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ACB arrests senior assistant for accepting bribe

Karimnagar: Anti-Corruption Bureau sleuths arrested a senior assistant of the district welfare department, Danuka Radhika, for allegedly accepting a bribe to clear contractors' bills.

According to ACB officials, Radhika collected a bribe of Rs 2.37 lakh from contractors to clear bills related to the supply of eggs and pulses to ICDS. The contractors were allegedly asked to transfer the amounts through UPI to her benami bank accounts. As this was established during the investigation, ACB officials arrested Radhika.

TGBIE to announce inter supplementary results on June 11

Hyderabad: The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) will release the intermediate public advanced supplementary examination results on Thursday at 11.30 am. AP News Updates

The results of the first and second year intermediate students (general and vocational streams) can be accessed via the website <https://tgbie.cgg.gov.in/> or <http://results.cgg.gov.in>.

Donald Trump greets PM Modi on becoming Indias longest-serving elected PM

New Delhi, June 10

The Tribune, now published from Chandigarh, started publication on February 2, 1881, in Lahore (now in Pakistan). It was started by Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia, a public-spirited philanthropist, and is run by a trust comprising five eminent persons as trustees.



The Tribune, the largest selling English daily in North India, publishes news and views without any bias or prejudice of any kind. Restraint and moderation, rather than agitational language and partisanship, are the hallmarks of the newspaper. It is an independent newspaper in the real sense of the term.

The Tribune has two sister publications, Punjabi Tribune (in Punjabi) and Dainik Tribune (in Hindi).

Revanth Reddy tweets on Bharat Future City, says it marks new growth in State

Hyderabad, June 10

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday said that 'Bharat Future City' has now become a reality, and given its significance for the state's development, this day will be remembered for generations to come.

In a post on 'X', he said, "Whenever some of the fortunate among us traveled abroad and saw the world's great cities, we wished that our country, too, had such a modern, well-planned, and magnificently managed city."

"Bharat Future City is the answer to the collective aspiration of all Indians. To build anything, we need a strong foundation and a driving force. Today, we are inaugurating and dedicating the headquarters of the Future City Development Authority (FCDA), which will translate our vision into reality in the days ahead," he said.

CM Reddy noted that the building took shape in a record time of less than six months, thanks to the passion, attention to detail, hard work, and dedication of everyone involved.

"Join me in celebrating this moment, reflecting on its significance, and gathering the strength to work towards realizing a city that will stand among the greatest cities on the globe," he said.



Kaleshwaram Project to be ready by summer 2027: Uttam

Hyderabad, June 10

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday, June 10, said the Telangana government was moving ahead with a clear technical roadmap for the rehabilitation of the damaged Kaleshwaram barrages and had set a target to complete the works by the summer of 2027.

After reviewing the progress of investigations, testing and rehabilitation planning at the Medigadda project site, the Minister said the ongoing investigations, hydrological studies, Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) tests, geotechnical borehole studies and other technical assessments were being fast-tracked.

Most of the preliminary investigations had already been completed, Reddy said, and the remaining studies were expected to be completed by the end of June or the first week of July. Based on these findings, detailed rehabilitation designs would be submitted to the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for approval.

"The actual rehabilitation works were likely to begin after the monsoon season, possibly by the end of November or in the first week of December," Reddy said. "The government would make every effort to complete the works in one working season and restore the barrages by the summer of 2027."

Uttam asserted that the Congress government wasn't particularly inter-



ested in politicising the issue, despite serious mistakes affecting the project's development in the past. "Our focus is on accountability, safety and completion. We want to ensure that the barrages are restored properly and safely," he said.

Reddy noted that the earlier Congress government had launched the BR Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Project with an estimated cost of Rs 38,000 crore, and nearly one-third of the work was completed before 2014.

According to the Irrigation Minister, if the original project had been continued, it could have been completed around 2016-17 and would have provided irrigation to about 16 lakh acre. Instead, BRS changed the project and

drastically increased the cost, causing huge financial losses and technical problems, he said.

The project cost, originally Rs 38,000 crore, had surged to over Rs 1 lakh crore and as per the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) estimates, could reach Rs 1.45 lakh crore. Despite the massive expenditure, he said, the three barrages had not been used since December 7, 2023.

Reddy alleged that the barrages were damaged in October 2023, during the previous government's tenure. "Central agencies later found serious deficiencies in design, construction and operation," he said.

The current government has ordered inquiries by the Judicial Commission and the NDSA to fix ac-

countability and ensure technical clarity, he added.

The government initiated the rehabilitation process simultaneously to restore the barrages "in the interest of Telangana farmers." A reputed international design consultant, AFRY Group, in a joint venture with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, was appointed for its rehabilitation design.

National Dam Safety Authority had observed major issues, including the cut-off depth, tail-water rating curve, energy dissipation arrangements, physical model studies, and gate operations.

NDSA assured that the issues were taken into account for a detailed study, as the earlier designs didn't accurately capture the operational requirements of the barrages.

The Authority informed that GPR tests were 80 to 90 per cent completed across the three barrages. Borehole and geotechnical investigations were expected to be completed by the end of June.

Reddy clarified that all future designs, repairs, and related works will be undertaken with approval from the CWC and NDSA to ensure that the rehabilitated barrages remain safe and functional for the next several decades.

Highlighting the project timeline, the Minister said the government's objective is clear. "It wants to complete investigations by July, finalise designs after the monsoon, begin rehabilitation by November-end or December, and complete the works by the summer of 2027."

There's No longer Any Talk Of Merger Between TMC And Congress

New Delhi, June 10

In the wake of an internal rebellion in Trinamool Congress (TMC), the party has brushed aside rumours of merger with the Congress while leaving the door open for a strategic alliance within the INDIA fold.



It has been reported that the Congress and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) are mulling a merger but it has been ruled out as a mere rumour. Sources close to the issue have shed light that neither party is considering such a proposal. But on the other side, both sides have been keeping the lines of communication open and have been in contact on shared issues that could lead to a political alliance.

The speculation grew even stronger after a meeting between the senior Congress leaders and Mamata Banerjee (TMC) in Delhi. In the background of these developments, the two leaders met Abhishek Banerjee in the midst of discussion on the possibility of enhancing the coordination between their respective parties, and they agreed to have the next meeting of the INDIA bloc in Hyderabad.

This political noise comes at a time of a serious internal turmoil in the TMC. The party is facing a revolt by 64 of its MLAs and increasing discontent within the party's parliamentary ranks. In the recent series of defeats, MP (Rajya Sabha) Sushmita Dev has stepped down from the party and the Upper House, just after Sukhendu Sekhar Ray resigned on June 8. In addition, a group of 20 MPs of the TMC has also formally asked the Lok Sabha Speaker for separate seating as they intend to function in conjunction with the state and central governments.

To make it even more complicated, the rebel leader Ritabrata Banerjee has laid claim to the party and asserted that his splinter group is the "true" TMC. He made it clear that there wasn't a single thought in the rebel camp to join the Congress as it had declared that it will remain under the Trinamool Congress banner. He said that the rebel camp has no intention of integrating into the Congress, and it has the support of most of the party's legislators.

Telangana HC pulls up HYDRAA Commissioner over contempt in Suraram land dispute

Hyderabad, June 10

Justice NV Shravan Kumar of the Telangana High Court cautioned HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath that continued disregard of court directions and a hurried approach in official functioning could adversely impact his professional career while hearing a contempt case arising out of a land dispute in Suraram.

The Court expressed dissatisfaction over the Commissioner's failure to appear before it despite earlier directions. Observing that personal appearance was not the only mode of participation, the Court remarked that he could have at least joined the proceedings through video conference.

The Court further noted that no affidavit had initially been filed explaining the alleged non-compliance of its earlier orders. The matter pertains to a contempt petition filed by a landowner alleging that HYDRAA officials had

erected fencing and installed a board on disputed land situated in Suraram without issuing any prior notice and despite the dispute being pending adjudication before the Court.

Earlier, while hearing the writ petition, the High Court had expressed strong displeasure over the actions of the authorities and directed HYDRAA to remove the fencing and board within 48 hours.

Alleging that the directions were not complied with within the stipulated period, the petitioner subsequently initiated contempt proceedings. During the hearing, the Court directed that an affidavit be filed explaining why the board remained in place for nearly twenty days and why the Commissioner had failed to appear before the Court.



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. It played a significant role in preventing a BJP landslide in 2024 and remains an important platform for opposition coordination.

A Drug-Free Society and a Green Environment Goal Chippa Venkateshwarlu



“Warangal, June 10 (Indian Chronicle): As part of the state government's 'Praja Palana – Pattana Pragathi' (Public Governance – Urban Progress) program, an awareness seminar on drug abuse prevention and a tree plantation drive were held at MGM Hospital on Wednesday.” DCP Dhara Sunitha, the ACP, the Mattewada CI, Sub-Inspectors, Narcotics Wing officials, and MGM Hospital authorities participated in the event; together, they planted saplings to promote environmental conservation.” Chippa Venkateshwarlu, the 23rd Division Corporator candidate and State Executive President of the TPCC Handloom Wing, also took part in the program.” Addressing the gathering, Chippa Venkateshwarlu stated that creating awareness among the youth about the dangers of drug abuse is a collective social responsibility. He emphasized the need for active participation from the government, the police department, and the public in the fight against drug abuse to build a safe and healthy society.” Subsequently, while participating in the tree plantation drive, he urged citizens to contribute to environmental protection by planting and nurturing saplings. He noted that increasing greenery is essential for building a healthy, sustainable, and environmentally conscious society. He reiterated that a drug-free society and a green environment are crucial for the well-being and development of future generations.” MGM Development Committee members Damera Raj Kamal, Gonda Srinivas, and Dasari Rajashekar, along with several other prominent figures, officials, and staff members, participated in this event.

Fruits Distributed at Sai Ram Gastro Hospital on the Occasion of Koheda Integrated Market Chairman Chiluka Madhusudan Reddy's Birthday

“Khammam June 10 Indian Chronicle:” On the occasion of the birthday of Koheda Integrated Market Chairman Chiluka Madhusudan Reddy, fruits were distributed to patients undergoing treatment at Sai Ram Gastro Hospital under the leadership of BC Cell President Ramaraju Yakanna.” The program was attended by Dr. Jangala Sunil Kumar as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he wished Chiluka Madhusudan Reddy many more happy birthdays and expressed hope that he would attain higher positions in the future and continue serving the people. He also conveyed his birthday greetings to the chairman.” Dr. Sunil Kumar appreciated Ramaraju Yakanna for organizing the fruit distribution program and demonstrating a humanitarian spirit. He stated that social service is the true meaning of celebrating a birthday.” Among those who participated in the program were Saraswathi, Srivani, Divya, Amala, Mounika, Suma, Ashwini, Parameshwari, and others.



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TPCC President MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud Expresses Outrage Over Rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha Nomination

TPCC President and MLC strongly criticized the rejection of 's Rajya Sabha nomination in Madhya Pradesh, calling it a serious blow to democracy.” He alleged that the incident represents the height of BJP's political conspiracies and an attempt to silence opposition voices.” According to him, the BJP appears intent on weakening democratic institutions and manipulating the electoral process for its own political advantage.” He criticized what he described as irregularities in voter lists, inducement of elected representatives, and political pressure tactics, claiming these have become part of the BJP's political culture.” Mahesh Kumar Goud said growing doubts exist over whether the Election Commission is functioning as an independent institution or acting in favor of the ruling party.” He alleged that after “stealing votes,” the BJP is now attempting to “steal seats” as well.” He demanded that the Election Commission clearly explain to the people of the country the reasons behind the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination.” He stated that disqualifying opposition candidates from the electoral contest on technical grounds is contrary to the spirit of democracy.” According to him, targeting political opponents through conspiracies instead of confronting them politically reflects the BJP's weakness.” He reaffirmed that the Congress Party will continue its struggle to protect democratic values and uphold the Constitution.” Mahesh Kumar Goud criticized the leadership of Prime Minister , alleging that the independence of constitutional institutions is being eroded.” He warned that using the Election Commission for political purposes poses a serious threat to the future of Indian democracy.” He called

upon democrats and defenders of constitutional values across the country to raise their voices against the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination.” He said attempts to prevent leaders who fight for the people from participating in the electoral process are deeply concerning.” He asserted that citizens are closely observing efforts to turn constitutional institutions into political tools of the ruling party.” He stated that the Congress Party will continue exposing what it sees as attacks on democratic institutions and processes.” Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized that the Election Commission has a responsibility to demonstrate its neutrality and independence.” He appealed to all political parties, civil society organizations, and intellectuals to come together in defense of democracy.” He announced that the Congress Party would pursue a legal battle against what it considers politically motivated actions by the BJP.” He said safeguarding democracy is the responsibility of every Indian citizen.” He reiterated that Congress will never retreat from its fight to protect constitutional values.” He urged the people of India to resist any attempts to undermine democratic institutions.” He demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the Meenakshi Natarajan nomination issue and called for the full facts to be made public.” He stated that the Congress Party is prepared to launch nationwide movements and protests to defend democracy.” Concluding, Mahesh Kumar Goud warned that protecting the dignity and independence of constitutional institutions is the responsibility of the Central Government, and any failure in this regard would pose a serious threat to democracy.

Telangana Minister Launches 3.05 Crore Road and Drainage Works in Khammam

“Khammam, June 10 Indian Chronicle:” State Agriculture, Marketing, Handlooms and Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said the Telangana Government is implementing every promise made to the people during the elections and is steadily rolling out welfare and development programmes across the state.” The Minister on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for BT road and CC drainage works worth ₹3.05 crore, being taken up with UIDF funds from the FCI Godown to the Bypass Road in Khammam city. He was accompanied by SUDA Chairman Puvvalla Durga Prasad and Khammam Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya.” Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted several welfare initiatives being implemented by the government, including free bus travel for women, free electricity up to 200 units, LPG cylinders at ₹500, distribution of fine rice, issuance of new ration cards, and the establishment of Young India Schools for poor students.” He stated that just as all household tasks cannot be completed at once, development activities must also be carried out in phases while keeping the state's financial position in mind. He assured that special attention would be given to sanctioning houses for poor families living in huts.” The Minister noted that while drinking water was supplied once every three days in the past, efforts are now underway to ensure daily water supply. He also emphasized that the construction of retaining walls along the Munneru stream is aimed at providing a permanent solution to recurring flood problems in Khammam. Issues in certain areas, he said, would be resolved through consultations to ensure smooth completion of the project.” Urging local public representatives to closely monitor development works in their respective divisions, he stressed the importance of maintaining quality standards in roads and drainage systems. He also called for greater focus on sanitation and greenery, warning that neglecting cleanliness could lead to increased healthcare expenses for citizens.” Tummala said Khammam city is witnessing rapid development similar to Hyderabad, with road expansion and national highway projects creating new business opportunities and boosting economic growth.” Speaking on the occasion, SUDA Chairman Puvvalla Durga Prasad said the Minister has been giving special attention to the development of Khammam city. He noted that Tummala played a key role in securing



nearly ₹600 crore for the Munneru retaining wall project and has been personally monitoring its progress.” He further said that the Velugumatla Urban Park is being developed on the lines of Hyderabad's Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park (KBR Park), creating a major recreational destination for residents. Development works related to the Khammam Fort ropeway project are also progressing, he added.” Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya said that under the Minister's guidance, the corporation is focusing on improving roads, drainage systems, sanitation, and greenery in every division of the city.” State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao said the government has been giving high priority to women's welfare over the past two and a half years. Besides free bus travel, self-help groups are being provided RTC buses on a rental basis to create sustainable income opportunities, he said.” The programme was attended by State Library Authority Chairman Khader Baba, Khammam Market Committee Chairman Hanumantha Rao, RDO Srinivas, district officials, public representatives, and others.

Green Trees: A Legacy for Future Generations – Municipal Chairperson Pendem Sri Lakshmi Ramanand



“Narsampet, June 10 (Indian Chronicle): As part of the Telangana government's prestigious '99-Day Public Administration Progress Plan,' a massive tree-planting drive was conducted on Wednesday within the premises of the District Government Hospital under the aegis of the Narsampet Municipality.” Municipal Chairperson Pendem Sri Lakshmi Ramanand participated in the event, planting saplings alongside the ACP, Municipal Commissioner, Government Hospital Superintendent, Circle Inspector, and other officials.” Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson Sri Lakshmi Ramanand emphasized that environmental protection is the social responsibility of every citizen. She urged people not only to plant saplings but also to nurture them until they grow into full-fledged trees, thereby ensuring a green and safe future for coming generations.” She noted that the threats posed by pollution and rising temperatures could be effectively countered by preserving and expanding greenery. She stated that a clean and green environment is the most valuable legacy the current generation can bequeath to future generations.” The Chairperson announced that saplings are being distributed free of cost to households within the municipal limits. She requested residents to plant them in the available spaces within their premises. She urged everyone to completely give up the use of 'single-use plastic,' which has become a severe threat to the environment. She called upon citizens to actively participate in maintaining the cleanliness of the town.” She reiterated the municipal administration's commitment to transforming Narsampet into a green, clean, and beautiful town, noting that continuous efforts are underway to achieve this goal.” Later, while participating in a rehabilitation program at the District Government Hospital, she advised the public to pay special attention to their health and well-being. She

encouraged people—especially those from economically disadvantaged sections—to make full use of the free medical services and rehabilitation facilities provided at government hospitals.” She assured that the municipality would extend full cooperation in providing the necessary infrastructure and facilities for the hospital's development and the welfare of patients. Municipal Vice-Chairman Gandham Narendra Gupta, former Municipal Floor Leader Vemula Sambaiah Goud, Town SI Guda Arun Kumar, Municipal Councilors Kampelli Veena Vijayender Reddy, Ponnala Manisha Prakash, and Dongala Rajitha, former MPTC Kata Prabhakar, along with municipal officials and staff, participated in the event.

Khammam Railway Station: 22.450 kg of Dry Ganja Seized Near Platform No. 2

“Khammam, June 10 Indian Chronicle:” Acting on the instructions of Khammam District Excise Deputy Commissioner G. Janardhan Reddy, Assistant Commissioner (Enforcement) G. Ganesh, and AES K. Tirupati, the Khammam Enforcement team conducted a special operation and seized 22.450 kilograms of dry ganja near Platform No. 2 of Khammam Railway Station.” Based on credible information regarding the illegal transportation of ganja, Enforcement Circle Inspector C.H. Srinivas and his staff carried out inspections in the area. During the operation, they apprehended a person identified as Sebastica Bieber, a resident of Odisha, who was found carrying a plastic bag containing 22.450 kg of dry ganja.” A case has been registered against the accused under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The seized ganja and one mobile phone recovered from the accused were handed over to the Khammam-II Excise Station for further investigation.” The operation was carried out with the participation of Head Constable Jamal Sharif, Constables Veerababu, Nagamani, Sravanthi, and Driver Raju.” Note: The Excise Department has requested the public to share any information related to narcotic substances through the toll-free helpline 1800-425-2523.

GST Guidelines May Hurt Drivers and Passengers : ISYA Centre Study

“Hyderabad, June 10 (Indian Chronicle) : The imposition of GST on subscription-based ride-hailing platforms under Section 9(5) of the CGST Act could reduce drivers' earnings, increase costs for passengers, and potentially compromise safety standards, according to a study released by the ISYA Centre. Speaking at the release of the study on Wednesday, ISYA Centre Director Meghna Bal said the findings highlight the need to reassess tax policies in line with emerging business models in the digital mobility sector. She was joined by Jayashree Parthasarathy, Tax Partner at EY. The study recommends that GST under Section 9(5) should apply only in cases where ride-hailing platforms determine ride fares or control payment transactions. It further argues that functions such as safety monitoring, driver verification, and operational oversight should not be treated as transaction control for taxation purposes. The report calls for a more nuanced regulatory approach that supports innovation in mobility services while safeguarding the interests of drivers and passengers.

A New Chapter in the History of Indian Democracy: Prime Minister Modi Creates History with 4,399 Days in Office

- Ganta Ravi Kumar “Warangal, June 10 (Indian Chronicle): BJP Warangal District President Ganta Ravi Kumar stated that a historic milestone has been achieved in the journey of Indian democracy, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in the country's history, setting a remarkable new record.” To mark the occasion, special prayers were offered at the temples of Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy and Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy in Shivanagar under the leadership of Mandal President Mohammed Rafi, seeking good health, longevity, and continued strength for Prime Minister Modi in his service to the nation.” Speaking on the occasion, Ganta Ravi Kumar said that since assuming office as Prime Minister on May 26, 2014, Narendra Modi has earned the trust and confidence of the people through consecutive electoral victories in 2019 and 2024, steering the nation on a path of progress and development. He remarked that completing 4,399 consecutive days of democratic governance is an unprecedented achievement that will remain a golden chapter in India's political history.” He further noted that under Modi's leadership, the country has been advancing with a vision centered on service, good governance, welfare for the poor, and the goal of a developed India (Viksit Bharat). He praised the Prime Minister for transforming millions of lives through landmark initiatives such as the Digital Revolution, the abrogation of Article 370, free ration distribution, and the Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme.” Ravi Kumar emphasized that Modi's leadership has played a pivotal role in elevating India, a nation of over 1.46 billion people, into the world's fifth-largest economy. He added that the Prime Minister continues to work tirelessly toward realizing the vision of a Viksit Bharat and establishing India as a leading global power.” He also prayed for Prime Minister Modi's continued health, strength, and long life so that he may continue serving Mother India for many years to come.” On this occasion, BJP cadres across Warangal district celebrated the historic achievement with enthusiasm and festive spirit.” The programme was attended by BJP IT Convenor Adepu Venkatesh, district leaders Bairi Shyam Sundar, Sunchu Keshav, Inumula Ajay, and Shivanagar BJP leaders Martha Usha Rani, Bandi Sujatha, Panneru Bikshapathi, M. Malla Reddy, Tallapelli Srinivas, Bodakuntla Shiva Shankar, Kandukuri Vijay Kumar, Pandavula Raju, Muttineni Ravi, Poshala Satish, Shetty Ramesh, Srinivas, Pavushetty Swaroop, Nagesh, Chidurala Sai, Naveen, Madhu, Raju, along with several party workers and supporters.



Temple Annual Celebrations Held with Grandeur



“Khammam Nelakondapalli, June 10 Indian Chronicle:” The 15th annual celebrations of the Sri Rama Temple at Mangapuram Thanda in Nelakondapalli mandal were conducted with great religious fervor and grandeur on Wednesday.” Devotees gathered at the temple from the early hours of the morning and participated in special prayers. Rituals including abhishekams (holy baths), floral decorations, and special pujas were performed for the temple's presiding deities. The temple premises resonated with the chanting of Lord Rama's name as devotees offered prayers with deep devotion and reverence.” A series of cultural programs were organized under the aegis of Sri Harihara Natyalayam from Hyderabad. The performances, featuring music, dance, and traditional entertainment, added color and enthusiasm to the celebrations.”

Among those who attended the event were Cheruvumadharam Fishermen Cooperative Society Vice-President Dheeravathi Radhakrishna Murthy, Sarpanch Dheeravathi Ashokarani, Rajarampet Society Chairman Dheeravathi Balaji, Gobriya Naik, and representatives of the Sri Rama Temple Committee.

90 Lakh Sanctioned for Development of Sri Sri Nagar Colony CC Roads to be Constructed; Works Inspected by Former Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy



located within the erstwhile GHMC limits. "Residents of Sri Sri Nagar Colony in Uppal Division recently brought several civic issues to the attention of former Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy. Responding to their requests, she facilitated the sanction of ₹90 lakh for the construction of CC roads in the colony." On Wednesday, former Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy inspected the ongoing CC road works in Sri Sri Nagar Colony. She assured the residents that she would strive to secure additional funds to address other pending issues in the colony and ensure the execution of necessary development works. "Among those who participated in the programme were S. Naga Raju, Aruru Kishore Kumar, Appana Srinivas, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Ilesh Yadav, Y.S.N. Murthy, Malla Reddy, Shankar Goud, M.V.S. Prasad, G. Pulla Rao, Narayana Murthy, G. Srinivas, Venkata Chary, Bhaskar, Pallavi, Appana Venkata Kumari, Hari Kumari, Radha, Swaroop, Shobha, Anantha Padma, Jayamma, Veeramani, B. Anuradha and others.

“UPPAL , JUNE 10 (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 these areas would be developed on par with colonies

Centre Committed to the Welfare and Development of Salivahana Community: Ganta Ravi Kumar

“Warangal, June 10 (Indian Chronicle): BJP Warangal District President Ganta Ravi Kumar reaffirmed that the Bharatiya Janata Party remains steadfast in its commitment to the welfare of the Kumhar (Salivahana) community, the protection of traditional occupations, and the safeguarding of their rights. "He was speaking at a round-table meeting of key leaders from the undivided district, organized under the leadership of Aakarapu Mohan, Founder State President of the Telangana Kumhar (Salivahana) Sangham (TKS). During the meeting, an extensive discussion was held on the various challenges and issues faced by the Kumhar community." Addressing the gathering, Ganta Ravi Kumar alleged that both the previous BRS government and the present Congress government had treated the Kumhar community merely as a vote bank while neglecting its development. He criticized the former BRS government for weakening the Salivahana Corporation by failing to allocate adequate funds during its decade-long rule. "He further stated that although announcements were made regarding the construction of "Salivahana Bhavans," the projects were never completed, leaving the community disappointed. He also accused the previous government of failing to take meaningful steps toward the modernization of traditional occupations, market access, and employment generation. "Ravi Kumar alleged that under the present Congress administration, caste-based corporations have become ineffective due to a lack of funding and implementation of welfare schemes. He claimed that despite coming to power with promises of six guarantees, the Congress government has overlooked the welfare and aspirations of the BC communities. "Demanding immediate implementation of assurances given to the Kumhar community, he warned that the BJP would launch large-scale agitations and protest programmes across the state if their concerns continued to be ignored. He emphasized that the BJP would always stand at the forefront in protecting the dignity and rights of Backward Classes. "Highlighting the initiatives of the Cen-



tral Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he noted that the PM Vishwakarma Yojana is providing financial assistance, skill development training, and marketing support to traditional artisans and occupational groups. He said the Centre is working with sincerity and commitment toward the socio-economic empowerment of the Salivahana community. "He urged the Telangana Government to address the long-pending issues of the Kumhar community without further delay, warning that failure to do so would result in statewide protests in coordination with Salivahana organizations.

"Ravi Kumar assured that the Bharatiya Janata Party would continue to play a proactive role in safeguarding the self-respect, rights, and welfare of the Salivahana community. "The meeting was attended by State BC JAC President Sheshu, Lingala Janardhan, Amaravadi Sarangapani, Chedaraju Venkateswarlu, Enuguthala Yadagiri, Boddipalli Ekambaram, Samudrala Parameshwar, Konne Siddulu, Paidipala Rajeshwar, Nimmagadda Srinu, Samudrala Rajakoti, Raghubabu, Raju, and several representatives of Kumhar community organizations.

Box Drain Works Launched at Beerappa Gadda with 34 Lakh Allocation under MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy's Initiative

“UPPAL , JUNE 10 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Under the special initiative of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, construction of a Storm Water Drain (Box Drain) costing approximately ₹34 lakh has commenced at Beerappa Gadda Division. BRS State leader Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, along with GHMC officials and local residents, inspected the ongoing works extending from Sri Nagar Colony to the lane opposite the library. "Speaking on the occasion, Praveen Mudiraj said that the new box drain is being constructed from the Isthri Dabba area of Sri Nagar Colony to the street opposite the library at an estimated cost of ₹34 lakh. He stated that the existing open drains, laid nearly 30 to 40 years ago, had deteriorated badly, causing severe inconvenience to residents due to the menace of rats and bandicoots. During the monsoon season, rainwater frequently entered houses, creating hardships for the colony residents. "Responding to repeated requests from the local people, the construction of the Storm Water Box Drain has been taken up to permanently address these issues, he said. Upon completion of the project, residents of Beerappa Gadda will be relieved from waterlogging and the problems caused by rodents, ensuring a cleaner and safer environment. "Residents expressed their gratitude to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and BRS State leader Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj for taking special interest



in the issue and securing funds for the construction of the long-neglected drainage system, which had remained unattended for nearly four decades. "Work Inspector Kedar, Vanjari Narsing Rao, Pandla Kishan Goud, Tirupathi Yadav, Venkat Reddy, Praveen Reddy, Srinivas Yadav, Satyanarayana, Banti Goud, Shankarappa, Varamma, Shyam and several others participated in the inspection.

Grand Victory in Manthani Geetha karmika Cooperative Society Elections: Newly Elected Body Felicitated

“PEDDAPALLI DISTRICT, MANTHANI: In a resounding victory, the newly elected body of the Manthani Geetha karmika Co operative Society took charge, drawing widespread celebration and congratulations from various community quarters. "Heartiest congratulations were extended to the newly elected leadership, including President Machidi Veerashankar Goud, Vice-President Kammagoni Shankar Goud, General Secretary Vegolapu Shankar Goud, and all the executive members for their magnificent triumph in the recent elections. Marking this momentous occasion, prominent members of the Peddapalli District Gouda Officials and Professionals Association (GOPA), Medagoni Rajamouli Goud, Pudari Datta Goud and bheemuni sravan kumar formally met and grandly felicitated the victorious leaders. "Conveying their best wishes, the leaders expressed immense confidence in the new committee. They stated that under this dynamic new leadership, the cooperative society is poised to reach new heights of progress. They also urged the newly elected body to strive dedicatedly for the welfare and holistic development of all its members, wishing them a successful and impactful tenure.



Officials Take Action Against Chaitanya College in Habsiguda's Kakatiya Nagar; Institution Sealed



“UPPAL , JUNE 10 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Chaitanya College, located on Street No. 3 in Kakatiya Nagar under Habsiguda Division, has been sealed by authorities following allegations that it had been operating without the required permissions. A case concerning the institution has reportedly been pending before the High Court for the past year. "Residents and colony welfare associations had repeatedly brought the issue to the notice of the concerned

authorities, alleging that the college was functioning without necessary approvals. Despite submitting several complaints to the Intermediate Board, the Education Department and other departments, no concrete action had been taken, prompting local residents to continue their peaceful protests. "According to the residents, the area is designated for residential purposes and the operation of a college there had caused considerable inconvenience to the local community. On Wednesday, local residents, representatives of colony welfare associations and public representatives staged a protest demanding action. Senior Congress leader of Uppal constituency, Janampally Venkateshwar Reddy, extended his support to the protesters. Police later shifted the demonstrators to the police station. Following the public protest, officials inspected the premises and, after identifying violations of regulations, took action by sealing Chaitanya College. Local residents described the development as a victory for people who fought democratically for their rights and expressed gratitude to everyone who supported them in resolving the issue.

Congress Attacks Democratic Institutions: BJP District President Ganta Ravikumar

“Warangal, June 10 (Indian Chronicle): Warangal BJP District President Ganta Ravikumar strongly condemned the burning of effigies of BJP leaders by Congress activists in protest against the rejection of the Rajya Sabha nomination of Meenakshi Natarajan, the Congress party's in-charge for Telangana affairs. He described this as an irresponsible and undemocratic act. "In a statement released on Wednesday, Ravikumar alleged that this incident once again exposed the Congress party's lack of respect for constitutional institutions and the rule of law. He stated that blaming the Central Government or Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the rejection of a candidate's nomination—which occurred due to a failure to adhere to legal norms—amounts to misleading the public. "He pointed out that the nomination was rejected because the candidate failed to include all necessary details in the affidavit, thereby violating prescribed regulations. He alleged that although the Returning Officer acted in accordance with election rules, Congress leaders were attempting to manufacture a political controversy to garner public sympathy. "Ravikumar emphasized that the Election Commission is an independent constitutional body. He criticized the Congress party for attempting to distort the Commission's decisions for political gain. He remarked that resorting to street protests instead of respecting the electoral process reflects the declining political values of that party. "He alleged that the Congress party is unable to



come to terms with the progress the country is making under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is, therefore, resorting to politically motivated protests out of frustration. "Demanding legal action against those involved in the incident, Ravikumar urged the police to take appropriate measures against individuals who disrupt public peace and undermine democratic values. He emphasized that the BJP strongly condemns any actions that weaken the country's democratic system. "Concluding his speech, he noted that blaming others for its own mistakes has become a political habit for the Congress party. He stated that the people of Warangal are closely observing these developments and will respond appropriately to such politics in the days to come.

Distinguished Felicitation for Educationist Dr. Pulipati Prasad

“Khammam, June 10 Indian Chronicle: "A grand felicitation ceremony was organized in honor of renowned educationist, Chairman of Pulipati Educational Institutions, and President of Khammam Citizens Forum, Dr. Pulipati Prasad, who has inspired thousands through his outstanding contributions to education, social service, and community welfare. The event was held at Pulipati Mini Function Hall in Pulipati Nagar-2 on the occasion of his reappointment as the State Vice President of the Telangana Arya Vysya Mahasabha for a second term. "Speakers at the event praised Dr. Prasad for his remarkable achievements and service-oriented initiatives. They highlighted that he received the prestigious Vagdevi Education Award from former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2008 and has since continued to serve society through the Pulipati Trust by providing educational assistance, financial support to the needy, and organizing charitable food distribution programs. "Several dignitaries described Dr. Prasad as a philanthropist and an educationist who has earned immense respect and recognition for his commitment to public welfare. They expressed happiness over his reappointment as State Vice President under the leadership of Telangana Arya Vysya Mahasabha State President Amar Nath Lakshminarayana and wished him greater success and opportunities to serve society in higher capacities in the future. "On the occasion, Dr. Pulipati Prasad was honored with shawls and mementos in recog-



nition of his contributions. "Prominent personalities including Siddamsetty Srikanth, Kodumuru Bhadrappa, Kodumuru Jagannatham, Mashetty Varaprasad,

Konkimalla Mrutyunjaya Gupta, Palavai Venkateswarlu, Das Srinivasa Rao, Vajinepalli Chandrasekhar Gupta, Telukuntla Omkar, Vellampalli Venkata Subba Rao, Vidyalaya Viswanath Gupta, Kaza Venkateswara Rao, Suggala Srihari, Gopala Rao, Tadikonda Aravind, Ramakrishna and others attended the program. "Dr. Pulipati Prasad expressed his gratitude to all those who participated in the felicitation ceremony and extended their support and best wishes.

Road Safety is Essential for Protecting Every Life: Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt

“Khammam, Kusumanchi June 10 Indian Chronicle: "As part of the Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika program, the Police Department organized a Road Safety Awareness Program at PV Function Hall in Nayakulagudem village of Kusumanchi Mandal during the Gram Sabha meeting. "Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt emphasized that road safety is a crucial aspect of protecting human lives. He stated that responsible behavior on roads can save countless families from tragedy and help all travelers reach their destinations safely. "The Commissioner highlighted that many fatal accidents can be prevented by following traffic rules, maintaining concentration while driving, and taking necessary precautions. He urged all two-wheeler riders to wear ISI-certified helmets and stressed that seat belts must be worn by drivers as well as passengers seated in the front and rear seats of cars. "He advised motorists to drive within prescribed speed limits, noting that the likelihood and severity of accidents increase with speed. He also warned against driving under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating substances, stating that such actions endanger not only the driver's life but also the lives of others. "Sunil Dutt further cautioned against using mobile phones while driving, including talking or texting, as it distracts drivers and increases the risk of accidents. He urged road users to strictly follow traffic signals, signboards, and road markings, and advised pedestrians to use zebra crossings while crossing roads. "The Commissioner emphasized that motorists should give priority to pedestrians and carry essential documents such as driving licenses, vehicle registration certificates, insurance papers, and Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates. "During the program, he interacted with family members of recent road accident victims from Kusumanchi Mandal and shared their experiences and suggestions with the public to create awareness. He also met the families of deceased accident victims. Financial assistance was provided to the family of Sandeep, son of Jarpula Lalitha from Dharma Thanda, who lost his life in a road accident. "The program was attended by Khammam Rural ACP Tirupati Reddy, Kusumanchi CI T. Sanjeev, Kusumanchi SI



Nagaraju, Tirumalayapalem SI Jagadish, Nelakondapalli SI Santosh, Khammam Special Branch SI Sravanthi, PSI Divya, the Kusumanchi Tahsildar, MPDO, Agriculture AO, MEO, officials from the R&B Department, other government officials, local village Sarpanch Kanchari Saidamma, villagers, and students.

Karnataka farmer attempts suicide near Vidhana Soudha over NHAI compensation delay

GNS News Agency, June 10

A farmer from Chikkamagaluru allegedly attempted suicide near Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru Tuesday afternoon, months after his protest in the area, claiming that delays in compensation for land acquired for a National Highway project had left him under severe financial and mental stress. T N Vishukumar, a farmer and sandalwood cultivator from Haliyur village in Tarikere taluk, allegedly tried to attempt suicide near Vidhana Soudha around 12.45 pm. Police personnel deployed in the area intervened immediately, prevented the attempt and detained him.

According to the Bengaluru police, Vishukumar alleged that 1.5 acres of his land were acquired by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in 2016 for a highway project. He claimed that compensation for the acquired land and the sandalwood trees growing on it was initially estimated at around Rs 62 crore, but was later reduced to Rs 62 lakh following a Forest Department valuation. A senior

police officer said Vishukumar has been protesting over the issue for several years and has repeatedly approached government authorities seeking compensation. "On Tuesday, he attempted to stage a protest near Vidhana Soudha and tried to take the extreme step. Our personnel intervened immediately and prevented any harm. He has raised grievances regarding compensation for land acquired for a highway project. Necessary legal action has been initiated," the officer said. The latest suicide attempt comes months after Vishukumar staged a protest at Vidhana Soudha on February 10. He allegedly chopped branches of a sandalwood tree inside the high-security premises to protest over inadequate compensation for sandalwood trees felled on his land acquired for a National Highway project. He was detained and booked by the police following the incident. A notice was issued directing him to appear before the court. The police have also submitted a report to the jurisdictional court, stating that he allegedly staged a protest without prior permission and caused public inconvenience.

Delhi’s UV sewage treatment systems failing to cut pollution: Pollution control panel

GNS News Agency, June 10

Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Sewage treatment Delhi Jal Board (DJB) tests microbial contamination only at the outlet of sewage treatment plants. Ultraviolet disinfection systems installed across Delhi’s sewage treatment plants (STPs) are not effectively reducing biological pollution, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has told the National Green Tribunal, with Researchers at IIT Delhi flagging the absence of key microbial data required to assess why the systems are underperforming.

In a response submitted to IIT Delhi and subsequently placed before the tribunal, the DPCC said that while it monitors compliance with prescribed standards, including faecal coliform levels, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) tests microbial contamination only at the outlet of sewage treatment plants. UV disinfection in wastewater treatment infrastructure is generally placed in the tertiary stage because pre-filtration is needed for turbid water to ensure effective disinfection. The wastewater flows through a UV reactive chamber and the process is faster, more efficient than chlorination technology. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the characteristics of the wastewater, UV radiation intensity and the amount of time the bacteria is exposed to the radiation, and the reactor configuration determine the effectiveness of a UV disinfection system.

IIT Delhi had pointed out that "a realistic assessment requires reliable microbial quality data at both inlet and outlet of the UV channels" and noted that there was no data available on the effectiveness of UV disinfection systems installed at 14 STPs that had reported non-compliance with

prescribed microbial standards. "The DPCC laboratory is conducting an analysis of fecal coliform only at the outlet of STPs of the DJB. Higher concentration of fecal coliform despite the STPs having UV disinfection system reflects the ineffectiveness (of the UV system)," the pollution control body said. The exchange forms part of information sought by IIT Delhi pursuant to an NGT order dated December 23, 2025, in a matter related to the performance of the city’s STPs and their role in the pollution of the Yamuna.

According to IIT Delhi’s query reproduced in the DPCC’s letter, "there is no data available on the effectiveness of the UV Disinfection systems installed at these plants". The institute further observed that existing literature and manufacturer-certified data were "either insufficient or unavailable". The DPCC, in its response, said it was "primarily concerned with ensuring compliance with the prescribed standards for STPs of DJB including fecal coliform". It noted that while standards have been prescribed for parameters such as pH, TSS, BOD, COD, ammoniacal nitrogen, total nitrogen, phosphate and faecal coliform, the Consolidated Consent and Authorisation format prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board suggests the adoption of "appropriate technology for disinfection of treated sewage". The affidavit, filed by Additional Director Dr Anwar Ali Khan, was submitted before the tribunal as part of an action taken report on directions issued by the NGT in August and December last year. Separately, the DPCC informed the tribunal that it had issued directions for the imposition of environmental compensation of Rs 2.89 crore on the DJB and operators of 15 STPs for failing to meet prescribed standards between July and October 2025.

71 fire stations in Delhi for over 3.3 crore people — 1 for 4.6 lakh residents: DDMA document Gayathri Mani

GNS News Agency, June 10

Faced with challenges of high population density and congested colonies, Delhi’s firefighting infrastructure remains stretched, with only 71 fire stations serving a population of over 3.3 crore, or roughly one station for every 4.6 lakh residents. These 71 fire stations also face severe staff crunch. According to an internal Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) document, an additional 9,123 personnel are required immediately to fully operationalise all the 71 fire stations. In a DDMA meeting held on Monday — chaired by Lieutenant Governor (LG) Taranjit Singh Sandhu — key issues flagged were electrical overloading, illegal storage of inflammable materials and violations of fire safety norms resulting in major blazes, as well as delayed access to the site of fire allowing flames to spread before rescue teams can reach the spot.

The meeting was held to review the working of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), its manpower and fire infrastructure required to tackle blazes, following the Malviya Nagar B&B fire that claimed 22 lives. It was also attended by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta as well as other ministers and officials. "Delhi’s density (11,320/km²) makes fire spread extreme in unauthorised colonies; response often exceeds the critical 4-minute window; rule violations, illegal inflammable storage and electrical overloading remain leading causes," read the internal DDMA document presented at the meeting. According to the document, DFS handles over 20,000 fire-related calls annually while Delhi records 250 to 300 deaths due to fire every year. Further, as per the document, the Fire department is operating with significant equipment shortages, including an 89% deficit in aerial ladder platforms used for rescuing people and combating fires in high-rise buildings. According to official data, DFS has only four aerial ladder platforms against a requirement of 38. There is also a shortfall of 86 water tenders and 54 water bowsters and 57 multi-utility vehicles and 22 control-and-command



vehicles.

"Only 78% of the 334-unit fleet (260) are operational, while 89 vehicles await repair and 15 are condemned and due for replacement, straining day-to-day deployment," the internal document read. The DFS also faces a severe manpower crunch. According to official data, of the total 3,363 sanctioned posts in the DFS, 74% of operational staff posts are vacant. Further, 20% posts of station officers, 86% posts of leading firemen and 18 % posts of workshop staff are vacant. To address the huge manpower shortage, the LG suggested at the meeting that vacant posts be filled with former Agniveers. During the meeting, DFS and Home department officials informed the LG and the CM about the steps being taken to address critical operational gaps and strengthen DFS. These include upgrading communication systems, digitising service delivery through a single-window platform, restructuring the cadre, augmenting firefighting equipment and vehicles, improving coordination with the police, and expanding firefighting training to Home Guards, said officials. "These initiatives aim to enhance preparedness, improve resource management and ensure swifter and more effective responses to fire and emergency incidents in the future," said an official.

CID probes role of 20 more suspects with links in racket

The Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which is probing the hooch tragedy in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad in which 20 people were killed, said on Tuesday that it was probing the roles of 20 more suspects in the forward and back linkages of the racket in addition to the 11 who have been arrested till now. The consumption of suspected methanol-laced illicit liquor has claimed 20 lives so far — 16 in the Phugewadi-Dapodi belt of Pimpri Chinchwad and four in Pune’s Hadapsar area. Separate cases have been registered at Dapodi and Hadapsar police stations under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Maharashtra Prohibition Act against those allegedly involved in the illicit liquor network.

The investigation cases have since been handed over to the Maharashtra CID. The key suspects arrested till now include main accused Yogesh Ramchandra Vhankade alias Sikandar Rathod and Radheshyam Prajapati, who produced the illicit. Probe revealed that accused Vhankade bought bootleg liquor from Prajapati in Uruli Kanchan, and after mixing methanol further supplied it to different parts of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad. Based on the chain of evidence in the case, two accused Arun Jagdamb Choubey (59) and Abhishek Arun Choubey (34) who sold methanol to Vhankade have also been arrested. "We have arrested 11

accused till now and they are in police custody till June 10. We are probing at least 20 more suspects in the forward and backward linkages of the racket. For the arrest and probe of these 20 suspects, five teams have been formed. The cell phones which have been seized from the accused have been sent for forensic analysis and also for creating clone copies for the probe. "Earlier, the Pune Rural police suspended four constables who were allegedly in contact with Radheshyam Prajapati, a key accused who is allegedly to be the main supplier of the illicit liquor. Prior to that as many as nine police personnel from Pune city and Pimpri Chinchwad police, along with 13 state excise department officials in Pune, were suspended from active duty pending inquiry, for allegedly failing in their duties to control the illicit liquor trade. Suspension of four staffers from the Pune Rural police took the number of suspended government personnel to 26. Probe has also revealed that prime accused Vhankade allegedly procured the poisonous methanol through an online business-to-business platform after claiming to the supplier that it was required for manufacturing perfumes. Investigators said the supplier, too, allegedly sold the chemical without insisting on the requisite documentation, GST number or carrying out adequate verification. CID has said that Vhankade used a fake Aadhar identity to procure methanol.

‘Only for new construction’: Delhi CM Rekha Gupta clarifies High Court order on demolitions in Yamuna’s eco-sensitive ‘O Zone’

GNS News Agency, June 10

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said that a recent Delhi High Court order related to the removal of encroachment in the ‘O Zone’ — eco-sensitive areas along the Yamuna river where construction is prohibited — pertained only to new constructions and not the existing ones. On May 23, the HC had observed that residential colonies in Yamuna floodplain area, classified as O Zone, are "completely impermissible", while noting that 91 unauthorised colonies in the area continue to enjoy temporary protection from punitive action until December 31, 2026 under the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011. This was after the Centre submitted that occupants of the 91 unauthorised colonies are protected from demolition until December 31. In a meeting attended by several MPs, including Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Manoj Tiwari, Gupta said on Tuesday that the HC had not made any observations regarding constructions that had already been completed, but raised concerns about ongoing construction activities.

Bidhuri told that the Delhi government will soon meet the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal to discuss the matter. "The HC has said that the 91 unauthorised colonies will not be demolished until December 31. In the meantime, we will meet the Union Minister to discuss the matter," he added. On May 23, the HC had directed Additional Secretary (MoHUA) D Thara to ensure that a meeting is held on June 8 between officials of MoHUA, including Thara, MCD and DDA, and to place an action taken report on record "by the next date of hearing showing how further unauthorised construction is stopped and how the unauthorised construction is being demolished". During the meeting, the Chief Minister clarified that no demolition will be carried out on existing structures in these colonies....," the CMO said in a statement. The HC, while observing that DDA is the responsible agency, had also recorded that DDA will ensure that "no fresh construction takes place in Zone O, including in these colonies, even under the garb of repair or renovation". Maintaining that the HC order specifically mandates the demolition of only new or ongoing constructions, the CMO referred to signboards erected across areas in O Zone, informing residents about restrictions on construction and discouraging fresh encroachments. "... residents are apprehensive due to signage installed by the administration. However, public representatives, after

studying court orders and government records, have concluded that existing structures in these colonies face no threat," it added. On such signboards "creating confusion among residents", officials said the CM directed the DDA to revise the wording of the boards in accordance to court’s observations. "Since the HC had communicated its position to the DDA, the Authority should act accordingly," the CM said. On April 18, the HC had directed that the signboards be made simpler. Speaking to mediapersons after the meeting with the CM, Bidhuri said that these 91 colonies had already been regularised on March 24, 2008, and at that time, they fell under the F Zone.

"However, on August 10, 2010, the Congress governments at the Centre and in Delhi placed these areas within the Yamuna O Zone. Following public objections, the DDA issued a draft notification on September 28, 2013, proposing to shift these colonies back from the O Zone to the F Zone. The draft notification has received approval from then Union urban development minister, but the final notification has still not been issued," he said. He added that an expert committee had concluded that these villages and colonies do not adversely affect the river’s flow or ecological quality. He further said that the DDA has put Delhi Secretariat, Akshardham, colonies developed by its own department in Madanpur Khadar, among others, under O Zone. "So, the court on (April 18) said that no new construction can take place. So, if any new construction takes place, it will be demolished but the colonies and villages, which were developed decades ago, have been regularised in 2008. Even NGT disposed of a related case and directed the DDA to carry out proper demarcation," said Bidhuri. As of April 17, as informed by DDA to the court, it had undertaken the removal of unauthorised construction and encroachment in the villages of Madanpur Khadar and Jhangola as well as under revenue estate Indraprastha, to reclaim around 7.03 acres. On April 18, the court had directed, "It is made clear that similar encroachment, removal and demolition programs shall continue to be carried out by the DDA in Zone O area." Bidhuri said O Zone areas spread across 35 km along the Yamuna — from Jaitpur, Okhla, Usmanpur, Sonia Vihar, Jagat put, Burari, Sangam Vihar and others. Both DDA and MCD have been directed to ensure that no existing house in O Zone suffers any harm. Only new constructions would be subject to compliance with the court’s directions," Tiwari said.

‘Got the call within minutes’: Gujarat Ex-CM Vijay Rupani’s son on Air India crash

GNS News Agency, June 10

"My father would say that cemeteries across the world are full of people who believed they were indispensable; never think that the world will stop [functioning without you]..." Rushabh Rupani said as he remembered his father and former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani, who died in the crash of Air India Flight 171 on June 12 last year. In an exclusive interview with The Indian Express, Rushabh said he, like the families of other victims, was waiting to find out why the plane crashed. "I have full faith in the Government of India, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. And I urge all families to have full faith in the government and the system. The report will be out soon: the investigation is ongoing, so it will be inappropriate for me to comment on it at the moment. I can only say that one must have faith; it will have results soon. And all will get justice," the 30-year-old said.

The former CM’s family plans to observe his death anniversary with the launch of welfare activities through a newly established Vijay Rupani Foundation. Vijay Rupani was one of the 241 people on board the Air India Dreamliner heading to Gatwick (London) that crashed minutes after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025. He was scheduled to join his London-based daughter Radhika for a family get-together. His wife Anjali had flown there earlier.

Rushabh, a mechanical engineer, was working for a start-up in the United States when a friend employed with Air India called him to inform him about the accident. "It was afternoon (of June 12) here in India, and in the US, it was the night of June 11. I have many friends in Air India. Personally, I like aviation. As an engineer, aviation and aircraft are among my favourite subjects. Many of my friends are pilots. One of my friends called me at night. I can never forget that phone call. In the middle of the night, [the friend] said that there is bad news and that this accident has happened," Rushabh said. "I got the call within minutes of the crash." "His death was a paramount loss not only for my family, but also for innumerable party workers and others who came to him for mentorship and guardianship. And this loss can never be filled."

Rupani’s body was identified after the DNA samples matched those of his sister Charu and cousin Aminesh. After the crash, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Rupani’s family members, especially his wife Anjali, at the Ahmedabad airport to express condolences. Rushabh said, "PM Sir and my father worked together for so many years... I was not there (during the meeting), but I came to know that his (PM Modi’s) eyes were moist... The warmth he showed to the family at that difficult hour... we are grateful to him forever." Recalling a lesson taught to him by his father, Rushabh said, "My father would say never think that the world would stop [functioning] if something was to happen to us. That the world would always move on. The show must go on. My father taught us to have 'sthitpragyata (steadfastness)' and not allow either happiness or sorrow to overwhelm us." "The loss of a parent is very difficult to

put into words. There is an absence of a mentor, a guide, and it will be there forever. However, his thoughts, values, and principles are still alive. The pain of losing a dear one is still there, but we are moving with courage on the path paved by him," he added.

After the crash, the family invited people from across the board to share their memories of Vijay Rupani. They got a huge response from people from different spheres, including industrialists, politicians, bureaucrats, and social workers. And now, the family is planning a book that will recount those 'memories'. Also, the Rupanis have formed a voluntary organisation, Vijay Rupani Memorial Foundation, that will carry out welfare activities in the field of health, education, and community service. It will also help youngsters in their careers.

Rushabh said the foundation would work on the principles of his late father. "My father believed that the focus should be on 'sarva' (all) and not swa (oneself). With that mantra, and for the wholesome development of people, and to reach the poorest, we have organised welfare activities on June 13 and 14 in Rajkot [to mark the anniversary of the plane crash]," he said. The programmes include a kidney awareness seminar and a free medical camp in coordination with the Indian Medical Association. It is to be noted that the Rupani family has been carrying out welfare activities for children from underprivileged sections for years now under the aegis of Puji Rupani Trust. The trust was founded by Vijay Rupani and his wife Anjali in memory of their son Puji, who died in an accident when he was three years old. Asked if he will visit the crash site on June 12, Rushabh said, "Whenever I pass by that place, I stop and offer my obeisance. But otherwise, there is no specific plan to visit the site on the day." The plane crashed in Ahmedabad city’s Meghanagar area, where a hostel and mess of BJ Medical College were situated. The facilities were severely damaged. Recently, the Gujarat government announced plans to demolish the damaged hostel blocks and build a new PG hostel complex at the spot with Rs 105 crore. Against this announcement, some grieving relatives of the victims have appealed to the state government to build a memorial at the crash site.

On this development, Rushabh said, "Whenever such a question arises, I imagine what could have been my father’s thought on it. This attitude helps me. If there is a development project where students will stay, study, get higher education and make their careers, then my father would never oppose it." "I understand that people’s emotions are attached... It is in my opinion that developmental work should never stop. But a small place may be allocated (at the crash site) where people can visit and pay their respects. But I must add that neither my father nor our family would ever be against any developmental project." Asked if he would join active politics, Rushabh said that his entire family has been associated with the RSS and the BJP for years. "I want to stay a party worker forever. I am a party worker and will remain one. There was no other expectation in the past, and it is not there (even now)."

Ahead of Karnataka SIR, Congress seeks printed copies of 2002 electoral rolls from EC

Karnataka Special Intensive Revision, Karnataka voter rolls, Karnataka Congress, Indian Express news Reports of mass voter deletions in other states during SIR had set the alarm bells ringing for the Congress unit in Karnataka. Days before the launch of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Karnataka, the state Congress unit has written to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to provide printed copies of the 2002 electoral rolls. In a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer on June 8, Ramesh Babu, MLC and Chairman of the KPCC Media and Communication Department, requested three sets of documents. The first was the electoral rolls of 2002 for all Assembly constituencies in the state; the latest Assembly-wise electoral rolls as of 2025,

"including all supplements, additions, deletions and corrections published up to date"; and instructions, guidelines, and notifications issued regarding the SIR process. Babu said the records were required for "reference purposes, comparative verification of voter details and effective participation by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee and its authorised representatives in the SIR process." He said that access to the records will help the party identify omissions, duplications and other discrepancies. "As electoral rolls are public documents and recognised political parties play an important role in ensuring the accuracy of voter registration, we request that the above records be supplied free of cost to the KPCC in the larger public interest and in the interest of free and fair elections.

Signature forgery case: CID now questions TMC’s Firhad Hakim



GNS News Agency, June 10

Days after serving notice to Abhishek Banerjee, the Crime Investigation Department team on Thursday evening visited the residence of TMC MLA and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim in connection with the signature forgery case. According to CID sources, the agency questioned Hakim in the case, recorded his statement and took his sample signatures for investigative purposes.

TMC MLAs Nayana Bandyopadhyay, Kunal Ghosh,

Baharul Islam, and Chandranath Sinha have already been questioned by the CID in the matter. Samples of their signature and handwriting were also collected. The case pertains to alleged irregularities in the process for selecting the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the state Assembly. The controversy centres around a meeting called by TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee at her Kalighat residence, where discussions were held regarding the naming of the LoP.

The TMC legislative party had, in accordance with the rules, recently sent a letter to the Assembly Secretary declaring Ballygunge MLA Shobhandeb Chattopadhyay as the LoP. However, it was alleged that on the day the document was submitted, several TMC MLAs were not even present in the Assembly. This raised doubts on the authenticity of the signatures. It was also alleged that there were discrepancies in MLA Nayana Bandyopadhyay’s signature, following which a complaint was filed at the Hare Street police station. TMC’s second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee was also summoned at the CID office in connection with the case. However, after the assault at Sonarpur on Saturday, Abhishek skipped the appearance and sought further time from CID. He also pleaded to the High Court, seeking relief from any harsh action against him in this case.

Maharashtra CM sets deadline for infra projects; asks to ensure fuel supply

GNS News Agency, June 10

Directing that infrastructure projects must be completed within three to three-and-a-half years under any circumstances, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said the tender process should include criteria regarding time taken by contractors to complete past projects. Amid the ongoing fuel crisis, Fadnavis also instructed precautions should be taken to ensure an uninterrupted fuel supply to complete infrastructure projects.

“If contractors delay project completion, it causes losses to the nation and, consequently, the state. Therefore, delays in project completion will not be tolerated under any circumstances. There may be many challenges in completing projects, but agencies must overcome these obstacles and move forward,” said Fadnavis during a review at the CM’s Infrastructure war room meeting held at Sahyadri Guest house. Fadnavis said that for the prosperity of Maharashtra, it was essential infrastructure development projects are completed expeditiously. The concerned agencies should resolve bottlenecks in project completion. Chief Minister Fadnavis directed that these agencies must ensure projects are completed within the timeframe stipulated for contractors and said agencies should not award any new work to contractors who delay completing projects. While reviewing the Dharavi Slum Redevelopment project, the Chief Minister said action should be taken to provide relief to entrepreneurs in Dharavi from state GST which will strengthen industries in Dharavi and transform its “informal economy” into a “formal” one. Regarding issues in the tender process for the Dharavi redevelopment, the Chief Minister noted there was no need to approach the Cabinet again and that the agency should discuss and re-



solve these issues in coordination with relevant departments.

Fadnavis stated that the land acquisition process for the Virar-Alibaug Multi-Modal Corridor should be expedited as the value of surrounding land will increase after this route is constructed. He added that the agency concerned should plan how the state can leverage this increased value. By identifying certain areas around this corridor, the government should make land available and verify the development of specific industries by investors in those areas. Regarding the redevelopment of BDD chawls at N M Joshi Marg, Naigaon, and Worli, he directed that the redevelopment should begin without delay after paying rent to residents and taking possession of their currently occupied houses. The CM has directed that the Thane-Borivali twin tunnel project should be completed within the stipulated timeline and Goregaon-Mulund twin tunnel project should be completed by January 2029. CM also directed to resolve problems concerning Bandra-Versova Sea Link project.

DU assistant professor found murdered at East Delhi residence, police say sustained fatal head injury

GNS News Agency, June 10

An assistant professor at a Delhi University college was found murdered at her East Delhi apartment on Thursday afternoon, with preliminary investigations indicating that she was attacked with a blunt object on the head, police sources said. The deceased, identified as Devosmita Paul, an assistant professor at Shivaji College, was living alone in a flat at Satyam Apartment in Vasundhara Enclave, police said. Her husband stays in Bengaluru. Officers said that a PCR call was received around 2:35 pm on Thursday from the deceased’s sister who alerted the police about the body inside her flat. According to the police, the caller, Devarati Paul had been trying to get in touch with her sister since morning, but in vain. Devarati told police that her sister’s flat was locked from the outside. Suspecting something might be wrong, Devarati broke the lock and entered the apartment, after which she discovered her sister’s body, police said. Investigators suspect that the victim, who was hit with a blunt object, sustained fatal injuries on the head. Police said that the exact cause and timing of the death will be ascertained after the post-mortem examination report arrives. Sources said that, during the initial inspection, police did not find “any obvious sign of theft or ransacking in



either of the rooms of the flat”. No valuables have been reported missing so far, they said, adding that investigators have not found any clue hinting at robbery either. Police have registered a case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 103(1), which pertains to murder, and have constituted multiple teams to identify and apprehend the offender. Officers said they are probing the case from all angles. Those familiar with Devosmita remember her as a “private” and “reclusive” individual who largely kept to herself. Sources said she interacted with only a limited circle and was not known to be socially active.

Committees formed to seal buildings in Capital flouting fire safety norms



GNS News Agency, June 10

A day after 21 people were killed in a fire at a bed and breakfast facility in Malviya Nagar’s Hauz Rani in South Delhi, the Delhi government has constituted 13 district-level and 39 sub-division-level committees to conduct a citywide survey of all the buildings with six storeys (ground plus five floors) and more, including hospitals and nursing homes, to find out if they are violating fire safety norms. These will inspect and institute sealing actions under the extant legal framework relating to fire safety, building by-laws and applicable legislations.

According to an official order issued on Thursday, the district-level committees will comprise the District Magistrates of respective districts as the chairperson, MCD Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner of Police, and Divisional Officer, Fire. “The District level Committees will coordinate the city-wise special survey drive against illegal and unauthorised buildings and establishments op-

erating in violation of fire safety norms and building by-laws. It will undertake the inspections and sealing actions in a systematic manner and prioritise buildings (G+5 and above and/or with basements) having commercial activities (such as Bread and Breakfast places, Hotels, Restaurants, Banquet halls, Guest Houses, Hospitals, Nursing Homes and other commercial activity) and not having Fire Safety Certificates from fire safety point of view,” read the order. “This enforcement drive will conduct rigorous fire compliance inspections and sealing of non-compliant establishments in a systematic fashion. The Committee may co-opt officers from DDA, MCD and other authorities for expeditious and effective execution of its mandate. The DM, if required, may also invoke powers under Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 for ensuring comprehensive action,” it said.

The sub-division-level committees will each comprise the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Revenue District) as the chairperson, MCD Assistant Commissioner, and Assistant Commissioner of Police. Officials said that the special drive began on Thursday and about nine B&B establishments in Malviya Nagar, including Green Residency, Lemon Green, Golden Residency, were evacuated.

The committees have also been directed to seek inputs from the utility services and other local authorities of the Delhi government. “The Committees may also seek the services of the architects empaneled by MCD and NDMC for assistance for completing the survey in a time-bound manner. The Committee may co-opt officers from DDA, MCD and other authorities for expeditious and effective execution of its mandate,” the order read.

Karnataka Cabinet portfolios row emerges after Shivakumar Government swearing-in



GNS News Agency, June 10

The allocation of portfolios has turned out to be a major headache for the newly elected Karnataka Chief Minister, D K Shivakumar. A day after the CM and 13 ministers of his Cabinet were sworn in, speculations were rife that the delay was due to differences among the ministers over who should get what. Rumours surfaced on Thursday that Ramalinga Reddy, who was among the ministers inducted, had resigned from the day-old Shivakumar Cabinet. He is reportedly unhappy over not being allocated the Bengaluru Development portfolio, a berth which Shivakumar himself had held under former CM Siddaramaiah.

According to sources, Reddy had sought the portfolio soon after Congress won the 2023 polls. He had softened his stance after Shivakumar promised Reddy that the portfolio would be allotted to him once the transition of power took place. However, Krishna Byre Gowda emerged as the top choice for the Bengaluru Development portfolio, irking Reddy. Sources added that attempts were being made to cajole the senior Congress leader by offering him the Water Resources portfolio. There was also speculation about differences among leaders, such as Satish Jarkiholi, over the portfolios allotted to them. While the Excise ministry was offered to him, he is learnt to have insisted on continuing as Public Works Department minister. Under Shivakumar, sources say that Priyank Kharge, who was formerly the IT/BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj minister, will be the Home Minister, while continuing with the IT/BT portfolio. Dr G Parameshwara, who was Home Minister under Siddaramaiah, will be the Revenue Minister. He will also handle the Sports and Youth Empowerment Department. Another senior minister, KJ George, will continue as Energy Minister and handle the Tourism portfolio. MB Patil has retained the Industries Department, and K H Muniyappa will continue as Food and Civil Supplies minister. Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah, son of former CM Siddaramaiah, will handle the Urban Development Department, sources said.

First resignation in 2-day-old DKS cabinet, Ramalinga Reddy resigns over portfolio

GNS News Agency, June 10

On Thursday night, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar allocated portfolios to his 13 ministers. Sources said Reddy had been adamant on the Bengaluru Development portfolio, which he was denied. Reddy is learnt to have walked out of the meeting held on Thursday to decide portfolios. According to sources, Reddy had sought the portfolio soon after Congress won the 2023 polls. He had softened his stance after Shivakumar promised Reddy that the portfolio would be allotted to him once the transition of power took place.



However, Krishna Byre Gowda emerged as the top choice for the Bengaluru Development portfolio, irking Reddy. Sources added that attempts were being made to cajole the senior Congress leader by offering him the Water Resources portfolio. There was also speculation about differences among leaders, such as Satish Jarkiholi, over the portfolios allotted to them. While the Excise ministry was offered to him, he is learnt to have insisted on continuing as Public Works Department minister. Under Shivakumar, sources say that Priyank Kharge, who was formerly the IT/BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj minister,

will be the Home Minister, while continuing with the IT/BT portfolio. Dr G Parameshwara, who was Home Minister under Siddaramaiah, will be the Revenue Minister. He will also handle the Sports and Youth Empowerment Department. Another senior minister, KJ George, will continue as Energy Minister and handle the Tourism portfolio. MB Patil has retained the Industries Department, and K H Muniyappa will continue as Food and Civil Supplies minister.

Punjab’s border bloodshed: Guns, grenades and a trail police can’t crack

GNS News Agency, June 10

Giving details of the incident, Soni said he was sitting at his petrol pump around 10.30 pm when two men arrived on a motorcycle with their faces covered and suddenly opened fire. A wave of targeted killings, weapon snatching, extortion-linked attacks and a hospital bombing has exposed the deep roots of organised crime and cross-border smuggling networks in Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozpur, even as police struggle to break the chain.



In barely ten days, Punjab’s border districts have witnessed a chilling sequence of violence: a police officer shot dead on his morning commute, a Home Guard jawan attacked and disarmed at a strategic headworks, a grenade detonated inside a hospital emergency ward, and two men — a grocer and a schoolteacher — murdered in separate incidents in broad daylight. On the night of June 4, the firing at Soni’s petrol pump became the latest addition to the growing list of violent incidents that have rattled the border belt. On the morning of May 24, Assistant Sub-Inspector Joga Singh, 54, was riding his scooter towards Amritsar when two motorcycle-borne assailants intercepted him on the Fatehgarh Churian-Majitha road, barely a kilometre before Majitha town. They shot him dead and vanished. A traffic department officer with decades of service, Singh was a resident of Ghaniye village in Gurdaspur district. Four days later, in the dead of night on May 28, Home Guard jawan Sukhwinder Singh was on sentry duty at the Harikie Headworks bridge in Ferozpur district when unknown assailants armed with sharp-edged weapons attacked him. They inflicted serious injuries, overpowered him and fled with his SLR rifle, magazine and ammunition. SP (D) Ferozpur Manjit Singh said, “We have been investigating the case and the accused will be arrested soon.” A grenade in a hospital ward On June 2, a blast ripped through the emergency ward of a private hospital near the bus stand in Kalanour town of Gurdaspur district. The hospital owner had reportedly received ransom calls, though police have not yet established the motive behind the attack. Within six hours, police apprehended Dharinder alias Tindi of Tarn Taran, who allegedly executed the blast. But his arrest only deepened the central question: where did he get a live grenade? SSP Gurdaspur Aditya said, “Of course, someone here must have been involved. There is definitely local involvement. People received them and handled them. But we haven’t identified everyone yet.” The modular crime network The same district is still awaiting answers in another high-profile case. Police have yet to arrest those who supplied the weapon used in the killing of two police personnel at a border checkpoint in Adhian village in February.

Explaining the challenge, the SSP said: “The modular chain makes it harder. People work through separate modules, so the first, second, third and fourth persons often have no direct connection with each other. Often, a packet is handed to someone who carries it for money. He hides it somewhere and doesn’t know who will pick it up. Those who pick it up don’t know who kept it there.” The supply chain for weapons and grenades in Punjab’s border belt appears to have been engineered specifically to frustrate investigation. Two murders, one afternoon On June 1, two unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen rode up to Gaba Kirana Store in Makkhu town of Ferozpur district and opened fire on its owner, Gurcharan Singh, killing him on the spot before disappearing into the afternoon traffic. Hours later, in Amritsar, government school teacher Jagdeep Singh had just dropped his daughter at a tuition centre and was riding home. Near the Naraingarh drain, a group of assailants surrounded him on a deserted stretch of road and attacked him with sharp-edged weapons, slitting his throat. He died where he fell, his body later found face down on the roadside. The spate of attacks has raised troubling questions about the reach of organised crime networks operating across Punjab’s border districts and the ease with which weapons continue to circulate despite repeated police crackdowns. Investigators acknowledge that smuggling and criminal syndicates increasingly operate through compartmentalised modules, making it difficult to trace the chain from handlers and suppliers to executors on the ground. Congress MP from Gurdaspur Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa alleged, “I have told the DGP several times that two DSPs in our district are directly involved with gangsters. So far, no action has been taken. They can even take action against me and say I am making false allegations. I will provide the evidence. I have conference calls related to extortion on my mobile phone”

Why government doctors in Telangana are protesting over transfer process

Hyderabad: At the heart of the ongoing protests by government doctors in Telangana, which led to the suspension of outpatient services on Friday, are allegations that the State Health Department is failing to properly implement G.O.Ms.No. 38, which is the official government framework issued by the Finance Department to regulate state employee transfers.

The TGGDA alleges that doctors who have served diligently for years in rural or peripheral areas are being denied fair opportunities due to these sudden administrative changes.



Senior doctors under the umbrella of the Telangana Government Doctors Association (TGGDA) and the Telangana Teaching Government Doctors Association (TTGDA) allege that the Directorate of Medical Education (DME), Directorate of Public Health (DPH), and Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP) are attempting to bypass the rules of G.O.Ms. 38 by introducing arbitrary guidelines.

According to the protesting doctors, health officials have attempted to re-define ‘focal’ (preferred/prime locations) versus ‘non-focal’ (peripheral/rural locations) posts. The TGGDA leadership has warned senior State health authorities against changing these definitions, stating it has the potential to breed discrimination, favoritism, and widespread resentment across the state’s medical framework.

Israeli strikes kill 10 in Gaza; Women and children among dead



GNS News Agency, June 10

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip): Israeli strikes in Gaza killed at least 10 Palestinians on Thursday, local hospitals said, even as much of the world’s attention was focused on the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.Nine people were killed in at least four separate strikes overnight in Gaza City, according to Shifa Hospital, which received the bodies. The hospital said the victims included two women and two children.

Another strike in Gaza City on Thursday evening killed at least one person and wounded another, according to Saraya Field Hospital, which is operated by the Red Crescent.

Footage of one of the strikes showed a massive hole in an upper floor in what appeared to be a residential apartment building. The blast blew holes through interior walls and scattered blood-stained belongings across the room and into the street.“They say the war has stopped, but the war has not stopped,” said Walid Shbeir, the uncle of one of the men killed in the strikes, as relatives mourned the vic-

tims at Shifa Hospital. “Every night there is killing, and we have martyrs. Every night, in the morning, in the evening, and at night, this killing is continuous for us.”Israel’s military said the overnight strikes in northern Gaza killed four Hamas militants, which it described as senior members of an apparatus responsible for protecting Hamas leaders and providing them with intelligence assessments. The military said steps were taken before the strikes to mitigate the risk of harm to civilians, including the use of precise munitions and aerial surveillance.It was not clear what the evening strike was targeting, and the military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on it.Last week, Israel killed the top Hamas military leader, two weeks after strikes that killed his predecessor.

More than 900 Palestinians killed since ceasefire began

The fatalities were the latest in the coastal enclave since an October ceasefire deal attempted to halt a more than two-year war between Israel and the Palestinian militant Hamas group in Gaza. While the heaviest fighting has subsided, the fragile ceasefire has seen almost daily Israeli fire.Israeli forces have carried out repeated airstrikes and frequently opened fire on Palestinians near military-held zones, killing 936 people since the ceasefire took effect, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-led government, is generally seen as reliable by United Nations agencies and independent experts. It does not give a breakdown of civilian and militant deaths.Militants have carried out shooting attacks on troops, and Israel says its strikes are in response to violations of the truce or threats to its troops. Four Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire.Israel launched its offensive in Gaza in response to Hamas’ October 2023 attack that killed some 1,200 people, with 251 others taken hostage.

US House backs Russia sanctions, Ukraine aid, in latest blow to Trump



WASHINGTON, -GNS News Agency, June 10

The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation on Thursday to provide aid to Ukraine and impose new sanctions on Russia, the latest sign that some Republicans are willing to defy party leaders and push back against President Donald Trump.The House voted 226 to 195 for the Ukraine Support Act, which reached the floor after languishing for months. A handful of Republicans joined Democrats in signing a discharge petition to force the vote.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.On Thursday, 18 Republicans and one independent who normally votes with them joined Democrats to pass the bill. It was the latest sign of a crack in what had been virtually unanimous support among members of Trump’s party for his policies.Passage came a day after a smaller group of House Republicans joined Democrats to pass a resolution that would force the withdrawal of troops from hostilities with Iran unless Congress

declares war or orders the use of military force.Olha Stefanishyna, Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States, in a post on X called the decision ‘an important step forward and (which) reflects continued bipartisan support for Ukraine’.

However, the future of the Ukraine Support Act is uncertain. To become law it must be passed in the Senate, whose Republican leaders have not allowed votes on Russia sanctions legislation that has broad bipartisan support, saying they would wait for Trump’s guidance.If it did pass the Senate, the bill would likely be vetoed by Trump.While many members of Congress from both parties strongly supported Ukraine in the first years after Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, some of Trump’s closest Republican allies - including House and Senate leadership - have grown cooler towards Kyiv since Trump returned to the White House in January 2025.The president has also kept decisions on sanctions at the White House, not Congress, since starting his second term.U.S. aid to the Kyiv government has slowed sharply even as Russia and Ukraine have been pummeling each other with missiles, drones and artillery. Peace talks are stalled, with Ukraine rejecting Russian President Vladimir Putin’s demand that it surrender territory it has successfully defended since 2022.The Ukraine Support Act includes measures to help Ukraine rebuild after the war, authorizes more than \$1 billion in assistance for Kyiv, and up to \$8 billion in support via direct loans.It also imposes stiff sanctions and export controls on Russia, including on financial institutions, oil and mining and Russian officials. The passage comes as the European Union, another Ukraine’s ally, agreed this week to open talks with Kyiv on the first cluster of issues in their accession talks. That followed an agreement on a 90 billion euro loan distribution to boost Ukraine’s defense and economy.

Sweden's Gripen faces moment of truth in Ukraine's air war with Russia

STOCKHOLM, GNS News Agency, June 10

After Ukraine said it will make the Gripen the backbone of its air force, the Swedish fighter jet is finally set to be tested in the role it was designed for: confronting Russia.Ukraine has allocated \$2.5 billion of a \$90 billion European Union loan to buy 20 new Gripen E fighters and is also set to receive 16 older models donated by Sweden, a potent new asset to protect Ukrainian cities.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.“We need these jets and for us this is really a new page for Ukraine,” President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said as he signed the deal with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson at Uppsala airbase last week.

The deal, which may rise to 150 new planes, could see the Gripen face Russian opponents within a year, offering a first real combat test for a jet long praised for its capabilities but never proven in high-intensity warfare.The Gripen first flew in 1988 and has been sold to countries including Brazil and South Africa. It has carried out surveillance missions and air policing while Thai Gripens skirmished with Cambodian forces.“This will be something completely different, it will be a test against the systems that this aircraft is actually designed to face: Russia,” Lieutenant Colonel and Swedish Defence University lecturer Johan Huovinen said.“It will be a test of Swedish technology in the end.”

Gripens lack stealth capabilities and range compared to Lockheed Martin’s F-35, but also have key advantages. Designed to operate in a country under Russian attack, they emphasise rugged dependability in harsh conditions.Swedish air force Squadron Commander Robin Arvidsson related how the design allowed all basic maintenance to be carried out while wearing gloves.“Small details like that matter a lot when you are out in the field during winter,” he told Reuters as his squadron carried out NATO air policing in Iceland in March.

Whereas aircraft like the F-35 are designed to operate from the relative security of an airbase or carrier, Gripens can take off and land on any straight road, meaning they can be dispersed and harder to attack.“Ukraine does not operate from intact NATO-standard airbases. We use dispersal airstrips, dirt runways, sections of highways, concealed positions across the country. The Gripen was designed for exactly this,” Oleksii Antoniuk, defence cooperation lead at Ukraine’s Ministry of Defence said in an email response to Reuters questions.“A crew of six people, one trained technician and five conscripts, can refuel, rearm, and clear it for the next mission in under 10 minutes. No

other aircraft in this class offers that combination.”He also said that at \$8,000 an hour to fly it, the Gripen operated at less than a quarter of the cost of flying an F-35, a crucial difference in a long-running war of attrition.Item 1 of 3 Squadron commander and pilot in the Swedish Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Robin Arvidsson, stands for a photograph in front of a JAS 39 Gripen, in Keflavik, Iceland, March 3, 2026. REUTERS/Tom Little [1/3] Squadron commander and pilot in the Swedish Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Robin Arvidsson, stands for a photograph in front of a JAS 39 Gripen, in Keflavik, Iceland, March 3, 2026. REUTERS/Tom Little Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabits “Meteor” air-to-air missiles are well suited to forcing Russia to fly its own warplanes further away from the front, reducing the impact of the air-dropped glide-bombs that have become one of Moscow’s key offensive weapons, he added.Justin Bronk, senior research fellow for airpower and technology at the Royal United Services Institute in London, said the Gripen was excellent for dispersed operations and the right choice for Ukraine, but that there were limits to what it could achieve.“It’s not going to have some transformative effect in terms of the Ukrainian Air Force’s ability to somehow establish total air superiority or anything, because the Russian ground-based air defence network ... is still formidable,” he said.A lack of stealth capability and lighter armament payload could also represent drawbacks, he added.

Saab had 117 Gripen E fighters on order even before Ukraine said it wanted 20. The company can currently produce about 15 planes per year in Sweden and aims to ramp that up to 20 to 30.The company has an additional production line in Brazil. But even taking that into account, experts say boosting output of such technologically advanced products is difficult, though Saab is confident about the prospects.“We’ve started investments quite a while ago,” Saab CEO Micael Johansson told Reuters, saying collaboration with Ukraine on repairs, overhaul and spare parts was being looked at and local production might happen in future.Funded by the Swedish taxpayer, the Gripen’s infancy was not without troubles, facing criticism for cost overruns and early crashes. It was dubbed “the world’s most expensive topsoil tiller” by Swedish media after a televised crash in 1989 where it spun off the tarmac and rolled violently in the dirt.“At the time, we didn’t fully understand the benefits,” Huovinen said.“But today it looks like an investment that could deliver jobs and strong returns.”Saab, whose shares have gained more than 850% since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, is now looking at more potential sales, with Canada one of the countries looking at the Gripen.”

Putin sticks to hardline stance on war in Ukraine, but says Trump ideas could bring peace



ST PETERSBURG, GNS News Agency, June 10

Russia, - President Vladimir Putin stuck to his hardline stance on the war in Ukraine on Thursday and said his troops were advancing on the battlefield every day, but he also said that U.S. President Donald Trump’s proposals for peace could end the fighting if Kyiv was ready to compromise.

He made his comments to foreign media editors, including Reuters, on the sidelines of Russia’s showcase annual economic forum as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy published an open letter to Putin in which he proposed the two leaders meet to agree on an end to the war, warning that Kyiv stood ready to fight on otherwise. Putin’s spokesman said the Kremlin chief was aware of the message, but had not yet had a chance to familiarise himself with its contents in detail. Trump said it would be great if the two leaders met.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

Speaking in what is the fifth year of Europe’s deadliest land war since World War Two, a conflict that Russia — one of the world’s biggest military superpowers — thought it would win quickly, Putin said that manpower, industrial resources and will power were on Russia’s side. His army had “recently” pushed Ukrainian forces out of nearly 2,500 km (1,553 miles) of territory, he said, though he conceded that Moscow had to and would improve its air defences to contend with a growing threat from Ukrainian drones.

Some Western and Ukrainian military analysts say Russia’s advance has slowed significantly, however, and argue that Russia is still a long way from achieving its own stated military goals. Putin struck a bullish note, though.“The offensive is ongoing on a daily basis. At present, the Russian Federation has taken full control of the Luhansk People’s Republic — 100%. And Russia has brought over 85% of the territory of the Donetsk People’s Republic under its control. (And) 80% of the territory of the Zaporizhzhia region,” he said, referring to three of the four regions in Ukraine which Moscow claimed as its own in 2022 in a move Kyiv and most Western countries rejected as an ille-

gal land grab.“Naturally, under these circumstances, the Ukrainian side would like us to halt the advance. But rather than stopping that, it would be better to bring the war to an end altogether by agreeing to the compromises that were discussed in Anchorage,” he said, referring to a summit he held in Alaska with Trump in August last year.

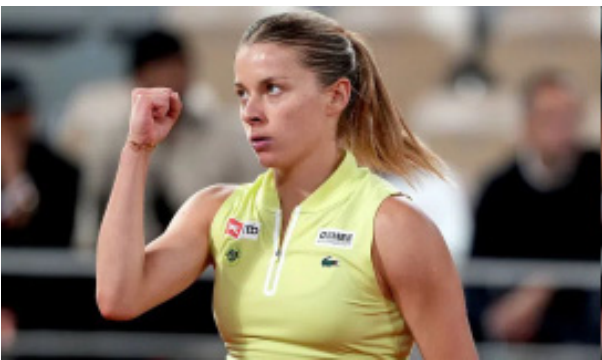
DONBAS SURRENDER DEMANDThat appeared to be a reference to Moscow’s demand that Ukraine must surrender the rest of its eastern Donbas region — which includes two of the four regions in their entirety — something that Zelenskyy has said would affect the fate of hundreds of thousands of people and leave what remains of Ukraine dangerously vulnerable to further Russian attacks.Putin said that Kyiv would have to compromise, however, and said that while he understood that Trump was busy with the Iran war for now that perhaps the European Union could use its influence to talk Kyiv around.Zelenskyy in his own letter made clear, though, that Putin was the one who needed to make a decision to end the war, saying he believed Russians had grown tired of Ukrainian missile and drone attacks, inflation and fuel shortages, and were ready for peace. Putin’s own future could be on the line, the Ukrainian leader warned, unless he made the right call.

Putin told news editors that he had emphasised to Trump last year that he was ready to end the war via diplomacy and to honour unspecified compromises.“We are certainly prepared and willing to reach an agreement with Ukraine through peaceful means. Specifically, on the basis we discussed during our meeting with President Trump in Anchorage. Russia agrees to those compromises we discussed in Anchorage. The Ukrainian side must also agree to these compromises. Then the conflict will quickly come to a natural conclusion,” Putin said.“As for what we might say to one another if we were to reach the end of the conflict, at the very least we could — and indeed should — say, ‘Thank goodness it’s all over,’” he added.

The Kremlin chief also engaged in some sabre rattling. He said Russia had not yet used its Oreshnik hypersonic missile against Ukraine in real combat conditions, but had only test-fired it to observe the results in order to make decisions about its future full-scale use, including against urban targets.The Oreshnik, which Russia first fired against Ukraine in 2024, is a nuclear-capable missile with a range of over 5,000 km (3,100 miles). Putin has said before that it is impossible to intercept, though Western experts have questioned that assertion.Putin, in power as either president or prime minister since 1999, sidestepped a question from Reuters about his own political future beyond the end of his current term in 2030, saying his health was in God’s hands. He said that the constitution allowed him to run again in 2030 and serve another term until 2036 if he won, but that it was too early to think about that.

“The country faces a lot of large-scale and pressing issues,” he said. “They need to be solved without thinking about it, but thinking about the future of Russia.”

Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska creates history, reaches French Open final



Paris: Maja Chwalinska of Poland became just the second qualifier to reach a Grand Slam singles final in the Open Era when she beat Diana Shnaider of Russia 7-6 (4), 6-4 on Thursday.The 24-year-old Chwalinska has a chance to match Emma Raducanu’s title run at the 2021 U.S. Open when she plays Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva in Saturday’s final at Roland Garros.

According to stats provider Opta, Chwalinska and Raducanu stand alone among men and women in having reached a major singles final from the qualifying rounds since the Open Era began in 1968.Chwalinska’s run saw her advance through three qualifying rounds to enter the main draw and play in just her third Grand Slam. Her best result at a major before this was the second round at Wimbledon in 2022. Polish countrywoman Iga Swiatek has won the French Open four times.The 19-year-old Andreeva reached her first Grand Slam final by beating Marta Kostyuk 6-1, 6-3 earlier Thursday on Court Philippe-Chatrier.Fully focusedAndreeva could see even the smallest details on the ball.“I was seeing the little hairs on the ball when I was tossing or playing (shots),” Andreeva said. “I was really, really focused today.” Andreeva, who is seeded No. 8 and lost in the semifinals two years ago, converted her first

match point when serving for the victory.She clearly feels comfortable at the French Open, which she describes as a “cozy” tournament because she sees familiar faces every year, and enjoys her time in Paris.“I really like to walk around the city, to go into those little restaurants on the street,” she said. “I also speak a little bit of French, so I try to sometimes talk to people in French.”Tensions on the courtThere was no post-match handshake between Andreeva and Kostyuk — and the Ukrainian walked off quickly, turning only to wave and blow kisses to the crowd.

The atmosphere beforehand was somewhat tense as the players had separate photos taken as they each stood next to two children on their respective side of the net. Usually the players pose for the same photo, standing right next to each other by the net.Kostyuk and countrywoman Oleksandra Oliynykova have spoken out during the tournament about the impact Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is having on their country.

The No. 15-seeded Kostyuk said defeat won’t linger given how much support she felt from fans during her matches in Paris.“I will never forget the ovations I received after my match in quarterfinals. This is something I will carry with me forever,” she said. “I feel like this is the highlight of my tournament.” Andreeva saved three break points at 0-40 in her opening service game, then raced into a 4-0 lead with a flurry of blistering forehand winners. There was a big cheer when Kostyuk held serve in the fifth game, but the Ukrainian then handed Andreeva the first set when her backhand hit the net.The semifinal began at shortly after 3 p.m. with an open roof, like on Wednesday when beaten quarterfinalists Aryna Sabalenka and Anna Kalinskaya complained of swirling wind on Chatrier and said the roof should have been closed.It was closed toward the end of the second set of Thursday’s semifinal, offering Kostyuk better conditions for her clay-court game. She broke back to trail 4-3 but dropped her next service game and the comeback ended almost as briefly as it began, along with Kostyuk’s 16-match winning streak on clay.

India-Nepal ties in focus as Khanal begins three-day visit

GNS News Agency, June 10

Kathmandu: Nepal’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Shisir Khanal will visit India from June 5 to 7 at the invitation of his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, the government said on Thursday.Khanal’s visit comes amid a controversy triggered by Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah’s remarks in the parliament. Shah said on May 31 that apart from discussions with India on a long-standing border dispute, Kathmandu was in touch with China and the UK as well. Two days later, New Delhi categorically rejected any role for third parties to resolve its boundary dispute with Nepal.Announcing the dates of Khanal’s India visit, the Nepal government on Thursday said in a statement that he will hold a formal meeting with Jaishankar in New Delhi. “The two sides will discuss matters of mutual interest, with a view to enhancing cooperation across key areas including trade, investment, connectivity, energy and people-to-people ties,” it said.As part of regular exchange of high-level visits, this one will further consolidate the enduring and multifaceted bilateral relations between Nepal and India, said the foreign ministry statement.The visit will be the first to India by a minister from PM Shah’s government since it assumed of-



fice in March. Nepal’s leaders have traditionally attached importance to early engagement with New Delhi, reflecting the close political, economic and people-to-people ties between the neighbours.Earlier this week, the chairman of Nepal’s ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party Rabi Lamichhane arrived in New Delhi and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

RBI cuts FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6.6%, sees inflation higher at 5.1%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday cut its GDP growth forecast for India for the current fiscal to 6.6% from 6.9%, while also raising the inflation projection to 5.1% from 4.6%, warning that elevated energy prices and global supply constraints were having “adverse spillovers” on economic activity. And while domestic demand remains resilient, “there are energy incipient signs of moderation in some sectors”, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said.Malhotra added that there are indications that average crude oil prices in 2026-27 would be “substantially higher” than the \$85 per barrel the central bank had assumed in its forecasts in April.

As per the new forecast, growth is seen at 6.6% in April-June 2026, 6.3% in July-September 2026, 6.5% in October-December 2026, and 6.8% in January-March 2027. Back in April, the central bank expected the country’s GDP to increase by 6.8%, 6.7%, 7%, and 7.2% in the four quarters of 2026-27.Meanwhile, the quarterly average inflation forecasts, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), have been revised from 4%, 4.4%, 5.2%, and 4.7% to 4.2% in April-June 2026, 5.1% in July-September 2026, 5.9% in October-December 2026, and 5.4% in January-March 2027.

The RBI is mandated to target a CPI inflation of 4% in the medium-term in a range of 2-6%. The new forecasts show inflation reaching the upper bound of the RBI’s target range towards the end of 2026, with Malhotra saying the impact of the energy price shock is seen waning thereafter.The core inflation forecast for the current year has also been increased to 4.7% from 4.4%. Core inflation is a measure of inflation that does not include food and fuel



items, whose prices can be volatile. As such, it is seen as an indicator of underlying demand in the economy.The revised macroeconomic forecasts of the RBI were announced by Malhotra while detailing the Monetary Policy Committee’s (MPC) interest rate decision. The MPC, at the conclusion of its three-day meeting, decided to leave the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25% and continue with the ‘neutral’ stance of policy. Both the decisions were decided unanimously by the six-member MPC.The RBI’s growth forecast revision for FY27 comes hours before the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releases the provisional estimate of GDP for 2025-26 at 4pm later today along with the figures for the fourth quarter. Economists broadly expect growth to have slowed down from 7.8% in October-December 2025 to closer to 7%, which could result in MoSPI’s second advance estimate of 7.6% being missed marginally.

Mutual funds avoided Rajesh Exports in last 10 years, LIC stake rose five times to 10.8%

RAJESH Exports, under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) scanner for allegedly inflating revenues by Rs 15.15 lakh crore over FY21 to FY25, was listed more than three decades ago in 1995. But domestic institutional investors, barring one, kept away from its stock for at least the last 10 years, according to shareholding data obtained from the company’s website.A look at the domestic institutional holding in the Rajesh Mehta-promoted Rajesh Exports, a gold and jewellery exporter, shows mutual funds’ maximum exposure in the company was at 0.5% in March 2016; it has only dipped since and is nil now.

While private sector insurance companies too have no holding in the firm, state-owned LIC has been the only big domestic institutional investor over these years. In fact, LIC’s stake in Rajesh Exports more than quintupled from 1.99% in March 2016 to 11.22% in March 2022. Since then it has marginally dropped to 10.8% as on March 31, 2026.A questionnaire mailed to LIC did not elicit a response.Foreign portfolio investors have held between 15.87% in March 2016 and 17.7% in March 2023. Over the last three years, their holding dropped to 14.2% in March 2026; much of this is held by just two FPIs, Bridge India Fund (8.46%) and Schwab Fundamental Emerging Market Equity ETF (2.7%).

When contacted, leading MFs and brokers said they were not comfortable investing in the company. “We were never confident of their numbers and so it never made the cut on that account,” said the CEO of a leading mutual fund, who did not wish to be named.The CEO of a leading broking firm said, “The SEBI order did not come as a shocker. Huge turnover and thin margins never made sense. Few domestic institutional investors trusted the numbers.”Another gold exporter said Mehta maintained a low profile, but was am-



bitious. “In the early years, he would pitch Rajesh Exports as one that would overtake Titan, which was also into jewellery business,” the exporter said.The Sebi action has cast a harsh spotlight on Rajesh Mehta’s stewardship of a company celebrated for its scale but questioned for its unusually thin profit margins.In its interim order on Wednesday, SEBI said Rajesh Exports overstated revenues and barred Mehta from buying, selling or dealing in the securities of Rajesh Exports pending further proceedings. It also ordered a fresh forensic audit of the company’s books.Rajesh Exports, however, denied SEBI’s findings. In a press statement, it said, “The revenues stated by the company in its financials are correct. The core observation in the order is with regard to the mis-reporting of the revenues, this has emerged primarily due to confusion because SEBI has considered the EBIDTA of Valcambi instead of revenue hence it has stated that there is a difference of about 97% in the revenue.” Valcambi is a Swiss gold refiner acquired by Rajesh Exports in 2015 for \$400 million.

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

GNS News Agency, June 10

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 sea-



sonal 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-born entrepreneurs behind 96 US unicorns, largest among immigrant founders: Study

Washington: Indian-born entrepreneurs account for the largest group of immigrant founders of billion-dollar companies, or unicorns, in the US, according to a new study by the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAF).

The US-based non-profit organisation found that 96 American unicorns were founded or co-founded by entrepreneurs of Indian origin. Among them is Perplexity AI, co-founded by Aravind Srinivas, which ranks 12th with a valuation of US\$ 20 billion.According to the study, India tops the list of countries of origin for immigrant founders of US unicorns with 96 companies, followed by Israel (60 unicorns), the United Kingdom (47), China (41), Canada (30), Russia (23), France (21), Germany (18), Ukraine (16), Australia (14), Pakistan (10), and Romania (10).The NFAF study, titled “Immigrants and US Billion-dollar Companies” and authored by Stuart Anderson, found that immigrants have founded or co-founded 59 per cent (455 of 775) of America’s privately held startup unicorns.The research found that the

privately held US billion-dollar startups with immigrant founders have created an average of 833 jobs per company.Approximately two-thirds (66 per cent) of unicorns were founded or co-founded by immigrants or the children of immigrants. Nearly 80 per cent of US unicorns have either an immigrant founder or an immigrant in a key leadership role, such as CEO or vice president of engineering.The NFAF study found that at least 15 immigrants, including Elon Musk, have founded two or more unicorns. Six Indian-origin founders — Mohit Aron, Jyoti Bansal, Ashutosh Garg, Arvind Jain, Sachin Nayyar, and Ajeet Singh — have made it to the coveted list.Lebanese-born entrepreneur Noubar Afeyan has founded five companies that achieved valuations of USD 1 billion or more, including Moderna, Indigo Ag, Generate Biomedicines, Tessaera Therapeutics, and Lila Sciences.South Africa-born Elon Musk has founded or co-founded four companies valued at US\$ 1 billion or more — SpaceX, OpenAI,

‘My period never came’: What it feels like to live with MRKH Syndrome

Wellness content creator Betty Mukherjee recently revealed that she had never experienced a menstrual period. In a candid Instagram post, she shared that she was born without a uterus or cervix and was diagnosed with MRKH syndrome, a rare reproductive condition that meant her period never arrived.“I have MRKH. I was born without a uterus or cervix, which means my period never came,” she wrote, describing the confusion and isolation she felt as a teenager while her friends discussed menstruation and puberty milestones.Her experience has shed light on a condition that remains poorly understood despite affecting women worldwide.

What is MRKH syndrome?

According to Dr Archana Dhawan Bajaj, Gynaecologist and IVF Specialist at Nurture IVF, MRKH syndrome, or Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser Syndrome, is a rare congenital condition in which a girl is born with an underdeveloped or absent uterus and the upper part of the vagina.“Although the uterus is absent or underdeveloped, the ovaries function normally,” explains Dr Bajaj. “As a result, puberty occurs as expected, with normal breast development, female hormone production, and body hair growth. However, because the uterus is absent, menstrual bleeding does not occur.”The condition is usually diagnosed during adolescence when a girl seeks medical advice for primary amenorrhea, the absence of periods by the age of 15 or 16, she adds. Importantly, Dr Bajaj stresses that MRKH is not caused by anything a woman or her family did during pregnancy.“It is a rare developmental condition that occurs before birth,” she says. “While the diagnosis can be overwhelming initially, advances in reproductive medicine, psychological support, and fertility care have enabled many women with MRKH to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.”Why ‘no periods’ is not necessarily a blessing

The idea that not having periods is a blessing often stems from viewing menstruation as merely an inconvenience,” says Dr Bajaj. “For women with MRKH, the absence of periods is often the first sign of a more significant reproductive condition.”“The diagnosis can affect emotional well-being in profound ways,” Dr Bajaj explains. “It may trig-



ger concerns about fertility, intimacy, and societal expectations surrounding womanhood and motherhood.”“The myth of ‘no periods, no problem’ can unintentionally minimise these very real emotional struggles,” she adds.Dr Bajaj emphasises that counselling, family support, and peer communities can make a significant difference. “Healthcare today increasingly recognises the importance of emotional wellbeing alongside physical management. A diagnosis does not define a person’s worth, femininity, or ability to live a meaningful life.”One of the biggest myths is that women with MRKH are somehow less female. That is completely incorrect,” says Dr. Bajaj.

She explains that women with MRKH typically have the standard female chromosomal pattern, normal ovarian function, and normal female hormone levels. They also develop secondary sexual characteristics, including breast development, in the same way as other women.Another misconception is that MRKH affects intelligence, sexual identity, or general health. “It does not impact cognitive ability, gender identity, or overall well-being,” Dr. Bajaj notes.Perhaps the most emotionally damaging myth is that women with MRKH cannot have families. “While natural pregnancy is not possible without a functioning uterus, many women explore options such as adoption or assisted reproductive techniques using their own eggs, depending on local regulations and available medical services,” she says.

Tabu’s ultimate beauty secret has no price tag: ‘There isn’t any substitute for that’

When asked about the beauty secret she swears by, Tabu had a surprisingly simple answer: sleep. The actor shared that if she does not get enough sleep, it shows on her skin the very next day.

“Beauty means anything that appeals to the senses in a way that you like,” she told Harper’s Bazaar India. On the beauty ritual she swears by, the Maqbool star said: “Good sleep. There isn’t any substitute for that. I did not understand the significance of sleep for skin, but I know now. I can tell when I haven’t slept well.”While many beauty trends promise glowing skin through expensive products and elaborate routines, experts say Tabu’s approach is backed by science.The phrase “beauty sleep” may sound like a cliché, but dermatologists say there is real biology behind it.“Yes, there is scientific evidence that adequate sleep supports skin repair, collagen production, and overall skin health. Poor sleep can accelerate visible signs of skin ageing,” says Dr Shareefa Chause, dermatologist at Dr Shareefa Skin Care Clinic, Mumbai.Sleep is one of the body’s most important periods of recovery. While you rest, your skin works to repair daily damage from environmental stressors such as pollution, UV exposure, and inflammation.Tabu Tabu says that if she doesn’t sleep well, it reflects on her skin (Image: Express Archive)

What happens to your skin when you don’t sleep enough?

According to Dr Chause, poor sleep affects much more than just how rested you look.“Poor sleep increases stress hormones and inflammation, which can impair the skin’s repair processes and weaken its protective barrier,” she tells indianexpress.com.This can leave skin looking dull, tired, and less resilient. Many people also notice puffiness, dark circles, and a lack of radiance after a poor night’s sleep.Sleep deprivation can also affect those who struggle with acne. “It can increase stress and inflammation, which



may worsen acne and make existing breakouts harder to heal,” says Dr Chause.This means that while factors such as hormones, diet, and skincare play a role in breakouts, sleep can be an important piece of the puzzle too.

Can skincare make up for lost sleep?

Many people invest heavily in serums, masks, and overnight treatments in the hope of waking up with better skin. However, experts caution that no product can fully replace proper rest.“No, skincare products can help support skin health, but they cannot fully replace the restorative benefits of adequate sleep,” says Dr Chause.The good news is that the skin can bounce back once sleep improves.“Many people notice improvements in hydration, brightness, and overall skin appearance within a few days to weeks of consistently getting sufficient sleep,” she says.So while there may be countless beauty trends competing for attention, Tabu’s favourite ritual remains one of the simplest — and according to dermatologists, one of the most effective.

How eating fruits on an empty stomach can spike blood sugar for those at diabetes risk



Fruits are often hailed as one of the healthiest additions to your diet — rich in fibre, antioxidants, vitamins, and natural sugars. Many people prefer eating fruits first thing in the morning, believing it to be a clean and energising start to the day.

But, can consuming them on an empty stomach spike blood sugar levels, especially in those with insulin resistance or at risk for diabetes?

Diabetes educator and dietician Kanikka Malhotra tells indianexpress.com, “Consumption of fruits produced on an empty stomach can lead to elevating the level of sugar in the blood because of the natural forms of sugar they possess (fructose), which is transformed by the body to glucose. Nevertheless, with individuals who are susceptible to diabetes or pre-diabetes, such a surge is not notable provided portion servings are monitored properly and not fruit juices are imbibed but whole fruits.” Complete fruits also give fibre to retard glucose release, limiting sudden rises in blood sugar levels. Some fruits have different glycemic responses, and depending on the individual’s metabolic health, consuming them in moderation is unlikely to produce harmful spikes. Fibre and protein-rich balanced meals are also suggested to stabilise the blood sugar levels further.Fruits that are more likely than others to raise blood glucose levels when eaten alone

“Some fruits with high glycemic indices (GI), watermelon, very ripe bananas, pineapple, and grapes, among other fruits, will spike your blood glucose rapidly if eaten alone. Berries, apples, pears, and citrus fruits are lower gly-

cemic fruits and produce a milder blood sugar response,” states Malhotra. She suggests that eating fruits with equivalent protein, healthy fats, or fiber can help prevent the glucose absorption rate and mitigate the blood glucose surge, especially after consuming high-sugar fruits. For example, eating fruit with nuts or combining it with yogurt can help reduce the increase in glucose. This method is beneficial for fruits that exhibit moderate to high sugar content. I consider it a good practice for fruit eating to achieve improved glycemic control at this level.

The best way for individuals with or at risk of diabetes to incorporate fruits into their dietPeople with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes should primarily consume whole, fresh fruits with low to moderate glycemic indices (e.g. berries, apples, pears, and some citrus fruits). Portion control is crucial, with fruits offered in portions containing about 15 grams of carbohydrates. Fruit juice and canned fruit contain added sugars, so the speed of glucose going into the bloodstream is raised,” says Malhotra. She adds that when a person consumes fruits in conjunction with protein or healthy fats, it slows down the absorption of sugar. Lastly, fruits contain essential micronutrients, fibre, and antioxidant capacity that are beneficial for metabolic health, helping to support blood sugar levels when consumed regularly, along with the management of overall calorie values and carbohydrate intake.

Gold prices cross Rs 1.60 lakh in futures trade

New Delhi: Gold prices climbed nearly 1 per cent to Rs 1.60 lakh per 10 grams in futures trade on Tuesday amid renewed geopolitical uncertainty surrounding the US-Iran conflict.On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the yellow metal contract for August climbed by Rs 1,313, or 0.82 per cent, to Rs 1,60,554 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 8,150 lots.Analysts said precious metal prices gained as investors reassessed geopolitical risks after fresh military developments in West Asia, which complicated efforts to secure a lasting peace agreement between the US and Iran.

Messi could have retired after 2022 WC win, why is he back for a final fling?



In Lusail, under fireworks and gold confetti, he stood wrapped in a black bisht, the World Cup in his hands and Argentina at his feet. Around him, teammates screamed, cried, collapsed. Millions back home flooded the streets of Buenos Aires. Men climbed traffic lights. Grandmothers leaned out of balconies, waving flags. Generations seemed to exhale together. The country that had spent decades trapped between nostalgia and frustration had finally found peace through a footballer who carried both emotions inside him. Four years later, the story arrives at another strange crossroads. When the World Cup kicks off across the United States, Mexico and Canada – a sprawling, commercial, multilingual spectacle spread across a continent – Messi, rather improbably, will still be at the centre of it.

There is something almost cinematic about the route his career has taken since Qatar. The boy who crossed the Atlantic at 13 for growth-hormone treatment in Spain has returned to the Americas as football's most recognisable face, carrying the World Cup into the very market FIFA has always dreamt of conquering completely. When Messi joined Inter Miami in 2023, the move was initially framed as retirement disguised as ambition. America has long been football's soft landing spot – a glamorous final stop for ageing superstars. Pelé did it. David Beckham did it. But Messi's arrival felt different because he didn't come to America as a fading star searching for comfort. He arrived as the reigning world champion.

Suddenly, Major League Soccer (MLS) stopped feeling peripheral. Stadiums transformed. Celebrities lined the touchlines. Children in pink shirts screamed his name in cities that barely followed 'soccer'. In many ways, even FIFA could not have scripted the transition better. The greatest footballer of the era moved to the continent hosting the next World Cup just as the sport there reached a cultural tipping point. America had spent decades trying to import football prestige. Messi brought it instantly. And through it all, Argentina followed him. One of the most fascinating threads

connecting Qatar 2022 to US-Mexico-Canada 2026 is that Messi's career arc no longer mirrors Argentina's suffering. For most of his time with the Albiceleste, Messi represented longing. Every tournament defeat deepened the national neurosis. The lost World Cup final of 2014 and the back-to-back Copa America defeats that followed turned Messi into football's saddest genius. Even his brief retirement from international football in 2016 felt symbolic of a country permanently exhausted by disappointment. Under head coach Lionel Scaloni, Argentina stopped obsessing over ghosts. The team became emotionally lighter, tactically clearer, and less dependent on Messi performing miracles. Younger players stopped worshipping him from a distance and began competing alongside him naturally. Julian Alvarez pressed defenders like a street-fighter. Rodrigo de Paul became Messi's bodyguard and emotional amplifier. Enzo Fernandez brought swagger. Emiliano Martinez brought madness. For the first time, Argentina looked like a modern football team instead of a shrine to its own history.

Messi changed, too. The explosive dribbler who once tore through entire midfields stopped trying to dominate every second and instead manipulated matches in moments. A pause. A disguised pass. A glance before a through ball. That evolution is why 2026 no longer feels impossible. At 39, Messi will not arrive at the World Cup as the sport's best athlete. But he may still arrive as its sharpest mind. Lionel Messi during practice for the FIFA World Cup in Kansas City. (AP Photo) Lionel Messi during practice for the FIFA World Cup in Kansas City. And there is poetry in where this final act unfolds. Mexico carries the ghosts of Maradona and 1986. The United States represents football's commercial future. Canada symbolises the sport's expanding geography. Messi somehow connects all three ideas at once: history, spectacle and globalisation wrapped in one player. By then, his relationship with Argentina may resemble something deeper than fandom. He is no longer merely their greatest footballer. He has become a national reference point, a shared emotional language.

Even the pressure feels transformed now. In Qatar, Messi played as though chased by destiny. Every touch carried urgency. Every match felt loaded with consequence. In 2026, there may instead be a strange freedom surrounding him. The burden has vanished because the story is already complete. Which is precisely what makes the possibility of one final run so seductive. Sport rarely grants perfect endings. Most legends fade slowly, painfully, inevitably. Their final tournaments become reminders of time's cruelty. But Messi's post-2022 journey has unfolded differently. Rather than declining sharply, he has drifted into something mythological – half-footballer, half-symbol.

India A tri-series starring Sooryavanshi to get full-scale televised coverage

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi IPL RR Vaibhav Suryavanshi of Rajasthan Royals celebrates his century (100 runs) during Match 36 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad at Sai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, India, on April 25, 2026. (CREIMAS) Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's inclusion was the headline development when the India A squad for a tri-series in Sri Lanka was announced and now, the rubber will be televised live, a rarity for series that doesn't involve senior international teams. Sony Sports Network has announced that the series, which starts on June 9, will be telecast on its channels and streamed live on Sony LIV. "India A, Sri Lanka A and Afghanistan A are all set to battle it out in the #TalentTV Cup ODI Tri-Series. Watch all the action LIVE from 9th June, 10 AM onwards, on Sony Sports Network TV channels & Sony LIV," said Sony Sports Network on its social media handles. The tri-series will feature hosts Sri Lanka A, India A and Afghanistan A. Following the limited-overs tri-series, India A will also play two multi-day matches against Sri Lanka A, with the squad for the red-ball fixtures to be announced at a later date.

Sooryavanshi's selection in the series comes ahead of what could be a historic inclusion in the senior squad for their T20I tour of Ireland. The Indian Express had learnt earlier that the 15-year-old is in contention to be part of the team that is scheduled to play two T20Is in the country. Sooryavanshi followed up a remarkable debut in the 2025 IPL by winning the Orange cap in the recently concluded 2026 edition of the tournament. He scored 776 runs in 16 innings at a scarcely believable strike rate of 237.30 and average of 48.50 with one century and five half-centuries. Sooryavanshi missed out on centuries by a whisker.



ker in both of Rajasthan Royals' playoff matches. Over the course of the innings against SRH in the Eliminator, Sooryavanshi broke Chris Gayle's record for most sixes in a single season of the IPL. The West Indies great had set it just a year after Sooryavanshi was born. He eventually fell on 97 off 29 balls at a ridiculous strike rate of 334.48.

In RR's next match against Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2, Sooryavanshi was more measured in his approach with his side losing wickets at the other end, thus showing a different facet to his game. Even then, he eventually accelerated and was dismissed on 96 off 47 balls. India A will be led by Tilak Varma in Sri Lanka. Riyan Parag was initially slated to be vice-captain but he was ruled out with an injury that he had sustained over the course of the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) in which he captained the Rajasthan Royals. While Parag was initially replaced by Ruturaj Gaikwad, the latter is also set to be replaced by Rajat Patidar after he was called up to the senior Indian squad to replace the injured Virat Kohli.

Praggnanandhaa in three-way battle for Norway Chess title heading into final round

GNS News Agency, June 10

Oslo: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has put himself firmly in contention for the Norway Chess title after a commanding classical victory over compatriot D Gukesh moved him to within half a point of leader Wesley So of the USA, setting up an intriguing final round battle here. Praggnanandhaa piled more misery on Gukesh, defeating the world champion in a classical game to earn three full points and put himself in the hunt to become the first Indian chess player to win the prestigious tournament.

He moved into the sole second place on 15 points, just behind American GM Wesley So (15.5) after Round 9, with one round remaining on Friday. The tournament could hardly have asked for a more dramatic finale, with France's Alireza Firouzja also in title contention on 14.5 points in third place, leaving three players with a realistic shot at the title heading into the final round. Significantly, whoever emerges victorious on Friday will be crowned Norway Chess champion for the first time. Playing black, Praggnanandhaa came armed with the ambitious Nimzo-Indian Samisch Variation and sprang a surprise on Gukesh. The game followed an even course through the opening before Praggnanandhaa introduced a fresh idea on move 14. Gukesh's response turned out to be a decisive mis-step, allowing Praggnanandhaa to win a rook and wrest complete control of the position. Yet the game was far from being straightforward. Gukesh dug in and fought tenaciously, creating practical chances and even briefly reviving hopes of a comeback. Having let a winning position against the world champion slip away in their earlier meeting amid a time scramble, Praggnanandhaa was determined not to repeat the mistake. This time, he kept a firm grip on the game, neutralised every counter-chance and converted his advantage with precision to claim a crucial victory. Praggnanandhaa will face Germany's Vincent

Keymer in the decisive final round, while leader Wesley So takes on Alireza in a clash that could determine the destination of the title. With So on 15.5 points, Praggnanandhaa on 15 and Firouzja on 14.5, all three remain in contention and are likely to push for victory rather than settle for safety. American So holds the advantage, as a classical win would guarantee him the championship, but any slip-up could reopen the race, with Praggnanandhaa and Firouzja poised to capitalise if results fall their way. So defeated Magnus Carlsen in the Armageddon tie-break after holding his nerve in a tense finish, a result that ultimately proved decisive in the standings. Had So lost the Armageddon, he would have been tied with Praggnanandhaa on 15 points, keeping the title race even tighter going into the final stretch. Carlsen pressed hard throughout the game, but So defended resiliently to secure a crucial win. Reigning world blitz champion Bibisara Assaubayeva clinched the Norway Chess women's title with a round to spare, even after an Armageddon tie-break loss to Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk added just a single point to her tally. The Kazakh star's consistency carried her to 16.5 points, enough to secure the title despite the Armageddon setback, as she entered Round 9 with a commanding five-point lead. She needs just half a point to seal the championship. Zhu Jiner delivered the only decisive classical result in the women's section, defeating Divya Deshmukh with the black pieces after maintaining steady pressure through a tense middlegame, eventually converting in time trouble to secure three crucial points and climb into second place. The encounter between Koneru Humpy and reigning women's world champion Ju Wenjun ended in a classical draw, before the Chinese struck in Armageddon to claim the additional points. Open: Vincent Keymer (Ger, 11) lost to Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 14.5); Wesley So (USA, 15.5) bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 10); D. Gukesh (Ind, 8) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 15). Women: Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 10), lost to Zhu Jiner (Chn, 13).

Bebeto, Romario were not friends, then the cradle celebration happened



GNS News Agency, June 10

Two afternoons before the quarterfinals against the Netherlands, Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Pereira told his men to unwind. Some of them hit the swimming pool, some went to explore Dallas. But striker Bebeto did not leave his room, and pranced restlessly in the corridor, waiting for the hotel phone to ring.

Hours passed, and he went down to the teleoperator and sat with him. His wife Denise was heavily pregnant when he left for the tournament. Soon after he left, she was robbed of her car and Rolex at gunpoint. In the morning his father told him that she was going to the labour. "We were expecting our third child, and I was there with her for the other two," he later told FIFA. Around sunset, the phone finally buzzed. It was his mother, who broke the news that a son, Matheus, was born. Hours later, broadcast giants Globo arranged a video call with Bebeto, his wife and newborn, through an expensive video-phone device. "I broke down in tears and kept crying for minutes. I couldn't talk, I was so emotional because I was not there with them," he would say.

The media called the father baby-faced assassin, for his fresh-faced looks. He played in a front-two with the hubristic Romario, the lead act who scored with a sniper's precision but fitfully volatile. Bebeto's role was to facilitate Romario's fearsome strikes, to create space by dragging the defenders with his clever runs and finessed passes. The management was initially worried because of they were not the best friends, an animosity that flared in the leagues of Brazil and Spain, and they were of contrasting personalities (Bebeto is a family type, stay at home. I'm a street cat, Romario once said), but on the turf, they telegraphed each other's designs with a clairvoyant's intuition. Romario was all the rage in the 1994 World Cup, but the afternoon in Dallas was Bebeto's. First, he sprinted nearly 30 yards to pick a cross from his half, conjured a perfectly weighted pass onto Romario marauding into the box, which he smacked on one bounce to the nets. Minutes later came a glorious goal and an iconic moment in the World Cup. Bebeto's cradle celebration, the ode to his son.

Sri Lanka's Pathirage breaks record for 2nd longest javelin throw by an Asian

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage became the first javelin thrower to cross the 90m mark in the 2026 season. The 23-year-old threw 92.62m at the Rome Diamond League on Thursday night to make the new meet record, new national record for Sri Lanka, and take the World lead. Overall, it sits eighth in the all-time list for longest throws in men's javelin, with Pathirage overtaking current India national coach Sergey Makarov.

One of the most consistent throwers this season, Rumesh broke the national record earlier in March and took the world lead with 89.37m throw. He crossed 89m again at the Kip Kenio Classic in April throwing 89.28m. Competing in an elite field with current world champion Keshorn Walcott, former world champion Anderson Peters, former Olympic champion Thomas Rohrer, former Olympic silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch, Rumesh took the lead with his first throw of 84.49m and recorded 92.67m in his second throw. The rest were foul throws.

A medium pacer turned thrower, Rumesh trains under his coach Tony Prasanna. "It was coach Tony who introduced me to javelin. He always tells me that if I master the basics and do them the right way, I will eventually reap the rewards. He is more than a coach. He doesn't just teach me the sport but about life as well," Rumesh had incredible consistency. With Rumesh's rise, the Asian Games 2026 will feature an elite field with the likes of Double Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra and reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem featuring in the event. Consistency has been trademark of Rumesh throughout his career. Unlike the talented but erratic former Sri Lankan thrower Sumedha Ranasinghe, the first of his country to cross 85m and then

A stray header from Branco bubbled towards Romario halfway in the Dutch box. They vociferously claimed an offside, Romario certainly was. But he didn't touch the ball, and the Dutch left it unattended. Bebeto sprang onto it, controlled the ball with his right thigh, slid away from a Dutch defender's stretched leg from behind, ran three measured strides, rounded off the goalkeeper Ed De Goey and slammed the ball into the empty nets. He recollected the sequence: "Romario was offside. I looked at their last man and thought, 'I'm not offside.' I was off with everything I had. At that moment, I pleaded with God to allow me to score a goal against Holland in homage to my son," he said. Beaming, he galloped to the touchline, contorting his arms like a cradle and rocking it, as though he were cradling an imaginary baby. He turned to his left, he saw Romario doing the same; he gazed to the right, midfielder Mazinho was doing the same. Mazinho had two sons — Thiago and Rafinha. Thiago (Alcantara), a silken midfielder, chose the nationality of his mother and won trophies for Spain; he was Pep Guardiola's midfield conduit in Bayern Munich. Rafinha, barely one then, played for Barcelona and Brazil. Romario had a nine-month-old son too — Romarinho, who also became a footballer, turning out for Fluminense among others.

Romario, burying all the differences with Bebeto, hugged him and whispered, or so the myth goes, "I love you." "It was so beautiful. It was a simple gesture. But I didn't know it would become this famous," Bebeto told FIFA. So famous that it is often the first entry into any list of goal celebrations, recreated faithfully by every footballer who became a dad thereafter. The move was unrehearsed, he would say. He put it poetically: "When I made that celebration maybe it was like Matheus was baptised by God." He has reprised a hundred times to excited strangers in different corners of the world. "It doesn't matter where I go in the world, everyone wants to talk to me about that celebration. I still get emotional talking about it. It means so much to me, my family." But he gets emotional each time someone whips up the moment. He calls it the Matheus goal. And his favourite goal. "I scored a lot of goals in my career — wonder goals, goals that won titles — but everyone only remembers the Matheus goal. And that's one I remember the most too," he said. And what of Matheus. He grew up watching others celebrate his father's goal, and became a footballer himself, an attacking midfielder good enough to turn up for Portuguese club Sporting CP, now playing for the Tampa Bay Rowdies in Florida. "Football was all he was ever interested in. I think his first ever word was probably 'football'," Bebeto told Globo. But the son never became the player his father was, or replicated his father's famous celebration himself, even though he is a father himself. "For some reason, I have never felt like doing it," he told Fox Sports. As an afterthought he added: "Maybe, before I retire, I would one day! Then, the most fabled celebration of all time would complete a full circle.



slipped, Rumesh has consistently crossed 82m-mark (13 times in the 2025 season). "I had a successful season last year and finished seventh in my very first World Championships. Because of that, I am trying to push myself to achieve even more this season," Rumesh had said. Indian Javelin thrower Sachin Yadav finished eighth on his Diamond League debut with a poor throw of 79.18m. Competing in a bid to breach the Commonwealth Games qualification mark of 82.61m set by Athletics Federation of India, Sachin failed to cross the 80m mark. After Federation Cup in Ranchi earlier this month, this is second consecutive tournament where Sachin hasn't crossed the 80m mark. He started with a foul throw and recorded 79.18m throw in his second throw. However, he failed to better that effort in his subsequent throws with marks of 77.02m, 76.62m, 75.54m. Former World champion Anderson Peters finished second with 83.91m while USA's Curtis Thompson finished third with 82.44m.

After SC dismisses its plea, WFI acknowledges Vinesh's reply to show cause notice



The Wrestling Federation of India on Thursday said that it had received the reply of Vinesh Phogat's show cause notice which was issued on May 9. The national federation issued a statement after the Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea by WFI against a Delhi High Court order, allowing the World Championships medalist Vinesh to participate in selection trials, terming it as "infructuous" in view of subsequent developments.

"WFI has received the Respondent's (Vinesh's) reply to the Show Cause Notice, which shall be adjudicated in accordance with WFI's rules and procedures," WFI president Sanjay Kumar Singh said in the statement as per PTI. "WFI further notes that the conduct of certain wrestlers at the Selection Trials is under consideration and a decision in that regard is yet to be taken," he added. Last Saturday, Phogat's comeback to the wrestling mat ended in heartbreak as Asian Championships silver medalist Meenakshi Goyat defeated her in the semi-final of the Asian Games trials on Saturday at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. Vinesh, who returned to the mat after two years, won

two bouts but failed to make it past Meenakshi. Playing in the 53 kg category, Vinesh started with a 7-1 win over Jyoti but suffered a scare against Nishu in the next round. After she defeated Nishu in a highly charged bout which saw multiple stoppages and a scuffle at the end, Vinesh faced Meenakshi in the semis. Meenakshi played an aggressive game against Vinesh and attacked from the start and despite a late surge from Vinesh in the second half, won 6-4. Earlier this month, the WFI had declared Vinesh ineligible to participate in domestic events till June 26, citing the mandatory six-month notice period linked to athletes returning from retirement under anti-doping rules.

Virat Kohli ruled out of Afghanistan ODIs

New Delhi/Mullanpur: Indian batting superstar Virat Kohli was on Thursday ruled out of the upcoming ODI series against Afghanistan due to a hamstring injury that he sustained during the recently-concluded IPL.

Ruturaj Gaikwad, who was supposed to play for India A in the tri-series in Sri Lanka is likely to be summoned for the rubber in place of Kohli based on his performance during last appearance in ODIs for India. The three-match series begins on June 13 in Dharamshala. Kohli suffered the injury during the IPL final that his side Royal Challengers Bengaluru won on Sunday. "He is out of the ODI series due to a hamstring injury. He got injured during the final. Scans have revealed distal semimembranosus tendon tear," a BCCI source told PTI.

Smiles come laced with impatience as show leaves middling impact



When Gullak 5 opens, everything feels the same. Well, almost. In that gap nestles both the charm and challenge of this latest edition of the much-loved long-running TVF series, which has jostled, mostly successfully, with how to add a fresh lick of paint to a familiar edifice without changing too much. The House of Mishras, the goings-on in which have been our constant companions since 2019, is undergoing a literal paint-job. Papering over the cracks is not as easy as it appears to be, however: it's not only Padosan No 1 Bittu Ki Mummy (Sunita Rajwar) who tosses out snarky remarks at the quality of the painting, it feels like every visitor, including an unctuous Mamaji, has the right to take a jibe at it.

But the biggest change in this fifth season, a number the team has been excitedly telling us is the first time for an Indian show, is the replacement of Vaibhav Raj Gupta with Anant Vijay Joshi as Annu Bhaiya, the elder of the two Mishra sons. While the switch isn't a deal-breaker, I missed

Vaibhav. By the end of the seven episodes, Annu is still beaver away at his middling medical representative job, with a possible romance (Helly Shah) tacked on. Aman aka Mishra Jr's (Harsh Mayar) preoccupation with jyotish vidya and setting himself up as an online astrologer comes off dull. So do the endeavours of Bittu Ki Mummy setting up a Mahila Mandal to teach the mohalla ladies the joys of being addressed by their own names: this business of trying to retro-fit feminism in traditionalism is just tired.

The only good thing, apart from introducing an element of needless slapstick in a series which has coasted quite well on imparting gentle if pointed life lessons up until now, is that it gives Annu Ki Mummy aka Shanti (Geetanjali Kulkarni), a chance to frame what it means to be a wife and mother for herself. She's quite happy to be known as Annu Ki Mummy, thank you very much, even if it means rustling up chole-puri for a special family dinner, while Santosh (Jameel Khan) and the boys wait for the meal to be served. So while we smile when Shanti and Santosh spread their 'bichhona' on their 'chhat', a rare moment of marital closeness in a home in which the unending demands of growing children and domesticity reigns—labelling it cozy doesn't take away its daily drudgery—we do realise that there is only so much you can juice out of a middle-class home with their 'small joys and sorrows'. Will the sutradhar, our trusty mitti-ka-gullak, be relegated to a corner in a house where the WiFi router now finds pride of place? Our smiles, broadest when the terrific duo of Kulkarni and Khan hold centre-stage, now come laced with impatience.

Esha Deol calls Bobby 'finest actor today' after watching Bandar: 'You are in the best form'



Bobby Deol has found an admirer in sister Esha Deol after the release of his film Bandar. The actor attended a special screening of the film in Mumbai on Thursday and later took to social media to celebrate Bobby's latest performance, calling him "the finest actor today" and encouraging audiences to watch the film in theatres. Sharing a photo featuring Bobby and his wife Tanya Deol, Esha penned a note praising her brother's work in the Anurag Kashyap directorial. "You are in the best form ever! Undoubtedly the finest actor today. Enduring and vulnerable! Way to go, bhaiya." She concluded her message with a simple recommendation for moviegoers: "Go watch Bandar!"

Directed by Anurag Kashyap and backed by Nikhil Dwivedi's Saffron Magicworks, Bandar is inspired by real-life events and features Bobby Deol in the lead role. The film also stars Sanya Malhotra, Saba Azad, Sapna Pabbi, Indrajith Sukumaran, Raj B Shetty and Jitendra Joshi. The

crime thriller centres on an ageing television star whose life spirals after he is accused of sexual assault by a former girlfriend. Bandar marks the first collaboration between Bobby Deol and Anurag Kashyap. The film had its world premiere in the Special Presentations section at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2025 before releasing in theatres on June 5. Earlier, in a conversation with SCREEN, Bobby spoke about how Bandar pushed him out of his comfort zone and allowed him to explore a completely different kind of character. "That was a very different kind of character than what I've played in films and shows. Usually, you end up playing very larger-than-life characters. You become so conditioned playing those that it becomes more difficult to change the whole process of how you perform. But Anurag really helped me with that. He brought out the best in me." The actor has also described the film as a rare opportunity that allowed him to showcase his abilities as a performer. "We all dream of playing characters that bring out the best in us, but such opportunities are not easy to come by. The biggest struggle in this industry is to be recognised for one's true capabilities. I feel really lucky to have got this opportunity," Bobby told PTI.

What's next for Bobby Deol?

After Bandar, Bobby will be seen in Alpha, the upcoming instalment in Yash Raj Films' Spy Universe. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the action entertainer also stars Alia Bhatt, Sharviri and Anil Kapoor. The film joins a franchise that includes Ek Tha Tiger, Tiger Zinda Hai, War, Pathaan, Tiger 3 and War 2. Sharing his thoughts on the project, Bobby told Hindustan Times, "It is quite amazing that we are making an action film in India, like Alpha, featuring two girls doing action on screen. I like Alpha a lot because it is new, it is refreshing, and a new visual for the audience to watch in theatres."

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai movie review: David Dhawan's 90s-style comedy is plain cringe



Amongst the current line-up of male stars, there's hardly anyone who can play a feckless youth, recklessly planting his seed here and there, as energetically as Varun Dhawan. Jas is a wedding photographer, wooing two lovely ladies, played by Baani (Mrunal Thakur) and Preet (Pooja Hegde), respectively.

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai review Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai movie review: Just like the plot, the laughs in the Varun Dhawan film are wafer-thin. Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai movie review: One man, two women, and two babies. Ooh, that sounds like an interesting premise, right? And with that seasoned master-of-fast-paced-comedies David Dhawan back in the saddle, this could well be the frothy summer comedy we've all been thirsting for, right? Amongst the current line-up of male stars, there's hardly anyone who can play a feckless youth, recklessly planting his seed here and there, as energetically as Varun Dhawan. Jas is a wedding photographer, wooing two lovely ladies, played by Baani (Mrunal Thakur) and Preet (Pooja Hegde), respectively.

With BFF Maniesh Paul in tow, Jas is kept busy shuttling between India and the UK, beaches and castles, lawns and hospitals, as both women celebrate their bumps, and the prospective-daddy-o jumps through hoops to keep them separate, and unaware of each other.

Other characters keep popping up to deliver their lines and disappear: as befits the supporting cast in a Dhawan film, their job is to not ask why. Jimmy Sheirgill, as Preet's strict brother, gushing over a dancer (Mouni Roy) who is

pulled out of nowhere, keeps a straight face while delivering the most inane lines. Bit parts are divided between old partner-in-crime Chunky Panday, the newly-resurgent Rakesh Bedi, and the omnipresent Johnny Lever, and others, and it's all same-old. Keeping in mind Dhawan Sr's trajectory, we don't really mind that the plot is wafer-thin. Who cares about a meaty storyline when all you need is for your cast to be careering around streets in lime-green cars, when not donning scanty beach-wear, and playing musical beds? What emerges, all too soon, is a slew of distinctly creaky, dated situations, which worked well enough in the 90s, and which should have been buried deep soon after. What worked for a flagrantly politically incorrect time when the team of David Dhawan-Govinda-Kader Khan-Shakti Kapoor skilfully skated through the thin ice of vulgarity and hilarity comes off as plain cringe now: what do you say of a 'hero' who turns his twice-impending fatherhood into a 'Who's Your Daddy' joke, giving himself a clean pass, while setting himself up for a third go round? Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai movie cast: Varun Dhawan, Mrunal Thakur, Pooja Hegde, Maniesh Paul, Jimmy Sheirgill, Mouni Roy, Chunky Panday, Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai movie rating: One and a half star

Zarin Shihab explains why Mohanlal's tragic role in Patriot wasn't a 'betrayal'



Despite arriving amid significant hype as one of the most anticipated Indian films of 2026, marking the on-screen reunion of Mammootty and Mohanlal in key roles after 17 years since Twenty:20 (2008), director Mahesh Narayanan's Patriot underperformed at the box office. While many praised the movie for its bold exploration of a serious topic — data privacy and the repercussions of its breach — far too many were disappointed by the lack of commercial elements they had hoped for in a Mammootty-Mohanlal film. Although the makers had emphasised from the beginning of the espionage thriller's promotions that it wasn't a star vehicle, these efforts proved futile, and audiences let go of Patriot sooner than expected. The mixed reviews the movie received from the remaining viewers who approached it solely as an espionage thriller also contributed to its unfortunate downfall. While admitting that one can't control much of what happens after a film releases and the kind of reactions it earns, noted Malayalam actor Zarin Shihab points out that several good aspects of Patriot, however, got buried beneath such criticisms. "Apart from it marking the reunion of Mammootty and Mohanlal, there's so much

more to Patriot," Zarin, who played a key role in the espionage thriller, tells SCREEN. The actor notes that quite a few impressive elements in it went overlooked unfairly amid all the clamour. "First of all, it's a Mahesh Narayanan film, and that in itself is a pretty big deal. It's because all these actors really wanted to work with him that they signed on to be a part of this movie. They were fully aware of what happens to their characters," she adds.

Did Mahesh Narayanan 'betray' Mohanlal?

One of the major criticisms Patriot received was over Mohanlal's character, Colonel Rahim Naik, appearing only for a limited amount of screen time and then being killed off soon after. Several die-hard fans of the superstar took offence to this portrayal, even going so far as to claim that Mahesh Narayanan "betrayed" Mohanlal. Zarin Shihab, however, attests that Mohanlal knew the movie inside out and still chose to be part of it because he wanted to, as he approached Patriot not as a superstar but as the powerhouse performer he is. "If you're saying that it's unfair what happened to his character... he knew what he was signing up for. Do these people not trust the capability of their star to take those decisions for themselves? They (Mammootty and Mohanlal) got into this as actors and performers." Heaping praise on Patriot, Zarin notes, "I feel it's a genuinely pathbreaking film. It featured a few action set pieces which I really liked. Besides, I also liked the conversation Lalettan (Mohanlal) and Mammukka (Mammootty) had about death and morality in the car. It's such a philosophical moment which really stood out from the rest of the movie. I personally loved that scene." "If you're talking about a film, discuss all the good things as well. Give constructive feedback. I would appreciate constructive feedback over wholesale trashing of a movie. However, you can't really control how these things transpire," she adds. Zarin Shihab played a key role in the espionage thriller Patriot. Zarin Shihab in director Mahesh Narayanan's Patriot.

'False accusations make it harder for victims': Ashoke Pandit on Shilpa Shinde row

Actor Shilpa Shinde's recent admission that she had falsely accused Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain! producer Sanjay Kohli of sexual harassment has triggered widespread debate, drawing criticism from both social media users and members of the entertainment industry. Among those who have reacted strongly is filmmaker and FWICE (Federation of Western India Cine Employees) chief advisor Ashoke Pandit, who has condemned the revelation, calling false allegations deeply damaging not only to the accused but also to genuine victims. "If what Shilpa Shinde said in the podcast is true, it deserves strong condemnation. Sexual harassment is a very serious allegation, and using it as a weapon to settle personal or professional disputes is deeply wrong.

The fact that a producer may have stayed silent to keep a show running and protect the livelihoods of an entire crew does not give a free pass to a false accuser. False allegations can destroy a person's reputation, career, and mental well-being. What is even more worrying is that such actions make it harder for genuine victims to be believed. Every false accusation weakens trust in those who come forward with real experiences. If someone chose to damage another person's life and reputation for personal gain, it is not only shameful but completely unacceptable."

Why is Shilpa Shinde facing backlash?

The controversy erupted after Shinde revealed during a recent podcast appearance that the sexual harassment complaint she had filed against producer Sanjay Kohli amid a dispute over unpaid dues was false. The admission quickly went viral, prompting strong reactions online. Actor Hina Khan was among those who criticised the revelation, writing on social media, "The joke is on us." As the backlash intensified, Shinde defended herself, claiming that many people had misunderstood her remarks and were reacting without knowing the complete circumstances. Shilpa Shinde responds to criticism in a video shared on Instagram, Shinde alleged that a negative PR campaign was being run against her and accused critics of targeting her despite her decision to be honest about the past. "The PR that is going on, and after that, the kind of comments that are coming in... 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.

Shinde also reiterated that nobody had forced her to make the allegation years ago and that the decision was her own. "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. Explaining her state of mind at the time, the actor claimed she felt trapped by the circumstances surrounding the dispute.

"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. Speaking separately to IANS,

Nushrratt Bharuccha shares emotional toll of viral IPL video: 'It's a violating feeling'

Actor Nushrratt Bharuccha has opened up about the online trolling she faced after a video from her Instagram Story, posted during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL title celebrations, was shared online with misleading claims about sounds heard in the background. While the actor had already clarified the issue through a series of Instagram Stories on Thursday, she has now spoken about the emotional toll of the controversy and the wave of online harassment that followed. "It was such an ordinary, happy moment"

In a conversation with Hindustan Times, Bharuccha admitted she was shocked by how quickly misinformation took over the conversation. "Honestly, my reaction was disbelief. It was such an ordinary, happy moment. I was watching the match at a friend's place, and there was a puppy crying in the background. I felt attacked to see that it turned into something ugly, and how fast it travelled. There's a strange helplessness in seeing a lie move quicker than you can even process what's happening. Before I could make sense of it, it had taken on a life of its own." The episode, she revealed, affected her more deeply than she had anticipated. The actor said she chose to step away from social media for a few days to protect her peace of mind amid the growing scrutiny. "I won't pretend it didn't get to me. It's a violating feeling to have your name attached to some-

thing you never said or did, and to read strangers dissecting you so cruelly. For a few days, I stepped away from my phone because constantly refreshing it was only feeding the anxiety."

During the difficult period, Bharuccha leaned heavily on her close friends and family, who helped her navigate the emotional impact of the online harassment.

"What helped was reminding myself that the truth was simple and on my side, and leaning on the people who actually know me. I also learnt that replying to every comment only gives it oxygen. Staying quiet, and then making one clear statement, felt far healthier than fighting a thousand little battles." Speaking about the support she received, the actor added, "They were worried, more than I was, at one point. My family's first instinct was to protect me, to tell me to log off and not read any of it. And my friends, including the ones whose home and whose puppy this whole thing began with, were wonderful. They were genuinely upset that something so innocent had been twisted, and they kept reminding me that everyone who matters knew exactly what had happened. That circle is what keeps you steady when the outside noise gets loud." The incident has also prompted Bharuccha to think more carefully about the realities of being a public figure in the digital age.