotting pug marks in fields in Rajapet, Yadadri, Alair and other mandals.

"Taking into consideration the fear among the public, we have to send teams everywhere. It is an unavoidable task," said a forest official.

Following the attacks on cattle in three districts Jangaon, Siddipet and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, forest teams from all three districts are coordinating efforts.

Tiger trackers from Kagaznagar and Amarabad have reached the affected areas and are assisting local forest officials.

Hyderabad: WhatsApp is taking a significant step towards modernizing its platform by testing a “username reservation” feature in the latest Android beta build (version 2.25.28.12). This development signals the impending introduction of usernames, allowing users to connect without relying solely on phone numbers, similar to competitors like Telegram. Since its launch in 2009, WhatsApp has required phone numbers for registration and contact discovery. The new username system aims to provide greater flexibility and privacy. The current beta test, visible in the Settings menu, focuses on reserving usernames rather than full messaging access. Users can secure their preferred handles ahead of the official rollout, ensuring fairness in the allocation of popular names and helping WhatsApp manage demand and maintain platform stability. Only lowercase letters (a–z), numbers (0–9), periods (.), and underscores (_) are allowed. Additionally, WhatsApp is testing a four-digit “username key”, which users must share along with their username to connect with others. This adds an extra layer of privacy, preventing anyone from messaging a user simply by knowing their username. Some beta users can already customize and reserve usernames, allowing them to secure their preferred handle before the global release. WhatsApp will use this phase to gauge demand and ensure fair access. No official global release date has been announced. Apart from usernames, WhatsApp has recently introduced AI features and enhanced call scheduling to facilitate professional meetings. WhatsApp is also preparing a major policy shift to curb spam. Meta plans to limit messages sent to contacts who do not reply, counting each message toward a monthly quota. This measure, which will roll out in several countries in the coming weeks,

Amazon partners with IIT Roorkee to develop sustainable packaging from farm waste



Hyderabad: Amazon India has announced a research collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee to develop innovative packaging materials using agricultural waste, aimed at reducing dependence on virgin wood pulp and addressing stubble-burning challenges. The project focuses on developing non-wood paper technology by converting crop residues such as wheat straw and bagasse into high-quality pulp for paper mailers. The resulting packaging is expected to be lightweight, strong, recyclable, and home-compostable, offering a sustainable alternative to conventional wood-based paper and plastic packaging.

By diverting agricultural waste from burning, the initiative seeks to help curb stubble burning in India while reducing reliance on imported virgin wood pulp. The project could also create additional income opportunities for farmers by establishing a market for agricultural residues. The collaboration with IIT Roorkee's Department of Paper and Packaging Technology will begin with laboratory-scale development and testing over a 15-month period. Subject to suc-

cessful performance outcomes, Amazon will support the transition to industrial trials, process validation, and commercial production by mid to late next year.

Abhinav Singh, Vice President of Operations at Amazon India, said the company is committed to building a sustainable operations network. "India generates nearly 500 million tonnes of agricultural waste annually. By repurposing this waste into packaging materials, we can support a circular economy while reducing reliance on conventional materials," he said.Prof. Kamal Kishore Pant, Director of IIT Roorkee, said sustainability has become an urgent national priority. He added that the collaboration aligns with government initiatives such as Swachh Bharat, Startup India, and the National Resource Efficiency Policy, while addressing stubble burning and dependence on virgin materials through scalable, biodegradable packaging solutions.The research project will be led by Prof. Vibhore Kumar Rastogi and Dr. Anurag Kulshreshtha from the INNOPAP Lab (Innovations in Paper and Packaging) at IIT Roorkee's Saharanpur campus.

As part of its broader sustainability efforts, Amazon currently ships more than 50 per cent of customer orders in India either in original product packaging or with reduced packaging, reaching over 300 cities. Since 2019, Amazon India has eliminated single-use plastic from packaging across its fulfilment centres.Amazon is also working towards its Climate Pledge goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions across its operations by 2040. The company has invested in carbon-free energy, packaging innovation, electric transportation, circular economy initiatives, artificial intelligence, and water stewardship, with a goal to return more water to Indian communities than it uses in its direct operations by 2027.

Google revenues cross \$400 billion as Gemini AI user base surges

New Delhi: Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai has said that the company's annual revenues exceeded \$400 billion for the first time, with Gemini AI app reaching over 750 million monthly active users.In the company's quarterly earnings call, Pichai said they have sold more than 8 million paid seats of Gemini Enterprise launched just four months ago.In addition, "We are also seeing significantly higher engagement per user especially since the launch of Gemini 3 in December. Overall, we are seeing our AI investments and infrastructure drive revenue and growth across the board to meet customer demand and cap on the growing opportunities ahead of us, our 2026 CapEx investments are anticipated to be in the range of \$175 to \$185 billion," he explained.

"We partnered with Reliance Jio to provide over 500 million consumers with an eighteen-month free trial of our Gemini suite of products and two terabyte of cloud storage. Reliance Enterprise customers will also get access to Google Cloud Gemini Enterprise and TPUs, bringing the best of Google AI to every employee and workflow," he added.In the December quarter, Search continued to accelerate with revenues growing 17 per cent, YouTube's annual revenues surpassed \$60 billion across ads and subscriptions.

"Cloud significantly accelerated with revenues growing 48 per cent now on an annual run rate of over \$70 billion. Backlog grew by 55 per cent quarter over quarter to \$240 billion representing a wide breadth of customers driven by demand for AI products. We have over 325 million paid



subscriptions across consumer services, strong adoption for Google One and YouTube Premium," Pichai informed.Pichai further said that since launch, Gemini 3 Pro has consistently processed three times as many daily tokens on average as 2.5 Pro."Our latest model powers Google Anti Gravity, our new development platform where agents can autonomously plan and execute complex software tasks. It already has more than 1.5 million weekly users after launching just over two months ago," he noted.

India safeguards sensitive sectors in US trade deal; exporters set to gain



New Delhi: India has built guardrails to protect sensitive agriculture and dairy sector in the concessions it has agreed with the US in exchange for Washington lowering tariffs on Indian goods – a move that is seen pushing up exports from labour-intensive sectors like apparel, footwear and jewellery.Hours after US President Donald Trump announced cut in US tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent from 50 per cent in exchange for India lowering trade barriers as well as stopping its purchases of Russian oil and instead buying oil from the US and potentially Venezuela, Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal said the move augurs well for the economy in general and exporters in particular.

But with little details available about the actual agreement between the two sides, opposition parties attacked the government for selling out the interests of Indian farmers.Goyal, in a news conference, said a joint statement will be issued by both countries "shortly", which will have details of the pact, but rest assured, the government has built enough safeguards that will ensure protection for sensitive sectors.There may be duty concessions on some imports from the US, but no duty-free imports will be allowed in crops and agri products that are important for the country.

Sitharaman in an interview to PTI Videos said, "So, actually our exports will pick up now, that is my expectation... along with having found new markets where they will continue to operate." The new 18 per cent levy undercuts tariffs on key regional competitors such as Vietnam and Bangladesh, both facing duties of 20 per cent, restoring India's price advantage in the US market. The move offers significant relief to a broad range of labour-intensive exports, including apparel, footwear and jewellery makers, which had been hit by punitive 50 per cent tariffs imposed in August, sharply denting competitiveness and order flows.

The punitive US tariffs caused India's bilateral trade surplus with the US to shrink by USD 2.5 billion each month on average during September-December 2025 (versus the monthly average in January-August 2025), according to HSBC Global Investment Research. There was also USD 14 billion of equity outflows by foreign investors since July 2025 amid weak sentiment.Goyal said that the agreement

With seven new corridors, India will be 100% atmanirbhar in making Bullet trains, says Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw



While India's first bullet train project — the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail is under construction — the government has announced Mumbai-Pune, Pune-Hyderabad, Hyderabad-Bengaluru, Hyderabad-Chennai, Chennai-Bengaluru, Delhi-Varanasi and Varanasi-Siliguri high-speed rail corridors as "Growth-Connectors".He said that the Indian Railways has fully understood the complexities of high-speed rail systems and is ready to implement them independently. Vaishnaw also noted that land acquisition would be one of the main challenges for the project and said that all states should support it, as this is what "people deserve and desire". Edited Excerpts:

What was the rationale behind choosing the seven corridors for the next phase of the Bullet train project?

High-speed rail is a major game changer. Among these seven corridors, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Bengaluru can be called the high-speed diamond (or triangle). All three are major economic centres. Connecting them will not only improve connectivity but also trigger new development all along these corridors.The Union Minister further said that two new bullet train projects have been sanctioned. Vaishnaw said the Indian Railways has fully understood the complexities of high-speed rail systems and is ready to implement them independently.. (Image generated using AI)If we look at the Tokyo-Osaka high-speed rail in Japan, all the cities along the route — Tokyo, Nagoya, Kobe, Kyoto, and Osaka — have witnessed tremendous economic activity. In India, the first corridor connecting Mumbai, Thane, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Anand, and Ahmedabad will see the same kind of development.Thus, the entire corridor will extend from Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Pune-Hyderabad-Chennai, along with the Hyderabad-Bengaluru corridor. In the North, the Delhi-Varanasi-Patna-Siliguri corridor will also be developed. Altogether, these new corridors will span about 4,000 km and involve an estimated investment of Rs 16 lakh crore.

How will these projects be financed?

That is in the process and the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) are being prepared. The work will be done in a focused manner.Will the new corridors be developed with foreign collaboration like Japan being a partner in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor?

That has not been decided yet. In the first project, we collaborated with Japan. But we have learnt a lot also. There is a steep learning curve. But now we have absorbed and understood the complexity of high-speed trains.For these seven projects, indigenous technologies will be used. A lot of construction technologies such as track works, slab, viaduct, pillars, foundation have been developed in India. Along with this, overhead electrical, advanced stations, signalling systems, all of this will be designed and prepared in India. Even the Bullet trains, in future, will be manufactured in India.

How is the Bullet train different from other trains?

There are three important factors in these high-speed trains. The most important one is the interaction of wheel and track. When the wheel is spinning at such high speed, the interaction with the track is extremely complex. And its alignment must be proper even to the last millimetre of the stretch. Second one is the Pantograph. Because when the Pantograph collects the current at that speed, over 300 kmph, the design has to be extremely good. Third is the design of the train itself, because when the Bullet train runs at this speed, it creates a vacuum. This is why it should be a complete air tight design.

Will the train being manufactured by BEML be replicated as India's Bullet train?

Which high-speed rail system — Chinese, Japanese,

or South Korean — was considered for the seven corridors?

We have to work according to our country's needs. We have a very unique geography. Our culture, the way our cities have developed, the way our states are organised, we have to keep all this in mind to design a high-speed corridor. On the technology part, we must have our own technology by learning the best from each part of the world. We should learn from wherever we get the best solutions and develop our own technology. We will be 100% atmanirbhar in the high-speed corridor.The propulsion system — including the converter, inverter, and motors that run and control the train — is being manufactured in India and exported to Europe and the US.

The first Bullet train project has been delayed. What will be an action plan to get the seven new corridors completed on time?

In the first project, the design was very complex. Initially, it was planned on an embankment, similar to Japan. However, this would have disconnected villages on either side of the track and raised environmental concerns, similar to those seen in Kerala's SilverLine project (K-Rail).Later, it was decided to construct the corridor on a viaduct, and a detailed design was prepared. However, two years were lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and another two years were lost because of the denial of Maharashtra government under (the then Chief minister) Uddhav Thackeray. Once the work began, it progressed at a rapid pace, with an average of 15 km being completed each month.

Wouldn't land acquisition be a hurdle for these projects as well?

Definitely, that is a factor. But I am confident that all the states will support this because this is something which people deserve and desire.

What about the earlier prepared DPRs for the seven projects? Have they been put on the back burner?

No. These projects are largely based on the earlier DPRs. The overall thinking was to ensure that at least one project comes up in each part of the country. This has been planned keeping major cities and strategic considerations in mind.

The cost of first project has escalated from Rs 1.08 lakh crore to Rs 1.98 lakh crore. How will it be financed?

That is yet to be decided.

What are the benefits of the new East-West dedicated freight corridor?

There are many industries in the hinterlands of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha, including steel plants, power plants, mines, and manufacturing units. The aim is to connect all of these to ports on both the East and West coasts. On the East Coast, several lines — Barbil, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur — lead to Paradip.

Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh will be connected to the West Coast. A junction near Surat will link the Western and East-West corridors. The Vadhan Port, set to become one of the top ports in the world, will also be connected. The DPR of this project also is being prepared.

The Budget data shows that AC-3 tier passenger numbers are slipping. Is that a cause for concern since it generates Railways' highest passenger revenue?

A major focus is on increasing general coaches to ensure dignified travel for low-income passengers. The induction of 17,000 general and sleeper coaches is underway, and work on nearly 4,000 of them is already complete. As soon as more Vande Bharat Sleeper trains are rolled out, these numbers will also increase. A total of 200 Vande Bharat Sleeper trains are being manufactured.

How will you achieve diversification of freight? Will e-commerce see an increase?

We are doing commodity-wise reform. The first reform we did was in the cement sector. We introduced a specialised container and flat freight rate for cement. Similarly, the work on automobiles is ongoing. Along with this, there will be reforms for steel, containers, parcels that will be rolled out in the coming months. We will do 52 reforms this year. The nature of the train is that it is always hub-to-hub unlike road, which is door-to-door. A ship is always major hub to major hub, and the same goes with the airways. So, in the train, we focus on making it multi-modal and that is being done.

Dermatologist warns that laser hair removal can sometimes trigger more hair growth, especially on your face

Laser hair removal is widely regarded as a long-term solution for unwanted hair, offering smoother skin and reduced need for shaving or waxing sessions. However, a dermatologist recently took to Instagram to note that the treatment doesn't always produce the expected results for everyone.Dr Abigail Waldman, in her post, mentions, "I'm a dermatologist and paradoxical hypertrichosis or paradoxical hair growth is possible after using laser hair removal. This is more common on the face than it is on the body."She adds, "Cooling the skin, before and after laser, can help reduce this unwanted side effect. A lot of lasers actually have cooling inside the laser. But make sure that if it doesn't, then you are cooling with ice before and after laser hair removal, especially on the face."

But what causes paradoxical hypertrichosis after laser hair removal, and how common is this reaction?

Dr Archana Lakshman, consultant dermatologist & cosmetologist, GVG Invivo Hospital, tells indianexpress.com, "Paradoxical hypertrichosis is a rare phenomenon where fine, thin hair in the treated area becomes thicker or denser instead of reducing. It is believed to occur when the laser energy is insufficient to completely destroy the hair follicle but still stimulates it, triggering hair growth." Factors such as low fluence settings or using the wrong wavelength for a person's hair and skin type can play a role. Dr Lakshman adds that although it can be alarming, "this reaction is uncommon and is estimated to affect only a small percentage of patients undergoing laser hair removal." The reassuring point is that this can be addressed in the following laser sessions and brought under control.

Are there specific skin types, hair types, or treatment settings that increase the risk of experiencing increased hair growth following laser sessions?

Dr Lakshman mentions that individuals with darker skin types, fine facial hair, or hormonal conditions such as polycystic ovarian syndrome may be more susceptible.



She adds, "Cooling the skin, before and after laser, can help reduce this unwanted side effect."

"Using an inappropriate laser or incorrect laser parameters for the person's skin and hair combination can also increase the likelihood. Areas with fine vellus hair, such as the face or neck, are more prone compared to coarse hair on the body," notes the expert.

According to Dr Lakshman, the best way to reduce risk is to undergo treatment with a board-certified dermatologist who uses the correct laser type and energy settings after a thorough assessment of the skin and hair. Sticking to the recommended number of sessions and avoiding unregulated clinics is equally important. "If paradoxical growth does occur, the dermatologist may adjust the laser parameters or recommend alternative treatments such as electrolysis or prescription topical therapies to gradually reduce the new hair growth," concludes Dr Lakshman.

‘These moments are priceless’: Rishabh Pant wishes India U-19 team luck ahead of World Cup final vs England



GNS News Agency, Feb 6

With the India U-19 team just one win away from clinching a record-extending sixth title, Rishabh Pant wished Ayush Mhatre and Co all the best for the final vs England on Friday. “All the best to the U-19 boys. You are playing some amazing cricket. From my U-19 experience, I can say this – these moments are priceless, so enjoy them with your teammates and give it your best,” Pant, who was part of India’s team for the 2016 U-19 World Cup, posted on X. “Playing for India is always a proud moment, at any level. Enjoy the occasion, play with heart, wear the jersey with

pride and get the cup home,” he added.

India will bank on its swashbuckling batting line-up when it takes on a gritty England in what promises to be an evenly-matched summit clash. India’s successful chase of a massive total to humble Afghanistan in the semifinal where skipper Ayush Mhatre and opener Aaron George finally produced innings of substance, augurs well for the five-time champions, aiming to regain the trophy they last lifted in 2022.

India have shown tremendous resolve from the very first group match against the United States. In the semifinal, they decimated a hardened Afghanistan side to maintain an blemish-free record despite being in pursuit of a 300-plus target. They now face another unbeaten team in England. India will be aware that England have reached this far after knocking out defending champions Australia and will be high on confidence. To pull off the win, India will need a collective performance befitting the quality in their line-up, studded with batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi, whose firestorm approach has left opposition teams struggling for answers. Suryavanshi, who turns 15 next month, has already struck three half-centuries and a blazing century in the final could be the driving force that propels India to the title.

‘Our flight is booked and we are going to Colombo’: India skipper Suryakumar Yadav on travelling to Sri Lanka despite Pakistan’s boycott call



GNS News Agency, Feb 6

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav said that despite Pakistan announcing the boycott of the India match at the T20 World Cup, the Men in Blue will still be travelling to Colombo. The two arch-rivals are scheduled to face off in a group stage match in Sri Lanka on February 15 but the Pakistan government have urged its team to not take part in the India match in response to Bangladesh’s ouster from the competition after refusing to travel to India citing security concerns.

“I feel their decision is not in my control. I wish I could take their decisions call but it is their call. We had played in the Asia Cup as well and we played them three times. Our

mindset is pretty clear. We have not said no (to playing against Pakistan). They have. ICC has given the fixture. Our flight is booked and we are going there (to Colombo). The team discussion is that we are playing first on February 7, then we will go there,” Suryakumar said during the pre-tournament captains’ press meet on Thursday.

“We played some good cricket against them. We have been told that the game is on 15th, the game is at a neutral venue and if we get an opportunity we will play. It’s a difficult call for them (Pakistanis players) as well,” he added. Ever since Bangladesh put in a request to move its matches from India to Sri Lanka citing security concerns and failed, Pakistan had been protesting against the decision. In a show of support to the Bangladesh Cricket Board, they voted in favour of their request in the ICC board meeting and Naqvi even threatened to boycott the tournament. When Bangladesh refused to play their matches in India, they were eventually replaced by Scotland for the tournament.

After the Pakistan government’s unprecedented intervention on Sunday, the ICC released a statement reminding the PCB of the potential consequences. While the world body didn’t specify sanctions, there has been talk that the Pakistan board might end up facing a hefty fine since their action would result in the broadcaster suffering a big loss in the high-value game. The ICC can also punish the PCB with a temporary ban on bilateral series, leading to international isolation.

‘India game is not in our control’: Pakistan captain Salman Agha on boycotting IND match at T20 World Cup



)GNS News Agency, Feb 6

Pakistan captain Salman Agha reiterated on Thursday that the decision to not play against India in the T20 World Cup comes directly from the government and the players can’t do anything about it. The future of the February 15th match between the arch-rivals at Colombo is currently in jeopardy with the Pakistan government announcing the boycott of the game in response to Bangladesh’s ouster from the T20 World Cup. “The India game is not in our control. It’s the government’s and the PCB’s decision and we respect that. Whatever they are going to say, we

will do that,” Agha said during the captain’s conference. “If we have to play them again in the semifinal or final, we will have to go back to them and act on their advice,” he added. Earlier on Thursday, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the boycott of their T20 World Cup match against India was an “appropriate decision, adding that it was a “considered stance” to support Bangladesh. “We have taken a very clear stand on the T20 World Cup that we won’t play the match against India because there should be no politics on the sports field,” Sharif stated after a government meeting.

“We have taken a very considered stance, and we should completely stand by Bangladesh, and I think this is a very appropriate decision. We are with Bangladesh,” he added. In response, Bangladesh sports advisor Asif Nazrul posted “Thank You, Pakistan” on his official Facebook page, while quoting Sharif’s statement. A few days ago, Agha had echoed the same comments that he said on Thursday, saying playing the match against India was not in their hands. “We are going to the World Cup. Humara decision nahi hai, hum kuch nahi kar sakte. (The decision not to play against India isn’t ours, so we cannot do anything about it.) Whatever our government, the PCB chief tells us to do, we will do that only,” Agha told reporters after the conclusion of the third T20I against Australia on Sunday.

Tilak Varma thanks BCCI after injury comeback, says India ready for World Cup

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

New Delhi: India all-rounder Tilak Varma, who joined the national side after recovering from an injury recently, expressed gratitude to the BCCI and the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for helping him return to action sooner than expected. Inspired by the aggressive batting around him, he said the atmosphere was electric and added that both he and the Indian team feel ready for the World Cup.

Tilak described the packed DY Patil Stadium and the crowd chanting his name as a big confidence boost, even in a warm-up match as India wrapped up their T20 World Cup preparations in style, defeating South Africa by 30 runs in a high-scoring warm-up match in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday.

“To be honest I did not expect but I will be back on the field this early. Really thankful for COE and BCCI. I always say that World Cup is my biggest dream to play. The way, I entered the ropes and, everyone was shouting ‘Tilak Tilak.’ So I didn’t expect that. I really felt nice and it also boost me when I was going in. The way Ishan was batting, I have seen him, the way Abhishek and everyone was batting, so I was also a bit like ‘Mai bhi maarunga jaake.’ I did not ex-

pect full crowd, the DY Patil was fully packed. It was just a warm up game but still the craze... Really thanks to everyone. The vibe was really terrific, and yeah- Tilak and the Indian team is ready for the World Cup,” Tilak said in a bcci.tv video.

Opting to bat first, the hosts put on a batting exhibition, led by Ishan Kishan’s explosive 53 off just 20 balls. Kishan and Abhishek Sharma gave India a flying start, racing to 80/1 inside six overs before both openers retired out to give others game time. Tilak (45 off 19) and captain Suryakumar Yadav continued the onslaught with a rapid 66-run stand, while late cameos from Axar Patel, Rinku Singh, and a blistering 30 off 10 balls from Hardik Pandya powered India to an imposing 240/5.

In response, South Africa’s chase was rocked early when Arshdeep Singh dismissed George Linde for a duck. Aiden Markram and Ryan Rickelton briefly revived hopes with a 65-run partnership, but Markram retired out, and Dewald Brevis, Rickelton and David Miller’s wickets fell in quick succession, swinging momentum firmly back to India. Despite fighting contributions from Jason Smith, Tristan Stubbs, and Marco Jansen, South Africa fell short by 30 runs.

Football legend Andrea Pirlo sends best wishes to Italy cricket team for T20 World Cup 2026



GNS News Agency, Feb 6

Federazione Cricket Italiana got football legend Andrea Pirlo to record ‘all the best’ wishes for their cricket team debuting at the T20 World Cup. The 2006 football World Cup winner, scion of a ridiculously rich steel empire and classy fan favourite, is seen donning a generic grey tee, and saying ‘Ciao a tutti voglio farvi un grande in bocca al lupo ciao.’ It means, “Hello everyone, I want to wish you all a big good luck.”

The message might not reveal any deep emotional

investment into the cricket T20 squad, but is nevertheless an acknowledgment that the Italian Federation are trying to drum up support in a different sport. The national football team is still awaiting qualification for the Football world cup, which many hoped would’ve been secured a little earlier.

The cricket T20 side however, are riding a wave of confidence, after recent win against Canada, and have surprised everyone after qualifying ahead of higher ranked other sides. Crucially, they are in the same group as England, and while an upset of that level is unlikely Gli Azzurri will fancy their chances based on the effect Italians in general have on the English. Italy won football’s Euro after two straight failures to qualify for the Football World Cup, and Pirlo’s mate Gennaro Gattuso is really trying to push them to at least secure a spot in the 48-team football quadrennial – Wales and Northern Ireland need to be beaten. Meanwhile, a team of ICC top officials is simultaneously in Milan, wooing assorted Europeans to take up the easier bat ball sport. Gli Azzurri are enjoying the sun and attention in the subcontinent. Christian Vieri was a bona-fide Allan Border fan, and the cricket body of Italy is likely to convince many more Azzurris to smile like a million dollars and send messages to their men in India and Sri Lanka.

Nasser Hussain to ICC: ‘Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India must be treated the same’

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has criticised the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the way they have handed the recent issue of Bangladesh Cricket Team refusing to travel to India for the T20 World Cup and Pakistan boycotting the group stage game against India. Bangladesh team’s ouster came after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) refused to send their team to India for the T20 World Cup citing security concerns after the Board of Control for Cricket in India had forced Kolkata Knight Riders to dump a Bangladesh cricketer from its roster for the upcoming Indian Premier League. After the ICC booted out Bangladesh, Pakistan government announced that its team will play in the T20 World Cup, but will boycott the game against India. This led the ICC to ask the PCB to rethink the decision.

Now, former England captain Hussain has asked the ICC to be consistent with the way they handle situations. While speaking on the Sky Sports Podcast, where he was joined by Michael Atherton, Hussain pointed out that the ICC was giving preferential treatment to some boards, particularly India.

Hussain said: “If India, a month before a tournament, said ‘our government does not want us to play in a country for a World Cup’, would the ICC have been so firm and said, ‘You know the rules, bad luck, we’re knocking you out?’ Suryakumar India’s captain Suryakumar Yadav, left, and Pakistan’s captain Salman Agha stand for the coin toss of the Asia Cup cricket final between India and Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, United Arab Emirates,



Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025. “The only question all sides ask for is consistency. Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India must be treated the same. Yes, India fans may say, ‘Cry more, we have the money!’ But with power comes responsibility. Constantly knocking Bangladesh or Pakistan diminishes their cricket. That’s why the great games between India and Pakistan or India and Bangladesh have become one-sided over time,” he added. Hussain praised Pakistan team and the Bangladesh Cricket Board for standing up for its players. He added that the sport was “risking shooting itself in the foot”. “I’m amazed at how well Pakistan have done and continue to do with everything that they are working against. And I actually quite like Bangladesh sticking to their guns, standing up for their players. I quite like Pakistan sticking up for Bangladesh as well. At some stage, someone should say, enough with this politics, can we just get back to playing cricket,” Hussain added.

Is Ronaldo’s Al Nassr strike over? Star could return for crucial Al Ittihad clash after joining team training

GNS News Agency, Feb 6

Cristiano Ronaldo’s strike at Al Nassr might be over after the talismanic forward returned to team training as they sharpen their weapon to face Al Ittihad in a crucial game of the Saudi Pro League. Ronaldo, who will turn 41 on Thursday, is also expected to lace up against Al Ittihad on Friday. The game has massive ramifications for the league standings: if Al Nassr win, they will go on top of the Saudi Pro League. After refusing to play in Al Nassr’s last game, Ronaldo posted a picture of himself in training on X on Wednesday. It must be noted that the Portuguese star’s return has not been confirmed either by the player or the club.

Ronaldo earns a reported £500,000 a day at Al Nassr (according to a report in Sky Sports) and contractually obliged to play unless he is injured. The star now has 18 months left on his contract, which has a £43 million summer release clause.

After Ronaldo had skipped the team’s Saudi Pro League win over Al Riyadh on Monday, reports suggested that he was unhappy about the running of the club. Al Nassr are owned by Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund PIF, just like Al Hilal, Al Ahli and Al Ittihad. However, reports stated that Ronaldo is angry that Al Nassr was not getting the same financial support from the sovereign wealth fund PIF as the other three clubs.

Ronaldo’s “strike” started after the former Real Madrid star was signed by Al Hilal, who are Al Nassr’s rivals for



the league title. Al Hilal poached Benzema from Al Ittihad. Ronaldo’s anger arose from the fact that his own side have not been able to buy players in the ongoing transfer window, with a young Iraqi midfielder, Hayder Abdulkareem, being the only incoming transfer for Al Nassr in January. Ronaldo has not managed to help AL Nassr win the Saudi league title yet. Currently, Al Hilal hold a one-point lead over Al Nassr at the top of the Saudi Pro League standings. A report in Sky Sports noted that Benzema’s move to Al Hilal was bankrolled by a private billionaire Saudi investor Prince Alwaleed bin Talal rather than the league or the PIF. Al Nassr, meanwhile, have not been constrained by the PIF from signing more players with the backing of private investors like Al Hilal have with Benzema.

Ayush Shetty beats Kenta Nishimoto, Satwik-Chirag give India 2-0 lead over Japan

GNS News Agency, Feb 6 Ayush Shetty, who entered Top 25 this Monday, started his team stint with a 21-18, 15-21, 21-11 win against Japanese veteran Kenta Nishimoto, who has often posed headaches for Indians with his doughty play. Ayush playing the first singles of the group men’s tie at the Asian team championship in Qingdao, China, did well to reverse a 11-15 and 16-18 deficit in the first set, taking five points in a row to claim the opener 21-18. The match that went on for 74 minutes, saw the 20-year-old Indian falter in the second, but he was in stomping form in the decider that he centered to 21-11.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are currently battling Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi in the second match of this tie. HS Prannoy and Tharun Manneppa are designated to take on Yushi Tanaka and Koki Watanabe in the next two singles. Earlier, the women’s team went down 2-3 to Thailand despite Tanvi Sharma putting them 1-0 ahead beating familiar Indian punching bag Busanan Ongbamrunphan. Tanvi won 21-14, 17-21, 21-18, after the Thai accelerated from 17-17 in the second. She made heavy weather of the decider against the opponent ranked No 16, aged 29, but India’s young No 42, aged 17, did well to close out the match eventually.

Treesa-Gayatri too hiccups on way to a 21-14, 20-22, 21-11 win, and the second set stutter saw them go from 15-12 up to 17-19 down and get dragged into a decider



Snapping out of that reverses, they did well to race to wrap up the match against World No 65 Nattamon Laisuan – Teedapron Kleebyeesun.

Rakshitha Ramraj disappointed 21-19, 21-17 but she was up against the player in red hot form on the circuit Pitchamon Optaniputh, a.k.a. Pink. Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra could do very little against Hathaithip-Napaipakorn, after a spirited first-set. They went from 13-18 to winning it 21-19, but we’re outplayed thereafter.

Malvika Bansod tasked with downing Pornpicha Choeiekiwong went down 21-18, 21-14 in a match she ought to have converted. ranked 47 as against No 69.

‘You’ll make Kal Ho Naa Ho again’: Irrfan Khan refused D-Day, accepted only when Anurag Kashyap said ‘Nikkhil Advani behak gaya tha’



Those eyes. Those bloody eyes of Irrfan Khan. That line, by itself, says everything about the talent the late legend possessed. One could go on counting the many performances where his eyes shone the brightest, moments where they spoke before words ever could. And yet, not many would include Nikkhil Advani’s highly underrated D-Day in that list, where, once again, his eyes shocked, disarmed, evaded, and confounded, and in doing so, moved you. What makes it even more compelling is the knowledge that despite how extraordinary he was in the film, he almost rejected it. He was unsure of Advani’s capabilities as a director, uncertain whether he could helm a no-nonsense spy actioner.

In an exclusive conversation with SCREEN, Advani revealed Irrfan’s initial reaction upon hearing the script. “Irrfan kept telling me, ‘Yaar, tu Kal Ho Naa Ho banayega toh. Kal Ho Naa Ho ke jaise beech mein gaane daalega. Itna achha script hai, tu yeh sab kar dega uss mein.’” (You’ll make it like Kal Ho Naa Ho, add songs in between. It’s such a good script, you’ll end up doing all that to it.)

Advani went on to share that it was Anurag Kashyap who ultimately convinced Irrfan to come on board. “Then it

was Kashyap who told him, ‘Arey, isne Iss Raat Ki Subah Nahin likhi thi. Yeh behak gaya tha abhi, wapas aa gaya hai. Tu kar le, kar le.’” (He wrote Iss Raat Ki Subah Nahin. He had gone off track for a bit, but he’s back now. You should do it, go ahead.)” Irrfan Khan Irrfan Khan was briefly insecure when he heard that Rishi Kapoor would play Dawood Ibrahim in D-Day.

Advani also pointed out the irony that despite Kashyap’s influence on many of Irrfan’s career decisions, the two never actually collaborated on a film together. Several projects Irrfan took up, he said, were based on Kashyap’s informal advice, “do this, do that”, rather than formal collaborations. The filmmaker further revealed that Irrfan briefly felt insecure when he learned that Rishi Kapoor would be playing the role of Dawood Ibrahim. “When I called him and told him that Rishi Kapoor is doing Dawood, he said, ‘Yaar, abhi toh sab kuch le jaayega woh phir.

Lines bhi saari achhi ussi character ke paas hain. Rishi sir is too good.” (Man, he’s going to take everything away now. All the best lines are with that character. Rishi sir is too good.)

In the same conversation, Advani reflected on how D-Day became a turning point in his career. “D-Day didn’t just change me as a filmmaker, it made people call me a filmmaker. Till then, I was struggling to be known as one. When the D-Day reviews came, somebody wrote, ‘Can’t believe the director of Kal Ho Naa Ho has made this film.’ Suddenly, they acknowledged that I was the director of Kal Ho Naa Ho.”

Watch the episode of Cult Comebacks on D-Day here:

He also addressed the film’s box-office failure, noting that despite its commercial fate, D-Day was widely appreciated within the industry. “I was very happy just with the fact that I made the film the way I wanted to. We did around 20 previews, and from Amitabh Bachchan to Javed Akhtar, everyone came. By the time it was about to release, people from the industry would call and say, ‘Can we come watch it? We’ve heard it’s fantastic.’ We had back-to-back shows, one 6 o’clock, then 9 o’clock, for days.”

‘Ranbir Kapoor does not allow Alia Bhatt to follow his Finsta, but he watches everything,’ says blogger



Ranbir Kapoor is famously known for not being on social media, at a time when a star’s social media handles are a major revenue stream for them. It is also considered a way via which they keep in touch with their fans and followers, but Ranbir, who made his debut in 2007, has stayed off social media. But, it is also well known that while Ranbir does not engage on Instagram, he does have a ‘Finsta’ (fake Instagram) account, which is obviously not in his name. In a recent interview Malini Agarwal aka Miss Malini shared that Ranbir does not even allow Alia Bhatt to follow this ac-

count as the fans could decipher that it actually belongs to him.

Malini shared on InControversial Podcast, “Ranbir Kapoor has a Finsta and he doesn’t even let Alia follow it because it will be obvious that it’s him because he loves to watch what everyone’s doing but he doesn’t want to be on social media. Everyone has tried to get him on social media but he doesn’t want to have his own social account so he is not on social media but he has this fake account but nobody knows what it is and he watches everything.”

Previously, at an event in Dubai, Ranbir confessed to the same. He also shared that he did make a reel with his daughter Raha on this account. “Actually, on my Finsta account, I did make a reel with my daughter (Raha) and posted it. But I have no followers, so it’s just for the air,” he said. At the same event, Ranbir said that he does not want to be on Instagram officially. “Then I’ll have a responsibility to really show myself off to the world and I felt that I already have a medium, which is acting in movies, and that’s enough for me to show myself to the world,” he said. Alia, who was also present at this event, added, “He wouldn’t even let me follow him. He’s like ‘no because if you follow me, everyone will follow me’. So I’m like peeking into his phone. He’s got like all of two reels on his finsta account, which only he and maybe two people will see.”

Paramount CEO David Ellison promises ‘no monopoly’ amid bid for Warner Bros; Donald Trump vows to stay out of deal



The whole of Hollywood has been holding its breath ever since Paramount put in a hostile bid for Warner Bros Discovery. The other big dog in the fight is Netflix, who are also trying to acquire the vast library of content owned by WB. The obvious concern with any of these is how the illusion of choice will get even worse. To put some minds at ease or strengthen his company’s position, Paramount CEO David Ellison has voiced his intentions in an open letter to the creative community.

WB going to Paramount will also mean that the news outlet CNN would come under the control of basically the opposite camp. It’s not exactly democratically healthy for multiple nationwide news corporations to be owned by the same person. Everyone fears that Paramount will monopolise news, movies and more, but David has promised that he wishes to do no such thing.

He wrote in the letter that the audience is better served by “greater choice – not less – and by a marketplace that encourages the full spectrum of filmmaking, content creation, and theatrical exhibition, not one that eliminates meaningful competition by creating a monopolistic or dominant entity.” David has also committed to 30 theatrical releases each year, while ensuring that the market retains its competitive nature. David Ellison has made several other commitments regarding the deal, such as the theatre-to-OTT

window and HBO’s independent functioning. The letter is to increase his chances to win the bidding war, as Netflix has already sweetened the deal by moving to an all-cash offer. On the other hand, David has his father, Larry Ellison, and several sovereign wealth funds from places like Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Abu Dhabi backing him.

US president Donald Trump and Oracle founder Larry Ellison have long been associated with each other. Just a few months ago reports came that Trump was leaning on his friend so that he could get his son David to make Rush Hour 4 with Brett Ratner. Even if Rush Hour 4 doesn’t happen, Ratner got the chance to helm the Melania Trump documentary. This close association with Paramount has made people question Trump’s potential involvement in the deal. The president has spoken up now and clarified to NBC News that he “hasn’t been involved.” This is the complete opposite of what he said in December, after Paramount offered \$83 billion to Warner Bros. Now he is saying that he has been contacted by both sides. “I guess I’m considered to be a very strong president. I’ve been called by both sides. It’s the two sides, but I’ve decided I shouldn’t be involved. The Justice Department will handle it.”

Rajasekhara plays ‘Bullet’ Sunil in Sharwanand’s ‘Biker’

Hyderabad: The makers of director Abhilash Reddy Kankara’s high-octane sports-family drama ‘Biker’, featuring actor Sharwanand in the lead, have now disclosed that well-known actor Rajasekhara plays a character called ‘Bullet’ Sunil in the eagerly-awaited sports film. The disclosure came by way of a glimpse video that the makers chose to release on the occasion of Rajasekhara’s birthday. The glimpse video opens with a voiceover. Former motocross racer Sunil – widely known as ‘

Allu Arjun turns cheerleader: Inside brother Allu Sirish and Nayanika’s ‘magical’ pre-wedding yacht bash



Allu Sirish and his fiancée Nayanika, who are set to marry on March 6, recently began their wedding festivities with an elegant pre-wedding celebration in Dubai. The intimate bash unfolded across January 30 and 31 aboard a luxury yacht. On Thursday, Sirish shared a video from the celebration on Instagram, offering a peek into the festivities attended by close friends and family, including his elder brother, superstar Allu Arjun, Arjun’s wife Sneha Reddy, and actor-singer Sophie Choudry.

Cruising along the Jumeirah coastline, the private yacht provided a breathtaking backdrop, with the Dubai skyline glowing during sunset. The video captures the couple and the guests fully immersed in the moment and soaking in the festive vibe. Video also shows Sirish uncorking a bottle of champagne and spraying it into the air, while Allu Arjun is seen standing beside him. Guests can be seen raising their glasses and recording the celebration. In another warm moment from the video, Sirish is seen planting a gentle kiss on Nayanika’s cheek as they smile and move through the gathering, greeting friends and family.

Earlier, Sophie Choudry had also shared a series of photos and videos from the pre-wedding party on her social media. Sharing her joy at being part of the celebration, Sophie wrote, “The most amazing time celebrating my dearest, sweetest Siri @allusirish & his gorgeous bride to be Nayanika. You guys are so so beautiful together Stay this happy, blessed and aligned always ???? And Arjun thank you for being you ???? #memoriesforlife @alluarjunonline. #bestiesgettingmarried #allusirish #dubai #sophiechoudry (sic).” Her posts also included pictures with the couple, Allu Arjun, and Sirish’s brother Allu Bobby, highlighting the close bond shared by the guests.

Sirish and Nayanika had earlier exchanged rings in Hyderabad on October 31, in the presence of their closest friends and family. Announcing the engagement, Sirish had shared how their story began, revealing that they first truly connected at a wedding party hosted by Nithin and Shalini, Nayanika’s best friend, for Varun Tej and Lavanya Tripathi. “That night was the first time Nayanika and I truly met. And now, two years later, we’re happily in love and engaged. Someday, when my kids ask me how it all began, I’ll tell them that’s How I Met Your Mother,” he wrote at the time.

March 6 also holds special significance for the family, as it marks the wedding anniversary of Sirish’s elder brother Allu Arjun and Sneha Reddy, who tied the knot on the same date in 2011.

Allu Arjun too got married on March 6 Explaining how the date was chosen, Sirish said, “When our wedding dates were being arrived at as per charts and kundalis, we were given two favorable dates – 25 February and March 6. Our next thought was to pick the date that matched our venue’s availability. And that just happened to be, well, March 6. It was only then that we even realized this very happy coincidence – of sharing our wedding date with Bunny and Sneha’s! This date has been deeply meaningful for all of us, and knowing that I’m marrying Nayanika that same day feels like a blessing... feels like destiny!” He added that witnessing the life his brother and Sneha have built together has been deeply inspiring, and that he hopes to create a journey rooted in love, understanding, and mutual respect with Nayanika.

AP Dhillon laughs off 40 mobile phones being stolen at his Delhi concert: ‘People bought 1 ticket for Rs 6.5 lakh so...’



Famous rapper AP Dhillon’s Delhi concert in December last year, made headlines for the wrong reasons. Several attendees had complained that their phones were stolen during the event, which was held at Indira Gandhi indoor stadium. The Punjabi-Canadian artist reportedly had the highest ticket price at Rs 6.25 lakh at his concert, in the One of One India Tour in 2025. In Kapil Sharma’s upcoming episode’s new promo, Dhillon joked about the stolen phones connecting it with the expensive ticket price. Comedian Anubhav Singh Bassi will also take over the stage as a guest with him.

Chris Hemsworth is 8 to 10 times more likely to develop Alzheimer’s, wondered If people would believe him as Thor: ‘This is not a death sentence’

Marvel star and action hero Chris Hemsworth revealed a concerning detail about his health a couple of years ago. The actor shared that his grandfather had Alzheimer’s disease and that his father is currently battling the same condition. Hemsworth also discovered that he carries a genetic predisposition that significantly increases his risk of developing the disease. In a recent interview, the actor opened up about the disease and the fear he felt before revealing it to the world.

While talking to The Guardian about his new film with Mark Ruffalo, Crime 101, Hemsworth also touched upon his diagnosis and how that made him feel. He said that he was reserved about letting people know about his condition because he felt that this could get in the way of getting more work as an action superhero. He said, “I wondered if I was letting people too far in. Are they no longer going to believe in the action star or the Marvel character? And do I want people to know my fears and insecurities at this level?” The Thor star also said that he has a very different approach towards work and life now. He said, “My appetite for racing forward has really been reined in. I’ve become more aware of the fragility of things. You start thinking, ‘My dad won’t be here forever.’ And my kids are now 11 and 13. Those nights where they’d fight over sleeping in our bed – suddenly they’re not happening any more.”



Chris Hemsworth admitted to taking up roles that felt more personal since his father’s diagnosis. Hemsworth talked about coming from “nothing” and how he felt ridiculous about turning down roles that would help him financially. He also expressed anger at how people took the news and said, “It’s not like I’ve been handed my resignation. It’s not a predetermined gene, but it is a strong indication. Ten years ago,