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Telangana to roll out breakfast and mid-day meal schemes on June 15

Hyderabad: The School and Intermediate Education departments are set to roll out breakfast and milk/ragi schemes in 1,302 government schools and junior colleges, covering 1,44,610 students, on Monday. The mid-day meals scheme will also be launched in government junior colleges.

To begin with, the breakfast and milk/ragi scheme will be introduced in 1,269 government and local body schools across districts including Hyderabad.

Six arrested for alleged Shaadi Mubarak scheme fraud in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Attapur police on Saturday arrested six persons, including a special revenue inspector working at the Bandlaguda Tahsildar office, for allegedly claiming benefits under the 'Shaadi Mubarak' scheme by submitting fake documents to the government.

The arrested persons are Dharavath Ashok Kiran (32), special revenue inspector, Bandlaguda Tahsil, Mohammed Jaffar (26), Mohammed Sarfaraz (26), Syed Musharaf Uddin (23), Mohd Akbar (20) and Mohd Etemaad (25).

Telangana Road Network To Get Rs 14,500cr Boost

Hyderabad, June 13

Telangana is poised for a major transformation in road infrastructure with the launch of a Rs 14,500-crore road development programme under the hybrid annuity model (HAM). Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy set to lay the foundation stone for the ambitious initiative at Kanagal in Nalgonda district on June 17. The project, divided into 34 packages, aims to upgrade nearly 6,300 km of roads under phase-1.

Under HAM, the government pays 40 per cent of the project cost during construction in installments. The private developer invests the remaining 60 per cent. The developer maintains the road for 15 years, and the government repays the 60 per cent as annuities (payments) plus interest.

The roads and buildings department plans to develop over 12,000 km of roads. Phase-1 includes widening of stretches that see large volumes of traffic into four lanes such as the Bhongir-Chityal and Hayathnagar routes.

R&B minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday said that the Chief Minister would inaugurate the works, an unprecedented road development initiative in the state's history. He said the Chief Minister would arrive at Kanagal on the afternoon of June 17 and launch the first package of HAM roads beginning with the Dharveshipuram-Dindi double-lane road in Kanagal mandal. Simultaneously, foundation stones would be laid for all HAM road projects across Telangana.

The minister said that the government would undertake another Rs 7,000-crore road development

programme through the panchayat raj department to construct double roads connecting villages to mandal headquarters and mandals to district centres. The Chief Minister will launch these projects next week in a programme coordinated by the panchayat raj and rural development department.

Venkat Reddy said the government was targeting completion of all HAM roads within two years. He noted that quality road infrastructure was essential for attracting industries, promoting welfare and reducing road accidents. He said the state had held discussions with the Centre over the past year and secured loans through the Reserve Bank mechanism to finance the massive road-building exercise.

Venkat Reddy also stated that a greenfield (new) highway between Hyderabad and Vijayawada had been sanctioned and that a detailed project report for a proposed bullet train corridor alongside the highway was under preparation.

Around one lakh people are expected to attend the



Chief Minister's public meeting at Kanagal. The minister

directed officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements, including smooth traffic management, drinking water facilities, tents, transportation, parking, lighting, live telecast and other amenities so that the event is conducted successfully without inconvenience to the public. He also instructed officials to expedite construction of the commemorative pylon and appealed to officials, public representatives and citizens to cooperate in making the programme a grand success.



5 IAF Personnel Killed in AN-32 Crash in Assam

NEW DELHI: JUNE 13

Five personnel of the Indian Air Force were killed when a Russian-origin AN-32 transport aircraft crashed in Assam's Jorhat on Saturday. The aircraft met with an accident during a routine sortie at around 10 am, the IAF said.

"The Indian Air Force (IAF) deeply regrets the loss of five personnel in the An-32 accident at Jorhat," the force said in a statement.

The deceased personnel are Squadron Leader Prashant Singh, Flight Lieutenant Shubham Kumar, Sergeant Jitendra Sharma, Agniveer Vayu Khemaram Kumawat and Agniveer Vayu Danish Alam.

The IAF extended its deepest condolences to the bereaved families and said it "stands firmly with them in this hour of grief."

The aircraft involved was an AN-31 cargo plane used for transporting supplies. Senior IAF officials have rushed to the area, the spokesperson said.

Further details are awaited, he added. Rescue and investigation efforts continue at the site as informed by IAF sources.

Elderly woman dies, two injured as tree falls on house in Meerpet

Hyderabad, June 13

: An elderly woman died while two others suffered injuries when a tree fell on their house due to heavy rains at Meerpet on Saturday night.

The woman, Lakshmi, (75), lived along with her son Venkatesh (30) and Lalitha (28), at Raghavendra colony, Meerpet. They are natives of Nagarkurnool district.

On Saturday, the family was asleep in their house when a huge tree fell on the asbestos-roofed house. All the three suffered injuries due to it and Lakshmi died on the spot.

Two others, Venkatesh and Lalitha, suffered injuries and were shifted to hospital.

The police registered a case and are investigating.



New Delhi, June 12

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday reviewed preparations for the functioning of the high-level committee set up to study demographic changes across the country, with a particular focus on sensitive border areas.

Chairing a meeting of Ministry of Home Affairs officials, Shah directed that all logistical and administrative support be extended to ensure the smooth functioning of the panel headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar.

The committee, whose formation was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day last year, was formally constituted on May 26, 2026.

According to officials, it has been tasked with examining demographic changes in various parts of the country, especially border regions, and assessing their implications.

Besides border districts, the panel will also study demographic trends in metropolitan centres and industrial towns to gain a broader understanding of population

shifts and migration patterns.

Officials said that the committee has already held its first meeting and finalised its agenda. The Ministry of Home Affairs will provide logistical and other necessary support to facilitate its work.

The constitution of the panel comes amid growing concerns over demographic changes in strategically important regions and is aimed at providing a comprehensive assessment to aid policy formulation.

White House: Trump-Modi bilateral to focus on global security

Washington, June 13

US President Donald Trump will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other world leaders during next week's G7 Summit in France, with discussions expected to focus on economic growth, supply chains, Artificial Intelligence (AI), investment partnerships and a range of global security challenges, the White House said Saturday.

"President Trump will meet with G7 leaders to address key issues of shared importance, including economic growth and development, supply chain resilience, illegal immigration, and Artificial Intelligence," a senior administration official said ahead of the presidential visit to France next week.

On Wednesday, June 17, Trump is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi

before joining a working lunch attended by G7 leaders, outreach partners and technology executives, the senior administration official said.

This would be the first bilateral meeting between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi after last year's successful 'Operation Sindoor' against Pakistan.

The senior administration official did not provide any other details about the nature of the meeting between the two leaders.

Trump is scheduled to depart Washington on Monday and arrive in France later that day for the summit. His programme includes bilateral meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron, the Emir of Qatar, the President of the United Arab Emirates, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and PM



Modi.

According to the White House, Trump intends to push an economic agenda centred on investment and development partnerships.

"The President will reframe the conversation around development to focus on investment partnerships that are mutually beneficial for both investor and recipient nation," a senior administration official said.

According to the official, the administration plans to focus on critical minerals and supply chain security, issues that have gained prominence amid growing geopolitical competition and concerns over dependence on a limited number of suppliers.

Trump will work with G7 partners "to boost critical mineral supply chain resilience, driving economic security, and

strengthen responses to illegal immigration and drug smuggling," the official said. Artificial intelligence is expected to be one of the summit's key themes.

The summit schedule includes several working sessions involving G7 leaders, invited outreach partners and business leaders. Trump is expected to participate in discussions with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, meetings involving Middle Eastern leaders and a working lunch with global technology chief executives focused on innovation and AI.

The White House said the summit would provide an opportunity to advance US economic and strategic priorities while strengthening cooperation with allies and partners.

Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth Appointed Next Army Chief

New Delhi, June 12

The Centre has appointed Dhiraj Seth as the next Chief of the Army Staff. He will assume office on June 30 afternoon, when the incumbent Upendra Dwivedi retires from service.

Currently serving as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lt Gen Seth will be the first Armoured Corps officer to head the Army since 1997. He has earlier commanded both the South Western and Southern Commands.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986. Over a career spanning nearly four decades, he has held operational, strategic and staff assignments



across multiple domains. His command roles include leading an armoured regiment in the desert sector, an armoured brigade in the western theatre and a counter-insurgency force in Jammu and Kashmir. As a Lieutenant General, he commanded the Sudarshan Chakra Corps and later served as General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area.

On elevation as Army Commander, he headed both South Western Command and Southern Command, overseeing key operational theatres for over two-and-a-half years. He has also held several staff and strategic appointments related to operational planning, force management and capability development. Lt Gen Seth has served in key positions in the Army Headquarters related to strategic planning and capability development, contributing to modernisation and long-term force structuring. He is a graduate of the Higher Command Course and the National Defence College, and has attended the Command and Staff Course in Paris.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Security and rights must coexist

TWO recent rulings of the Delhi High Court —quashing the Delhi Police and Enforcement Directorate proceedings against NewsClick and granting bail to Kashmiri human rights activist Khurram Parvez — underscore a fundamental constitutional principle: the exercise of State power must remain subject to due process and judicial scrutiny. NewsClick editor Prabir Purkayastha was accused of financial irregularities. By setting aside the cases against him and terming them a “gross abuse of the process of law”, the court underscored the need for investigative agencies to act within the bounds of legality. Investigative agencies undoubtedly have a duty to probe wrongdoing. However, criminal prosecution cannot rest on vague allegations or be used as a substitute for regulatory action. Equally important is the court’s recognition that arbitrary action against media institutions risks stifling independent journalism, a cornerstone of democratic accountability. The Khurram case involves a UAPA case linked to allegations of terror funding. It highlights another troubling reality: the phenomenon of incarceration without conclusion of trial. Stringent laws such as the UAPA impose formidable barriers to bail. But prolonged detention, stretching over years while trials inch forward, raises profound concerns about the right to personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. Bail is not an acquittal, nor does it negate the seriousness of the charges. It merely affirms that the criminal justice system cannot permit the process to become punishment.

These rulings do not weaken the State’s authority to investigate crime or safeguard national security. Rather, they reinforce the principle that such objectives must be pursued within the framework of the law.

Make Optimum Use of Anganwadi Services: Councillor Sriramoju Roja Rani, Teacher Nalla Bharathi



“Narsampet/Warangal, June 13 (Indian Chronicle): Stressing that Anganwadi centres play a pivotal role in the holistic development of children, ALMSC Committee Chairperson and local Councillor Sriramoju Roja Rani urged families to make the best use of the welfare and educational services provided by the government through Anganwadi centres. “As Anganwadi centres are set to reopen for pre-school children following the summer vacation, the “Anganwadi Badibata” (Back-to-School) programme was conducted on Saturday at an Anganwadi Centre under the Narsampet Project. An ALMSC Committee meeting was also held under the chairmanship of Councillor Roja Rani. “Addressing the gathering, Roja Rani called upon parents to pay special attention to improving attendance in pre-primary education and ensuring that children receive the benefits of early childhood learning. She assured that she would make every effort to facilitate the construction of a new Anganwadi building within the school premises. “She further stated that, in view of the State Government extending summer holidays due to severe weather conditions, take-home nutritional rations covering eight working days from June 5 to June 15 were being distributed directly to beneficiaries’ households. “Speaking on the occasion, Anganwadi Teacher Nalla Bharathi said that the Narsampet Anganwadi Centre has emerged as one of the largest beneficiary centres in the project area. She noted that, with the active co-operation of beneficiaries, efforts are underway to deliver services entirely through two digital applications and develop the centre into a model Anganwadi facility. She appealed for continued support from beneficiaries and urged public representatives to take proactive steps towards the construction of a permanent Anganwadi building within the school campus. “ASHA worker Rama highlighted the importance of administering Vitamin-A supplementation once every six months to children between 18 months and five years of age, stating that it plays a crucial role in protecting children’s health and supporting their overall growth and development. “The programme was attended by Councillor Roja Rani, Anganwadi Teacher Nalla Bharathi, M.D. Gausia, Aaya Sunitha, ALMSC Committee members, SLF President Radhika, ASHA workers Rama, Anita, Manasa, Ramiya, Abhinaya Sri, Sravani, Kavitha, Anusha, Lasya, Mounika, Divya, Swapna, Lakshmi, Shabana, Asifa, Reshma and Parveen, along with several mothers and children.

AIFF hosts FIFA youth coaches workshops in Bhubaneswar

Hyderabad: The All India Football Federation successfully hosted the FIFA Talent Development Scheme (TDS) Elite Youth Coaches’ Workshop and Elite Youth Goalkeeping Coaches’ Workshop at the AIFF-FIFA-Odisha Talent Academy in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The five-day programme brought together 46 coaches from across India working at the national youth and elite club levels. The workshops were conducted as two parallel courses. The workshops were delivered by FIFA Technical Expert Stewart Hall (England) and FIFA Goalkeeping Experts Ali Fouad (Qatar) and Fernando Brassard (Portugal), who travelled to India as part of FIFA’s ongoing efforts to support coach education and talent development across its member associations. AIFF Technical Director Syed Sabir Pasha was also present.

2.50 Crore Development Works Underway in Uppal Kurmanagar and Uppal Hills Former Corporator RAJITHA PARAMESWAR REDDY Fulfils Her Promise



UPPAL , JUNE 13 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Former Uppal Corporator Mrs. Rajitha Parameswar Reddy on Saturday inspected the ongoing development works worth

₹2.50 crore in Kurmanagar and Uppal Hills colonies under Uppal Division, along with local residents. “The works include the construction of a storm water drainage system at a cost of ₹79 lakh and CC roads costing ₹1.72 crore, which are progressing at a rapid pace. During her recent visit to the colonies, residents had requested better roads and drainage facilities, following which Rajitha Parameswar Reddy assured them that the works would be sanctioned. Keeping her promise, she secured the necessary funds and initiated the projects. “Speaking on the occasion after inspecting the works with colony residents, Rajitha urged officials to ensure timely completion without compromising on quality. “Under Revanth Anna’s people’s government, we are committed to fulfilling every promise made to the public. Our aim is to address the problems faced by the people of Uppal. These funds have been allocated to provide pot-hole-free roads and proper drainage facilities to prevent waterlogging during the rainy season. This is Indiramma Rajyam and this is true people’s governance,” she said. “Among those who participated in the programme were Durgam Naveen Yadav, Eega Anjaneyulu Mudiraj, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Govind Kumar Swamy, P. Ramachander, Govindu, T. Mallesh, M. Sudhakar Reddy, Akku Ravi, T. Srinivas Reddy, Penchalayya, Subba Reddy, Sandhya, Rajayya Goud, Raju, Narendar, Nampally Venkanna, C.H. Ramesh, P. Nares, Sai, Venkatesh, Sampath, Harish, Upendar, S. Ramaswamy, M. Ramulu, Shankar Goud and several others.

Living Beyond Death: A Noble Oath of Body Donation' for Social Good



..Lions Club Manthani President Medagoni Venkatesh and Bodakunti Jyothi Set a Inspiring Example” “Peddapalli District, Manthani. June 13 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): In a deeply inspiring act of humanity, two individuals have come forward to donate their bodies after death, ensuring they can save lives and contribute to medical research. Marking his birthday not just with celebrations but with a profound commitment to society, Medagoni Venkatesh Goud, President of the Lions Club of Manthani, signed the post-humous body donation documents under the auspices of the Sadasheya Foundation. Driven by the same spirit of social service, Bodakunti Jyothi also stepped forward to sign her body donation pledge, showcasing immense generosity. Their

decision to transform a personal milestone into a legacy of social welfare has drawn widespread praise from all quarters. “Speaking at the event, Veldi Anantharamulu, President of the Sadasheya Foundation, emphasized the pressing need to increase public awareness about organ and body donation. “Instead of letting this body turn to ashes or dust after death, donating it for medical research brings immense benefit to society and the future of healthcare,” Anantharamulu stated. Veldi Kavitha, the Peddapalli Women’s Wing President of the Sadasheya Foundation, commended the participation of women in such progressive social movements, calling Jyothi’s decision highly praiseworthy. “The awareness event saw the participation of several prominent dignitaries, including:” Sana Ramakrishna Reddy (President, Lions Club Kamanpur), “Pudari Datta Goud (Founder President, Lions Club Vision Care), “Buddarathi Satish Kumar (President, Lions Club Vision Care), “Medagoni Rajamouli Goud (President, Senior Citizens Welfare Association), “Nallavalli Shankar (Secretary, Lions club of Kamanpur) “The organizers and representatives warmly felicitated the donors, Medagoni Venkatesh and Bodakunti Jyothi, honoring them for their extraordinary and selfless contribution to humanity.

International Yoga Day Awareness Seminar and Demonstration Held at Government Homoeopathic Medical College, Ramanthapur

Organised by the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage” “UPPAL , JUNE 13 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): As part of the celebrations for the 12th International Yoga Day, the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, organised an awareness seminar and Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) demonstration at JSPS Government Homoeopathic Medical College, Ramanthapur, on Saturday. “A special team from NIIMH, attached to the Central Ayurveda Research Institute, Gaddiannaram, visited the college under the guidance of Dr. G.P. Prasad, In-Charge Assistant Director of the institute. The team comprised Dr. Biswa Ranjan Das, Research Officer (Homoeopathy); Dr. Ambili, Senior Research Fellow (Ayurveda); Srinivasa Rao, Librarian; Dr. Satyabrata Nanda, Research Assistant (Sanskrit); and other staff members. “Addressing the gathering, Dr. Biswa Ranjan Das explained the activities of NIIMH and highlighted the significance of International Yoga Day-2026. Principal of JSPS Government Homoeopathic Medical College, Dr. N. Lingaraju, appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of AYUSH, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), and CCRAS-NIIMH in promoting yoga. “Dr. Ambili, Senior Research Fellow (Ayurveda), delivered an awareness lecture on the benefits of yoga. Yoga therapist Dr. G. Geetha Rani conducted a live demonstration of the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) practices with faculty members, postgraduate students, interns and hospital staff. “On the occasion, medicinal plants including ajwain, betel leaf, patchouli, pippali, jalabrahmi, shatavari and insulin plant saplings were distributed to faculty members and staff. Informative pamphlets on Ayurvedic lifestyle practices such



as Ritucharya, Dinacharya, balanced diet, home remedies, Swasthavritta and Panchakarma procedures were also distributed. The programme was attended by Vice-Principal Dr. Srinivas Reddy, Dr. Krishnamurthy, Hospital Superintendent Dr. B. Vijaya, Dr. Parthasarathi, Dr. G. Nomya, Chief Senior Medical Officer Dr. T. Mohan Lal, other faculty members, doctors and paramedical staff. The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Satyabrata Nanda.

Former BJP Corporators Pay Courtesy Call on Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh



“UPPAL , JUNE 13 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Former BJP corporators Bandaru Srivani Venkat Rao, Rajyalakshmi and Sunitha Yadav paid a courtesy call on Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the Combined Graduation Parade held on Saturday at the Air Force Academy in Dugundal. “Former Ramanthapur corporator Bandaru Srivani Venkat Rao, Vinayak Nagar corporator Rajyalakshmi, Moula Ali corporator Sunitha Yadav and Gajularamaram

corporator Sheshagiri Rao, among others, met the Defence Minister on the sidelines of the prestigious event. “On the occasion, they conveyed their greetings to the officers of the Indian Air Force and appreciated their dedicated service and commitment towards safeguarding the nation.

Six arrested for alleged Shaadi Mubarak scheme fraud in Hyd

Hyderabad: The Attapur police on Saturday arrested six persons, including a special revenue inspector working at the Bandlaguda Tahsildar office, for allegedly claiming benefits under the ‘Shaadi Mubarak’ scheme by submitting fake documents to the government. The arrested persons are Dharavath Ashok Kiran (32), special revenue inspector, Bandlaguda Tahsil, Mohammed Jaffar (26), Mohammed Sarfaraz (26), Syed Musharraf Uddin (23), Mohd Akbar (20) and Mohd Etemaad (25). According to the police, Etemaad, who is an Aadhaar operator, in collusion with Jaffar.

Muslim Burial Ground Committee Meets MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Seeks Modernization and Basic Amenities“



“UPPAL , JUNE 13 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Representatives of the newly elected committee of the Muslim burial ground (Khabrustan) located in the P&T Colony of Osmania University under Habsiguda Division met Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy at his residence in Sainikpuri. The delegation was led by senior TRS leaders Pasula Prabhakar Reddy and Kaleru Jai Naveen. During the meeting, the committee members appealed to the MLA to address various issues related to the burial ground. They particularly requested modernization of the Khabrustan and the provision of essential infrastructure, including drinking water facilities and street lighting. Responding positively, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy assured the delegation that he would personally coordinate with the concerned officials to resolve the issues and ensure that the necessary works are taken up at the earliest. “Those present on the occasion included Khabrustan Committee President M.D. Zahuruddin, Vice-President Yaqoob Sharif, General Secretary M.D. Rafiq, Executive Member M.D. Hussain Pasha, Khaja Qutubuddin, Sheikh Kaiser Qadeer, and others.

CM REVANTH REDDY MORTGAGING TELANGANA PRIDE: SUBHASH

Hyderabad, June 13 : BJP Telangana State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N V Subhash today launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and alleged that he is incompetent and has failed to conduct even a basic review of the problems caused by heavy rains in Telangana. “Addressing a press conference at state office here, he accused the CM making frequent trips to Delhi and spreading falsehood against the central government to cover up his failures. “Subhash strongly condemned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for exhibiting a “Hitler-like attitude” and continuously making false allegations against Union Ministers Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay, and other BJP MPs. “He criticized Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Municipal Administration portfolio, for failing to hold a basic review meeting with the GHMC despite the monsoon starting in Hyderabad and the Meteorological Department issuing warnings 18 days in advance (as the Southwest monsoon hit Kerala on May 27). “He remarked that during the recent rains, the CM was only interested in posting photos of himself traveling in a bus, completely ignoring the hardships faced by people in low-lying areas and the disruption of power supply. To cover up this failure, the CM is visiting Delhi 70 times merely to secure his Chief Ministerial chair, he alleged. Subhash expressed anger saying it reflects Revanth Reddy’s ignorance that he goes to Delhi to submit a project wishlist and a memorandum seeking Rs one lakh crore from the Prime Minister, only to step out and claim that Union Ministers are blocking progress. He advised the CM that it is improper to blame the Center without doing basic homework or understanding fundamental processes like the online system for municipal permissions. “Strongly condemning the remarks of CM Revanth Reddy on the rejection of Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan’s nomination for Rajya Sabha in Madhya Pradesh, Subhash clarified that the rejection of nomination by the Returning Officer was due to internal conspiracies within the Congress party and the BJP had nothing to do with it. Just as groups in Khammam and Nalgonda districts in Telangana are trying to sideline the Chief Minister, in Madhya Pradesh the Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh duo have leaked information to politically suppress Meenakshi Natarajan which leading to her nomination’s rejection, Subhash said adding that it laughable that Congress is trying to blame the BJP for this. He asserted that the Election Commission is an independent body and the BJP has no interference in its functioning. “He alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has developed a sudden ambition to bypass Rahul Gandhi and become a national leader. For this purpose, he entered into agreements to siphon off Rs 1,000 crore to the Gandhi family under the pretext of Kerala election funding. He accused the Congress governments of both states, with the help of Karnataka’s D.K. Shivakumar of plundering public money. “Revanth Reddy speaks nothing but always lies, he alleged adding that Congress and BRS parties sit together at night with Excel sheets to prepare an agenda on how to defame the BJP. “He criticized both parties for targeting the BJP as a common enemy because they are terrified by the BJP’s historic victories in states like West Bengal and realize that Telangana is the BJP’s next target. “Taking a dig at Revanth Reddy’s remarks that the BJP has adopted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s ideology, Subhash mocked stating that there was similarities between Kim Jong Un and Nehru-Gandhi families. As Kim Jong family marked by dynastic and dictatorial communist ideology Congress party revolves with Nehru-Gandhi dynasty. He said history shows how Congress humiliated Prime Ministers and Presidents who did not belong to the Gandhi family. He questioned if Congress possesses the kind of democracy found in the BJP, where an ordinary grassroots worker can rise to become the National President, a Chief Minister, or the Prime Minister. Subhash said Congress and BRS are combinedly targeting the BJP out of fear that if the BJP comes to power in Telangana once just like in Gujarat and Rajasthan no other party will stand a chance. “He asserted that the people of Telangana stand firmly on the side of development. He advised the Telangana CM to stop petty criticism and instead make Telangana a partner in achieving the \$3 trillion economy proposed by PM Modi. [

INDIA MOVING AHEAD TO ACHIEVE VIKSIT BHARAT

Hyderabad, June 13 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi was regarded as a 'Vishwaguru' (global leader) not just in India but across the globe which stands as a testament to his popularity and credibility, said BJP State Party official spokesperson and Media In-charge N V Subhash today. "Speaking to media at state office here, Subhash highlighted the developmental journey achieved over the past 12 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the immense trust the public reposes in the Modi government who worked tirelessly ever since assuming office for the welfare and safety of the nation's citizens without taking a single day off. Under the slogan "12 Years of Sushasan-Vikas-Jan Kalyan," Union Ministers, BJP MPs, MLAs, and MLCs are visiting every district across all states to extensively present the welfare and development initiatives of the Central Government to the public, he said. He expressed regret over the conduct of opposition Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who constantly travels abroad to disparage India, its Constitution, Parliament, and even

the Election Commission at premier universities. "Subhash criticized the Congress party saying the public has realized its inherent nature of disrespecting democracy and the people's mandate. He alleged that unable to digest the historic victories of the BJP, Congress leaders are talking mindlessly out of sheer frustration, they are leveling baseless and unwarranted allegations of 'vote chori' and now 'seat chori'." Subhash clarified that the BJP is a 'Party with a Difference' that does not merely think about elections or votes but works with a clear roadmap for the welfare of future generations. While politics is discussed during elections, public interest and national welfare remain the ultimate goals once the elections are over. He reminded everyone of PM Modi's resolve to make India a 100 per cent 'Viksita Bharat' (Developed India) and the number one nation in the world by 2047. Explaining various developmental and welfare programmes initiated by the Modi government he said the central government has allocated about Rs 13.50 lakh crore for Telangana development.

Move Forward with the Spirit of Sports: 'Inagala' Encourages Young Cricketers



---Certificates and Sports Kits Distributed at Summer Cricket Coaching Camp Valedictory Ceremony Hanumakonda, June 13 (Indian Chronicle): Free coaching camps aimed at nurturing sporting talent and fostering a spirit of sportsmanship among youth play a vital role in shaping future athletes, said Inagala Venkatram Reddy, KUDA Chairman and President of the Hanumakonda District Congress Committee. The valedictory ceremony of the Free Summer Cricket Coaching Camp, organized by the Warangal District Cricket Association (WDCA) with the support of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) at the WDCA Grounds in Vangapalli, was held on Saturday with great enthusiasm. Inagala Venkatram Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and felicitated the young cricketers who participated in the camp. Addressing the gathering, he lauded the joint efforts of the WDCA and HCA in identifying and nurturing hidden sporting talent among youth from both rural and urban areas. He remarked that such initiatives provide aspiring crick-

eters with valuable opportunities to hone their skills and pursue excellence in the sport. He further stated that the State Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister, is giving significant importance to the promotion of sports and the encouragement of athletes. The government, he noted, remains committed to strengthening sports infrastructure and extending necessary support to budding sports persons across the state. Urging the young cricketers to pursue their goals with discipline, dedication, and perseverance, Inagala emphasized the importance of maintaining physical fitness and a competitive spirit. He expressed confidence that many of them would go on to represent the state and the nation, bringing laurels to both the district and Telangana. Later, he distributed certificates and sports kits to the participants and congratulated them on successfully completing the training programme. The event was attended by WDCA office-bearers, HCA representatives, senior cricketers, local Congress leaders, parents of the participants, and a large number of sports enthusiasts.

Kalyanpuri Community Hall Set for Major Upgrade: BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj

UPPAL, JUNE 13 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Residents of Kalyanpuri in Beerappagadda Division have received encouraging news regarding the development of a new Community Hall. Members of the Kalyanpuri Welfare Association recently submitted a request to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and former corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj seeking the construction of a modern community hall building. As part of the initiative, former corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, along with GHMC officials and members of the Welfare Association, conducted a site inspection of the existing Kalyanpuri Community Hall on Saturday. During the visit, she instructed GHMC officials to prepare fresh proposals for the construction of a new building. Speaking on the occasion, BRS State leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said that, in response to the request made by the Kalyanpuri Welfare Association and with the support of MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, funds would be allocated for the construction of a new Community Hall building, and the project would be taken up soon. He further



announced that a mini indoor stadium for sports activities would also be developed on the adjacent vacant land. GHMC Work Inspector Kedar, Kalyanpuri Welfare Association President Shiva Ramaraju, General Secretary Vikas, and members Ganesh, Masoom, Madhavi Reddy, Ashwak, Ahmed, Suryaprakash, Abdullah and others were present during the programme.

Collector Felicitates Environmental Activist Erraboyina Rajashekhar



---Honoured for Distinguished Service in Environmental Conservation and Plastic-Free Campaigns Warangal, June 13 (Indian Chronicle): In recognition of his outstanding contributions to environmental conservation, plastic waste management, and the promotion of green initiatives, environmental activist Erraboyina Rajashekhar was felicitated by the district administration at a special programme held in Warangal. The felicitation ceremony took place during the concluding session of the Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika programme organized by the District Forest Department at the Collectorate. District Collector Satya Sharada, District Forest Officer Nikita, and Additional Collector Y.V. Ganesh lauded Rajashekhar's relentless efforts towards environmental protection and honoured him for his exemplary public service. Addressing the gathering, Collector Satya Sharada observed that the adverse effects of climate change have led to a steady rise in temperatures, posing serious challenges to environmental and human well-being. She emphasized that environmental conservation has become an urgent necessity and called upon citizens to actively participate in tree plantation drives. She urged the public not only to plant saplings but also to ensure their protection and growth, thereby contributing to a sustainable future for generations to come. District Forest Officer Nikita highlighted the importance of eliminating single-use plastics, stating that effective control of plastic consumption can significantly reduce environmental

pollution and safeguard natural ecosystems. She stressed that public participation remains a key factor in achieving long-term environmental sustainability. Additional Collector Y.V. Ganesh underscored the need for collective responsibility in environmental protection. He remarked that planting trees alone is insufficient and that nurturing and preserving them is equally important for building a greener, healthier, and more sustainable environment. The officials commended Rajashekhar's unwavering commitment to environmental causes and appreciated his continuous efforts in creating awareness about ecological preservation, sustainable living, and responsible environmental practices. Officials from various government departments attended the programme and reaffirmed their commitment to promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

VC Sajjanar reviews waterlogging-prone areas amid heavy rain forecast

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad City Police have been placed on high alert to tackle possible rain-related emergencies and ensure public safety, said VC Sajjanar, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City.

The Hyderabad Police Commissioner, along with other officials, including Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Joel Davis, conducted an inspection of several waterlogging-prone areas across the city on Saturday evening. He directed field-level officers to ensure that rainwater does not remain stagnant on roads and that immediate steps are taken to facilitate the smooth drainage of water. He stressed the importance of swift response mechanisms to prevent traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters during heavy rainfall.

Kuchipudi Dance Performance Enthralls Audience at Uppal Mini Shilparamam



UPPAL, June 13 (Indian Chronicle): As part of the weekend cultural programmes at Uppal Mini Shilparamam, a captivating Kuchipudi dance performance by the disciples of renowned dance guru Paranjyoti from Warangal mesmerized the audience on Saturday evening. The artistes presented a series of classical dance items including Mooshika Vahana, Namashivayate, Alarulu Kuriyaga,

Garuda Gamana, Jaya Janardhana, Aigiri Nandini and Mamavatu Sri Saraswati, showcasing the richness and grace of the Kuchipudi tradition. Young performers Greenika, Sahasra, Abhiram, Ritwika, Rushika, Hanvika, Chinmayi, Abhigna, Mayukha, Akshara, Sharvi, Manaswini and others enthralled the gathering with their impressive performances and won appreciation from the audience.

Dr. Pagadala Kali Prasad Rao Blesses the Little Girl

-BJP Leader Extends Wishes and Presents a Gift Parakala/Hanumakonda, June 13 (Indian Chronicle): The first birthday celebrations of Himasri—daughter of Dengu Ashwini Naveen (former BJP President of the 84th Booth in Ladella village, Parkal constituency) and his wife—were held grandly on Saturday. Dr. Pagadala Kali Prasad Rao, a BJP State Executive Committee member and former MLA candidate for the Parkal Assembly constituency, attended the event as the chief guest and blessed the child. On this occasion, he conveyed birthday wishes to Himasri and presented her with a special gift. Speaking at the event, Dr. Pagadala Kali Prasad Rao expressed his hope that the child would lead a life filled with good health, happiness, and academic success. He voiced his optimism that Himasri would rise to great heights in life and achieve remarkable success in her future endeavors. He also extended his best wishes to the family members. The event was attended by BJP District Vice President Kuthuru Raju, OBC District



Leader Pittala Ramesh, 85th Booth President Annaboyina Rohit, Madasu Chiranjeevi, Ramanchi Chiranjeevi, Nanneboyina Srinu, Gaddam Ravi, and Polumari Veeranna, along with other party leaders and well-wishers.

'Parakal Indira Women's Dairy' is a Key Platform for Women's Economic Empowerment

MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy Hanamkonda, June 13 (Indian Chronicle): The dairy sector is crucial for women's economic independence and sustainable growth. Parakal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy stated that the Congress-led people's government is committed to strengthening women's economic empowerment. He noted that the government's goal is to transform one crore women across the state into economically independent individuals and prosperous entrepreneurs. An executive committee meeting of the 'Parakal Indira Women's Milk Producers' Cooperative Society Limited' was held on Saturday at the MLA's camp office in Bhavani Nagar, Hanamkonda, in the presence of concerned officials. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA mentioned that the 'Parakal Indira Women's Dairy' was established by women, for women, with the primary objective of fostering their economic development and self-reliance. He urged the members to develop the dairy based on the foundations of honesty, dedication, transparency, and collective investment. He explained that the meeting's main purpose was to create awareness among members regarding the dairy's significance, organizational structure, management responsibilities, and strategies for milk production and marketing. Emphasizing the need to increase membership enrollment in primary cooperative societies, Revuri Prakash Reddy revealed that approximately ten acres of land had been allocated in Damera Mandal for the development of the dairy. He commended the immense cooperation extended by the state government and the administrative machinery in bringing this project to fruition. The MLA stated that he launched this initiative to express gratitude to the women who placed their trust in him and worked towards his electoral victory. He expressed confidence that,



with government support and the coordinated efforts of officials—and rising above partisan politics—the 'Parakal Indira Mahila Dairy' would emerge as a model cooperative organization in the state. He noted that the state government, under the Chief Minister's leadership, is implementing numerous programs to transform women into successful entrepreneurs. He emphasized that the dairy sector offers immense opportunities to strengthen women's self-help groups and improve their financial stability. He described the 'Parakal Indira Mahila Dairy' not merely as a commercial entity, but as a transformative movement capable of bringing wealth and hope to thousands of families. He urged the people of the constituency to become active participants in this prestigious initiative. The MLA also announced plans to soon establish milk collection centers in villages and to launch programs for distributing milch animals and providing fodder assistance under subsidy schemes. He mentioned that a five-year agreement has been signed with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to support the project's long-term growth and sustainability.

Government Giving Top Priority to Rural Infrastructure and Women's Economic Advancement



Hanumakonda, June 13 (Indian Chronicle): The State Government's primary objective is to ensure holistic rural development, strengthening women's economic empowerment, and provide efficient governance services to the people, said Vardhannapet MLA and retired IPS officer K.R. Nagaraju. On Saturday, the MLA laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Village Organization (VO) building in Jayagiri village of Hasanparthy mandal in Hanumakonda district. He later inaugurated the newly constructed VO building in Ananthasagar village and laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new Gram Panchayat building. Speaking on the occasion, Nagaraju lauded rural women for emerging as pillars of support for their families and communities through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). He stated that VO buildings would serve as permanent platforms for women's organizations and become focal centres for meetings, savings activities, skill development training programmes, and the implementation of various government welfare schemes. He observed that strengthening women's groups would further reinforce the rural economy and emphasized that women's empowerment remains the foundation for the progress of families, villages, and society as a whole. Thousands of women are securing employment and self-employment opportunities through Self-Help Groups, and the government is committed to creating even more avenues for their economic growth, he added. The MLA further stated that the construction of Gram Panchayat buildings would enable faster and more efficient delivery of public services. These facilities would

help bring governance closer to the people, facilitate local resolution of community issues, and ensure the effective implementation of developmental programmes through modern administrative infrastructure. Nagaraju said the government is attaching utmost importance to rural development by strengthening infrastructure such as roads, drinking water facilities, electricity, education, and healthcare services. Special emphasis is also being placed on women's empowerment and the strengthening of grassroots governance, he noted. He asserted that the government is making continuous efforts to steer every village towards progress in line with the aspirations of the people. Development, he said, should not be confined merely to the construction of buildings; ensuring their effective utilization for public benefit is equally important and remains a collective responsibility. Calling for active public participation in the government's developmental initiatives, the MLA urged women's groups to move forward with greater confidence and play a pivotal role in accelerating rural development. The programme was attended by public representatives, Congress Party leaders, members of women's self-help groups, Gram Panchayat representatives, government officials, village elders, youth, and a large number of local residents.

Ajay Singh ensures participation of Jyoti and Aakash in World Boxing Cup

Hyderabad: Boxing Federation of India (BFI) President Ajay Singh has stepped in to facilitate the participation of boxers Jyoti (48kg) and Aakash (75kg) in the upcoming World Boxing Cup 2026 (Stage 2) in Guiyang, China. With the tournament set to commence on Monday, the two boxers were not part of the final government-sanctioned contingent. BFI President Ajay Singh stepped in to ensure their participation, allowing Jyoti and Aakash to join the Indian squad for the World Boxing Cup Stage 2 in Guiyang, China.

Gang Selling Ganja Busted in Uppal; 4.2 Kg Cannabis Seized



“UPPAL, JUNE 13(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Acting on the instructions of the Malkajgiri DPEO and under the supervision of AES officials, Uppal Excise Police conducted a raid behind the Nallacheruvu Katta bus stop and seized 4.2 kilograms of dried ganja. “The police arrested the accused, Shamsheer Ali Khan (32), and recovered 1,014 packets of ganja weighing four grams each, along with a Vivo V29e mobile phone. “During interrogation, the accused confessed that he had procured the contraband from Nagpur and was selling it through his fast-food centre located in Narapally. He reportedly purchased each four-gram packet for Rs. 100 and sold them for Rs. 300 each at his establishment. “The accused was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody. “The raid was carried out by Uppal Excise Inspector (SHO) B. Omkar, P&E Sub-Inspectors Srinivasulu and Naresh Reddy, along with other excise personnel.

Congress corporators seek clearance of pending Aasara pensions, release of development funds

Representations to Deputy Chief Minister seek approval of pending pensions and completion of stalled civic works in Karimnagar.

KARIMNAGAR June 13 (Correspondent): Karimnagar Corporation Congress Committee president and corporator Vaidyula Anjan Kumar has urged the State government to expedite the sanction of pending Aasara pensions and release funds for incomplete development works under various schemes within the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation limits. In separate representations submitted to Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday, Mr. Anjan Kumar sought immediate intervention in addressing long-pending welfare and civic infrastructure issues affecting residents of the city.

In the first memorandum, he stated that applications for old-age, widow, disability and single-women pensions had remained pending for several years under the municipal corporation limits. Claiming that nearly 10,000 applications submitted over the last four years were awaiting approval, he requested the government to sanction pensions to all eligible beneficiaries at the earliest. Mr. Anjan Kumar said many elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities and single women were facing financial hardship due to the delay in receiving pension benefits and were struggling to meet their livelihood and medical expenses. In a separate representation, he sought the release of pending funds under CM Assurance, Pattana Pragathi and G.O. 65 schemes. He alleged that delays in the release of funds had resulted in several development works remaining incomplete, leaving roads, drainage works and other civic



infrastructure projects unfinished in different parts of the city. Stating that the incomplete works had caused inconvenience to residents and posed safety risks, particularly during the rainy season, Mr. Anjan Kumar urged the Deputy Chief Minister to ensure the immediate release of pending bills and facilitate the completion of stalled works. The representations were submitted on behalf of the Congress corporators of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation.

All Possible Assistance Will Be Extended to Affected Families: Palakurthi Sarangapani



“----Municipal Chairman Inspects Houses Damaged by Unseasonal Rains” Wardhannapet, June 13 (Indian Chronicle) : Several houses suffered extensive damage in Konapuram area of Ward No. 7 under Vardhannapet Municipality following unseasonal rains and strong winds that lashed the region recently. Upon receiving information that the rooftops of houses belonging to Gadari Suresh, Gadari Kumar, Meda Somaiah, and Yatala Yakaiah had been severely damaged, Municipal Chairman Palakurthi

Sarangapani visited the affected locality and assessed the situation firsthand. “Acting on the directions of Vardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju, the Municipal Chairman interacted with the affected families and enquired about the extent of the damage. He assured them that all possible assistance available through government relief measures would be extended at the earliest. “Sarangapani also directed the concerned officials to immediately conduct a detailed assessment of the losses and submit a comprehensive report for necessary action. He advised residents to remain vigilant during natural calamities and to promptly contact municipal authorities in case of emergencies. “Reaffirming the municipality’s commitment to supporting the victims, the Chairman stated that every effort would be made to provide relief and address the concerns of the affected families on a priority basis. “The inspection was attended by Ward Councillor Tirupelli Vani Kumaraswamy, GPOs Gopi and Ramesh, public representatives Ellikatte Nikhil, Cheripelli Babu, Ellikatte Bhaskar, Ellikatte Yakaiah, Ellikatte Suresh, Ellikatte Ajay, and others.

Goal is to Build a Value-Based Political Alternative: TSDF



-TSDF to hold a discussion forum in Hanamkonda today “Hanamkonda, June 13 (Indian Chronicle): The Telangana Sarvajana Democratic Forum (TSDF) has announced that it will organize a discussion forum at the Hanamkonda Press Club on Sunday, with the aim of fostering a value-based political alternative rooted in constitutional principles, social justice, transparency, and democratic accountability. “Speaking at a press conference held at the Hanamkonda Press Club on Saturday, TSDF Convener Dharavath Prem Chand, Democratic Mass Movement state leader Dudala Sambaiah, All India OBC JAC Chairman Sainy Narendra, and democratic activist Dr. Raj Mohammad called upon intellectuals, social activists, women, students, farmers, workers, youth, and representatives of people’s organizations to participate in large numbers and make the event a success. “They noted the rising issues of poverty, unemployment, corruption, the privatization of public resources, the erosion of civil liberties, and the gradual weakening of democratic values across the country. Against this backdrop, they emphasized the urgent need to raise public awareness and build a political alternative grounded in ethical values and public welfare. Experts observed that past public movements were often limited to merely replacing one exploitative political system with another. They argued that future struggles and political initiatives must focus on public welfare, inclusive development, and genuine democratic

governance. “They emphasized the need for a governance model that ensures meaningful participation and empowerment for women across social, economic, and political spheres. They also stressed that a new political culture—grounded in equal opportunities, transparency, public participation, and social justice—is essential for the nation’s progress. “Criticizing successive governments, the speakers alleged that political leaders—from the Indian independence movement to the struggle for the Telangana state—have repeatedly leveraged public sentiment for their own gain but largely failed to fulfill the people’s aspirations once in power. Consequently, disparities in education, employment, livelihood opportunities, and economic development continue to affect the youth, farmers, workers, women, and the unemployed. “The leaders called for broad-based discussions among intellectuals, youth, social reformers, and representatives of various social and civil society organizations to shape a political alternative founded on ethical values, accountability, transparency, and social justice. They emphasized that true democracy can be strengthened only when the needs of the people become the political agenda and the development of every section of society becomes the ultimate goal. Kedala Prasad, State President of the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Social Justice Forum; Telangana activists Mugsala Devender Reddy, Mirza Ahmed Baig, and K. Ram Kumar; Sevalal Sena leader Murali Naik; and others participated in this press conference.

SWAN organises clean-up drive at Narsapur forest

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: SWAN (Save Water And Nature) organized a large-scale Forest Clean-Up Drive at Mambapur-Gummadidla and Narsapur Forests under the leadership of Meghana Musunuri, Founder & Chairperson, Sridhar Vunnam, General Secretary, and Koyya Sudha Rani, Principal of Fountainhead Global School.

Deputy CM reviews development works during Karimnagar stopover

Officials asked to ensure effective implementation of welfare schemes and inter-departmental coordination.



KARIMNAGAR June 13 (Correspondent): Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday reviewed the progress of development works and the implementation of

welfare programmes in Karimnagar district during a brief halt at the R&B Guest House while en route to Mancherla district. State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the visit. District Collector Chitra Mishra, Police Commissioner Gaush Alam and other senior officials received the Deputy Chief Minister and the Minister on their arrival. Subsequently, a review meeting was held to assess the latest situation in the district, ongoing developmental activities and the status of various government welfare initiatives. Addressing officials, Mr. Vikramarka stressed the need for coordinated efforts among departments to accelerate the district’s progress across sectors. He directed the officials to ensure that the benefits of the government’s development and welfare programmes reached eligible beneficiaries in an efficient and transparent manner. The Deputy Chief Minister also reviewed key public welfare measures and sought updates on the implementation of priority projects in the district.

Among those present were SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narendra Reddy, Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade and Srinivas Reddy, District Revenue Officer Swami, Market Committee Chairman Akula Narasanna, Urban Bank Chairman Karra Rajasekhara, Revenue Divisional Officer Sharmila, besides other public representatives and officials.

Collector reviews preparations at new Collectorate ahead of CM’s visit

Officials directed to complete pending infrastructure and security arrangements on a war footing.

KARIMNAGAR June 13 (Correspondent): District Collector Chitra Mishra on Saturday directed officials to expedite the remaining works at the new Collectorate complex and ensure that the facility is fully prepared for inauguration ahead of the proposed visit of the Chief Minister. Accompanied by Police Commissioner Gaush Alam, the Collector conducted a detailed inspection of the ongoing works at the new Collectorate building. She reviewed the progress of construction of the main entrance gate, compound wall and other infrastructure facilities and instructed officials of the Roads and Buildings Department and the executing agency to complete the pending works on a war footing.

Stressing the need for timely completion of the project, Ms. Mishra said all development and infrastructure works should be finished before the Chief Minister’s visit so that the inauguration could be conducted without any shortcomings. The Collector later inspected the helipad site being readied for the Chief Minister’s visit and reviewed security arrangements with officials. She also examined the route from the helipad to Ambedkar Stadium and directed officials to take measures to ensure smooth movement of vehicles and people during the visit. Reviewing security, traf-



fic regulation and protocol arrangements, Ms. Mishra and Mr. Alam instructed officials to coordinate closely to ensure effective management of the event while minimising inconvenience to the public. Additional Collector (Revenue) D. Srinivas Reddy, Roads and Buildings Executive Engineer Narasimhachari, Karimnagar Town Assistant Commissioner of Police Venkataswamy and officials of various departments were present.

THE MULTI-CRORE CANTONMENT LAND SCAM—



HOW 8 ACRES OF GOVERNMENT LAND MYSTERIOUSLY TURNED PRIVATE” BOWENPALLY/JUNE 13/ (INDIAN CHRONICLE) “The 8 Acres in Controversial Survey No. 157/1 is Absolutely Government Land” MRPS Prepared for Protest to Protect the Land For the past few days, a war-like atmosphere has been prevailing in the Tirumalagiri mandal, under the Chinnatokatta village limits near the Bowenpally Market Yard. MRPS (Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti) leaders have questioned the government, concerned officials, and the local MLA regarding how Survey Number 57 was altered to Survey Number 157/1. On Saturday, a media conference was organized at the controversial site under the leadership of Cantonment MRPS leaders Sri Kishan and Gopi. Local Vaddera associations, petty traders, and local leaders from various political parties also participated. “Demands and Allegations Raised at the Press Meet: Illegal Land Transfer: The leaders stated that about 8 acres of land in Survey No. 157/1, located opposite NIEPID in Bowenpally Manovikas Nagar, is recorded as government property in official records. They demanded that revenue officials and the local MLA explain how this land was transferred to private individuals. Betrayal of the Poor: They criticized officials for secretly handing over the land to private parties through fraudulent methods instead of allocating it to eligible poor people, calling it an act of injustice against the underprivileged. Broken Promises on

Indiramma Houses: They questioned why the MLA and other leaders, who had previously promised to allocate this land for Indiramma Houses (government housing for the poor), are now remaining silent. Discrepancy in Survey Numbers: They pointed out that while the Tirumalagiri Mandal Tahsildar office records show the government land under Survey No. 157/1, the Balanagar Mandal Tahsildar office records show it under Survey No. 57. They questioned how private individuals could claim and attempt to encroach upon land with such clear government records. Deployment of Goons: The leaders alleged that private grabbers are deploying goons and rowdy elements at the site to create terror, threaten locals, and intimidate passersby who question the encroachment of this 8-acre government property. Accusations Against Officials and Private Individuals: They directly accused the then-Collector Naveen Mittal (who changed Survey No. 57 to 157/1) as well as individuals named Malpani and Ashok—who are currently claiming ownership—of being land grabbers. The leaders asserted they possess complete details of everyone involved in this scam. Collusion of Revenue Officials: They expressed outrage over how hundreds of crores worth of government land in the heart of the Cantonment area could be handed over to private individuals. They alleged that local revenue officials are acting clueless and implicitly cooperating with the land grabbers. The MRPS leaders demanded that the government immediately launch a full-scale investigation, punish the culprits, and allocate this land for constructing houses for the shelterless and downtrodden sections of society. Call to Action: They announced that they will launch a series of protests and set up a tent for an indefinite fast (protest hunger strike) until the land is secured for the poor. They appealed to the Malkajgiri MP, the Cantonment MLA, the Cantonment Board Nominated Member, intellectuals, and leaders of all communities to support their agitation and urged officials to take immediate action to prevent the government land from being alienated.

Bonagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy participated in Pakkuru Kondal Reddy’s birthday celebrations



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 13):- Congress Party district leaders Pakkuru Kondal Reddy celebrated his birthday at the Bhuvanagiri MLA camp office along with Bhuvanagiri town mandal workers. Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy cut a cake and celebrated his birthday in a grand manner.” Bhuvanagiri Mandal Party President Yellama Jangaiah, former PACS Chairman Edla Sathireddy, Mu-

nicipal Chairman Thangalapalli Srivani Ravikumar, Vice Chairman Pothamsetty Manjula Venkateswarlu, Bhuvanagiri Municipal Councilors, Sarpanches, Upasarpanches of various villages, ward members, Market Committee Directors, Congress Party Mandal leaders, chiefs, activists and fans participated in this program.

Nine share lead in Brilliant Trophy chess

Hyderabad: Nine players—Gowtham Manchukonda, Pranagn Reddy, Abhimaan Deshpande, G. Ritesh, Y. Bharath, S. Utkarsh, R. Sai Nigam, Ch. Sree Charan, and T. Shreyas—shared the joint lead with three points from three rounds in the Juniors category of the Brilliant Trophy Chess Tournament at Brilliant Grammar High School, Disukhnagar. Meanwhile, Mohammed Shabbir Ahmed, MVK Koushik, Abhinav, MVK Goutham, Eshwar Cheekati, Ivaan Jain, and Mohammed Sahir Ahmed occupy the second spot with 2.5 points each.

Bengaluru garbage disposal under scanner as Lokayukta seeks report

GNS News Agency, June 13

The Karnataka Lokayukta has sought a report from the state government on the working of the garbage disposal system in the five corporations of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) in the wake of findings that contractors responsible for garbage clearance are not working effectively in many areas of the city. "The Hon'ble Lokayukta has directed the Chief Secretary to the Government, Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bangalore Authority, Commissioners of all the 5 Municipal Corporations of Bangalore, Chief Executive Officer of the Solid Waste Management Corporation and other officers to personally appear on 28/7/2026 and submit a report..." the Lokayukta said in an official statement this week.

"The responsibility of garbage disposal in Bangalore city was entrusted to contractors in 2018-19, and no contract has been called for thereafter. Subsequent responsibilities are being given to the tenderers who were given contracts earlier based on the price list," the Karnataka Lokayukta observed. "The contractors who have been given the contract have not deployed sufficient auto-rickshaws for garbage disposal each day. About 200 to 300 autos have not been provided for duty every day. When asked for an explanation from the concerned officers in this regard, they have stated that they have issued notices to the concerned contractors and imposed penalties," the quasi-judicial body further stated. The Karnataka Lokayukta added that the garbage disposal system in Bengaluru city was hampered on account of the municipal authorities being completely de-

pendent on private contractors and the lack of alternative arrangements. It was observed that in other cities of Karnataka and the rest of India, waste disposal is handled by the city corporation itself. The Lokayukta's directives also came amid a row over a Rs 40,000 crore Bengaluru solid waste management contract set to be awarded for a 30-year period to a private service provider. The Opposition BJP has alleged corruption to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore in the form of kickbacks to the Congress government. The BJP has alleged discrepancies in the tender, highlighting that the tipping fees for primary and secondary collection, transportation, processing, and disposal charges were initially estimated to be Rs 1,398 per tonne. "Thereafter, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited approved tipping fees of Rs 2,565 per tonne for the North Package and Rs 2,151 per tonne for the South Package, reflecting increases of approximately 83 per cent and 53 per cent respectively over the original estimate," the BJP said in a petition this week to Governor Thawarchand Gehlot. The petition accused the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited of relaxing several tender conditions with an apparent objective of qualifying bidders earlier declared to be ineligible. "Among the technically qualified bidders, Delhi MSW Solutions Limited is reportedly a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ramky Group and emerged as the L-1 bidder," it said, adding that Ramky had come under fire over its management of the Mavallipura landfill project. The BJP has sought a probe into the relaxation of tender conditions, revisions made to the DPR, and tipping fee calculations, and demanded that no final approval or award of contract is granted until till then.

My doors are always open for Punjabis: Haryana CM reaches out to Saini community in Rajpura

GNS News Agency, June 13

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday urged the Saini community, one of the prominent OBC communities in Punjab and Haryana, to play a decisive role in politics, from panchayats to the Vidhan Sabha and Parliament, and that his doors would remain open for them. Addressing a "Mahasammelan" organised by the Saini Samaj Welfare Committee under the Rajpura Assembly Constituency in Patiala district, Saini made a strong outreach to Punjab's OBC communities, particularly the Saini community. "The Saini community must play a more decisive role in Punjab politics, from panchayats to the Vidhan Sabha and Parliament. My doors are open for all of you. Whether it is a personal matter, a government-related issue or the work of your relatives, you can approach me anytime," he said.

"Every day, people from Punjab come to meet me about various issues. My doors are open for Punjab residents 24x7. You can come to meet me or seek help with any work. I will always stand with my Punjabi brethren." Targeting the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann government over alleged attempts to stop his visits to Punjab, Saini alleged that efforts had been made to discourage or restrict his visits to the state. Referring to his visit to Sunam on July 31 on the martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed Udham Singh last year, Saini claimed that the Punjab Police had attempted to dissuade him from attending the programme. "I was told that the Sangrur SSP had contacted Haryana officials, suggesting I should not visit Sunam. I was surprised. I made it clear that I would certainly visit. I don't require Punjab Police protection; my own security is sufficient. Above all, my com-

munity is my biggest strength," Saini said. Notably, Udham Singh belonged to the OBC Kamboj community. Claiming strong support from Punjabis, Saini said more than 3,000 people had gathered to meet him during his brief stop of ten minutes in Sunam. "The Punjab government believes in stopping others, instead of focusing on governance and development," he alleged. Jaswinder Singh, a Saini Samaj Welfare Committee member, said, "We got the permission for this programme with great difficulty late Thursday evening, that too after repeated visits. The Punjab government had panicked over our programme." Highlighting law and order and industrial issues, Saini said, "Every day, people from Punjab come to me... and many industrialists want to shift or establish their units in Haryana. I want to assure them that once a BJP government comes to power in Punjab, there will be no need for anyone to move elsewhere. Punjab will prosper again." The Haryana chief minister also highlighted infrastructure projects in Rajpura, claiming the proposed Mohali-Rajpura rail link was being revived and that the Central projects worth over Rs 7,500 crore were linked to the constituency. Earlier in the day, Saini visited the historic Shiv Temple in Rajpura and offered prayers. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, social justice is no longer merely an idea, but an integral part of the government's policy, intent and work culture," he said. On Saturday, Saini is scheduled to address an OBC Sammelen in Abohar in Fazilka district. Former Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar is expected to attend the event, while Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon is also likely to be present. Saini said some farmer union leaders could also reach the venue to raise questions related to the central government policies and farmers' issues.

Unable to solve Punjab leadership tangle, AICC sends 3 observers to get local pulse

GNS News Agency, June 13

Unable to resolve factionalism and the leadership tangle in the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, the party's central leadership on June 11 appointed three All India Congress Committee (AICC) senior leaders as "observers" and tasked them to assess the prevailing political scenario on the ground and submit a report with recommendations for the course correction. The appointment of observers, Ajay Maken, Meenakshi Natarajan and Bhajan Lal Jatav, signed by AICC general secretary KC Venugopal is widely seen as a "chronic dithering and crisis management rather than the proactive leadership".

Since the dramatic deposition of veteran leader Captain Amarinder Singh as the chief minister of Punjab on September 18, 2021. Amarinder, a towering figure with decades of experience and a strong regional base, was forced out amid a rebellion fueled by his party rivals allegedly led by Navjot Singh Sidhu. Captain alleged that he was humiliated by the Congress's leadership in the way he was removed from the CMO.

Subsequently, on November 2, 2021, Captain formed his own outfit, the Punjab Lok Congress (PLC), which he ultimately merged into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on September 9, 2022, following a crushing defeat in the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections. Charanjit Singh Channi, a Dalit face, was made the chief minister in a last-minute move based on caste calculation, but the experiment failed as the party suffered a crushing defeat in the 2022 Assembly elections, swept by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), winning just 18 seats in the 117-member Assembly. After 2022, the party leadership undertook several measures to revive the PPCC, but factional loyalties — broadly divided among Amarinder, Channi, Partap Singh Bajwa, Sukhinder Singh Randhawa/ Amarinder Singh Raja Warring — refused to subside. Leaders continued to air their grievances publicly, with accusations like interference, favouritism, and neglect of ground-level issues like farmer distress, unemployment and drug

menace. The May 2026 municipal elections delivered another setback, with the Congress failing to capitalise on anti-incumbency faced by the AAP, despite its pan-Punjab presence. Internal reports and strategists' assessments pointed to "persistent disunity", leading to intervention by the high command. Party sources indicate the panel will interact with leaders, assess factional dynamics, and suggest organisational revamps, potentially including changes in the PPCC leadership.

However, political observers view the move as "too little, too late". "Sending observers months before polls is a classic case of Congress procrastination. The party has had five years since Amarinder's exit to consolidate, yet it has repeatedly chosen short-term fixes over structural reform," said a senior leader. PPCC incumbent president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has been facing his own internal challenges. Promises of "new faces" and constituency-specific strategies remained largely on paper, while the AAP consolidated its position through welfare schemes, and the BJP is eyeing pre-poll alliances and defections, including from Congress ranks. Despite criticism of its governance, the AAP holds a strong incumbency edge in urban and semi-urban areas ahead of the February 2027 elections. Thus, the principal Opposition Congress needs a unified front and credible leadership to challenge the ruling party. Captain Amarinder Singh occasionally comments on the party's "failure to learn", pointing to the sidelining of experienced leaders. His possible return or alignment has been speculated upon, adding another layer of uncertainty. As observers reach out to party cadres, the Congress's Punjab unit remains a study in deferred decisions. Whether this latest exercise yields a decisive reset or merely another chapter in dithering will define the party's fortunes in a state it once dominated. For now, the image of a press release from 24 Akbar Road serves as a stark reminder that five years after deposing a stalwart, the party is still searching for direction.

NDMC offers 10 per cent property tax rebate for payments made by June 30

New Delhi: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Saturday announced a 10 per cent rebate on property tax for the financial year 2026-27 for taxpayers who clear their dues on or before June 30. In a statement, the civic body urged property owners within its jurisdiction to avail themselves of the rebate by making timely payments through its online portal or other authorised payment modes.

The rebate scheme has been a recurring feature of NDMC's property tax collection drive in recent years and is aimed at encouraging early compliance and improving revenue collection. The council had offered a similar 10 per cent rebate last year for payments made on or before June

30. The announcement comes amid changes in the property tax regime in the NDMC area. Earlier this year, Parliament cleared amendments enabling the implementation of a uniform Unit Area Method for property tax assessment across the NDMC jurisdiction. The move will replace the rateable value-based system for the remaining properties and bring greater uniformity to tax calculation. The NDMC, in its statement, appealed to taxpayers to avoid a last-minute rush and deposit their dues well before the deadline to avail themselves of the concession. Taxpayers requiring assistance may contact the NDMC Tax Department during office hours or visit the council's website for further details, the statement said.

Kejriwal announces CM face, hints at early elections

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Friday declared Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann as the party's chief ministerial face for the next Assembly elections, while also hinting that the state polls could be advanced and held as early as November this year. Addressing a roadshow in Bathinda organised to celebrate AAP's victory in the Municipal Corporation elections, Kejriwal urged party workers to begin preparations immediately and rally behind Mann for a second consecutive term.

"Is baar sambhavnayein hain ki Vidhan Sabha chunav November mein ho sakte hain. Ab sirf chaar mahine bache hain. Aap sabko sirf ek kaam karna hai, Bhagwant Mann ko dobara CM banana hai (There is a possibility that Assembly elections may be held in November this year. Only four months are left. You all have to do just one thing — make Bhagwant Mann Chief Minister again)," Kejriwal said. The statement marks the clearest indication yet from the AAP leadership that Mann will lead the party in the next Punjab Assembly elections. While the party has consistently projected Mann as its tallest leader in the state, Kejriwal's remarks amounted to an early endorsement of him as the chief ministerial candidate well ahead of the polls. Praising Mann's tenure, Kejriwal described him as an honest leader whose integrity remained unquestioned throughout his term. "Punjab has got an honest Chief Minister in Bhagwant Mann. During his entire tenure, nobody could point a finger at him or his family. Otherwise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would have unleashed ED and CBI teams

after him. Bhagwant Mann is a staunchly honest Chief Minister," he added. Kejriwal also highlighted the AAP government's welfare initiatives, including 300 units of free electricity for domestic consumers and the recently launched Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana, under which health treatment worth up to Rs 10 lakh has been made available free of cost to beneficiaries. The roadshow was attended by Mann. AAP's Punjab president Aman Arora, party's Punjab affairs in-charge Manish Sisodia, Bathinda Mayor Padamjeet Singh Mehta, his father and AAP leader Amarjeet Singh Mehta, and several other party leaders. The leaders travelled through the city in an open tempo traveller and were greeted by party supporters at various points. Targeting rival political parties, Kejriwal sought to draw sharp distinctions between AAP and its opponents. "Punjab mein chaar hi parties hain. Ek ED party hai. Doosri beadbhi-chitta party hai. (There are four parties in Punjab. One is ED, others are sacrilege and drugs parties)," he said. "Teesri jhagda party hai, jinke neta aapas mein hi ladte rehte hain (Third is the fighting party, whose leaders keep quarrelling among themselves)." "Aur chauthi Aam Aadmi Party hai — aap ki apni party, logon ki party, kattar imaandaar party (And the fourth is the Aam Aadmi Party — your own party, the people's party, the staunchly honest party)," he added. Several political leaders, including Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal, Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu and Congress leaders, have recently advised party workers to begin election preparations, citing the possibility of an early poll schedule.

PSEB to restore pre-audit system from July 1, internal audit branch to be shut

The Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) will restore the pre-audit system from July 1, 2026, following government directions, while shutting its Internal Audit Branch and accelerating the digitisation of financial records through Tally ERP-9. The Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) will restore the pre-audit system from July 1, 2026, following government directions, while shutting its Internal Audit Branch and accelerating the digitisation of financial records through Tally ERP-9. The Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) has decided to restore the pre-audit system from July 1, 2026, as part of efforts to strengthen financial oversight and accountability. With the implementation of the new mechanism, the Board will also close its Internal Audit Branch. According to orders issued by PSEB Secretary Singh Ball, PCS, the move follows directions from the Punjab Government's Department of Finance (Local Fund Accounts), which has reinstated the pre-audit system for scrutiny of financial transactions. Board officials said the Internal Audit Branch will cease functioning once government audit staff takes charge on July 1. As part of the restructuring, employees of the branch have been redeployed to other sections. Senior Auditor Paramjit Singh and Auditor Anupama have been posted to the TB Cell, while Auditor

Yudhvir Singh Chauhan and Junior Auditor Bhavandeep Singh have been shifted to the Accounts Branch (Accounts-II, Income and Expenditure Section).

The employees will be relieved from the Internal Audit Branch on June 30 and assume their new assignments on July 1 to support the digitisation of financial records, the Board has made on-the-job training in Tally ERP-9 mandatory for the redeployed staff. The training will be conducted from July by the Board's listed chartered accountancy firm, Madan and Associates, Chandigarh. Officials said the initiative aims to equip employees with the skills required to independently manage digital accounting operations. The order further states that all financial transactions from July 1 onwards will be recorded digitally through Tally software to improve accuracy, transparency and financial monitoring. However, manual accounting records will continue to be maintained by the Accounts Branch until further instructions. Employees have also been directed to update their details on the e-office platform through the designated nodal officer. Officials said the restoration of the pre-audit system and the digitisation of accounts are expected to streamline accounting procedures and enhance transparency across the Board.

Drug unit busted in Outer Delhi: Cops trace money trail, arrested accused questioned

A day after Delhi Police busted a suspected drug manufacturing unit in Swaroop Nagar, investigators from the NCB and ANTF intensified questioning of the accused while launching a financial probe to uncover links to a wider drug trafficking network. A day after Delhi Police busted a suspected drug manufacturing unit in Swaroop Nagar, investigators from the NCB and ANTF intensified questioning of the accused while launching a financial probe to uncover links to a wider drug trafficking network. A day after the Delhi Police's Anti-Narcotics Squad unit of the North district busted a drug manufacturing unit in Outer Delhi's Swaroop Nagar area, the officials from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) carried out a joint interrogation of the accused. The two accused arrested on Thursday have been remanded to three days police custody, said officers.

Raja Banthia, DCP North said, "Didier Romeo, one of the accused arrested during the raid, came to India in 2021 on a business visa. ??Martin Ajva, the other accused, came to India in 2023 on a medical visa." On Thursday afternoon, a Nigerian woman, identified as Stella Pius, died after allegedly jumping from the fourth floor of the building when the raid was being carried out. An officer said, "When the police team entered her flat, Stella allegedly jumped from the balcony. She was immediately shifted to the government hospital in Burari, where she was declared brought dead," the officer said. Police said the embassy has been informed about her death and the post mortem examination will be conducted once the approval is received. Police said they are conducting a comprehensive investigation into the unit, including a parallel financial probe to trace the money trail and identify all individuals linked to the operation. Investi-

gating teams are also working to establish the source of the chemicals and determine how they were procured. "Preliminary findings suggest that this may be part of a larger drug trafficking network operating in the city. All angles are being examined, and further action will be taken based on the evidence that emerges during the investigation," the DCP said. Among the items recovered during the raid were approximately 100 litres of unidentified chemical substances, 10 litres of hydrochloric acid, 31 bottles containing around 15.5 litres of hypophosphorous acid, six empty bottles of the same chemical, 35.5 kg of a white powder, 21 kilograms of black granules, 4.1 kilograms of black liquid and 192 grams of MDMA, said officers. Police also seized two heating mantles, two 2,000-ml flasks, two distillation units, two weighing machines, several drums, steel tubs, plastic pipes, a large stove and a gas cylinder. Samples of the seized substances have been sent for forensic examination. Police are investigating the source of the chemicals, the scale of the alleged operation and the role of those involved. Police said the raid was conducted as part of the investigation into an Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) case registered at Burari police station earlier this week. On June 9, acting on a tip-off, the Anti-Narcotics Cell had arrested a Nigerian national, Frank Dashmond, from the Chandan Vihar area of Burari and recovered 67.9 grams of MDMA from his possession, according to officers. A case under the NDPS Act was registered and Dashmond was subsequently arrested. According to investigators, leads developed during the questioning of Dashmond led police to Swaroop Nagar, resulting in the latest arrests and the discovery of the suspected drug manufacturing facility on Thursday.

Delhi sees comeback of popular beer brands this summer amid govt checks on brand push

Delhi is witnessing a revival of popular beer brands this summer as the Excise Department strengthens monitoring of government-run liquor vends, leading to a sharp rise in sales of leading national labels and renewed debate over retail reforms. (File Photo) Delhi is witnessing a revival of popular beer brands this summer as the Excise Department strengthens monitoring of government-run liquor vends, leading to a sharp rise in sales of leading national labels and renewed debate over retail reforms.

Delhi is witnessing a strong comeback of some of India's most popular and widely consumed beer brands this summer with the Excise department maintaining a close watch at not just the stocks of the government vends, but also the sales figures, according to industry insiders and officials. Over the last few years, popular brands largely went missing from the shelves of government-run stores in the city due to "brand push" and "monopoly" of vendors running the government outlets, according to a senior official.

After the liquor policy brought by the previous AAP government faced legal challenges, the government had introduced old excise regime in 2022, allowing only government liquor shops in Delhi run by four corporations — Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation Ltd (DTTDC), Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store (DCCWS), Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Devel-

opment Corporation Ltd. (DSIIDC), and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (DSCSC). However, the demand for popular brands pushed the consumers to neighbouring states like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, which eventually impacted Delhi's excise revenue, according to officials. The trend, however, is now reversing on the sales charts of all the four government corporations that run around 700 liquor shops in Delhi.

Brand push at the vendor-level, according to industry insiders, had led to the replacement of popular brands with those from Nepal and Bhutan, among others. A senior Delhi government official said, "After the issues of brand push were raised by the industry players, the Excise department has been keeping a close eye. It also conducts surprise inspections to keep a tab." Vinod Giri, Director General of Brewers Association of India (BAI), said, "The share of well-known national brands used to be 80% when private shops were there in the city. It started falling after private retail was removed and rampant brand pushing of unknown brands by staff of government-owned shops began. It fell to as low as 24% last May. This May, it has improved to 54% due to stricter watch on brand pushing by the excise department." Another industry insider said, "Staff at retail vends may have been pushing these brands because of the higher profit margins on Bhutanese and Nepalese beer labels as import duty is not levied on them."

How 2 Bengal schoolgirls plotted the murder of a 7-year-old to escape their hostel days



GNS News Agency, June 13

A bone-chilling tragedy has unfolded in West Bengal's Nadia district, where a dark plot allegedly hatched by two minor schoolgirls cut short the life of a seven-year-old Class 1 child. What initially appeared to be a mysterious tragedy inside a school hostel quickly transformed into a shocking investigation of a cold, calculated murder that has left both the police and the local community stunned. The summer vacation had just ended. On Friday afternoon, the father of the Class 1 student dropped her off at her school hostel.

"I just dropped her off on Friday after the vacation," her devastated father would later recount. "I cannot understand what could have happened within just a few hours." Early Saturday morning, less than 24 hours after she was dropped off, commotion broke out across the hostel campus. The hostel warden claimed to have found the little girl lying completely unconscious on the bathroom floor. The child was rushed to a district hospital, but the doctors on duty declared her dead on arrival. From the very beginning, the victim's family refused to believe it was an accident. They alleged murder and demanded immediate justice.

As the police recovered the body and sent it for a post-mortem examination, investigators under Superintendent of Police (SP) Y Raghuvanshi began reviewing the school's security arrangements, questioning the warden, and digging into the timeline of that fateful night. Within 24 hours, the police uncovered a diary belonging to two slightly older but also minor students at the school. Its pages revealed a dark, boiling resentment toward the strict confines of hostel life. The students allegedly felt 'suffocated'. They were banned from using mobile phones, and the school rules permitted them only a single, five-minute phone call to their families per week. Seeking a desperate escape to what they envisioned as the "colourful world outside," a plot began to take shape in their minds.

The diary was filled with chilling entries mapping out their intent. Sources said one of the lines read: "Let's see how anyone stays in this hostel. If I have to commit a murder for that, I will..." Late Friday night, the plot turned into reality. The two minor girls woke up and targeted the victim, choosing her because she was 'young, quiet, and fragile'. Under the pretext of helping the Class 1 student use the washroom in the dark, they led her into the toilet. The initial investigation reveals that the two girls filled a bucket with water and allegedly forcibly submerged the seven-year-old's face, holding her under until she stopped struggling. As per the police, a tiny blade unscrewed from a plastic pencil sharpener was also used to slash the little girl's hand. "They wanted to do something to get released from the hostel," SP Raghuvanshi stated. "They believed doing this would achieve that." Before heading to court, the police brought the two accused minor students back to the school bathroom to reconstruct the sequence of the crime. Armed with the seized diary, the sharpener blade, and the timeline, the police officially produced the two minors before the juvenile court on Monday.

How a missing heirloom necklace revealed an extortion trail for online gaming

GNS News Agency, June 13

When a farmer from Koregaon Bhima in Pune's Shirur taluka began searching for his mother's heirloom gold ornament – a Mohanmal, a heavy necklace made of gold beads and a pendant weighing over 50 gram – which had gone missing, he never imagined that the trail would eventually lead to the popular online battle royale game 'Free Fire'.

Free Fire is a multiplayer mobile game in which players compete against each other in virtual combat. In the battle royale format, dozens of players are dropped into a game map and fight until only one player or team remains standing. The sequence of events unfolded over September and October last year and eventually led to the arrest of two men from Maharashtra's Parbhani district. The complainant, a 40-year-old farmer, lives with his parents, wife, and 14-year-old son. The teenager had been using a mobile phone for school studies – or so his parents believed.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), the complainant's mother owned a gold Mohanmal weighing about 5.5 tola, or roughly 55 gram, which she wore during family functions and otherwise kept locked in a cupboard. The ornament had been passed down through generations. On the morning of September 26, 2025, she searched for the Mohanmal in the cupboard but could not find it. She informed other family members that the necklace was missing. Despite searching the entire house, they could not locate it and suspected it had been stolen. "However, a twist came on October 5 when the complainant's wife took their son's pants for washing and found a gold pendant from Mohanmal inside a pocket. The family then questioned the boy in confidence. He revealed that he had been playing Free Fire on the mobile phone at home and had come into contact with a person named Mayur Bhisad from Parbhani through Instagram, who claimed to provide gaming IDs," an officer who is part of the probe said.

The boy further revealed that Bhisad initially demanded Rs 15,000 for a game ID. As he did not have the money, the boy refused. Two days later, Bhisad allegedly suggested that if there was money available on his mother's phone, he could transfer it instead. The boy then sent Rs 1,000 from his mother's phone and received a game ID. However, Bhisad allegedly blocked the ID after a few days. When the boy contacted Bhisad again on Instagram, the latter allegedly demanded Rs 1 lakh. When the teenager said he did not have that kind of money, Bhisad allegedly replied that "even gold will do". Thereafter, he repeatedly pressured the



boy to steal gold from his house. Under the lure of obtaining a gaming ID, the teenager sent a photograph of his grandmother's Mohanmal. Bhisad allegedly told him that if he handed over the gold necklace, he would provide the promised game ID.

About one to one-and-a-half months before the incident came to light, Bhisad allegedly travelled to Koregaon Bhima. The boy took the Mohanmal to him but kept the pendant at home. According to the FIR, when the boy initially handed over only some of the gold beads and refused to part with the rest, Bhisad allegedly threatened to kill him and forcibly took the entire set of beads. Thereafter, Bhisad allegedly provided a game ID, but that too was soon deactivated. When the boy asked for another ID, the accused allegedly demanded the pendant as well and threatened to kill him if he did not hand it over. After the teenager disclosed the entire sequence of events, the family approached the police. During the investigation, the police traced Bhisad and an alleged accomplice. In the second and third week of October last year, the police arrested Shashikant Munjaji Bhisad alias Mayur, 21, and Kishor Dahale, 21, both residents of Parbhani district. The police also recovered part of the gold ornament that had allegedly been extorted from the boy. Reacting to the incident, Pune Rural Superintendent of Police Sandeep Singh Gill said, "Mobile phones and online platforms have become an integral part of children's education, communication, and recreation. At the same time, this case highlights the importance of maintaining an open dialogue with children about their online interactions and digital activities. Parents and guardians should not only monitor but also encourage children to speak freely about their online experiences and seek help if they encounter unfamiliar or uncomfortable situations. Greater awareness among families can go a long way in preventing such incidents."

Pro-BJP YouTuber Maridhas arrested over videos targeting Vijay's TVK government

GNS News Agency, June 13

Maridhas, a prominent Tamil YouTuber known for his outspoken support of the BJP and sharp criticism of Dravidian parties, was arrested on Monday by a special team of the Chennai City Police in connection with videos allegedly targeting the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government headed by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay. Police officials said Maridhas was taken into custody from his residence in Madurai and brought to Chennai for questioning. While authorities confirmed that a case had been registered by the Cyber Crime wing of the Chennai Police, details of the FIR and the specific legal provisions invoked had not been made public until Monday afternoon.

According to police sources, the action followed what officials described as a series of videos and public remarks allegedly critical of the functioning of the state government, the Chief Minister and several ministers. A special Cyber Crime team from Chennai, assisted by the Madurai City Police, carried out the arrest amid heavy police deployment around his residence in Surya Nagar, Madurai. Another police source said the arrest was linked to remarks allegedly made during an interview aired on a YouTube channel. A senior police official said Maridhas will be questioned and further details regarding the case will emerge as the investigation progresses. The arrest is the latest chapter in the long and contentious relationship between Maridhas and law enforcement agencies in Tamil Nadu. Over the past several years, the YouTuber has emerged as one of the most visible right-wing voices in Tamil social media, building a substantial following through videos attacking Dravidian parties, defending BJP positions and engaging in political commentary. His most high-profile arrest came in December 2021 after a tweet posted in the aftermath of the helicopter crash near Coonoor that killed Chief of Defence



Staff General Bipin Rawat and 12 others. In that post, Maridhas questioned whether Tamil Nadu was "becoming another Kashmir under the DMK regime" and suggested that the state's political climate allowed "separatist" and "treasonous" activities to flourish.

Madurai police arrested him and registered a case under provisions including sedition, promoting enmity and public mischief. The arrest triggered protests by BJP leaders and cadres, with then state BJP president K Annamalai accusing the government of suppressing freedom of expression. Days later, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court quashed the FIR. Justice G R Swaminathan held that none of the offences cited by the police was made out on the facts of the case. Even after that FIR was struck down, Maridhas remained in judicial custody for a brief period in connection with another case investigated by the Chennai Cyber Crime Police. That case involved allegations that a fake email purportedly originating from a senior editor at a news organisation had been forged and displayed on his YouTube channel to support claims of political bias in the media.

Karnataka plans law to ensure registration of RSS, affiliate groups



The Karnataka Government is examining legal measures that could require organisations such as the RSS to formally register themselves, Home and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge indicated Monday. On Sunday, Kharge wrote a post on X soon after the arrest of Sudhir Bangera, who had issued a life threat to him online. While accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party of employing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh workers to threaten him, Kharge said the saffron party should ask the RSS to prepare documents for registration.

Speaking to The Indian Express Monday, Kharge said

Three decades after Veerappan's allegation against actor, Madras HC holds Sun TV liable

Nearly 30 years after one of Tamil Nadu's most sensational television broadcasts brought together a fugitive forest brigand, a celebrity journalist and a rising television network, the Madras High Court has held that a defamatory allegation aired during the programme caused sufficient injury to the then prominent actor R Sukanya's reputation to warrant damages. In a judgment delivered on June 5, Justice K Kumaresh Babu dismissed an appeal filed by Sun TV Network Ltd. and upheld a trial court decree directing the broadcaster to pay Rs 10,00,500 as damages to the actor. The case arose from a telecast that aired on April 17, 1996, during one of the most politically charged periods in Tamil Nadu's modern history.

At the time, Sukanya was among the most recognisable faces in South Indian cinema. She had acted in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada films and had established herself as a leading actor of the 1990s. The telecast came just weeks before a crucial parliamentary and Assembly election that would dramatically reshape the State's political landscape. The programme, 'Nerukku Ner' (Face to Face), featured an interview conducted by journalist and Nakkheeran editor R Rajagopal, better known as Nakkheeran Gopal, with the forest brigand Veerappan, then India's most wanted fugitive. During the interview, Veerappan made allegations linking Sukanya to an alleged political scandal involving the son of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao. The actor maintained that the claims were entirely false and defamatory. Justice Babu noted that the trial court had found the allegations to be defamatory and that neither the broadcaster nor the interviewer had seriously disputed the existence of the statement itself.

The court recounted that Sukanya had argued that the allegation was "offensive to plaintiff's dignity" and had lowered her image among "friends, family and the general public." She also contended that the broadcaster had deliberately retained the offending portion even while muting certain expletives used elsewhere in the interview.

The dispute would travel through the courts for nearly three decades. Sukanya first approached the Madras High Court in 1996 seeking damages and an injunction. The case was later transferred to a city civil court in Chennai because of changes in pecuniary jurisdiction. In April 2015, the trial court ruled in her favour and directed Sun TV to pay damages. The broadcaster then appealed. Before the high court, Sun TV argued that it was merely a platform that had telecast an interview recorded by another party. The network said it had carried a disclaimer stating that the views expressed belonged to Veerappan and not to the channel. It also pointed to a subsequent expression of regret published in a Tamil magazine after receiving legal notice from the actor. The court, however, attached considerable significance to a telecast agreement between Sun TV and Nakkheeran. Evidence showed that Veerappan's interview

the RSS should start by registering the organisation in accordance with the law of the land. "We have to make them transparent," he said. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that the RSS was the world's largest non-governmental organisation, he said that the organisation claims to have lakhs of members. "They openly conduct marches on the streets with lathis and uniforms. When there is such a large organisation where hundreds of people come down to march, they should be accountable to the public," he said, adding that his department was working on it. According to sources, a legal measure such as framing rules for various organisations or enacting a law to ensure the same was likely in the next 15-20 days, ahead of the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Karnataka Assembly.

The Home Department is holding consultations with legal experts over the issue, the source said. With the RSS claiming that the organisation is a 'body of individuals', the proposed measure would ensure that all such organisations and their affiliated groups are registered, the source added. Kharge, along with Congress leaders such as KPCC president B K Hariprasad, has been vocal in recent months about the issue and has also demanded that the RSS's financial details be released to the public.



had originally been recorded for approximately nine hours. The broadcaster eventually edited the footage into about four hours of programming and telecast it over several days.

The judgment noted that the agreement granted Sun TV broad editorial authority over the content. The trial court had found, and the high court agreed, that the broadcaster possessed the right to "edit, cut, delete or modify" portions of the interview before telecast. "Having reserved the right to edit, cut, delete or modify, alter and add any portion with an unrestricted right, it is the duty that is enjoined upon the appellant to verify the contents of the interview before its publication," Justice Babu wrote. The judge also rejected the argument that Sukanya had failed to prove damage to her reputation. "The loss of reputation follows a defamatory or derogatory statement," the judgment said, noting that the actor had testified that she lost professional opportunities and that her testimony had not been effectively discredited during cross-examination.

One of the most striking observations in the judgment concerned the broadcaster's apology. After receiving notice from Sukanya, Sun TV did not broadcast an apology through its own channel. Instead, it published a statement expressing regret in a Tamil magazine. Justice Babu questioned that choice. "If such a regret been published in its own broadcast, it would have reached the very same viewer who would have viewed the publication it had made earlier," the court said. "This itself would show malice on the part of the appellant." The ruling closes a chapter that began in an era when satellite television was transforming public discourse in Tamil Nadu.

The mid-1990s marked the rise of private television networks, the growing influence of celebrity journalism with journalist-cum-editor faces such as Gopal, and an extraordinary public fascination with Veerappan, whose rare interviews drew enormous audiences. For Sukanya, the litigation lasted longer than many acting careers. The actor who approached the court in 1996, at the height of her fame and in the year she appeared in the blockbuster film Indian, finally received judicial vindication three decades later.

'I play kabaddi, not chess': Chhagan Bhujbal hits out at NCP after Rajya Sabha snub, raises dynasty question

In a clear display of discontent over being bypassed for a Rajya Sabha nomination, senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal Monday hit out at his party and said that he deserves to be treated fairly. "I am a kabaddi player, not a chess player," said Bhujbal, suggesting that he believes in straightforward and transparent politics. He said that just as the family members of other top leaders routinely receive influential posts, he had merely demanded similar fair treatment for his own family. "I have been one of the founding members of the party along with Pawar saheb (Sharad Pawar). I had demanded that just like how family members, sons, and daughters of others get ministerial posts or Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, or Legislative Council seats, I should also be treated in a similar manner," Bhujbal said.

He made the remarks shortly after former MLC Rajendra Jain filed his nomination as the NCP candidate for the sole vacant Rajya Sabha seat from Maharashtra. The seat had become vacant following the resignation of the newly appointed Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar. Even though Bhujbal was physically present to support Jain during the filing of the nomination papers, he did not hold back from openly airing his grievances regarding the party's final decision. Bhujbal had actively staked a claim to the seat, proposing a political swap in which he would move to the upper House of Parliament in Delhi, provided his nephew, Sameer Bhujbal, was accommodated in his place as a minister in the Maharashtra state Cabinet. However, the party leadership rejected this precondition.

Bhujbal's sharp remarks appeared aimed at NCP state president Sunil Tatkare and the top brass. Tatkare is currently a Lok Sabha MP from Raigad, while his daughter Aditi Tatkare serves as the Maharashtra Women and Child Welfare Minister. Further consolidating the family's presence, Tatkare's son Aniket Tatkare was recently elected unopposed to the Legislative Council. The senior leader's statements also came in the backdrop of other dynastic arrangements within the ruling alliance. Zeeshan Siddique, son of the late former Congress MLA Baba Siddique, was recently inducted into the Legislative Council by the NCP. BJP not responsible for snub, says Bhujbal

He dismissed rumours that the BJP was responsible for the decision to overlook him for the Rajya Sabha seat. I



In a clear display of discontent over being bypassed for a Rajya Sabha nomination, senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal Monday hit out at his party and said that he deserves to be treated fairly.

don't think the BJP was behind the denial of my Rajya Sabha nomination. The proposal was discussed with the BJP. However, there was insufficient time before the Rajya Sabha poll schedule," he said. Bhujbal argued that the same principle should apply to him as it did to other political families. "Just as it has been done for others, I also want to be a Rajya Sabha MP and a Lok Sabha MP. Opportunities have come my way in the past, but nothing has materialised." Bhujbal also said that a Cabinet expansion will happen with a decision to be made when the time is appropriate.

He also said that all senior leaders of the Mahayuti alliance and the NCP gathered at Praful Patel's bungalow to demonstrate unity and are collectively supporting the party's Rajya Sabha candidate. Jain's nomination marks the second time the NCP has surprised everyone by selecting lesser-known leaders. Last month, the party nominated Vikram Kakade for the Legislative Council elections. Both Kakade and his father Sanjay Kakade were previously members of the BJP and had joined the NCP just hours before the announcement.

Fire breaks out on oil tanker carrying 24 Indian seafarers near Oman amid Israel-Iran escalation



GNS News Agency, June 13

New Delhi: A fire was reported aboard an oil tanker carrying 24 Indian seafarers off the coast of Oman on Monday, as Israel and Iran exchanged fresh attacks in their first major escalation since the ceasefire. The Madagascar-flagged MT Marivex reported a fire around 1.30 pm IST, Oshesh Kumar Sharma, a director in India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said at a news briefing. Sharma

declined to comment on the cause of the fire but said the vessel was carrying 24 Indian crew members. The tanker was empty and located well outside the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route that has been affected by regional tensions, he said.

"This is the preliminary information which we have received... as per available information, all Indian seafarers are safe," Sharma said. "We are coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs, our missions abroad, Indian Navy, Ministry of Defence, to ensure their safety." Ship-tracking data showed the vessel at anchor south of Muscat. The tanker issued a distress call after reportedly coming under attack while sailing toward the Omani port of Duqm, according to preliminary reports. The incident came as Israel and Iran renewed hostilities. Israel on Monday struck a petrochemical facility in southwestern Iran and carried out attacks on other military targets, despite reports that US President Donald Trump had urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to avoid further military action. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps accused the United States of violating the ceasefire and said it had retaliated by launching missiles at a similar facility in the Israeli city of Haifa.

Celebrating wedding amid Ebola outbreak: No kisses or close contact, but love lives on

GNS News Agency, June 13

Bunia: There were no kisses, long embraces or a crowded dance floor packed with well-wishers. But there was love. As Congo is battling an Ebola disease outbreak that has killed nearly 100 people out of the more than 500 confirmed cases, local authorities have raced to slow the disease with strict measures, including by limiting public gatherings and enforcing social distancing. For Jean Claude Erable and his bride Solange Hahati, celebrating their wedding on Saturday in such conditions meant having some family members and friends absent on one of their happiest days.

"We had planned 300 guests (but) only 50 people were allowed to enter," Hahati told The Associated Press. "It was really difficult because we wanted to celebrate with our friends." The latest Ebola disease outbreak, caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, is concentrated in Congo's eastern province of Ituri. There are 515 confirmed infections, including 91 deaths, according to Congolese health authorities.

The number of cases is believed to be higher because the outbreak was confirmed weeks late, and response has been challenging also because the virus has no approved vaccine or treatment. To help slow the spread, local officials have urged people to limit physical contact, wash their hands regularly and report suspected cases quickly. At the Catholic Church in Bunia, the capital of Ituri, where Erable and Hahati celebrated their love story, the Mass featured a number of couples who were present for their weddings. The precautions, though not always adhered to, are reshaping social life in a country where weddings are typically vibrant, daylong celebrations bringing together hundreds of relatives, friends and well-wishers. As the choir chorused and as brides in white gowns walked down the aisle, the handful of relatives and friends present inside the church maintained



social distance, cheered and snapped photos. Outside, a crowd sang excitedly.

"We are adhering to the preventive measures and respecting social distancing," said Erable, the groom. "I must say that there is no problem, no obstacle, because we are doing our best to respect all the measures dictated by the state." His bride smiled as he slipped a wedding ring onto her finger. Outside, after the wedding Mass, she gleefully displayed the ring as her husband walked her to the car. The couple moved part of their reception outdoors, where guests could spread out more easily. Church leaders say adapting has become essential. Some families have already postponed their scheduled weddings in light of the new health measures, said the Rev. Aime Lokanabego, the priest who officiated their wedding Mass. The church is not holding other religious events that involve higher risks of exposure, such as baptism, he said. "This is, in a way, how we are dealing with this Ebola epidemic at our level. The situation is critical," said Lokanabego.

Iran announces end to attacks on Israel after Trump says foes must 'stop shooting'

DUBAI/JERUSALEM, GNS News Agency, June 13-

Iran's military announced on Monday that its first wave of attacks on Israel since a ceasefire in April was now over, although it threatened to resume the strikes if Israel continued attacks on Lebanon. There was no immediate response from Israel, which had launched attacks on Iran after Tehran fired missiles towards Israel late on Sunday. Iran had said its strikes were in retaliation for Israeli strikes on the outskirts of Beirut. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. Earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump demanded that Israel and Iran "immediately stop shooting".

The flurry of attacks drove oil prices up around 4% and threatened to wreck U.S.-led efforts to broker a deal to end the war. Israel hit a petrochemical plant in southwestern Iran that it said was used to produce ballistic missiles. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said it retaliated with a strike aimed at a similar Israeli plant in the city of Haifa. The first direct exchange between Israel and Iran since April could interfere with Trump's efforts to end the war he launched alongside Israel at the end of February. Iran's military headquarters said it had "delivered a painful response" against Israel for its attacks on Lebanon, including Sunday's strikes on the outskirts of Beirut.

"Accordingly, the operations of the armed forces are hereby declared halted; however, it is emphasized that if the aggressions and acts of mischief continue — including in southern Lebanon — much more severe and crushing actions than before will follow." In one of several posts on social media, Trump said Israel and Iran both wanted "an immediate CEASEFIRE! Final negotiations on 'Peace' are proceeding, subject to ignorance or stupidity getting in its way." He added that a U.S. blockade of Iranian ports would remain in place till a final deal was reached. An Israeli official said Trump had spoken on Monday to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Item 1 of 6 A woman stands among the rubble of her house, which was damaged in a U.S. and Israeli strike in March, in Tehran, Iran June 7, 2026. Majid Asgaripour/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via Earlier on Monday an Israeli military official said Israel was prepared for a range of options for military strikes against Iran, from several days to "as long as it takes". Israel had struck Iranian air defence systems that were being rebuilt after previous Israeli attacks, as well as the petrochemical plant. In a similarly defiant vein, an Iranian military source quoted by the Tasnim news agency had said Tehran was prepared for a prolonged conflict with Israel and for renewed strikes against U.S. interests in the region. "EXTREME SUSPICION" Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tehran was exchanging messages with Washington in an atmosphere of "extreme suspicion". Israel's actions in Lebanon, whether carried out with U.S. knowledge and consent or not, were aimed "at sabotaging diplomacy, he added. "The United States bears direct responsibility for any action the Zionist regime (Israel) takes in relation to violating regional peace and security against Iran," he said.

Iranian media reported the sound of explosions in Tehran on Monday, and the semi-official Mehr news agency



said air defences had shot down a drone over the capital. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis pledged in a statement to stop Israel's maritime navigation in the Red Sea, and said they had also fired missiles at Israel. The Houthis have so far largely stayed out of the regional war; they control territory at the mouth of the Red Sea, increasingly important as the alternative route for millions of barrels per day of Middle East oil otherwise blocked by Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz. The Israeli military official said Iran had fired "close to 30 ballistic missiles" at Israel since Sunday evening, and the Houthis "a further two missiles. Israel said it struck targets at the Mahshahr petrochemical complex that were used to produce and export raw materials for Iran's missile programme. A provincial official told Iranian media parts of the plant were damaged.

Stabbing spree in New York's Penn Station; five injured

New York: Five people were stabbed at New York Penn Station, with at least one sustaining serious injuries, local media reported. The incident occurred on Sunday night (Local time). The five victims were rushed to a local hospital, reports CBS News, quoting the Fire Department of New York City. A suspect was quickly taken into custody, the authorities said. Police sources told CBS that the suspect is believed to have mental health issues. A criminal investigation is still underway, and no signs of terrorism have been reported so far, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting CBS News.

Police urged the public to avoid the area due to expected traffic delays, road closures and mass transit disruptions. Widely regarded as the busiest rail hub in the Western Hemisphere, New York Penn Station serves over 600,000 passengers each day.

Earlier on Saturday afternoon, at least 12 people were shot near a community festival in Toledo, US state of Ohio, with two in critical condition. It appeared there were at least two people who were "probably shooting at each other," Toledo Deputy Police Chief Joe Heffernan said, adding that police are still searching for the suspects and advise the public to avoid the surrounding areas.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis threaten Israeli shipping in the Red Sea



ADEN, Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Monday that they would ban Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea, adding to challenges for global shipping through the Middle East during the Iran war. The group said in a statement it had launched an attack on Israel and enacted a total ban on Israeli shipping in the Red Sea, warning of further escalation. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. Any Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping would worry energy markets more than three months into Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, with the war reigniting overnight.

The Red Sea, leading to the Suez canal, is a crucial shipping lane in its own right, and during the Iran war has become the main alternative outlet for millions of barrels per day of Middle East oil sent by pipeline bypassing the Gulf. The Houthis disrupted shipping in 2023 to 2025 out of what they said was solidarity with the Palestinians, but had so far largely stayed out of the wider Middle East war that began with U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran in February this year. A Houthi source told Reuters that preventing Israeli ships from transiting the Red Sea was a first step, and that further escalation could lead it to stop the passage of any ships bound for Israel as well as other measures. The an-

nouncement did not amount to a ban on all commercial shipping in the Red Sea and was instead "directed at vessels assessed by the Houthis as Israeli-affiliated", British maritime risk management group Vanguard said on Monday in a note. "Given the broad wording used, vessels operating in the region should maintain heightened vigilance and conduct enhanced affiliation screening." Shipping sources said the action could cause wider impact, because the Houthis have targeted ships in the past with no direct link with Israel.

"The announcement... will cause every ship to think carefully about the wisdom of making a transit," one source said. "The Houthis don't have a good record of determining which ships have links to Israel, so it's probably better to go around Africa, pay the fuel bill, and benefit from lower war risk insurance costs." Red Sea war risk insurance rates were unchanged on Monday at around 0.3% of the value of a ship, with little movement in recent weeks, an insurance industry source said. The rates are reviewed every 24 hours, so levels could change rapidly, the source added. Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping during the two-year Gaza war that began in October 2023 led major companies including Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd to divert around Africa - a far longer, more expensive route. During that period, Houthi attacks on what the group called Israeli-linked vessels were expanded to include any shipping companies that used Israeli ports.

Shipping traffic through the southern Red Sea and critical Bab al-Mandab strait has still not returned to pre-October 2023 levels. Average monthly sailings in March 2026 reached 1,034 crossings, compared with over 2,000 in September 2023, according to analysis from Lloyd's List Intelligence. The impact of any sustained threat to Red Sea shipping could be bigger now, however, given the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Most Gulf energy production has been unable to leave the region since the war began on February 28. However, significant volumes of Saudi crude have been transported by pipeline to its Red Sea export terminal at Yanbu.

EU sanctions Iranians over restricting naval traffic in Hormuz



NICOSIA, - The European Union said on Monday it had imposed sanctions on two Iranian individuals and a unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for threatening the freedom of maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, through which around a fifth of the world's oil flows. The

move marked the first time the bloc has used a new powers to sanction Iran for restricting freedom of navigation. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

The EU said in a written statement that it had added the Hormozgan Provincial Command of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy to its sanctions list, as well as Mohammad Akbarzadeh and Hamid Hosseini. It said Akbarzadeh is Deputy Commander for Political Affairs of the IRGC Navy and Hosseini is a representative of Iran's Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union.

Iran moved to close the Strait of Hormuz after U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran began on February 28. "Iran's actions are unacceptable. In response member states have approved sanctions against Iranian entities and individuals involved in disrupting transit through the Strait of Hormuz," Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, said earlier at a news conference in Cyprus. "This is the first time the EU has applied its new freedom of navigation regime and when necessary we will apply it again," added Kallas.

Why are the Houthis threatening to attack Red Sea shipping and what does it mean for oil markets?

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Monday that they would ban ships linked to Israel from the Red Sea after Israel renewed its military attacks on Iran, adding to concerns about global shipping and energy flows. This is why it matters and what it means for the Iran war and the global energy crisis. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

HOW BIG IS THE RISK TO GLOBAL ENERGY MARKETS?

Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz since Israel and the United States attacked it on February 28 has disrupted most oil and other energy exports from the Gulf, raising prices and causing a major energy shock. Saudi Arabia has responded by diverting more than 70% of its normal daily crude exports to the Red Sea port of Yanbu. That has been a lifeline for the energy market, helping to keep down global oil prices. Any sustained Houthi disruption to Red Sea shipping including potential attacks on shipping or ports could be a big problem.

A Houthi source told Reuters preventing Israeli ships from transiting the Red Sea was "a first step" but that if escalation continued, the group would stop any ships heading to Israel as well as other measures. When the group attacked shipping during the Gaza war its stated target of Israeli-linked vessels included any vessel belonging to any company that used Israeli ports and its attacks on those ships dissuaded most companies from using the route.

WHO ARE THE HOUTHIS?

The Houthis emerged as a military, political and religious movement in north Yemen in the 1990s, fighting guerrilla war against the government in Sanaa. They adhere to the Zaydi sect of Shi'a Islam, and after the 2011 Arab Spring they strengthened ties with Iran and seized on instability to capture the capital in 2014, derailing a Gulf-backed political transition plan. Saudi Arabia and Arab allies launched a military intervention months later to restore the ousted government and dislodge a group it saw as a proxy for Iran, Riyadh's arch regional rival. As Yemen's civil war ground to a stalemate, the Houthis attacked oil installations and other infrastructure in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with missiles and drones. Iran champions the Houthis as part of its regional "Axis of Resistance", which includes Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraqi Shi'ite militias, though its ties with the Yemeni movement are less clear than with those other groups.

The Houthis do not recognise Iran's supreme leader as their ultimate religious authority in the same way Hezbollah and the Iraqi groups do. Its motivations are mainly domestic, though it is ideologically aligned with Iran. The U.S. says Iran has armed, funded and trained the Houthis with help from Hezbollah. The Houthis deny being an Iranian proxy and say they develop their own weapons.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE HOUTHIS ATTACKED RED SEA SHIPS BEFORE?



The Houthis do not recognise Iran's supreme leader as their ultimate religious authority in the same way Hezbollah and the Iraqi groups do. Its motivations are mainly domestic, though it is ideologically aligned with Iran.

After the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, and Israel's devastating campaign in Gaza, the Houthis began firing at Israel and on international shipping in the Red Sea, saying they were doing so in support of Palestinians. The Houthi attacks in the Red Sea severely disrupted global shipping, prompting Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd and other major companies to divert around Africa - a far longer, more expensive route. A U.S.-led mission to restore free navigation in the Red Sea involved repeated strikes on Houthi targets and a defensive campaign that shot down hundreds of drones and missiles. But some Houthi attacks continued until last summer, only ending completely with the Gaza ceasefire in October.

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE DURING THE LATEST IRAN WAR?

While Hezbollah and the Iraqi groups joined the war early with rocket and drone fire after the first U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran, the Houthis have been comparatively quiet. The group's leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi said on March 5: "Our fingers are on the trigger at any moment should developments warrant it". Iranian military commanders have repeatedly warned the Houthis could join the war, with Revolutionary Guards Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani saying on June 1 they could choke off the Red Sea. But before this week, the group's only involvement was a few missile and drone attacks on Israel in late March and early April. Why the Houthis have been relatively quiet so far is not entirely clear. They and Iran may have wanted to use the threat of another major energy route closure to warn Israel and the United States off further escalations.

For Virat Kohli, the home stretch to the 2027 World Cup isn't feeling very homely

GNS News Agency, June 13

First Virat Kohli lets his bat do the talking and then he speaks his mind. Be it when playing for India or RCB — this has been a recent trend. Few months back, he had a lengthy heart-to-heart chat at the award ceremony under Ranchi's night sky after his ODI ton against South Africa. Now, after carrying RCB to the IPL play-offs he sat down for a long podcast. When you have the weight of runs behind you, your words carry heft and the world believes you. On both occasions, as always, he was articulate, analytical and also unusually angsty. Kohli, all through his captaincy, made it an Us vs World battle to fuel his team and get sparkling results. This time the battle seems more personal. One doesn't need to read between the lines; connecting the dots is enough to get a drift of Kohli's statements. Without naming anyone in the team management or selection committee, he has been making a few telling points.

Kohli's public remarks give a hint about the rather prickly relationship with head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar — the two men during whose tenure he had retired from Tests. They also give off a whiff of mistrust. Suddenly, it seems there is some truth in the nudge-and-wink stories floating around Indian cricket — the ones about the team management and selectors still being undecided about including Virat and even Rohit Sharma in the 2027 ODI World Cup squad. Both Ro and Ko have been around long enough to know that they aren't in the safe zone. It is this uncertainty that fosters the many thinly-veiled gripes that one has been hearing. Those in the know say that a few voices in the selection committee were keen to rest the seniors for the Afghanistan series as it was days after the hectic IPL series. Not just the pacer Jasprit Bumrah but even Kohli and Rohit. But that didn't quite materialise. Rohit and Virat were named in the squad. Having retired from both T20 and Tests, they showed their eagerness to scoop the limited opportunity for international outings they were getting. In the RCB podcast, Virat gets asked about the 2027 World Cup and he doesn't dodge the question. "My perspective is very clear. If I can add value to the environment that I'm a part of and the environment feels like I can add value I'll be seen ... If I'm made to feel like I need to prove my worth and my value ..." he says and shakes his head vigorously. "I'm not in that space." Was Virat taking an important stand? And in case "the environment" — read team management headed by Gambhir — do feel he doesn't add value to the team, will he say goodbye to the 2027 World Cup? In the months ahead, intrigue around the ODI squad would be at a new high.

Virat Kohli credited former India head coach Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour for his Test revival in 2023. Virat Kohli credited former India head coach



Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour for his Test revival in 2023. Later he would talk about the work atmosphere that was far from ideal — once again he keeps it vague with no names. But somehow it is easy to make guesses. "I want to play because I love playing. I just love batting ... I could not care ... This is not about anyone else. This is about me and the game and that's what it's going to be. The moment I feel like, you know, people are trying to complicate," he says. "If people say we believe in your abilities and then a week later they start questioning the way you operate, it's like why? Either tell me on day one I'm not good enough or I'm not needed or if you've said I'm good enough ... Then be quiet." The answer leaves little to imagination.

As if to present a contrast, he would go on to praise the other coaches he has worked with, those who gave him an atmosphere he liked and to whom he is eternally obliged. In another recent RCB chat show, he mentioned his incredible 2023 season and the role the India coaches — Rahul Dravid and Vikram Rathour — had in his success. "Whenever I meet them I always thank them from the bottom of my heart because they really took care of me in a way that made me feel like I wanted to play for them. I want to do the hard work for them because they were so caring and nurturing," he said. This was revelatory, even the seemingly uber confident need caring and nurturing. "It's a very thin line between being cautious and being insecure. You always feel like you're never good enough and that's the impostor syndrome. Even if I go to the nets today, I feel like at this stage like these youngsters are watching and if I have a bad net session, they're going to be like this is the guy who's been playing for 20 years ... So that's always at the back of your mind like you have to keep up with your own standards you know." How times change, the mighty talk about their own frailties. Those who once ruled the dressing room, now have doubts. They worry about the opinion of the environment. The 2027 World Cup is still many months away and the once untouchable now navigate a long period of scrutiny.

A rare delivery, and what comes after: The story of Amina, Alim and their quadruplets

The chances of a natural quadruplet pregnancy, as per experts, are 1 in 7 lakh. An article in The Official Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in India, published in 2007, said, "Only 48 such pregnancies are reported in world literature between 1900-1952." Amina Fatima, 25, and Mohammad Alim, 28, can tell you what those statistics don't tell — about the before and after.

Between May 9 and May 14, her labour delayed and separated with the help of medicines, Amina delivered four babies — two boys and two girls — at Teerthanker Mahaveer University (TMU) Hospital in Moradabad. The quadruplets were conceived naturally, and also delivered naturally, in another rarity. The first baby, born at 26 weeks of pregnancy on May 9, weighed only 710 gm. On May 14, Amina delivered another boy and two girls, weighing 900 gm, and roughly 600-700 gm, respectively. On May 15, the infant born first, who was immediately administered surfactant that helps premature lungs breathe, developed pulmonary haemorrhage — a complication common among extremely premature infants. He didn't survive. The other three siblings remain in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), with doctors keeping an anxious watch. The pregnancy Amina and Alim, who belong to adjacent villages Ratanpur Kala and Obri in Sambhal, got married in May 2024. It was an arranged marriage but the two had known each other since childhood. Lying on the hospital bed, Amina, her voice rising barely above a whisper, says: "Everyone wants children after marriage. That's what I wanted too." Amina's mother had nine children, including a pair of twins. So when Alim and she first came to know after an ultrasound that she was carrying four foetuses, Amina says they were not unduly worried. "I prayed that all of them remain safe." But, as they consulted multiple hospitals, the first advice of doctors was "foetal reduction". This involved the termination of one or more foetuses to improve the chances of survival of the others and reduce risks to the mother.

When they came to TMU, nearly 30 km from Sambhal, this is what Professor Shubra Agarwal, the doctor who led the obstetrics and gynaecology team at TMU, also told them. By then, Amina was in the third week of her pregnancy. "In nearly 12 years of practice, this was the first time I saw a spontaneous quadruplet pregnancy ... We advised Amina and her husband that carrying quadruplets till term was extremely difficult," Agarwal told The Indian Express. Agarwal has been with TMU, a private university with a hospital attached, since 2014. A multispecialty facility, the 20-year-old hospital sees around 2,000-2,500 patients daily, more than 80% of them from Amroha, Rampur, Moradabad, Sambhal, Bijnor and Uttarakhand's Kumaon region. It has roughly 800-1,000 admitted patients at all times. Dr Alka Kriplani, former head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at AIIMS, also asserts the "extremely uncommon" nature of spontaneous quadruplet pregnancies. "In my entire career, I have seen only two or three such cases." Amina says she considered the medical advice, but didn't hesitate after doctors admitted they were not sure of the risks. Even if she chose to terminate one of the foetuses, they said, complications or pregnancy loss regarding the others were possible. "I wanted to know if there was an injection so that, in the worst-case scenario, at least one baby would not be affected. But nobody could give us that guarantee," she says. So the couple chose faith instead. "Leave it to God," they told doctors repeatedly. Alim recalls telling the doctors: "Yeh Allah ki den hain, toh hum tohfa samajh ke rakhenge (They are Allah's gift, we accept them like a blessing)." Alim, who runs a small grocery shop with his brother in Obri, earns between Rs 15,000 and Rs 20,000 a month. Theirs is a joint household of five members. When doctors advised strict bed rest for Amina to ensure there were no risks to the quadruplets, everyday routines came to revolve around the pregnancy. Alim started waking up early to cook breakfast before heading to the shop. His sister-in-law helped, as did relatives. As the pregnancy became physically exhausting, Amina struggled to eat. Her weight



The couple "left it to God", as an anxious team got to work at Moradabad's TMU Hospital for a '1 in 7 lakh' delivery. A week later, the labour of love, and faith, continues.

dropped instead of increasing. She survived mostly on coconut water, fruits and small meals. From the fourth month on, doctors stepped up the monitoring to checks every two weeks. Then, when Amina had just finished 26 weeks, she went into labour. She delivered the first baby on May 9. Soon after, to the surprise of the doctors, her contractions stopped.

Because the remaining three babies were still stable inside separate amniotic sacs and there were appeared to be no infection, doctors attempted what they call "a delayed interval delivery", essentially a medical approach in which labour is temporarily halted to prolong the pregnancy and improve the survival chances of the remaining foetuses. Five days later, Amina delivered the other three babies. Dr M P Singh, Dean of Student Welfare at TMU, who also oversees media communications, says it was "the first case of quadruplets" since the hospital was established. "We treated Amina free of cost and have supported her family under the TMU Poshan Yojana by paying her Rs 4,000 (one-time payment)." The babies Dr Aditi Rawat, the NICU in-charge and consulting neonatologist at TMU, says Amina's babies fall in the highest-risk category of newborn care: extremely premature and extremely low birth weight babies. "The mortality rate in babies born before 28 weeks and below 900 grams is between 50% and 80%," she says.

One complication is that the babies, given how small they are, cannot yet drink milk. Their lungs, intestines and other organs remain underdeveloped. Nutrition is being administered intravenously, with doctors monitoring oxygen saturation, blood gases, urine output and pulse rates almost hourly. A fragile Amina spends most of her time on the hospital bed, in a ward with over 10 other patients. Alim sleeps at night outside along with relatives. As their three babies fight against the odds in incubators, the 28-year-old admits he often debates if they were right in keeping all the four foetuses. "When doctors tell you there are complications, when they say ventilators are needed, there is fear ... Maybe we should have listened. At that time, we only thought positively," he says. But almost immediately, Alim pulls himself together. "Whatever happens, happens for the best. We hope that our children come out safe." Since Amina was admitted, Alim has gone back to the village only once, for a brief while last week to bury their firstborn. They were yet to name him or the others, having decided to leave it till after they were at home. Before that, Alim must face one more thing: break the news to Amina that one of their children didn't make it. He fears she is too weak to deal with the blow. When she demands to see the babies, he leads her to the glass window looking into the NICU — and lets her draw her own conclusions.

We need to speed up economic reform, but pessimism doesn't help

Surjit Bhalla is one of India's most independent economic voices, and his pieces in The Indian Express are not to be dismissed with the customary official reflex of pointing to infrastructure spending and sunrise sectors. He asks hard questions, and hard questions deserve hard answers. This one ("The BJP is winning the election, but it's losing the economy", IE, May 20), however, contains enough analytical ambiguity to warrant careful examination before one arrives at whatever genuine policy concern remains.

Begin with the most arresting claim: India risks joining Turkey as a residual "Fragile Two." The original "Fragile Five" designation — coined by Morgan Stanley in 2013 — had a specific, operationalisable content: Large current account deficits, fiscal imbalances, and acute vulnerability to Federal Reserve tapering. India's macroeconomic architecture today is categorically different from 2013 on each of those dimensions: Its monetary policy framework is orthodox and inflation-targeting, its fiscal consolidation trajectory is credible, and its foreign-exchange reserves are among the largest in the world. Turkey's travails, rooted in a sustained period of deeply negative real interest rates and institutional subordination of monetary policy to political preference, belong to a different analytical category. The comparison generates a striking headline — not an illuminating analysis.

The piece is also silent on what is perhaps the single most consequential development in global capital markets since the Global Financial Crisis: The end of the era of quantitative easing and near-zero interest rates. The decade of extraordinary monetary accommodation that preceded 2022 produced an artificial compression of risk premia globally, flooding emerging markets with capital that was, in effect, seeking any yield whatsoever. UNCTAD documents that global FDI rebounded sharply to \$1.58 trillion in 2021, a 64 per cent increase over the previous year. What followed was an equally sharp reversal. New investment project numbers — greenfield announcements, international project finance deals, and cross-border M&As — all shifted into decline after the first quarter of 2022, with project finance values falling more than 30 per cent as financing conditions deteriorated and interest rates rose sharply across the US, the eurozone, and — for the first time in a generation — Japan. UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2025 confirms that global FDI fell for a second consecutive year. In such an environment, virtually every emerging market has faced currency and capital flow pressures. To attribute India's investment trends primarily to domestic policy failure, while ignoring the most consequential shift in global monetary conditions in four decades, is to mistake the tide for the swimmer's effort.

On BITs, the empirical literature is far less settled than the piece implies. Bhalla treats the 2015 revision as a near-sufficient explanation for FDI trends. The academic record counsels more caution. Early papers — including Hallward-Driemeier (2003) and Tobin and Rose-Ackerman (2005) — found weak or no effects of BITs on FDI inflows. More recent work finds positive effects, but conditional on the quality of domestic institutions: BITs function as a commitment device that complements strong institutions rather than substituting for weak ones. Most pertinently, a study examining India — Singh, Shree, and Urdhwareshe (2022), published in the Indian Economic Review — found that individual BIT signings do not influence FDI inflows; what matters is the cumulative stock of treaties, which signals an overall regime of investor protection. This finding, which the piece does not engage, considerably complicates the monocausal story. Domestic institutional quality, regulatory predictability, and rule of law matter at least as much as treaty architecture — a conclusion that, if anything, broadens the reform agenda rather than narrowing it to a single legal instrument.

Helped Army against militants, fled Kashmir in 1997. Now their Jammu home has been bulldozed in 43°C heat



Forest dept and police demolish 25-30 houses belonging to people from tribal Gujjar, Bakarwal communities in Jammu's Sidhra area. Among them, a couple aged 75 and 80

It is for the second time that 80-year-old Abdul Razak and 75-year-old Khatoun Bi have been forced to leave their home in the last 30 years. The couple's house in Jammu was among two dozen demolished in the Sidhra area by the J&K Police and Forest Department earlier this week, alleging that the structures were built on forest land. Amid the scorching heat on Wednesday, a day after their house was demolished, the elderly couple could be found taking shelter from the sun under a large tree. The temperature went up to 43 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, nearly four degrees above the seasonal average.

Sitting in the shade under the tree, Razak remembered the first time the couple, originally from South Kashmir's Kokernag, were rendered homeless — in mid-1997, when militants threatened to kill them for providing information to security forces. "It was peak militancy in South Kashmir when an Army unit came to our village," recalled Razak, with Khatoun Bi sitting right next to him. The Army unit stayed in a local school, and the next morning, they called the local residents. "A senior Army officer requested us to provide them information against militants in the area," he said, adding that based on the information they provided, several militants were killed. "During their stay, we worked for the security forces and even constructed bunkers for them, but when the area became militancy-free, the unit left," he said. After this, militants returned to the village and burnt houses and also the school building where security forces had set up camp, Razak said. "When militants asked the villagers to disclose the names of the people who had helped security forces. Some of them gave our names." He recalled that the militants killed three people in the village, including his



The FDI data itself tells a different story from the one the piece presents. Gross FDI inflows stood at \$88.29 billion through April-February of FY26, an 18 per cent jump over the previous year, and are on course to cross \$90 billion for the full fiscal year — well outside the \$70-80 billion range of recent years. India ranked fourth globally for greenfield project announcements in 2024, and its share of global FDI has roughly doubled over the past decade. Manufacturing FDI grew 18 per cent in FY25. These are not the indicators of investors leaving. Net FDI has been weaker, driven substantially by higher repatriation of profits and rising outward FDI as Indian companies themselves internationalise — a mark of corporate maturity, not economic distress. The piece collapses gross and net without acknowledgment, and that elision does considerable damage to the argument. The growth ranking argument deserves similar care. Ranking India 16th in per capita GDP growth in US dollar terms — behind Bangladesh at 8.3 per cent and Ethiopia at 7.2 per cent — is doing analytical work that the chosen denominator cannot support. Dollar-denominated per capita growth is a joint function of real growth and bilateral exchange rate movements. Currency appreciation or depreciation in Bangladesh or Ethiopia tells us something about their monetary and trade conditions; it does not constitute a welfare benchmark against which India's economic management should be evaluated. In purchasing power parity terms, which better captures actual improvements in living standards, India's performance across the BJP period looks materially different.

What Bhalla genuinely identifies — and what deserves acknowledgment — is that the investment climate requires continuous improvement, that the proliferation of quality control orders has at times crossed from quality assurance into protection, and that the BIT framework revision is incomplete. The government has recognised these issues. The Economic Survey and successive budgets have addressed deregulation, ease of doing business, and the need to signal regulatory predictability. The legitimate challenge is that the pace of reform must match the ambition. That is a fair demand. It is not, however, the same as the broader verdict the piece's headline announces. None of this is to claim that the macroeconomic outlook for FY27 is without genuine difficulty. The Department of Economic Affairs's monthly economic reviews have not shied from saying so. The trade deficit will widen significantly in FY27, as will the current account deficit. Inflation risks are tilted to the upside. A below-normal monsoon adds an agricultural dimension to a complex supply shock. The task of attracting stable, long-term capital — through credible tax policy, regulatory predictability, and reduced friction for investors — intensifies in these conditions. These challenges have been acknowledged in official documents. Elections can deliver mandates. Only policy delivers prosperity. Both propositions are true, and the government accepts both. The appropriate response to Bhalla's genuine concerns is to accelerate reform — not to dispute the imperative, but to reject the analytical scaffolding that obscures rather than illuminates it.

brother-in-law, spreading fear among the family and leading them to flee to Jammu. Their latest displacement came on Tuesday, when personnel of the Forest Department and police demolished 25-30 houses belonging to people from the tribal Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, including theirs. This time, they're not sure where to go. Currently, they are staying in makeshift tents erected on the same land where their houses were demolished.

Razak and Khatoun are registered migrants from Kashmir, getting free ration and monthly cash relief of Rs 3,250 per person. Their son-in-law, Manzoor Ahmad, his wife Zareena Begum, and their children Sameer and Afsana, are also registered Kashmiri migrants. Their house was also demolished on Tuesday. While Razak said his migrants' ration card issued by the Office of the Relief Commissioner was buried under the rubble of his house as officials allegedly did not give him time to bring everything out, Manzoor's ration card, issued on April 1, 2026, mentions the family as "KM" under the "Special Reservation Category". In the years following the outbreak of militancy in Kashmir in 1989, nearly 40,000 Kashmiri Pandit families left their homes in the Valley and migrated to Jammu and other parts of the country. Following threats from militants to over 2,500 Muslim families also left the Valley. In Jammu, they were registered as migrants from Kashmir, just like Pandits. Abdul Razak said, "We initially stayed in a rented accommodation in Bhatindi, and after some time, local people, moved by our plight, advised us to settle at the present site, which was an open area." Successive governments in Jammu and Kashmir provided them with electricity and water connections, among other basic amenities. However, in recent years, trouble arose with right-wing groups and the BJP demanding that people "illegally" occupying the land be evicted. Just a few days before the Tuesday demolition, BJP MLA from the Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa, led a protest on May 13 on Sidhra road, demanding the immediate removal of encroachments on forest and state land in his constituency. Raising slogans, the protesters disrupted vehicular traffic on the road for nearly two hours and also warned of a major agitation if no action was taken in the matter. Within a week, forest officials and police arrived with a JCB machine arrived at the forests near Mahamaya temple and demolished 25-30 houses, retrieving nearly 60 kanals of land. While Forest Department officials say the structures were illegally raised on demarcated forest land, J&K's Forest and Tribal Affairs Minister Javed Rana has denied the claim, saying the people were staying on state land, not forest land.

While visiting the affected families after the demolition, Rana assured them of action against the officers responsible. Also asked Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to initiate action against police personnel involved in the demolition drive. Later, the minister constituted a two-member fact-finding committee to inquire into the demolition of the houses and report on any violation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, which allows tribals to stay on forest land. The panel has been directed to submit its report in seven days.

How to combine cardio and strength training: Here is a 7-day plan



Unlike overstimulating forms of exercise that leave the body fatigued for hours, properly dosed cardio creates energy rather than draining it. The key is understanding how to combine the two intelligently. Cardio should support strength training, not compete with it. The mistake many people make is treating every workout as a test of exhaustion. Use cardio strategically. A short duration of low-to-moderate intensity cardio before strength training can serve as an excellent preparation tool. Gentle cycling, brisk walking, rowing, or light jogging increases body temperature, improves blood flow, lubricates joints, and activates the nervous system without exhausting the body. In this role, cardio becomes preparation rather than punishment. Strength training can then follow with better mobility, improved coordination and greater readiness. Moderate cardio can also be performed separately on non-lifting days to improve endurance and recovery without interfering with muscular adaptation. In fact, low-intensity cardio on recovery days often helps reduce stiffness and improve circulation better than complete inactivity. A weekly plan

On Day 1, begin with 10–15 minutes of brisk walking or cycling followed by upper body strength training. Focus on controlled pushing and pulling movements such as presses, rows, shoulder exercises, and core stability work. Day 2 can emphasise active recovery through walking, yoga, stretching, mobility exercises and breathing practices. This keeps the body moving without excessive strain and improves flexibility and nervous system recovery. On Day 3, combine light cardio with lower body strength training. After a short warm-up walk or light jog, perform squats, lunges, hip hinges, calf raises, and stability work with moderate effort and controlled form. Day 4 should be restorative. A gentle walk, meditation, mobility work, or recreational movement allows the body to recover physically and mentally while maintaining circulation and reducing stiffness. Day 5 can focus on full-body strength training after a few minutes of easy cardio preparation. Compound movements such as deadlifts, push-ups, rowing patterns, and planks help integrate strength across the entire body. Day 6 should prioritize enjoyable movement. Swimming, dancing, hiking, cycling outdoors, or playing a sport creates cardiovascular stimulation in a more relaxed and psychologically refreshing way. Day 7 is complete rest. Deep recovery, proper sleep, nourishment, hydration, and reduced physical stress are essential parts of adaptation and long-term progress. The ideal combination is not based on extremes. One strengthens the frame, the other strengthens the engine.

Strength training and cardiovascular exercise are often treated as separate worlds. One is associated with muscle, power and appearance; the other with endurance, heart health and stamina. In reality, the human body does not function in isolated systems. Muscles cannot perform well without efficient circulation, and the cardiovascular system cannot remain strong without muscular support. True fitness emerges when both systems work together. Strength training gives the body structure. It strengthens muscles, protects joints, improves bone density, stabilises posture and supports metabolic health. But strength alone is incomplete if the body lacks the ability to efficiently transport oxygen, regulate energy and recover from effort. This is where cardiovascular training becomes essential. A healthy cardiovascular system allows the heart, lungs, blood vessels, and muscles to work together with less strain. When circulation improves, recovery improves. When oxygen delivery improves, endurance improves. When endurance improves, strength training itself becomes more sustainable and effective. Why cardio is misunderstood

Many people misunderstand cardio because they associate it only with exhausting workouts that leave them breathless and depleted. However, the most beneficial form of cardiovascular training for long-term health is often moderate, rhythmic and sustainable. Walking briskly, cycling at a conversational pace, swimming, rowing, light jogging or dancing can strengthen the cardiovascular system without overwhelming the nervous system. This type of cardio has profound effects on the body. It improves mitochondrial efficiency (how cells convert oxygen and nutrients into usable energy for the body) supports heart rate, enhances oxygen utilisation and reduces systemic inflammation. It also influences emotional health. Rhythmic movement has a calming effect on the nervous system, often reducing anxiety, improving mood and increasing mental clarity.

Maharashtra woman donates her eggs 37 times: What repeated egg harvesting does to a woman's body

The case of a woman from Maharashtra's Ulhasnagar allegedly donating her eggs 37 times, following the reveal of an egg-harvesting racket, has raised troubling questions about the physical toll repeated egg retrieval can take on women. According to investigators probing an alleged egg donation racket operating across parts of Maharashtra, the woman is believed to have undergone repeated hormonal stimulation and egg retrieval procedures over several years, far exceeding India's legal limit, which permits egg donation only once in a lifetime under the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021. Police have alleged that financially vulnerable women were repeatedly recruited into the network, with some allegedly being paid small sums for procedures that carried significant medical risks. Dr Prashant Bhamare, HOD and Director, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, at Fortis Hiranandani Hospital, Navi Mumbai, says undergoing dozens of donation cycles is medically unusual and concerning. "Repeated cycles could increase the risk of ovarian cysts, hormonal imbalance and, very rarely, early menopause. The physical stress from frequent anaesthesia and procedures is also a concern," he says. He takes us through what happens inside a woman's body.

Why egg donation is a long-drawn procedure Unlike blood donation, egg retrieval requires weeks of hormonal intervention, ovarian stimulation, sedation and invasive extraction. Repeated cycles can place serious stress on a woman's reproductive and hormonal health, especially when performed frequently or without adequate monitoring.

What happens to the body during egg donation?

In a natural menstrual cycle, a woman's ovaries typically release one mature egg every month. During egg donation, however, doctors administer fertility hormones over 10 to 14 days to stimulate the ovaries into producing multiple eggs at the same time. These hormones force the ovaries to work far beyond their normal physiological rhythm. This is called ovarian stimulation. Once the eggs mature, they are removed through a transvaginal retrieval procedure performed under sedation or anaesthesia. While many women recover without major complications after a single medically supervised cycle, doctors say repeated stimulation can disrupt the body's hormonal balance and place sustained stress on the ovaries.

Why are doctors especially worried about repeated cycles?

The central concern is that the female body is not designed for repeated, aggressive ovarian stimulation over short intervals. Every cycle involves artificially elevating hormone levels to force the ovaries to mature multiple eggs simultaneously. Over time, this may lead to ovarian enlargement, pelvic pain, menstrual irregularities and metabolic stress. There is still limited long-term research on women who undergo excessive egg donation cycles because such cases are relatively rare and, in many countries, restricted by law. However, fertility experts caution that repeated ovarian punctures and hormonal stimulation may potentially affect ovarian reserve — the quantity and quality of eggs remaining in the ovaries — especially if procedures are carried out without sufficient recovery periods. Some specialists also fear that excessive cycles may contribute to premature ovarian ageing or early menopause, although conclusive evidence remains limited.

What is Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome?

One of the most serious complications linked to egg donation is Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome (OHSS), a condition in which the ovaries react excessively to fertility hormones. In OHSS, the ovaries can become swollen and painful, sometimes developing fluid-filled cysts. Fluid may leak into the abdomen and chest cavity, leading to bloating, severe abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and breathing difficulty. In severe cases, the condition can become life-threatening. Doctors say severe OHSS may cause dehydration, blood clotting complications, kidney problems and fluid accumulation around the lungs. In rare situations, ovarian rupture may also occur. While mild OHSS is relatively common and usually resolves on its own, fertility specialists say the risk increases significantly when women un-



dergo repeated stimulation cycles too closely together or outside proper medical supervision.

Why does Indian law permit donation only once?

India's Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 introduced one of the strictest egg donation frameworks globally by allowing a woman to donate eggs only once in her lifetime. The law was framed specifically to prevent medical exploitation and reduce repeated hormonal exposure among donors. The legislation also states that donors should generally be between 23 and 35 years of age, and that only registered ART clinics and banks are authorised to conduct such procedures. The law additionally restricts the number of eggs retrieved in one cycle. The stricter approach reflects concerns that economically vulnerable women could otherwise be pushed into repeated donation cycles for money, especially in an expanding fertility market where demand for donor eggs remains high. Fertility treatment exists at the intersection of medicine, money and desperation. While assisted reproduction has enabled thousands of couples to conceive, weak oversight can also create conditions where women's bodies become commercial assets.

Mumbai's iconic Shiv Sagar launches first Hyderabad outlet in Jubilee Hills

Hyderabad: Mumbai-based vegetarian restaurant chain Shiv Sagar has expanded to Hyderabad with the launch of its newest outlet in Jubilee Hills, bringing with it a culinary legacy spanning more than four decades. Established in 1981 by entrepreneur Shankar Rama Poojary, the brand has grown into one of Mumbai's most recognised vegetarian restaurant chains. Beginning with modest resources, Poojary built Shiv Sagar into a popular destination known for introducing Mumbai street-food favourites and multi-cuisine vegetarian dining to mainstream restaurant culture.

At a time when traditional Udipi restaurants largely focused on South Indian dishes such as idli, dosa, upma and sheera, Shiv Sagar emerged as one of the early restaurant brands to serve dishes including pav bhaji, falooodas, North Indian cuisine and Indo-Chinese offerings under one roof. Over the years, the restaurant has become widely known for its Bombay-style pav bhaji, Mumbai-style pizzas topped with Amul cheese, falooodas, dry fruit milkshakes and Indo-Chinese favourites such as Chinese Bhel and Chilli Idli.

The Hyderabad outlet aims to bring the brand's signature Mumbai flavours to a city known for its vibrant food culture while also catering to local tastes. Speaking on the launch, Shridhar S. Poojary said Hyderabad's appreciation for diverse flavours and dining experiences made Jubilee Hills an ideal location for the brand's expansion. With its Hyderabad debut, Shiv Sagar aims to recreate the warmth, nostalgia and customer loyalty that have defined the brand in Mumbai for generations.

Depression, anxiety crisis deepens in India: Lancet study shows cases surged 123% between 1990 and 2023



Anxiety disorders in India rose significantly by 123.5 per cent between 1990 and 2023, according to a new analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study published in The Lancet. The prevalence rate increased from 2,591.9 cases per lakh in 1990 to 5,792.8 per lakh in 2023, largely driven by rising numbers of anxiety and depression.

Nearly 1.2 billion people worldwide are living with mental health conditions, almost double the number recorded in 1990 as per the study led by researchers at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in collaboration with partners at the University of Queensland. A significant health burden was imposed by mental disorders in all countries and territories in 2023, irrespective of the health resources available, which, according to the study, has placed mental disorders as the leading cause of disability globally, surpassing cardiovascular disease, cancer and musculoskeletal conditions. Inside the India spiral

In India, as per the study, the prevalence rate of 316.3 cases of schizophrenia per lakh population climbed to 321 per lakh in 2023. The prevalence of major depressive disorders also rose from 2,147.1 per lakh in 1990 to 2,799.6 per lakh. The prevalence of dysthymia (persistent depressive disorder) was 902.4 per lakh population in 1990, which rose to 948.8 cases per lakh in 2023. "Anxiety and depression showed an increase particularly post Covid-19. Anxiety disorders have increased globally across time and the reasons include compounding environmental stresses, shifting modern lifestyles and increased awareness that leads to better reporting," says Dr Pratima Murthy, former director of NIMHANS (not attached with the study). Dr Girish Rao, professor of epidemiology, NIMHANS, says at least 150 million Indians required care of mental disorders as per the first national mental health survey in 2015-16. The study examined the prevalence and burden of mental disorders

across both sexes in 204 countries and territories from 1990 to 2023. Since 2019, the age-standardised prevalence of major depressive disorder has risen by about 24 per cent, while anxiety disorders have increased by more than 47 per cent, with both conditions peaking in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These rising trends may reflect both the lingering effects of pandemic-related stress and longer-term structural drivers such as poverty, insecurity, abuse, violence and declining social connectedness. Addressing this growing challenge will require sustained investment in mental health systems, expanded access to care and coordinated global action to better support populations most at risk," says first author Dr. Damian Santomauro, associate professor at the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research. "Our findings show that mental disorder burden peaks among 15–19-year-olds, which is a critical developmental period that can shape trajectories for education, employment, and relationships," co-author Dr Alize Ferrari, honorary associate professor at the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research adds.

Women experienced higher rates of anxiety and depression in 2023

In 2023, 620 million women of all ages were living with a mental disorder compared to 552 million men of all ages globally. Women experienced higher rates of anxiety and depression in 2023, while neurodevelopmental and behavioural disorders such as ADHD, conduct disorder and autism were found to be more common in males, peaking during adolescence. The study also highlights significant gaps in treatment, with only 9% of people with depression and anxiety receiving even minimally adequate care, such as a combination of medication and support from a health care provider. Dr Murthy feels the National Mental Health Survey-2 (NMHS 2) can get us the current prevalence rate of psychiatric disorders. "It is being carried out across all states and UTs covering a population of 2.5 lakh people. Apart from the adult population, it is systematically assessing children, adolescents, tribal and vulnerable populations. The survey is also estimating disability, treatment gaps (which were upwards of 75% in NMHS-1) emerging mental health problems like loneliness, barriers to care, health system responses and family burden as well as household economic impact," she says. This, she believes, can give a systematic evaluation of the problem as well as human resource availability, service delivery capacity, referral pathways, programme implementation gaps and help articulate both a national and state-wise response to specific mental health issues.

AIIMS doc explains how Delhi's warm nights may not let your body recover

At 2.30 am, 42-year-old Neeraj Sharma woke up drenched in sweat in his East Delhi apartment. The fan was running at full speed and the AC was set at 24°C, but the room still felt suffocating. He drank water, splashed his face and tried going back to sleep. By morning, he had a pounding headache, fatigue and dizziness severe enough to force him to skip work. "My body never gets a chance to recover anymore," he says. Neeraj's experience is becoming increasingly common across Delhi this summer, where residents are not just battling punishing daytime temperatures but unusually warm nights that offer little relief after sunset. Weather experts have repeatedly flagged "warm nights" in Delhi this year — a phenomenon in which minimum temperatures remain significantly above normal, trapping heat in densely built urban areas long after sunset.

Doctors warn that while people often focus on daytime heatwaves, night-time heat may be equally dangerous because it silently prevents the body from cooling and resetting itself. Human beings are biologically designed to cool down at night. "During prolonged heat waves, survival is not only about avoiding the afternoon sun, it is also about ensuring the body can cool and recover overnight. During sleep, the body's core temperature drops, helping trigger deep, restorative sleep and allowing organs to recover from daytime stress. But when temperatures remain excessively high after dark, that natural cooling mechanism gets disrupted," says Dr Neeraj Nischal, professor of medicine, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. "We often focus on daytime temperatures but persistently warm nights may be equally important predictors of heat-related complications. People continue to experience heat stress even while resting," he adds. How warm nights affect sleep This creates what doctors describe as a "cumulative heat burden" — a condition in which the body remains under continuous physiological stress for days at a stretch because there is no opportunity to reset between successive hot days. One of the earliest consequences is disturbed sleep. People often struggle to fall asleep, wake up repeatedly through the night, or experience shallow sleep accompanied by sweating and discomfort. "Sleep deprivation caused by hot nights affects concentration, mood, productivity and the body's ability to tolerate heat the following day," Dr Nischal says.

Researchers have increasingly linked elevated night-time temperatures to fatigue, irritability, impaired cognition and worsening mental stress. Doctors say repeated sleep disruption can also weaken immunity and reduce the body's resilience during prolonged heatwaves. Watch out for dehydration Night-time heat silently increases the risk of dehydration. Even while asleep, the body continues sweating in an attempt to cool itself. This leads to continuous loss of fluids and essential electrolytes such as sodium and potassium. "The human body depends on cooler nights to restore thermal balance. When night temperatures remain elevated, the body continues to sweat and lose fluids even during sleep, increasing the risk of dehydration by morning," Dr Nischal explains. As dehydration often develops unnoticed overnight, people may wake up already dehydrated the next morning and become more vulnerable to heat exposure during the day. "The result can be weakness, dizziness, muscle spasms, dry mouth, and headaches. If fluids are not replenished, the risk of dehydration increases significantly, especially among the very young and the very old," says Dr Shailesh Sahay, Senior Director, Internal Medicine, Max Hospital, Gurugram. "As doctors, we often see heat-related illness being dismissed as simple fatigue until dehydration, electrolyte imbalance or heat stroke suddenly turns life-threatening. Heat illness is not caused by temperature alone; it occurs when the body's natural cooling system can no longer keep pace with environmental stress," explains Dr Nischal. The cardiovascular system comes under strain during hot nights. To release excess heat, the body pushes more blood toward the skin surface, forcing the heart to work harder even during sleep. This additional stress can become dangerous for people with hypertension, heart disease, diabetes or kidney disorders. "Your resting heart rate could go up by roughly 10 beats per minute for every 1°C rise in internal body tem-



perature. As blood vessels widen to radiate heat, your BP could drop low. For those with pre-existing heart conditions, the combined stress of elevated temperatures, high humidity and poor sleep can trigger irregular heartbeats, heart failure or heart attacks," says Dr Sahay. Dr Nischal warns that some commonly prescribed medicines may further increase vulnerability. "People taking medications such as diuretics for hypertension may face a greater risk because these worsen dehydration. Such individuals may lose fluids overnight and begin the next day with an already reduced water balance." The problem of delayed diagnosis Children and the elderly remain among the most vulnerable groups. Both doctors say children may not recognise or communicate symptoms of heat stress early enough, while older adults often have a diminished ability to regulate body temperature through sweating. "By the time confusion, dizziness or reduced sweating appear, the condition may already be serious," Dr Nischal says. Delhi's urban landscape further worsens the problem. Concrete buildings, asphalt roads, flyovers and densely packed neighbourhoods absorb heat throughout the day and slowly release it overnight — a phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect. Rising humidity, shrinking green cover and poor ventilation in crowded settlements mean that indoor temperatures often remain dangerously high long after sunset without us even realising it. "Public awareness is as important as hospital preparedness during heat waves because early action at home can prevent critical illness," Dr Nischal says. How to prepare for night heat stress Both experts advise maintaining hydration through the evening, ensuring ventilation indoors, wearing loose cotton clothing, avoiding heavy meals late at night and using cooling methods such as fans, cool showers or damp towels before sleep. "Pre-cool your room with blackout curtains. Use a fan to circulate cool air from the AC set to no lower than 24°C," says Dr Sahay.

Yatra Online Q4 revenue drops 26 pc, EBITDA falls sharply

New Delhi: Yatra Online on Saturday reported a 26 per cent decline in its revenue for the fourth quarter of FY26, while net profit also witnessed a marginal drop. The company posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 8.2 crore in the January-March quarter, down 1 per cent from Rs 8.3 crore reported in the previous quarter. While revenue from operations decreased by 26 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to Rs 189 crore, compared to Rs 256.8 crore in the preceding quarter. Moreover, the company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) fell sharply by 51 per cent to Rs 10.9 crore from Rs 22.4 crore reported in Q3FY26. In addition, EBITDA margin stood at 5.8 per cent during the quarter, compared to 8.7 per cent in the previous quarter, reflecting pressure on operational profitability. The company, in the exchange filing, highlighted that its total expenses rose around 24 per cent year-on-year to Rs 979.85 crore in FY26, against Rs 788.15 crore in FY25.

West Asia conflict: Spot market gas purchases by power plants jump over 300%



Spot market gas purchases, power plants Spot market gas purchases by power plants jump, US-Israel war on Iran, LPG supply disruptions, LPG shortage, oil supply, LPG supply, LPG supply crisis, LPG crisis, empty lpg cylinders, LPG distribution supply crisis, LPG distribution, LPG crisis, global energy costs, cooking gas price, west asia war, Israel-US-Iran war, Iran conflict, west asia conflict, iran and israel war, iran and israel, us israel war, war in iran, iran us, us israel iran, us israel, us iran war, iran us war, us war, israel news, israel iran war news, war news, israel iran news, israel war news, iran war news, war on iran, iran israel war today, war in iran and israel, iran attack israel, israel iran, israel us attack iran, attack on iran, iran attack on us, us and iran, us attack in iran, did iran attack us, us to attack iran, us and israel, us and israel attack iran, us attack iran today, us iran news, iran us news, us news, iran attack news, iran attack today, Khamenei news The purchase from the spot market further increased to 28,99,900 MMBtu from May 1 to May 26, compared with 5,88,550 MMBtu during the corresponding period last year, marking a nearly five-fold increase of 392.7%.

With Iran war hitting the imports under long-term contracts, gas-based power generators in India have sharply jacked up natural gas purchases from the spot-market this summer to fill the void. Between April 1 and May 26, power-sector entities purchased 44,67,850 million Metric Million British Thermal Units (MMBtu) of natural gas from the spot market. This was 336.5% higher than the corresponding period in 2025, more than double the volume purchased in 2024, and nearly 140 times the level recorded in 2023. Data released by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) shows that none of the country's 16 gigawatts (GW) of gas-grid connected capacity received imported LNG under long-term arrangements in April. Domestic gas availability also remained constrained. Although 30.18 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of domestic gas was allotted to this 16 GW of gas-grid connected capacity, actual sup-

ply in April stood at just 4.33 MMSCMD. Most of this was supplied to state government owned generating stations, while private-sector plants received only 1.07 MMSCMD, all of it supplied to a single gas-based power station. Conflict in West Asia has cast a shadow over availability of gas for the country's gas-based power plants with the government deciding to prioritise certain sectors during the shortage.

While gas accounts for only a small share in India's overall generation mix, it plays a crucial rebalancing role during evening peak hours, especially during summer, when solar output drops. Typically, around 10 GW of gas-fired capacity is relied upon during peak summer — making any disruption a significant gap that needs to be filled. Heavy reliance on spot purchase Despite a sharp rise in imported LNG prices, spot-market purchases by gas-based generators reached the highest levels in recent years during April and May, data provided by Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) — the country's leading gas-trading bourse — shows. The surge was evident in both April and May. In April, power sector companies purchased 15,67,950 MMBtu of natural gas, a year-on-year increase of 260.5% from 435,000 MMBtu in April 2025. The sharp increase came against the backdrop of a significant shift in fuel sourcing. In April 2025, gas-based power plants met nearly 38% of their LNG requirement through imports under long-term contracts, alongside spot-market purchases. The absence of imported LNG under long term contracts was also reflected in lower utilisation levels. The Plant Load Factor (PLF) — a measure of actual generation as a percentage of installed capacity — of the country's 16 GW of gas-grid connected capacity stood at 11% in April, down from 15.3% in the same month last year. The purchase from the spot market further increased to 28,99,900 MMBtu from May 1 to May 26, compared with 5,88,550 MMBtu during the corresponding period last year, marking a nearly five-fold increase of 392.7%. The rise in purchases came despite a sharp increase in spot-market gas prices amid supply disruptions due to the conflict in West Asia. The average spot gas price stood at Rs 1,606 per MMBtu in April, up 43.5% from Rs 1,119 per MMBtu a year earlier. Prices rose further to Rs 1,856 per MMBtu in May, a jump of 77.4% over Rs 1,046 per MMBtu in May last year. Struggling gas plants Power generated from gas-based units is typically more expensive than coal and renewable energy. However, due to their flexibility, they are generally used during high-demand periods to meet evening peak demand. In the past, the government has invoked emergency measures to ensure utilities operate both gas and coal plants at full capacity when soaring temperatures push electricity consumption to record levels.

India to 'rebalance' UK deal in wake of steel restrictions: Piyush Goyal

India was "collateral damage" in the UK's bid to protect its steel industry from economies producing excess steel, according to Union Trade and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. Thus, while a trade agreement between both nations had been signed in June, there is some rebalancing left to be done in the wake of these steel restrictions by Britain, he added. "When the European Union (EU) decided that since their eight years of safeguard duties have run out, they're going to enhance duties on steel to protect it from overcapacity," Goyal said while speaking at Financial Express' India's Best Banks Awards 2026 in Mumbai.

"(This was) not against India really, it's more a protection against another country which produces a huge amount of excess steel. We are collateral damage. But with the European Union, they took the decision before we inked the deal," Goyal said. Thus, while terms with the EU could be renegotiated swiftly during discussions, the same was not possible with the UK since a deal with them was already sealed, he added. Much after the India-UK trade deal was announced, the UK government, on July 1, decided to limit tariff-free steel imports, reducing overall quota volumes by 60% compared to the steel safeguard measure. Any imports above these levels will then face a 50% tariff. The measure will apply to imports of steel products that can also be made in the UK. Steel is an important export from India to the UK. In 2025-26 India's exports of iron and steel and their products to the UK stood at \$893.4 million, which accounts for a significant portion of \$13.4 billion of total merchandise exports to the UK.

"...and there were a couple of other issues (other than steel) that are related and have cropped up. One of the issues is conclusively closed—they accepted our point of view. On the other issue they have given me an offer, but I need more information. If I like it and it's good for our country, it will close the second issue. And on steel, we need to rebalance with some products which will possibly even hurt the UK businesses, but that's the nature of trade... India is no more a pushover country," the trade and commerce minister said. On the ongoing trade discussions with the US, Goyal said, "...negotiations are going extremely well. If they want to continue with the deal that we have finalised, we are game, as long as we are not burdened with huge amounts of Section 301 tariffs, which could possibly cumulatively be much more than the deal that we have signed." The US has launched two Section 301 investigations against India: one for not restricting imports of products produced through forced labour, and the second on excess capacity.

DGCA probes damage to three Air India aircraft at Delhi airport amid strong winds

Mumbai: Aviation safety regulator DGCA is investigating the incident in which three parked Air India aircraft were damaged at Delhi International airport after being hit by ground support equipment on Sunday, an official statement said on Monday.

All three aircraft have been grounded for inspection and maintenance, it said. Three Air India narrowbody aircraft parked at Terminal 2 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport were damaged on Sunday when ground support equipment hit them due to sudden strong wind and rain, the airport operator said. "Three Air India A320 aircraft parked at the Delhi Airport terminal-2 were damaged by ground equipment/foreign object debris (FOD) during adverse weather conditions around 16:30 hours (on Sunday)," the statement said.

Due to strong winds, two ground equipment positioned at adjacent stand and in nearby areas moved from their locations and hit two different aircraft at various positions causing damage, according to the statement. In addition, it said the right-hand sliding window of another aircraft was damaged in the impact. The ground equipment belonging



While 12.5% tariffs have already been announced, the current tariff level could go up when the probe on excess capacity is released. "... (Section) 301 is the last possible provision in law under which they can put a tariff on India. So they are going to exploit it to the maximum that they can. We will protect India's interests, and I am very confident that the deal will come through," Goyal said. Speaking on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which is the world's largest free trade agreement, Goyal reiterated that "there's absolutely no chance the Modi government is going to sign RCEP." India has stayed out of the trade alliance in the past due to concerns over dumping and widening trade deficits, with negotiations with China also being a barrier. Speaking on the potentially "risk-averse" nature of Indian corporates, Goyal said, "... potential in India is I think recognised more by the foreigners than by our own business people, who sometimes we feel become a little risk averse, or become very cautious in their approach."

"If our Indian businesses don't really perk up and look at faster and deeper investments into the economy, and start growing fast, you may jolly well land up in a situation that foreign investments and foreign companies may come in and start picking up the Make in India program, the Skill India program, the Startup India program, and our investments into innovation may go into foreigners' hands," Goyal added. Speaking on if there was a need to put curbs to limit the heavy outflow of foreign funds from the Indian markets seen over the past year, Goyal said, "... absolutely not. I think this unfortunate rumour and trepidation is a complete misreading of the situation." While the West Asia conflict has led to a cautious approach, it does not mean there is a 'dollar crisis' in the economy with enough cover for 11 months of imports and relatively robust current account deficit levels, he added.



The DGCA is investigating damage to three parked Air India aircraft at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport after ground support equipment struck them during sudden strong winds and rain.

to Air India Engineering and IndiGo moved from their position due to the sudden inclement weather, hitting the aircraft parked at Terminal 2, the airport operator had said on Saturday.

What eating sunflower seed shells does to your gut



Sunflower seeds are a popular snack, but what about the shells? Many people accidentally eat them or wonder if they're safe. Dt Ginni Kalra, Head of Dietetics at Aakash Healthcare, explains why sunflower seed shells aren't as harmless as they seem.

Are sunflower seed shells dangerous?

"Sunflower seed shells are not poisonous, but they are not designed for digestion," says Dt Kalra. "They are extremely fibrous and dense, which makes them difficult for the body to break down." While small amounts may pass through the digestive system without issue, their rough texture can still cause discomfort. "The concern is not toxicity, but irritation caused by their jagged structure," she adds.

What it was like styling Priyanka Chopra on Quantico: 'These shoes are like \$1,000'

Priyanka Chopra set the screen on fire with her electrifying performance in Quantico. Styled by renowned Montreal fashion stylist Cary Tauben, the Bollywood icon looked sharp and powerful while bringing down bad guys as a special agent. During a candid conversation on the 'If You Know You Know' podcast, the stylist shared a few fun anecdotes from his styling days with the former beauty pageant winner.

He revealed that during fittings, she was a little rough on the clothing, which he "personally thought was disrespectful". "I was taking these items from high-end stores. She would take a Givenchy shoe and kick it to the side, and I was like, 'These shoes are like \$1,000. And she kept saying, 'Oh, Givenchy, they love us. They love us. It's okay. They love us,' thinking maybe they were samples, but they were actually purchased. Even though he had a big budget, Tauben thought, "Maybe you could be a little nicer to my clothes, regardless of whether it's expensive or not. Just be respectful to someone's time, talent and also to the clothing."

Tauben also shared another fun anecdote about Chopra: "Before she would go on to set and film, she had an assistant with a hand mirror, and he would hold it in front of her face, and she would like to fix her hair, and she would go, 'Okay, I'm ready'. And I was like, 'wow, this is like serious', you know what I mean?" But every time she would go on, he would hold up the mirror so that she could give herself a pep talk, which he thought was fascinating," he recalled, adding, "She killed it obviously, and it was amazing, and I thought that was very interesting."

Dr Rimpa Sarkar, clinical psychologist and founder of Sentier Wellness, Mumbai says pep talks and affirmations can be helpful because they influence the way we interpret stressful situations. "Before an important presentation, meeting, interview, or performance, many people experience self doubt, anxiety, or fear of failure. A pep talk acts as a form of intentional self guidance, helping the mind shift from threat mode to challenge mode," she tells indianexpress.com. Explaining the psychology behind it, Dr

7 best places in India for near-certain tiger sightings

Seeing a tiger in the wild is one of the most thrilling wildlife experiences in India. Home to over 70% of the world's wild tiger population, India offers several national parks and tiger reserves where sightings are not just possible, they're highly likely with the right timing and safari route. While no wildlife sighting is ever guaranteed, some parks have earned a strong reputation for frequent tiger encounters thanks to healthy tiger populations, experienced guides, and favourable terrain.

1. Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan One of India's most famous tiger reserves, Ranthambore is known for its relatively open landscape, which makes tiger sightings easier compared to dense forests. Tigers are often seen near lakes, ruins, and ancient fort walls, creating dramatic safari moments. The park's star tigers often become well-known among wildlife photographers and visitors.

2. Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh Bandhavgarh is often considered one of the best places in India for tiger sightings because of its high tiger density. The reserve's compact core zone and rich biodiversity make safaris highly rewarding. Its mix of grasslands, forests, and rocky hills increases visibility during game drives.

3. Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand India's oldest national park and the country's first Project Tiger reserve, Jim Corbett offers a classic jungle safari experience. While the forest is denser and sightings can require patience, the Dhikala zone is especially famous for tiger movement. It also offers elephants, crocodiles, and rich birdlife.

4. Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh Known for inspiring Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book, Kanha is one of India's most beautiful forests. Wide meadows, sal forests, and a strong tiger population make it a favourite among serious wildlife enthusiasts. The park is also known for barasingha conservation.

5. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra Tadoba has rapidly become one of India's top tiger destinations because of its consistent sightings. Unlike some parks where tiger sightings feel like luck, Tadoba often delivers repeated encounters, especially during summer. It is a favourite among photographers looking for close sightings.

6. Pench National Park, Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra Spread across two states, Pench is famous for its healthy tiger population and scenic dry deciduous forests.

What happens if you eat too many?

Problems can arise when larger quantities are consumed. "If someone eats a lot of sunflower seed shells, they may not digest and can clump together," explains Dt Kalra. "This can irritate the stomach or intestines and, in rare cases, even lead to a blockage—especially in children." Common symptoms include abdominal pain, constipation, and difficulty with bowel movements. "Most mild symptoms resolve on their own, but persistent or severe discomfort should not be ignored," she warns.

Can it harm your gut over time?

Regular consumption is not advisable, says Kalra. "Eating seed shells frequently can lead to ongoing mechanical irritation of the gut lining," says Dt Kalra. "Over time, this may contribute to constipation and can worsen conditions like hemorrhoids or anal fissures." She emphasises that long-term risks are linked to repeated irritation rather than any toxic effect. "It's about poor digestibility and the physical impact on the digestive tract," she notes.

What's the safest way to eat sunflower seeds? "You should always crack the shell and consume only the seed inside," advises Dt Kalra. "The shell should be thrown away after extracting the edible part." If you accidentally swallow some shells, monitoring your symptoms is key. "Watch for signs like persistent pain, vomiting, or inability to pass stool, as these could indicate a blockage," she says. "In such cases, medical attention is necessary."

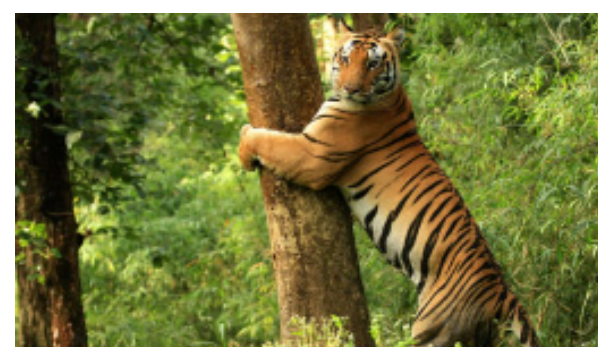


Sarkar says that the way we speak to ourselves matters, and our internal dialogue can either increase anxiety or build confidence.

"A constructive pep talk does not mean pretending that everything will be perfect. Rather, it involves reminding ourselves of our strengths, preparation, past successes, and ability to cope with challenges," she adds. According to her, affirmations can also help counteract negative self talk, which many individuals engage in automatically during stressful situations. When used realistically and consistently, they can strengthen self belief and emotional resilience.

How do pep talks improve productivity?

According to Dr Sarkar, research in sports psychology and performance psychology has found that positive self talk can improve concentration, confidence, and performance outcomes, particularly in high pressure situations. "Self image is shaped not only by what happens to us, but also by how we interpret our experiences. Repeatedly speaking to ourselves with encouragement rather than criticism helps build a healthier self perception over time," says Dr Sarkar. "Pep talks encourage self compassion and self support. When individuals regularly remind themselves of their capabilities rather than focusing only on their shortcomings, they gradually develop a more balanced and confident sense of self," she concludes.



It offers excellent safari experiences with a balance of wildlife diversity and good tiger visibility. Leopards, wild dogs, and deer are also commonly spotted.

7. Nagarhole National Park, Karnataka

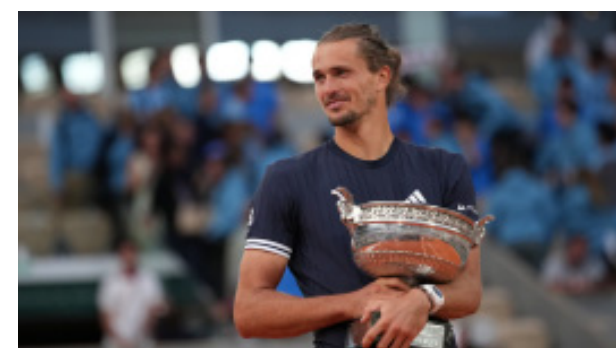
Part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Nagarhole offers lush forests, river landscapes, and strong tiger movement. It may feel less predictable than Ranthambore, but patient visitors are often rewarded. The park is also excellent for elephant and leopard sightings. Best time for tiger sightings Summer months from March to June usually offer better tiger sightings because animals gather around water sources and vegetation is thinner. Early morning safaris often provide the best chances.

Could refrigerated atta dough be causing bloating?

For many households, kneading extra dough and storing it in the refrigerator is a daily convenience. But according to nutritionist Shweta Shah, this common practice may be one of the reasons behind digestive discomfort that many people associate with wheat.

In an Instagram video, Shah suggested that the issue may not be wheat itself, but the way it is used. "Most people think wheat is the problem, but actually, our habits are the problem. The biggest mistake? Making dough in the morning and using it at night or keeping atta dough for 10 to 48 hours in the fridge," she said. According to Shah, when water remains mixed with atta for too long, excess gluten gets released, making the dough stretchier, chewier and harder to digest. Over time, stored dough may also begin to ferment and develop slight acidity.

'I will always be a Grand Slam champion. Nobody can take that away from me': Zverev



GNS News Agency, June 13

The Sunday evening in Paris ultimately brought solace for Germany's Alexander Zverev, who finally became a Grand Slam winner after defeating Italy's Flavio Cobolli in a five-set thriller to win the French Open 2026 men's singles title. Zverev overcame Cobolli 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1 in the summit clash to become the first German man to win a Grand Slam since Boris Becker's Australian Open triumph three decades ago. An emotional Zverev said he would forever be a Grand Slam champion, adding that no one could take that away from him. "Now no matter what happens, I will always be a Grand Slam champion, and nobody can take that away from me. Maybe that does give me some freedom. It does give me some – maybe my mind will just be a little bit calmer when I play a final, meaning that even if

I lose it, I will still be a Grand Slam champion," he said in a press conference after the win.

"I think this trophy is very important for me, because if I had lost this one, my self-belief would have dropped significantly. But now that I've won it, I feel like I can do it again," added Zverev. When asked about his previous statement that he would rather be the worst player to win a Grand Slam than the best player never to have won one, Zverev said, "If you call me the worst player to win a Grand Slam, I could not care less right now (laughing), if you think that." Cramping in the fourth set of the final turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to Zverev, freeing him from his mental struggles. "With Jannik [Sinner] going out, Novak [Djokovic] going out, I managed to stay composed. But then today I feel I didn't manage so well. I was nervous, but that's also human," Zverev said. He admitted the cramps stemmed from nervousness but ended up being a blessing in disguise. "The cramps helped me because in the end they helped my mind let go," he said. "That's why I played the fifth set the way I did." Speaking about the significance of the achievement for Germany, he said, "I think it's the first time a German has won Roland Garros in history. On the male side, of course. On the female side, we had Steffi [Graf] winning a lot of these, but on the male side, I think it's a very big trophy for Germany. Again, the first to ever do it." "To be honest, I'm a little bit drunk already, so I'm repeating myself a little more than usual. I'm just happy to be sitting next to this trophy."

India thrash Afghanistan by innings & 300 runs to register biggest Test victory ever



GNS News Agency, June 13

A dominant India made light work of Afghanistan, thrashing them by an innings and 300 runs in the one-off Test at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, New Chandigarh on Monday. India posted a mammoth 564/8 after deciding to bat first, before bundling out Afghanistan twice on the same day to wrap up

the game on just the third day. Afghanistan could only manage 152 in the first innings and 112 in the second, losing the match by a massive margin. The win by an innings and 300 runs is India's biggest victory in Test cricket. Debutant Manav Suthar was the pick of the bowlers, registering a six-wicket haul in the first innings. Washington Sundar and Kuldeep Yadav accounted for seven wickets between them in the second innings, helping India register a colossal win. Sundar picked four wickets in the second innings and said he felt he was getting rhythm right from the start. "I felt really good, especially to play this format after a while. Yeah, I just wanted to get a lot of volume coming into the game and obviously I felt like I was getting the rhythm right from the scratch, from ball one. And that was definitely a very good feeling," he said after the win. Sundar also shone with the bat, scoring a half-century earlier in the innings. Speaking on his batting, he said, "definitely, it felt really good, both with the bat and the ball. I wanted to show good discipline with the bat and glad the way I sort of approached the entire innings and God was kind." Earlier, KL Rahul and skipper Shubman Gill struck centuries, taking India to a big total.

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Poland's tongue-twisting names, Nigeria jerseys, Italy's Italy-ness: what we will miss at FIFA 2026



GNS News Agency, June 13

A World Cup without Italy, still hurts. Even if there have been two World Cups before when they missed, to get used to the feeling. A 48-team World Cup it might be, with new jazzy tiny, dot island teams to gloat, but some of the old failed, faded staples, who missed out on qualification to Mexico-USA-Canada will be missed. That azure-blue jersey. Those Italian players pleading to refs with their ??? emoji-talking hands. The non-sly defensive backlines. The gloriously creative, brooding midfielders. The gloriously ineffective forwards – remember Luca Toni? The post-Buffon gaping hole in goal.

Robert Lewandowski of course. But just the stubborn effort to utter those unpronounceable names for two weeks at least – Włodzisław Smolarek, Paweł Kryszalowicz, Emmanuel Okiesadebe, Marcin Zewlakow, Bartosz Bosacki, Grzegorz Krychowiak, Jan Bednarek, Piotr Zieliński. Just when that last name was getting easy to say, Poland decides to not qualify. They had Aston Villa's Patty Cash this time. But your loss – you will not be labouring over saying Oskar Pietuszewski or Przemysław Wisniewski this time. They have the most goals scored by an African nation in FIFA WC history – 23. But fragments of Nigeria – players of Nigeria origin are playing for England, USA, Switzerland,

Canada, Germany, France, Austria, Norway. The colour, flair and stomp the Falcons got to 1994, 1998, 2014 when they made quarters will be missed. But more than anything, arguably the best World Cup jerseys will be pined after – the green ones celebrating their independence from colonizers Britain when they had to wear red. The Nike design with falcon wings on sleeves was iconic, but the green-white, black-white Chevrons jersey will be conspicuous by absence in 2026. How did Cameroon with 8 FIFA WC appearances miss out? Just the other day, they were beating Brazil in the 2022 pools in Qatar, after making history beating Argentina in 1990 to make quarters. What will be missed is players of quality of Roger Milla, Samuel Eto'o and the rollercoaster for Vincent Aboubakar. Packed off by Cabo Verde and Congo in the 2026 qualification cycle, Cameroon will not be around. Neither will their pragmatic attempt at wearing sleeveless jerseys, that FIFA struck down by forcing black sleeves after African Cup of Nations in 2022.

They were only around at 2018. But saving a penalty against Lionel Messi is just the sort of thing a FIFA WC can do with – a volcano in ice-nation vibe. For that, Hannes Por Halldorsen, the goalkeeping legend securing a 1-1 draw will be missed. It's been 10 years since Iceland beat England at Euros, followed by the 'Thunder Clap' ("Huh!") followed by two claps). The Viking buzz packing off England – 2026, you know not what you missed. Chile have for eternity denied a coastline to Bolivia and Argentina with their impressive bull-headed geography if you stare at the map of South America. But along with Peru to their north, their football team has been denied a World Cup qualification for a dozen years now, as their performances plummet. Italy are not the only team to miss out on the World Cup a third straight time in 2026. Also flaking off are Chile. The second oldest Federation from South America, a founder of CONMEBOL, their fade out is gradual since third place in 1962. Eduardo Vargas, Jorge Valdivia, and Alexis Sanchez might be the last memories of the Chile's downswing or Pepper-taper.

Why are Travis Head & Mitchell Marsh not in Australia's ODI squad for Bangladesh?



Senior Australian players Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh will miss another ODI series, as Australia announced their squad for the tour of Bangladesh on Monday. Josh Inglis will lead the side in Marsh's absence, while Oliver Peake and Todd Murphy earned call-ups for the one-dayers in Bangladesh. Alongside Peake, Matt Short has also been retained for the Bangladesh ODIs after initially being named only for the Pakistan series.

Off-spinner Murphy replaces Tanveer Sangha, the leg-spinner who sustained a hamstring injury during the sec-

ond ODI against Pakistan in Lahore. Marsh has been included in the touring party and is set to lead the T20I side. National selector Tony Dodemaide said Marsh is recovering from an ankle injury and will join the side in Dhaka ahead of the T20I series. Dodemaide also confirmed that Head was granted personal leave for the series. "We were hopeful Mitch Marsh would be available for the Bangladesh ODI series, however he is still returning to full fitness from an ankle injury," said Dodemaide. "Mitch will join the group in Dhaka and begin preparations for the T20I series." Travis was initially selected in both the ODI and T20I legs of this Bangladesh tour but has subsequently been granted personal leave for both. We look forward to seeing him again for the top-end Test series against Bangladesh. "Australia squad for Bangladesh ODIs: Josh Inglis (c), Xavier Bartlett, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Matthew Kuhnemann, Marcus Labuschagne, Todd Murphy, Oliver Peake, Matthew Renshaw, Liam Scott, Matt Short, Adam Zampa. Mitchell Marsh? (c), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Joel Davies, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Matthew Kuhnemann, Riley Meredith, Josh Philippe, Matthew Renshaw, Adam Zampa.

Brazil beyond Vinicius, Neymar: Older, taller, tougher and built to win?



The first thing that stands out about Brazil's World Cup squad is not Neymar's return. Nor is it Vinicius Junior's rise to superstardom. Brazil will arrive at the World Cup with the oldest squad in the country's history. Carlo Ancelotti's 23-man group has an average age of 29 years and 6 months, older even than Dunga's experienced squad that travelled to South Africa in 2010. In a football culture that has traditionally celebrated youthful exuberance and fearless improvisation, it is a striking choice. Look closer, and another pattern emerges. This Brazil team is taller, more physical, and comprises a larger contingent of domestic league players than any Selecao squad since they won the 2002 World Cup.

Taken together, it reveals something important about the first World Cup team assembled by Ancelotti: a Brazil side built less around romance and more on reliability. The squad Ancelotti unveiled feels less like a collection of artists and more like a carefully assembled tournament machine. Fifteen members of the squad were also present in Qatar four years ago. Even Neymar, absent from Ancelotti's plans for much of the past year, has been recalled at 34, while 38-year-old goalkeeper Weverton, who momentarily passed out when his name was announced, is another nod towards experience. The squad's physical profile offers another clue to Ancelotti's thinking. Brazil's average height is around 1.82 metres, one of the highest in the nation's World Cup history. Modern football increasingly rewards physical superiority, especially in transitions, defensive duels and set-piece situations. The days when Brazil could dominate simply through technical brilliance are long gone.

Perhaps the most intriguing development, however, lies closer to home. Seven players in the squad currently play their club football in Brazil, accounting for almost 30 per cent of the group. That is the highest proportion in more than two decades and reflects the growing financial strength of clubs such as Flamengo, Botafogo and Santos, which have managed to bring established internationals back from Europe. Yet, this remains fundamentally a European team.

Will Crown Prince & Euro winner Lamine Yamal succeed King Messi at World Cup

Last March, Lamine Yamal posted a picture of a word file on a laptop, the dimming lights from Barcelona's fading night flickering in the background. The laptop's screen and background are black. The only visible words are the title of the file: "Chapter 1: My Inner Abyss," and the opening words: "I would like to be what everyone wants me to be."

The world wondered at the cause of his melancholy. He was 18, a star already, a European Championship winner, a multiple league champion with a mantlepiece stacked with trophies of personal glory, a millionaire, an inspiration for millions of migrant children in Spain's nondescript backyards. But despair was gnawing inside. A sports hernia had afflicted him at the start of the season. It continued to haunt him. Towards the end of the season, it recurred, putting his World Cup participation in jeopardy at one stage. He had logged in nearly 8,000 hours of football before turning 18; the club and country blamed each other for mismanaging his workload.

Maybe, Yamal felt burned out; maybe, the implacable burden of being painted the best player in the world crushed him. But the reason for his melancholia, he said after brightening his mood with a hat-trick against Villarreal – his first in the league, was not meeting his own expectations. "I wasn't happy on the pitch and I think you could tell. I didn't feel like smiling on the pitch," he admitted. The numbers are glittering for a self-evaluated bad season. Yamal scored 24 goals, half of them cutting from the left and flashing his willowy yet rubbery left leg towards the goal, making humiliation-GIFs and memes out of defenders. He assisted in 18 goals in just 45 games. Yet, he was dejected, because the standards he has set himself are higher. He is too young and unpretentious to feel that he is already great.

But he knows what greatness looks like; if not, there are men and objects around him, every blade of grass at Nou Camp and corners of the dressing room, to tell him how footballing greatness looks. It measures five feet seven inches, but its stature and scale are immeasurable. The shadow of Lionel Messi casts itself on his spiritual heir from Barcelona to North America, where Yamal strides out for the biggest tournament yet in his life. The moment Lionel Messi strolled in as a substitute in Argentina's 6-0 rout of Serbia and Montenegro at the 2006 World Cup, the only

Seventeen members of the squad still play on the continent, with the Premier League alone supplying eight players. The result is a fascinating hybrid: a Brazilian team rooted at home but shaped by the demands of Europe's elite competitions. If the numbers explain what Ancelotti wants Brazil to be, the players explain how he hopes to achieve it.

For all the attention surrounding Neymar and Vinicius, this is not a squad designed around two stars carrying everyone else. One of Ancelotti's greatest strengths has always been his ability to create balance between match-winners and system players, and Brazil's squad reflects that instinct. The most intriguing inclusion is 19-year-old Rayan, the former Vasco da Gama forward who represents the opposite of everything the squad's age profile suggests. Tall, direct and fearless, he is one of the brightest prospects in Brazilian football and a reminder that the country's production line of attacking talent remains intact. He is unlikely to begin the tournament as a starter, but World Cups have a habit of introducing young players to global audiences.

The midfield, meanwhile, belongs to Bruno Guimaraes. At Newcastle United, he has developed into one of Europe's most complete midfielders, capable of controlling tempo, progressing the ball and covering enormous distances without possession. If Vinicius is the player opponents fear most, Guimaraes may be the player Brazil can least afford to lose. Alongside him, Lucas Paqueta provides the creativity and unpredictability that remain central to Brazil's footballing identity. He drifts between midfield and attack, linking phases of play and creating spaces others exploit. Together, Guimaraes and Paqueta could determine whether Brazil become merely efficient or genuinely dangerous. Further forward, Ancelotti appears likely to favour a more direct style than many of his predecessors. The objective will not be endless possession but rapid transitions, using Vinicius' pace and the athleticism around him to attack unsettled defences. It is a blueprint familiar from Ancelotti's club sides: structured without the ball, devastating when space opens up. Behind them stands a defensive unit built on experience. Marquinhos remains the leader of the back line, while Alisson Becker provides the assurance every serious contender needs. For years, Brazil's goalkeepers were supporting actors in stories dominated by attackers. Alisson has quietly become one of the finest in the country's history, capable of winning matches when tournaments get tight and margins disappear. The faces that dominate billboards remain familiar. Neymar is back. Vinicius is the headline act. But the team's identity feels different. It is less dependent on individual inspiration and more invested in collective stability.

question that mattered was when he would hoist the World Cup and fulfill the purpose of his footballing life. The Argentine had to wait till his fifth tournament to do it, wore the heaviest burden and anguish for 16 years, endured heartbreaks, suffered criticisms and injuries, retired several times, and saw the moment nearly stolen by Kylian Mbappe. Yamal has already helped Spain win the European Championship, not least with his incredulous strike against France in the semifinal in Munich, a strike barged into football's consciousness. But it's the World Cup that would define him, one that would trench his legacy. "I have lifted it a thousand times, in my room or when we won a match at the sports centre in my neighborhood," he jokes in an interview with the Spanish Football Federation. He was referring to a replica trophy in his uncle Abdul's bakery in their hometown Rocafonda.

His days on the streets are long gone; his journey from Rocafonda to Nou Camp was swift. But the sceptre of expectations and the anticipation of the magical will be suffocating, as it was with Messi, his idol Neymar and Cristiano Ronaldo. Every step he takes will be watched and dissected; his victories glorified, his failures criticised. He becomes a plot device in himself. He is aware of the pressures, and has dealt it with a smile. Recently, he posted on Instagram: "Gavi kept telling me he's the youngest Spanish player to score a World Cup goal... So I'm going to try a HAT-TRICK. I'll probably be the youngest Spanish player to do it." Yamal has a lightness that great sportsmen have, a frictionless pull to the arclights. It's not the exuberant bravado of late-teenage that rings in him, but a preternatural awareness of his gifts. He is not worried about what the world thinks of him. "My only enemy is myself, I want to get better than myself," he once told Marca. Beneath the giggles and frolics, he has a stern voice on more sensitive topics, too. In April, after a friendly between Egypt and Spain in Espanyol's RCDE Stadium, where Egyptians were subjected to anti-Muslim chants, he launched a scathing attack on the perpetrators on Instagram: "I understand not all the fanbase is like that, but to those who sing those chants: using religion as something to mock people in a football stadium leaves you as ignorant and racist people. Football is to enjoy and support, not to offend people by who they are or what they believe in."

Married at 15, Dimple Kapadia chose herself at 27: A lesson women still need in 2026



Over the last few weeks, India has once again found itself discussing the realities many married women continue to face behind closed doors. News reports of violence against women, troubled marriages, and relationships that turn emotionally or physically unsafe have sparked difficult conversations. While not every unhappy marriage ends in tragedy, countless women continue to endure silence, loneliness, and compromise because walking away often feels harder than staying. For generations, women have been told that marriage is something to preserve at any cost. They are expected to adjust a little more, forgive a little more, and endure a little longer. The fear of judgment—of “What will people say?”—often becomes as powerful as the problems within the marriage itself. More than four decades ago, Dimple Kapadia challenged that expectation.

When Dimple Kapadia appeared to be living a fairy tale

Today, Dimple Kapadia is celebrated as one of India's finest actresses, but when she married Rajesh Khanna in 1973, she was just 15 years old. He was India's first superstar, a phenomenon unlike anything Bollywood had seen before. Millions adored him. Young women worshipped him. To the outside world, Dimple appeared to be living a fairy tale. But life rarely resembles the movies. Before she could even fully process the success of Bobby, the film that made her an overnight sensation, Dimple stepped away from acting. She became a wife and later a mother to daughters Twinkle and Rinkie. While many women of that era accepted such sacrifices as inevitable, Dimple would later reveal that the life she entered was not the life she had imagined.

Looking back at her marriage in a 1994 interview with Pritish Nandy, Dimple Kapadia spoke with remarkable honesty. Dimple admitted that she and Rajesh Khanna were very different people and acknowledged that she was perhaps too young to understand the pressures and complexities of being married to a superstar. When asked if that period of her life had been traumatic, her answer was simple: “Yes it was.” That single sentence carries a weight many women will understand. There is a particular kind of loneliness that comes from realising that the dream you once

chased is not the reality you are living. It is even harder when the dream was entirely your own choice. Society often shows sympathy to women trapped in arranged marriages but is far less forgiving when a love marriage fails. The response is frequently, “You chose him. Now deal with it.” Women are expected to live with their choices, even when those choices stop serving them. Dimple herself once spoke about the innocence with which she entered marriage. Influenced by cinema and youth, she genuinely believed romance would look like the films she had grown up watching. Years later, the actor laughed while recalling how shattered she felt when reality failed to match those fantasies. It is a funny anecdote on the surface, but it also reveals something deeper: she was a teenager trying to navigate adulthood, marriage, motherhood, and fame all at once. By 1982, Dimple Kapadia made a decision that was considered radical for its time. She walked away. Today, separation and divorce remain difficult choices for many women. In the early 1980s, they carried an even greater social stigma. A separated woman was often viewed with suspicion. A woman leaving one of the country's biggest stars invited even greater scrutiny. Yet Dimple left. What makes her story remarkable is not merely that she exited a marriage. It is what she did afterward. Dimple Kapadia reinvented herself.

At 27, with two daughters to raise, Dimple Kapadia returned to the film industry she had left behind as a teenager. Her comeback with Saagar was nothing short of sensational. She wasn't just returning to work; she was reclaiming a part of herself. The industry that had once seen her as a teenage star now saw a confident, independent woman. She reinvented herself, took risks, and built a career on her own terms. She refused to let one chapter define the rest of her life.

Perhaps the greatest measure of that decision can be seen in the women she raised. Twinkle Khanna has often spoken about watching her mother wake up before dawn, exercise, work multiple shifts, and manage a household while building a successful career. To her daughters, Dimple was not a victim of circumstances. She was proof that women could start again. That legacy matters. Because Dimple Kapadia's story is not really about separation. It is not even about Rajesh Khanna. It is about identity. It is about understanding that marriage, however important, cannot become the sole measure of a woman's worth. It is about recognising that choosing yourself is not selfish. It is about accepting that sometimes courage does not lie in staying—it lies in leaving. Even in 2026, women continue to battle expectations that ask them to tolerate more than they should. They are told to preserve appearances, protect family honour, and keep adjusting. Yet stories like Dimple's remind us that there is another path. Four decades ago, when society expected silence, she chose change. When people expected compromise, she chose reinvention. When many would have accepted unhappiness as fate, she chose to begin again. And perhaps that remains the most powerful lesson of all: it is never too late to walk away from a life that no longer feels like your own and build one that does.

Upasana Singh on Shilpa Shinde's false harassment confession: ‘She had the guts to speak’

Last week, actress Shilpa Shinde revealed on Bharti Singh's podcast that the sexual harassment allegations she had levelled against Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain producer Sanjay Kohli nine years ago were false. Her remarks sparked widespread criticism, with fellow actors and industry bodies condemning her statement. While officials from FWICE and AICWA strongly reacted to Shilpa's confession, CINTAA General Secretary Upasana Singh has now offered a different perspective on the controversy. Upasana, who has worked with Shilpa on shows such as Maayka and Betiyaan Apni Ya Paraya Dhan, among others, spoke exclusively to SCREEN about the controversy. She also described Shilpa as a kind-hearted person who often stood up for technicians on set and extended support to colleagues whenever they faced difficulties. Upasana Singh on Shilpa Shinde controversy

Upasana Singh said, “I know Shilpa Shinde very well. We have worked together on three shows. Not every human being is the same. I heard a lot of negative things about her. If I justify what she has done, it would be wrong. She made a mistake, realized it, and said sorry. She said that this weighed on her heart. If she had not realized it, she wouldn't have said it.” Upasana went on to defend Shilpa's character, saying that the actress has always been supportive of those around her, especially junior artists and technicians on set. “A side of Shilpa that no one is talking about is that she is a wonderful woman. I don't know how people will react to me saying this, but from my personal experience, I am saying this. On set, if any spotboy, lightman, or makeup man has faced a problem, Shilpa Shinde took a stand for them. Anyone who goes to her and says he doesn't have food to eat, Shilpa Shinde is the one to help them. She has helped so many people and is so kind-hearted.” While making it clear that she was not justifying Shilpa Shinde's actions, Upasana Singh urged people to consider the circumstances that may have led to the actress making the allegations in the first place. She said, “In our industry, we face situations where two people are fighting. In that moment, out of anger and frustration, people cross their limit and say something they don't mean. Sometimes situations become such. Look at her situation from back then. She might not have had money, she wouldn't have wanted to do the show anymore, must have had her frustration. She was told that her case was not valid. That is why she took this step. I am not justifying this, but I am looking at the situation in which she must have taken this step. Even after that, the same producers are working with Shilpa. Had they felt bad or her allegations would have affected their life so much, would they work with her again? No, but they are also sensible people who know that it happened in the spur of the moment.” “People are reacting because she confessed. Had she kept quiet, people wouldn't be saying so many bad things about her. Rather than looking at her courage and her situation, they are commenting. Haven't people made mistakes? She has accepted her mistake and confessed to it in front of the world. I might not have the courage to do what she did. People can pull her up for doing wrong, but she shouldn't be slammed or projected like a villain,” the actor concluded.

The controversy surrounding Shilpa Shinde continues to escalate. On Saturday, the All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) demanded strict action against the actress following her recent remarks. They issued a statement saying, “The reported admission by actress Shilpa



While Shilpa Shinde continues to face backlash over her admission that the sexual harassment allegations she made against Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain producer Sanjay Kohli were false, actor Upasana Singh has come out in her support, describing her as a kind-hearted person.

Shinde during comedian Bharti Singh and Haresh Limbachiya's podcast regarding the alleged false sexual harassment allegations made against Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain producer Sanjay Kohli is a matter of serious concern for the entire Bollywood film and television industry. A false sexual harassment allegation can cause irreparable damage to a person's reputation, family, children, career, and mental well-being. Such accusations can permanently tarnish an individual's image and have devastating consequences not only for the accused but also for their family members and loved ones. It not only harms the accused but also undermines the credibility of genuine victims who come forward seeking justice. Such incidents can create doubt around legitimate complaints and make it more difficult for real survivors of harassment within the Bollywood film industry to be heard and believed. The All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) urges the Honourable Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnis, to ensure a fair and thorough examination of this matter. If it is established that false allegations were knowingly made, strict action should be taken in accordance with the law. Accountability is essential to protect both innocent individuals from false accusations and genuine victims seeking justice. “Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) Chief Advisor Ashoke Pandit also told SCREEN, “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.” Disclaimer: The controversy surrounding these allegations involves reports of potential harm to reputations and mental well-being, as well as discussions of professional conduct within the industry. This content is for informational purposes and has not been independently verified; it should not be taken as a substitute for professional legal or psychological advice.

‘I miss him every single day’: Esha Deol remembers late father Dharmendra



Even though Dharmendra lived a long and fulfilling life, ensuring that both his family and his fans got enough of him, he is still missed by those who loved and admired him. Widely known as Bollywood's “He-Man,” the actor passed away at 89 in November 2025, leaving behind a lasting legacy. While even his fans are yet to come to terms with their beloved Dharmendra's demise, one can imagine how difficult it must have been for his family, particularly his daughter Esha Deol, who shared a close bond with the acting legend. “Not a day goes by without missing him”

In a recent interview, Esha Deol admitted that not a day goes by without her missing her late father. She also opened up about her feelings while watching her mother, veteran actor Hema Malini, accept the Padma Vibhushan on Dharmendra's behalf recently. Mentioning that he was present and available to her at every phase of her life, Esha shared that throughout the 44 years she had with Dharmendra, she looked up to him as an inspiration. “Just to be able to hold his hand, hear his voice — I miss everything about him every single day, and I always will,” she shared during a conversation with the Times of India. Revealing that she used to call him “Teddy Bear,” the actor said that her bed is now filled with teddy bears, as they remind her of her father. Pointing out that the sorrow

caused by the loss of a beloved person never truly leaves one, she noted that people simply learn how to live with it over time.

Although Dharmendra's sons from his first marriage to Prakash Kaur, Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol, are both active in the entertainment industry, it was the Bollywood icon's second wife, Hema Malini, whom the family entrusted with accepting the Padma Vibhushan on Dharmendra's behalf. Even as Hema herself was emotional while receiving the honour from President Droupadi Murmu last month, Esha echoed those sentiments. “Seeing my mother accept the award on his behalf was deeply emotional. There was pride, gratitude and, of course, a wish that he could have been there himself.” Pointing out that he should have received the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, much earlier, she shared that the entire family has often felt he deserved more honours while he was alive. However, she added that Dharmendra never considered awards as a measure of his success, since he prioritised people's love over everything else. Dharmendra was 19 and yet to make his movie debut when he married Prakash Kaur in 1954. About 26 years later, he tied the knot with Hema Malini while still being married to Prakash Kaur, with whom he had four children (including Sunny and Bobby Deol). Following their 1980 wedding, which created significant controversy, Dharmendra and Hema welcomed two daughters, Esha and Ahana Deol.

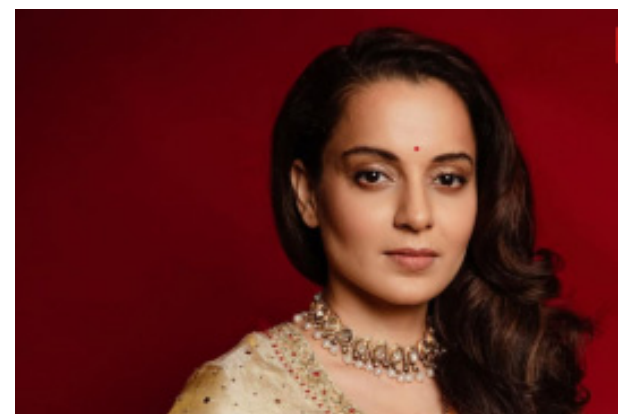
Although many star kids have lamented that being the child of celebrities put significant pressure on them as they grew up, Esha Deol is not part of that chorus and considers it a blessing to have been born as the daughter of her parents. Describing both Dharmendra and Hema as one-of-a-kind and irreplaceable, she noted that the world would never have two people like them. “I'm proud to be called Hema Malini aur Dharmendra ki beti — that's the best identity I could have had, and I am grateful for it,” she added. Esha further mentioned that, as a mother of two daughters, she wishes to instil the same values she gained from her parents in her children as well.

Kangana Ranaut says directors often do not realise they are objectifying

Peddi has been making headlines, but largely for the controversy surrounding its portrayal of women. The Buchi Babu Sana directorial has sparked conversations about female objectification, with several viewers criticising the way Janhvi Kapoor's character, Achiyamma, is depicted through repeated close-up shots and suggestive camera angles, as well as certain dialogues delivered by Ram Charan's character. The backlash eventually prompted director Buchi Babu Sana to announce changes to the contentious scenes. While apologising to audiences, he maintained that it was never his intention to objectify women or make viewers uncomfortable. Amid the ongoing debate, actress-politician Kangana Ranaut weighed in on the issue, saying that filmmakers do not always realise how their creative choices may be interpreted by audiences. According to her, open communication between actors and directors is crucial.

Speaking to PTI, Kangana said, “By and large, in my experience, when you say yes to a film, you can highlight these things and put your point of view forward. They may not want to objectify blatantly. But sometimes they don't think in that way. So conversation is the key. If you highlight and put your point of view, it might occur to them that this sounds wrong and it is not looking nice. It is a collaborative effort, so dialogue between the actor and director can change that.” When Peddi released on June 4, social media was flooded with criticism over what many viewers described as the unnecessary sexualisation of Janhvi Kapoor's character and the nature of certain remarks directed at her in the film.

Just two days after the release, Buchi Babu Sana issued a public apology and promised to modify the scenes that had drawn criticism. In his statement, he wrote: “As a filmmaker, I believe cinema should entertain, inspire, and connect with audiences. It should never make anyone feel uncomfortable or disrespected. We have heard the feedback regarding certain scenes in Peddi and have taken it



seriously. I have always had immense respect for women, both on and off screen, and it was never our intention to objectify or disrespect any female character. If any part of the film has been perceived that way, we respect those sentiments, understand the concerns being raised, and sincerely apologize.” He further added, “After reviewing the feedback, we have decided to make changes to the concerned portions. Cinema grows through its connection with audiences, and as storytellers, we have a responsibility to be mindful of evolving perspectives and sensitivities. Every woman deserves to be respected, valued, and represented with dignity. We remain committed to telling stories that celebrate strong characters and uphold those values. Thank you to everyone who shared their views honestly and sincerely.” Earlier, in an interview with SCREEN, the filmmaker admitted that he had not anticipated such a reaction from audiences. “I had not anticipated that the scenes would be perceived so negatively by audiences. The idea was to showcase a playful romance between Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor. However, we'll be more careful and ensure better representation going forward,” he said.

Rakesh Roshan breaks silence on Hrithik Roshan's Rs 500 crore Krrish 4 budget demand



Rakesh Roshan breaks silence on Hrithik Roshan's Rs 500 crore Krrish 4 budget demand. Rakesh Roshan breaks silence on Hrithik Roshan's Rs 500 crore Krrish 4 budget demand. Actor Hrithik Roshan recently made headlines following reports that he sought a budget of Rs 500 crore for his upcoming film Krrish 4. However, in a recent interview, the actor's father, filmmaker Rakesh Roshan, dismissed the claims as “nonsense.” He also refuted speculation about a rift with producer Aditya Chopra and Yash Raj Films over the film's budget, insisting that there are no issues surrounding the project. In an interaction with Mid Day, Rakesh said, “It's all nonsense that Hrithik has asked for a Rs 500 crore budget for top-tier VFX and world-class action for his directorial debut, while YRF wants to cap costs at Rs 350 crore. Making a good film catering to a wide audience takes time. Even I have taken time for each of my Krrish offerings.”

The filmmaker also addressed the delay in Krrish 4 going on floors, saying Hrithik Roshan is currently busy with projects being bankrolled by his production house. “Krrish (Hrithik) is on another planet, and we are all wait-

ing for his dates,” he shared, adding that there are no differences with anyone. Besides featuring in the lead role, Krrish 4 will also mark Hrithik Roshan's directorial debut. It is being made in collaboration with Yash Raj Films. In an earlier interview with Variety, Rakesh Roshan spoke about the film, saying, “I'm passing the baton of the director of Krrish 4 to my son, Hrithik Roshan, who has lived, breathed and dreamt about this franchise since its inception with me.” He added, “Hrithik has a clear and a very ambitious vision of taking Krrish's journey forward with the audience for the next decades. I couldn't be more prouder to see him wear the director's hat for a film that means the world to us as a family.”

The Krrish franchise started with Koi... Mil Gaya (2003), in which Hrithik Roshan essayed the role of Rohit Mehra — a young man whose life changes after he crosses paths with an alien named Jadoo. The powers he receives are then inherited by his son, Krishna Mehra, who then becomes the superhero Krrish. The second installment Krrish, released in 2006, and Krrish 3 hit the theatres in 2013.

Tollywood actor Supreeth Reddy booked over assault allegations in Nagaram

Hyderabad: Telugu actor Supreeth Reddy has been booked by the Keesara police following allegations that he assaulted a cab driver during a dispute over roadside parking in Nagaram. According to the police, cab driver Srihar had parked his vehicle near the Sai Baba Temple after dropping passengers in Kundanpally and was waiting for his next booking. Supreeth Reddy, who arrived in a Toyota Fortuner, allegedly objected to the cab being parked on the roadside, claiming that it was obstructing traffic.