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Two electrocuted in Hyderabad amid heavy rains

Hyderabad: Heavy rains in the city on Tuesday claimed two lives after they were electrocuted in Bandlaguda, Old City, when they came into contact with live power lines that had fallen on a main road.

The victims were identified as Jaffer and Abu, residents of Chandrayangutta.

According to police, the incident occurred when the duo stepped out of an auto-rickshaw and unknowingly walked onto the road where electric wires had snapped due to the heavy rains.

Tenant farmer ends life in Jagtial, debt burden suspected

Jagtial: A tenant farmer, Manala Pedda Dubbaiah (60), died by suicide in Buggaram mandal on Tuesday, reportedly due to mounting debts and poor yield in the recent agricultural season.

According to police, Pedda Dubbaiah, a tenant farmer, had accumulated debts and was reportedly disheartened due to poor yield and a lack of remunerative prices. He was tense over the past few days and allegedly took the extreme step by consuming pesticides.

SHGs Will Rent 3,000 Buses To RTC, Says Revanth

Hyderabad, June 9

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday said that the Congress government would financially empower Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by renting 3,000 buses owned by SHGs to the Telangana Road Transport Corporation (TGRTC). He said that women's economic empowerment was central to the government's development agenda.

Addressing a gathering of women SHG members from across Telangana at the 'Indira Mahila Shakti' programme held at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad, the Chief Minister said that 1,000 buses owned by SHGs had already been rented to TGRTC at a monthly rental of about ₹70,000 per bus and that another 2,000 buses would be inducted over the next two years.

The Chief Minister flagged off 553 buses owned by SHGs and rented to TGRTC. The buses were financed by Mandal Mahila Samakhya (MMS) and are being operated and maintained by TGRTC. During the event, Revanth Reddy handed over a cheque of ₹20.34 crore from TGRTC to the MMS towards rental charges for the 553 buses. He said each bus was earning a monthly rental of ₹69,468 for the women's groups and that the total rental amount paid so far for these buses had reached ₹20.34 crore.

Heavy rains in Hyderabad on Tuesday disrupted normal life and also affected the Chief Minister's schedule. To reach the venue, Revanth Reddy travelled in a TGRTC bus along with Women and child welfare minister Seethakka, and women SHG members.

Referring to the rainfall during the event, the Chief Minister described it as an auspicious sign and said the rain god had blessed the programme soon after the launch of the 553 buses.

The Chief Minister also released a cheque of ₹500

crore towards interest-free loans for women self-help groups and handed over a cheque representing savings of Rs 10,700 crore accrued to women through the government's free bus travel scheme. He said the Congress government was committed to transforming the lives of women through economic opportunities and financial independence.

Declaring that he was personally taking responsibility for making one crore women "crorepatis", Revanth Reddy said women's participation was crucial for achieving the economic goals set by the Congress government.

"We are undeterred by the conspiracies of the opposition and are striving with the goal of making one crore women crorepatis. I am taking this responsibility for women's economic empowerment. With the blessings of women, we will continue to run this government until 2034," he said.

He maintained that the government's welfare and empowerment initiatives would continue with renewed vigour and expressed confidence that the support of women would help the Congress remain in power until 2034.

Criticising opposition parties, Revanth Reddy alleged that rival parties were conspiring to obstruct the government's efforts to empower women economically. He criticised the previous BRS government for its alleged indifference towards women, pointing out that former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had not inducted even a single woman into his Cabinet during the first five years of his rule.

He also accused the previous government of failing to disburse interest-free loans to women's self-help groups. In contrast, he said, the Congress government sanctioned zero-interest loans immediately after assuming office.



The Chief Minister also targeted the BJP, stating that the party had never appointed a woman as its national president in its history. He said both the BRS and BJP had failed to demonstrate a genuine commitment to women's empowerment.

Revanth Reddy took a dig at opposition parties for

opposing the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme for women. He said the opposition had taken to the streets demanding the scheme's withdrawal, but the Congress government continued to implement it despite hurdles. The scheme, he said, had enabled women to save money and pursue higher education and employment opportunities.

NDA to mark 12 years in power, pass resolution on Modi as longest-serving PM

New Delhi, June 9

The ruling National Democratic Alliance members will meet here on Wednesday to mark 12 years in government and pass a resolution on Prime Minister Narendra Modi becoming India's longest-serving Prime Minister, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru.

As many as 72 leaders of the ruling bloc's constituents will be present as the NDA strategises for the path ahead, just after the opposition INDIA bloc gathering on Monday.

The NDA is in power at the Centre and in 22 states with the BJP alone having chief ministers in 16. TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda, JDU's Nitish Kumar will be in attendance.

The main agenda of the gathering will be passing of a resolution on PM Modi becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Modi took the oath of office on May 26, 2014. He will surpass the record of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who first took oath as an elected Prime Minister on May 13, 1952, and served until 27 May 1964. Pandit Nehru's tenure as an elected Prime Minister amounted to 4,398 days.

From May 26, 2014, to 10 June 2026, Modi's continuous tenure as Prime Minister will total 4,399 days, making him the longest-serving elected PM in India's history. BJP leaders said the achievement was noteworthy given the scale and complexity of governance in India and the diversity of its landscape.

"At a time when many countries have witnessed political churn, frequent changes in government and policy uncertainty, India has experienced continuity in leadership and governance. This reflects sustained public trust across three consecutive national mandates in



the world's largest democracy," said NDA sources.

They cited PM Modi being conferred with the highest civilian honours of more than 30 countries.

The NDA resolution tomorrow will record all this and also the delivery of 250 million Indians from multidimensional poverty as reported by the World Bank.

The resolution will further say that under Modi, India has strengthened its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, concluded major trade agreements with leading economies, and emerged as a more influential voice on global issues, including development, technology, climate action and the priorities of the Global South.

Special session for delimitation Bill likely if NDA crosses 2/3rds mark

New Delhi, June 9

The government is actively strategising to ensure the passage of the 131st Constitution Amendment Bill-2026 that links women's reservation to delimitation. It is open to convening another special session for the agenda provided it crosses the two-thirds mark in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Top ministerial sources on Tuesday said the moment they (the NDA) get a two-thirds majority in the Houses, they would bring the Bill.



"The Bill is our topmost priority. Once we cross the two-thirds mark, we will pilot the Bill. Why monsoon session? We will bring it even through a special session of Parliament provided we get the numbers," a top minister said.

He was speaking on the eve of the BJP-led NDA dispensation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 12 years in power and Modi surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru as India's longest-serving PM.

As there are currently three vacancies in the 543-member Lok Sabha, 360 is the halfway mark. With 20 MPs of the TMC breaking away and set to back the NDA in the Lok Sabha, NDA numbers in the House will surge

from 293 to 313.

Besides, sources did not rule out an understanding with the DMK on the Bill. "The Bill raises the current Lok Sabha strength of every state by 50 per cent, which means Tamil Nadu and all other southern states will benefit if 33 per cent seats for women are reserved after the proposed delimitation," said sources, adding that the DMK and the Congress party's alienation would help.

According to the sources, the NDA may engage Shiv Sena (UBT) as well. The DMK has 22 MPs in the House and Shiv Sena (UBT) has nine. The BJP is confident of making up the remainder with the support of smaller parties.

During a special session of Parliament on April 17 this year, a united Opposition had defeated the government's move to amend the Constitution for raising the number of seats in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies and reserving one-third of these for women in time for the 2029 elections.

While 298 MPs voted for the draft law that tied women's reservation to delimitation of constituencies, 230 voted against it. Being a Constitution amendment Bill, the agenda required a two-thirds majority of the 528 MPs present and voting, which meant 352 votes. The government fell short of 54 votes even as the ruling and Opposition blocs stayed firm on their pre-declared stances on the Bill.

However, sources have now said that the DMK could be convinced to support. "If we were to reserve 33 per cent seats for women on today's Lok Sabha strength, 13 out of Tamil Nadu's 39 seats will go to women and only 26 will be open. The 50 per cent rise in Lok Sabha seats for every state that we are proposing will mean 59 seats for Tamil Nadu with 20 seats reserved for women and 39 open. The latter is better," said a senior minister.

RS Polls: MP Cong Nominee Meenakshi Natarajan's Papers Rejected

Bhopal: June 9 The upcoming elections to three Rajya Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh took a dramatic turn on Tuesday with the nomination of Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan being rejected on charges of concealing information about a case in the affidavit. "Natarajan's nomination has been rejected by the Returning Officer on the grounds of hiding information about a case," an MP Assembly official said.

A complaint was submitted by BJP candidate Mahesh Kewat, contesting the third Rajya Sabha seat, to the Returning Officer alleging that Natarajan deliberately hid information about a case filed against her in Telangana.

Sanket Gupta, the lawyer representing Kewat, told reporters that a criminal case is pending against Natarajan in a Telangana court and is not mentioned in the affidavit.

He said the Returning Officer has rejected her nomination on this basis.

"This information has been deliberately concealed. According to Supreme Court guidelines, you are required to provide this information in the affidavit. Kewat had filed an objection to Natarajan's candidacy under this same provision," he added.

He claimed several other deficiencies were found in the nomination.

Congress's Madhya Pradesh in-charge, Harish Chaudhary, claimed that no case had been filed against Natarajan and that the BJP is bringing up such cases to harass her.

He said Natarajan had received a show-cause notice from the court, and it was not necessary to mention it in the affidavit.

He said the Election Commission's instructions are clear that information must be provided in the nomination when a case is filed, not upon receiving a notice.

"Technically, Natarajan's nomination cannot be rejected," Chaudhary added.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SADIYA BEGUM W/O SHAIK ZAKIR HUSSAIN (old name) born on 07-07-1998 at Nirmal earlier was Holding Passport No. W1364209 DT: 24-05-2022 hereby changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as SAYYED SADIYA W/O SHAIK ZAKIR HUSSAIN (new name) H.No. 5-12/187/B/30 Gajulpet-504106 Telangana State.

Place: Nirmal
Date: 08-06-2026

DECLARANT
SAYYED SADIYA
W/O SHAIK ZAKIR HUSSAIN



Indian Chronicle

English Daily

INDIA bloc's search for relevance

THE Monday meeting of the INDIA bloc was intended to project Opposition unity. Instead, it highlighted the challenges of holding together a coalition of parties with competing regional interests and political ambitions. The alliance faces the tough task of proving that it can offer a credible alternative to the BJP-led NDA. The meeting's decisions - including holding consultations more frequently, jointly raising concerns over the SIR of electoral rolls, seeking Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over examination controversies and coordinating parliamentary strategy — reflect an effort to remain politically relevant. However, these issues alone cannot sustain a national coalition.

The bloc's central weakness is that it remains united largely by opposition to the BJP rather than by a shared governing vision. While criticism of the ruling party can bring diverse groups together, voters eventually seek answers on employment, inflation, agricultural distress, economic growth and federal relations. On these issues, the alliance has yet to articulate a coherent common programme. Its internal contradictions are equally apparent. In West Bengal, the Congress and the Trinamool Congress are rivals. In Punjab, the Congress and the AAP compete fiercely. In Kerala, the Congress-led UDF and the CPI(M)-led LDF are political adversaries. Such state-level contests inevitably complicate national cooperation. While the presence of Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav lent weight to the gathering, the absence of the DMK and AAP underscored the difficulties of maintaining cohesion in a coalition of diverse interests. Yet the coalition should not be written off.

Poster Unveiled for Successful Conduct of State Conference on June 16



UPPAL, JUNE 9 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): The poster for the State Conference of the Telangana Band Artists Association, scheduled to be held on June 16 at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, was unveiled on Tuesday at the Praja Sanghala office in Beerappagadda, Uppal. "Speaking on the occasion, Association State Secretary Gummadi Raju Nagaraju alleged that the government has been neglecting band artists for several years. He said police actions such as seizure of pad bands and band vehicles, along with issues related to sound regulations, have been creating hardships for band artists. He pointed out that the seizure of vehicles during the wedding season has deprived many artists of their livelihood and caused severe financial losses. "Nagaraju further alleged that the Cultural Department has been treating band artists with stepmotherly attitude and said that not a single identity card has been issued to band artists in the last ten years. He also claimed that no assistance has been provided to artists who met with accidents. He demanded the formation of a separate federation for band artists, allocation of ₹1,000 crore in funds, and provision of loans of ₹10 lakh to each unit. Among those present at the programme were Uppal CITU Zone Secretary J. Venkanna, BVSK leaders Hussain and Karthik, and others.

Blenders Pride Drinking Water Launches Cultural Platform



Hyderabad, June 09 (Indian Chronicle): Blenders Pride Packaged Drinking Water has launched a new cultural platform, 'Blenders Pride Reserved Experiences,' aimed at re-defining taste as a multi-sensory experience, according to a statement released on Tuesday by Debashree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod Ricard India. The event, curated by renowned chef Kunal Kapur, featured a live gastro-performance that blended music, aroma, texture, and taste to create an immersive experience for participants. The platform seeks to transform taste into a richer sensory journey that can be seen, heard, felt, and experienced beyond the palate. Dasgupta said the initiative was designed to cater to evolving consumer preferences by offering refined and meaningful experiences. After successful editions in Chandigarh, Gurugram, and Jaipur, the latest event was held in Kolkata, with more than ten additional events planned across key cities in India.

Hyderabad fish prasadam: Till now 38,000 tokens issues

Hyderabad: Fish prasadam distribution continued in Hyderabad with a heavy turnout, with officials of the Fisheries Department stating that till now 38,000 tokens had been issued. T. Srinivas, deputy director, Fisheries Department, Telangana, said the department kept 1.30 lakh murrel fish seed ready for fish prasadam distribution.

CC Roads Worth 1.05 Crore Under Construction in Amrutha Colony



Funds Secured by MANDHUMULA RAJITHA PARAMESHWAR REDDY; Former Corporator Inspects Works. UPPAL, JUNE 9 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal Assembly constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy said that efforts are being made to ensure development in peripheral colonies and that they would be provided with infrastructure on par with colonies in the erstwhile GHMC limits. "Residents of Amrutha Colony in Uppal Division recently brought several civic issues to the notice of former corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy. Responding to their request, she secured ₹1.05 crore for the construction of cement concrete (CC) roads in the colony. On Tuesday, former corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy visited the colony and



inspected the ongoing CC road construction works. She assured residents that she would continue to strive for the sanction of additional funds to address other pending issues in the colony and ensure the execution of necessary development works. Colony president Erra Ailesh Yadav, general secretary Pasunoori Bikshapathi, Padma Bikshapathi, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, treasurer Rangaiah, Savitri Rangaiah, Rajashekar, honorary members Narsimha Reddy, Surendra Babu, Mahender, Ramesh, Lokesh, Bhanu Prasad, Phillips, Nagaraju, Kotte Srinivas, Raghu Mohan Reddy, L.N. Reddy, Nageswara Rao, Kumar Swamy, Makbool, Subhash, Krishna Reddy, Krishna Murthy, Venkatesh, Srinivas, I.N. Reddy, Raghavender, and others participated in the programme.

First Creator Economy Summit Concludes Successfully

Hyderabad, June 09 (Indian Chronicle): The organizers announced on Tuesday that the 'Creators Zone Digital Summit-2026,' jointly organized by Bharat DMF, RTIH, and APIS at Chinakakani near Amaravati, was a grand success. More than 200 digital creators, influencers, startup founders, and students from across the state participated in the event. Experts conducted insightful sessions on content creation, artificial intelligence (AI), creator monetization, intellectual property rights (IPR), and brand partnerships. On the occasion, the 'Creators Zone Excellence Awards-2026' were presented to recognize outstanding contributions in the creator ecosystem. Speaking at the summit, Bharat DMF Chairman Vishva CM, Vice Chairman Vipin Unni, APIS-RTIH CEO Dhatri Reddy, Truezone Solar by Suntech CEO Jakkula Srinivas, and Tenali Double Horse Managing



Director Shyam Prasad highlighted the growing opportunities in the creator economy. They noted that the creator economy is emerging as a significant driver of employment and entrepreneurship for the youth, creating new avenues for innovation and economic growth.

Development and Welfare Are the Twin Pillars of the Congress Government: MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya



Powering a Brighter Future for Station Ghanpur... Foundation Laid for Seven Power Substations at a Cost of ₹60.62 Crore. Station Ghanpur, June 9 (Indian Chronicle): Marking a significant milestone in the development of the Station Ghanpur constituency, foundation stones were laid and inauguration ceremonies were held on Tuesday for one 132/33 KV substation and six 33/11 KV substations being established at a total cost of ₹60.62 crore. The event was held at Pallagutta village in Chilpur Mandal and was attended by Deputy Chief Minister and Power Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, former Deputy Chief Minister and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, and Warangal Member of Parliament Dr. Kadiyam Kavya. "Addressing a massive public gathering later, MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya criticized the neglect of Station Ghanpur's development over the past decade. She stated that inadequate attention to public needs had resulted in a lack of essential power infrastructure, creating numerous challenges for residents. However, under the leadership of MLA Kadiyam Srihari, the constituency is now witnessing rapid progress and entering a new phase of development, she added. "Dr. Kavya expressed special gratitude to Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for immediately ap-

proving the seven substations upon recognizing the region's needs. She described the simultaneous launch of seven substations with an investment exceeding ₹60 crore as a clear reflection of the Congress Government's commitment to infrastructure development and public welfare. "She emphasized that the Congress Party was responsible for introducing free electricity to the agricultural sector, describing the decision taken by the late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy as a historic step that provided enduring support to farmers. Continuing that welfare-oriented vision, the present government is providing 200 units of free electricity to economically weaker families, thereby reducing their financial burden, she said. "Highlighting the government's balanced approach, Dr. Kavya stated that the Congress Government is advancing with development and welfare as its two guiding principles. Alongside providing Indiramma Houses to fulfill the dream of home ownership for the poor, the government is also focusing on large-scale infrastructure development. She revealed that development works worth nearly ₹1,400 crore have been approved for the Station Ghanpur constituency under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, with the objective of transforming it into a model constituency for the entire state. "The MP also alleged that attempts were being made to remove the names of eligible voters under the guise of the SIR process. She urged citizens to remain vigilant and safeguard their constitutional right to vote, which forms the foundation of democracy. She called upon all eligible voters to verify and ensure the inclusion of their names in the electoral rolls, affirming that the Congress Party would continue to fight for the protection of people's rights. "The event was attended by MLAs Revuri Prakash Reddy, Nayini Rajender Reddy, K.R. Nagaraju, Mamidala Yashaswini Reddy, State Oilfield Corporation Chairman Janga Raghava Reddy, State Haj Committee Chairman Khuro Pasha, Cooperative Chairman Inagala Venkat Ram Reddy, Jangaon DCC President Lakavath Dhanwanthi, along with several public representatives, party leaders, activists, and a large number of local residents.

Declare Mamnoor as a Mandal Headquarters Immediately: BJP Warangal District President Ganta Ravi Kumar

Extends Solidarity to Relay Hunger Strike Demanding Mandal Status: Ganta Ravikumar. Mamnoor/Warangal, June 9 (Indian Chronicle): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Warangal District President Ganta Ravi Kumar has urged the State Government to immediately declare Mamnoor as a new Mandal headquarters and fulfill the long-standing aspirations of the local people. "Participating in the fourth day of the relay hunger strike organized by the Mamnoor Mandal Sadhana Committee, he garlanded the protestors and expressed the BJP's full support and solidarity with the movement. "Speaking on the occasion, Ravi Kumar criticized successive governments for failing to address the concerns of Mamnoor residents despite repeated demands over the years. He assured the people that the BJP would continue to stand firmly behind the democratic movement seeking Mandal status for the region. "He further stated that the party would not allow injustice to be done to the farmers who sacrificed hundreds of acres of land for the development of the Mamnoor Airport project. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure due recognition and development for communities that have made significant sacrifices in the interest of public infrastructure. "Demanding an immediate response from the government, he urged the authorities to abandon their indifferent attitude and announce Mamnoor as a new Mandal without further delay. He warned that the agitation would be intensified if necessary and affirmed that the struggle would continue until the demand is fulfilled. "Among those who participated in the relay hunger strike were Erra Vijay Kumar, Macharla Yadagiri, Bandi Sambaiah Yadav,



Sambari Kishore, Manne Rajneesh, Kemidi Ramesh, Nallathegala Koteswar, Madireddy Papireddy, Singarapu Aruna, Manne Bikshapathi, Macharla Kumaraswamy, Durashetty Venkata Lakshmi, Malladi Tirupathi Reddy, Thallapelli Srinivas, M.D. Rafi, along with village elders, youth, and women from the locality.

Pallavi Memorial Trust Extends Support to Young Boxers



T-Shirt Distribution Initiative Inspires and Encourages Aspiring Athletes. Hasanparthy, June 9 (Indian Chronicle): In a commendable initiative aimed at promoting sportsmanship among youth and encouraging emerging sporting talent, Pallavi Memorial Trust organized a T-shirt distribution program for students undergoing boxing training at the Zilla Parishad High School premises in Hasanparthy on Tuesday. "Addressing the gathering, Lion Gundamidi Koteswar Rao, Chairman of Pallavi Memorial Trust and National President of the Drugs Control Officers of India Welfare Association (DCOIIWA), highlighted the transformative role of sports in shaping students' character. He stated that participation in sports fosters discipline, self-confidence, leadership qualities, and physical fitness. He further emphasized that supporting and motivating young athletes excelling in challenging disciplines such as boxing is a shared social responsibility. "The beneficiaries expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Pallavi Memorial Trust, noting that the gesture had greatly boosted their confidence and competitive spirit. They affirmed their commitment to excel in forthcoming State and National-level competitions and bring recognition and pride to both the Trust and the region. "The program was attended by boxing coaches Sheelam Narendra and Shashi Kumar, along with Lions Club representatives Dr. Divi Ajith Kumar and Thota Sampath, who congratulated the young athletes and encouraged them to strive for greater achievements in their sporting journey. "Representatives of Pallavi Memorial Trust reiterated that the organization remains committed to supporting initiatives in the fields of education, sports, and social service, with a continued focus on contributing to the holistic development of society.

Committee Members Invite MP Eatala Rajender for Kotilingala Installation Mahotsavam



UPPAL, JUNE 9 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Representatives of the Chilukanagari Shiva Temple Committee on Tuesday invited Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Eatala Rajender to attend the Kotilingala Installation Mahotsavam as the chief guest. The committee members visited the MP's residence and formally handed over the invitation. "On the occasion, they requested the MP to grace the prestigious event and make the celebrations a grand success. "Those who participated in the invitation programme included Temple Committee President Dasari Krishna, General Secretary Gone Srikanth, Vice-Presidents Chatarasi Siddu Raju and Gone Anjaiah, along with Kavali Narasimha, Tulasi Ram, and other committee members.



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 9):- State Deputy Chief Minister Varyulu Bhatti Vikramarka, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, former MUPPA Chairman "Barre Jahangiri" and others are seen at the inauguration ceremony of TGSPDCL power infrastructure in Bhuvanagiri town, the headquarters of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

Sircilla weavers await yarn supply for Indira Mahila Shakthi sarees

Rajanna-Sircilla: The Israel-Iran conflict has had a debilitating effect on the handloom weavers of this town. The weavers here are among the most worried now as they have a government order to weave saree cloth to the tune of 3.06 crore metres, but with yarn not being supplied to them, they are virtually sitting idle. To make matters worse, the government has set a deadline of July 31 for the supply of Indira Mahila Shakthi sarees. However, the yarn required for weaving the saree cloth has not been supplied. The government had given an order for weaving 3.06 crore metres of saree cloth to the Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies (MACS). Saree cloth will be woven on 10,056 powerlooms operating under these societies. Of the 130 MACS societies, 52 are eligible to get yarn from a depot established in Vemulawada. The societies will get yarn on 90 per cent credit. Initially, the weavers have to pay only 10 per cent of the amount. Though 80 to 90 per cent of the societies have already paid 10 per cent and submitted DDs to the Handlooms and Textiles Department, they have not been supplied yarn so far. As a result, the weavers are worried about completing the weaving work within the deadline.

A Symbol of the Struggle for Tribal Rights and Self-Respect 'Birsa Munda' – Venkat Naik, Munjala Rajender Goud



"Mahabubabad, June 9 (Indian Chronicle) : The death anniversary of prominent tribal leader and freedom fighter Birsa Munda was observed with great fervor on Tuesday at Sundaraiah Nagar in Mahabubabad town. Guguloth Venkat Naik, State Coordinator of the Congress Party's ST Cell, and Munjala Rajender Goud, State Convener of the Bahujana Rajyadhikara Samithi, attended the event as chief guests." "Addressing the gathering, Venkat Naik described Birsa Munda as a great tribal leader whose legacy remains etched in the history of India's freedom struggle. Born into the Munda tribe in the Jharkhand region, Birsa Munda united

tribal communities and led a resolute movement against British colonial rule and the exploitation by local landlords." "He noted that through the historic "Ulgulan" (Great Uprising), Birsa Munda fought tirelessly for tribal land rights, self-respect, and self-governance. Although he passed away at the young age of 25, his ideals and sacrifices continue to inspire generations and provide direction to tribal communities across the country, he added. Speaking on the occasion, Munjala Rajender Goud emphasized the importance of Bahujan leadership in building a progressive society founded on equality. He noted that Bahujan forces play a pivotal role in fostering social development, public welfare, and youth participation. Reaffirming that the establishment of Bahujan self-rule is their ultimate goal, he called upon the people to follow the ideals of Birsa Munda and strive towards achieving social justice." "The event was attended by ST Cell Town President Tejavath Shankar Naik, ST Cell leader Boda Ramu, Town Vice-President Alli Durgesh, the OBC Town President, Minority Cell Town President S.K. Gafoor, Boda Sravya Naik, tribal leaders Kotha Yugender, Banoth Bhadramma, Bhukya Radha, Boda Ali, and Palli Ramulu, along with public representatives, government officials, community leaders, and local residents.

Private Schools Turning Education into Business

Education Officials Accused of Taking Commissions: Greater Hyderabad BC Welfare Association Secretary Gurram Raghavender

"UPPAL, JUNE 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Greater Hyderabad BC Welfare Association Secretary Gurram Raghavender has urged the government to take stringent action against corporate and private schools in the Greater Hyderabad region for allegedly violating norms by selling textbooks, notebooks, stationery and uniforms on their premises." "Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Raghavender alleged that some officials in the Education Department were turning a blind eye to these violations by accepting commissions and bribes. He said he would submit complaints along with supporting evidence to the Chief Secretary of the state government, the Collectors of Hyderabad and Medchal districts, and the respective District Education Officers." "He stated that under G.O. No. 91, Section 1(c), the sale of textbooks, stationery and uniforms within school premises is prohibited and termed the failure of education officials to enforce the rules as unfortunate. He also expressed anger over the alleged inaction despite regulations prohibiting schools from forcing parents to purchase books and stationery from specific outlets recommended by managements." "Raghavender pointed out that although a 1999 Government Order clearly states that education should not be commercialized, several private and corporate schools across Greater Hyderabad have turned it into a business. He said poor and middle-class parents are being compelled to spend thousands of rupees on books, notebooks and uniforms sold either within schools or through



designated vendors due to pressure from school managements." "He further alleged that many private and corporate schools openly display boards directing parents to purchase study materials and uniforms from specified sources, but Education Department officials have failed to initiate action against such practices." "Raghavender demanded that higher authorities in the Education Department immediately crack down on private and corporate schools violating regulations and ensure that parents are not subjected to undue financial burden.

Massive Response to Land Pooling Scheme; 30 Acres Handed Over to KUDA



"---Steps Initiated to Transform Wadepally into a Model Township: KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkat Ram Reddy" "Hanumakonda, June 9 (Indian Chronicle) : In a significant development for urban expansion and planned infrastructure growth, plot owners of unauthorized layouts in Wadepally, one of Hanumakonda's key localities, have unanimously agreed to hand over nearly 30 acres of land to the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA) under the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS)." "A special meeting was held on Tuesday at the KUDA conference hall, where KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkat Ram Reddy, Chief Planning Officer Ajith Reddy, and other officials interacted with plot owners and explained the roadmap for the comprehensive development of the area through the LPS initiative." "Officials stated that long-pending infrastructure deficiencies caused by unauthorized layouts—including road expansion, drainage networks, parks, electricity facilities, and other civic amenities—would be addressed and developed under KUDA's supervision in accordance with modern urban planning standards. They assured plot owners that, upon completion of the LPS process, they would receive legally approved plots with clear titles and all necessary statutory permissions." "The officials further explained that the mar-

ket value of the plots is expected to increase substantially after the completion of the proposed development works. KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkat Ram Reddy directed the Planning Department and Chief Planning Officer Ajith Reddy to expedite the implementation process." "Speaking on the occasion, Inagala Venkat Ram Reddy said that the objective is to transform Wadepally, one of the most strategically important localities in Hanumakonda, into a fully developed model township equipped with world-class infrastructure. He noted that due to planning lapses in the past, plot owners had faced years of hardship without proper roads, drainage systems, and electricity connectivity." "He emphasized that the Land Pooling Scheme offers a permanent solution to these longstanding issues. Under the project, KUDA will develop 40-foot and 60-foot-wide roads, modern underground drainage systems, open-space parks, and electricity infrastructure. He assured stakeholders that the rights and interests of every landowner participating in the scheme would be fully protected." "The KUDA Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Wadepally plot owners and affected residents for extending their cooperation to the government's development vision and for becoming active partners in the planned growth of Hanumakonda city.

Strict Monitoring, Better Medical Services Ordered Across PHCs and CHCs: Collector K. Haritha

"Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, June 9: District Collector K. Haritha directed doctors and healthcare personnel working in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) across the district to provide transparent, accountable, and quality medical services to patients at the grassroots level." "The Collector conducted a video conference from the Collectorate on Tuesday evening with Medical Officers and staff of all PHCs and CHCs in the district. Additional Collector Yuvaraj Mamat also participated in the meeting." "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that ensuring quality healthcare services for the public is one of the government's foremost priorities. She emphasized that doctors, health supervisors, and field-level staff should work in close coordination and discharge their duties with transparency and commitment." "She instructed all staff members to strictly adhere to punctuality and warned that negligence in the discharge of duties would not be tolerated under any circumstances." "The Collector also directed all healthcare personnel to mark their attendance through the Face Recognition App, introduced by the government to improve attendance monitoring and account-



ability. Senior officials were instructed to continuously monitor both attendance records and the performance of field-level staff through the application." "Special attention should be given to the health and well-being of pregnant women and lactating mothers within the jurisdiction of PHCs, she said. Officials were directed to ensure the timely availability of medicines, vaccinations, and other essential healthcare services." "The Collector further instructed hospital staff to treat patients with courtesy and compassion and to take preventive measures at the field level to curb the spread of diseases."

Foundation Laid for Power Infrastructure Projects Worth 60.62 Crore



"---Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Inaugurates and Launches Seven Power Substations" "Station Ghanpur, June 9 (Indian Chronicle): In a major boost to power infrastructure development in the Station Ghanpur constituency, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Power Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for power projects worth ₹60.62 crore. The projects include one 132/33 KV substation and six 33/11 KV substations, aimed at strengthening the region's electricity distribution network." "The event was at-

tended by Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, Warangal Member of Parliament Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy, and Vardhannapet MLA and former IPS officer K.R. Nagaraju." "Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka was accorded a warm welcome by public representatives and party leaders upon his arrival. He subsequently inaugurated the newly completed facilities and laid foundation stones for the upcoming projects." "Speaking on the occasion, the leaders emphasized that the State Government is accorded the highest priority to the development of the power sector. They stated that continuous efforts are being made to ensure reliable and high-quality electricity services across both rural and urban areas. The establishment of the new substations is expected to significantly enhance power supply capacity and provide improved services to farmers, domestic consumers, and industrial sectors." "The leaders further noted that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Telangana Government is committed to strengthening the state's power infrastructure and ensuring uninterrupted, quality electricity supply to all sections of society." "Among those present were State Oilfield Corporation Chairman Janga Raghava Reddy, State Haj Committee Chairman Khuro Pasha, Hanumakonda District Congress Committee President and KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkat Ram Reddy, Jangaon DCC President Lakavath Dhanwanthi, along with several public representatives, Congress Party leaders, government officials, and party workers.

May everyone prosper with the blessings of Goddess Durgamma: MLA K.R. Nagaraju

"---MLA participates in Durgamma festival at Devil Thanda" "Parvathagiri/Warangal, June 9 (Indian Chronicle): Wardhannapet MLA and former IPS officer K.R. Nagaraju participated as the chief guest in the Durgamma festival held at Devil Thanda in Parvathagiri Mandal, Warangal district, following an invitation from the local tribal community." "On this occasion, MLA Nagaraju performed special prayers to Goddess Durgamma. He expressed his wish for peace, prosperity, good health, and happiness for all the people, as well as for abundant crop yields for the farmers. Subsequently, he joined the villagers in the festivities; the local residents accorded him a grand welcome." "Addressing the gathering, Nagaraju stated that the rich culture and traditions of tribal communities are a source of pride for Telangana society. He emphasized that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is committed to the development of rural and tribal areas." "He noted that the government is focusing on achieving comprehensive development in every



village and on providing better infrastructure and essential services to the people." "A large number of public representatives, village elders, women, youth, Congress party leaders, and members of the tribal community participated in the festivities.

INC Talent Hunt Emerging as a Platform for Youth Empowerment...Strategic Review Held at Gandhi Bhavan



Rahamathulla Mohammed Extends Birthday Greetings to TPCC Media Chairman Sama Ram Mohan Reddy" "Hanamkonda, June 9 (Indian Chronicle): With the objective of identifying talented youth and providing them with opportunities in the political and social spheres, the Congress Party on Tuesday conducted a key review meeting at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on the implementation of its INC Talent Hunt initiative. Held on the occasion of the birthday of TPCC Media & Communications Chairman Sama Ram Mohan Reddy, the meeting served as an important platform for shaping the party's future outreach and youth engagement strategies." "Warangal District Coordinators Rahamathulla Mohammed and KTD Deepak Reddy participated in the meeting and shared their views on the progress of the Talent Hunt programme, the response received from young participants, and the methods being adopted for its effective implementation at the district level." "The deliberations focused on identifying hidden talent among youth, nurturing socially responsible leadership qualities, and creating opportunities for young people interested in education, sports, culture, public service, and community development. Participants also reviewed strategies for effectively communicating the Congress Party's ideology,

commitment to social justice, and constitutional values to the younger generation." "Following the meeting, Rahamathulla Mohammed met Sama Ram Mohan Reddy and conveyed his warm birthday wishes. He expressed hope that the initiatives being undertaken under Mr. Reddy's leadership to strengthen the party, encourage youth participation in the political process, and expand grassroots activities would achieve greater success in the future." "Speaking on the occasion, party leaders observed that the role of youth in contemporary politics has become increasingly significant. They emphasized that meaningful social transformation can be achieved by harnessing the creativity, innovation, and leadership potential of young people. They noted that the INC Talent Hunt is evolving not merely as a talent identification programme, but as a movement aimed at nurturing the next generation of leadership." "The meeting also highlighted the effective use of social media and digital communication platforms in disseminating party ideology, strengthening direct engagement with youth, and identifying talented individuals at the district level. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to empowering young people and strengthening democratic values by creating greater opportunities for their participation in public life.

New Drinking Water Pipeline Laid at Beerappa Gadda with Support of MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy

"Former Corporator BANNALA GEETHA PRAVEEN Fulfills Promise" "UPPAL, JUNE 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A new drinking water pipeline was laid on Tuesday in the street behind the Rama Temple in Beerappa Gadda Division, following the request of local residents. The work was taken up alongside the ongoing CC road construction works in the area." "Residents had approached former corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen, pointing out that the old water pipeline had deteriorated badly, leading to frequent contamination and low water pressure. They requested the replacement of the damaged pipeline with a new one." "Responding immediately to the appeal, Geetha Praveen, with the support of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, took up the issue with HMWSSB Executive Director Pankaja and General Manager Santosh. Acting on their intervention, officials arranged for the installation of a new water pipeline for the benefit of the residents." "Local residents expressed their gratitude to former corporator Geetha Praveen and appreciated her for fulfilling the promise made to them. They also praised BRS leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, stating that he has consistently worked to resolve public issues and assured him of their continued support." "Among those present on the occasion were BRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Vanjari Narsinga Rao, Pandla Kishan Goud, Banti Goud, Tirupathi Yadav, Srinivas Yadav, Bhaskar Mudiraj, Venkat Reddy, Praveen Reddy,



Jayamma, Ramadevi, Kamalamma, Roopa, Manjula, Rajamani, and several others.

Officials of relevant departments and public representatives should work together for the development of the district so that welfare schemes reach all the eligible people



In this program, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Tungaturthi MLA Ambedkar Samelu, District Collector Anurag Jayanthi, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao, many public representatives and district officials of all departments participated in this meeting. The officers of various departments explained their performance through a power point presentation to MP Chamala Kiran Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that the development programs being undertaken under the respective departments should be accelerated. Since the government is undertaking many programs with the aim of public welfare, the concerned officers should implement them to the fullest extent. He suggested that welfare schemes should be extended to everyone who is eligible and the officers should work transparently. He said that the central government schemes should be widely publicized and made aware to the people and that people should make good use of them. Municipal Chairpersons Thangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar, Vice Chairman Pothamsetty Manjula Venkateswarlu, Library Chairman Ajev Chisthi, Market Committee Chairman Rekha Babu Rao, district officers of various departments and others participated in this meeting.

Bhuvanagiri MP. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 9):- Bhuvanagiri Parliament constituency member Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that officials of relevant departments and public representatives should work together for the development of the district so that welfare schemes reach all the eligible people. The District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee held a meeting at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Tuesday.

Economic and social equality will come only through land distribution..

Revanth Reddy government should not implement the VB-G Ramji Act brought by Modi in the state-- Make the state congresses of the Agricultural Labor Union, which fights for the rights of agricultural laborers, a success- "Call of speakers participating in the discussion forum"(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 9):- Economic and social equality will come only through land distribution. In order to acquire government surplus lands, landlords and new tenants in villages are encroaching and hoarding the lands that belong to the poor, and all kinds of changes will come in the villages, said Battu Ramachandraiah, former national leader of the Agricultural Labor Union, Kondamadugu Narasimha, District General Secretary of the Telangana Agricultural Labor Union, and Surupanga Sivalingam, District Convener of PMC. On Tuesday, on the occasion of the 4th state congress of the Telangana Agricultural Workers' Union to be held at the Mahabubnagar district headquarters on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of this month, a "discussion platform" was organized under the auspices of the district committee on "Agricultural Workers - Rulers' Attitude" under the chairmanship of Agricultural Workers' Union District President Jallela Pentayya. The speakers participating in the program expressed their concern that even after 78 years of independence, lakhs of people have not seen a cent of land. They said that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer due to the policies of the rulers. They criticized that in addition to lakhs of acres of government lands in Telangana state, landlords and neo-rich people are again occupying and hoarding hundreds of acres under various names. They said that only by distributing those lands to the poor will they move forward economically and socially and their living standards improve. He said that if a family has its own land, it will support the family through various allied sectors based on that land. He said that land pro-



vides permanent financial security. He called on people to prepare for movements for land, saying that land can be used to stop the exploitation of labor and injustices in the land communal system. He suggested that the Revanth Reddy government should prevent the implementation of the VB-Jirani Act brought by the Modi government at the Center in Telangana state and continue the old law, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Similarly, he demanded that the central and state governments implement the promises given to the people. They wanted the Telangana Agricultural Workers' Union, which is constantly fighting for the poor, agricultural laborers, and employment guarantee workers, to be successful in its state congresses. LHPS District Secretary Bhaskar Nayak, CITU District Vice President Maya Krishna, Agricultural Workers Union State Committee members Bollu Yadagiri and Gangadevi Saidulu, District Vice Presidents Siripangi Swamy, Guntoji Srinivas Chari, Assistant Secretary Pallerla Anjaiah participated and spoke in this program. District Committee members Boddu Kishan, Doddi Bikshapati, Boya Yadaghiya, Vallambatla Srinivasa Rao, Kondapuram Yadagiri, Mane Salaiiah, Chintakayala Narsimha, Andela Jyothi, Chekilla Upendra, Gyara Andalu, Chintala Sudarshan, Yata Balaraju, Kandula Hanumanthu, Medi Mukundam, Gajula Anjaiah and others participated.

May Goddess Durgamma Bless All People with Peace and Prosperity: Eega Mallesham



"Warangal, June 9 (Indian Chronicle) : The Durgamma Thalli Festival was celebrated with great devotion and spiritual fervor on Tuesday at Devilal Thanda village in Parvathagiri Mandal of the Vardhannapet constituency. Former Director of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Eega Mallesham, participated in the celebrations and offered special prayers to the Goddess." "Speaking on

the occasion, Eega Mallesham said that it was a matter of great joy to take part in such spiritually enriching celebrations that are observed with deep faith and devotion in rural areas. He noted that the entire village was immersed in a sacred atmosphere during the festival, with a large number of devotees visiting the temple to seek the blessings of Goddess Durgamma and fulfill their vows." "He emphasized that festivals of this nature play a vital role in preserving and passing on rural traditions and cultural heritage from one generation to another. Such celebrations, he said, strengthen social harmony, unity, and communal bonds within society. He also prayed for the happiness, good health, and prosperity of the people, and for farmers to be blessed with abundant agricultural yields." "The event was attended by former Deputy Mayor Kakke Sarayya, Jatoth Srinivas, Banoth Bhaskar, Gangadhar Rao, Surender, Sarvar, Karimilla Sampath Rao, Bhushaboyina Sampath Yadav, along with local public representatives, mandal and town-level leaders, village elders, devotees, and other distinguished guests.

Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Srivani Ravikumar felicitated Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka at the inauguration of TGSPDCL's new power facilities

"(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 9):- The inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed power infrastructure under the auspices of South Telangana Power Distribution Company (TGSPDCL), Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district was held on Wednesday. Telangana State Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, who was the chief guest at the event, was felicitated by Bhuvanagiri Town Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar.



Do Not Believe Rumors About Hidden Treasure: Geesugonda CI D. Visweswar



"Geesugonda, June 9 (Indian Chronicle): An incident involving the removal of an ancient stone pillar near the Dupakunta tank bund—located beside the new BT road leading to Dupakunta village in Geesugonda Mandal—came to light on Tuesday, sparking local discussion. Reports indicate that unidentified individuals used a JCB machine to remove the pillar and cast it aside." "Following the incident, widespread speculation circulated on social media suggesting the pillar was removed in the hope of finding hidden treasure beneath it. Upon learning of the matter, Geesugonda police promptly arrived at the scene and thoroughly inspected the area." "However, the police stated that no concrete evidence was found to suggest the presence of hidden treasure or that any excavation had been carried out

for that purpose. They announced that a comprehensive inquiry into the incident has been initiated and that appropriate legal action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation." "Speaking on the occasion, Geesugonda CI D. Visweswar advised the public not to believe unverified reports, rumors, or false propaganda regarding hidden treasure, ancient artifacts, or similar matters. He urged people to act responsibly and refrain from spreading misinformation on social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram. They warned that strict legal action would be taken against those who create misconceptions and confusion among the public through rumors and misinformation. They also urged the public to immediately inform the nearest police station or police officials if they notice any suspicious incidents.

Life insurance scheme is like a great boon given by Congress party to the poor with five lakhs

Former Municipal Chairman of Bhuvanagiri Barre Jahangir (Former Municipal Chairman Barre Jahangir at the closing ceremony of the Prajapalana Pragati Plan (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 9):-The 99-day closing ward meeting of the Prajapalana Pragati Plan, which was ambitiously undertaken by the state government, was organized under the chairmanship of the local body Barre Pujita - Jahangir. The people of the town were made aware of various development and sanitation issues. Key issues related to urban development, public health and environmental protection were explained to the people in the meetings held on this occasion." Specifically, the public was made aware of the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026, Jal Sanchay - Jal Bhagiratha Scheme, construction of cesspools, cleaning of drains, silt removal works, rainy season preparedness measures, drinking water supply and management, prevention of stagnant areas, sanitation programs, road maintenance, street lamp maintenance, plantation and environmental protection programs. Similarly, it was suggested that the resolution of public problems and complaints should be discussed extensively in ward assemblies and development programs should be effectively implemented with the participation of



the people in each ward. The officials called on the urban people to increase awareness about these programs and cooperate in the development of their wards. The ward report was read out in the assembly and they said that future development programs for the people of the ward would be taken forward with the cooperation of local MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy. Municipal Commissioner Chandraprakash Reddy, municipal officials, ward officials, representatives of women's groups, ward people, staff and others participated in this program.

Mohammed Akhtar Sharif Appointed TCC State General Secretary



"Hyderabad, June 09 (Indian Chronicle) : Telangana Citizens Council(TCC) State President Dr. Raj Narayan Mudiraj announced on Tuesday that Telangana High Court advocate and educationist Mohammed Akhtar Sharif has been unanimously elected as the State General Secretary of the organization. According to the statement, Akhtar Sharif has been practicing law for the past 20 years and has actively worked to create legal awareness among underprivileged communities. He has also organized numerous seminars and awareness programs on human rights, educational governance, child protection, and other social issues. As a member of the TCC State Executive Committee, he has played a key role in promoting peace, communal harmony, environmental protection, and educational development initiatives, the statement said. Akhtar Sharif holds M.A., B.Ed., and LL.B. degrees from Osmania University and a DSM qualification from Australia. He has received several awards and recognitions for his distinguished contributions to the fields of education and law.

Free Vocational Training to Enhance Employability of Unemployed Youth: Collector



as the chief guest at an awareness programme organized by the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation at a function hall in Jainoor mandal headquarters on Tuesday. The programme was conducted to encourage unemployed youth to enroll in free skill development courses." "Addressing the gathering, the Collector said that the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation is offering three months of free vocational training in Hyderabad for unemployed young men and women from the district. She informed that free accommodation and meals would also be provided during the training period and urged eligible youth to make the best use of the opportunity.



"The Collector stated that the Foundation is offering training in eight different vocational trades and will also facilitate employment opportunities upon successful completion of the courses. She expressed happiness over the enthusiastic response from district youth willing to travel to Hyderabad for skill development training." "The courses being offered include: "1. Assistant Electrician "2.False Ceiling Technician "3.Welding & Fabrication "4.Two-Wheeler Repairing "5. Hotel Management "6.Front Office Executive (for girls only) "7.Electrical Home Appliances Repairing "8. Air Conditioner (AC) Repairing "The Collector said that candidates completing the three-month training programme would receive 100 percent support for employment or self-employment opportunities.



The training programme is scheduled to be conducted from July 1 to September 30, and she appealed to eligible unemployed youth from across the district to come forward in large numbers, visit the training centre in Hyderabad, and enroll in the programme." "Representatives of the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation, the District Employment Officer, local public representatives, the MPDO, and a large number of unemployed youth participated in the programme.

"Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, June 9: District Collector K. Haritha urged unemployed youth in the district to take advantage of free vocational training programmes to enhance their employability and secure better livelihood opportunities." "The Collector was speaking

Killed 9 days before he was to meet his prospective bride: Swiggy executive dies in Dadar BEST bus crash

GNS News Agency, June 9

Just nine days before he was to travel to Uttar Pradesh to meet the family of a prospective bride, 28-year-old Swiggy delivery executive Niyaz Ahmad was killed after a BEST bus lost control and rammed multiple vehicles near Plaza Cinema in Dadar (West) on Monday. The electric BEST bus, operating on Route 463, allegedly lost control near Veer Kotwal Garden around 9.30 am, rammed a crane and ploughed into five vehicles including a private car, taxi, Uber cab and two-wheelers. Six others were injured in the accident. Ahmad was on his electric scooter when the bus struck him. He was rushed to Sion Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Another delivery worker, 22-year-old Rishabh Gupta, is undergoing treatment for severe head and chest injuries.

The accident is the latest in a series involving BEST's wet-lease buses, which are privately operated buses hired by BEST. According to BEST data, wet-lease buses were involved in accidents that claimed 19 lives in 2024-25 and 21 lives in 2025-26, compared to eight fatalities involving BEST's self-owned fleet in the same period. The Dadar accident takes the death toll in BEST-related accidents to 50 over the past two years. It comes barely days after a 50-year-old cab driver was killed when a BEST bus rammed his parked car in Malad East. Outside the mortuary, as family members waited for the postmortem to be completed, Ahmad's uncle, Roj Ali, spoke about the young man whose earnings sustained an entire family back home in Uttar Pradesh.

The BEST bus, operating on Route No. 463/31, allegedly crashed into a four-wheeler and a two-wheeler before striking pedestrians in the vicinity. (Express Photo) The BEST bus, operating on Route No. 463/31, allegedly crashed into a four-wheeler and a two-wheeler before striking pedestrians in the vicinity. (Express Photo) "Niyaz worked as a Swiggy delivery executive and lived in Mumbai with his cousin, who is also a daily wage worker. His parents and younger sister live in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he used to sell kaanda-batata from a pushcart but later joined Swiggy to earn a better income as he wanted to support his family and save money for his sister's marriage," Ali



said. Ahmad moved to Mumbai about five years ago in search of better opportunities. According to relatives, he had recently begun discussing marriage and was preparing for a trip home later this month.

"In fact, he was scheduled to travel to Uttar Pradesh on June 17 to meet the family of a prospective bride, as discussions regarding his marriage were underway," Ali said. Family members said Ahmad had been looking forward to the visit and had also been making plans for his younger sister's wedding. "He was telling me that now he feels confident financially to get married and also get his sister married," Ali said. The family has now appealed for financial assistance from both the government and the food-delivery platform for which Ahmad worked.

"We want both the government and Swiggy to provide compensation. Niyaz was the sole earning member of the family. His father suffers from visual impairment and the family was dependent on him," Ali said. Recalling the moment he learnt about the accident, Ali said, "I was at work when I received a call informing me that Niyaz had met with an accident. By the time I reached the hospital, I was told that he had passed away. I am now waiting to receive his body so that we can take him back to our hometown in Uttar Pradesh for the last rites." The task of informing Ahmad's parents about the tragedy fell on the family members gathered at the hospital. "I had been withholding the news from his family initially, but eventually I had to inform them because he is no longer with us," Ali said.

NDBB to sign MoU with MCD to prevent waste from dairies from flowing into Yamuna

GNS News Agency, June 9

To manage waste along the Yamuna banks scientifically, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), which comes under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to convert waste from nearby dairy farms — which flows into the Yamuna through existing drains — into natural gas and fertilizer, officials said on Monday. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday to review steps taken to rejuvenate Yamuna. The meeting was attended by Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and senior officials.

According to sources, it was observed during the meeting that governments of Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, along with all concerned Central ministries, should work on "an integrated action plan with a team spirit—rather

than in a fragmented manner—to ensure the cleanliness of the Yamuna." "An MoU will be signed between the MCD and NDDB to prevent waste from Delhi's dairies from entering the Yamuna; this waste will be converted into biogas and manure," said a source. Under the NDDB model, dung from dairy farms and gaushalas' (cow shelters) will be transported directly to gas and manure plants to produce compressed natural gas and fertilizer, officials said. During the meeting, it was also emphasised that desilting of the Yamuna river should be expedited, and the extracted silt utilized in various manufacturing projects to ensure it does not wash back into the river during the monsoon season. "Discharges from sewage treatment plants (STPs), industrial waste sources, and all drains must be strictly monitored; the focus should be on achieving precise results rather than merely satisfactory work," the source said. During the meeting, a decision was also taken to review progress on the Yamuna rejuvenation project every 20 days, officials said.

TMC out of Kolkata Municipal Corporation as CM Suwendu Adhikari dissolves Board, appoints administrator

GNS News Agency, June 9

Three days after TMC leader Firhad Hakim resigned as Mayor of Kolkata, the BJP government in West Bengal, led by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, on Monday dissolved the governing Board of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), and appointed IAS officer Smita Pandey as its administrator.

This marks the end of the TMC's 16-year rule in the civic body that began in 2010. In the 2011 KMC elections, the TMC had 136 councillors in the 144-member corporation. The Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, in its order on Monday, said that with the dissolution of the KMC board, all councillors, members of the mayor-in-council, committee members, and the chairperson would vacate their offices in accordance with the provisions of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act, 1980. Following Hakim's resignation on June 5, the state government had issued a show-cause notice to the municipal corporation, warning that the absence of leadership could disrupt civic services and create obstacles for Kolkata residents. The corporation was given until Monday to declare a new mayoral candidate. However, after the TMC failed to name Hakim's successor within the three-day mandatory window, the state government moved forward with the dissolution. Under Section 117(1) of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act, 1980, the state government holds

the power to dissolve a municipal board if it is deemed incompetent, persistent in negligence, or unable to perform its statutory duties. According to the order, Pandey, as the administrator of the civic body, will oversee the daily operations until fresh elections, which are due later this year.

Hakim had resigned as Kolkata mayor, saying he could no longer discharge his responsibilities in the manner he believed the post required. His resignation came a day after Bidhannagar Mayor Krishna Chakraborty and her Chandannagore counterpart Ram Chakraborty quit their posts. There has been a series of resignations by TMC councillors and civic office-bearers across municipalities in different parts of the state since the party lost to the BJP in the Assembly elections. Earlier in the day, Hakim met rebel TMC leader Ritabrata Banerjee in the Assembly, fueling speculation that the four-time MLA and a long-time close aide of TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee may jump ship and join the dissidents' camp. Speaking to mediapersons after an hour-long meeting, Ritabrata, who claims to have the support of 60 MLAs, said he has a long-standing personal relationship with Hakim, but remained tight-lipped about immediate formal steps. "Bobby da (Firhad Hakim) is the former Mayor of Kolkata... he was at our place for a long time today... No signatures were done today because a separate letter will have to be given. When the Speaker returns, we will sit and discuss about those who want to submit letters," Banerjee added.

Nepali couple allegedly burgled a businessman's house in Hyderabad

GNS News Agency, June 9

Hyderabad: A major burglary was reported, where gold ornaments weighing nearly 1 kg was allegedly stolen from the residence of a businessman in Gachibowli. According to information available, a Nepali couple employed as domestic helps at the house about a month ago is believed to be involved, which the police are now investigating. The businessman's family had recently travelled to Mumbai and returned on Monday, and found the couple was missing. Initially, family members assumed the workers had left without informing them, as there were no signs of forced entry or broken locks.

However, suspicion arose after a gold chain adorning an idol in the puja room was found missing. When their checked other places and almirah in the house, several other gold ornaments had been missing. Based on a complaint, the Gachibowli police booked a case and took up



investigation. Officers are examining CCTV footage from the area and collecting other evidence. Meanwhile, special teams have been deployed to trace and nab the suspects and recover the stolen jewellery.

Bhagwant Singh surplus land case: Ambala officer cancels mutation of 810 acres

GNS News Agency, June 9

Bhagwant Singh surplus land case: Ambala officer cancels mutation of 810 acres. The land, valued at Rs 5,000 crore at current rates, is part of the estate belonging to Sardar Bhagwant Singh, an erstwhile king, and is located in seven villages of Panchkula district. Ambala Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma has directed to cancel mutation of over 810 acres of land in the names of private owners in seven villages of Panchkula district. The land, valued at Rs 5,000 crore at current rates, is part of the estate belonging to Sardar Bhagwant Singh, an erstwhile king, and is located in seven villages of Panchkula district. The order passed by Verma on May 26, exercising his quasi-judicial powers, also directs that the entire landholding be mutated in the name of the state government.

A substantial portion of the disputed land is situated along the National Highway-7 corridor connecting Panchkula and Yamunanagar. Several residential projects, including some belonging to the VIPs, have already come up on parts of the land over the years. The dispute pertains to around 1,394 acres spread across seven villages of Panchkula district — Beed Babupur, Beed Firozadi, Bhareli, Sangrana,

Barwala, Jaloli and Fatehpur Viran. The land belonged to Bhagwant Singh who died in 1960, leaving behind seven legal heirs, who could claim part of the estate. For the past over seven decades, legal proceedings have been ongoing to determine what they could inherit and the surplus, which, as per law, must vest in the state government. According to a report submitted by the Panchkula Tehsildar, of the total landholding, 583 acres, 3 kanals and 16 marlas had been mutated in favour of the state government, while the remaining 810 acres, 5 kanals and 7 marlas are recorded in the names of private landowners.

The Commissioner held that the surplus land case must be decided by treating the entire landholding as belonging to Sardar Bhagwant Singh. The order notes that the status of the landholding has to be assessed as it existed on April 15, 1953, the reference date under the Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953. Holding that the entire estate vests in the state government under the applicable land ceiling laws, the Commissioner directed that the remaining 810 acres, 5 kanals and 7 marlas standing in the names of private owners be mutated in favour of the state government.

Victim's brother blames organizers for delayed medical aid



GNS News Agency, June 9

After the death of a 28-year-old law graduate who allegedly fell ill during a concert in Worli, his elder brother, Dr Tanmay Gangurde, claimed in an FIR that the organisers' failure to provide timely medical assistance after his brother's health deteriorated led to his death. The Tardeo police have booked Karan Singh, chief executive officer (CEO), and Parag Uke, senior manager of Space Bound Web Labs Private Limited, the firm that organised the music event on Saturday. Both were questioned and later released on Sunday night after being served notices under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The deceased, Rushil Mahendra Gangurde (28), a resident of Mahim, had attended the "Outworld Mumbai" music concert, part of a concept created by German DJ and producer Klangkuenstler (Michael Korb), along with two friends at the National Sports Club of India (NSCI) Dome on June 7. According to the FIR, Rushil's condition deteriorated during the event and he was shifted from the venue in an ambulance. However, his friends were allegedly not allowed to accompany him despite insisting on travelling with him.

Tanmay received a phone call at around 10.59 pm from one of Rushil's friends informing him that his brother had been taken from the venue for medical treatment. He first rushed to the event's venue, where a security guard informed him that an ambulance had left for Jaslok Hospital. Tanmay then rushed to Jaslok Hospital, but hospital authorities informed him that no such patient had been admitted there and that only a woman from the concert had been brought to the hospital. He returned to the NSCI Dome and, after making further inquiries, was directed to Breach Candy Hospital. Upon reaching the hospital, he approached the doctors and police officials on duty, who informed him that an unidentified male patient had been brought to the emergency ward at around 9.40 pm. According to the FIR, hospi-

tal authorities informed Tanmay that Rushil had been admitted in a critical condition, showing no response to treatment and with no measurable heart rate or blood pressure. Despite medical efforts, he was declared dead at 10.25 pm. The complaint also alleges inadequate safety arrangements despite a large crowd attending the music event. A police officer associated with the investigation said, "The FIR has been registered on allegations of negligence as there appears to have been a delay in providing medical assistance. However, we are investigating the exact cause of death. The FSL reports are awaited."

A post-mortem examination was conducted at Nair Hospital on Sunday. Doctors reserved their opinion on the cause of death, while blood samples and viscera have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Kalina for chemical analysis. A woman in her mid-20s from Mumbai who attended the concert said that although the venue was air-conditioned, the large crowd made parts of the stadium feel suffocating. "Some attendees seemed heavily intoxicated, and there were people smoking inside the venue as well. I don't know how they managed to get those things in because the checks were stricter than at most concerts I've attended. The screening for women was particularly thorough. They checked shoes, bags and conducted frisking, and even discarded my mini perfume, lipstick and small makeup kit. I've attended a techno concert before, about a year ago, and the security checks were nowhere near this extensive," she recalled. While expressing concern over the incident, she said she was hesitant to place blame solely on the organisers. "From what I saw, security arrangements were quite strong and I don't think anyone organising an event would want such an incident to occur. At the same time, I feel there should have been a visible medical facility on site if there wasn't one already. We saw people who were barely able to walk or stand because they had pushed themselves too far. Rave and techno culture is still relatively new in India, and many younger attendees can be overconfident about their limits," she added. Haimanti Nath (28), from Assam, who travelled to Mumbai to attend the concert, also said she found the security arrangements stringent and reassuring. Nath noted that she did not witness any major disorder or unruly behaviour during the event. While cautioning against speculation, Nath maintained that the incident was unlikely to be solely linked to alcohol consumption. "Many attendees are adults and should know their limits. I do not think the entire blame should automatically fall on the organisers. The security arrangements were quite strict, and it is difficult to understand how some people managed to bring in prohibited items when even harmless objects were not allowed inside," she said.

'Delhi will choke... small green lung we have...': HC on Centre's Jaipur Polo Ground takeover plan

GNS News Agency, June 9

With the Centre deciding to takeover the Jaipur Polo Ground for "redevelopment of the area", along with the land where other legacy institutions such as Delhi Gymkhana Club and Delhi Race Club are situated, the High Court on Monday orally expressed concern that "Delhi will choke" if these structures, the green lungs of the Capital, cease to exist. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna orally told to the Central government counsel, "Delhi people please go to some chhota mota mountain and please stay there, Delhi will not be fit for any one of us. You already know how much we are choking because of the pollution. The small (green) lung that we have, you want to take that away also. Take it away, ensure that people stop coming to Delhi." "Is it for public purposes? Making high rises, is it in the public interest? We don't know. We have only high rises in Delhi, all over. In NDMC, colonies which had two-storeyed houses, now have 20-storeyed houses. Every colony has been demolished, and if this is how you want Delhi to live, then God save us all," she added. As the government standing counsel Ashish Dixit said that with the city growing, people have to be accommodated, Justice Krishna remarked, "We are equally helpless. Whatever you do, you are the might. But the thing is, Delhi will choke."

The remarks came in a fresh petition moved by the Indian Polo Association (IPA), seeking urgent protection against coercive eviction following an eviction order issued by the Centre on May 20 under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, ordering that the premises be vacated within two weeks, by June 4. Subsequently, IPA filed an appeal before the appellate authority challenging the eviction order on May 30. On June 3, while notice was issued by the appellate authority, no interim stay on the eviction was granted, leading IPA to move HC. Jaipur Polo Ground, spread over 15.20 acres of land in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi, IPA claims, is the association's "principal and only operational polo venue" in the country. Justice Krishna directed that IPA's application filed before the appellate authority at Patiala House district court be listed on June 10 and recorded the Centre's assurance that the authorities will not execute its eviction order until June 12. The court directed the district court to decide the stay application filed along with IPA's appeal "forthwith". "No execution (of the eviction order) has been filed and there are no imminent execution of the eviction order contemplated till Fri-

day, as submitted by the counsel (Ashish Dixit)," it recorded. The court, however, orally inquired from Dixit why the government wants back possession of the Jaipur Polo Ground. To this, Dixit responded, "The Polo Club, Race club and Delhi Gymkhana — the entire area is being redeveloped for public purpose. There are defence requirements, also the Air Force station is there." Justice Krishna, however, orally remarked, "For (constructing) 20-storey buildings? What are you going to do with all those heritage structures?... Even in Gymkhana they are there..." Dixit responded that "requisite permissions would be taken". Justice Krishna orally continued, "Delhi will suffocate... The little breather we have in the NDMC area, that is also going to go. All of us will suffocate and die. For all the years these have existed, the government never felt the need for the land? Did they feel the need in 200 years?" Emphasising that a need has now been felt, Dixit said the Centre "cannot disclose in public what it is for." "Whatever we are going to do, the intention is for the welfare of the people," he added.

Why is the government evicting Jaipur Polo Ground from its premises?

The land parcel where the ground is situated was gifted by the erstwhile Maharaja of Jaipur to the Delhi Polo Club around 1930, and was formally leased on February 24, 1951 to the Club by the Central Public Works Department for 20 years. According to IPA, the lease was extended in 1971 until 1982, with further extensions continuing thereafter. Following the dissolution of the Delhi Polo Club in 1983, the premises were transferred and allotted in favor of IPA. In 1984, IPA was required to pay a ground rent of Rs 400 per acre per year — around Rs 6,080 per year. This has remained unchanged since, with IPA, in April 2025, paying rent of Rs 30,400 for five years, until March 31, 2030. The IPA claims the government has thereafter renewed the lease in its favour, and also temporarily regularised breaches on the premises from time to time. The government has, however, asserted that the lease expired in 1993 and IPA has since continued in illegal occupation of the premises. In 2017, the government first alleged illegal occupation, which was finally put to a quietus eventually. In March 12, the government issued an eviction notice, following which IPA moved the HC and then invoked arbitration clause from its lease deed. However while arbitration proceedings were underway, the government again issued a show cause notice on April 17, terming IPA as unauthorised occupant.

Shots fired at BJP leader's petrol pump in Gurdaspur, no injuries reported



GNS News Agency, June 9

Shots were fired at Bharatiya Janata Party district trade cell chief Vijay Soni's petrol pump in Gurdaspur on Wednesday night. Giving details of the incident, BJP leader Soni said

that he was sitting at his petrol pump at 10.30 pm, when two men arrived on a motorcycle with their faces covered and suddenly opened fire. According to Soni, his bag was nearby and contained his licensed revolver. He immediately drew his revolver and fired two or three shots at the attackers in response, after which the assailants fled. No one was injured in the incident. However, his car was hit by two or three bullets. The incident was captured on the CCTV installed at the petrol pump. The police have not issued any official statement in this matter till now. Soni has been working for the BJP for a long time and heads the district trade cell. He claimed that he had been receiving threats and calls from foreign numbers for some time. After carrying out the attack, the assailants allegedly sent a message and an audio recording in which they demanded a ransom of Rs 2 crore. In the threatening message, they wrote that this was only a trailer, and if Rs 2 crore was not paid within 10 days, they would attack again.

NIA raids ex-TMC MLA Saokat Molla's residence, party office in bomb blast probe

GNS News Agency, June 9

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at premises linked to former Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Saokat Molla, including his residence in Jibantala in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. Saokat was not at home at the time, and only his son, Imran, was present, NIA sources said. According to the sources, the searches are being held in connection with the investigation into a bomb blast in the Dakshin Bamunia area of Bhangar, just days before the Assembly elections in the state. The NIA had earlier arrested TMC leader Wahidul Islam in connection with the case. NIA officials also conducted searches at the TMC party office that Saokat used to sit in, the residences of his relatives, and a restaurant owned by his son. According to NIA sources, Saokat was in Kolkata on Wednesday, where he met a few party members. Locals reported seeing him in Jibantala on Wednesday, and NIA sources said call location data placed him in the area. Upon learning about the search operation, Saokat's wife and daughter-in-law arrived at their residence. They claimed that no notice had been served and said they had no information about Saokat's whereabouts. Sources added that both were being interrogated. In March, a crude



bomb exploded in Dakshin Bamunia village, killing one person and injuring three others. The Indian Secular Front demanded an NIA probe into the incident. Subsequently, the central agency took charge of the investigation. In April, the NIA arrested Ahidul Islam Molla of Bhojoganj Bazar in South 24 Parganas district. According to the agency, Ahidul was a co-conspirator and was involved in the preparation of bombs and the destruction of evidence. The bombs exploded while being assembled, killing one of the accused.

Nihangs launch 'Khalsa tax' drive against Himachal entry levy, warn of wider stir



GNS News Agency, June 9

Opposition to Himachal Pradesh's entry tax on out-of-state vehicles took a dramatic turn on Wednesday as members of the Nihang organisation Tarna Dal launched a symbolic "Khalsa tax" collection drive on Himachal-registered vehicles entering Punjab near Kiratpur Sahib. The campaign, led by Nihang leader Achhar Singh, was carried out along the Kiratpur Sahib-Manali highway, a key route connecting Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Protesters described the exercise as a symbolic response to the entry tax imposed by the Himachal Pradesh government on vehicles entering the hill state. According to those leading the agitation, the collection drive was conducted for a limited period to highlight public resentment against what they termed an unjustified financial burden on travellers, transporters and businesses from neighbouring states.

The controversy centres on Himachal Pradesh's toll and entry tax policy for vehicles entering the state through designated entry points. The issue intensified after revised rates came into effect on April 1, 2026, triggering opposition from transport unions, traders and residents of Punjab and Haryana who frequently travel to Himachal Pradesh. Protesters argue that the levy affects not only tourists but also farmers, traders, transport operators and residents of border areas who depend on regular interstate movement for business and livelihood. While the Himachal Pradesh government has maintained that the tax is a legitimate source of revenue for infrastructure development and road maintenance, critics contend that it imposes an additional burden on people already grappling with rising transportation costs. Speaking during the protest, Achhar Singh said the campaign was intended as a response to what protesters view as discriminatory taxation on vehicles from Punjab and other states entering Himachal Pradesh. He claimed that contributions had been collected from vehicles regardless of the state in which they were registered.

"We have not forced anybody to pay a particular

amount. We have asked them to contribute according to their wish. But if the government does not resolve the issue, we will set up a permanent Khalsa tax point here and may also fix a specific amount," he said. He maintained that the symbolic collection should not be viewed as a conventional toll tax and claimed that the money collected would be used for "Sarbat da Bhala" (public welfare). He also said motorists were requested, not compelled, to contribute. Achhar Singh added that several vehicles were allowed to pass without making any contribution when long queues began forming and there was a risk of traffic congestion. Warning of a wider agitation, he said the protest could intensify if governments failed to address public concerns. Protest leaders have repeatedly demanded withdrawal of the entry tax structure, which they say is adversely affecting interstate travel and trade. The latest action comes amid a broader agitation spearheaded by various organisations and a Sangharsh Committee led by Gaurav Rana. Demonstrations have been held in recent weeks at several locations along routes linking Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

Agitators argue that the levy could discourage tourism, increase transportation expenses and affect commercial activity between the two neighbouring states. They point out that Punjab contributes significantly to Himachal Pradesh's tourist inflow and that the economies of the two states are closely linked. The issue has resonated particularly in districts along the Punjab-Himachal border, where thousands travel daily for employment, education, trade and agricultural activities. Protesters claim that additional entry charges create unnecessary hurdles for communities that have traditionally enjoyed seamless movement across state boundaries. Trade bodies and transport associations have also expressed concern that higher transportation costs could eventually be passed on to consumers through increased freight and logistics expenses.

Police personnel remained deployed near the protest site on Wednesday as authorities monitored the situation to ensure traffic movement was not disrupted. Officials remained on alert amid warnings from protest groups that further action could follow if their demands were not addressed. Earlier, acting Akal Takht Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Gargaj had described the Himachal Pradesh levy as a "jaziya tax". Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, who had earlier been involved in discussions with the agitating groups, could not be contacted for comment. With religious, social and transport organisations increasingly backing the agitation, pressure is mounting on both Punjab and Himachal Pradesh governments to find a resolution before the dispute escalates further.

Failing to get remarried, Pune villager kills father and brother

GNS News Agency, June 9

A man was arrested on Thursday on charges of murdering his father and younger brother following a dispute over his marriage at Bagadwadi village in Junnar taluka of Pune district. The deceased persons have been identified as Jayram Mahadu Mukne, 65, and Rajendra Jayram Mukne, 30. Jayram Mukne's son, Babaji Jayram Mukne, 32, is the accused in the double murder.

Another brother of the accused, Yuvraj Mukne, 27, lodged the First Information Report (FIR) in this case at the Otr police station under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Section 103 (1). "The probe revealed that Babaji was married in the past, but his wife left him due to some issues. He wanted to marry again. But failing to get remarried, he quarrelled with his family. Also, he often had arguments over other issues in the family. Following a quarrel on Tuesday night, he killed his father and brother. We are seeking his custody from the court for further investigation into the



double murder," said Assistant Police Inspector Dnyaneshwar Bajgire of Otr police station. The police said Babaji Mukne attacked the victims with a hard object on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, near their tin shed house in the village. Yuvraj Mukne was not present at the spot when the incident took place.

Licence in accountant's name: How South Delhi hotel owner bypassed rules



GNS News Agency, June 9

After the arrest of the owner of Flourish Stays B&B in South Delhi where a fire killed 21 people on Wednesday, the Delhi Police are looking into his accountant in whose name the licence to operate the facility was allegedly obtained. During the investigation, police found that the building was purchased in 2022 by Lavkesh Bajaj, a resident of Saket, from a person who had been running a garment business from the premises. At the time, the property was a three-storey building, sources said. After acquiring the property, Bajaj converted it into a Bed and Breakfast (B&B) establishment, seeing a high demand of foreign patients and medical tourists in this area. Under the Delhi government's earlier scheme, a B&B facility is required to be owned by a private homeowner. To meet this criterion, police said Bajaj allegedly obtained the licence in the name of his accountant, Jay Mishra, who also manages Bajaj's other properties. "While applying for the licence, Bajaj showed in the documents that the property belonged to Mishra and

that he lived there," a police source said. Given the steady stream of foreign patients visiting Max Hospital, located across the property, Bajaj allegedly decided to expand the building by adding more floors and rooms. The property eventually grew from six rooms to 26 rooms spread across six levels, including the ground floor and five additional floors. The B&B Scheme had allowed homeowners to register their residences as legal tourist accommodations. The scheme was introduced during the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Since then, many homeowners in areas like Karol Bagh and Paharganj have converted their residential properties into B&B establishments. Licences under the scheme are issued by the Delhi Tourism Department.

has seen a list of Bed and Breakfast establishments in South Delhi, in which Flourish Stays is listed at number 88 among 133 registered facilities. The owner's section mentions Jay Mishra. It says it is a silver category property with registration up to May 2, 2027. Firefighters rescue a foreign national from a hotel fire in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, June 3, 2026. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup) Firefighters rescue a foreign national from a hotel fire in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, June 3, 2026. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup) According to police sources, Bajaj allegedly misused the B&B scheme by illegally increasing the number of rooms from six to 26 and by obtaining the licence in another person's name while projecting him as the property's owner. Bajaj is expected to be produced before a court after noon on Thursday. Police will seek his custody to recover property-related documents and ascertain how he allegedly managed to violate regulations without attracting the attention of civic agencies. Police said Jay Mishra live in Raipur Khurd in North Delhi, where the police team has conducted raids but found him missing.

No 'smooth, comfortable travel experience': firm penalised, tourists awarded Rs 2L

GNS News Agency, June 9

Holding that a tour and travel firm failed to provide a "smooth and comfortable travel experience, which was the core promise of the package", the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission of Chandigarh, has directed Thomas Cook to pay Rs 2 lakh compensation to two Mohali residents. The Commission observed that the repeated bus coach's breakdown during a Scandinavian tour of the complainants over three consecutive days "materially affected the quality of the tour" and amounted to deficiency in service.

The complaint was filed by Rupinder Kaur and Harvinder Singh Sandhu, who claimed that they booked Thomas Cook's "Scenic Scandinavia Summer 2025" package for June 12-22, 2025, paying Rs 7.61 lakh. They alleged that despite opting for a premium package, they faced prolonged delays, late-night hotel check-ins, irregular meals and physical exhaustion after the tour bus (coach) broke down repeatedly on June 16, 17 and 18, 2025. The complainants contended that the repeated disruptions deprived them of the comfortable and hassle-free experience promised by the tour operator and caused considerable mental and physical hardship. In its defence, Thomas Cook, through its counsel, submitted that the complainants had booked the tour after accepting the terms and conditions and that the coach breakdown resulted from an unforeseen technical snag attributable to an independent contractor. The company's counsel said the terms and conditions clearly stipulate that they acted merely as a travel agent and organiser, facilitating services through independent contractors such as airlines, hotels, and coach operators, and shall not be held liable for any deficiency attributable to such independent service providers. The company argued that the incident was beyond its control and that replacement ar-



rangements, refreshments and packaged meals had been provided to passengers. Rejecting the company's stand, the Commission observed, "a consumer books such tours with the legitimate expectation of a hassle-free and comfortable experience. The plea of the Thomas Cook that they are merely facilitators and not responsible for acts of independent contractors cannot be accepted in its entirety, especially when the services are offered as a composite package under (Thomas Cook) brand and assurance." "Waiting for hours in adverse weather conditions and late-night hotel check-ins cannot be termed as minor inconvenience," it observed. The Bench further held that providing refreshments after the breakdowns did not absolve the company of liability, calling them "reactive measures rather than proactive planning." "A premium tour operator is expected to ensure contingency arrangements, particularly in foreign tours involving senior citizens," the panel held. While rejecting other allegations relating to sightseeing exclusions, cabin category and hotel quality for lack of proof, the commission held Thomas Cook deficient in service in relation to transportation arrangements and awarded a consolidated compensation of Rs 2 lakh, including litigation expenses.

Acquittals outnumber convictions in Chandigarh: NCRB



The NCRB's Crime in India 2024 report shows that of the 1,708 persons whose cases were disposed of during the year, 717 were convicted, 985 acquitted and six discharged. This translates into a conviction rate of 41.98 per cent, marginally higher than 41.57 per cent recorded in 2023.

GNS News Agency, June 9

Courts in Chandigarh acquitted more accused than they convicted in IPC/Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) cases during 2024, with 985 persons acquitted against 717 convicted, with the conviction rate remained below the 50 per cent mark at 41.98 per cent, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report. The NCRB's Crime in India 2024 report shows that of the 1,708 persons whose cases were disposed of during the year, 717 were convicted, 985 acquitted and six discharged. This translates into a conviction rate of 41.98 per cent, marginally higher than 41.57 per cent recorded in 2023. The data shows that Chandigarh Police arrested 1,977 persons in IPC/BNS crimes during 2024, including 1,890 men, 87 women and no transgender persons. The number of arrests was lower than the 2,209 persons arrested in 2023.

A notable feature of the 2024 data is the concentration of arrests among younger adults. Of the total persons arrested, 1,209 belonged to the 18-30 years age group, including 1,159 men and 50 women. This means more than 61 per cent of all arrests were from this age bracket. Another 552 persons were arrested in the 30-45 years category, comprising 526 men and 26 women. The 45-60 years age group accounted for 113 arrests, including 107 men and six women. Only five persons above the age of 60 years were arrested during the year. The NCRB data also records a decline in juvenile apprehensions. Chandigarh reported 98 juveniles apprehended in 2024, including 96 boys and two girls, compared with 177 juveniles — 176 boys and one girl — apprehended in 2023.

The report further shows that Chandigarh Police

charge-sheeted 1,683 persons during 2024, including 1,592 men and 91 women. In comparison, 2,366 persons had been charge-sheeted in 2023. Of the 717 persons convicted during 2024, 698 were men and 19 women in 2024. As many as 923 men and 62 women were acquitted by courts. The NCRB figures indicate that while the number of arrests, charge-sheeted persons, convictions and acquittals all declined in absolute terms during 2024, the conviction rate remained largely unchanged.

In 2023, Chandigarh had recorded 873 convictions, 1,225 acquittals and two discharges, translating into a conviction rate of 41.57 per cent. During that year, 2,209 persons were arrested, including 2,097 men and 112 women. The age profile of those arrested in 2023 was also dominated by younger adults. A total of 942 persons were arrested in the 18-30 years category, followed by 711 persons aged between 30 and 45 years, 352 in the 45-60 years bracket, and 27 above 60 years. Advocate Dikshit Arora, who practises at the Chandigarh district courts, said the persistent gap between acquittals and convictions warrants a closer look at investigations and prosecution. "When acquittals consistently outnumber convictions, it raises questions about the quality of investigation, collection of evidence, witness handling and the overall presentation of the case before the court. Criminal cases are decided on evidence, and wherever there are gaps in investigation or prosecution, the benefit naturally goes to the accused," he said.

Advocate Abhilaksh Gaiand said NCRB figures should be interpreted "cautiously" as conviction and acquittal statistics reflect cases decided by courts during a particular year and not necessarily arrests made in that year. "Criminal trials often take several years to conclude and outcomes depend on the facts and evidence of each case. Therefore, conviction rates are an important indicator, but they do not by themselves provide a complete picture of the criminal justice system," he said. Historical NCRB data shows that Chandigarh's conviction rate has fluctuated over the years. The city had recorded a conviction rate of nearly 52 per cent in 2022 and around 63 per cent in 2021. The lowest conviction rate in the past decade was reported in 2017 at around 38.8 per cent. The latest figures suggest that Chandigarh's conviction rate has stabilised at around the 42 per cent mark over the last two years, even as acquittals continue to outnumber convictions.

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EAM Jaishankar meets Venezuela's Acting Prez Rodriguez, discusses strengthening bilateral ties



GNS News Agency, June 9

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Thursday called on Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez in New Delhi, appreciating her sustained commitment to strengthening the partnership between India and Venezuela. The EAM expressed hope that Rodriguez's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi would further enhance the bilateral cooperation. Following the meeting, EAM Jaishankar took to X and said, "Pleased to call on Acting President Delcy Rodriguez of Venezuela in New Delhi today. Deeply value her longstanding commitment to the India-Venezuela relationship. Her meeting with PM Narendra Modi will further strengthen our cooperation."

Later in the day, Rodriguez will hold a meeting with PM Modi, with discussions involving the full spectrum of India-Venezuela relations and exploring avenues for fur-

ther cooperation in areas of energy security, trade and investment, pharmaceuticals, health care, transportation, and renewable energy. Rodriguez arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday for a five-day visit to India aimed at further deepening ties between the two nations.

"A warm welcome to Acting President Delcy Rodriguez of Venezuela on her arrival in New Delhi. During her visit, Acting President Delcy Rodriguez will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visit will further deepen India-Venezuela ties and build on the momentum in the bilateral partnership," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X. According to the MEA, the Venezuelan delegation accompanying Rodriguez will visit several sites connected with energy, pharmaceuticals, and auto sectors to gain insights into India's technological and industrial capabilities and to explore opportunities for collaboration. "India has been an important partner of Venezuela in the areas of energy and investment. Indian PSUs have made significant investments in Venezuela in the energy sector, and they are keen to explore opportunities for further enhancing their presence," the MEA stated. India and Venezuela enjoy warm and friendly relations, underpinned by cooperation in the energy sector, trade, and shared commitment to the Global South. The visit is expected to further strengthen bilateral ties and deepen engagement between the two countries across diverse sectors, the MEA mentioned. Rodriguez was sworn in as Venezuela's interim president on January 5 after the US attacked the South American nation and "captured" President Nicolas Maduro and his wife.

Israel, Lebanon agree to implement ceasefire, boosting hopes for Iran deal



DUBAI, - Israel and Lebanon agreed to implement a ceasefire to end hostilities, the Trump administration said on Wednesday, in a boost to hopes for a broader deal to end the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Tehran, which had conditioned any deal with the U.S. in part on an end to fighting between Israel and Lebanon, earlier struck Kuwait, damaging its airport and injuring dozens while the U.S. military carried out strikes near the Strait of Hormuz.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. The Israel-Lebanon ceasefire is contingent on a complete cessation of fire from the Iran-aligned Hezbollah militia and the evacuation of all its operatives from the South Litani Sector, a joint statement released by the U.S. State Department said following negotiations in Washington. The two sides had agreed last month to a ceasefire but hostilities had continued. Israel invaded Lebanon in March in pursuit of Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which fired across the border in support of Tehran. The attacks on Kuwait and in the strait are the latest to test a shaky ceasefire between the U.S., Israel and Iran, sending oil prices up nearly 2%, as the strait remains largely closed more than three months after the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran. Flights at Kuwait International Airport were suspended after an Iranian drone and missile attack damaged airport facilities and diplomatic missions, killing one person and injuring more than 60 others, Kuwaiti authorities and state media said.

Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways later resumed flights after taking safety measures, the civil aviation authority said. Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said they did not fire at Kuwait's airport and blamed the destruction on U.S. interceptor missiles that failed to hit their targets, according to Iranian state media. The U.S. military said that was not accurate, and that Iranian drones targeted the airport deliberately. Earlier, Iranian media reported the Revolutionary Guards had attacked the headquarters of the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain and a U.S. airbase, as well as a vessel identified as Panaya. U.S. Central Command denied its

bases had been hit and said Iranian ballistic missiles failed to strike their targets in the region. CENTCOM said it had carried out a new round of "defensive strikes" in southern Iran, targeted missile launch sites and Iranian boats seeking to lay mines, and conducted strikes on Qeshm Island near the Strait of Hormuz after attempted Iranian attacks. CEASEFIRE STRAINED BY FLARE-UP Since the U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran began on February 28, Tehran has repeatedly attacked targets in the Gulf region, home to U.S. military bases. Hostilities have periodically flared up in recent weeks despite a ceasefire agreed in early April, as the U.S. has pushed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which handled roughly a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments before the war.

Last week, Iran and the U.S. signalled progress towards a tentative initial agreement to halt the war and reopen the strait, but the two sides have yet to sign off on the deal, which would leave more complex negotiations for later. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told Lebanese broadcaster Al Mayadeen on Wednesday that talks had not been cut off but no progress had been made. In addition to Tehran conditioning a deal on an end to fighting in Lebanon, it also wants access to billions of dollars in oil revenue, waivers on sanctions on crude exports, a lifting of a U.S. blockade on its ports and continued leverage over the strait. U.S. President Donald Trump, who is under pressure to bring down fuel prices, has said his top priority is to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Iran says its atomic program is for peaceful purposes. In a podcast interview released on Wednesday, Trump said Iran had agreed to not have a nuclear weapon and that Khamenei was involved in negotiations. Later on Wednesday Trump suggested there could be progress in negotiations with Iran as soon as this weekend. "If it happens, it could happen over the weekend," Trump told reporters in the White House's Oval Office, without elaborating on what he expected to happen within that timeframe. Trump said that parties were working to separate the issue of reopening the strait from the conflict in Lebanon. ISRAEL KEEPS UP STRIKES ON LEBANON The war has killed thousands, mainly in Iran and Lebanon, while causing global economic pain by severely disrupting energy supplies and other shipping. It also sparked the latest round of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. On Wednesday, Israeli drone strikes killed at least six people in southern Lebanon and targeted a car just south of Beirut, Lebanese security sources said, while Israel said it intercepted a hostile aircraft likely fired by Hezbollah. In his podcast comments, Trump acknowledged having called Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "crazy" during a reportedly explosive-filled phone exchange over the fighting in Lebanon as he sought a deal over the wider war. "At some point I said, Bibi, we got to stop this. We got to stop it," Trump said, referring to Netanyahu by his nickname. Netanyahu told CNBC in an interview that he and Trump sometimes had "tactical disagreements" but that they agreed on the main issues concerning Iran.

Trump admits calling Netanyahu 'crazy' amid Iran war talks



GNS News Agency, June 9

Beirut: President Donald Trump acknowledged criticising Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as "crazy" in a phone call that involved expletives, saying he was "a little bit perturbed" that Israel's fighting with Hezbollah militants in Lebanon was holding back peace talks with Iran. But even as the US president conceded the tensions in an interview released Wednesday, he insisted that his relationship with Netanyahu was solid and that they connected, in part, because they are both "wartime" leaders.

"We've worked very well together. I like Bibi a lot. And I love very well with him," Trump told The New York Post's "Pod Force One." In an interview on the American business news channel CNBC, Netanyahu responded that he and Trump sometimes have "tactical disagreements" but have "common goals" and "agree on the main things." "He respects me. I respect him. We always find a way to work out our differences," the prime minister said. The president's comments about the Monday call offered a sign of the growing pressure he faces to resolve the Iran war as higher en-

ergy prices and economic uncertainty threaten Republican prospects in the midterm elections and hamper global commerce. Talks have dragged on for weeks as mediators seek to extend a fragile ceasefire into a more enduring truce. The negotiations are further strained by Israel's broadening war with the Iranian-backed militia group in Lebanon. The conflicts have become increasingly intertwined as Iran insists that any potential truce in the war there must also quell the fighting in Lebanon.

Trump does not commit to timeline for ending Iran war Trump remained noncommittal about a timeline for settling the Iran conflict, saying the Strait of Hormuz might stay blocked through the Labor Day holiday on Sept. 7. He has insisted that Iran stop any efforts that could lead to a nuclear weapon and that the strait be reopened for shipments of oil and natural gas. "I don't know. I mean, I think it could be (closed through Labor Day), but I think it's unlikely. I think that we'll have it. I think this will resolve itself fairly quickly," Trump said. Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who succeeded his late father, is "involved" in peace talks, Trump added. "They have a lot of respect for him," the president said in the interview. Trump said that Khamenei is not doing well due to wounds sustained in an airstrike, but "they say he's giving approval because that's the way it has been for a long, long time." Khamenei's father was killed in an airstrike when the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran at the end of February. Meanwhile in the Persian Gulf region, Kuwait briefly shut its main airport Wednesday after Iranian drones hit a passenger terminal building, killing one person and wounding dozens. It was the latest in the back-and-forth attacks by Tehran and Washington that have tested the ceasefire. The strike again brought home the risks to residents and travelers in Gulf countries that had considered themselves relative safe havens before the war, now in its fourth month.

US House votes for measure that would end Iran war, in blow to Trump



WASHINGTON, The Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives approved a resolution on Wednesday to block President Donald Trump from continuing the war against Iran, reflecting growing concern among members of his party about the three-month-old conflict. The House voted 215 to 208, as four Republicans voted with Democrats in favor of the war powers resolution, which directs Trump to withdraw U.S. troops from Iran unless Congress declares war or authorizes the use of military force.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. It was the latest setback for Trump in Congress despite his party's slim majorities in both the House and Senate. For now, the vote is largely symbolic, as legislation must pass the Senate as well as the House to become effective, and there is debate over whether war powers resolutions would be constitutional even if they are approved by Congress. The vote, nonetheless, reflects unease among some Republicans over Trump's handling of the conflict and marks a rare bipartisan effort to curb presidential war powers as the war has entered a fourth month. Three previous war powers resolutions had failed in the House by increasingly slim margins and the chamber's Republican leaders abruptly postponed a vote on this one last month when it looked likely to pass.

The Senate advanced a separate, but similar resolution last month in a procedural vote, after seven previous attempts had failed. Further votes on the Senate measure have not yet been scheduled. The four House Republicans who voted for the war powers resolution were Representatives Tom Barrett of Michigan, Warren Davidson of Ohio, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Thomas Massie of Kentucky. No Democrats voted against it. Seven House members did not vote. Trump recently has faced some opposition from members of his party in Congress, after months in which very few Republicans pushed back against his policy initiatives. Separately on Wednesday, the House approved a procedural motion that clears the way for a vote on the Ukraine Support Act, which would provide security aid to Ukraine as it fights a Russian invasion. The act reached the floor only after a petition reached a 218-signature threshold last month to move ahead. Six Republicans and one independent who normally votes with Republicans voted in favor of the Ukraine measure. Republicans recently have revolted against Trump's plans to create a "weaponization" fund to pay his political allies who said they had been the subject of government abuse. Republican lawmakers on Wednesday also criticized Trump's pick of loyalist Bill Pulte - a mortgage regulator with no national security experience - to serve as acting director of national intelligence. Democrats have called on Trump to come to Congress for authorization to use military force in the Iran conflict, noting that the U.S. Constitution says only the legislature, not the president, can

declare war. They warned that Trump may have pulled the country into a long conflict without setting out a clear strategy and also railed against higher prices for gasoline, food and other products since the joint U.S.-Israeli air strikes on Iran began on February 28.

"The passage of this WPR today signals a significant turning point: more and more Republicans are listening to their constituents who do not want another open-ended war in the Middle East," Representative Gregory Meeks, who sponsored the war powers resolution and serves as ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a statement after the vote. He made affordability a central theme of their economic message ahead of midterm elections in November that will decide whether Republicans keep control of Congress. U.S. producer prices posted their biggest increase in four years in April, boosted by soaring costs for goods and services since the war began. The Trump administration insists that the war on Iran is necessary for U.S. national security, citing an urgent need to prevent the Islamic republic from developing a nuclear weapon. Republican critics of the war powers resolutions call them political grandstanding by Democrats who want to weaken the United States and score points against Trump. Patricia Zengerle has reported from more than 20 countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and China. An award-winning Washington-based national security and foreign policy reporter who also has worked as an editor, Patricia has appeared on NPR, C-Span and other programs, spoken at the National Press Club and attended the Hoover Institution Media Roundtable. She is a recipient of the Edwin M. Hood Award for Diplomatic Correspondence.

Ultra-orthodox protesters block roads and trains across Israel over military draft

Jerusalem: Tens of thousands of ultra-orthodox demonstrated across Israel on Monday, blocking roads and trains and setting cars on fire to protest mandatory enlistment in Israel's military. Israel's police said demonstrators blocked major intersections and attacked a soldier who disembarked from a bus near a protest. Police struggled to control the crowds with water cannons and horses. The protest largely crippled the country's center, with highways closed and public transportation halted by the massive crowds in both Jerusalem and the Tel Aviv metro area. Military service is compulsory for most Jewish men and women in Israel. The politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties have won exemptions for their followers to forgo military service and instead study in religious seminaries, but those exemptions are under threat. Many Israelis are tired of the longstanding system that has allowed ultra-Orthodox men to skip military service at a time when the military is stretched to its breaking point and many have served multiple tours of reserve duty. The issue is tearing apart Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition, possibly moving elections up by several weeks this fall after the ultra-Orthodox parties withdrew their support for Netanyahu. Each year, roughly 13,000 ultra-Orthodox men reach the conscription age of 18, but less than 10 per cent enlist, according to a parliamentary committee. Faced with severe shortages of soldiers, the military is looking to extend the period of mandatory service. Most Jewish men are required to serve nearly three years of military service, followed by years of reserve duty. Jewish women serve two mandatory years.

FBI ends 15-hour hostage standoff in California's Bakersfield

San Francisco: A man took 10 people hostage inside a California office building before the FBI shot and killed him early Wednesday, bringing the more than 15-hour standoff to an end, police said. The hostages were found unharmed inside the downtown Bakersfield building that houses a bank and a school district office, the Bakersfield Police Department said in a statement. The suspect was killed in "an officer-involved shooting" involving FBI personnel, the department said. The standoff began Tuesday afternoon when officers responded to a call of a bomb threat at the Chase Bank building, a four-story office building with dark-tinted glass windows all around. Police said the man had barricaded himself inside with several people.



Where's the West Asia conflict headed? Marco Rubio's testimony offers some clues



GNS News Agency, June 9

Appearing before the US Congress for the first time since the US and Israel began the war on February 28, a combative Rubio claimed that a deal was within reach and that Iran had agreed to discuss its nuclear programme. He also said, however, that there was no guarantee that the talks would lead to an "acceptable" deal. Rubio also spoke about a range of other issues linked to the larger conflict, including the closed Strait of Hormuz and India's purchases of Russian oil under a US waiver. Here are the key six takeaways from his testimony before lawmakers in Capitol Hill. Rubio tried to project optimism about the ceasefire talks with Iran, claiming that Tehran was willing to discuss some aspects of its nuclear programme — which was previously a no-go area. The US wants Iran to cap its nuclear

programme and give up its estimated 440 kg of highly enriched uranium. "They have agreed to negotiate aspects of their nuclear programme that just a month ago, just a year ago, they were refusing to even mention," Rubio told the Senate. He cautioned, however, that there was no guarantee that any agreement would be "acceptable to the Senate or acceptable to the American people." The US Secretary of State was clearly not committing to a positive outcome. His open-ended assessment is an official acknowledgement of the fact that the two sides still have wide differences on a range of issues.

In fact, Rubio's statement came a day after Iran's state-affiliated Tasnim News Agency reported that Tehran would stop exchanging messages with Washington through intermediaries, pointing to Israel's military operations in Lebanon as a ceasefire violation. This has cast a shadow over the talks. Rubio, though, also denied that the US was desperate to get a deal. Rubio said US negotiators have not offered sanctions relief to Iran in exchange for reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Any such relief, he said, was tied to Tehran giving up its nuclear programme.

"Right now, everything that's been discussed with them (Iran) is that... any sanctions relief is condition-based, which means it has to be in return for the reason why those sanctions were put in place in the first place, which is their nuclear programme," Rubio told the Senate hearing. Iran's main demand has been relief from the crushing economic sanctions imposed by the US, which had led to widespread protests in January. Its biggest leverage during the conflict has been its control over the Strait of Hormuz. Iran closed the narrow waterway, through which a fifth of the world's energy normally flows, in response to the US-Israeli attack.

A non-smoker, 23-year-old thought her tongue ulcer to be an accidental bite: It was oral cancer



agnosing oral cancer in younger patients, women and health-conscious adults with no history of tobacco or alcohol use. The absence of traditional risk factors creates a false sense of security. Many dismiss persistent symptoms as minor dental issues, stress-related ulcers or accidental injuries, delaying evaluation until the disease has advanced. Oral cancer can develop in the tongue, gums, inner cheeks, lips, floor of the mouth, palate and throat region.

Why non-smokers are at risk In non-smokers, the causes are often multifactorial and less obvious. Poor oral hygiene remains a key trigger. Chronic irritation caused by sharp or broken teeth, ill-fitting dental appliances, braces causing repeated trauma and untreated mouth ulcers can create a persistently inflamed environment. Nutritional deficiencies can weaken tissue repair mechanisms, while infection with human papillomavirus (HPV) infection has emerged as an increasingly recognised risk factor, particularly in younger adults. Family history, prolonged stress, low immunity and unhealthy dietary patterns may further increase susceptibility. While no single food directly causes oral cancer, diets high in ultra-processed foods and low in protective antioxidants may contribute to long-term inflammation and reduced oral tissue resilience. Do not ignore these symptoms. One of the biggest challenges in oral cancer management is that early warning signs are often subtle and painless. A mouth ulcer that does not heal within two weeks deserves medical evaluation. Persistent white or red patches inside the mouth, unexplained bleeding, pain while swallowing, difficulty opening the mouth, loosening teeth without a dental cause, a chronic sore throat, voice changes or a lump in the neck should never be ignored. These symptoms do not always indicate cancer, but should never be dismissed. The encouraging bit is that oral cancer is highly treatable when detected early. Early-stage cancers often require less aggressive treatment and offer significantly better outcomes, with higher cure rates and greater preservation of speech, swallowing ability and appearance. Delayed diagnosis, by contrast, often demands more extensive surgery, reconstruction and prolonged rehabilitation. Prevention remains our strongest defence. Maintaining oral hygiene, correcting dental issues promptly, eating a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables, staying hydrated, limiting alcohol consumption and undergoing regular dental or oral examinations can significantly reduce risk. Most importantly, people must stop assuming that being a non-smoker means being risk-free. Oral cancer does not always announce itself dramatically. Sometimes it begins quietly, as a small ulcer easily ignored. Spotting the red flag can make the difference between life and death.

A few months ago, I treated a 23-year-old college student from Delhi, who had never smoked or consumed tobacco, for oral cancer. She came to us with what appeared to be a small ulcer on the side of her tongue, something she believed had been caused by accidentally biting herself during a hurried meal. Since it caused only mild discomfort initially, she ignored it for nearly six weeks, assuming it would heal on its own. A biopsy confirmed what she least expected: early-stage cancer of the tongue.

During consultation, we found out that her meals were irregular; she often skipped them because of academic pressures. She had replaced fresh fruits and balanced home-cooked food with packaged snacks, sugary beverages and long gaps without proper nutrition. Her lifestyle was no different from other urban young adults. She came to see us when the ulcer persisted, became painful, began interfering with her speech, and eventually prompted her to seek medical help. The difference early diagnosis can make. Fortunately, because the disease was diagnosed at an early stage, we were able to perform surgery that completely removed the lesion while preserving normal tongue function.

Her recovery involved far more than the operation itself. It required speech rehabilitation, swallowing therapy, nutritional counselling and carefully monitored reintroduction to a normal diet. Within weeks, she regained confidence in speaking, resumed her studies, and gradually returned to her routine life. She continues regular follow-up and remains healthy today. Her story is a reminder of an emerging medical reality: oral cancer is no longer confined to smokers or tobacco users. For decades, oral cancer has been strongly associated with tobacco consumption, betel nut chewing and excessive alcohol intake. These remain among the most significant risk factors, particularly in India, where oral cancer continues to rank among the most common cancers. However, oncologists are increasingly di-

7-minute cancer shot launched in India: New immunotherapy injection could change lung cancer treatment but comes at a cost

Haryana Pharmaceutical giant Roche has just launched the subcutaneous version of its cancer immunotherapy drug atezolizumab in the Indian market. Fifty-seven year-old smoker Jai Singh (name changed) walked into the cancer clinic of Medanta hospital at Gurugram with a diagnosis of lung cancer last December. It had already spread to his brain, liver and bones. While he had started radiotherapy (this uses X-rays, gamma rays or protons to kill cancer cells and shrink tumours), he was afraid of taking chemotherapy (this uses powerful drugs to destroy cancer cells). That's when his doctors put him on immunotherapy, which has now become easy to administer with injectables.

"He had heard of the side-effects of chemotherapy from other patients. Fortunately, his PD-L1 levels were found to be high at 75 per cent. This means the patient has a high expression of this protein, indicating that three-quarters of the tested cancer cells are actively using it as a cloak to hide from your immune system. The high percentage meant he was a ripe candidate for immunotherapy. Normally, it is an infusion. We recommended the newly-launched subcutaneous or under the skin injection atezolizumab," said Dr Sajjan Rajpurohit, head of medical oncology at the hospital. Pharmaceutical giant Roche has just launched the subcutaneous version of its cancer immunotherapy drug atezolizumab — with the brand name Tecentriq — in the Indian market. Dr Rajpurohit said the ease of administering the immunotherapy with an injection, which reduces the time that patients have to spend in the hospital, along with fewer infusion-related side-effects have meant better compliance to the treatment among his patients.

Who is the immunotherapy shot meant for?

The treatment is meant for those with non-small cell lung cancer, which accounts for a majority of the over 81,000 lung cancer cases diagnosed each year in India. However, the therapy is not meant for all patients with this type of cancer. It is an immunotherapy drug that specifically targets PD-L1 receptors, so only those who have these receptors on most of the cancer cells qualify for this treatment. Nearly half of the patients with non-small cell lung cancer are eligible for the treatment.

How does it help the patients?

The drug, in both IV and subcutaneous versions, has been shown to increase overall survival and progression-free survival and reduce the risk of death in lung cancer patients. Importantly, the subcutaneous version of the drug can be administered by trained nursing staff in hospital outpatient departments through an injection in the thigh in just seven minutes. The drug, so far, was administered as an intravenous infusion. This is also beneficial for hospitals, considering at least five patients can receive the subcutaneous injection in the time it takes for one patient to get the IV infusion. Global studies have also shown that four of five patients preferred the subcutaneous version over the IV version, according to the company.

How much does the drug cost?

The cost, however, remains very high — Rs 3.7 lakh per dose with most patients needing around six doses. That's why the company is running a patient assistance programme called Blue Tree to lower the cost of treatment and make it more accessible to patients. The drug has also been included under the Central Government Health Scheme. "The bio-equivalent dose needed for the subcutaneous version is higher — 1,800 mg against 1,200 mg for the intravenous versions — so there is a difference of around Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 between the two. Yet, the cost almost comes out to be the same considering the hospitalisation charges etc that they can avoid," said Dr Rajpurohit.

How does the drug work?

Atezolizumab helps control cancer by taking away a cancer cell's ability to hide from the immune system, allowing immune cells to find and attack it. Normally, immune



cells called T cells patrol the body and destroy abnormal cells, but many cancer cells protect themselves by displaying a protein called PD-L1 on their surface. This protein binds to receptors on T cells and sends a false signal that tells the immune system not to attack, allowing the cancer to grow unchecked. Atezolizumab works by attaching to the PD-L1 protein and blocking this interaction. Once this "off signal" is blocked, the T cells can recognize the cancer cells as harmful and become active again. These reactivated immune cells then attack and destroy the cancer cells.

Over 1,000 fake IPL domains used for scams, malware attacks: Report

New Delhi: More than 1,000 fake IPL-related domains are being used to run online scams and malware attacks targeting cricket fans during the ongoing Indian Premier League season, a report showed on Wednesday. According to an analysis by CloudSEK, researchers identified more than 600 fraudulent domains selling fake IPL tickets and over 400 fake "free streaming" websites, many of which were being used as malware delivery platforms.

The report stated that cybercriminals are increasingly exploiting the urgency and emotional behaviour of cricket fans, especially those searching for last-minute match tickets or free online streams during high-profile fixtures.

"The fake ticketing backend shows how industrialised these scams have become. Operators are not only selling fake tickets. They are tracking conversions, adjusting prices, verifying payments and collecting victim data that can be reused or sold for future scams," said Sourajeet Majumder. "IPL brings together scale, emotion and urgency. That is exactly what cybercriminals exploit," Majumder added. The report further found that many fake ticketing websites impersonated trusted platforms by copying familiar logos, layouts and booking flows. Users were asked to select seats, enter personal details and make payments through UPI, cards, QR codes or payment gateways, the report said. In several cases, fake PDF tickets carrying booking IDs and QR codes were delivered to users after payment, only for victims to discover the fraud at stadium entry gates. The report also flagged that scammers were using Meta Pixel integration to track clicks, form submissions and payment activity, enabling them to optimise fraud campaigns similarly to legitimate e-commerce businesses. Apart from fake ticketing scams, the report highlighted the growing threat from fake IPL streaming websites. These websites were often optimised for searches such as "IPL free live stream" and match-specific streaming queries. The report warned that several of these websites acted as gateways for malware infections, suspicious redirects and credential theft attacks.

How 58-year-old took ibuprofen 3 times a day and landed with kidney damage, bloody stools



A 58-year-old man with long-standing hypertension, diabetes and knee osteoarthritis had been struggling with worsening pain through the summer. Like millions of Indians, he turned to over-the-counter painkillers for quick relief. Without consulting a doctor, he began taking ibuprofen frequently — sometimes two to three times a day, often on an empty stomach. Homebound and in pain, he was eating and drinking less water than usual. At the same time, he was already on blood pressure medication and metformin for diabetes. Then his body began sending warning signals. His stools turned black. He felt persistently weak. Nausea set in. There was a burning discomfort in his stomach that he dismissed as acidity. He noticed his urine output had reduced and he felt unusually lethargic. By the time he reached the hospital, the consequences of his self-medication and overuse of an ibuprofen-paracetamol drug (he took Combiflam) had become clear. The anatomy of over-medication with common painkillers

The patient's blood pressure was low. His stomach was acutely tender. Blood tests showed his haemoglobin had dropped to 9.8 grams per decilitre (g/dL), when it should have been at least 14 g/dL. This pointed to internal bleeding. His kidney function had sharply deteriorated: creatinine, previously normal at 1 mg/dL, had shot up to 2.3 mg/dL, while his blood urea and potassium levels were significantly elevated, indicating kidney injury. An endoscopy confirmed the diagnosis: multiple gastric erosions and a small actively bleeding ulcer. Doctors diagnosed him with NSAID-induced acute gastritis, upper gastrointestinal bleeding and acute kidney injury — all triggered by repeated use of ibuprofen. He required aggressive intravenous fluids, acid-suppressing infusions and immediate withdrawal of the painkiller. His diabetes and blood pressure medications had to be temporarily stopped and then modified to protect his kidneys. His case is a reminder of how casually we consume some of the most potent drugs in our medicine cabinets.

What self-medicating with painkillers does to your body? The class of medicines known as NSAIDs — non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs — includes some of the

most commonly used painkillers in India: ibuprofen, diclofenac, naproxen, indomethacin, etoricoxib, mefenamic acid and aspirin. They are routinely taken for headaches, body aches, arthritis, fever and menstrual pain, often without medical supervision. These drugs work by blocking enzymes responsible for producing prostaglandins, chemicals involved in pain and inflammation. But prostaglandins do far more than generate pain signals. They also protect the stomach lining, maintain blood flow to the kidneys and help regulate blood vessel function. Suppress them, and the body loses some of its natural safeguards.

This is why NSAIDs can erode the stomach's protective barrier, allowing acid to injure its lining. The result can be gastritis, ulcers and, in severe cases, gastrointestinal bleeding. Black stools, burning abdominal pain and unexplained weakness are often the first clues. Sometimes, the damage can begin within just five or six days of regular use. The kidneys are equally vulnerable. They depend on prostaglandins to maintain healthy circulation, particularly during dehydration. In hot weather, when many people are already mildly fluid-depleted, NSAIDs can sharply reduce blood flow to the kidneys and precipitate acute injury. For elderly patients or those with diabetes, hypertension or existing kidney compromise, the risk is significantly amplified. Why painkillers are a risk with other medications NSAIDs do not work well with other drugs because they alter individual functioning and change the way the body processes drugs. The combination with blood pressure medicines or diuretics is especially hazardous because NSAIDs reduce blood flow to the kidneys and can sharply impair kidney functions. Ibuprofen can block aspirin's ability to protect the heart, limiting its effectiveness. In susceptible individuals, aspirin and related drugs can trigger asthma attacks. As for blood pressure medication, NSAIDs increase water retention and constriction, opposing the effects of the former and diuretics, which can worsen hypertension. That misconception is especially risky for older adults. Ageing kidneys have less reserve. Comorbidities such as hypertension and diabetes create an internal environment where even short-term NSAID use can trigger disproportionate harm.

How to manage pain then?

The safer option for routine pain relief is often paracetamol, used judiciously, along with topical pain-relief gels. For chronic osteoarthritis, physiotherapy, weight management and structured strengthening exercises remain far better long-term strategies than repeated reliance on tablets. Painkillers have an important role in medicine. But they have to be taken under medical guidance and prescribed dosage. The strip of tablets in your drawer doesn't mean you can pop pills repeatedly because they worked before.

Air India pilot dies of heart attack hours after medical test: What triggers a cardiac episode without warning?

The death of an Air India first officer in Bali this week has unsettled far more than the aviation community. Here was a 40-year-old pilot, who was medically cleared pre-flight, operated within prescribed duty limits, completed an eight-hour flight, with no publicly known history of disease. He had checked into his hotel during a routine layover, complained of discomfort, had a heart attack and could not be revived despite being rushed to hospital. So how does someone pronounced fit enough to command an aircraft die of a cardiac event hours later? "The uncomfortable reality is that a heart attack comes like an earthquake, without prior notice, even in people who have every outward marker of health. An electrocardiogram (ECG) may appear normal in a resting state even when the arteries are blocked 70 per cent. So the plaque could rupture and blood would clot around it, creating a bigger block and triggering a heart attack. Besides, there could be an undiagnosed condition, a family history or other behaviour-induced risk factors like lack of sleep and stress, all of which can trigger a chain reaction," says Dr Ranjan Shetty, lead cardiologist and medical director, Sparsh Hospital, Bengaluru. Speaking to The Indian Express, he says, "Just tame your risk factors aggressively." Excerpts:

Can long-haul flying be a trigger if the patient has other risk factors?

The reduced air pressure and oxygen levels in the cabin can stress the heart, while dehydration causes blood to thicken, increasing the risk of clots. Dehydration alters electrolyte levels (potassium and sodium), which are crucial for maintaining a steady heart rhythm and may lead to irregular heart beats or arrhythmia. These electrical impulses could go awry and stop the heart suddenly, what we call sudden cardiac arrest. Long-haul flights of 8–10 hours increase the risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) which can lead to a pulmonary embolism (a clot traveling to the lungs). Besides, if a person already has unstable or vulnerable plaque, the physiological changes during flight can increase shear stress on vessel walls, leading to plaque rupture and subsequent heart attack. The risk of cardiovascular events, including potential ruptures, is highest 24–48 hours after arrival due to the body recovering from the stressors. Why a medical clearance is not a guarantee against sudden heart attack

Aviation medical examinations are designed to identify overt abnormalities — structural defects of the heart, uncontrolled hypertension, rhythm disorders or established disease serious enough to compromise operational safety. What they cannot always predict is the precise moment



when an apparently stable cardiovascular system becomes unstable. Even an ECG only records about 10 seconds of electrical activity. If your heart receives adequate blood flow during those 10 seconds, the ECG will appear normal.

Why are younger people getting heart attacks despite leading disciplined lives?

Stress is one reason. Sometimes there is the cumulative physiological burden of sustained high-alert functioning. In professions such as aviation, the body often operates under a low but persistent elevation of stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline. Over time, these can promote inflammation, elevate blood pressure, and increase clotting tendency, all of which make vulnerable plaques more dangerous. Sleep disruption is another invisible accelerant. Even when duty rosters comply with regulations, circadian disruption exacts a biological cost. Irregular sleep triggers inflammation, destabilises blood pressure regulation and leads to wear and tear. Then there is dehydration, often underestimated in commercial flights. Reduced cabin humidity, irregular hydration patterns and post-flight fatigue can increase blood viscosity and impose additional stress on the cardiovascular system. Genetics may be the deepest hidden factor of all. A person may carry substantial inherited cardiac risk and not know about it because his parameters are within range.

What about prevention?

If leading a high stress life, go for calcium scoring to assess plaque deposits, continuous rhythm monitoring, and deeper family-history mapping. This will be alongside routine hypertension and blood lipid, kidney and liver function tests. Sometimes the heart offers no warning at all. It passes every test, performs every task demanded of it, and then, in the space between one ordinary hour and the next, fails. That's why regular monitoring of markers, lifestyle correction and sleep hygiene are a must.

Rasha Thadani shares the making of her 'favourite song' 'Manga Manga' from 'Srinivasa Mangapuram'

Mumbai: Actress Rasha Thadani, who is all set to make her debut in Telugu cinema with "Srinivasa Mangapuram", has shared the making of the track "Manga Manga", which she tagged as her "favourite". Rasha shared a video of herself and debutant Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of legendary actor Krishna, dancing at the same location on the track. For the caption, she wrote: "Favourite song and favourite people. #mangamanga out now." The teaser of the upcoming film was unveiled by Mahesh Babu, whose nephew is debutant Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, on April 16.

Set in the temple town of Tirupati, the film revolves around Vasu Babu and Manga — friends who turn lovers and live life with infectious joy until an unexpected conflict disrupts their paradise. Refusing to leave the town without Manga, Vasu Babu chooses to fight for his love, no matter the cost. The narrative blends trendy romance with gritty

emotional stakes. Visuals like the couple firing a gun into the air to declare their love, and later, a gun pointed at the protagonist, reflect Ajay Bhupathi's distinct style. The film is being directed by Ajay Bhupathi, who earned critical acclaim for his raw and immersive storytelling in the superb films 'RX 100' and 'Mangalavaram'. Actor and producer Mohan Babu will be seen as the antagonist in the film. Rasha, daughter of Bollywood star Raveena Tandon, made her debut in 2005 with the Ajay Devgn-starrer Azaad. The period drama film is directed by Abhishek Kapoor. It also stars Diana Penty and debutant Aaman Devgan. The film is set in 1920s India, where a young stable boy forms a bond with a spirited horse. Amid rebellion and tyranny, his quest to ride the majestic animal becomes a journey of courage, awakening him to the country's fight for freedom. She will next be seen in the Bollywood romantic drama Laikeya Laikaa. The film also stars Abhay Verma of Munjya fame.

India closer to expanding its nuclear fuel base



took decades to get there. "This vision led to India's three-stage nuclear programme—beginning with uranium, transitioning to plutonium, and eventually unlocking thorium. For years, the second stage remained incomplete. But that changed recently. "On April 6th, India's Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam... achieved criticality for the first time." The report underscores the importance of this moment, noting that "criticality is the point where a nuclear reactor becomes self-sustaining," the article said. While fast breeder reactors exist elsewhere, the Vietnam Times points out that "in most other countries, the efforts behind these reactors haven't exactly gone as planned". India's persistence, therefore, stands out, it said. "And yet, India didn't back down from this pursuit. It stayed committed to breeder reactors because they were essential." The significance of the milestone lies in its long-term implications. As per the Vietnam Times, "by achieving criticality, India has shown that it can run a reactor using plutonium-based fuel... bringing the country closer to... expanding its nuclear fuel base". These reactors can "produce more usable material than they consume", effectively transforming limited resources into sustainable fuel. The report also highlights the technological complexity involved, including the use of mixed oxide fuel and liquid sodium cooling, which "has to be sealed, monitored, and engineered with extreme precision". Despite the breakthrough, the report cautions that challenges remain. Nuclear energy currently accounts for just over 3 per cent of India's electricity generation, and "there's still a long way to go". However, if successful, the programme could significantly reduce dependence on imported uranium. Summing up the achievement, the report notes that India may finally be realising Dr Bhabha's long-held vision: "Running on fuel it already has instead of relying on the world for it."

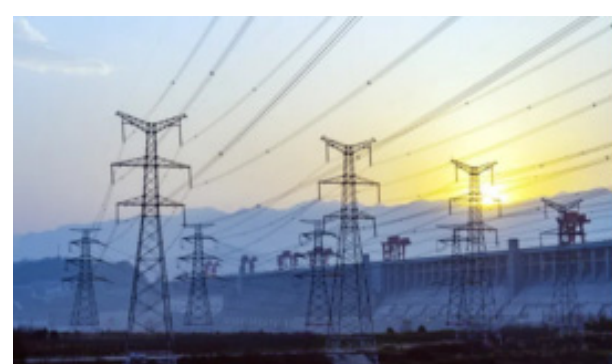
New Delhi: India may be closer than ever to achieving long-term nuclear self-reliance, following a key milestone in its ambitious three-stage nuclear programme, according to an article. The report in the Vietnam Times described the development as a potential turning point in India's decades-old strategy to overcome fuel constraints and build a sustainable nuclear energy base.

According to the article, India has long faced a fundamental challenge — "India didn't have much uranium, the fuel most nuclear reactors run on." Even today, it is noted, the country remains dependent on imports, including major agreements with countries like Canada. However, India possesses "vast reserves of thorium or 25 per cent of the global total, buried in its sands," offering a unique long-term opportunity. The report says that thorium cannot be directly used as fuel and requires conversion, prompting India to adopt a long-term approach rather than quick fixes. "Instead of chasing speed, (Indian nuclear scientist Dr Homi J.) Bhabha chose something far more ambitious: a system that could turn this resource scarcity into self-reliance, even if it

India targets 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047

New Delhi: India is aiming to scale up its nuclear power capacity more than tenfold — from the current 8.8 gigawatts (GW) to 100 GW by 2047 — as part of its long-term energy transition strategy. Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), has said. Speaking on the sidelines of a session focused on India's nuclear roadmap in the national capital, Prasad said the ambitious expansion would require a sustained and accelerated pace of development. "A detailed roadmap has already been prepared, outlining the steps needed to achieve the 100 GW target, with legislative reforms forming a key part of the plan," he noted. "One of the major milestones — the enactment of the Shanti Act — has already been completed," he said.

However, he added that significant work remains in framing rules, procedures and guidelines to operationalise the framework. "These efforts are currently underway, with a focus on incorporating stakeholder feedback and ensuring smoother implementation," Prasad mentioned. Prasad said ongoing deliberations are aimed at fast-tracking financial flows and policy execution, while also simplifying and standardising processes to make nuclear energy more cost-effective. He highlighted the need to address multiple aspects such as fuel security, site selection and development of skilled human resources to support the expansion. He also indicated that the sector is likely to open up to wider participation in the coming years. At present, nuclear power



generation is dominated by a single player, but Prasad said that 10 to 12 companies could enter the space in the future, significantly accelerating capacity addition. On the operational side, he underscored the reliability and stability of nuclear energy, describing it as a dependable source of baseload power that can run continuously for years. He added that nuclear energy remains one of the safest and most stable forms of power generation when managed properly. At the same time, Prasad pointed to emerging technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as both an opportunity and a challenge, noting that these are still under development globally but could play a crucial role in cleaner energy solutions.

To make hosting less stressful, strive for connection and not perfection



Inviting friends and family members over for a celebration, holiday or routine dinner provides an opportunity for connection, but pressure to serve good-tasting food in a clean and welcoming environment can deter many people from hosting or prevent them from being fully present with their guests when they do.

But there are not only ways to reduce the stress of entertaining at home, but strong arguments for throwing a party, planning a game night or bringing guests together over a shared meal, according to mental health experts and experienced hosts. Without in-person social gatherings, adults can become increasingly lonely and isolated, especially as more work is done remotely and conversations take place via text messages. "Oftentimes, we expect someone else to reach out to us. But if the vast majority of people are expecting someone else to do it, then it's going to become a rare thing," said Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a psychology professor at Brigham Young University and the lead author of a 2023 U.S. surgeon general's report on the widespread health risks of loneliness. Seasoned party-planners say that striving to create meaningful interactions instead of for perfection alleviates some of the stress of hosting. Organizing activities that give guests a way to settle in or mingle, planning a simple menu and asking for help are some of the strategies they use to create an event that everyone, even the host, can participate in and enjoy, they say. "When we are more socially connected, we are not only happier, but we're healthier and live longer," Holt-Lunstad said. Madeline Johnson, 24, posts recipes, decoration tips and ideas for backyard parties on social media under the name Madeline May. She said she got into hosting because she was seeking social connection. "As an only child, I always wanted community," said Johnson, who hosted about a dozen large events with friends and at least five smaller gatherings with family members last year. "I started to realize if I wanted that village around me that I would have to build it on my own." Now, she wants to help other people build the courage to invite guests over and facilitate bonds between them. "There's just way too much unnecessary pressure that makes people feel like the bar to host is up here when it's much lower," Johnson said. As someone who is more naturally reserved, she likes planning an activity

for her gatherings, such as painting a flower vase or answering trivia questions, to reduce the initial anxiety of socializing, especially when the group includes people who don't know each other.

Asking guests to bring different foods or assigning them shared tasks like setting the table also can spark conversations and reduce work for the host, Holt-Lunstad said. "In the U.S., we are so time deprived and have over-scheduled everything that it is difficult to sit down and be present, but a meal allows us to do that. We should not underestimate the power of what food can do," she said. Shared appetizers like charcuterie and grazing boards, and meals that can be prepared in advance such as casseroles, soups and other dishes, are simplifying how people host, reducing time in the kitchen on the day of and making serving and cleanup easier. Oregon-based chef and cookbook author Josh McFadden, who is known for turning seasonal ingredients into approachable, shareable dishes, talks in one of his books about grazing-style eating having roots in communal farm tables. Butter boards, which involve spreading soft or whipped butter on a platter topped with honey, herbs or spices and dipped into with bread and crackers, are a modern interpretation that have gained popularity. "You can put a lot of variety and textures and different flavors into things in an easier way, showing off the seasonality of the food. It becomes a mobile meal," McFadden said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It also creates conversation, and it's just a fun way to eat." Serving food arranged for picking from a platter is a quick way to serve guests, he said. McFadden also suggests incorporating store-bought foods and asking guests to bring specific dishes or beverages as other ways hosts can lighten their loads. Katie Eu, 26, who lives in New Hampshire, says she loves a "bring your own" type of gathering, especially since hosting can get expensive if it's not a potluck or friends don't take turns playing host, like she and hers do. "It is pretty low pressure because what you are providing is not the food, but the space for people to gather," Eu said. Providing a setting for social connection matters more than how great the food is, what the decor looks like or how spacious a home is, said Richard Slatcher, a social psychology professor at the University of Georgia. "The other stuff is a bonus," Slatcher said. "It's really about the people." Inviting people into your home for the first time nevertheless creates a feeling of vulnerability since guests can learn a lot about the host's taste, interests and beliefs through the color scheme, the books on the shelves, and the art work and mementos on display. Try to remember that vulnerability also is an essential element in fostering authentic human connections, said Slatcher, who co-led research with Holt-Lunstad on how attending live events can combat loneliness. Guests also have a responsibility when it comes to making a social event fulfilling for themselves and their host, Holt-Lunstad said. "If you're passively being an attendee, you are not going to feel connected," she said.

Pune dermatologist explains how to decide what hair loss treatment is right for you: Hair transplant, PRP or GFC



For many, the first sign of a receding hairline or a widening part triggers a frantic digital search. In an era of viral before-and-after photos, patients often arrive at clinical consultations with a self-diagnosis but a deep sense of therapeutic confusion. Also read | What is hair transplant? Who is suitable candidate and how to find best hair transplant doctor: Here's a complete guideline an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Dhanraj Chavan, dermatologist, Clear Skin Clinics and HairMD, Pune, broke down the clinical logic used to navigate three prominent hair restoration paths: platelet-rich plasma (PRP), growth factor concentrate (GFC), and hair transplantation. "Most patients who come to me have already been through a cycle of confusion," Dr Chavan observed. "They have read about PRP on Instagram, seen a friend get a hair transplant, and heard GFC mentioned at a consultation somewhere. By the time they sit down with me, the question is not whether to treat their hair loss. It is about which treatment to choose, and whether they have waited too long," he added. How hair loss treatments differ

Understanding what happens beneath the scalp is the first step in managing expectations. Dr Chavan highlighted that while PRP and GFC are often grouped together, they serve a fundamentally different purpose than surgery. "PRP uses your own blood," Dr Chavan said. He explained, "We take a small amount of blood, then spin it to get the growth factors. After this, we put it into the scalp. This helps the hair roots you already have, even if they are weak or not growing. It will not make new hair roots." GFC is often viewed as a more refined version of PRP, designed for higher potency and stability. Dr Chavan shared, "GFC works in the same way. There are more activated growth factors in it. The way it is made reduces the risk of a reaction. For patients where PRP has plateaued or caused irritation, GFC is often the next step." When biology can no longer be stimulated, mechanics take over. "A hair transplant is a type of

surgery," said Dr Chavan. "In this, healthy hair roots from the back of the head are taken out. Then they are placed in areas with less hair or where hair no longer grows. Unlike PRP and GFC, the results in the treated areas are permanent," he explained. Also read | Stand-up comedian reveals what a year after a hair transplant really looks like; says it cost him ₹1 lakh The choice isn't just about preference; it's about the current health of the hair follicle. Dr Chavan warned that injection-based therapies have an expiration date based on the patient's stage of loss: "The critical thing to understand is that injection-based therapies work on existing follicles. Once a follicle has completely stopped producing hair, no concentration of growth factors will revive it. The treatment window for PRP and GFC is real, and it closes."

"If you are in the early stages of thinning, where follicles are weakening but still present, PRP or GFC is where I start," Dr Chavan said. "The main idea at this stage is to slow hair loss and strengthen your hair. These treatments do not need surgery. You will not have a long recovery time," he added. When surgery becomes necessary For patients who have moved past the thinning stage into visible baldness, the conversation shifts toward reconstruction. "For patients in the moderate-to-advanced stages, where there is visible recession or bald patches, and some follicles are no longer active, a transplant becomes the relevant option," Dr Chavan explained. "It addresses what cannot be recovered through injections. But where the new hair is put is very important. This choice will affect you for years. So, you should not pick based on how much it costs or if you can get it right away. Think about it carefully," he added. Often, the best approach is a hybrid one. "In many patients, both phases are needed at different points," he noted, adding, "A transplant addresses the gaps; GFC or PRP maintains the surrounding native hair afterwards." The doctor's final advice

Before committing to any procedure, Dr Chavan insists on a diagnostic baseline to ensure the patient isn't wasting time or money on a treatment their scalp can no longer support. "Get a trichoscopy done before making any decision," he urged. "This scalp scan shows the condition of individual follicles and tells you how much active hair you have left. That single investigation shifts the conversation from guesswork to a proper treatment plan," he said. Dr Chavan's parting advice to those currently struggling with hair loss is rooted in timing: "Hair loss is progressive. The right treatment at the wrong stage either underdelivers or solves the wrong problem. Starting early, with accurate diagnosis, gives you the most options."

Longevity doctor shares 5 foods that directly target visceral fat: fatty fish, walnuts, berries, and more

All body fat is not the same. They are primarily differentiated into subcutaneous fat, which is present below the skin, and visceral fat, which is found around the internal organs. The latter is more difficult to lose and causes greater harm to our health. According to Dr Vassily Eliopoulos, a longevity expert trained at Cornell University and co-founder and chief medical officer of Longevity Health, when we think of fat loss, we often forget to take visceral fat into consideration, since it is not the fat that we can "pinch." In his words, "Visceral fat doesn't show up on a scale. It doesn't look a certain way. It sits deep inside your abdominal cavity, wrapped around your organs, producing inflammatory signals and disrupting insulin function every hour of every day. You can be a normal weight and carry dangerous levels of it. Most people have no idea." However, visceral fat responds to specific nutritional inputs faster than almost any other type of fat, shared Dr Vass. The foods that move it work through three pathways:

Taking to Instagram on April 18, he shared five such foods that help us target visceral fat in our bodies. They are as follows:

1. Fatty fish Fatty fish is rich in healthy omega-3 fatty acids, particularly EPA and DHA. It works in the following way: Suppresses inflammatory pathways Improves insulin sensitivity so glucose fuels muscle, not fat storage. One should ideally include fish like salmon, sardines, or mackerel two to three times every week. It can also be supplemented with two to three grams of EPA/DHA daily supplement, shared Dr Vass.

2. Walnuts Walnuts contain polyphenols and alpha-linolenic acid, noted Dr Vass, stating, "Gut metabolism of walnut polyphenols produces compounds that directly suppress fat cell formation." One should aim to have 28g every day for breakfast, snack, or on salads. According to the physician, swapping walnuts with other nuts will not work as the specific polyphenol profile of the nut matters. 3. Berries Berries are rich in anthocyanins. They work in the



following ways: Activate genes that enhance fat burning. Suppress genes involved in fat production and inflammation. Slow glucose absorption to reduce insulin spikes. Consuming 100 to 150 grams of berries every day suffices. It can be blueberries, strawberries, or blackberries, and frozen works just as well, shared Dr Vass. 4. Extra virgin olive oil Extra virgin olive oil is rich in compounds oleocanthal and oleic acid. "Oleocanthal inhibits inflammatory enzymes at therapeutic levels with daily use," stated Dr Vass. "Oleic acid improves cellular insulin sensitivity directly." The recommended quantity for daily consumption is two to four tablespoons. Dr Vass suggested replacing seed oils like canola and vegetable oils entirely, which he claimed negates the benefits of olive oil.

5. Green tea Green tea is loaded with EGCG (epigallocatechin gallate), a compound that activates fat oxidation pathways and improves insulin sensitivity. It works best when consumed daily and paired with regular strength training, shared Dr Vass. Green tea can be consumed three to four cups a day, brewed at home, he added. Foods to avoid to lose visceral fat Dr Vass further shared four food groups to avoid to better lose visceral fat. These undo the benefits received from the foods listed above. They include:

Kajal Aggarwal says 'love you more than all the stars in the sky' as son Neil turns 4

Mumbai: Actress Kajal Aggarwal compiled a sweet birthday wish for her son Neil as he celebrated his 4th birthday on Sunday. The 'Singham' actress took to her official Instagram account and published a couple of photos from Neil's astronomical-themed birthday celebration.

Hoping that the little one's love and curiosity for the universe never fades, Kajal wrote on the photo-sharing app, "Happy 4th birthday, my darling sunshine Neil... May your love for adventure, space, planets, and this beautiful universe always shine bright. May your curiosity and magical imagination never fade. (sic)" "May you always feel the blessings of Lord Ram and Krishna, and continue to joyfully lose yourself in their beautiful stories. May you always remain their most favourite child We love you more than all the stars in the sky," she went on to add.

Referring to her little one's love for astronomy, Kajal concluded the post saying, "P.S. You truly do justice to your name, my little astronaut... Reaching for the stars already and stealing our hearts along the way." For those who do not know, Kajal tied the knot with businessman Gautam Kitchlu on October 30, 2020. The lovebirds welcomed their first child, a baby boy, on 19 April 2022. On the professional front, Kajal is believed to play Mandolari in Nitesh Tiwari's highly ambitious "Ramayana".



IRCTC reinforces its AI monitoring system to ensure hygiene and quality of food in trains



(GNS News Agency, June 9

To maintain hygiene and quality of food supplied in trains, the IRCTC has expanded its AI-based monitoring system to more than 800 kitchens that prepare food for Indian Railways, using 2,394 cameras to bring down related complaints from passengers. The AI-enabled system detects nine types of factors that are primarily responsible for unhygienic food in trains — hairnet compliance, transparent gloves detection, mopping, wiping, and presence of rodents, flies and cockroaches. IRCTC served about 60 crore meals in 2025-26 to train passengers.

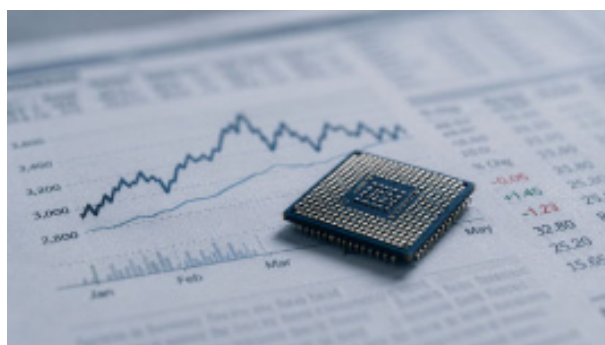
"This system started around two-and-half years back and we are consistently expanding... bringing more kitchens and types of errors under this initiative. The cameras installed in the kitchens are supported by AI tools that quickly identify unhygienic practices and send alerts. The system can detect even an insect as small as 7-8 mm. As soon as it detects a problem, a message is sent to the kitchen manager concerned. If the issue is not resolved, it

is escalated. Overall, action is taken against the person responsible within two hours," said a senior IRCTC official involved in monitoring operations from the war room at the corporation's headquarters in Delhi.

The official further said that not wearing hairnet is the most common hygiene-related violation detected in kitchens. On an average, the system generates around 350 alerts or error tickets every day. For instance, in the last one month, it generated 13,550 tickets, with the North Zone accounting for the highest number of tickets at 4,123, followed by East Zone (3,205), West Zone (2,687), South Central Zone (2,226), and South Zone (1,309).

The most difficult period for kitchens is during seasonal weather changes. During this time, the quality of food can get affected, and we receive the maximum number of complaints. The system generates around 350 tickets a day and its effective error rate is about 10%. At times the system flags violations that are actually not there. For example, a cook may be wearing a hairnet, but if it is pushed slightly upwards, the AI system classifies it as a violation because it is programmed in that way," the official said. In a rare move, the Railway Ministry had fined the IRCTC Rs 10 lakh for serving poor-quality curd in Patna-Tatanagar Vande Bharat train. It also imposed a fine of Rs 50 lakh on the company supplying food in the train. According to the data submitted in Rajya Sabha by the ministry in July 2025, it received over 19,000 food-related complaints from passengers in the last five years. The fines were imposed in 3,137 cases. The data shows that while the number of cases has marginally reduced from 7,026 in 2023-24 to 6,645 in 2024-25, it is significantly higher than 253 complaints recorded in FY21.

India slips behind South Korea to 7th spot amid foreign outflows, lack of AI plays



A week after slipping behind Taiwan, the Indian stock market has now slipped behind South Korea to the seventh spot in the list of the biggest markets in the world in terms of market capitalisation. This steep decline comes as the Indian markets battle against persistent foreign outflows, lack of artificial intelligence (AI) plays, geopolitical uncertainties and lagging earnings growth. The total market cap of the South Korean stock market has climbed 86% this year to breach the \$5 trillion mark, while India's market cap is at around \$4.8 trillion, data compiled by Bloomberg showed. Taiwan's market cap which stands at around \$5.2 trillion overtook India last week. The US, Japan, China and Hong Kong make the top four. Both the South Korean and Taiwanese markets have massively benefited from global investors chasing AI-related opportunities, a sector earmarked to be the biggest growth driver going ahead. Meanwhile, Indian corporates have been known for underinvesting in AI-related research and development despite sitting on significant cash reserves, leaving the market behind the AI curve.

This AI boom has led the Taiwanese and South Ko-

rean markets to rally 69-109% so far this year, with a majority of their benchmark indices being dominated by a handful of AI stocks. Chipmakers SK Hynix and Samsung each have a market cap of over \$1 trillion and together account for almost half of South Korea's Kospi index. These stocks have more than tripled so far.

TSMC, the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer, has a market cap of over \$2 trillion and makes up over 40% of Taiwan's TAIEX index. Its stock price has already jumped 1.5 times so far this year. In fact, at 14.21%, TSMC on its own now has a greater weight in MSCI's emerging markets index than India, underscoring the value investors are putting on AI-related opportunities. The US Nasdaq Composite index, which is the biggest tech index in the world, has also risen by around 17% this year. Nvidia, which accounts for 10-12% of the index, has gained 20%. Other big AI and semiconductor names such as Intel, Micron, and AMD also surged 128-228%. Meanwhile, the benchmark Sensex rose 0.52%, or 382 points, to 74,649.84 on Tuesday. The NSE Nifty index gained 0.43%, 101 points, at 23,483.55 on buying support. The Indian stock markets are down 10-12% this year, with traditional IT services companies taking a beating due to lack of innovation and focus on integrating existing AI models in their services. These firms, which include the likes of TCS, Infosys, and Wipro, have a weight of 8.48% on the NSE's Nifty 50 index. The lack of AI-related opportunities, combined with the rupee falling to multiple lows against the dollar, has accelerated the flight of foreign capital from the Indian stock markets. Foreign institutional investors have dumped Indian equities worth \$22.6 billion in the past three months, taking the total capital outflow to \$26.4 billion so far in 2026, already surpassing the \$18.9 billion seen in 2025.

April industrial growth rises to 4.9% from 3.2% in March



On the consumer front, 4.3% more durable goods were produced in April, while growth in non-durables was 2.8%. On the consumer front, 4.3% more durable goods were produced in April, while growth in non-durables was 2.8%. India's industrial output grew by 4.9% in April, higher than the 3.2% growth recorded in March, according to the new Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data series released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday.

The new IIP series, which has 2022-23 as the base year as against 2011-12 in the old one and updates various methodologies used in the compilation of the index and broadens the coverage of the economic indicator, also upgraded the industrial growth rate for the last three years. IIP growth in 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 is now estimated at 6.7%, 6.4%, and 4.3%, respectively. In the old 2011-12 series, the respective industrial growth rates were 5.9%, 4%, and 4.1%. The higher industrial growth in the past three years as per the new series is primarily due to upward revisions in manufacturing and electricity growth. In April, industrial growth was driven by the manufacturing sector, whose output rose 6.2% from the same month last year. The manufacturing sector has a 76% weight in the new IIP series, down from 78% in the 2011-12 series. Meanwhile, output of 'water supply, sewerage & waste management' and 'electricity & gas supply' rose 6.6% and 4.9%, respectively, in April. However, 'mining and quarrying' output contracted 5.1%. Electricity and gas supply, MoSPI now provides a break-up of electricity generated through renewable and non-renewable sources. In April, electricity generation from renewable sources was 18% higher compared to only 2.8% growth for electricity from non-renewable sources. However, electricity from non-renewable sources has a much higher weight of 7.8% in the IIP compared to 2.3% for renewable sources. Impact of the war in West Asia was seemingly seen in the supply of gas, which was down 11.2% compared to April 2025.

According to Barclays economists Aastha Gudwani and Amruta Ghare, the recovery in 'manufacture of chemi-

icals' — whose output rose 0.4% in April following a 4.9% fall in March — "corroborates our view that peak shortages for industrial inputs (from gas and petrochemicals rationing) seen in March saw gradual improvement in supply in April and May". And while the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products was 0.5% lower in April compared to last year, "the sector growth was generally subdued even prior to the conflict". "As such, we would not entirely attribute the Middle-East-related disruptions to output weakness here," the economists added. In terms of use-based classification of goods produced, output of primary goods was 0.8% higher in April, while that of capital goods rose 16% and intermediate goods 7.7%. Infrastructure goods' production was 7.1% higher. On the consumer front, 4.3% more durable goods were produced in April, while growth in non-durables was 2.8%. Going forward, economists expect industrial growth to be subdued on account of weaker global demand and supply chain disruptions.

"The larger risk, though, is rising costs," said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist at Crisil, referring to the energy supply shock caused by the conflict in West Asia. "Cost pressures are already visible, with wholesale inflation jumping to a 42-month high of 8.3% in April, along with consecutive increases in retail prices of diesel and petrol." Deshpande expects GDP growth in 2026-27 to decline to 6.6%, down from the 7.6% estimated by MoSPI for 2025-26. The statistics ministry will, on Friday, release GDP data for January-March and the provisional estimate for 2025-26.

Gold, silver trade higher amid weaker dollar, geopolitical uncertainty

New Delhi: Gold and silver traded higher in morning trade on Thursday, supported by a weaker dollar and geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia, as investors continued to track developments surrounding a possible diplomatic breakthrough between the US and Iran. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for August delivery were trading 0.35 per cent or Rs 533 higher at Rs 1,59,052 per 10 grams as of 11:28 am. The yellow metal rose as much as 0.61 per cent or Rs 981 to touch an intraday high of Rs 1,59,500. It also hit an intraday low of Rs 1,58,701, up 0.11 per cent or Rs 182 from the previous close. On the other hand, silver futures for July delivery rose up to 0.51 per cent or Rs 1,366 to touch an intraday high of Rs 2,64,324 per kg. re

How a CRP test led to Dipika Kakar's tumour diagnosis



TV actor Dipika Kakar recently opened up about how a routine medical evaluation for gallbladder pain led to the discovery of a large tumour. Speaking to Bharti Singh and Haarsh Limbachiya, she recalled undergoing a CRP test after experiencing pain related to gallstones. While the inflammatory marker was only mildly elevated, further investigations revealed a tumour measuring approximately 8.5-9 cm. "Mujhe gall bladder ka pain hua tha... doctor ne mujhe CRP test diya... It detects aapki body mei infection rate, woh maine karaya, woh thoda high aaya, aisa nahi hai ki bahut high aaya, jitna mera tumour aggressive tha, utna high nahi aaya woh... usme pata chala ki gall bladder mei toh stone hai hi, par yaha par tumour hai... aur woh bhi first scan mei tha 8.5-9 cm ka tumour... isiye jab unhone nikala, toh unhone side se extra space rakh ke 11 cm ka poora ek tukda nikala," she revealed on the podcast. The tumour was eventually removed along with a margin of surrounding tissue, resulting in the surgical removal of an approximately 11 cm section.

Her experience highlights that serious conditions are sometimes discovered when doctors investigate seemingly unrelated symptoms. According to Dr Amit Upadhyay, Senior Consultant Haematologist and Oncologist at PSRI Hospital, such findings are not uncommon. "It is not rare to detect serious conditions, including tumours, incidentally during investigations for unrelated complaints. Many abdominal tumours, especially those arising in the liver, pancreas, kidneys, gallbladder, or surrounding tissues, may remain silent in their early stages," explains Dr Upadhyay. Patients

often experience vague symptoms such as abdominal discomfort, bloating, indigestion, fatigue, or pain that may not immediately suggest cancer, he adds. These findings are often referred to as 'incidentalomas'," says Dr Upadhyay. "In some cases, they allow cancers to be detected before more serious symptoms develop."

What is a CRP test, and can it detect cancer?

In her interview, Dipika Kakar mentioned that her CRP levels were only slightly elevated despite an aggressive tumour. This has raised questions about the role of CRP in cancer detection. "CRP, or C-Reactive Protein, is a protein produced by the liver in response to inflammation in the body," explains Dr Upadhyay. "It is commonly used as a marker for infections, inflammatory diseases, and tissue damage." Although CRP levels may rise in some cancer patients, Dr Upadhyay stresses that it is not a cancer-specific test. "CRP cannot be used on its own to diagnose or rule out cancer," he says. "Some cancers generate significant inflammation and cause marked elevations in CRP, while others may produce only mild increases, or even normal CRP levels despite advanced disease." This variability is one of the test's biggest limitations. "CRP is a marker of inflammation, not cancer itself," says Dr Upadhyay. "Many non-cancerous conditions, such as infections, autoimmune diseases, obesity, recent surgery, and even minor illnesses, can elevate CRP levels."

Can a tumour grow this large without symptoms?

One of the most striking aspects of Dipika Kakar's experience was the size of the tumour at the time of detection. According to Dr Upadhyay, it is entirely possible for tumours to grow significantly before producing obvious symptoms. "Large tumours can sometimes remain relatively silent, particularly when they develop in areas of the abdomen where there is enough space to expand without immediately affecting nearby organs," he says. Interestingly, the severity of symptoms is not always linked to tumour size. "Symptoms are often determined more by the tumour's location and biological behaviour than by its size alone," explains Dr Upadhyay. "A large tumour may remain quiet until it starts pressing on surrounding structures, obstructing ducts or blood vessels, or triggering inflammation."

Why a zero calcium score may not mean you're protected from a heart attack



Heart health assessments often rely on tests that estimate a person's future risk, and one tool increasingly discussed in preventive cardiology is the coronary artery calcium score. Recently, cardiologist Dr Dmitry Yaranov explained that while a calcium score can be useful, it does not tell the entire story about the health of the coronary arteries. He noted that a calcium score measures calcified plaque and is primarily a risk-assessment tool rather than a complete evaluation of plaque. A calcium score of zero may indicate lower short-term risk of heart attack, a lower likelihood of significant calcified plaque, and a reassuring prognosis, particularly in low-risk individuals, but it does not necessarily mean there is no plaque at all.

Dr Yaranov also highlighted that certain types of plaque — including soft plaque, inflamed plaque, non-calcified plaque, and unstable plaque — may not be detected by calcium scoring despite still carrying risks. He cautioned that "Some patients develop dangerous plaques before calcium develops." According to him, higher-risk groups may include younger individuals, smokers, diabetics, people with a strong family history, those with inflammatory diseases, and patients experiencing symptoms. Discussing different imaging approaches, he added that "Calcium scoring is great for prevention and risk refinement," while "CTA is better when symptoms, higher suspicion, or anatomy matter."

What exactly does a calcium score tell us?

Dr CM Nagesh, Founder of Cardea Super Speciality Hospital, tells indianexpress.com, "A calcium score of zero is certainly reassuring, but it should not be interpreted as complete protection against a heart attack. The test only measures calcified plaque in the coronary arteries and does not capture every form of arterial disease. One of the biggest misconceptions is that a zero score means there is absolutely no plaque or cardiovascular risk, which is not always true. Younger individuals, smokers, diabetics, or those with a strong family history may still develop non-calcified plaque that remains undetected on calcium scoring. The result must always be interpreted alongside overall clinical risk factors and lifestyle patterns. Soft or non-calcified plaques are clinically significant because they are often more unstable and prone to rupture. When such plaques rupture, Dr Nagesh notes, they can trigger sudden clot formation and block blood flow to the heart, resulting in a heart attack. Dr Nagesh adds, "Calcium scoring cannot visualise these early-stage plaques because they have not yet hardened or calcified. This is why some individuals with a calcium score of zero may still experience cardiac events, particularly if they have underlying inflammation, smoking history, diabetes, obesity, or uncontrolled cholesterol levels."

How do doctors decide which assessment may be appropriate for a person?

According to Dr Nagesh, the choice of test depends on the patient's overall risk profile and whether symptoms are present. Calcium scoring is generally used as a preventive risk assessment tool in asymptomatic individuals to estimate long-term coronary risk. "CT angiography, on the other hand, provides a more detailed view of both calcified and non-calcified plaque and is often preferred when patients report symptoms such as chest pain, breathlessness, or reduced exercise tolerance. Factors such as age, smoking status, diabetes, hypertension, family history, and cholesterol levels heavily influence decision-making. Cardiology today is moving toward personalised risk assessment rather than relying on a single test result in isolation," concludes Dr Nagesh.

'Periods at the age of 7 are not normal': Gynaecologists explain precocious puberty

An Instagram video featuring obstetrician-gynaecologist Dr Chandni Sehgal discussing early periods in young girls has drawn attention to an important medical concern, precocious puberty. "7 Periods Normal Ignore! As gynaecologists, we often emphasise that precocious puberty refers to early activation of puberty leading to breast development, pubic hair, or menstruation before 8 years of age in girls," the caption reads. While puberty is a natural phase of development, menstruation beginning as early as seven years old may require medical evaluation.

According to Dr Archana Dhawan Bajaj, gynaecologist and IVF expert at Nurture IVF Clinic, menstruation at such a young age is usually linked to precocious puberty, a condition where the body begins maturing earlier than expected. "Having a period at the age of 7 is not considered normal and is typically regarded as a sign of precocious puberty," says Dr Bajaj. "While some children naturally develop earlier than others, all cases of early puberty should be medically assessed to identify possible underlying causes and to support the child's physical and emotional well-being."

What's precocious puberty?

Precocious puberty refers to puberty that starts before the age of 8 in girls and before 9 in boys. During this phase, the body begins producing sex hormones earlier than usual, leading to physical changes associated with adolescence. Dr Bajaj explains that early menstruation is often not the first sign parents notice. "Parents should look for breast development before the age of 8, rapid height growth, pubic or underarm hair, acne, body odour, mood changes, or vaginal bleeding," she says. Warning signs parents should not ignore

If a child experiencing early puberty also complains of headaches, vision problems, or neurological symptoms, parents should seek medical help immediately, warns Dr



Bajaj. She explains that untreated precocious puberty can have long-term consequences. "Without proper assessment and treatment, early puberty may affect bone development, reduce final adult height, and create emotional and psychological stress for the child," she says. Children who mature too early may also struggle socially, particularly if they are unable to understand or cope with bodily changes at a young age, she adds.

What causes early puberty?

Dr Bajaj says hormonal abnormalities are among the most common triggers. "Precocious puberty may result from hormone-related issues, ovarian or adrenal gland disorders, thyroid abnormalities, brain-related conditions, obesity, or, in rare cases, tumours," she explains. "Exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals, processed foods, increasing childhood obesity, and substances that mimic hormones are all being studied as possible contributors," says Dr Bajaj. However, she notes that not every child with early puberty has a serious illness. "In many cases, no exact underlying reason is identified, but medical evaluation remains important to rule out significant health concerns," she adds. Dr Bajaj stresses that parents should approach the issue calmly and supportively.

Virat Kohli ruled out of Afghanistan ODIs, no clarity on Rohit, Hardik



GNS News Agency, June 9

Virat Kohli has been ruled out of India's upcoming ODI series against Afghanistan starting June 13 in Dharamsala due to a hamstring injury that he picked during the IPL final on Sunday. The Indian Express understands that Kohli has been advised a minimum of two-week rest and though he may be fit in time for the last ODI on June 20, the selectors will not include him for the series which involves only three ODIs.

During Royal Challengers Bengaluru's successful chase in the final against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad, Kohli faced slight discomfort on his hamstring and needed a bit of medical attention. Though he continued to bat without any struggle, further tests have revealed an injury to his hamstring. Since he has been advised two weeks rest, Kohli would be racing against to be immediately match fit. And more over, India have a busy ODI calendar ahead with India set to travel to England in July for a white-ball series that includes three ODIs.

With Kohli not available, it would be interesting to see who the selectors turn to. Among the options in the table

are Devdutt Padikkal, Tilak Varma, Ruturaj Gaikwad and outside of the two there are Sanju Samson and Rajat Patidar, whose aggressive intent is seen with interest by the team management. But who ever steps in, it is only going to be a stop-gap arrangement. Thanks to his splendid form over the last 8 months, Kohli has silenced the critics and has shown in the format he still got plenty to offer. Apart from Kohli, when the selectors sit down on Saturday to select India's T20 squads for the tour of UK and Asian Games, they may have to take a call on Rohit Sharma's availability for Afghanistan series. The opener, despite struggling with a hamstring injury and missing a fair portion of Mumbai Indians fixtures, has been included in India's ODI squad. But as mentioned by chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, his availability depends on him clearing the fitness test. As things stand, there hasn't been an update on Rohit's fitness test and he hasn't reported at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence yet.

In case Rohit isn't able to clear the fitness test, then the selectors will hand a recall to Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was the third-choice opener in the last two series. Though he scored his maiden ODI century in the last match he played, for the series against Afghanistan, the selectors chose Ishan Kishan as the back-up opener. But Jaiswal, with a compact game is seen as an exciting prospect and in case the selectors look beyond Rohit, is a strong candidate to open alongside captain Shubman Gill. Apart from Kohli and Rohit, there are also concerns around Hardik Pandya. Since the IPL, where he did sit out a couple of games because of long-standing back issue, the all-rounder has reported at the CoE where his fitness is being monitored. Like Rohit, he is also expected to give a fitness test and only if he is cleared to bowl, will be made part of the team. If not, the selectors will have to name a replacement for Pandya as well.

The An Se-young dominance over PV Sindhu

GNS News Agency, June 9

The last time PV Sindhu took a set off World No 1 and Olympic champion An Se-young was in April of 2023. With her 10th loss to the era's greatest shuttler, a 21-17, 21-15 straight sets put-down at the Super 1000 Indonesia Open, there is danger of a fatalistic feeling taking root: that she might never beat the Korean. It would go against what made Sindhu India's highest achieving shuttler, and the legacy of her 5 big medals – Rio silver and the two bronzes and silvers at World's or the 2019 title, where she did not allow the greatness of her opponents from eventually beating them anyway.

Her absolute self-assurance started with the Chinese she decimated, and culminated in her greatest win, the 2019 quarterfinals against Tai Tzu-ying at the Basel World's. If she could solve the Tai Tzu-ying riddle, she ought to back herself to one day – soon – beat An Se-young too. The 21-17, 21-15 however was nowhere close to how to get that done. Coach Irawansyah will need to play the part that Pullela Gopichand did in guiding her across the Tzu-ying hurdle with pinpoint inputs in shot selection.

The Taiwanese was an equally difficult opponent for Sindhu – beating her 7 times, losing twice before the Basel gold, and defeating the Indian 9 times post that memorable Sindhu masterclass. But in those two instances – Rio Olympics and 2019 World Championships, Sindhu kept a steady belief all through respective 41 minutes and 71 minutes, that she could win. Against Se-young, Sindhu needs to believe herself, that she can get into a 19-19 situation, after which that decisive point is snared away, with strategy. Right this moment, Sindhu doesn't seem to believe she can, as is evident from how she disintegrates after Se-young reaches the 17th point. Last week in Singapore and again to a lesser extent in Indonesia, Sindhu showed she has the weapons to trouble the Korean. Make no mistake, the straight set margins do not give a proper picture of how much, she can put Se-young on the edge in the early part of the first set. But 17, 15 are pretty accurate scores at explaining how quickly Sindhu loses hope, fades away when Se-young hits the next gear.

Sindhu was on the ball after trailing 1-4 and 10-13. Using her big game and the tramline-adjacent zone on Se-young's backhand, she had caught up at 16-16. But finishing needs solidity. Se-young is World No 1 for a reason – she can raise the ante of her own attack in this phase, not just against Sindhu but every other player. But if the de-



fense holds sturdy, which needs every ounce of focus and self belief in her strengths, then Sindhu has her kill weapon against the Korean. The clutch-mentality is missing, and even Irawansyah can't seem to sort it out. She has lost 21-17, 15, (17,14), (14, 13), (19, 11), (21-18, followed by 5, 9), (15, 14), (14,17), (16, 12), (11,12), (14,17) in her 10 matches. That's not even a look-in or a half-chance, given second sets are near always blow-outs, which points to an endurance issue too. Since titles will need to be won by beating Se-young anyway, early rounds is perhaps Sindhu's best chance at it. Sindhu finds high success with body attacks and the backhand line outright winners. But denying Se-young the chance to blitz through, is also an art. Accuracy is not a Se-young weakness, but Sindhu hasn't managed to test the Korean with a holding game-followed by a sudden attack. Her own backhand high defense and body parries make her vulnerable on the follow-up, but the intensity simply drops as the Olympic champion nears the finish. Sindhu didn't get all those wins by thinking 'nobody was beating the Chinese.' But there's a strange inevitability that Sindhu has mentally bought into her mind, which she succumbs to from Point 17 onwards. It's the easiest loss to get over, given everyone falls like a pack of cards against An Se-young. But Sindhu has the rare attack that can faze the Korean. Only if she could hit the next gear in speed and agility, and then believe that she can. Ayush Shetty frittered a first set advantage, to go down to stubborn Hong Kongese Lee Cheuk Yiu, 21-16, 13-21, 14-21. Ayush, whose height is 193 cms more than what the BWF App attributes to him, made the most of his big attack in the opener. But he got crowded at the net and the back, when World No 23 Lee unleashed his straight winners. In the last two sets, the No 20 Indian's net game came undone after he faced a barrage that's typical of the 29-year-old former World No 13.

Krunal on relationship with Hardik: 'When your brother also plays same sport...'



GNS News Agency, June 9

Krunal Pandya was an integral part of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) setup this season that successfully defended their Indian Premier League (IPL) title. For both Pandya and RCB, there were significant milestones – RCB became just the third team to have won consecutive IPL titles, after famously having waited 17 years to win their first last season. For Pandya, this was the fifth time he had won the title, having won it four times in the past with the Mumbai Indians.

It was also the second time he didn't have his brother Hardik with him on the champions' podium, with the latter instead having a forgettable season as captain of MI. Krunal and Hardik famously share a close relationship that has been seen on the cricket field a number of times in the IPL and with the Indian team. "Obviously, we have played together," said Krunal in an interview with the Times of India. "We have always discussed cricket in terms of tactical, technical stuff which always helps. It has always been a good conversation, a very healthy conversation about cricket and how we can get better. When you have your brother also playing the same sport, it always helps each other. And, I mean, 10 trophies in the Pandya household is

not a bad number to have. God's been kind."

Hardik was part of the MI squad that won their second IPL title in 2015 while Krunal made his first appearance for the side in 2016. The brothers then were an integral part of the MI sides that won the title in 2017, 2019 and 2020. While Krunal stayed with MI for one more season, Hardik left to become captain of the newly formed Gujarat Titans and led them to the trophy in their very first season. He then led them to the final the next year before returning to MI as captain, a move that was highly unpopular in his first season back. While he had a better time of it last season in which MI made it to the playoffs, the five-time champions finished second-last on the league table this year. Hardik is now set to lose captaincy of MI. Krunal, meanwhile, spent three seasons with the Lucknow Super Giants after leaving MI post the 2021 season. He joined RCB in 2025 and remarkably was crucial to their runs to the title in both the seasons that he has been there thus far. With these wins, both Krunal and Hardik have now won the IPL five times each.

Ayush Shetty advances to second round of Indonesia Open

Hyderabad: Former world junior bronze medalist Ayush Shetty and the mixed doubles combination of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani registered hard-fought wins to advance to the second round of the Indonesia Open badminton tournament on Wednesday.

Shetty defeated China's Weng Hong Yang 8-21, 22-20, 21-15, while Rohan and Ruthvika upset world No. 20 pair Yang Po-Hsuan and Hu Ling Fang of Chinese Taipei 21-14, 21-14 to advance.

'He doesn't have weaknesses that you can see': Javokhir Sindarov on Gukesh



GNS News Agency, June 9

On Monday, Javokhir Sindarov found himself grappling with what he called an 'emergency problem'. The Uzbek prodigy was having troubles with his Counter Strike 2 account, which left him posting on X seeking help. Sindarov's love for Counter Strike often competes for air time in his mind with chess, the sport that he could be a king of in six months' time should he defeat D Gukesh. "Everyone in chess should be more professional than me," Sindarov tells the Indian media in Oslo on Tuesday as a contagious grin spreads across his face. "When I got a problem with my account yesterday, maybe it was a message for me to focus on chess."

The 20-year-old is in Oslo these days to support Bibisara Assaubayeva. The conversation should be about chess, but it inevitably revolves around Counter Strike. The story of how Sindarov found chess also has a video game back story, one which he tells with particular relish. When he was a young boy of six years of age, his family would find him sneaking out to play video games.

"Even when I was four, five years old, I really loved to play computer games. Any game! Sometimes, back when I was six years old, when everyone was asleep, I would go to the computer and play until 4 and 5 a.m. So then my grandfather started to teach me chess," says Sindarov, who won the Candidates tournament without a single defeat a couple of months back. Sindarov repeats multiple times during the interaction that he is aware of his potential. He then illustrates with an example of just how exceptional he can be in chess. The story goes that back when he was a seven-year-old, having learnt the sport from his grandfather barely a year back, he competed in the Uzbekistan

U10 national championship. "That year, Nodirbek Abdusattorov also played. He had just won the U8 World Championship. So in Uzbekistan, for young players he was a superhero. Everyone was thinking if he comes to any tournament, he will win. But he knew very little of me. When we played the first time, I was very close to a win, but it ended in a draw. Then I won this tournament, the Uzbekistan Under 10 Championship." In six months, Sindarov will be the boy sitting in front of India's D Gukesh in a battle for the classical world champion's crown. The two could not be more different.

The amount of hours Gukesh poured into chess from a young age is now well known. Even his childhood coaches are in awe of his unwavering obsession with chess when he was a schoolboy. Sindarov, meanwhile, had no such hang-ups about the sport. "When I was young I would train 15 hours in chess for a week. It's not a level (needed) for a grandmaster. I was at 2670 or 2680. But when I started working seriously, I got more than 80 ELO rating points in one year," Sindarov says. Counter Strike is a part of his daily routine. When he won the FIDE World Cup in Goa last year, he played extensively at his hotel in Arpora with his second Mukhiddin Madaminov. Counter Strike was a part of his day at the Candidates earlier this year in Cyprus as well. "Some people do yoga. I play Counter Strike," he laughs before explaining: "It helps me to kill all of my negative emotions. I'm trying to kill these negative emotions by playing Counter Strike. After I'm done playing I start feeling like I'm born right now and I can do everything." Ask him what his biggest motivation is to win the world championship later this year and he says: "When I started to play chess, I wanted to become like Magnus Carlsen, the world champion." Sindarov admits that his immediate focus is on tournaments like the Sinquefeld Cup and the Olympiad. He will also watch some matches of the Uzbekistan football team at the FIFA World Cup in the US. Then, once these are behind him, he will fully train his focus on the Gukesh challenge. "He doesn't have weaknesses that you can see. I haven't focussed on his games as of now. I'll probably start next month. My team is already working on this of course," says Sindarov. These days, he admits, the goal is to become better than anyone in the sport. "I'm playing chess because I want to be better than everyone. I'm not sure I will end up being better, but I want to give it a try," he says before pausing. "I mean, why am I even playing chess if I don't want to become better than everyone?"

Ben Stokes on Jofra Archer: 'He is committed and loves playing for England'

GNS News Agency, June 9

England captain Ben Stokes said that Jofra Archer is committed to the national team despite the pacer missing the first Test vs New Zealand after wrapping up his Indian Premier League commitments for Rajasthan Royals on May 29. On Tuesday, England coach Brendon McCullum also cast doubt on Archer's availability for the second test, which starts June 17, saying he is having "a little bit of a break at the moment" and needs to be assessed. Due to his unavailability, Archer has faced scrutiny from many experts but skipper Stokes said that it's a sign of the times with the proliferation of franchise leagues around the world.

"A lot of the points that people would be making around Jof and that situation I think are to do with the landscape back when they were playing. It's completely different now. There's opportunities for cricketers now that there wasn't 10, 15, 20 years ago. Yes, in an ideal situation, it would be unbelievably great to have everyone who you want available every single opportunity. But it's not the way of cricket at the moment. There's so much more out there for players," Stokes said in the pre-match press conference on Wednesday. "There is a situation where it could get messy and players like Jofra might not play for England again if you handle it a different way," Stokes said, "and that's not



good for anyone. Jof, I think, has shown that he is committed and loves playing for England. Just because he's not available for this first test match does not change that," he added. Earlier on Wednesday, former New Zealand cricketer and broadcaster Simon Doull had lashed into Archer, saying he has no interest in playing Test cricket. "It's ludicrous, absolutely ludicrous. How are you paying this guy up to a million pound a year and he's not available for your first Test match? It's absolutely ludicrous," Doull said on Sky Sports.

Sabalenka says she 'just wants to quit tennis right now' after French Open loss



World no. 1 Aryna Sabalenka cut a frustrated figure after her shock loss to Russia's Diana Shnaider on Wednesday, with the Belarus player even going to the extent of saying that she felt like quitting tennis after the defeat.

"No thoughts, no emotions. I just want to quit tennis right now, but we'll see in a few days. Hopefully I'll get back on track mentally. I feel I had very decent opportunities in the second set. I screwed up, and then she stepped in and she played great. I feel mentally I couldn't really recover after second set. I think that was the biggest mistake from me. I don't know when the last time was (that) I lost 10 games in a row. I guess mentally I got into very deep, dark

hole over there and I just couldn't get back on track," Sabalenka said after the match. Shnaider battled from a set and a double break down to shock Sabalenka 3-6 7-5 6-0 in blustery conditions and charge into the French Open semi-finals. In a tournament that has witnessed several shocks including the exits of defending champion Coco Gauff and four-times winner Iga Swiatek, Sabalenka's defeat sent another jolt through the wide-open women's draw. "No thoughts, no emotions. Just want to quit tennis right now..."

Shnaider reached her maiden Grand Slam semi-final after an inspired battle in which she won the last 710 games having been two points away from defeat, and she takes on Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska in the last four. Sabalenka said that she was puzzled by the decision to keep the roof of Court Philippe Chatrier open as the wind caused issues for both players, sweeping the red dirt into their face at times, and affecting their ability to control their shots throughout. "I don't know why would they keep the roof open when it was crazy windy. But how can I complain if almost for the whole match everything was working okay for me, but then it just slipped away. I feel like it was getting crazy maybe just because mentally I wasn't really okay," she said. "Even though I was winning, it was dirty tennis. I don't know how people could actually just sit there and watch me play. Then at some point she stepped in, and she played unbelievable in those conditions," she added.

Ben Stokes on Jofra Archer: 'He is committed and loves playing for England'

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Nikhil Advani open to Shah Rukh Khan-Saif Ali Khan romance in Kal Ho Naa Ho remake



knowledge that changing social attitudes have altered how viewers interpret the film and its relationships. "I will never be able to get away with that kind of ending of Kal Ho Naa Ho ever again," he added. The filmmaker further said that if Kal Ho Naa Ho were remade now, it would be interesting to explore the possibility of a romance between Aman and Rohit. "If we were to remake Kal Ho Naa Ho today, it would be interesting to explore that (romance between Aman and Rohit)," he said.

When Nikhil Advani called Kal Ho Naa Ho 'director-proof' earlier, in a conversation with Digital Commentary, Nikhil Advani had opened up about the making of Kal Ho Naa Ho and credited writer-producer Karan Johar for the film's success. The filmmaker said the script was so detailed and well-written that it was "director-proof," leaving him largely responsible for the technical execution of the project. "I read somewhere that Karan's greatest regret is that he did not direct Kal Ho Naa Ho. But that's not true because in my opinion, I think the script was director proof. Like some writers say that no matter who directs it, it would have been what it was. It was director-proof. Everything was written in it," he shared. Advani said several memorable moments from the film, including its comedy tracks and emotional beats, were already present in Johar's screenplay. "Karan is an incredible dialogue writer. The emotions in the second half... Jaya ji's emotion, the revelation that Shah Rukh is dying at the interval point. It was director-proof," he said. The director added that his primary contribution came through the film's visual and technical treatment. "I was the one who was doing things like split screen, shot breakdown, the breaking of the fourth wall... I don't remember if I showed something to Karan or he showed me something and we said fantastic," he recalled. Released in 2003, Kal Ho Naa Ho marked Advani's first feature film as director. Produced by Karan Johar under Dharma Productions, the film followed Naina's journey as she falls in love with the terminally ill Aman, while Rohit harbours feelings for her. The romantic drama emerged as one of the biggest hits of its year and remains one of Hindi cinema's most enduringly popular film.

More than 20 years after making his directorial debut with Kal Ho Naa Ho, filmmaker Nikhil Advani believes parts of the film would be viewed very differently by today's audiences. Advani, who has also directed films such as Salaam-e-Ishq, D-Day and Batla House, said he would not be able to "get away" with the film's ending if it were made today. He also suggested that a contemporary remake could explore a romantic relationship between its male leads, Aman and Rohit. Speaking about changing social attitudes, Advani said younger viewers often interpret Kal Ho Naa Ho differently from audiences who watched it upon release in 2003. The filmmaker recalled that his own daughter was uncomfortable with the way the film treated Kantaben's homophobic assumptions about Aman and Rohit's relationship as a running joke. "It was a bromance," Advani told Mid-day while talking about the dynamic between Aman and Rohit, portrayed by Shah Rukh Khan and Saif Ali Khan. "I will never be able to get away with that ending."

He added that, in his mind, the story effectively ended when the two men made a pact with each other, even though the narrative ultimately centred on Naina, played by Preity Zinta. He said, "The film ended for me when Aman and Rohit made a pact with each other. That pact involved a woman, and that woman was standing outside in the corridor and today most girls wonder why the hell was she standing outside when those two are talking the whole shit." Advani ac-

Michael Jackson The Verdict: A reality check for fans after \$850-mn biopic whitewash

Michael Jackson The Verdict: Two months ago, Michael Jackson's biopic released in theatres and it was a massive success. Shockingly, everyone around the world, or at least those who helped in its box office collections of \$850 million, chose to ignore that the man at the center of this film was accused of sexually abusing young boys. A strange kind of whitewashing of Michael Jackson's reputation has been in the works ever since he died in 2009, and it is well known that his estate has been running the show. How else would you explain that the estate went from being in a debt of \$450 million at the time of his death, to now being a \$3.5 billion empire? On Wednesday, June 3, Netflix released the three-part documentary series Michael Jackson The Verdict, which focuses on the 2003 trial where Jackson was accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy, Gavin Arvizo, on his Neverland ranch.

It is strange that since Michael Jackson's death, his popularity has increased and his fan army, with the support of his estate, has made it their life's mission that Michael was innocent. "Nothing ever happened," we are told via some of the old news footage as journalist Diane Dimond recalls that this was like a "mantra" that was repeatedly said by his supporters - even when Michael admitted that he was sharing his bed with pre-pubescent boys. This documentary series challenges the currently popular notion of portraying Michael as the good guy who was wronged, and examines the facts that were presented in court and discussed in the media at the time. Even though, it says, that Michael was pronounced 'not guilty' in 2005, there is enough room to talk about hard facts as it heavily implies that the prosecution did a shoddy job of presenting their case, which gave enough opportunity to the hawk-like team of Jackson's lawyers to grill teenage boys, and cast enough doubt on their harrowing stories. His lawyers, along with him, are clearly the villains here who could poke holes in anyone's story and take complete advantage of the justice system so it comes out in their favour.

Michael Jackson The Verdict also discusses Jordan Chandler, the 13-year-old who first accused Michael of inappropriate behaviour, and informs the viewers why Michael did not face a trial then. Not just him, many other young boys' stories are also discussed, and there's a constant hint at the power imbalance between Michael and those boys, and their families. Credible talking heads, and news footage of the coverage of the trial is aptly used to paint a picture of why Michael ultimately managed to come out as 'not guilty', and without mincing words, we are told that the lawyers were not prepared enough in presenting the victims' cases, thus complicating the case. Wade Robson, who later opened up about his abuse at Neverland in the documentary Leaving Neverland, was still Michael's pawn



back then and as you see him as a child, it sends a chill down your spine.

It is very openly suggested that the stardom of Michael Jackson was the biggest factor in making the jury decide in his favour as two of the jurors appear here, and it is obvious that one of them was so awed by the presence of Michael that to date, she can't forget how Michael looked at her, and nodded at her with a "thank you". Through the trial in 2003, which ended in 2005, Michael can be seen performing a show for his fans. He slows down his car for the screaming fans and cheers them on as they declare him 'innocent'. He gets on top of his SUV and almost breaks into a dance as he rallies the crowd. It is also very clear here that Michael, like many celebrities, knew that he could hire the best defense attorney money could buy, someone who perhaps looked like a character out of Boston Legal or Suits, and knew how to give a performance so the jury could be in Michael's favour. It is heartbreaking to re-learn how full-grown adults grilled teenage boys about the most scarring incident in their life, and possibly celebrated when they won. Conversations about Michael's race, and how his family saw this as a racist attack on them, are also brought up, but not given enough airtime for everyone involved here knows that this was probably just a defence for them. Michael's music had such an impact on that generation that even when the prosecution played some evidence in the court, the attendees, jury and the lawyers could not help but tap their feet to it.

One of the talking heads is a fan who quit her job to be there for his trial and she describes it as her love for him, and in this moment, you know that love for such figures is blind, but what's shocking is that decades later, these fans continue to exist and cheer for him. Michael Jackson The Verdict is truly meant for those who blindly went in for the multi-million-dollar-earning movie and came out cheering for the popstar, as if no famous or successful celebrity has ever been evil behind closed doors.

ney Prashant Dileep Hardikar, appointed by both purchasers via separate specific powers of attorney dated May 11, 2026. The sellers in the deal were Naseem Iqbal Halim and Ifat Shafique Ahmadi.

Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is one of Yash's most anticipated action films, which was earlier slated to release alongside Dhurandhar 2 but was later postponed to June 4. The film was postponed again and currently has no confirmed release date. Amid these developments, Yash has remained positive about the project. He recently praised his director Geetu Mohandas, known for Moothon and Liar's Dice, highlighting her distinct cinematic voice and perspective. He told American content creator Sabeen Faheem, "That's the most exciting part. What happens is that when you generally say action films, it's only restricted to male directors. That's been the history in India. A lot of people have done that. A large-scale action film, that too a gangster film with a female gaze, is something which is very new and refreshing." He also spoke about Geetu's influence in shaping the film's sensual and emotional layers, elements that have already sparked discussion since the first look was released earlier this year. He said, "Thoughts are very clear, and she has a strong conviction in whatever she does."

After admitting to fake sexual harassment charges, Shilpa Shinde blames 'paid PR'



Shilpa Shinde, best known for her television show Bhabhi Ghar Par Hain, recently admitted that she made false sexual harassment allegations against producer Sanjay Kohli almost a decade ago when they were in the midst of a serious battle with regard to her contract for the show. Since then, Shilpa is being criticised by many on social media and in response to those criticisms, she blamed "poor approach by paid PR" and said that she does not care what the world has to say about her. Shilpa shared a video on Instagram, alleging that there is a PR campaign in the works against her. "The PR that is going on... I just want to tell them that you will reap what you sow. What you guys are writing without understanding the situation... You are lying to a person who told the truth," she said.

Shilpa said that she expected this kind of reaction and blamed the viewers, as she added, "The world does not appreciate anything good, especially people like you who make such comments. I didn't need to say anything. I came back to the show after 10 years. I could have said it then, but I didn't. I didn't do it for the show." She again admitted that her accusations were a lie, and no one forced her to say what she did. "It was a lie and no one asked me to lie. I couldn't have lived with that lie. One day, I was going to say it. I didn't do it for money. I left that show and I had left it all behind," she said. Shilpa insisted that since the producers were creating a difficult work atmosphere for her, and were not letting her work anywhere else, she believed she had no other option but to fabricate a lie. "Sorry is a small word now but he (Sanjay) also knows that I didn't have an option back then. I was contemplating suicide at that point," she said. She ended her video by showing the middle finger to the audience as she said, "I am ready to take all the brickbats. It does not matter to me." Her video was accompanied by the caption, "Passing judgment on a single line without watching the entire podcast is a poor approach by paid PR."

After Shilpa's admission on Bharti Singh and Haarsh Limbachiya's podcast, television actor Hina Khan took to social media to criticise her accusation. While she did not

name Shilpa, her long note was presumably directed towards her. Hina Khan and Shilpa Shinde were fierce rivals on Bigg Boss 11, where Shilpa emerged as the winner. Hina started her note by saying that she does not like to talk about others but was choosing to speak up now as this was "something sensitive, something that affects all of us as a society, especially as women."

Calling the fake accusation "shameful", Hina said she was "shocked beyond words". She said, "Using your sex to malign someone's image in order to win during a conflict is absolutely shameful. And everyone is absolutely right to call it out and demand justice. I am shocked beyond words." She then called the producer the "real victim" in this situation and said that he went through quite an "ordeal" after she made false claims. "As admitted by the female actor, her allegations were not just baseless, they were used to gain advantage to win, to score, to claim, to settle without the utilisation of law," she wrote. Since Shilpa returned to the same show, produced by the same producer, Hina said, "And even after that, the same producer gives the same show to the same person. Another launchpad, another mouthpiece, another relevance, another chance to legitimise her fake claim of sexual assault. What if the actor repeats it? After all, the actor has been given the same show by the one she falsely accused." She ended her note by saying, "I am appalled. The joke is on us."

Pooja Bedi, in a chat with Variety India, also criticised Shilpa and said that she was "betraying the very cause those laws were created to serve." "False accusations not only destroy innocent lives but also make it harder for genuine survivors to be believed. Such misuse of the law is unacceptable and must carry serious consequences," she said.

Previously, Shilpa had admitted, "Today, through this platform, I want to say that it was false. I am confessing this for the first time. After that, we reached a settlement and the payments that were due to me at the time, which we used to receive after three months, were cleared." She added, "What I am saying today is a very big thing. Lying is not easy. A lie is a lie, whether it is small or big. I had told them that if life ever gave me the opportunity, I would confess that it was false. I know people will react after hearing this, but it was false. I am telling the truth today. I am not afraid of anyone."

Why Shilpa Shinde left Bhabhi Ghar Par Hain Shilpa Shinde left the popular show Bhabhi Ghar Par Hain in 2016 amid a lot of controversy. She exited amid contract dispute and alleged non-payment of dues. The producers accused her of unprofessional behaviour and served her a legal notice about the same. Soon after, Shilpa accused producer Sanjay Kohli of sexual harassment. She also claimed that the industry was trying to blacklist her and block her employment elsewhere. The matter eventually ended with the settlement of Shilpa's dues. After nearly years, Shilpa returned to the show and now has a cordial relationship with the same producers.

Shah Rukh, Salman's films earn over Rs 200 even before release, claims Nikhil Dwivedi

For anyone doubting if the holy trinity of Bollywood - Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, and Aamir Khan - are showing any signs of slowing down, that doesn't seem to be the case. While Shah Rukh is on a roll again, with blockbusters Pathaan and Jawan in 2023 and Siddharth Anand's action thriller King slated to release in cinemas this Christmas, Aamir and Salman seem to be having a tougher time at the box office. While Aamir's latest release, RS Prasanna's coming-of-age sports dramedy Sitaare Zameen Par did help him bounce back a little from debacles Thugs of Hindostan (2018) and Laal Singh Chaddha (2022), Salman's misfortunes continue with the failure of Sikandar last year and uncertainty over the release of his next, Maatrubhumi. Economics of Khans' films

But irrespective of the recent bumps, all three Khans continue to fuel the film industry purely on the basis of the massive hype their films generate even today, even over 30 years since they made their debut. "On an average, the digital, satellite, and music rights of a film by any of the three Khans - Shah Rukh, Salman or Aamir - is somewhere between Rs 150 crore and Rs 200 crore," claimed actor-turned-producer Nikhil Dwivedi in an interview with Vicky Lalwani. He explained that a large chunk of the budget of any Khan film is recovered from the pre-release business itself. This includes the digital rights sold to a streaming platform, the music sold to music companies, and the satellite rights sold to a television network, in that order. Since none of the three Khans no longer take fixed pay on a film, and share the revenue instead, it considerably reduces the cost of production, a major chunk of which hinges on the A-list star's fees.

While the budget of any of the three Khans' films today is much higher, Nikhil spelled out the economics of Prabhu Deva's 2019 hit cop drama Dabaang 3, on which he was a co-producer along with Salman and his younger brother Arbaaz Khan. "If the digital, satellite, and music rights sale of his film are between Rs 180 crore and Rs 200 crore, and the film's budget is Rs 80 crore to Rs 100 crore, then he obviously doesn't need any money," said Nikhil.

"He has all the paraphernalia of a producer. The shooting of his films get done just on the money they have received from the advances. If anyone is producing a film with any of the Khans, then I want to assure you they just want to give you work and a chance to be more popular,"

Triptii Dimri recalls getting 'beaten quite a lot' while growing up

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Triptii Dimri, whose latest release is the chaotic comedy drama "Maa Behen", took a trip down memory lane and shared amusing anecdotes from her childhood, saying that she got her fair share of beatings while growing up. Triptii recalled her younger days with humour, and said that getting punished by parents was a common experience.

Asked if she's had her share of scoldings and 'maar' from parents, Triptii told IANS: "I think everyone has gotten a beating from their parents at some point. I was beaten quite a lot growing up." She added with a laugh: "The day I didn't, I used to get beaten up... I used to go home and someone would say, 'what happened? you seem very happy today'." "Maa Behen" by Suresh Triveni is streaming on Netflix. It also stars Madhuri Dixit Nene, Dhama Durgaa, and Ravi Kishan in pivotal roles. They are joined by Geetanjali



he added, claiming that Salman just "gave him a chance to be called a producer" on the threequel. Shah Rukh and Salman's similarities

While Nikhil has never worked with Shah Rukh, he was once planning to produce an action thriller with Shah Rukh in 2016, which was being co-produced by his banner Saffron Magicworks and Anirudh Dhoot of Videocon. However, the film never saw light of the day. Nikhil maintains that both Shah Rukh and Salman are very different professionally, but strikingly similar when it comes to their professional dealings. "They're very different people. They're poles apart as people, but their core values are the same. If Shah Rukh or Salman commits to someone, then no paperwork is needed. It'll happen. They never misuse anyone's money," said Nikhil. After making his debut as an actor with the 2008 crime drama My Name Is Anthony Gonsalves, Nikhil turned producer with the 2018 buddy comedy Veere Di Wedding, which he bankrolled along with Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Motion Pictures and Anil and Rhea Kapoor's Anil Kapoor Films & Communication Network. After producing money-spinners like Veere Di Wedding and Dabangg 3, Nikhil is now backing films like Vikramaditya Motwane's 2024 cyber thriller CTRL, which released on Netflix India, and Anurag Kashyap's upcoming crime drama Bandar, starring Bobby Deol, which is slated to release in cinemas this Friday on June 5.

Kulkarni, Arunoday Singh, and Shardul Bhardwaj. At the heart of "Maa Behen" is Rekha, a mother who's already juggling enough until life throws her the ultimate curveball, a dead body in her kitchen. With her two daughters, Jaya, the responsible one, and Sushma, the wild card, this trio must think fast, lie faster, and somehow keep their nosy neighbors from sniffing out the truth. She will next be seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit starring Prabhas. The film is scheduled to release next year in March. The shoot for "Spirit" commenced in November 2025. The Mahurat ceremony of the action entertainer was graced by many big-wigs from the entertainment industry. Mega star Chiranjeevi also attended the event as a special guest. Along with Prabhas and Triptii, the drama will also see Prakash Raj, Vivek Oberoi, and Kanchana as the supporting cast, along with others.