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Pawan Kalyan launches damage control after 'Telangana fiefdom' remark

Hyderabad: Apparently rattled by the backlash over his comments on 'Telangana fiefdom', the Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan has apparently initiated a damage-control mission with fresh assertions that he had never supported politics intended to destabilize Telangana.

"My belief has always been in protecting the interests of the people of both Telugu states through mutual respect, peace, cooperation, and a spirit of brotherhood," he said on X. The JSP chief reiterated that his stand on Telangana and the interests of its people had always been consistent. Geographic Reference

Ramchander Rao slams Revanth Reddy over Tummidihatti remarks

Hyderabad: BJP State president N Ramchander Rao has come down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for alleging that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had denied him an appointment to discuss the Tummidihatti project.

Participating in a Meet the Press programme here on Thursday, Rao questioned the Chief Minister's claims and accused him of attempting to blame the BJP for political reasons.

Congress nominates Mallikarjun Kharge, Pawan Khera from Karnataka for Rajya Sabha polls

New Delhi, June 4

The Congress on Thursday announced its list of seven candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections, re-nominating party chief Mallikarjun Kharge from Karnataka.

The party also fielded its media and publicity department in-charge Pawan Khera from Karnataka, along with Mansoor Ali Khan.

According to a communication from AICC general secretary, KC Venugopal, the Congress has fielded its leader Meenakshi Natarajan as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha election in Madhya Pradesh. She has been a former MP.

The party also fielded Praveen Chakravarty, its head of the Data Analytics



and Professionals Wing, for the Rajya Sabha election in Tamil Nadu, besides re-nominating Neeraj Dangi from Rajasthan.

Pranav Jha, who is currently attached to the Congress president, has

been nominated from Jharkhand.

"Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the candidature of the following people as Congress candidates to contest the biennial/by-

elections to the Council of States from the states mentioned," Venugopal said.

The Rajya Sabha elections will be held on June 18. The last date for filing of nominations is June 8.

Telangana CM inspects irrigation projects in Palamuru region

Hyderabad: June 4

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with a delegation of ministers, toured irrigation projects in Narayanpet and Jogulamba Gadwal districts on Thursday, June 4, before holding a review meeting with irrigation officials in Nagarkurnool district.

His two-day tour of the Palamuru region began at Katrevulapalli village of Makthal mandal in Narayanpet district, where he held a review meeting with the irrigation officials on the works of the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme.

En route to Gudemdoddi Reservoir, Revanth took an aerial survey of the Koilsagar and Priyadarshini Jurala projects.

The chief minister was briefed on a proposal to increase the storage capacity of the Gudemdoddi Reservoir from 1.1 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) to 15 TMC at an estimated cost of Rs 8,500 crore.

Officials also updated him on reservoirs already constructed under the Nettempadu project and those pending completion. He inspected the pumps installed in Phase 1 of the Nettempadu Project, which was constructed at a cost of Rs 1,428 crore to provide irrigation to 2 lakh acres of land.

About the Ghattu Lift Irrigation Scheme, officials said that two pumps have been installed to lift 810 cusecs of water. A proposal was made to increase the project's capacity to 3 TMC.

Officials informed the chief minister that under Phase 2 of the Tummillla project, the Mallammakunta Reservoir needs to be constructed with a storage capacity of 1 TMC at an estimated cost of Rs 543 crore. They added that land acquisition for the reservoir is currently underway.

He flew to Somasila, where he held a review meeting with irrigation officials on various projects in the Palamuru region, including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS).

On Friday, June 5, Revanth Reddy will visit the pump house of PRLIS at Yellur Reservoir. He will visit the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme's pump house and the Vattem Reservoir in Nagarkurnool.

He will inspect the package 14 and 15 works under PRLIS at Karivena reservoir in Bhootpur mandal of Mahabubnagar district, followed by taking a stock of the progress of the works at package 17 and 18 of Udandapur reservoir in Jachchela mandal.

His two-day tour will end at a public meeting in Jachchela on Friday evening.

Hyderabad Ebola scare: Sudan traveller isolated at Gandhi Hospital after symptoms flagged

Hyderabad: June 4

A passenger from Sudan who arrived at RGIA Shamshabad on Thursday and displayed symptoms consistent with the Ebola virus, was shifted to Gandhi Hospital.

Following the established emergency response plan, the passenger from Sudan was swiftly transferred to the isolation ward at Gandhi Hospital via a dedicated ambulance.

Doctors have collected samples from the patient, which have been dispatched to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune for diagnostic testing. Officials are currently awaiting the lab results to confirm the diagnosis.

In light of the ongoing



Ebola situation in several African nations, the Telangana Medical and Health Department has strengthened surveillance across all entry

points. Hyderabad City Guide

Gandhi Hospital has been officially designated as the nodal center for

Ebola management in Telangana, with specialized isolation facilities and medical teams kept on standby to handle any potential cases.

Kavitha questions govt's Muharram readiness, elephant delay

Hyderabad: June 4

Bharat Rakshana Sena (BRS) leader K Kavitha on Thursday, June 4, criticised the Telangana government for what she described as a lack of preparedness for the upcoming Muharram observances, noting that only 12 days remain before the commencement of the holy month.

In a post on X, Kavitha expressed concern that the state government has not conducted any review meetings or initiated visible arrangements for Muharram. She pointed out that several key issues remain unresolved, including the procurement of an elephant for the historic Bibi Ka Alam procession and the release of support and sanctions for 11,836 Ashoorkhanas across Telangana.

"Time is running out. The government must act immediately to ensure a smooth, dignified, and respectful observance of Muharram," Kavitha said.

The BRS leader questioned the government's preparedness for one of Hyderabad's most significant religious events, which attracts thousands of devotees and requires extensive coordination among various departments.

Kavitha's remarks come amid continuing discussions over arrangements for the traditional elephant-led Bibi Ka Alam procession, one of the most prominent events during Muharram in Hyderabad.



For decades, the procession featured a caparisoned elephant carrying the revered Alam. However, in recent years, concerns over animal welfare regulations and the availability of trained elephants have complicated arrangements.

The issue gained prominence after the death of the famed elephant "Lakshmi," which had participated in the procession for several years. Since then, authorities and organisers have faced challenges in securing an elephant that meets regulatory requirements and receives necessary permissions. The matter has often required intervention from the state government and coordination with wildlife authorities.

With Muharram approaching, Kavitha said the government must expedite pending decisions and lo-

gistical preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of religious events across the state.

Muharram is observed by the Shia Muslim community in remembrance of Imam Hussain,

the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, and culminates in processions and commemorative gatherings, including the historic Bibi Ka Alam procession in Hyderabad.

India, UK Unveil New Initiatives on Critical Minerals, Maritime Security

New Delhi: External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday held talks with UK foreign secretary Yvette Cooper in New Delhi, reviewing progress in bilateral cooperation across key sectors.

Both sides discussed collaboration in trade, technology, supply chains, defence, climate, education and people-to-people ties, while also exploring opportunities in clean energy, artificial intelligence and critical minerals. They also exchanged views on global developments, including Ukraine, West Asia and the Indo-Pacific. The two ministers later presided over the handing over of a Letter of Approval to the University of Liverpool for establishing a campus in Bengaluru.



Hyderabad: June 4

A major fire broke out at KSR Shopping Complex near Metro Pillar No. 1043 in Ameerpet in the city on Thursday afternoon. The three-storied building was completely engulfed in flames, leading to a major emergency in the busy and densely populated area. Several shops next to the building were also gutted in the blaze.

According to Hyderabad Fire Department officials, seven fire engines were deployed to tackle the fire. Authorities said the flames were brought under control after intensive firefighting operations.

"A fire broke out at a helmet market in Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Seven fire engines were rushed to the spot and are engaged in controlling the fire. No casualties have been reported so far," a fire official said. The incident also caused heavy traffic congestion on the busy main road.

The Hyderabad police confirmed that no casualties were reported so far. The fire accident reportedly broke out in a helmet shop in the complex. The cause of the fire remains unknown, and further details are awaited.

This story was written by Yashwanth Roddy, a student of IIT Hyderabad interning with Deccan Chronicle.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Flawed marking system under scrutiny

THE Union government has set the ball rolling to clean the mess in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). It has replaced the board chairman and secretary and ordered an inquiry into the procurement of services for the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system. This is a rare admission that something did go wrong on a large scale. It's worrisome that the digital evaluation system malfunctioned. What's worse, repeated warnings were ignored — and students ended up paying the price. Initially, the CBSE projected the OSM controversy as a matter of technical glitches, cyberattacks and isolated complaints. However, it has now come to light that the board's own dry run in January reportedly highlighted serious flaws: marks being altered erroneously, evaluation schemes not matching the software interface, frequent system freezes, unsaved progress and even the possibility of assigning marks to blank answers. Participants allegedly warned that the system required at least a year of further testing before nationwide implementation. Those red flags appear to have been brushed aside.

The adverse consequences were borne not by administrators or vendors, but by students who had appeared in the high-stakes Class-12 exams. Allegations of unchecked answers, blurred scans, mismatched answer sheets and inconsistent evaluation have dented public trust in India's examination system. When students cannot be certain that the answer sheets being evaluated are their own, the credibility of the entire process comes under a cloud.

The remarkable role played by Sarthak Sidhant, a 17-year-old student who presented his findings before a parliamentary committee, must be commended.

Khammam Poets Honoured at State-Level Poetry Meet



“Khammam, June 4 Indian Chronicle:”On the occasion of Telangana Formation Day, poets from Khammam district received recognition at a special state-level poetry convention organized by the Telangana State Department of Culture and the State Government at the Palakuriki Somanatha Main Stage in Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad. Poet and teacher Katukojwala Ramesh and poet-lecturer Chintakayala Anjaneyulu participated in the prestigious event held on Tuesday. Through their poems, they celebrated Telangana's rich language and culture while highlighting the state's progress over the past twelve years. The two poets were felicitated by noted litterateur and Director of the Telangana State Department of Culture, Enugu Narasimha Reddy. Literary organizations, teachers' associations, and lecturers' unions across Khammam district expressed happiness and congratulated the poets on receiving the state honour.

Village Deepikas Call Off Strike

“Khammam Nelakondapalli June 04 (Indian chronicle):”



“Village Deepikas, who had been on strike demanding the resolution of their legitimate issues, called off their protest on Thursday. They had been staging a strike for the past 15 days at the Nelakondapalli mandal headquarters, demanding a monthly salary of 26,000, recognition as SERP employees, and the fulfillment of other demands. The protesters announced the withdrawal of the strike after the government held discussions with union leaders and assured them that their issues would be addressed. On Thursday, IKP APM K. Surendra Babu and Sarpanch Sheelam Venkata Lakshmi visited the protest camp, expressed solidarity with the workers, and formally ended the strike by offering lemon juice to the participants. Speaking on the occasion, union leader Rajaputra Parvathi Bhai thanked everyone who had supported their agitation and extended solidarity during the protest. She warned that if the government fails to fulfill the promises within the stipulated timeframe, the Village Deepikas would resume their agitation. Union leaders and members participated in the programme.”

Easy money trap: 12 arrested in hydroponic cannabis case

Hyderabad: Youngsters from the city who faced financial problems and were looking for an opportunity to earn easy money were lured to work as 'carriers of hydroponic ganja' by the international drug cartel. The law enforcement officials in the recent days have caught 12 youngsters who are residents of Hyderabad during their bid to smuggle hydroponic ganja, and now they are languishing in prison.

Dr. Lakshmi Akula Unveils Brochure for Venkat Dance Academy State-Level Dance Competitions



“Khammam, June 4 Indian Chronicle:”Renowned educationist and social worker Dr. Lakshmi Akula unveiled the brochure for the upcoming Telangana and Andhra Pradesh State-Level Dance Competitions, which will be organized by Venkat Dance Academy (VDA) with the support of VBCC Youth. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lakshmi Akula said

that such dance competitions play a vital role in identifying and nurturing the hidden artistic talents of young people. She emphasized that today's students should excel not only in academics but also in arts and cultural activities. She appreciated the efforts of Venkat Dance Academy in encouraging and promoting talented artists. “Dr. Lakshmi Akula serves as the Founder and Managing Director of Butterfly Special Wings and the Founder and Correspondent of Rigvedam School of Excellence. She has made significant contributions to the fields of education and social service and is also actively engaged as a researcher in the field of Oncology.” The organizers, Kadari Venkatesh and Sai Master, announced that the state-level dance competitions will be held on June 14 at the CER Club Grounds in Yellandu. They invited artists from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to participate in large numbers and make the most of this opportunity. The event was attended by Touch Studio owner Rakesh Reddy Meera, Shabbir, senior dance master Rajesh Master from Yellandu, artists, youth representatives, and several other dignitaries.

Awareness on Cyber Crimes, Marijuana Eradication and Road Safety: Chintakani SI

“Chintakani, June 4 Indian Chronicle:”As part of the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika programme, Chintakani Police conducted an awareness session during a village meeting held at Vandanam village in Chintakani mandal on Thursday. The programme focused on the prevention of road accidents, eradication of marijuana and other narcotic substances, and cybercrime awareness. Addressing the gathering, Chintakani Sub-Inspector Veerender said that in the present digital era, people must remain highly alert to cyber crimes. He warned that online fraudsters are adopting new methods every day to cheat innocent people and steal their money. He advised the public not to share personal information, OTPs, or bank account details with anyone and to avoid clicking on suspicious links. The SI expressed concern over the increasing use of marijuana and other narcotic substances among youth, stating that addiction is pushing many young people towards an uncertain future. He noted that the illegal drug trade is spreading across villages, towns, and educational institutions, adversely affecting the health, education, and behaviour of young people, often leading them into anti-social activities. He urged parents to closely observe behavioural changes in their children and seek timely intervention if signs of drug abuse are noticed.



Youth addicted to drugs can be provided counselling through experts and treatment at de-addiction centres, he said. He also stressed the importance of encouraging young people to participate in sports, yoga, and skill-development activities to strengthen them physically and mentally. Speaking on road safety, Veerender said that controlling over-speeding, strictly following traffic rules, and avoiding distractions such as mobile phone usage and alcohol consumption while driving are essential to prevent road accidents.

Voter Deletion Process Must Be Conducted Impartially: Special Deputy Collector M. Rajeswari

“Khammam Nellakondapalli, June 4 Indian Chronicle:”Special Deputy Collector and Palair Constituency Electoral Registration Officer M. Rajeswari stressed that the voter deletion process under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme must be carried out in a fair and impartial manner. On Thursday, she inspected the SIR programme being conducted in various villages of Nellakondapalli mandal. Addressing a meeting held at Rajeshwarapuram, she urged all political parties to actively participate in the process by appointing Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in all 291 polling booths of the Palair Assembly constituency. She stated that voter deletions should be undertaken without any bias or vested interests. Officials were directed to remove the names of deceased voters and those who have permanently shifted their residence. Rajeswari also appealed to all eligible citizens who will attain 18 years of age by October 1 to apply for voter registration. She requested residents to cooperate with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during the door-to-door verification process and informed them that objections regard-



ing voter additions, deletions, or corrections can be submitted through the prescribed procedure. Nellakondapalli Tahsildar P. Ramprasad, Deputy Tahsildar Kanakam Narasimha Rao, Inspector Allam Ravi Kumar, Sarpanch Danda Rangaiah, Deputy Sarpanch Rasala Naveen, Panchayat Secretary, ward members, BLOs, and others participated in the programme.

BJP SUPPORT WAS CRUCIAL FOR SEPARATE TELANGANA : NRR

Hyderabad, June 4 : Pooh Poohing claims of both ruling Congress and BRS in formation of Telangana state, BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today asserted that it was a fact recorded in the history that no one can ignore the role of the BJP in parliament in the formation of Telangana state. Speaking at the “Meet the Press” programme organised by the Press Club of Hyderabad here, Rao reminded that BJP had supported bifurcation bill unconditionally in the parliament resulting in separate state for the region become reality. He accused Congress of adopting a dual stance on the Telangana issue. But the BJP never changed its word as it was believed from the very beginning that smaller states were the path of efficient governance and supported Telangana with the same mindset. There was complete political willpower of the BJP national leadership in passing of the Telangana bill in parliament. Even though tense conditions prevailed in Parliament due to the pepper spray incident by Congress member, we did not withdraw our support for the Telangana Bill. He alleged that Congress failed to take action against its member for the unwarranted incident. Taking a dig at than TRS (now BRS), Rao said when Telangana bill was introduced in the parliament its two MPs were not present in the house. But our party

MPs Haribabu and Kishan Reddy were very well present in the house who advocated for the separate state. All BJP members in Parliament unanimously supported the Telangana Bill. Revealing the behind the scene performance played for passing out Telangana Bill, Rao said he himself along with senior advocates Prakash Reddy and Niranjan Reddy personally went to Delhi with a copy of the Bill and met Arun Jaitley, who was leader of the house in Rajya Sabha, Sushma Swaraj, then Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and top BJP leaders and explained them about the bill. He said Arun Jaitley advised us stating that do not raise objection to the bill, first the Telangana state be formed. We held extensive discussions with the BJP national leadership regarding the necessary amendments. We worked very crucially behind the scenes for the achievement of Telangana state. BJP state chief explained that he personally coordinated in Delhi for the passage of the Telangana Bill. Despite facing criticism and political attacks for the sake of Telangana, the BJP leadership did not back down, he said. The commitment, sincerity, and political willpower of the BJP played a crucial role in the realization of Telangana state, Rao said adding that there were many who claim that they "gave" Telangana... but no one can forget the role of the BJP in getting the Telangana Bill passed.

CM Relief Fund Extends Support to Needy Patients

“Khammam, June 04 (Indian chronicle):”The Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) has been providing significant financial assistance to poor families struggling to meet medical expenses, said Tumburu Dayakar Reddy, Camp Office In-charge of Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. A cheque distribution programme was held on Thursday at the camp office of Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, located in Srinagar Colony, Khammam. On the occasion, Dayakar Reddy distributed CMRF cheques worth a total of ₹16.16 lakh to 51 beneficiaries. Among the recipients, 30 beneficiaries were from Khammam Rural Mandal, while 21 beneficiaries belonged to Edulapuram Municipality. Speaking at the event, Dayakar Reddy said that the government is not only ensuring better medical treatment for the underprivileged but is also providing immediate financial assistance through the CMRF, offering much-



needed relief and confidence to needy families. The programme was attended by TPCC General Secretary Maddineni Baby Swarnakumari, Congress Party leaders from the respective areas, local public representatives, and others.

6-Crore, Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavan, Speed Up Construction: Collector K. Haritha



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, June 4:”District Collector K. Haritha has directed officials to expedite the construction of the District Mahila Samakhya's Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavan being built at the district headquarters and make it ready for inauguration at the earliest. On Thursday, the Collector inspected the ongoing construction works of the Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavan at Janakapur in the district headquarters. The building is being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹6 crore. She was accompanied by District Rural Development Officer Dattarao and Panchayat Raj Executive Engineer Dharmender. During the visit, the Collector reviewed the progress of the project with engineering officials and the contractor and sought details regarding the status of the construction works. Speaking on the occasion, she stated that the construction of the Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavan, being developed at a cost of ₹6 crore, should be completed at the earliest so that it can be inaugurated soon. She instructed the contractor to accelerate the remaining works, including painting, electrical installations, and the fixing of doors and windows. The Collector further directed engineering officials to closely monitor the project and ensure that all construction activities adhere to prescribed quality standards. Engineering officials, the building contractor, and other concerned personnel participated in the inspection.

Special Electoral Roll Revision to Be Conducted Meticulously: Collector Haritha



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, June 4:”Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls to Be Conducted in a Systematic Manner: District Collector K. Haritha District Collector K. Haritha has stated that the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls in the district will be carried out meticulously through close coordination among all concerned officials. On Thursday, the Collector participated in a video conference conducted by the Election Commission of India from its headquarters in New Delhi. She attended the programme from the Video Conference Hall at the Integrated District Collectorate Complex along with Asifabad Revenue Divisional Officer Lokeshwar Rao. During the review meeting with officials, the Collector directed that the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls be implemented strictly in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. She informed that training programmes for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be conducted from June 15 to June 24. BLOs will undertake door-to-door visits within their respective jurisdictions, distribute enumeration forms to eligible voters, collect the duly filled forms along with supporting documents, and upload the details through the BLO App. The Collector stated that meetings with representatives of political parties have already been conducted and that lists of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) nominated by political parties have been received. She further informed that there are 320 polling stations in Sirpur Assembly Constituency and 358 polling stations in Asifabad Assembly Constituency. The rationalisation process of these polling stations should be carried out carefully and efficiently. The Collector instructed officials to work in coordination and ensure that the Special Summary Revision programme is completed without any errors or discrepancies. Election Department Supervisors Jameel, Nayab Tahsildar Shyam Lal, Ram Lal, and other staff members participated in the programme.

Ramchander Rao slams Revanth Reddy over Tummidihatti remarks

Hyderabad: BJP State president N Ramchander Rao has come down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for alleging that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had denied him an appointment to discuss the Tummidihatti project. Interestingly, Revanth Reddy has managed to get appointments with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on nearly ten occasions. Yet, he alleges that the Maharashtra Chief Minister is denying him one. These accusations are aimed only at targeting the BJP, Rao said. The BJP leader described the Chief Minister's approach as politically motivated. There is more

politics in his heart and fewer facts. If he is genuinely concerned about the interests of the people, he should have travelled there and held discussions directly, Rao charged.

He also criticised Revanth Reddy's demand that Union Minister G Kishan Reddy facilitate a meeting with the Maharashtra Chief Minister. People elected Revanth Reddy as Chief Minister. Why should Kishan Reddy secure an appointment for him? Rao asked. Demanding transparency, Rao urged the Chief Minister to make public the letter purportedly written to the Maharashtra Chief Minister seeking an appointment.

Fine Ordered Against Tiffin Centre for Littering Public Road



lors, inspected the road stretch from Rajiv Gandhi Chowk to Teeram Raj Talkies Junction in Kagaznagar town. "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector emphasized the need for proactive measures to keep the town clean and appealed to citizens to voluntarily participate in sanitation and cleanliness initiatives. She directed municipal officials to ensure the daily cleaning of drainage canals and the regular collection of both wet and dry waste. "During the inspection, it was observed that the management of Gurukrupa Tiffin Centre had disposed of wastewater and used plates on the roadside. Taking serious note of the violation, the Collector directed Municipal Commissioner Tirupathi to impose a penalty on the establishment's owner. "The Collector also advised shopkeepers not to throw plastic covers and plastic bottles onto roads and instructed them to dispose of waste only in designated dustbins. She stressed that maintaining a clean and hygienic town is a collective responsibility and called upon all citizens to actively contribute to the cleanliness drive. "Municipal officials, ward councillors, and other public representatives participated in the programme

"Special Focus Needed on Urban Cleanliness: District Collector K. Haritha" Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, June 4. "District Collector K. Haritha has instructed municipal officials to pay special attention to maintaining cleanliness in Kagaznagar Municipality. "On Thursday, the Collector, along with municipal officials and local ward council-

DCP Ankit Kumar Conducts Surprise Inspection of Geesugonda Police Station



and accord them top priority. He emphasized the timely filing of charge sheets and the conduct of quality investigations to secure convictions and ensure justice for victims. "Following the inspection, the DCP expressed satisfaction over the overall functioning of the Geesugonda Police Station, including record management, cleanliness, and the performance of police personnel. He encouraged the staff to continue their dedicated efforts in providing efficient and citizen-friendly policing services. "The inspection was attended by Mamunoor ACP N. Venkatesh, Geesugonda CI D. Visweshwar, SI K. Kumar, and other police personnel. "Alternative headline (more impactful): "East Zone DCP Ankit Kumar Reviews Policing Standards During Surprise Inspection of Geesugonda Police Station

"Geesugonda, June 4 (Indian Chronicle) : East Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Ankit Kumar conducted a surprise inspection of the Geesugonda Police Station on Thursday. During the visit, he thoroughly reviewed the functioning of various police station wings, maintenance of records, progress of criminal investigations, and the overall law and order situation, while issuing necessary directions to the officials concerned. "As part of the inspection, the DCP meticulously examined crime records, general diaries, statutory registers, details of pending cases, investigation progress reports, and other official documents. He instructed officers to uphold greater transparency in record maintenance and enhance the quality and efficiency of investigations. "Subsequently, he held a review meeting with police officials on the prevailing law and order situation, crime prevention measures, and conditions in the villages under the station's jurisdiction. He emphasized the need for constant vigilance and proactive policing to ensure public safety and security. "The DCP directed officers to maintain continuous surveillance over rowdy-sheeters, history-sheeters, habitual offenders, and other suspicious individuals. He stressed the importance of closely monitoring their movements and taking preventive measures to curb criminal activities. "He further instructed police personnel to treat complainants with courtesy, empathy, and professionalism, and to ensure prompt redressal of public grievances. Special emphasis was laid on delivering timely justice to victims through responsive policing. "Mr. Ankit Kumar also directed officials to expedite the investigation of long-pending cases

Warangal and Khammam Police Commissioners Commend Khammam CCS Team for Solving Theft Case



handed over to the Warangal police for further investigation. "In recognition of their prompt response and valuable assistance, Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh conveyed his sincere appreciation to the Khammam CCS team. A commendation certificate issued by the Warangal Police Commissioner was presented to the CCS personnel on Thursday by Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt. "The programme was attended by Additional DCP Ramanujam and CCS ACP Sarver, among others. "Get smarter responses, upload files and images, and more. "Log in" Sign up for free

"Khammam, June 04 (Indian chronicle): "The Police Commissioners of Warangal and Khammam have appreciated the personnel of the Khammam Central Crime Station (CCS) for their swift and efficient action in apprehending three interstate offenders involved in a theft case registered under Crime Nos. 669/2025, 670/2025, and 14/2026 at the KUC Police Station in the Warangal Police Commissionerate limits, under Sections 331(3) and 305(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "According to police officials, the accused had recently committed a house burglary within the jurisdiction of KUC Police Station in Warangal district and were fleeing with the stolen property on a train passing through Khammam. Based on CCTV footage, Warangal police identified the suspects and immediately alerted the Khammam police. "Acting on the instructions of Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt, personnel from the Central Crime Station boarded the train at Khammam disguised as passengers. They conducted a thorough search of each coach and, by the time the train reached Madhira, successfully identified and apprehended the three accused—Sk. Firoz, Sk. Emin, and Sk. Sukh Chand, all residents of West Bengal. The suspects were subsequently

Foundation Stone Laid for 15,000-Metric-Tonne Warehouse in Wyra Constituency



use. "Among those present at the programme were SUDA Chairman Puvvalla Durga Prasad, SE Srinivas, OBC Cell District President Puchakayala Veerabhadram, Pagadala Manjula, Pattabhi Ramaiah, Sarpanch Raghavulu, and several other public representatives and local leaders.



CANTONMENT M.L.A. SRI GANESH MEETS NEW MALKAJGIRI CP SUMATHI "BOWENPALLY/JUNE 04/ (INDIAN CHRONICLE) "Secunderabad Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh paid a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Malkajgiri Police Commissioner, Smt. Sumathi, at her office on Thursday to extend his warm congratulations. "During the meeting, the MLA discussed crucial issues with the CP, focusing on maintaining law and order in the constituency and the preventive measures being taken against the use and supply of narcotics like drugs and marijuana. Keeping the future of the youth in mind, he requested the police department to crack down heavily on drug abuse and implement stringent measures to control crime. "MLA Sri Ganesh assured that they would extend full cooperation to the police department to ensure public safety and maintain a peaceful environment in the constituency.

"Khammam, Wyra June 4, 2026: "Wyra MLA Ramdas Naik and State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao laid the foundation stone for a new 15,000-metric-tonne warehouse being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹10 crore in Guttakinda Gumpu village of Singareni Mandal, Khammam district. "Speaking on the occasion, Rayala Nageswara Rao said that warehouses play a crucial role in helping farmers store their paddy and other agricultural produce safely. He stated that, in addition to the existing warehouses with a storage capacity of 5 lakh metric tonnes, the government has initiated steps to construct warehouses with an additional capacity of 10 lakh metric tonnes across the state. "He noted that construction of these warehouses is currently underway in several locations and is expected to be completed within the next two years. Once completed, the state will have a total additional storage capacity of 15 lakh metric tonnes for food grains and agricultural produce. "Nageswara Rao further said that opposition parties are criticising the government because they are unable to accept the welfare and development initiatives being implemented by the state government. He alleged that no significant warehouse construction projects were undertaken during the previous administration. "He also mentioned that MLA Ramdas Naik had requested the construction of warehouses in the area to help local farmers store their crops. He assured that the project would be completed at the earliest and made available for farmers'

CM Revanth Reddy to Visit Uppal on June 7; Foundation Stone for MMC Office Building to be Laid



"UPPAL, JUNE 4 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): "In a major development for the people of Uppal, a new office building of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) is set to be constructed at Uppal Bhagayath. The project has received

government approval following persistent efforts by Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, who has been actively working for the development of the region. "The foundation stone-laying ceremony for the new MMC office building has been scheduled for June 7, and will be performed by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. "The state-of-the-art municipal office complex will be constructed on nine acres of land at Uppal Bhagayath, along the banks of the Musi River, at an estimated cost of ₹99 crore. The proposed building will feature modern amenities and infrastructure aimed at improving civic administration and public services. "The new MMC headquarters is expected to bring governance and municipal services closer to residents across the corporation limits, enhancing administrative efficiency and public accessibility. Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy said, "We have fulfilled the promise made to the people. The establishment of the MMC building at Uppal Bhagayath is a collective victory for all of us. We are committed to making Uppal the number one constituency in terms of development."

Officials Asked to Ensure Voting Rights for Every Eligible Citizen During SIR Process

"Khammam, June 4 (Indian chronicle): "District Collector Divakar T.S. has directed officials to work in coordination to ensure that every eligible citizen is granted the right to vote through the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. "The Collector participated in a training programme on SIR conducted via video conference by representatives of the Election Commission of India, Vilas Dubey and Amrita, on Thursday. He attended the session from the Khammam Collectorate along with Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr. P. Srijia. "During the training, Election Commission representatives explained various aspects of the SIR process, including the printing and distribution of enumeration forms, digitization of forms received from voters, data entry procedures, verification mechanisms, and other related activities. "Following the session, Collector Divakar T.S. reviewed the process with district officials and instructed supervisors to thoroughly re-verify the completed mapping exercise. He emphasized the need to map and cross-verify the details of voters included in the 2002 SIR rolls and their family members. "The Collector stated that the primary objective is to ensure voting rights for every eligible individual. He directed officials to identify politically neutral volunteers and provide them with appropriate training to support the process. "He also instructed officials to collect enumeration forms from all remaining voters once the mapping exercise is completed. Particular attention



should be paid to verifying all details entered in the forms, including the Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number and other relevant information. "Divakar T.S. further directed supervisors to ensure that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) receive comprehensive training through master trainers and that adequate forms are made available at every polling station. "The meeting was attended by Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya, DRO Srinivas, Election Section Supervisors Raju and D.T. Ansari, along with other concerned officials. "The information was released by the District Public Relations Officer's Office, Khammam."

ATC to Emerge as a Key Hub for Youth Skill Development: MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy

"Parakala, June 4 (Indian Chronicle) : Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy stated that the proposed Advanced Training Centre (ATC) will play a pivotal role in expanding skill development opportunities for the youth of the region. On Thursday, he inspected the site earmarked for the construction of the ATC in the heart of Parkal town, accompanied by officials. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that providing youth with training in modern technologies would significantly enhance their employability and open up better career prospects. He noted that the State Government is placing special emphasis on creating employment opportunities for young people and is committed to strengthening the sectors of agriculture, education, and employment. "He further observed that the establishment of the Advanced Training Centre would not only accelerate the development of Parkal town but also serve as a dedicated centre for skill enhancement and professional training. As part of the vision to transform Parkal into an educational hub, he said that several major institutions, including the Young India Integrated School, a new Government Degree College, a Government Hospital, and the ATC, are



being established near Rajupet. "Mr. Prakash Reddy called upon citizens to actively participate in the town's progress and contribute towards restoring Parkal's former prominence. He urged the public to extend their support to the developmental initiatives being undertaken by the Government for the town's comprehensive growth. "Later, the MLA inspected the ongoing side-drain construction works in the town and directed officials to ensure that the works are completed expeditiously while maintaining prescribed quality standards.

Pawan's Remarks Against Communists Reflect Height of Ignorance: AIYF Leader



"Youth Will Not Remain Silent if He Continues to Make Irresponsible Comments" AIYF Khammam District Assistant Secretary Mamintha Srinath Reddy Reacts Strongly "Khammam Nelakondapalli, June 4 (Indian chronicle): "AIYF Khammam District Assistant Secretary Mamintha Srinath Reddy strongly criticized Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan, questioning why communists have suddenly become his enemies when he had sought their support during the 2019 elections due to a lack of suf-

ficient political strength to win on his own. "Addressing a press conference held at Karnati Krishnaya Bhavan in the mandal headquarters on Thursday, Srinath Reddy alleged that Pawan Kalyan is targeting communists only to please those in power, while failing to question the government's shortcomings on key issues such as unemployment among youth and the privatization of public assets in favor of corporate interests. "He warned that the youth would not tolerate derogatory remarks against the sacrifices and contributions of communists and demanded that Pawan Kalyan issue an unconditional apology. "Srinath Reddy emphasized that several rights enjoyed by workers today—including the eight-hour workday, minimum wages, and land reforms benefiting the poor—were achieved through communist struggles. He further stated that Pawan Kalyan, who has never faced police batons while fighting for public causes, has no moral right to criticize the history of sacrifices made by communist movements. "He cautioned that if the campaign of misinformation against communist movements continues, people would confront Pawan Kalyan in the public sphere and give a fitting response. "Others present at the meeting included AIYF District Assistant Secretary Malleboyina Uppender, AIYF Mandal Secretary Palapati Ashok, and AIYF Mandal leaders Aleti Umamahesh, Balina Krishnam Raju, and Ranjith."

Telangana Sailors Dominate Monsoon Regatta

Hyderabad, June 04 (Indian Chronicle) : Telangana sailors delivered an impressive performance on the third day of the 17th YAI Monsoon Regatta National Ranking Sailing Championship being held at Hussain Sagar. In the Under-16 Optimist class, Nilkonda Mani maintained the top position with 7 points, followed by Ravikumara Bannevolu(13) and Vutla Narasimha(15). Narasimha, who recently competed in the Singapore Nationals, registered his first race victory in a national championship. In the Under-16 Girls category, Rameeza Bhanu(18) led the standings, ahead of Shrugari Roy(21) and Sakshi Kumari(40). In the Novices division, Veer Vignesh topped the table, while Mohammed Rehman secured second place. In the Girls Novices cat-

egory, Roshini remained in first position. In the Junior Laser Boys event, Preet Sival(5), Hriday Joshi(10), and Kaunik Vardhan(18) occupied the top three spots. In the Laser Girls category, a close contest for gold and silver continues between Katyayani Kaushik and Ramyasri. In the 29er Skiffs Boys division, the pair of Vinod Dandu and Aravind Maloth(7) led the fleet, followed by Sharanya Jadhav and Shivam Valmiki(9), and Rizwan Mohammed and Satvik Dhoki(13). In the International 420 Mixed Class, Chandralekha and Dhanush(7) continued to hold the lead, while Badrinath and Rishvika(8) and Sirisha and Ramcharan(14) followed in second and third positions respectively.

Power and Drinking Water Supply Restored in Bhimavaram Umesh Chandra Nagar After Three Days of Hardship



Essential Services Through Coordination With Electricity Officials"Pinapaka, June 4 (Indian Chronicle): "Residents of Bhimavaram Umesh Chandra Nagar, under T. Kothagudem Gram Panchayat in Pinapaka Mandal, heaved a sigh of relief after electricity and drinking water services were restored following three days of disruption caused by adverse weather conditions. "Strong winds, dust storms, and heavy rains had damaged electricity lines in the area, resulting in a prolonged power outage. The disruption also affected drinking water supply, causing considerable hardship to local residents. "On being informed of the situation, Congress leader Jakka Venkateswarlu promptly intervened and held discussions with the concerned electricity department officials. He urged them to take immediate measures to address the issue and restore power supply to the affected locality. "Acting on the request, electricity department personnel carried out the necessary repair works and successfully restored power to the area. With the resumption of electricity, drinking water supply was also restored, bringing much-needed relief to the residents. "Villagers expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Jakka Venkateswarlu for his timely response and efforts in resolving the problem. Speaking on the occasion, he reaffirmed his commitment to addressing public issues and working for the welfare and development of the people.

"Jakka Venkateswarlu Responds Swiftly to Villagers' Grievances"Congress Leader Facilitates Restoration of

Awareness on Road Safety, Cyber Crimes, and Drug Abuse – DCP Ankit Kumar



public against sharing bank account details, OTPs, or passwords with anyone, and urged victims of cyber fraud to immediately contact the Cyber ??Crime Helpline (1930) or the nearest police station. "Highlighting the importance of CCTV cameras, he stated that installing surveillance systems in villages and business establishments significantly aids in crime prevention. Describing CCTV cameras as a "third eye," he noted that they play a pivotal role in identifying criminals and in strengthening efforts to ensure public safety and maintain law and order. "The event was attended by local Sarpanch Divya Bharathi, former MPP Bheemagani Soujanya, the Panchayat Secretary, the Deputy Sarpanch, ward members, public representatives, villagers, and media representatives.

"Elkurthi/Geesugonda, June 4 (Indian Chronicle) : As part of the State Government's prestigious 'Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika – 99-Day Program,' East Zone DCP Ankit Kumar participated in a Gram Sabha (village assembly) held on Thursday in Elkurthi village, Geesugonda Mandal, and created awareness among the public regarding several key issues. "Mamunur ACP Venkatesh, Geesugonda CI Visweswar, Sub-Inspectors, and police personnel attended this event. Speaking on the occasion, the DCP addressed topics such as road safety, the prevention of drug abuse, awareness regarding cyber crimes, and the importance of CCTV surveillance. "Explaining the significance of the "Arrive Alive" road safety campaign, he urged two-wheeler riders to always wear helmets and four-wheeler drivers to fasten their seat belts. He emphasized that strictly adhering to traffic regulations and refraining from driving under the influence of alcohol are absolutely essential to prevent road accidents and save lives. "Stating that narcotics have devastating consequences for individuals, families, and society, the DCP warned the youth not to fall victim to drug abuse. He appealed to the villagers to immediately inform the police if they observe any incidents related to drug consumption or illicit trafficking in their area. "Addressing the growing threat of cybercrime, Mr. Ankit Kumar advised citizens to remain vigilant against suspicious phone calls, fraudulent messages, fake online links, bogus job offers, and digital arrest scams. He warned the

Let Us Protect the Environment for Future Generations: District Collector Divakara TS



adding that the primary objective of the programme is to cleanse and update electoral rolls by removing only deceased voters, those who have permanently migrated, and duplicate entries. "He assured citizens that no eligible voter would lose their voting rights. "The Collector informed that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) would conduct door-to-door visits from June 25 to July 24 to distribute enumeration forms to remaining voters. Citizens were advised to fill out the forms and submit them along with any one of the eleven approved identity documents. "A draft SIR voter list will be released on July 31, 2026, and voters should verify whether their names appear on the list. Any objections, complaints, or new claims must be submitted by August 30, 2026. "He explained that individuals born before July 1, 1987, need only submit self-identification or birth-related documents. Those born between July 1, 1987, and December 2, 2004, must submit their documents along with those of either parent. Individuals born after December 2, 2004, are required to submit documents relating to both parents. "All objections and claims will be resolved by September 28, 2026, and the final electoral roll will be published on October 1, 2026, the Collector said. "Among those present were Mandal Special Officer B. Jyothi, ATMA PD B. Saritha, AO Uma Nagesh, Veterinary Officer Jagdulal, officials from various departments, public representatives, farmers, and villagers.

"Special Focus Needed on Waste Management and Sanitation in Villages" "People Must Follow Official Instructions During Floods" "Alternative Crops and Organic Farming Should Be Promoted" "Public Should Cooperate with SIR Programme and Avoid Misconceptions" "Ensuring Voting Rights for Every Eligible Citizen is the Goal of SIR" "District Collector Participates in Gram Sabha at Gollapadu Village, Khammam Rural" "Khammam Rural, June 4 (Indian Chronicle): "District Collector Divakara TS called upon citizens to work collectively to protect the environment for the benefit of future generations. "The Collector participated in a Gram Sabha held at the Rythu Vedika in Gollapadu village of Khammam Rural mandal and interacted directly with villagers on various development and welfare issues. "Addressing the gathering, the Collector said that village and ward meetings serve as important platforms for delivering government welfare and development programmes to the people. He explained the objectives of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme and clarified doubts raised by residents. "The Collector also discussed irrigation canal development works and the progress of irrigation projects with villagers. He stated that adequate measures had been taken to prevent fertilizer shortages during the upcoming Kharif season and encouraged farmers to use nano urea. "Creating awareness on crop diversification, he advised farmers to consider alternative crops such as oil palm, vegetables, and fruit orchards, keeping weather forecasts in mind. "Given the relatively low drought conditions, farmers with borewell facilities could opt for short-duration paddy cultivation, he said. He further urged farmers to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and give priority to organic farming. "Emphasizing environmental protection, Divakara TS stated that effective waste management is the responsibility of every citizen. He noted that increasing population levels are contributing to environmental pollution and warned that just as people now pay for clean drinking water, there may come a time when they have to pay for clean air if environmental degradation continues unchecked. "He stressed that environmental conservation is essential for ensuring a better quality of life for future generations. Referring to climate change, he said extreme rainfall events and floods are becoming more common, while deforestation is forcing monkeys and other wildlife into human settlements. "The Collector observed that there is no immediate solution to the monkey menace and suggested that lasting solutions would require changes in community practices and lifestyles. "Highlighting the need for a comprehensive district disaster management plan, he instructed officials and villagers to focus on cleaning drainage systems, maintaining sanitation, conserving water resources, and constructing community soak pits ahead of the monsoon season. "During floods, people should cooperate with government authorities and immediately move from low-lying areas to safer locations, he said. He warned that heavy rains could result in house collapses, fallen electric poles, and uprooted trees, leading to potential loss of life. "The Collector also cautioned people against traveling through flooded roads and culverts despite official warnings and noted that taking selfies in dangerous situations could prove fatal. "Residents living in old or structurally weak houses were advised to relocate to government rehabilitation centers or other safe places during heavy rains. He urged people not to venture out unnecessarily during floods and not to take risks in an attempt to act heroically. "Clarifying misconceptions surrounding the SIR programme, Divakara TS said claims that voters would lose their voting rights are completely false. Similar voter list revision exercises have been conducted several times since Independence, he said,

EX-BOARD VICE PRESIDENT JAMPANA CONGRATULATES M.L.A SRI GANESH "

"BOWENPALLY/JUNE 04/(INDIAN CHRONICLE)" "On the occasion of successfully completing two years in office as MLA, Cantonment Congress leader and former Board Vice President Jampana Pratap extended his heartfelt congratulations to MLA Sri Ganesh. "On Thursday, MLA Sri Ganesh visited Jampana's residence in Bowenpally, where he was warmly welcomed by Jampana's family members and representatives of the Jampana Yuvasena. Following the welcome, the Jampana couple honored the MLA with a shawl, offered him sweets, and showered him with blessings. They appreciated his dedicated efforts over the past two years toward the development of the constituency and public welfare. "Later, the MLA held a meeting with Jampana to engage in a detailed discussion regarding the resolution of public issues and further development of the constituency.

Indirama House should be reserved for the destitute



"Venkatapuram.Indian Chronicle.june04" "Veerabhadravaram village Panchayati Sarpanch Solam Hompathi, senior leaders of BRS party Mancharla Nageshwarau, Batta Nagender Thaditharu along with the leaders of indigenous communities together with MPDO of Mandalas to present a petition. "On this occasion, the leaders of Adivasi communities such as Persik Satish, Chintha Somaraj, Siddiboyana Sarvesh and Tursa

Krishnababu said that they demanded allotment of Indirama houses in accordance with the resolution of Village Panchayati Gram Sabha. He urged the authorities to ensure justice for eligible beneficiaries under Indirama Housing Scheme introduced by Telangana Government for poor BC, SC and ST families living in the village. "It is requested that the beneficiary selection be carried out in a transparent manner taking into account the list adopted at the Village Hall and give priority to real poor in granting houses. "The event was attended by a large number of participants: Mancharla Nagaraju, Podem Suresh, Solam Satish, Batta Narayana, Punnam Shreenu, Gaghari Ramesh, Kokkari Venkatesh, Batta Mohan Rao, Mutyaboyina Bhagyamma, Mancharla Krishna, Bandha Achut, Bandham Shekher, Pune Rajesh, Kunjam Rakumar, Shyamala Mahesh, Manchar boys, Madan Sanjay Kumar, Kuntanta Mummattam, Mandhan Tirupapatha Manthammatam, Rammal Ramman, Samad Vakkak, Nagandarandara, Gangal, Solathiy, Salikum, Kumari Ramyan, Tamir Bhom.

TJS Leader 'Ambati Srinivas' Participates in KK Committee Meeting

"Narsampet, June 4 (Indian Chronicle): A meeting was held on Thursday at the Ambedkar Bhavan within the Secretariat complex in Hyderabad, under the aegis of the 'KK Committee'—a body established by the State Government for the welfare of Telangana movement activists. The meeting primarily focused on the welfare of these activists, the resolution of their grievances, and the future measures to be undertaken to safeguard their interests. "This committee, which includes Professor Kodandaram as a member, engaged in in-depth discussions regarding various programs and policy initiatives that the government could implement to ensure the welfare and empowerment of Telangana movement activists. "Representing the Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS), Ambati Srinivas—a Telangana movement activist hailing from Narsampet—and the party's State General Secretary, Dharma Arjun, participated in the meeting. They articulated their views regarding the protection of activists' rights, welfare measures, and the facilities and benefits that should be extended to those who played pivotal



roles in the Telangana movement. "The leaders stated that this meeting served as a valuable platform for discussing issues pertinent to the activists and for offering constructive suggestions aimed at enhancing their welfare and overall well-being.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Extends Birthday Wishes to Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar

"UPPAL, JUNE 4 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy visited Vikarabad and conveyed birthday greetings to Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker and Vikarabad MLA Gaddam Prasad Kumar. On the occasion, he felicitated the Speaker and wished him a long, healthy, and prosperous life. "Speaking on the occasion, Lakshma Reddy praised Prasad Kumar for maintaining the dignity and decorum of the Assembly by providing equal opportunities and due respect to legislators from all political parties. He expressed hope that the Speaker would continue to serve the people effectively and attain many more higher positions in public life. "Among those present were Gaddam Ananya, BRS leaders Bairi Naveen Goud, Nemuri Mahesh Goud, and other party members.



Padma Shri Dr.P.Vijay Anand Reddy Felicitated

"Hyderabad, June 04 (Indian Chronicle): Renowned oncologist and Padma Shri awardee Prof. Dr.P.Vijay Anand Reddy was felicitated by the Telangana Intellectuals Forum at Apollo Hospitals on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Dr.Vijay Anand Reddy said that receiving the Padma Shri has increased his sense of responsibility and commitment toward society. He stated that he would continue serving cancer patients through advanced treatment methods and work towards building a cancer-free society. He also created awareness about cancer symptoms, preventive measures, and treatment options. Telangana Intellectuals Forum State President Dr.Raj Narayan Mudiraj praised Dr.Vijay Anand Reddy for his outstanding contribution to the medical field and his dedicated service to cancer patients over the past three decades. As part of the felicitation ceremony, Dr.Vijay Anand Reddy was honoured with a



shawl, memento, and citation. Several distinguished personalities, including K.Joji Reddy, Prof.Akhtar Ali, Balwant Reddy, B.Sampath Kumar, Madhubabu, K.Ravinder, Vidyasagar, N.Ramana, G.Venugopal, Bichukari Surya, and Nursing Rao, participated in the event and extended their congratulations.

Government is public administration for the solution of problems.



Everyone should participate in the progress plan programs and solve the problems:- Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar " (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 4):- Bhuvanagiri Honorary Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar participated as the chief guest in Ward No. 12 and 13 as part of the ward assembly programs being organized in various wards of Bhuvanagiri town. The closing ceremony of the Prajapalana Pragathi Plan was held grandly under the auspices of Municipal Commissioner K. Chandra Prakash Reddy and chaired by local ward members Thotakura Vijayalakshmi Venkatesh and Gurralla Santosh Srinivas. Speaking on the occasion, Bonagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar said that in the closing ceremonies organized by the state government, there is a need to discuss in ward meetings to create awareness among the urban people on various issues such as Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, construction of cesspits under the Jal Sanchay-Jal Bhagiratha Scheme, cleaning of sewage canals, soil removal works, action plan on monsoon preparedness, good water supply management, prevention and sanitation of waterlogging areas, road

maintenance, street lights, plants, environmental protection programs, and grievance redressal. She suggested that all the people should also increase their awareness on these matters and take up these works in their wards. She also said that ward meetings will be held in 10 wards every day during these four days as per the schedule and on the last day in 5 wards. Council members, municipal officials, ward officials, women's groups, ward people, staff and others participated in this program.

Malkapuram Vinod Kumar elected as the president of Bhuvanagiri Urban Activists Association

"(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 4):- Malkapuram Vinod Kumar was unanimously elected as the president of Bhuvanagiri Telangana Activists Association. Speaking on the occasion, Vinod said that justice should be done to the Telangana activists, that Pusa Srinivas worked tirelessly for Telangana and held initiations, protests, dharnas, and vanta warps for Telangana, and that the activists should bend the neck of the central government and bring Telangana, and that the state government should immediately provide a 250-yard plot to Revanth Reddy and the activists, as well as 30 thousand pension health cards, as well as the corporation should allocate 100 crore rupees, and immediately allocate another 100 crore for the activists, he demanded. District Activists Association President Mushka Jaipal Reddy, Matta Anjaneyulu, Mohammed Jahangir Baba and others participated in this meeting and also in this program.

‘Everyone is corrupt’: Anger, grief at Gurgaon home that lost 8 to South Delhi fire



GNS News Agency, June 4 his nephew Vivek Aggarwal and seven members of their extended family were among the 21 killed in a blaze at Flourish Stays, a bed-and-breakfast in Hauz Rani. They had come to Delhi after Radhe Shyam Aggarwal, a man in his 70s, had been in the Intensive Care Unit of the Max Hospital in Saket for several days. Vivek, his son, had rented rooms at Flourish Stays.

The fire claimed the lives of Vivek, his mother Premilata, his wife Tarjani, and their two young daughters, Jeevika and Waria. Also staying at the hotel were Vivek's maternal uncle, Ashok Goyal of Kishangarh, and his mother's sister Kamla and her husband Jimiri, who also lost their lives in the blaze. Hauz Rani fire tragedy, delhi hotel fire, gurgaon, Relatives of the victims of the fire incident outside AIIMS Trauma Centre, in New Delhi, on Thursday. Seething at the

civic apathy, Vishnu told "I will give Rs 20 lakh, I challenge the Prime Minister and Delhi government — run bulldozers and demolish all the illegal properties there... so no other lives can be lost. Who will bring back my nephew?" he added. Outside Vivek's sprawling two-storey property in Gurgaon's Sector 46, relatives gathered on the ground floor and the area outside to pay their condolences. The family said Vivek, in his late 40s, was a chartered accountant and Deputy CFO at InsuranceDekho. He moved to Gurgaon with his family in 2019. "Vivek had built the house with his own money. The family lived on the first floor and rented out the other portion," said Vivek's cousin, Vijay. It was Vijay, a sales executive working in Delhi's Kotla, who had last spoken to Vivek when the fire started. He rushed to the hospital immediately. Hauz Rani fire tragedy, delhi hotel fire, gurgaon, At Vivek's Gurgaon home on Thursday. Vijay added that he and Vivek had studied together in Rajasthan. "We were practically brothers," he said.

Vishnu, a tax lawyer practicing in Kashmir, drove down to Delhi and reached late in the afternoon. "Shyam was not keeping well... I had spoken to Vivek a week ago. I have lost him now," he said. A neighbour, Ravinder Khatri, said their families were close: "What happened is very tragic. Vivek was a bright man, I would see him cycling 5-6 km every morning in our neighbourhood. Shyam had some issue with his lungs, but I had spoken to him about a week ago at the park. They were a very good family and kind people."

Kolkata Airport expands terminal space by 4,000 square metres to ease congestion

GNS News Agency, June 4

In a major move to tackle peak-hour crowds and streamline travel, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport in Kolkata has rolled out significant terminal expansions. The structural upgrades are designed to enhance passenger comfort, optimise operational speed, and increase the airport's total capacity ahead of major terminal reconstruction projects, said officials. Specifically, these infrastructure enhancements will collectively increase the airport's passenger handling capacity from 26 million passengers per annum (MPPA) to a robust 28 MPPA. "To achieve this, an additional area of 966 square metres has already been commissioned at the departure level of the existing terminal building," said an airport official. Senior airport officials confirmed that the newly added space is explicitly aimed at reducing passenger congestion and increasing seating capacity in the domestic departure area as well as the swing gate zone, which serves both domestic and international passengers. "This particular facility has already been made operational for immediate passenger use," said the official. Furthermore, the international departure section of the terminal has been expanded by approximately 3,000 square metres. This expanded area will facilitate the re-routing of international passenger traffic, enabling the relocation of Immigration, Customs, and pre-embarkation security check (PESC) facilities. This restructuring is expected to significantly improve passenger flow and free up additional space within the international security hold area, with the extension set to become fully operational shortly. Managing this space is critical as the airport heads into a busy seasonal stretch. With Hajj operations underway until June 19, a significant influx of travellers is expected. Immediately after Hajj, airport authorities will pivot to their next major infrastructure milestone: the demolition



of the old, legacy domestic terminal to make way for future expansions of the modern footprint.

The immediate necessity of these upgrades is highlighted by the heavy daily traffic the airport handles. Over a three-day snapshot in early June, the airport consistently managed heavy volumes. On June 3, the domestic sector saw 155 arriving flights carrying 25,096 passengers and 149 departing flights with 25,901 passengers, while the international sector handled 20 arrivals (3,132 passengers) and 22 departures (3,736 passengers). The previous day, June 2, recorded 145 domestic arrivals (22,964 passengers) and 149 departures (25,451 passengers), alongside 22 international arrivals (2,938 passengers) and 22 departures (3,167 passengers). This followed a busy start to the month on June 1, which saw 152 domestic arrivals (24,464 passengers) and 152 departures (26,287 passengers), paired with 22 international arrivals (3,162 passengers) and 22 departures (3,520 passengers). "With daily traffic regularly clearing 50,000 total passengers, these extra square meters and reorganised checkpoints arrive just in time to offer a much smoother, stress-free transit," said an official.

A year after 11 fans died during RCB's IPL title celebrations, why police chargesheet is pending



GNS News Agency, June 4

One year after 11 people died in a stampede at the gates of the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on June 4, 2025, a police chargesheet against the persons accused of the stampede is still pending submission to a local court. Although police cases were filed against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), the Karnataka State Cricket Association, and the event management firm DNA Networks for the stampede during the RCB's 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) victory celebration, no chargesheet has been filed for the stampede deaths on account of the interim orders of the Karnataka High Court.

The Karnataka High Court issued a directive on July 8, 2025, to the CID police, who were asked to investigate three FIRs registered over the stampede cases, not to file a chargesheet in the cricket stadium stampede case. The high court is scheduled to pass orders in the matter on June 5, 2026, as per an order of April 15, 2026. The Karnataka CID police informed the high court in March this year through a Special Public Prosecutor of the readiness of the police to file the chargesheet for the stampede deaths. On March 3, 2026, the Karnataka High Court refused to grant leave for the filing of chargesheets until it hears and decides petitions filed by RCB, KSCA, and DNA Entertainment Networks for quashing the FIRs against them. Justice M Nagaprasanna said that investigations were permitted to continue to get to know what happened and that filing of a chargesheet would leave nothing in the cases. Earlier on July 8, 2025, Justice S R Krishna Kumar had ruled that police "are directed not to file the final report without the leave of the Court." The stampede during the celebrations for the RCB's maiden IPL title is alleged to have occurred after the franchise prematurely called for fans to arrive at the Chinnaswamy Stadium without consulting with the Bengaluru police on the security arrangements. The RCB has announced a memorial for the 11 fans who died in the stampede and an enhanced compensation of Rs 25 lakh for the families of the victims. The fans who died in the stampede on June 4, 2025, were Divyanshi B S, 14, a school student; Kamakshi Devi, 29, a private firm employee; Akshata Pai, 26, a private firm employee; Chinmaya Shetty, 19, a student; Sahana Rajesh, 23, a private firm employee; Shivalingu Chandappa, 17, a student; Shravan K T, 20, a

student; Manoj Kumar, 19, a student; Bhoomik Lakshman 19, a student; Prajwal G, 22, a student; and Poorna Chandra, 20, a student. The stampede at the stadium happened even as the Karnataka government was holding its own event at the Vidhana Soudha to felicitate the RCB team for winning the 2025 IPL tournament. Meanwhile, responding to the decision to shift this year's IPL venue to Ahmedabad from Bengaluru, wherein the RCB successfully defended its title, new Chief Minister Shivakumar said, "The IPL final was supposed to be held in Bengaluru. We had given permission for it. But the Gujarat people used their influence and took the match away from us. We are making the necessary preparations to ensure this doesn't happen again — it will take time."

Hinjewadi IT firm closure: Forum alleges Pune colleges had a role in 'internship scam'

GNS News Agency, June 4

The Forum for IT Employees (FITE) believes the Pune information technology firm that shut down after allegedly collecting Rs 15,000 from interns as a security deposit for laptops—rendering at least 700 people jobless—was part of a bigger "scam" that also involved some city colleges. "Those who set up the IT firm carried out recruitment through their online portals, besides college placements. We suspect that some of the colleges must have got commission from the IT firm's owner for conducting placement drives," Pavanjeet Mane, who heads FITE,

At the centre of the controversy is ThynkTech India OPC Pvt Ltd, which shut down in the Hinjewadi IT hub last week. The police arrested its CEO, Harshal Thakre, on cheating charges after interns with the firm filed a police complaint. Booked along with two others from the firm, Thakre has been remanded to police custody till June 8 by a local court.

Mane said ThynkTech has cheated some 700 IT youngsters. "But the figure could be much more than we believe. Last time, when an IT firm cheated youngsters, we believed the figure was around 600. Finally, it turned out to be more than 1,000," he said. Mane said only 30 interns had approached the Hinjewadi police against the firm by Wednesday. "We expect more will come forward," he said. The firm allegedly failed to pay staff salaries for several months. Mane said the actual magnitude of the scam would become clear if more interns came forward. FITE said it has asked the police to investigate the colleges as well. "We will investigate the matter from all angles," said Hinjewadi senior police inspector Balaji Pandhare.

Inside the hidden Worli Japanese monastery where Buddha, Gandhi and Ambedkar share a wall

Like the neighbourhood around it, the temple recently underwent restoration work wherein the exterior walls were repainted, sections of the boundary repaired while older murals were cleaned over the past few months. Like the neighbourhood around it, the temple recently underwent restoration work wherein the exterior walls were repainted, sections of the boundary repaired while older murals were cleaned over the past few months. Along the busy Dr Annie Besant Road and the congested Worli Naka, a white compound wall disappears behind buses, ambulances and construction barricades from the nearby BDD redevelopment site. Above the entrance, Japanese lettering is carved into a stone plaque partially hidden behind tree branches and electrical wires. Behind the gate stands the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple, a Japanese monastery whose roots in Mumbai trace back to the 1930s.

As one walks through the compound, the sound of traffic begins to fade behind a steady beat of drums coming from the main hall. Amidst wooden flooring and hanging lanterns, old murals stretch across the ceiling of the hall where 72-year-old Dilip Adagre — the caretaker of the Japanese monastery, who lives in the staff quarters behind the temple — sits on a wooden chair reading a Marathi newspaper. Despite its seven-decade long history, Adagre says most people fail to identify the structure as a Japanese monastery. "People pass from outside every day without noticing it. Only after entering do they understand there is a connection with Japan here," Adagre said. Established by followers of Japanese monk Nichidatsu Fujii, founder of the Nipponzan Myohoji order, the monastery traces its origins to 1931, when Fujii arrived in India and later developed close associations with Mahatma Gandhi and anti war movements. The present structure in Worli opened in 1956 with support from industrialist Jugal Kishore Birla and the Birla family trust, which continues supporting maintenance work at the premises. Inside the prayer hall, photographs of Gandhi, Dr B R Ambedkar, Fujii and members of the Birla family line one side of the wall beside painted panels depicting scenes from Buddha's life. At the centre of the hall sits a marble Buddha statue installed during the temple's construction more than seventy years ago. "When I first came to Bombay from the village, I did not know anything about this place," Adagre, a retired municipal employee said, "I would visit the temple everyday after my work at BMC. After I retired, I gradually became a part of the monastery's

day to day functioning. Slowly, this place became part of life." For decades, the monastery has thrived under the Japanese monk, Bhikshu Terutsugu Morita San, who first arrived in India in the 1970s before eventually settling in Worli. Residents associated with the monastery say Morita gradually became closely connected with families living in the surrounding chawls and neighbourhoods over the decades. During the 1992 to 1993 Mumbai riots, Morita and followers from the temple walked through parts of the city beating drums and calling for peace.

While the monastery is visited by local residents, Adagre said that the temple also ropes in Japanese visitors who travel to Mumbai on office trips, as tourists or as part of Buddhist groups from overseas. "Some people come every year," he said. "Some donate money for repairs, some bring things from Japan, some just sit here quietly before leaving." Over nearly fifty years, Morita witnessed the transformation of the neighbourhood from a largely mill district and working class locality into one of Mumbai's fastest changing redevelopment corridors. "When I first came here, the entire area looked very different," Morita said. "There were mills, smaller buildings and much more open space around the temple." From the compound entrance, cranes and redevelopment towers now dominate the skyline above the nearby BDD chawls while construction machinery operates through the evening outside the boundary walls. Like the neighbourhood around it, the temple recently underwent restoration work wherein the exterior walls were repainted, sections of the boundary repaired while older murals were cleaned over the past few months. "Work has been going on for nearly three months," Adagre said. "Earlier, the colour outside had faded completely. Now everything is slowly being repaired from top to bottom." Unlike many heritage structures of South Mumbai that gradually turned into tourist attractions or commercial spaces, the Worli monastery continues functioning more like a neighbourhood landmark which draws in devotees and residents to pray or seek a quiet moment of reflection. Around sunset every evening, drums begin echoing through the main hall as residents slowly gather inside the compound after work while traffic builds steadily outside along the busy road. "So much around Worli has changed now," Adagre said, looking towards the redevelopment towers visible beyond the compound wall. "But every evening people still walk in here after work, sit for some time and then quietly leave again. That routine has not stopped."

Cab driver killed after BEST bus crashes into parked vehicle in Mumbai's Malad East

GNS News Agency, June 4

A 50-year-old cab driver was killed after a Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) bus rammed into his parked vehicle in Malad East on Thursday morning. The deceased, Ramchandra Nirahu Pal, was standing behind his Ola cab and cleaning the vehicle when the accident occurred around 6.50 am near Pushpa Park, according to the police. The police took Pal to Shatabdi Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Officials said he had sustained multiple injuries in the collision.

The BEST bus, which was on its way to the Wadala depot, crashed into the parked cab. The crash pushed the cab into another parked vehicle, damaging its right-side bumper and body. The accident also caused traffic congestion on the Western Express Highway during the morning rush hour. However, traffic flow was restored after damaged vehicles were removed and the police cleared the spot. BEST officials have initiated an inquiry into the incident. An accident officer has been assigned to investigate the case, while the Dindoshi depot manager also visited the accident site. Authorities are examining the circumstances that led to the collision. The bus operates on Route 440 between the Wadala depot and the Borivali railway station. The service is operated by Mateshwari Urban Transport Private Solutions Pvt Ltd (MUTSPL) under the wet-

lease model adopted by BEST for a majority section of its fleet. The incident comes just days after another accident involving a BEST bus in Malad claimed a nine-year-old boy's life. He was riding pillion on his elder cousin's bicycle when the bus hit it. The impact caused the boy to fall under the rear wheel of the bus. While bystanders rushed the child to a nearby hospital, he later succumbed to his injuries. The police registered an FIR against the bus driver on charges of negligent driving causing death. In May, a four-bus chain collision killed a 52-year-old conductor near Amboli Naka in Andheri West. The conductor was killed after a BEST bus heading towards Versova allegedly failed to stop in time and collided with three buses that had been stranded following a tree fall on the road. According to BEST data, accidents involving BEST buses have claimed more than 40 lives over the past two years, with wet-lease buses accounting for the majority of the fatalities. BEST owns only 8.9 per cent, or 249 buses, of its total fleet of 2,792 buses, while the remaining function under the wet-lease model. The issue of rising road accidents and driver negligence was raised by BEST committee members during a meeting on Tuesday. Accordingly, the administration has made it mandatory for drivers of both CNG and electric wet-lease buses to undergo four-week training, despite requests from contractors to shorten the training period.

CRailway Board orders 15-day fire safety drive in pantry cars after recent train incidents

In the wake of recent train fire incidents in Nagda, Madhya Pradesh, and Sasaram, Bihar, the Railway Board has directed a special inspection drive across the railway network to ensure fire safety and check pantry cars, according to an official communication issued by the Delhi Division of Northern Railway. In a letter sent to all the senior officers on June 3, a divisional commercial manager said the drive will be conducted jointly with the mechanical and electrical engineering departments for 15 days, from June 3 to June 17.

A coach of the Sasaram-Patna passenger train caught fire at Bihar's Sasaram station on May 18. Officials said no casualties were reported in the incident. The incident comes a day after a fire was reported in the AC coach of the Rajdhani Express while it was passing through Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district. "All sectional chief commercial inspectors and chief ticket inspectors, including line and station staff, have been instructed to conduct regular checks in trains and submit reports daily in the prescribed format," it said. Referring to a headquarters office letter issued on

June 2, the communication stated that the Railway Board has already directed the special drive to ensure fire safety and checking of pantry cars of trains. The order also directs senior officers from the electrical and mechanical departments to depute staff for the drive until June 17. Officials said the exercise is aimed at strengthening safety compliance in pantry cars, which use electrical equipment and cooking arrangements during train operations. The drive is expected to focus on fire-safety measures, maintenance standards, and adherence to prescribed norms in pantry car operations," an officer said. The directive comes as railway authorities continue to stress preventive safety checks across trains and station facilities. Daily reporting during the drive is expected to help monitor compliance and identify deficiencies for corrective action. Following the recent fire incidents, the Railway Board had decided to use high-tech, modern wiring systems in all coaches to prevent fire-related incidents. It was also directed to conduct regular inspections and increase awareness among railway staff regarding fire hazards and emergency response protocols.

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From Mastani to Kokum, the iconic summer drinks that define the city



GNS News Agency, June 4

When summer arrives in Pune, the city turns to its favourite local coolers that do not just quench thirst but nourish the soul. From thick Alphonso mango-loaded Mastani to century-old fizzy sodas, Pune's summer drinks are part of the city's culture, history, and identity. Here are four iconic summer drinks that continue to keep Pune's cool as they face the sweltering heat. No conversation about Pune summers is complete without Mastani. Believed to have originated in Pune in the early 20th century, Mastani was created as a richer variation of the traditional "doodh cold drink." The name is attributed to Mastani Bai, the legendary second wife of Maratha Peshwa Bajirao I. Some theories also suggest the drink earned its name because customers described it as "mast," meaning excellent or delightful.

Traditionally, Mastani is made by blending milk, sugar, and fresh fruit pulp into a thick shake, then topped generously with scoops of ice cream, fresh fruit pieces, dry fruits, cherries, and tutti-frutti, making it a combination of a milkshake and a dessert. Mastani became synonymous with Pune summers, especially Mango Mastani made using fresh Alphonso mangoes. While Gujarati Cold Drink House, established in 1923, is often credited with creating the original Mastani, iconic establishments such as Sujata Mastani have also played a major role in popularising it. "We don't use any preservatives, emulsifiers or stabilisers. Our Mastanis are a crowd pleaser solely because of the fact that we stick to 100% natural fruit pulp, fresh cream, and evaporated milk. For the people of Pune, our Mastani is an undisputed emotion," said Nikhil Kondhalkar and Anand Kondhalkar, the current-generation owners of Sujata Mastani.

Long before global soft drink giants entered India, Pune already had its own fizzy favourite. Ardeshir, popularly

known as Ardy's, began in 1884 — two years before Coca-Cola was invented in the United States. The brand was founded by Ardeshir Khodadad Irani, a Parsi entrepreneur who migrated from Iran and settled in Pune. During the British colonial era, soldiers stationed in Pune Cantonment craved soda water, which had to be transported from Bombay. Ardeshir spotted the opportunity and began producing soda locally. "He once noticed a clash at a bar which broke out because the soda water consignment hadn't reached Pune. That's when he saw this as a business opportunity and founded Ardy's Soda in 1884. The purity of flavours, the delicious taste, and the quality of Ardy's soda are the reasons why people still choose Ardy's," said Marzban Irani, the great-grandson of Ardeshir Irani and the current owner. Raspberry became the brand's signature flavour, while jeera masala, ginger, lemonade, green apple, and ice cream soda also gained popularity. Ardy's continues to operate as a family-run business and remains deeply tied to Pune's old-world café culture, found in iconic eateries around Camp. It still sells beverages in thick glass bottles with a refundable deposit system, preserving a charm that has survived generations.

Found at roadside stalls across Pune, especially near educational hubs and railway stations, Neera is a natural, non-alcoholic sweet sap extracted from palm and coconut trees. Tappers collect it before sunrise since the sap ferments quickly in the heat and turns into toddy. Deeply rooted in Ayurveda, Neera was promoted during the freedom movement as a healthy, indigenous alternative to alcohol and British tea. Rich in minerals, amino acids, and vitamin C, it aids in hydration, digestion, blood sugar regulation, and liver health. At around Rs 15 a glass, it remains one of the city's most affordable ways to beat the heat. Tangy, slightly spicy, and deeply refreshing, Kokum Sharbat is a summer essential across Maharashtra. Made from kokum, or Garcinia indica — a fruit native to the Western Ghats — the sharbat is prepared by extracting the dried rind, giving it a deep crimson colour and tart flavour, mixed with sugar or jaggery, cumin, coriander, and black salt. Traditionally consumed during harsh summers, it helps prevent dehydration, reduces body heat, and aids digestion. From royal Mastani to heritage sodas and traditional natural coolers, Pune's summer drinks reflect the city's blend of history, culture and local taste — quenching thirst, lifting mood, and everything in between.

Delhi University blocks St Stephen's College plan to absorb Principal John Varghese as professor

GNS News Agency, June 4

Delhi University has directed St Stephen's College not to proceed with a proposal to absorb Principal John Varghese as a professor once his tenure as institution head ends, saying such a move would violate University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations and university rules. This comes days after a controversy broke out over the appointment of its new principal. DU had asked St Stephen's to "not proceed with the appointment" of Professor Susan Elias as its new principal on the grounds that the committee that chose her was allegedly constituted in violation of UGC regulations. The present matter, in a letter dated May 29 to the Chairman of the Governing Body of St Stephen's College, Registrar Vikas Gupta said it was responding to media reports regarding the proposed absorption of Varghese in the college's English Department.

University has argued that the proposal has no basis in existing UGC regulations or University rules. It noted that the UGC, which funds colleges, sanctions substantive teaching posts only at the level of Lecturer or Assistant Professor. Letter also referred to the ongoing legal challenge to Varghese's continuation as principal, stating that the grant of another term to him is "in violation of UGC Regulations 2018" and that the matter is currently pending before the Delhi High Court. Explaining its position, the University said teachers in colleges are appointed as Assistant Professors and subsequently promoted to Associate Professor and Professor through the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) under the UGC Regulations, 2018. The Registrar further wrote that neither the UGC Regulations nor any rules approved by the statutory bodies of the University provide for the absorption of an employee or any other person directly as a Professor in a college.

"In view of the above, it is apparent that the absorption of Prof. John Varghese as Professor in the college is in



violation of all rules of UGC and University," the letter stated. The University then took the position that any recommendation by the Governing Body to this effect would be beyond its powers. "Accordingly, any such recommendations of the Governing Body is ultra vires and should not be acted upon any further," the letter said, adding: "You are requested to not proceed with this." The University also said that under existing rules, Varghese should be repatriated to his parent institution after the completion of his tenure and would draw pension and other retirement benefits, if any, from that institution alone. The communication was issued with the approval of the competent authority and copies were marked to the Chairperson and Secretary of the UGC. The college has been in a long-running institutional conflict with DU over questions of governance and autonomy. DU had repeatedly challenged the continuation of Prof Varghese in the principal's post beyond March 2021, and described his extension as "illegal", "non-statutory", and "ab initio null and void". According to the university, UGC rules required a fresh selection process that would involve DU and the nominees of the commission. St Stephen's had, on the other hand, maintained that Varghese's continuation was valid under resolutions passed by the supreme council of the college.

'Honest businesses have nothing to fear': New FDA chief Tukaram Mundhe



GNS News Agency, June 4

Within days of taking charge as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Maharashtra, Tukaram Mundhe — known for his strict anti-corruption approach and now on his 25th transfer in his bureaucratic career — has launched a statewide crackdown on food adulteration and unsafe food production. Emphasising public health and accountability, the Commissioner said the guiding principle of the campaign is: "Safe Food, Safe Drugs, Safe Maharashtra." "To further strengthen citizen participation and improve transparency, FDA will soon launch a toll-free helpline number and a mobile app through which people can directly register complaints and grievances related to food and drug safety," the 2005-batch IAS officer told Mundhe said the enforcement drive is not based on random raids but part of a structured plan.

"This is part of a systematic and focused enforcement plan. At the same time, we are committed to ensuring ease of doing business for compliant operators. Honest businesses have nothing to fear, but those violating the law will find no place to hide and will face strict prosecution," he said. Alongside enforcement, FDA will also undertake Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to raise awareness about safe and unsafe food products and

help consumers make informed choices, he added. Mundhe, who describes his service as committed to ethical governance on his social media profiles, said he views his current posting as an opportunity for public service rather than a setback to his seniority.

"Corruption is non-negotiable for me, and integrity is the core expectation from an IAS officer," he said. Meanwhile, FDA teams have conducted raids across Maharashtra, seizing large quantities of adulterated and unsafe food products. Between May 25 and May 27, 27 units were sealed as part of a special enforcement drive, and goods worth over Rs 20 lakh were confiscated. FIRs have also been registered in several cases. The crackdown targeted fake milk production units, artificially ripened mangoes, unsafe paneer manufacturing, illegal gutka and tobacco sales, mislabelled edible oil, and unhygienic ice cream production units. In Pune, two units were inspected and stock worth over Rs 2 lakh was seized. The highest number of inspections was carried out in Greater Mumbai (19 units) and the Konkan region (10 units), where seizures worth over Rs 9 lakh and Rs 6 lakh, respectively, were made.

Youth arrested for sexually assaulting a minor girl

Hyderabad: A new case has been registered at the Jubilee Hills police station in connection with the case involving Chandrashekhar Azad alias Arjun, who allegedly deceived young girls under the guise of love using the Instagram platform.

According to the police, Jitender Reddy alias Jithin, a resident of Jagadgirigutta, established contact via Instagram in 2024 with a 15-year-old girl from KPHB who was studying in the tenth grade.

Gurgaon homebuyer gets Rs 27 lakh payout. How real estate body used Google AI for valuation



GNS News Agency, June 4

The Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HREERA) in Gurgaon has awarded compensation of nearly Rs 27 lakh to a homebuyer after his allotment in 'The Heartsons' project was cancelled for lack of payments, with the adjudicating officer using artificial intelligence to calculate real estate market trends. This is the second such case in which the authority, and the same officer, used AI. Earlier this year, it ordered a payout of over Rs 4 crore to a Chintels Paradiso flat buyer using a similar method. In the latest judgment announced on May 6, HREERA Adjudicating Officer Rajender Kumar directed Experion Developers Pvt. Ltd. to pay Rs 26,96,000 as compensation to the complainant, Mukesh Sharma. The authority also awarded Rs 1 lakh for mental agony and Rs 50,000 towards litigation expenses. Sharma had applied for a residential apartment in 'The Heartsons' project in Sector 108 off the upper Dwarka expressway, in November 2012.

Despite the buyer paying Rs 20,73,670 against a total sale consideration of Rs 82,95,076 by July 2016, the developer failed to hand over possession within the stipulated three-year period. While HREERA had previously passed an order in 2023 directing the developer to refund Sharma's principal amount with interest (an order that is currently under appeal), the present complaint was filed to seek compensation for mental agony and the loss of property

appreciation. During the hearings, Sharma argued that he suffered massive financial losses because if he had invested his money in another project, it would have appreciated at least three times. However, the authority noted that no reliable evidence had been adduced by the complainant to establish this steep hike in Gurgaon's property rates. Noting that the "Forum is legally obliged to adjudicate the amount of compensation, keeping in view the facts of the case and prevailing circumstances," the adjudicating officer turned to artificial intelligence to gauge the real estate market's trajectory.

Quoting the search results verbatim, the judgment noted: "According to AI overview, the residential property prices in Sector 108, Gurugram (along with the Dwarka Expressway) experienced significant appreciation between July 2016 (last payment by complainant) and early 2023 (order of refund), largely driven by the operationalisation of the expressway and improved connectivity". The order highlighted further data from the AI prompt, observing that "flat prices grew by over 130% in the last 5 years". Relying on this 130% growth metric, the authority calculated that Sharma's paid amount of Rs 20,73,670 would have appreciated to Rs 26,95,771 had it been invested elsewhere. Rounding off the figure, the RERA court ordered a total compensation of Rs 26,96,000 to be paid by the developer. The builder has also been directed to pay this amount with an 11% annual interest from the date of the order until realisation. In March, Adjudicating Officer Kumar had adjudicated on a case involving the structurally unsafe Chintels Paradiso project in Sector 109, Gurgaon. That case, the RERA adjudicating officer rejected a government committee's fixed compensation rate of Rs 7,500 per sq ft for a homebuyer whose flat was deemed unfit for habitation. To establish current market realities, the judge similarly invoked a Google 'AI overview', which showed a massive jump in local property rates between February 2022 and March 2026. Taking the AI-backed market trends into account, the authority had recalculated the flat's value at Rs 13,000 per sq ft and ordered the developer, Chintels India Private Limited, to pay Rs 4.16 crore to the homebuyer.

Senior citizen loses control of car in Mulund, woman and toddler killed

GNS News Agency, June 4

A 44-year-old woman and a two-year-old boy were killed after a car allegedly driven by a senior citizen ramed into a roadside vegetable stall outside a residential complex in Mulund on Thursday evening. The accused, Mohan Sheshadri (74), a resident of the City of Joy complex on Cement Company Road in Mulund (West), has been booked for causing death by negligence and rash driving. According to police, the incident occurred around 7 pm when Sheshadri was driving his Kia car out of the residential complex. As soon as he exited the gate, he allegedly lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a vegetable stall on the roadside. The car first struck Niyati Shah (44), who was buying vegetables, before hitting Puja Raiya (30), who was standing nearby with her two-year-old son. Police said Shah sustained severe head and body injuries and was declared dead on arrival at hospital. Raiya suffered minor injuries. Her son was flung onto the road after the impact and suffered critical head injuries. He was rushed to Fortis Hospital but died during treatment later that night. Sub-Inspector Waman Mhaske of Mulund police station said Shah lived near the accident site and worked at a private firm, while Raiya is also a resident of the locality. During questioning, Sheshadri allegedly told police that he noticed a truck approaching from the front soon after exiting the building gate. In an attempt to avoid a collision, he turned the steer-



ing wheel sharply but accidentally pressed the accelerator instead of the brake. "He told us that after seeing the truck, he tried to avoid it by turning the vehicle. However, he allegedly pressed the accelerator instead of the brake, causing the car to speed up and crash into the roadside stall," Mhaske said. The vehicle has been seized and Sheshadri was brought to the police station for questioning. Police have registered a case against him under Sections 106, 281 and 125 (a) and (b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with Section 184 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Officials said a notice was served to the accused after a preliminary inquiry and he will be called for further investigation.

How Mrinaltai Gore flyover extension is set to change Mumbai's commute



Commuters travelling through Oshiwara and Goregaon in Mumbai are soon to get respite from traffic congestion as the much-awaited Mrinaltai Gore Flyover Extension is set to become operational on May 31. The flyover will be an east-west link that will connect the upcoming Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR) with the upcoming Coastal Road (Versova Bhayander). The 750-metre flyover will provide a direct link between Ram Mandir and Goregaon areas in the western suburbs and will have four vehicular lanes, which will avoid vehicular congestion.

How will the bridge ease commuting? The bridge will allow motorists to zip directly through the Oshiwara and Goregaon areas instead of taking the SV Road or Link Road. It will also provide a direct link to the Western Express High-

way (WEH) from the western and eastern sides of Andheri and Jogeshwari, which is further set to bring down commute time to less than 5 minutes, which otherwise used to take 30-45 minutes during peak hours. Going forward, the bridge will provide a direct east-west link joining GMLR with Coastal Road, which, in a way, will establish a seamless connectivity linking Mumbai's western suburbs with Thane and Navi Mumbai in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

"The work orders were issued in 2018, and the work could only begin by 2019. The flyover would pass above four key traffic junctions. Therefore, the construction work could only be carried out at night due to daytime traffic congestion. This left us with a limited timeline," BMC said in a statement to BMC stated that during the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a shortage of manpower, and hence, the project got stuck. "Also, the flyover passes close to crematoriums and burial grounds. Therefore, the local representatives maintained that the previous project alignment would hinder access to these locations. For which we had to change the design and create an additional underpass to provide accessibility, leading to cost escalation," read BMC's statement. "In the future, this bridge will be linked with the upcoming Coastal Road and Goregaon Mulund Link Road, thus forming a circular network of parallel road networks. Therefore, this bridge is going to change the way Mumbai commutes," Abhijit Bangar, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects) said.

Eight lion cubs die of suspected Babesia infection: State forest minister

Gandhinagar: Eight lion cubs have died due to suspected 'Babesia' infection in Gujarat's Gir Somnath and Amreli districts, state Forest Minister Arjun Modhwadia said on Friday. To prevent potential spread, authorities have isolated lions living within a 10-km radius of the areas where the infection has been reported, he said.

"In the suspected Babesia-related cases, eight cub deaths have come to light," the minister said. Babesia, a parasitic disease, spreads through ticks and can cause weakness, coughing and nasal discharge in affected animals. The deaths of the big cat cubs due to suspected Babesia infection have been reported in the revenue areas outside the Gir sanctuary, particularly in Gir Gadhada of Gir Somnath and Babra Kot of Amreli districts, he said. A team of veterinary doctors collected samples, which have been sent to the state-run Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre for testing, Modhwadia said. The report is expected within the next three to four days, which will confirm if the

deaths are due to Babesia infection, he said. No such "incidents (deaths)" have been repeated in the last two days, he said. "Forest officials, along with a team of veterinary doctors from Junagadh, visited the site and isolated the lions living within a 10-km radius," Modhwadia said. Earlier this week, the minister had said that two lion cubs from the Gir forest region had died due to suspected Babesia infection, while three other big cats succumbed to natural causes and fighting in separate incidents. On Wednesday, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel held a high-level meeting in Gandhinagar, where he was informed that four lion cubs had died from suspected infection, and 17 had been isolated in the wake of the possible spread of disease. Considering that Babesia is transmitted by ticks, the authorities have launched tick-removal operations both within Gir Sanctuary and in surrounding areas, alongside the implementation of other necessary precautionary measures, the minister said. At present, the situation is under control.

India-bound oil tanker crosses Strait of Hormuz



New York: An oil tanker carrying sorely needed petroleum for India has cleared the Strait of Hormuz, according to several sites that track maritime traffic. The Nissos Keros is on its way to Vishakapatnam and is expected to reach its destination on June 3, according to multiple sites. The ship, flying under the Marshall Islands flag, left Shajrah on May 21 and was reported at 6 am Indian Standard Time on Friday in the Northern Arabian Sea off the west coast of India.

Iran's news agency IRNA reported on Thursday that the Islamic Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) Navy allowed 23 commercial vessels, including oil tankers and container ships, to pass through the Strait of Hormuz in the previous 24-hour period. It said that according to the Iranian military, "all transits were conducted following formal coordination

with IRGC naval authorities". It was unclear whether the ships had to pay a fee to pass through the Strait. Iran, which has said it would require payments to cross the Strait, announced earlier this month that it was setting up an agency, the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA), to regulate maritime traffic in the area.

United Nations has declared it illegal to levy fees for sailing through international waters. The US has demanded that Iran restore free navigation through the Strait, which Tehran has mined and attacked ships on it after the US joined Israel in bombing Iran in February. Free navigation through the Strait is a major issue holding up a deal to end the Iran war. "The Strait is going to be open to everybody", US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday. Iran's action has put a chokehold on 20 per cent of the world's gas and oil that go through it, creating a global energy and economic crisis. Out of the blue, Trump threatened on Wednesday to blow up Oman, which is across the Strait from Iran, if it made an arrangement with Tehran to collect fees to transit it. Aukevisser, which keeps a roster of ship information, lists Nissos Keros's owner as Arethusa Shipping Corporation and the operator as Kyklades Maritime Corporation. The Hyundai-built ship is 333 meters long and has a capacity of 318,744 tonnes or 338,648 cubic metres, according to it. According to the International Maritime Organisation's Secretary-General, Arsenio Dominguez, about 1,500 ships are trapped in the Persian Gulf.

Tesla launches Model Y Premium Rear-Wheel Drive in India at Rs 50.89 lakh

GNS News Agency, June 4

New Delhi: Tesla on Friday announced the launch of the Model Y Premium Rear-Wheel Drive in India, expanding its electric vehicle portfolio in the country with a new premium variant of the segment. The new model has a starting price of Rs 50.89 lakh, and deliveries will commence in India from July 2026, according to the company. The newly launched variant introduces a range of hardware and design upgrades aimed at improving performance, comfort and interior experience. It boasts an all-black interior, a larger 16-inch first-row touchscreen with improved responsiveness and an optional Zen Grey interior theme.

The model offers up to 2,138 litres of storage capacity and can accommodate up to five passengers with power-folding seats for additional cargo space, said Tesla. The vehicle can accelerate from 0-100 kmph in 5.9 seconds and offers a driving range of up to 500 km under WLTP standards. Both the newly launched Model Y Premium Rear-Wheel Drive and the recently introduced six-seater Model Y L have received top safety ratings from multiple global safety organisations, including NHTSA, IIHS, Euro NCAP, ANCAP and C-IASI. Last month, Tesla launched the six-seater Model Y L in India with prices starting at Rs 61.99 lakh.



"Tesla's mission is to build a world of amazing abundance. Tesla enables the use of electric vehicles by increasing accessibility to Tesla technology and providing charging solutions around people's lifestyles," said Isabel Fan, Senior Director, Tesla. In addition, the company has introduced financing options for the new variant, with monthly EMIs starting at Rs 39,990 and a down payment of Rs 6 lakh. Earlier in May, Elon Musk-backed company opened its first experience centre in Bengaluru's Whitefield area, a major step in the electric vehicle maker's expansion plans in India.

Netanyahu calls India a 'huge power', praises 'crazy love' for Israel

GNS News Agency, June 4

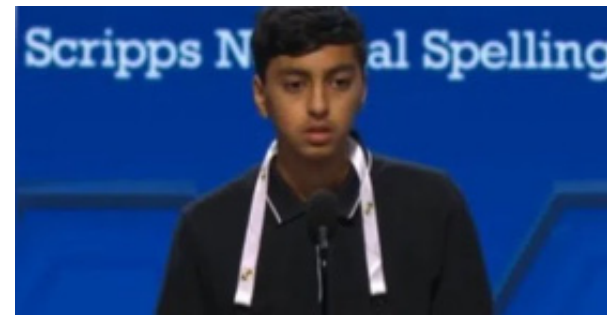
Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has described India as a "huge power" where there is "an absolutely crazy love for Israel" despite what he called efforts to delegitimise the Jewish state elsewhere. Speaking at a leadership programme in the Jordan Valley on Thursday, Netanyahu further cited India as a key example of Israel's expanding international partnerships, as he discussed Israel's international relationships and efforts to broaden its diplomatic partnerships. The remarks came amid a fragile geopolitical situation in West Asia, with Israel facing security challenges on multiple fronts and seeking to strengthen ties with partners beyond its traditional allies.

"We are expanding our alliances and what you are talking about is expanding these alliances to a large space. And the larger space is really our unique relationship with a huge power called India," Netanyahu said in a video released by the Government Press Office. Referring to international criticism of Israel, he said: "I will say this: we face delegitimation in much of the world but not in India. In India, there is an absolutely crazy love for Israel, truly crazy.



I think I have more followers from India than from anywhere else." In the past, Netanyahu has often highlighted his personal rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and spoken about the strength of ties between India and Israel. In earlier remarks, he described India as "enormously powerful" and mentioned growing cooperation across a range of sectors.

Indian-American teen Shrey Parikh wins 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee



The 14-year-old eighth-grader from San Bernardino, California, secured the title with the word "bromocriptine", defined by organisers as "a polypeptide alkaloid that is a derivative of ergot and mimics the activity of dopamine"

GNS News Agency, June 4

Washington: Indian-American teenager Shrey Parikh won the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee, correctly spelling 32 words in a spell-off to claim the championship and set a new competition record. The 14-year-old eighth-grader from San Bernardino, California, secured the title with the word "bromocriptine", defined by organisers as "a polypeptide alkaloid that is a derivative of ergot and mimics the activity of dopamine".

Parikh, representing the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, in California emerged victorious following the third spell-off in the Bee's history. His total of 32 correctly spelled words established a new spell-off record. The champion attends Day Creek Intermediate

School in California and entered this year's contest with considerable experience on the national stage. According to his official Scripps National Spelling Bee biography, Parikh first competed in the national Bee in 2022, when he tied for 89th place. He returned in 2024 and finished tied for third place before capturing the title this year. The victory capped years of preparation for the young speller, who has developed interests well beyond language and vocabulary competitions.

His official biography describes a student who enjoys tennis, reading, mathematics and chess. He also plays percussion in his school band and has performed on instruments including the snare drum, bass drum, timpani, toms, triangle, glockenspiel and marimba. Parikh spends much of his free time solving mathematics problems or spending time with his brother and sister, according to the biography. One of his proudest recent achievements was qualifying for the California state Mathcounts competition this year. The biography also notes his strong connection to India. Parikh has travelled to many countries and particularly enjoys visiting India to spend time with his grandparents. The Scripps National Spelling Bee is one of the most prestigious academic competitions in the United States. It brings together top young spellers from across the country and several international locations after they advance through local and regional contests. Founded in 1925, the competition tests spelling, vocabulary and language skills through multiple rounds of increasingly difficult words. Participants must generally be no older than 15 and may not have progressed beyond the eighth grade. Students of Indian origin have been among the most successful competitors in the Bee over the past two decades, winning a large share of national titles and regularly dominating the final rounds. Their success has made the annual competition a closely followed event in Indian-American communities across the United States. Parikh now joins a distinguished list of champions whose victories have become part of the Bee's long tradition of academic excellence and perseverance.

Greenland's independence champion despised Denmark. Trump changed his mind



For decades, Aqqaluk Lyngé was a leading light of Greenland's drive to break away from Denmark, its old colonial master. Trump's threats to seize the island have convinced him that Europe and Denmark are now a bulwark against American aggression. Half a century ago, the Inuit activist and poet co-founded one of the island's biggest pro-independence parties, urging fellow Greenlanders to break away from Denmark, which he denounced as an exploitative colonial overlord. "They must be removed. We will no longer pay the price," he wrote in a 1975 verse. "Suffering cannot be relieved by consolation. Oppression is something to fight against."

Now, however, Greenland faces what he sees as a far graver threat: U.S. President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly demanded control of the giant Arctic island, citing national security. As a result, Lyngé told Reuters, he now believes his homeland must forever remain part of the realm of Denmark, which he views as its protector from American aggression. "We feel betrayed by the United States," the 78-year-old said in an interview at his home outside the capital Nuuk, where from his window you can spy chunks of ice floating in a nearby fjord. "We are in a very difficult situation, where the only ones that can save us today are Denmark and Europe."

Lyngé is not alone. The U.S. president's comments have triggered a mighty backlash that has helped alter Greenland's political trajectory — much like in Canada, where patriotic anger at Trump's rhetoric about making Canada the "51st state" of America swept Mark Carney's Liberals back to power last year, after they looked destined for defeat. Decades, vocally pro-independence parties dominated politics in Greenland, a self-governing Danish territory of about 56,000 people. Now, following an election held in March 2025 in the shadow of Trump's threats, the government is led by a party that has ruled out any discussion of independence in the foreseeable future, while supporting a gradual approach to eventual secession. Even members of the government who previously advocated independence have swung against it in recent months.

"Our dream is to have self-determination, but right now we need to protect our future," Mute Eggede, Greenland's foreign minister, told Reuters. "If the U.S. takes us, the dream of self-determination will not exist anymore." It's a seismic shift in Greenland. Politics here has long been shadowed by anger over past injustices perpetrated by Denmark, which colonized the island centuries ago and still controls its foreign policy and defense. In the 1960s and 1970s, for example, Denmark began inserting birth control devices in thousands of Inuit women and girls, many without their consent, to limit birth rates among the local population. Mette Frederiksen, Denmark's acting prime minister, told Reuters that "Greenland belongs to the people of Greenland" and only they should decide their future. She added that her government had offered apologies for colonial injustices including the contraception cases.

Danish leader Mette Frederiksen (third from left) meets Greenlanders during Denmark's election in March. When President Trump first floated the idea of the U.S. buying Greenland in 2019, she dismissed it as 'absurd'. Ritzau Scanpix/Henning Bagger/via "We must have the courage to face the wrongdoings of our shared past," Frederiksen said in a statement. "That is the only way to maintain a close and respectful relationship between our two countries going forward. Greenland and Denmark are standing closely together."

A White House official said Washington was holding talks with Greenland and Denmark to address national security concerns, and was optimistic discussions were on a good trajectory. The U.S. State Department added: "We are confident we can find a solution that protects U.S. national security, acknowledges Denmark and Greenland's concerns, and dramatically improves future opportunities for the people of Greenland." Jens-Frederik Nielsen, Greenland's prime minister, did not respond to a request for comment. To understand the changes sweeping the Arctic territory, Reuters spoke to dozens of Greenlandic politicians, officials and residents. Several pointed to Lyngé and his shifting views as an encapsulation of their homeland's morphing politics. We face a geopolitical crisis, and if we have to choose between the U.S. and Denmark here and now, then we choose Denmark. We stand united in the Kingdom of Denmark.

Lyngé's journey towards becoming a pro-independence firebrand began in the 1950s, when he was sent by his parents to study in Denmark. A seminal moment, he recalled, came in 1968 when a U.S. bomber carrying nuclear weapons crashed in northern Greenland. Copenhagen denied authorizing such overflights of the island, which would violate Denmark's nuclear-free policy. Lyngé didn't believe the government at the time and denounced what he told Reuters was Danish "hypocrisy". A Danish government-commissioned report later found that Copenhagen had in fact signalled approval of the overflights to Washington, whose Cold War mission was to constantly maintain a nuclear deterrent against the Soviet Union. After returning to Greenland from his studies in 1976, Lyngé co-founded Inuit Ataqatigiit, which dominated the island's politics for decades along with fellow pro-independence party Siumut. Both parties called for ambitious moves towards independence from Denmark while allowing time for Greenland to build itself up economically. Since achieving home rule in 1979, the government in Nuuk has steadily acquired increasing responsibility for public services on the island. and Siumut, plus a smaller radically pro-independence party called Naleraq, together won almost 80% of the vote. Demokraatit, a pro-business party that advocates a more incremental approach to independence and prioritizes close ties with Denmark, languished with about 9% support.

In January 2025, upon his return to the White House, the U.S. president doubled down on his advances towards Greenland, threatening tariffs on Denmark if it refused to sell the island and refusing to rule out using military force to seize it. In a speech in March last year, just days before Greenland's latest election, Trump said of the territory: "I think we're going to get it, one way or the other, we're gonna get it." The U.S. rhetoric opened the March vote. Capitalizing on growing fears about American intentions — as well as frustration over domestic issues like fishing reforms — the Denmark-friendly Demokraatit tripled its share of the vote to 30% and became the island's largest party.

Pro-independence parties Siumut (left) and Inuit Ataqatigiit hold gatherings in Nuuk during Greenland's election of March 2025. Trump's pronouncements that the U.S. should control Greenland upended the island's politics. Ritzau Scanpix/Mads Claus Rasmussen via The reversal was a surprise even to Demokraatit's founder Per Berthelsen, who recalled turning to his wife as the results rolled in. Excited and genuinely shocked, he said: "I think this is going to be a historical election." Nielsen, Demokraatit's leader, formed a coalition with Siumut and Inuit Ataqatigiit, the longstanding pro-independence parties which collectively won just 36% of the vote, and a smaller pro-Denmark party. The following month, Nielsen flew to Copenhagen for a show of solidarity with Danish leader Frederiksen. During a joint press conference, he explained his intentions: "We are in a foreign policy situation which means we have to move closer together."

Danish leader Mette Frederiksen and Greenland's premier Jens-Frederik Nielsen, meeting here in September last year, have stressed the importance of keeping close ties in the face of Trump's refusal to rule out force to gain control of the island. Ritzau Scanpix/Mads Claus Rasmussen via REUTERS/Lyngé's evolving perspective is reflective of changing views among many Greenlanders. Among them are business figures like Bent Olsvig Jensen, who had been a strong supporter of increased U.S. investment in the island before Trump's threats made him more hesitant. Jensen, a mining executive who was born in Denmark but has lived in Greenland for decades, said he didn't entirely believe the U.S. would launch a military attack. But he nonetheless decided to speak to his 21-year-old son about the possibility — and was shaken when his son told him he wanted to buy ammunition in preparation for a potential invasion. Recalling the conversation while speaking to Reuters in a local hotel, Jensen began to cry. He said he had been deployed with the Danish military in Bosnia in the 1990s, so knew what war can do to a country and its people: "That is the last thing you would want." And yet, he said, he was proud of his son's defiance against a global superpower. Nuuk is the capital of Greenland and the island's most populous city. It was founded in its modern form almost 300 years ago, though settlements in that area date back millennia. REUTERS/Marko Djurica

Two other Greenlandic business figures who requested anonymity said they too had gathered guns and ammunition to use in any potential U.S. attack. They added that many people they knew were doing the same. The proportion of Greenlanders suffering from mental distress jumped from 7% to 31% over the last year, according to a study published last month by a public health institute in Greenland. The authors of the study, based on responses from 308 people, wrote that the crisis caused by Trump's threats to seize Greenland was "significantly affecting" islanders' mental health and well-being. "ALARM AS U.S. MILITARY SNATCHES MADURO

Eggede, Greenland's foreign minister, rejected any suggestion the new government was airbrushing Denmark's colonial record as it responded to American threats. "We haven't forgotten it," said Eggede, who served as the previous prime minister. "But in this situation we are right now, we need to keep our right for self-determination, and this means that we need to cooperate very closely with all the Kingdom of Denmark."

Eggede, a stalwart of Inuit Ataqatigiit, the party founded by Lyngé, has also undergone an evolution, though not as extreme as Lyngé's: He still wants independence, eventually. The government's new approach to Denmark is an affirmation of Lyngé's advocacy, says his daughter Pipaluk Lyngé, an Inuit Ataqatigiit member of the governing coalition who chairs parliament's foreign affairs and security committee. Pipaluk Lyngé said many Greenlanders initially thought her father was overreacting to Trump's threats but then began to share his fears. REUTERS/Tim Barsoel think everyone knows, whether you're a foreign minister or a local bus driver, that the world has changed. When the world changes, your strategy and your thinking should change also. Pipaluk Lyngé, a lawmaker and daughter of Aqqaluk Lyngé, admitted to some surprise at her father's reversal on the issue of independence. "He's not ashamed to admit that the visions he had as a young man are now unrealistic," Pipaluk told Reuters in an interview in Greenland's parliament building. She traced her father's turnaround to Trump's first term in the White House. The president first floated the idea of the U.S. buying Greenland in 2019 and cancelled a state visit to Denmark after Danish premier Frederiksen dismissed the idea as "absurd." Lyngé saw Trump's comments as more than bluster, putting him at odds with many Greenlanders who believed he was overreacting and fearmongering, his daughter said. When Trump returned to power with even stronger talk about Greenland in his second term, though, more and more people became receptive to Lyngé's concerns, Pipaluk said. For many, lingering doubts that the U.S. president could follow through on his threats vanished in January this year, she added, when the U.S. military seized Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in an audacious early-morning raid. She recalled waking up to the news and realizing the world needed to take Trump's words seriously. "I think everyone knows, whether you're a foreign minister or a local bus driver, that the world has changed," said Pipaluk. "When the world changes, your strategy and your thinking should change also."

Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said Greenland would choose Denmark over America, if it had to choose. Ritzau Scanpix/via Days after the Maduro operation, Greenland premier Nielsen made his strongest statement in support of Denmark to date. "We face a geopolitical crisis, and if we have to choose between the U.S. and Denmark here and now, then we choose Denmark," Nielsen told reporters. "We stand united in the Kingdom of Denmark." Lyngé was euphoric. "I'm so happy that the government, the coalition government, finally declared: We are part of the Danish realm," he said. "Now we understand that the only freedom that we've had for the last 300 years has been together with Denmark." In an excerpt from another poem, written in 1982, Lyngé laments Danish control. Trump has since done little to assuage islanders' fears. Soon after the Maduro raid, the White House said it was considering using military force to acquire Greenland, prompting Denmark and NATO members like Britain and France to send small contingents of troops to the island. Denmark was so concerned about an invasion, according to its national broadcaster, that its soldiers brought supplies of blood from Denmark, as well as explosives with which they could blow up runways to stymie American landings. Trump has since said he is negotiating with Denmark and NATO to gain "total access" to Greenland. Another changing political current, Greenland's election also saw the elevation of Naleraq, the island's most radical pro-independence party. It won about 25% of the vote last year, up from 12% previously, by arguing that Greenland should take advantage of the crisis with Trump by negotiating with Denmark for immediate independence. "Denmark is not a partner for us. It's a hostage-taker," Naleraq's chair, Pele Broberg, told Reuters. He added that he was frustrated by talk of delay in moves toward independence from Denmark.

What teacher who first flagged NEET leak wrote in his complaint



NEET UG 2026 paper leak, NEET paper leak Rajasthan, National Testing Agency NTA, Rajasthan SOG investigation, NEET UG 2026 cancellation, NEET paper leak Rajasthan, NTA NEET re-exam date 2026, Rajasthan SOG NEET investigation, WhatsApp guess paper leak, CBI probe NEET leak, WhatsApp paper leak syndicate, Nashik medical student Shubham Kharinar, Private Mafia WhatsApp group, NEET guess paper controversy, exam paper leak India, Sikar NEET coaching hub, multi-state exam scam India, NEET chemistry paper leak Sikar, CBI probe NEET 2026, medical entrance exam cancelled India, 22 lakh students NEET re-test, Indian expressMembers of NSUI protest against NEET 2026 paper leak, outside National Testing Agency Office in New Delhi on Tuesday.

At around 1:30 am on May 4, several hours after the NEET(UG) 2026 examination had wrapped up, a teacher with a prominent coaching centre in Sikar reached the district's Udyog Nagar police station with a bunch of pages in his hand. "He had brought a stack of papers with him, alleging irregularities in the just concluded NEET paper," Udyog Nagar SHO Rajesh Kumar told. "The staff present at the police station heard him and handed him a blank sheet of paper, asking him to submit a written complaint. How-

ever, he simply left," claimed the SHO, denying claims that the police turned him away. It was on the evening of May 3 that the teacher had received the handwritten 'guess paper' from his landlord in Sikar, asking if it was indeed genuine. The landlord, in turn, had received it from his son in Kerala. Once he cross-checked the paper, the teacher found that the 'guess paper' indeed had questions that appeared in the actual NEET examination and decided to approach the police.

For the next few days, he contemplated the magnitude of what he had just come across and was apprehensive about how to proceed. "He had also approached journalists before approaching the police, but considering the unusual circumstances, his allegations did not receive much interest from them," officials said. "It was because of the backing by the owner of his coaching centre that he eventually decided to write to the National Testing Agency (NTA)," a top official told Sometime after 9:30 pm on May 7, he finally sent his complaint to the NTA. In his complaint, he said that it is a .pdf file of approximately 60 pages and appears to be a handwritten document, having 90 questions of chemistry and seven-eight pages of biology questions, it is learnt. "I am willing to submit my mobile for forensic investigation and have full proof, considering the magnitude and importance of the NEET examination and the impact that such acts may have on the lives of the students," he wrote in his complaint, accessed by s. "This matter requires investigation by an independent agency. The circumstances show that it involves unlawful access, circulation and transmission. So I most respectfully request that an immediate inquiry be initiated into the alleged paper leak," it stated. Sources said that after an initial investigation, he was cleared of any wrongdoing, especially since he had received the 'guess paper' only after the completion of the examination. It was the teacher's letter that led to the NTA alerting the central agencies, with the matter eventually leading to an investigation by the Special Operations Group of Rajasthan and then the CBI.

Diljit Dosanjh no to politics may have another reason: he's now US citizen

GNS News Agency, June 4

Leading Punjabi singer and Bollywood actor Diljit Dosanjh, who has turned down an appeal to enter politics in Punjab, is not an Indian citizen. Not for a while now. Dosanjh, whose signature, pride-filled declaration Main Hoon Punjab (I am Punjab) serves as a powerful affirmation of his cultural identity and roots, acquired US citizenship in 2022. The Indian Express has learnt. He has been travelling on a US passport since September 1, 2022. His last Indian passport was issued in Mumbai in 2018. Prior to that, his Indian passport was issued in Zambia.

Dosanjh's spouse Sandeep Kaur too is a US national. At the time of acquiring US citizenship, he had shown his residential address — a 5-bedroom, 3107 sqm bungalow — in an upscale locality of California. He used his US passport to travel to India last month. Sources said he has been travelling to India on an e-visa since September 2022 — this means he does not hold an OCI card. Last Saturday, a think tank of retired IAS officers, Defence personnel and professionals in Punjab issued a full-page advertisement in a leading newspaper, urging Dosanjh to take over the political leadership of Punjab "brought to its knees by successive dispensations". Dosanjh, however, declined the offer. In a post on X, he said, Kadey v Nahi (never). Mera kaam entertainment karna (My job is to entertain people). Am very happy in my field. Thank you so much. "Even if he were to change his mind, Dosanjh cannot just jump into Indian politics. Under Section 6 of the Indian Citizenship Act, a foreign national can apply to seek Indian citizenship if he or she satisfies conditions, one of which stipulates that the applicant must have lived in India for 12 years in total before the application, including continuous residence during the immediately preceding 12 months and residence for 11 of the



previous 14 years. Multiple attempts by The Indian Express to contact Dosanjh for comment did not elicit a response. Phone calls and queries sent to his secretary Sonali Singh, Janamjai Sehgal (local contact on his Indian visa application) remained unanswered.

Last week, Khalistan separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a leader of the Sikhs for Justice banned by India, threatened Dosanjh for rebuking flag-waving Khalistan sympathisers at his concerts in the Canadian cities of Vancouver and Calgary. Born on January 6, 1984 to Balbir Singh and Sukhwinder Kaur in Jalandhar's Dosanjh Kalan village, Dosanjh's first prominent musical album Ishq Da Uda Ada was released in 2004. He made his debut in Punjabi cinema in The Lion of Punjab (2011) and became very popular after Jihne Mera Dil Luteya. His role in Uda Punjab (2016) got him a Filmfare award in the Best Male Debut category. In 2020, Dosanjh became the first Indian artist to enter the Billboard Social 50 chart. Last month, he appeared for a second time on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, and discussed Sikh history and Punjabi pride.

Prateek Yadav was 38 and fit: What is pulmonary embolism, the condition linked to his death?

The death of 38-year-old Prateek Yadav, son of Samajwadi Party (SP) founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, due to pulmonary embolism and heart complications has once again spotlighted a medical emergency that is often sudden, difficult to detect and, if missed, can be fatal. Unlike a heart attack, which occurs when blood flow to the heart muscle is blocked, a pulmonary embolism happens when a blood clot blocks one of the arteries supplying blood to the lungs. "This is like a pileup in one of the body's most critical highways. And because the lungs are central to oxygenating blood, even a single large clot there can quickly trigger collapse of all body systems," says Dr Nishith Chandra, principal director, cardiology, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute Research Centre, New Delhi. Excerpts:

What is pulmonary embolism?

To understand pulmonary embolism or lung clots, it helps to understand how quickly the body's circulation works. The heart beats about 60 to 70 times every minute. In that time, roughly the body's entire blood volume — about five to six litres — completes one full pulmonary circulation cycle. Oxygen-scarce blood returns from the body to the right side of the heart. The right ventricle pumps it into the pulmonary arteries, which carry it to the lungs, where it releases carbon dioxide and picks up oxygen. The oxygen-rich blood then returns to the left side of the heart, which pumps it back to the rest of the body. This oxygenation loop is completed in seconds. When a clot blocks a pulmonary artery, that loop is disrupted. Blood cannot reach parts of the lung for oxygenation, oxygen levels fall and the heart is suddenly forced to pump against intense resistance. If the clot is large enough, the right side of the heart can fail within minutes.

Where the clot usually comes from

Most clots usually begin with a deep vein thrombosis (DVT) when a clot forms in the deep veins of the legs, pelvis or sometimes the arms. Veins carry deoxygenated blood back to the heart. Part of that clot can break off, travel through the venous system, pass through the right side of the heart and lodge in the pulmonary arteries.

What causes such clots?

Several conditions increase this risk. Prolonged bed rest after illness, surgeries or cancer therapies, prolonged sedentary behaviour like sitting in long haul flights, even dehydration. In all these situations, blood flow slows down, making clot formation more likely. DVT happens in the leg

because blood naturally moves more slowly there, and if movement drops or clotting risk rises, those veins become the easiest place for a clot to form.

Can aggressive gym practices contribute to DVT?

We are told that Prateek was fitness conscious and worked out. But being physically active does not automatically protect against blood clots, especially when other risk factors are present. One common reason is dehydration. Heavy workouts, excessive sweating, sauna use, aggressive cutting cycles or inadequate fluid intake can reduce plasma volume and make blood thicker, which increases the tendency to clot. Another concern is the misuse of muscle-building injections, anabolic steroids, testosterone boosters or other performance-enhancing substances, particularly when taken without medical supervision. These can increase red blood cell production, thicken the blood, alter clotting mechanisms and sometimes damage blood vessels, making clot formation more likely. Some intense gym users also combine these with high-protein, dehydration-prone diets, stimulant-heavy pre-workout supplements and inadequate recovery. We regularly see such cases. That said, regular exercise, done safely, reduces clot risk.

What are symptoms?

A pulmonary embolism can be very abrupt. The person may experience sudden breathlessness, chest pain, rapid heartbeat, sweating, dizziness, bluish lips and collapse. In some massive embolisms, death can occur within minutes. Smaller clots may produce warning signs for days or even a week beforehand, such as unexplained shortness of breath, calf pain, swelling, unusual fatigue or mild chest discomfort. This is why early symptoms are often missed or mistaken for gym soreness, acidity, anxiety or exhaustion. A dangerous feature of clotting is that one clot attracts more clots and there is a huge formation. Can it be treated? If detected early, pulmonary embolism is often highly treatable. Treatment depends on severity. For smaller clots, doctors use blood thinners to prevent further clot growth and allow the body to gradually dissolve the clot. For severe or life-threatening embolisms, clot-dissolving medicines may be given urgently. In advanced centres, catheter-based devices can physically remove the clot. These include systems such as the Penumbra, which sucks the clot out, AngioJet, which breaks and removes the blockage using high-pressure saline jets. These interventions can rapidly restore circulation. Time is crucial as late presentation remains the biggest reason for mortality.

Why NEET is more prone to paper leaks than JEE



NEET Paper Leaks: Multiple people have been detained in Maharashtra and Rajasthan amid a widening probe into the NEET-UG paper leak, which led to the exam being cancelled. Lakhs of students have been affected by the cancellation. But this is not the first time irregularities have surfaced in this medical entrance exam. In contrast, the JEE, the engineering entrance exam, has seen relatively fewer controversies. How is the conduct of JEE different from NEET, and why do they not follow the same pattern? The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) is a pen-and-paper entrance exam for admission to undergraduate medical institutions. It is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) in 13 languages — English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

The Joint Entrance Examination (Main), meanwhile, is for admission to Centrally Funded Technical Institutes. Students who clear JEE (Main) are then eligible to sit for JEE (Advanced), for admission to IITs. While JEE (Main) is conducted by the NTA, with some involvement of the IITs, JEE (Advanced) is handled completely by the IITs.

What is the difference in how NEET and JEE are held?

The two main differences in how the exams are held is that more students take NEET than JEE, and JEE is a computer-based exam instead of pen and paper. An online test removes several vulnerabilities from the examination process, like the possibility of question paper leak during transport and distribution to the centres. It also reduces the involvement of outside agencies, such as a printing press or a transport company.

Then why can't NEET also be computer-based?

There are two main hurdles to implementing a computer-based NEET-UG examination. First, a very small number of centres are equipped to conduct computer-based tests. With NEET-UG being one of the biggest competitive examinations in India in terms of the number of applications — around 23 lakh students appear every year — there aren't enough centres to accommodate them. To compare, around 14 lakh students appear for the JEE. The NTA can conduct computer-based tests for only about 1.5 lakh students in a single shift. This would mean the NEET-UG would have to be conducted over at least 15 shifts and a period of weeks. Second, if the testing is conducted over several shifts, the process of normalisation would be a challenge. "While there exists a process to normalise question papers across

Iran war, trade, Taiwan and AI on the agenda, why China has the upper hand



While it is unclear where the West Asia conflict will go from here, even as an uneasy ceasefire continues to hold, China will likely play a crucial role in helping bring Iran back to the negotiating table in any constructive form

In November last year, when President Donald Trump announced that he had accepted an invitation to visit China in April, the meeting's agenda appeared straightforward enough. Trade tensions between the world's two biggest economies were spiralling into a full-blown tariff war, while Taiwan was the lingering flashpoint. Delayed by a month from its original schedule, the upcoming summit, starting Wednesday, now risks being consumed by a more compelling crisis: the war in Iran. While it is unclear where the West Asia conflict will go from here, even as an uneasy ceasefire continues to hold, two things are now evident: a resolution to the Iran war is ostensibly not that easy, and China's role will be crucial in whichever direction this conflict is headed. If Iran has to be brought back to the negotiating table in any constructive form, there seems to be a growing realisation in Washington DC that China is likely to play some kind of a role.

When Beijing officially confirmed the date of the state visit earlier this week, it marked the first visit to China from a sitting American president since Trump's 2017 visit during his last term. This summit would be Trump's seventh in-person meeting with President Xi Jinping. Trump is taking a big business delegation of over a dozen American CEOs with him, with Apple's Tim Cook, Boeing chief Kelly Ortberg and Tesla's Elon Musk part of his business entourage. The one conspicuous absence was Nvidia's Jensen Huang, who did not figure on an initial list of executives provided by the White House earlier this week. Reuters, however, reported on Wednesday, quoting two sources familiar with the matter, that Huang will join Trump's delegation to China. Nvidia's new H200 chips, which have not yet been sold to China, remain a point of contention between the two sides.

The choice of the people on the delegation is being read as harbingers of what the administration in Washington, D.C., is pivoting towards in terms of its business priorities with China. "Trump visiting China and meeting with Xi Jinping this week, surrounded by businessmen instead of China hawks, is incredibly helpful in yielding positive outcomes from discussions," according to Brian Tycanco, analyst at Baltimore-based Stansberry Research. Trump's visit will include bilateral talks, a state banquet, and a visit to the Temple of Heaven during the course of the visit spanning May 13-15. Later this year, a reciprocal visit to Washington could be on the cards for President Xi, signalling whether the relationship is likely to endure.

Apart from Iran and the agenda for the business delegation, other key issues could be on the table: the likely direction of global trade and competition in advanced tech-

several shifts, as is done with examinations such as JEE, it will be very difficult to do so across multiple shifts and will lead to litigations and delay the admission process," said an official from the health ministry.

To ensure fairness across shifts, questions for an examination are divided into different levels of difficulty, with a statistical process determining that each paper contains a certain percentage of questions from these different levels. The official added: "When it comes to engineering, many seats go vacant every year. The stakes are not as high as medicine." Another official from the health ministry said that this was also in line with the indication given by the Supreme Court. After irregularities in NEET-UG 2024, there were also "rumours" of NEET-PG paper leak, which led to its postponement. The National Board of Examinations under the health ministry, which conducts the NEET-PG test, decided to conduct it only in the most trusted testing centres across two shifts. Litigations, however, led to the Supreme Court directing that the examination be conducted in a single shift and it proceeded as it used to.

While there have been irregularities in computer-based tests, they are generally more secure. The question papers for these tests are not prepared by a single person. A bank of questions of varying difficulty is prepared by several experts and the system chooses the questions on its own, based on a blueprint of what type of questions and how many of them are needed. And, the question paper opens at the designated time across examination centres together, removing the likelihood of it being leaked from one centre to others. There is no physical transportation of these papers. The second official quoted above said: "When the papers are being transported physically across the country, there are multiple points of leak no matter how much security is put in place. It can leak from the printing agencies or simply a vehicle that is transporting it." They added: "NEET is an extremely high-stakes examination, meaning there are always people who are willing to pay to get the paper."

Why is NEET so prone to leaks?

The NEET-UG examination, which is the only way for students to get admission to a medical course, remains extremely competitive. Nearly 23 lakh students appear for around 1 lakh medical seats across the country. The competition is fierce, considering students strive to get into government colleges that account for around half the medical seats. These colleges have a much lower fee structure than private medical colleges, where the fee may run into crores. Another aspect, experts pointed out, was the coaching industry. With the coaching industry mushrooming across the country, there is an incentive for classes to pay to get question papers. "After all, the admissions for their next batch would depend on how many of their students get through the admission process," said an expert, on condition of anonymity. After the 2024 NEET-UG irregularities, admission of 14 students was cancelled, candidature of 215 was put on hold, 26 students already enrolled in medical courses who participated in the malpractice were suspended, and several were debarred from taking the test for two to three years.

nologies such as AI. An investment deal is being seen as a possible wild card entry to the list. According to experts, Beijing could possibly indicate its willingness to buy Boeing aircraft and American soybeans, alongside announcing a 'Board of Trade' and a parallel 'Board of Investment' that seem to have been discussed in previous official-level talks. The two sides are also reportedly thinking of establishing an AI safety dialogue. Rising tensions across the Taiwan Strait do seem partly fuelled by the Trump administration's mixed signals about its Taipei policy. Last December, the US announced an \$11 billion arms deal with Taiwan, triggering protests from the Chinese government. Trump, however, has since downplayed the US willingness to defend Taiwan. "He considers it to be a part of China," Trump said of Xi, adding that "(it's) up to him, what he's going to be doing (on Taiwan)." China, which has been keen to position itself as a stabilising power, was conciliatory ahead of the meeting. "President Xi and President Trump — looking back at their past meetings, one message stands out: the steady development of China-US relations brings certainty and stability to the world," Mao Ning, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China said in a post on X ahead of the meeting. In the Iran conflict, China is now wading in as a mediator, alongside Pakistan. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Beijing last week seemed to signal the clout China wields in West Asia. "I hope the Chinese tell him what he needs to be told," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said when questioned on Beijing's role. "And that is what you are doing in the Strait is causing you to be globally isolated. You're the bad guy in this." Beijing does seem to have an upper hand going into this summit than when it was originally announced, according to experts. "China feels confident enough to be able to stand up to Trump on many key issues, including sanctions, technology controls, critical minerals, and Iran. However, the PRC's eagerness to hold a summit between Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping signals that it is much less confident than many observers believe, and the recent Beijing visit by Araghchi shows China positioning itself as having already weighed in with Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz," according to Edgard Kagan, senior adviser and Freeman Chair in China Studies at the Washington DC-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. China has a vested interest in seeing the war wound down, even though Beijing has played an outsized role in keeping Iran's economy afloat in the first two months of this conflict. Prior to the war, China accounted for over 85% of Iran's oil exports, importing over 1 million barrels per day. Also, Beijing has a vested interest in the blockade in the key waterway being opened up, given that about 60% of the oil headed for China flows through the Strait of Hormuz. According to Rush Doshi, the CV Starr senior fellow for Asia studies and director of the China Strategy Initiative at the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, with these Iran tensions as a backdrop, three other issues will likely be on the table: the economic agenda, Taiwan and AI. "More meetings will follow this one. The two leaders will likely meet again at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Shenzhen, China, the Group of Twenty meeting in Miami, and a separate Xi state visit to Washington. Beijing may use these meetings to 'manage' the United States, inducing Trump to put off necessary competitive steps for the sake of bilateral stability. That would in turn ratify the current détente on terms favourable to Beijing," Doshi said in an expert take. From the perspective of India's policymakers, any bilateral deal that is cut, especially involving concessional tariffs, could be read as the baseline scenario for the revised trade deal that is under negotiation between Washington DC and New Delhi.

Women in corporate leadership, the lived reality



Once again, the world will celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2025 and companies will attempt to showcase steps taken toward the inclusion and the increase of women in the workforce. Yet, the lived reality of women in or trying to enter the corporate workforce is starkly different.

The recent instance of rolling back diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programmes in the United States federal government, which also encourages the private sector to end DEI preference hirings, highlights the challenges and the barriers to increasing women's participation in the workforce. Women, who comprise 48% of corporate America's workforce, are reeling from the aftershock of this order and are now facing the threat of identity erasure.

It may be easy to brush aside this order as an issue that plagues only the United States. However, the effects of a dip in DEI hirings and women's exclusion can have severe repercussions in all parts of today's globally connected world. Regardless of where one is situated globally, conversations relating to the participation of women in the corporate workforce are significant. While DEI may simply be a corporate mechanism to make small inroads into women's participation in the workforce, especially at an entry level, at present, even such an entry mechanism has not really increased women's participation in leadership roles. For instance, in India, women have been historically marginalised from the workforce and comprise about 35.9% of the worker population ratio; the number is starker at the senior and middle management levels where women account for only 12.7% leadership roles as of 2024.

It is easy to brush aside DEI as being a fabricated gesture of tokenism, where women placed in companies are viewed as suffrance or an obligation rather than finding a way at the table on their own merit. Of course, while DEI may help women make an in-road into leadership roles in companies and have a semblance of a level playing field, their performance and ability to consolidate their position will depend on their own performance and further normalise the presence of women at all levels of the workforce. Over the past decade, Indian legal mandates can be credited to help increase the presence of women in the corporate workforce especially at the senior level. In 2014, the Companies Act, 2013 mandated that at least one woman director should be placed on the board of certain class of public limited companies, and in 2015, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandated that at least one independent woman director be appointed to the board of India's top 1000 listed companies. Thus, it is largely due to a legal mandate that companies are attempting to uphold

best practices of gender diversity. The inclusion of women directors on the board of NSE 500 listed companies has increased more than threefold, from 5% in 2011 to 18% in 2023.

Research across the world finds that organisations also greatly benefit from women in leadership roles. At a fundamental level, the presence of women increases the depth of the talent pool available in the workforce. Women provide informational diversity gained from different educational and career trajectories and distinct social and professional network associations and offer a participative, democratic leadership style that stimulates robust discussion, drives a richer challenge and delivers greater value. Additionally, women tend to focus on relationship building, foster greater stakeholder commitment and assist in formulating strategies that address stakeholder concerns while also overseeing better monitoring, broader human capital management, and communication channels which increase corporate accountability and reduce corporate risks. When companies have more women in senior management and leadership roles, they begin to appear on lists of the most admired and ethical companies, best companies to work for, and best corporate citizens, thereby also serving the agenda of companies from an optics perspective and feeding into a virtuous cycle of benefits. Key identified areas where women leaders bring greater dividends are corporate governance, strategic proposition oversight, risk management, shareholder and stakeholder value, gender and society, and environmental responsibility, all of which are important facets of running an efficient and clean corporate ship which contributes to economic parity.

While token participation of women in companies may be a way out for some companies to demonstrate commitment towards gender diversity in the workplace, women are truly effective corporate leaders when they are given actual power and responsibility and not merely appointed to positions as a token for gender diversity or to serve the agenda of their male benefactors. It is only when a greater number of C-Suite/KMPs (top-level executives in an organisation and Key Managerial Personnel, or KMPs) are women, and, in addition, more independent directors and chairpersons of committees of the board and board committees are women, that they are truly effective corporate leaders. Importantly, the remuneration of women that is at parity with their male counterparts is a key indicator that women's presence in the corporate workforce is real and robust. While we do have a lot to celebrate on the occasion of Women's Day this year, it is important to keep in mind that there are still significant steps that companies and regulators must take in order to ensure that women's participation in the corporate workforce, especially in senior leadership roles, is strong, contributes meaningfully toward corporate governance and is not just a token concept that is aimed at gaining brownie points from stakeholders. Women's participation in the workforce must be promoted for its many benefits and must not fall victim to the dominant political narrative. End note: The issue of women in the corporate workforce, especially on company boards, is of great significance and merits deep research into various facets. Thought Arbitrage is undertaking such a study which maps the patterns of women on corporate boards by using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies over a 10-year period, involving about 1,000 companies.

'A fraud was committed on the judicial system by completely changing evidence,' says senior lawyer Shishir Hiray



Senior lawyer Shishir Hiray, who is the Special Public Prosecutor in the Porsche crash case, speaks to Sushant Kulkarni on the challenges in the prosecution of the multifaceted trial and the central point of the case. The prosecution's case involves a complex set of accused individuals — ranging from the minor being tried before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) to 10 adults being prosecuted in regular court, including the minor's parents, two doctors and a staffer from Sassoon Hospital, two alleged middlemen, and the fathers of the two passengers. Given the wide spectrum of individuals with different roles, what are the key legal and procedural challenges of such a multifaceted prosecution? The basic challenge is how to ensure we have a speedy trial. We are working on the case of the CCL (Child in Conflict with Law) and also prosecuting the 10 accused in regular court and are facing as many number of defence lawyers. These accused are from the higher strata of society and those who have resources. With their resources they all can approach the higher courts and when that happens, it naturally delays the process in the lower court.

This is not a case where straight-jacket evidence is available like it happens in an open-and-shut case. There are a lot of technicalities involved. We will have to examine a wide range of witnesses including technical witnesses — especially for establishing before the court the conspiracy, motives and the act of swapping the blood samples. Chain of events that have taken place, will have to be established through not just the statement of the witnesses but also technical leads. Police investigation includes DNA test, DNA profiling which are comparatively newer branches of the law. All the witnesses in the case are those who have been in subordinate roles to the accused. That is why deposing these witnesses and making sure they do not succumb to any pressures is going to be a big challenge. Investigation officer ACP Ganesh Ingale has stated before the court earlier that witnesses were afraid of coming forward considering the background of the accused. The possibility of the accused pressuring the witnesses will always be there till the time witnesses depose. The accused can use their financial weight, their positions etc. What do you think is the most striking aspect of the probe and the central point of the prosecution's case?

The central point is that the blood sample of the intoxicated minor was swapped to fabricate evidence suggesting he was not intoxicated. The conspiracy was to then present this fabricated evidence before the court so that

the adjudication will happen based on that. This is the most serious part of this case. And this was done not just for the minor driver but also for the two minor co-passengers. Now, to do this, money power was used, bribes were given, samples were swapped, records were forged. This amounted to thwarting the judicial system. When I took over the case, I carefully studied the details of the investigation. I came to a realisation that this was a fraud done with the judicial administration system by completely changing the evidence. And that is what we have brought out in our case. We have submitted that this being a very serious offence, where two young lives were lost, the minor driver should be tried as an adult accused. That application is pending for adjudication. Tell us about the possible timeline of the case in the coming days. If there are no deliberate calculated hurdles created in the case, the charges are expected to be framed in the coming days. From a wider list of witnesses, we plan to examine around 35 witnesses as I see the case right now. A chargesheet has been filed by us against all the accused. The court is yet to frame charges. However, one of the accused, Dr Ajay Taware, has filed his discharge application before a court. And now I am expecting that as a tactic, all these accused will one by one file the discharge applications to prolong the trial. They will make attempts to delay the process. Tell us about the technical evidence. The police had focused on gathering the technical evidence including an AI-based model of the accident.

The technical evidence of that nature is primarily against the CCL in the case of the accident. However, the technical and forensic evidence in the case of swapping of blood samples is also crucial that established the swapping of the blood samples and corruption behind it. Prevention of Corruption Act has been invoked in the case as the government employees from Sassoon Hospital were part of the conspiracy and allegedly took bribes for it. How do you plan to bring that out? So the evidence was tampered with as part of the conspiracy. We have concrete proof from the forensic sciences laboratories. Who swapped it? The doctors of Sassoon Hospital. At whose behest? We have technical evidence to prove that too. The money that exchanged hands has been recovered. We have sufficient evidence to prove the charges of corruption. I have a theoretical argument here. Had even one of the accused involved in the conspiracy acted prudently and lawfully, this offence could not have taken place. It is all of their involvement and connivance which has led to the commission of this offence. Except the accused mother of the CCL, all other accused are currently behind bars. She too was released on bail only on the ground that she is a woman and because there is a specific provision under Section 437 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Under this, even in the case of a serious offence, bail can be granted only on the grounds that an accused is a woman. This bail was not on the grounds of merit. Rather that has been my say on the issue when her bail application was pending before the High Court, the accused took an indirect route to apex court. According to me, they have again played with the judicial administration system here. I am categorically saying they have again played with the system.

No hardsell for this adman-turned-diplomat Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri

Flanked by two officers, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, Misri became India's diplomatic voice during Operation Sindoor. Together, they signalled how in this operation, the military and diplomatic imperatives were in lock-step. For Misri, the message was clear: to ensure that the daily briefing was to the point — embellished with neither fill nor shrill. Not a tall order for a diplomat who began as an adman. Misri joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1989, after three years at Lintas India in Mumbai and Contract Advertising in Delhi, where he worked closely with production teams. He would carry the skill of the hardsell to some of the toughest negotiating tables around the world — from China and Myanmar, where he held Ambassadorial stints, to Pakistan, where he was First Secretary during the Agra Summit.

Misri's batchmates, colleagues and former Ambassadors talk of him as "a thorough professional" and, more significantly, in the me-myself-and-I age of social media, someone "who doesn't advertise himself." Foreign Sect. Vikram Misri with Col. Sofiya Qureshi and Wg. Cdr Vyomika Singh during press briefing on Operation Sindoor in New Delhi on Wednesday. Express photo by Anil Sharma. 07.05.2025 Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri with Col. Sofiya Qureshi and Wg. Cdr Vyomika Singh during press briefing on Op Sindoor in New Delhi. (Express Photo by Anil Sharma) A senior bureaucrat who has interacted with Misri when he was Ambassador in Myanmar vouches for "another side" — a love for crime thrillers. He recalls a decade-old conversation with Misri in Naypyidaw, where they discussed Dog Day Afternoon, the 1975 Sidney Lumet classic, with Al Pacino in the lead. Growing up in a Kashmiri Pandit family in Srinagar, where he did his early schooling before moving to Udhampur and Gwalior, Misri, colleagues say, rarely speaks about himself at public or private gatherings. A former Ambassador who has known Misri from his early days at the Pakistan desk of the Ministry of External Affairs, says, "He never made it about himself. It was all about his work. That was what kept him engrossed." That self-effacing side was on display between May 7 and 10, when Misri stayed in touch with the military and worked the lines diplomatically, briefing and debriefing the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA).

While his composure was noticed by those in the room where he addressed the media, he was sharp on Pakistan's complicity in cross-border terrorism — one day pulling out a photograph showing slain terrorists getting state funerals and explaining terror targets on a map another day. Operation sindoor Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, centre, with Indian army officer Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, left, and Indian Air Force officer Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, right, address a press conference after India struck multiple sites inside Pakistani controlled territory with missiles under Operation Sindoor, in New Delhi, India. However, his statement on the evening of May 10, when he announced the pause on military action, led to an attack from war-mongering trolls who thought the ceasefire was a retreat on India's part, some even targeting his daughter. In response, Misri did what people know him for — he didn't dignify the comments with a public reaction; instead, he simply locked his social media handle. It may have been a rare, uncomfortable moment of media glare for someone who is used to working behind the scenes. In 2001, when the Agra Summit between then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf was organised, a former colleague recalls Misri



putting in late hours. He was then posted as First Secretary at the Indian Mission in Islamabad, and was in India as part of the team overseeing the logistics of the Summit. "He would work late into the night to plan his next day's work, even after everyone else had called it a day," recalls the colleague. Misri would go on to take up other challenging assignments. He was India's Ambassador to China, when the ties between the two countries were impacted following the Galwan clashes in 2020. Despite strained ties between Delhi and Beijing, he was instrumental in the bilateral conversations at the military and diplomatic levels. So in October 2024, when India and China came to an agreement on disengagement of troops, it was Misri who announced it to the world, this time as Foreign Secretary, a position he assumed in July 2024 and will hold till July 2026. Misri also worked on the India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies, while he was Deputy NSA between 2022 and 2024, working closely with NSA Ajit Doval. His colleagues in South Block recall a special gesture he made soon after taking over as Foreign Secretary. In September last year, Misri hosted a dinner to mark the 100th birthday of former Foreign Secretary M K Rasgotra, known in the fraternity as 'GOAT FS'. Rasgotra was India's Foreign Secretary between 1982 and 1985. He is also known to enjoy a rapport with Minister S Jaishankar, who, like him, was India's Ambassador to China before becoming Foreign Secretary. On assuming his office in Beijing in January 2019, the first photograph Misri posted was of the board showing the names of his predecessors, including Jaishankar and Shivshankar Menon. Besides his China experience and on the MEA's Pakistan desk, Misri has served in various Indian missions in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. He was on the staff of two External Affairs Ministers (I K Gujral and Pranab Mukherjee), and has worked as Private Secretary for three Prime Ministers — I K Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi. Misri's knowledge of the workings of the PMO, the office of the NSA and the External Affairs Ministry are significant as he now has to implement India's foreign policy as determined and shaped by the trio in the political-strategic-security establishment — PM Modi, Jaishankar and Doval. As the trio arrived in New Delhi in the early hours of April 23, cutting short their Saudi Arabia visit in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, it was Misri who received them at the airport, with a crucial briefing on the Pakistani imprint on the attacks, and other leads at that point. Over the next two days, Misri briefed the Ambassadors and the High Commissioners of G20 countries, linking Pakistan-based terror groups to the Pahalgam attack, in which 26 civilians were killed.

What ails pre-clinical PG courses in Karnataka?

There were zero admissions for the post graduate (PG) medical pre-clinical courses in Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre (VIMS), Bengaluru, including in anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, forensic medicine, microbiology and pharmacology, till the second round of PG-NEET counselling. The institute then informed the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), the counselling authority in the State, that it would waive the tuition fees for candidates opting for these courses, after which, all the pharmacology seats were filled during the subsequent round of counselling, said Kalpaja D.A., Chairperson of the Institute. This is the situation of PG medical pre-clinical courses in Karnataka, as candidates are hesitant to take them up due to a lack of job opportunities. Even in government medical colleges, only 15% to 20% of the seats in these courses are filled. The situation is far worse in private medical colleges, which have resorted to fee reduction, free hostel facility, stipend as per government guidelines, and job guarantee with good salary as promises to attract students towards pre-clinical and para-clinical courses.

Like VIMS, Oxford Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre has also waived the tuition fees, while BGS Institute of Medical Sciences has promised jobs to candidates immediately after completing the courses. "For PG medical courses, students like to join clinical courses due to job prospects. As a result, despite measures such as fee reduction, free hostel facility and stipend, the enrollment has been poor. It is very difficult to find candidates for courses like anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, forensic medicine, and microbiology. Therefore, many seats in PG medical courses have remained vacant this year as well. The KEA has announced it will conduct a special stray vacancy round for the second time. We hope all the vacant seats will be filled," Kalpaja explained. "This time, several private medical colleges have announced many facilities, including fee reduction and free hostel facility and others to attract students towards pre-clinical and para-clinical courses. There is no other way to attract students," said M.K. Ramesh, former Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS). A large number of postgraduate medical seats remained vacant in the State this year due to the lack of students opting for pre-clinical courses. A total of 3,864 postgraduate medical seats were available in the State for 2024-25. Out of these, 3,379 seats have been filled, and 485 seats remain vacant. Out of these, 471 are PG medical courses, while the remaining 14 are Diplomate of National Board (DNB) courses for in-service doctors.

Among these, most of the seats filled are in clinical courses, while most of the vacant seats are in pre-clinical courses. Out of the total 104 seats available in the MD Anatomy course this year, only six seats have been filled, leaving 98 seats vacant; of the 97 seats in the Physiology, 10 have been filled, leaving 87 vacant. Out of the 99 Biochemistry slots, 12 seats have been filled, and 87 remain vacant. Out of the 114 seats in Pharmacology, only 46 seats have been filled, leaving 68 seats vacant. Further, out of the 116 seats in Microbiology, 48 have been filled, and 68 are vacant, and of 58 seats in Forensic Medicine, only 10 have been filled and 48 remain vacant. On the other hand, almost all the seats in other clinical courses, including MD General Medicine, Radiotherapy, Dermatology, Psychiatry, General



Surgeon have been filled. The statistics of the KEA show students have been showing apathy towards clinical courses even in the past. In 2023-24, only two students were enrolled in the MD Anatomy course across the State. There were 12 students enrolled in Physiology, 7 in Biochemistry, 29 in Pharmacology, 15 in Microbiology, and 22 in Forensic Medicine. In 2022-23, only one student was enrolled in MD Anatomy, and no student enrolled in Physiology, leaving all the seats vacant. Only two students were enrolled in Biochemistry, 20 in Pharmacology, 8 in Microbiology, and two in Forensic Medicine. KEA is the counselling authority to fill the PG medical seats of the state on the basis of PGNEET ranking. This year, a large number of PG medical seats, including clinical, pre-clinical and para-clinical, remained vacant in Karnataka and the country after the mop-up round. Therefore, the NMC reduced the PGNEET cut-off percentage to 15% and allotted seats in the stray vacancy round. However, in this round too, more than 600 PG medical seats remained vacant in Karnataka. In this context, the NMC has again reduced the NEET cut-off percentage to 5% and has ordered to conduct the 'Special Stay Vacancy Round' counselling for the fifth time to allocate the remaining PG medical seats.

This year, the pre-clinical seats are the largest number of unfilled seats among PG medical courses, and the NMC has reduced the PGNEET cut-off percentage and has asked us to conduct another round of counselling to allocate the seats. It has been four months since the PGNEET counselling started, and now the NMC has reduced the cut-off percentage to 5%. Earlier, the NMC had reduced the cut-off percentage to zero. If the PGNEET cut-off percentage had been reduced to 5% earlier, it would have been more beneficial for the candidates, and more people would have opted for the courses. As soon as the NMC admission schedule is released, we will start option entry and allocate all these seats," said Prasanna.H. Executive Director of KEA. But will this be enough? "I have decided to study clinical courses in PG. I did not get any clinical course seat in the last four rounds of counselling due to my PGNEET ranking. Recently, the cut-off percentage for the special stray vacancy round has been reduced to 5%. So, there is a possibility of getting a seat. If I do not get a PG clinical course seat this time, I will write the PGNEET exam next year as well," said Abhijit, a PG medical seat aspirant from Bengaluru. Experts believe that candidates who have completed MBBS are hesitant to pursue pre-clinical courses in their postgraduate degrees due to a lack of future opportunities.

Bank frauds amount rises 46 pc to Rs 48,000 crore in FY26: RBI Annual Report



The amount involved in fraud cases reported by the banking sector shot up by 46 per cent to Rs 48,021 crore during FY2026 as against Rs 32,803 crore in the previous year. However, the number of fraud cases dipped to 10,114 from 23,722 a year ago, the Reserve Bank of India's Annual Report said. Of this public sector banks accounted for Rs 35,709 crore in FY 26 as against Rs 23,617 crore last year and private sector Rs 11,399 crore (Rs 8,927 crore), the RBI said. Data pertaining to 2025-26 includes fraud classification in 314 cases amounting to Rs 30,199 crore, pertaining to previous financial years, reported afresh during the current financial year after re-examination and ensuring compliance with the judgement of the Supreme Court, dated March 27, 2023, the RBI said.

Amount involved in advances of banks shot up to Rs 40,774 crore in 8,640 fraud cases as against Rs 30,367 crore (7,924 cases) in the previous year. "Frauds reported in a year could have occurred several years prior to the year of reporting," the RBI said. Interestingly, fraud amount involved in cards and digital payments fell to Rs 29 crore (293 cases) in FY26 against Rs 517 crore (13,332 cases)

in FY25 and Rs 1,452 crore (28,836 cases) in FY24, RBI said. "An assessment of bank group-wise fraud cases over the last three years indicates that although the number of frauds for public and private sectors banks have reduced, the amount involved has increased over the years," the RBI report said. While number of frauds was highest under card internet/ digital payments category during 2023-24 and 2024-25, advances category accounted for the largest share in 2025-26. In value terms, frauds were concentrated in the advances category across the three years, the RBI said. The RBI is exploring the possibility of introducing a 'switch on' and 'switch off' facility for all digital payment modes along with a 'kill switch' to block all debits from the account in one stroke. This facility would help bolster consumer confidence and contribute towards controlling frauds in digital payment transactions, the RBI Annual Report said. A 'kill switch facility' is a mechanism that allows a system, device, account, or service to be shut down, disabled or blocked immediately in an emergency or under specific conditions.

The RBI report said 'switch on' and 'switch off' facility for domestic and international card transactions is available to customers which has helped customers exercise greater control. The RBI said it will address the continuing challenge of authorised push payment frauds — where customers themselves initiate payments despite the various safeguards already in place such as mandatory additional factor of authentication (AFA), payee name lookup, card controls, tokenisation, and related measures, introduction of certain frictions in digital payment processes would be explored, with a view to enhancing customer protection and facilitating more effective recovery of funds. The RBI's initiative to introduce an exclusive '.bank.in' domain, marked India as the first country globally to mandate a secure domain for the banking system thereby strengthening cybersecurity and reducing digital payment frauds.

West Asia crisis could pose headwinds to growth, inflation in the short run: RBI Annual Report

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday said the West Asia conflict and risks such as higher energy prices, supply chain disruptions, financial market volatility, global trade uncertainty and weather disruptions could affect growth and inflation in the short term. However, India's growth outlook remains positive, it said. Considering various factors, and on the assumption that the adverse impact of the West Asia conflict would remain contained in the near-term, real GDP growth for 2026-27 is projected at 6.9 per cent with risks tilted to the downside, the RBI said in its Annual Report for 2025-26. The RBI Annual Report said inflation in 2026-27 is likely to remain aligned with the target on the back of adequate foodgrain stocks, sufficient reservoir levels and stable agricultural prospects despite possible El Niño conditions and above-normal summer temperature. However, the evolving upside risks to inflation may emanate from multiple other factors such as spike in global fuel and commodity prices amid geopolitical tensions, potential spillovers to input and wage costs, and volatility in exchange rate, the RBI said. Considering all these factors, CPI inflation for 2026-27 is projected at 4.6 per cent with risks tilted to the upside, it said. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will announce the new interest rate policy on June 5.

While the ongoing geopolitical tensions are likely to exert pressure on the availability and prices of key inputs, particularly fertilisers, the government's continued efforts in ensuring adequate availability of fertiliser and other key inputs through diversified sources and buffer management are expected to mitigate these potential concerns, the RBI said. The central bank said geopolitical risk has re-emerged as the dominant drag on global growth in 2026. "The adverse impact of outbreak of the conflict in West Asia in end-February 2026 is reflected in the forecasts of global growth and inflation," the RBI said. With continued geopolitical tensions, inflation faces upside risks globally, the RBI said. "The surging energy prices and disruptions in key shipping routes could intensify supply-side pressures." The RBI said



elevated valuations in technology sectors may undergo re-assessment, raising the risk of corrections in equity markets. With increased protectionism and debt sustainability concerns, the escalating geopolitical risk calls for coordinated policy actions across fiscal, monetary and multilateral fronts. It said the Indian economy exhibited resilience in 2025-26, amidst several external headwinds, supported by strong private consumption, sustained investment and sound macroeconomic fundamentals. The report said healthy corporate and bank balance sheets, the government's continued thrust on capital expenditure and the implementation of trade agreements with the key partners are expected to sustain investment and growth momentum. Nevertheless, in a highly uncertain global environment, continuous assessment of the evolving developments is warranted to frame the appropriate policy response on an ongoing basis, it said. Initiatives announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, focusing on diversification, targeted promotion of high-value crop cultivation across regions, enhancing commercial viability of fisheries and aquaculture, and a greater push towards technology adoption with the proposed launch of Bharat-VISTAAR would support strong and sustainable growth in the agriculture and allied sectors, the RBI said.

Outlook for oil remains extremely vulnerable to geopolitical risks: RIL

Global oil demand growth is expected to be sluggish due to higher oil prices and economic slowdown in FY 2026-27 amid West Asia conflict, RIL said in its annual report. Crude oil has been highly volatile since March this year when the US-Israel conflict started. "Refinery and oil infrastructure damages which caused product supply losses are likely to take a longer period to recover, resulting in continual volatility in the market," RIL said.

In FY 2026-27, volatile product and feedstock prices, supply disruptions from the West Asia, Government of India directives on SAED, petrochemical feedstock usage and duty exemption on key petrochemical products may weigh on domestic demand and margins, it said. Fuel prices have gone up by Rs 8 in Mumbai in the month of May alone.

RIL said natural gas is expected to play an increasingly critical role in India's energy transition, with its share in the energy mix targeted to rise from around 6% to 15% by 2030. "RIL's gas portfolio remains well-positioned to support this structural shift, contributing nearly 30% of the country's domestic gas production," RIL said. Continued development of deepwater and CBM assets, supported by existing infrastructure and operational efficiencies, is expected to further augment supplies and cater to India's growing gas demand in FY 2026-27 and beyond, it said. RIL set to operationalise 40 GWh BESS capacity RIL said its battery energy storage system (BESS) giga-factory is nearing commissioning, with the company set to operationalise 40 GWh of annual capacity—scalable to 100 GWh—as production ramps up in the second half of 2026. BESS is a technology that stores electrical energy in batteries so it can be used later when needed. Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has already commissioned a cumulative 3.37 Gigawatt-hour (GWh) BESS this week. According to RIL's latest annual report, the company is progressively commissioning its HJT (Heterojunction Technology) cell and module lines. The first 200 MWp of high-efficiency HJT modules have been delivered — demonstrating 10% higher energy yield and 25% lower degradation versus industry standards, with 720 Wp BIS — certified panels. "Reliance remains on track to scale to 10 GWp per annum, with expansion to 20 GWp planned, targeting 26% module efficiency. Polysilicon, glass, ingots, and wafers are being commissioned in phases toward full integration," it said. It said Reliance is progressively commissioning its HJT (Heterojunction Technology) cell and module lines. The first 200 MWp of high-efficiency HJT



modules have been delivered — demonstrating 10% higher energy yield and 25% lower degradation versus industry standards, with 720 Wp BIS-certified panels. "Reliance remains on track to scale to 10 GWp per annum, with expansion to 20 GWp planned, targeting 26% module efficiency. Polysilicon, glass, ingots, and wafers are being commissioned in phases toward full integration," it said. The Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex at Jamnagar — being developed across 5,000 acres with 44 million sq. ft. of manufacturing and operational built-up area — is envisaged as the world's most integrated clean energy manufacturing ecosystem outside China, the Annual Report said. RIL is building India's largest integrated CBG (Compressed Bio Gas) platform. CBG production has reached 270 plus TPD across 35 operating plants (capacity 700 TPD), and is on track to reach 1,100 TPD with 55 operating plants by end of FY 2026-27. The platform is being built towards the Rs 75,000 crore committed investment in clean energy.

Nil salary for Mukesh Ambani RIL Chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani has declined to draw a salary from the company for the sixth straight year, despite the conglomerate posting its highest-ever consolidated net profit for FY2025-26. The 68-year-old chairman and managing director drew nil in salary, allowances, perquisites, commission and retiral benefits for the year ended March 31, 2026, according to the company's latest annual report. However, the promoter group which holds over 50% stake in RIL has received over Rs 3,721 crore as dividend out of the total payout of Rs 7,443 crore in FY26. RIL Executive Directors Nikhil Meswani and Hital Meswani got remuneration of Rs 25 crore each, PMS Prasad Rs 20.58 crore and Anant Ambani Rs 12.17 crore, according to the annual report.

Why escaping an abusive marriage requires more than financial independence



Twisha Sharma, Deepika Nagar. In recent days, headlines have been dominated by the alleged dowry death cases of these two young women. Disturbingly, they came from well-to-do families and were financially independent too. The Supreme Court has taken cognisance of these cases, but an alarming question lingers: Is money alone not enough to help someone walk away from an abusive relationship? Sangita Durba Gopinath, whose partner allegedly cheated on her, says financial independence gave her the strength to walk away from the relationship. Not only did it allow her to take a stand, but it also helped her provide for her child and herself. "The job gave me a safe space. It was my life away from a difficult environment," Gopinath, Director-Growth and Business Initiative at PR Pundit, shares with indianexpress.com.

India reported 5,737 dowry death cases in 2024, involving 5,811 victims, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. This statistic holds up a mirror to a worrying reality that, though dowry has been banned in the country since the Dowry Prohibition Act was passed on May 1, 1961, dowry-related violence continues to claim thousands of lives each year.

Dr Parin Somani, the CEO of London Organisation of Skills Development, a company focused on upskilling, says that throughout her years of research, she has met several individuals who shared deeply painful experiences of feeling trapped as they lacked economic security. "One survivor explained that although she wanted to leave her abusive partner, she feared homelessness and could not financially support her children independently. Another revealed that their spouse controlled all household finances, restricted access to bank accounts, and prevented them from pursuing employment opportunities," she adds. Somani points out that abuse also extends beyond physical violence and often includes emotional manipulation, psychological control, and financial dependency. "In many situations, the inability to access financial resources becomes one of the greatest barriers preventing victims from leaving abusive environments," she elaborates.

Trapped in a silent prison Dr Saurabh Mehrotra, Director-Neurosciences, Medanta Gurugram, adds that many continue to tolerate emotional, psychological, or even physical abuse because of concerns around financial security, social stability or fear of uncertainty. This prolonged stress can contribute to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and feelings of helplessness over time.

Dr Munia Bhattacharya, Senior Consultant, Clinical Psychology, Artemis Hospitals, agrees. Financial dependence often creates a silent psychological prison, she says. Financial independence, on the other hand, creates emotional agency, she adds. It gives people the confidence that they have options. And psychologically, Dr Bhattacharya explains that the moment a person feels they have options, they begin to reclaim their voice. "They set healthier boundaries, tolerate less disrespect, and are less likely to stay stuck in cycles of manipulation," she shares. Women empowerment Many women realise the importance of financial independence only during separation, divorce, or family disputes. (AI generated)

So does having money save you from abuse?

No, Dr Bhattacharya says this does not mean financially independent people never experience abuse. They do. But they often feel more empowered to seek help, walk away, rebuild, and heal. "Financial security reduces helplessness, and helplessness is one of the core emotions that keeps people trapped in unhealthy dynamics," she reiterates. Kolkata-based homemaker Mousumi Dasgupta got out of an abusive marriage with legal and police support. A decade ago, she reflects, working women were more compliant and tolerant in relationships. "In today's day and age, young women are a lot less tolerant of disrespect. Abuse should not be tolerated in any shape or form, but things definitely change when children come into the picture. It's not so easy to leave a marriage then," she tells indianexpress.com.

Tanvi Singh, mental health expert and founder of Leap of Foundation, highlights that for many Indian women, this conversation carries an added emotional reality. "Many grow up feeling like they move from one form of dependence to another, from their father's homes to their husband's homes, without ever fully experiencing ownership over their own lives," she says. In that context, financial independence becomes far more than income; it becomes the freedom to make choices without fear. Men, too, are deeply affected by financial expectations, says Singh. "Society often measures masculinity and self-worth through the ability to pro-

vide, leaving many men feeling inadequate, disrespected in relationships, or diminished when they struggle financially," she points out. Why financial security matters

Delhi-based lawyer Bani Kaur Allagh says one of the biggest misconceptions many women have is that marriage automatically guarantees long-term financial security. According to Allagh, many women realise the importance of financial independence only during separation, divorce, or family disputes—when they discover that emotional partnership does not necessarily translate into financial ownership. "Maintenance as a remedy is very insufficient," she cautions, adding that many women do not have independent assets in their own name—whether savings, investments, or property—which can leave them financially exposed during major life transitions.

Adding, Priti Rathi Gupta, founder of Lxme, a woman-first financial app, points out that there's a marked difference between being financially independent and secure, and it's often the key to making important life decisions. "Financial independence comes from earning money, having skills, and creating the confidence to stand on your own feet. But financial security comes from what you build over time—an emergency fund, investments, retirement savings, a child's education fund and importantly, having ownership and control over them yourself," she says. Gupta says women must actively manage their money and understand where it is invested, "so that when life demands strength, they can access and use it without fear or permission". Binitha Dalal, Founder and Managing Director, Mt K Kapital, says financial freedom is no longer about bringing home a paycheck, but true independence means understanding money, building assets, and participating in wealth creation. Dalal tells us that women have already started moving in that direction. "They are continuously breaking barriers by actively participating in conversations related to investments, real estate, or alternative assets." Become financially aware first: Understand the basics of money management, even if your income is modest. Build disciplined saving habits: Start small, but set clear long-term financial goals.

Diversify your investments: Spread your money across assets such as real estate, equities, and fixed-income instruments for more balanced wealth creation. Think long-term: Financial planning requires patience, consistency, and resisting short-term market panic. Divorce There is also an urgent need to strengthen legal awareness at the grassroots level. (AI generated)

Is the law on your side?

Ashwini Kumar, advocate and founder of My Legal Expert, believes fear of economic instability, especially where children are involved, discourages women from initiating legal action or seeking protection. While laws do provide several safeguards, including protection orders, residence rights, maintenance, child support, and relief under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Kumar says the real challenge often lies in timely implementation and accessibility. "Lengthy legal proceedings, social stigma, financial coercion by abusive spouses, and lack of immediate support can make the process extremely intimidating for survivors," he tells indianexpress.com.

According to him, there is also an urgent need to strengthen grassroots legal awareness. "Many women are unaware that they are entitled to maintenance, shared household rights, custody protections, and interim financial relief even while legal proceedings are ongoing," he shares. Beyond legal remedies, Supreme Court lawyer Sana Raees Khan, founder of SRK Legal, says society must focus on "financial education, knowledge of law, and also on available support services for women". Women empowerment Empowering people financially and emotionally is essential for long-term healing. (AI generated) Rebuilding the self Mahalakshmi K, senior health and wellness coach, says that leaving an abusive relationship is enabled by a constellation of factors, with money as a critical but not singular pillar. "Having independent income, savings, and financial literacy is not merely about access to money, but the confidence and competence to manage it independently," she explains.

Recognising and beginning to untangle the trauma bond is also essential. This often requires therapeutic support, and cannot happen through willpower alone. "The presence of trusted people—family, friends, colleagues, community organisations—who can offer shelter, solidarity, and practical help matters," says Mahalakshmi. According to her, isolation is itself a tool of control, and connection is its best antidote. Without this, financial independence is insufficient. "Many survivors return to abusers not because they lack money, but because they lack a safe roof. Practical plans for schooling, childcare, and emotional support for children during and after the transition..." she elaborates, adding that the invisible and yet most profound factor is that abusers systematically dismantle a person's sense of self. The key lies in rebuilding it, knowing that one has value independent of the relationship, which becomes foundational to a sustained departure. "It's not about ego or power, but psychological safety. It allows a person to stay in a relationship out of love and choice, not out of fear, survival, or dependency. And at the end of the day, empowering people financially and emotionally is essential for long-term healing.

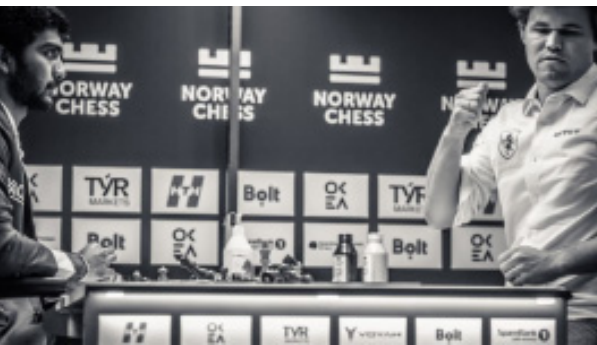
'No one asked me': Saif Ali Khan says his dad spoke less but taught a lot; expert weighs in

Speaking at the Tiger Pataudi Memorial Lecture 2026 in Kolkata, Saif Ali Khan reflected on his father, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, and described him as someone who communicated differently from those around him. Recalling his relationship with his father, Saif said, "I knew him respectfully as Abba, a man of very few words who somehow said everything to us as a family that mattered. He never raised his voice and was always there for us. He taught us to respect people at a very early age."

Saif also spoke about his father's quiet nature in social situations and how it often stood out during gatherings. "At home, he rarely spoke about achievements. He rarely spoke about anything. My mother would be exasperated at dinners and gatherings, where people who knew less than him would be giving their opinions. He would say, 'No one asked me,' but he wouldn't speak because no one had asked him. It was a very different brand of confidence," he shared. Reflecting further on his father's influence, Saif added, "He believed in belief, instilling self-belief in Indian players who had never been told they could dominate world cricket. At a time when Indian teams were expected merely to participate, he insisted they compete to win. That massive change in mindset, I think, was one of his greatest contributions." He also noted that his father may have been "slightly embarrassed" by the attention but "quietly pleased" that discussions remained centred around

cricket, ideas and the future. Families can tell the difference between personality and emotional distance. Counselling psychologist Athul Raj tells indianexpress.com, "A quiet person is not necessarily emotionally distant. Emotional withdrawal has a certain absence to it. The person checks out emotionally, avoids difficult conversations, and often makes others feel alone, even while being physically present. But some people are simply not wired to express affection verbally. They communicate through dependability, routine, and quiet presence." In many Indian families, Raj states, especially older ones, love was rarely spoken out loud. Care showed up as responsibility. Picking you up at midnight. Sitting silently beside you during a difficult time. Remembering what you need without asking. Families need to look at emotional consistency, not just words. Silence can feel rejecting, but it can also feel deeply reassuring. What separates healthy quiet confidence from social hesitation or low self-esteem? Quiet confidence comes with ease. "The person is not trying hard to impress anybody. They are comfortable listening, comfortable not being the centre of attention, and they do not collapse when someone disagrees with them. There is a steadiness to them," says Raj. Low self-esteem carries a different energy. You usually see self-doubt underneath the silence. Raj explains, "The person hesitates constantly, second-guesses themselves, apologises too much, or avoids visibility because they fear judgment. Quiet confidence is not about being silent."

'Nice it got so much attention': Gukesh revisits Carlsen's table slam one year later



GNS News Agency, June 4

Almost a year since the now-viral smash of the table by Magnus Carlsen after losing to world champion D Gukesh at the Norway Chess 2025, the Indian has said that it was a "nice thing" that the Carlsen moment got a "lot of attention." Gukesh's comments came on a day he was facing Carlsen at Norway Chess 2026 in an interview he had done with the tournament organisers before the event started. When asked about Carlsen's table slam, Gukesh said: "In most sports, it's the bare minimum the players would do. I mean players in other sports get into physical fights. But in chess, people are generally composed even though obviously there's a lot of things going on inside. We

are not taught generally not to (react). We play in these suits and it's a gentleman's game. So I guess I understand why the reaction was so viral. But I feel like everybody has this emotion inside when they are playing a game. And it's nice to see them finally expressing it." Gukesh said that the table smash from Carlsen had actually brought a lot of newer audiences to the sport. "Like many people get attracted to different sports or different sports personalities not just because of their skills but also the stories revolving around it. So it's a nice thing that it got a lot of attention. A lot of people got their eyes on chess, but I wouldn't make it a big deal," added Gukesh. When asked about the upcoming Total World Chess Championship, which is a new title introduced by FIDE and the organisers of Norway Chess, Gukesh said: "Especially for me, the classical world championship is clearly the most important. I haven't thought much about it (Total World Chess Championship) but you know it's a new format so I'll be interested to see how it does." When Gukesh was asked about the discussion on social media from fans about his world championship battle with Javokhir Sindarov, he said: "In general, I don't follow a lot of chess content that's coming out. I mean some of them might be useful, but most of it is not really something that would help me in any way. So obviously I run into some things, like just because of some people telling me things or like me hearing something from others. But I don't look for it myself."

Gavaskar on Sooryavanshi missing 100: 'Everyone apart from SRH players were sad'

GNS News Agency, June 4

Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar lavished huge praise on teen prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi after his blistering 29-ball 97 against the Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League (IPL) Eliminator, terming him 'God's gift to Indian cricket'. The 76-year-old also said the youngster needs to be picked for India's upcoming white ball tour of England.

"2026 will be remembered as Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Year. He (Sooryavanshi) is ready to play T20 International cricket. For England away T20 series, he will be selected. I mean he deserves to be selected after this brilliant show. If you don't give him chance after this performance, when will you give him chance? Don't go by his age. He is hitting those bowlers who are older than him. In fact at 15, he is hitting bowlers with 15 years of international experience. Just look at his fearless approach," Gavaskar said on the Sports Tak YouTube channel. "Yes there will be headache as to whom you should drop. But it is a happy headache to have. When your option is whom to drop, that speaks of your country's depth of talent. I think he (Sooryavanshi) will be kept in squad of 15 or 16 but whether he will be in 11 or



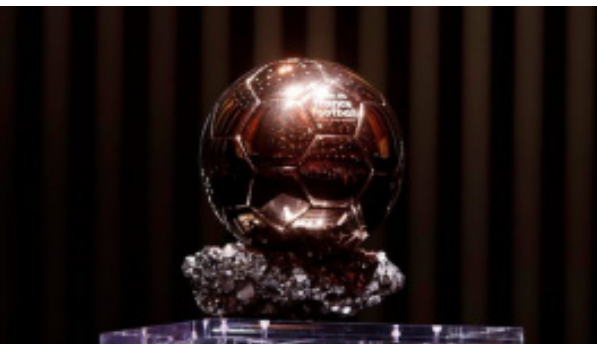
not can be decided later. But the experience he will gain in that dressing room will be priceless," Gavaskar added. He also said that someone who hits straight sixes is anything but a slogger. "What we saw yesterday, even when I take into account some of his earlier innings, was different. He is not just special, he is very, very extra-ordinarily special. When we visualize six hitters, the idea of a slogger comes to our mind. But this kid hits straight sixes — over long on and long off with technical perfectness," Gavaskar said.

Why will Ballon d'Or ceremony take place from London instead of Paris in 2026

GNS News Agency, June 4

The annual Ballon d'Or ceremony which crowns the best men's and women's players in football will create history this year when it moves out from its traditional Paris home to London in October. The venue change was due to mark the 70th anniversary of the first award won by England great Stanley Matthews, co-organizers France Football magazine and UEFA announced on Thursday. London also is the home city of England record scorer Harry Kane and the Arsenal team which won its first Premier League title in 22 years and plays for a first Champions League title on Saturday against Paris Saint-Germain. Kane scored 61 goals in 51 games of a standout season for German champion Bayern Munich. That career-best total included 14 in the Champions League, where Bayern was edged by PSG in the semifinals, plus five more for England in a World Cup qualifying group. The men's Ballon d'Or in Paris last year was won by Ousmane Dembele after PSG won its first Champions League title.

"What I have just experienced is exceptional. I have no words for it, what happened with PSG. I feel a bit of stress, it's not easy to win this trophy, and to have it presented to me by Ronaldinho, a legend of football, is exceptional," Dembele had said last year after winning the award. This year, Dembele scored 19 in 39 games for PSG



and started only 11 games in the Ligue 1 title campaign. He has seven goals in the Champions League ahead of facing Arsenal, including a key goal against Bayern, though he missed five of France's six World Cup qualifying games while injured. The winner of the past three women's Ballon d'Or awards, Aitana Bonmati, missed most of the season through injury, returning at the end of Barcelona's quadruple-winning season that has included another Champions League title last Saturday against OL Lyonnes. Ballon d'Or voters are a global panel of journalists who each pick their top 10 from a shortlist of 30 players presented by France Football, L'Equipe newspaper and UEFA.

'Wanted to vomit': Jannik Sinner knocked out of French Open 2nd Round



GNS News Agency, June 4

In one of the biggest upsets in recent time, Jannik Sinner, who experienced some physical issues during the second round match against Juan Manuel Cerundolo, was knocked out of the French Open, losing 3-6 2-6 7-5 6-1 6-1 on Thursday. "In the third set I felt dizzy and I wanted to vomit but I couldn't," the Italian was heard saying to an official, before he stepped off the court for a medical timeout. Sinner had arrived in Paris as the favourite for the title having lifted claycourt titles in Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome, with his main rival and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz ruled out with injury and Novak Djokovic searching for his best form.

But Cerundolo tore up the script in a dramatic clash where he held his nerve even as last year's runner-up Sinner crumbled while on the verge of a big win, sending shockwaves through Roland Garros. As the temperature climbed over the 30 degrees Celsius mark for the first time in the afternoon, Sinner had already breezed through the first set on the back of a solitary break, and the 24-year-old Italian looked to be in cruise mode. Cerundolo offered resistance towards the end of the second set, but the 56th-ranked Argentine was left with a mountain to climb after Sinner unleashed a huge forehand winner to double his lead

in the match for the loss of only five games. The four-times Grand Slam champion cooled off with an ice towel in the break and turned up the intensity on his unseeded opponent in the third set to go 5-1 ahead, before he began to struggle and halted play when serving at 5-4. Sinner returned five minutes later and was immediately broken for 5-5, and dropped the next two games to hand the set to his Argentine opponent, who sensed the chance to pull off a major upset. Hitting heavier to quicken the points and also serving and volleying frequently, Sinner looked desperate to avoid the exit but his troubles only increased as he began to clutch his right thigh in the fourth set, which he surrendered tamely. Quickly losing control, Sinner was broken early in the decider, as Cerundolo took full advantage to leave the Paris Grand Slam without its title favourite and Djokovic with a golden opportunity to win a standalone 25th major.

SAI supports gymnast Pranati Nayak's road to CWG, Asiad with International exposure, foreign training & national camps

New Delhi: Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak's preparation for the 2026 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games is being fuelled by the constant support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

International exposure, foreign training, national coaching camps and other sustained support to her and the gymnastics team are being forwarded by the government.

Why Shubman Gill's strong IPL 2026 has revived his India T20I hopes



In the coming days, India's selectors will sit down to chalk a new path for the T20 team. The main discussion point would be Suryakumar Yadav's form, with the likes of Rajat Patidar and Shreyas Iyer breathing down his neck after a good run in the IPL. The opening duo will be another point of discussion, with multiple options emerging and making it tough to select the best player from the lot. That discussion will also have a key question to answer: Where does Shubman Gill, India's Test and ODI captain and maker of over 600 runs in IPL 2026, stand? Having become the T20 vice-captain in August 2025, his place in the side seemed settled. Yet, inconsistent form forced the selectors to drop the axe on him for the T20 World Cup, when the squad came out in December 2025.

It was a bold and correct decision at the time. But in IPL 2026, Gill has looked a different batsman. Not many expected Gujarat Titans (GT) to make it to the Playoffs, but by being prolific with the bat, he has led from the front. Heading into the Qualifier II against Rajasthan Royals (RR) on his home ground in New Chandigarh, he has 618 runs next to him in 14 innings, with six fifties. This again isn't new. Last season, he had 650 runs that paved the way for his inclusion in India's Asia Cup squad. In 2023, he had 890 runs when GT made the final. In each of the last seven IPL seasons, the least he has tallied is 426. This season, Gill has looked different in one aspect. When he was dropped from the T20 World Cup squad, apart from his form, there was another concern. Sans quick hands were like some of his peers; the belief was that he wasn't tailor-made for the format, and he had to bat out of his skin. In IPL 2026, Gill has retained his usual consistency but added flair to his

batting and has not shied away from playing high-risk cricket. Despite GT being top-heavy and possessing a brittle middle-order, he has hit 30 sixes, six more than last season. In a lot of the matches, he has retained his batting elements, but gone are the days when his bat face used to close quickly at the point of contact. And more importantly, his strike-rate has increased to a career-best of 159.28 this IPL. He has ticked the boxes that the selectors and the team management asked him to, while leading admirably in the middle. But, will that be enough? Others vying for the same spot have bettered him. Sai Sudharsan has 652 runs. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has 680 runs. Beyond him, there is Ishan Kishan with 602 runs.

Then there are the incumbents Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson, who have been the backbone of India's T20 team. On Friday, and possibly on Sunday if GT get past RR, Gill has two innings to jump the queue and be in the reckoning. It could be even one, but small margins eventually decide who's in and who's out. Given how Indian cricket functions, if Gill ends up leading GT to their second IPL title, he may find himself in India's T20 squad. There is reason to be optimistic and accept the reality that India's requirements are totally different, like Shreyas Iyer found out last season. It is not all doom and gloom for Gill. There are talks in Indian cricket corridors that they prefer to have one captain who leads them across all three formats. Few teams in international cricket have different ODI and T20 captains today. So, with Suryakumar struggling for runs and selectors preferring to look beyond him for the next cycle, Gill could emerge as a candidate to replace him. That the next T20 World Cup is scheduled to take place Down Under means there is room to accommodate at least one player who is compact than flashy, and given his strengths as a batsman — the horizontal shots, Gill fits the bill perfectly. The era of anchors may be over, but there is still a place for batsmen with compact technique. There is still a long way to go. But having been dumped against all odds, Gill hasn't sulked or refused to adapt. Through the course of this IPL, he has shown that his T20 batting has evolved, and on Friday will come up against a phenomenon called Sooryavanshi. Comparisons will be inevitable. But this Qualifier II could well be down to competition for one spot between the two.

'Hopefully, we will try to get him out at...': GT's Parthiv Patel on Sooryavanshi

While IPL sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi missed the chance to break Chris Gayle's record of fastest IPL hundred during his 29-ball knock of 97 runs against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator at Mullanpur on Wednesday night, the Rajasthan Royals teenage batter now sits at the top of the leading run-scorers in this IPL with his tally of 680 runs in 15 matches. The 15-year-old's strike rate of 242.85 makes him the first batsman to score 600-plus runs in a tournament in T20 cricket with a strike rate of 200 or more bettering Rilee Rossouw's record strike rate of 192.28 during the 2022 T20 Blast. With Shubman Gill led Gujarat Titans facing the Royals in the Eliminator on Friday at Mullanpur, the Gujarat side would hope to end Sooryavanshi's stay at the crease early in the innings. Titans' assistant and batting coach Parthiv Patel shared how Sooryavanshi has been a phenomenal talent and how his team would target to get him out at the start.

"It felt good to see the way he is batting. Hopefully, we will try to get him out at the start and like all the other teams have planned, like that we have seen his videos and hopefully we will be able to execute our plans against him. The last time I had said that we should be talking about his age. That's something we need to put an end to. He has been a phenomenal talent the way he is playing, it's great to see. From an opposition's point of view, our point of view would be he does not get any tomorrow," shared Patel while addressing the pre-match press conference.

While Sooryavanshi leads the batting charts this season, Titans' opener Sai Sudharsan sits at the second spot in the highest run-scorer list this season. The 24-year-old has so far scored 652 runs at a strike rate of 157.86 and an average of 46.87 in 15 matches this season. When asked whether there is a temptation to ask Sudharshan to bat with a higher strike rate, Patel replied in negative and shared how the young batsman has been doing the job for the team. "No, I don't think there is any kind of temptation to tell Sai Sudharshan to do it at a higher strike rate. He has been very effective and he has been scoring at a fair strike rate also. It's not that he is scoring under 100. If someone is



scoring near 300, it does not mean that everyone has to bat at the same strike rate. But he has been very effective and giving us results. So there is no talk about telling Sai Sudharshan that you need to go higher in terms of strike rate," added Patel.

Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan has taken 19 wickets in 15 matches for the team this season at an average of 23.47. Khan sits at the sixth spot in the leading wicket-takers list this IPL with Titans' pacer Kasigo Rabada sitting at the second spot with 26 wickets in 15 matches. Khan had come into the tournament after taking a break from cricket for three months to spend time on his fitness and back rehabilitation. When asked about Khan's bowling form for the team in IPL this season, Patel shared how the Afghanistan spinner wants to bowl in difficult conditions. "Obviously, Rashid does not need any kind of introduction with the kind of bowler he has been. We know he has had a tough season because he was coming after an injury, but after that, he has been bowling consistently and has been working really hard. We know the kind of bowler he is and how hungry he is to contribute. He always wants to bowl in those difficult situations. And that's the reason why he has been bowling well. Like I said, there is no question of Rashid's skillset at all. We have full trust in him and that's the reason that he is part of the Gujarat Titans' set-up for a long time," said Patel.

Why HS Prannoy looked at the roof during his loss to Loh Kean Yew



When two smashes inexplicably went into the net as HS Prannoy led 14-11 in the decider against Loh Kean Yew, the Indian who had been playing very steady, looked up quizzically.

When two smashes inexplicably went into the net as HS Prannoy led 14-11 in the decider against Loh Kean Yew, the Indian who had been playing very steady, looked up quizzically. Not heavenwards asking for divine intervention, more like there was an invisible A/C vent above the net blasting the shuttle down. He went on to lose the match to the local Singaporean who was imploding right until that point with his errors, 18-21, 21-16, 21-15. Cruising as he was, Prannoy couldn't have explained going from 14-11 to 15-21, with 7 of those 10 points lost, dumped into the net, dipping down right before crossing the meshing, as he lost Round 2 of the Super 750, while looking very controlled till that juncture.

Prannoy tried everything as soon as those two smashes plunged into the net. He attempted a couple of high parallels, which also ended up in the net. He even cut the distance and played from closer to the net. But try as he might, the shuttle wouldn't cross to the other side. His cir-

cumspect game, as he refrained from smashing, led to more errors as Kean Yew went on a spree right up to 19-11. From there, a win was two points away, as the local interest stayed alive for yet another day. The final point saw Prannoy attempt to hit a push hard to compensate, as it flew past the backline. While the two smashes in the net could be vaguely explained away as a suddenly tiring shoulder, both the pushes and the lifts not going forth was tough to explain. At any rate, Prannoy got dragged down right when he was taking off against the attacking Kean Yew, a day after he had defeated World No 5 Jonatan Christie, and was looking good to make quarters. Lakshya Sen picked two points before Kunlavut Vitidsarn opted out of the contest, gesturing to stiffness on his lower back. He plays Koki Watanabe in quarters on Friday. PV Sindhu continues her striving towards trying to beat An Se-young, with her 9th shy at finally beating the World No 1. She was clinical against World No 19 Riko Gunji who offered no resistance, losing 21-9, 21-12 tamely. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will need to be on their toes playing Malaysian mavericks Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai, their All England conquerors. PV Sindhu took to Twitter to praise the Malaysian Tai for his funny strokes, and the duo will be the latest riddle needing solving by coach Tan Kim Her. But more crucially, Satwik and Chirag will need to keep a check on their nerves. Taiwanese Lee Je-Hyui and Yang Po-hsuan made life difficult for the Indians before they were stubbed out 21-15, 11-21, 21-18 on Thursday. Satwik remained a tad error-prone at the net, but Chirag ensured he had the troubleshooting means to race to a win from 17-17 in the decider. While Satwik is known to steady his game after a wobble like in Round 2, Chirag will have to continue his net forays and calm smashing from the back. While opponents fancy their chances in fast parallels against the duo, Satwik-Chirag have propped up some of the other aspects of their game that they deploy to break the rhythm. There's no dearth of wild strokes in their arsenal either.

Anupam Kher's love letters used to come to Kirron's house: 'Had no idea we'd get married'



"So Kirron was a friend for a long time, till a possibility happened where I was going through a breakup and she was going through a tough time with her husband. And that's how, at a certain stage, life changed." The actor added that if someone had told him in those years that he would one day marry Kirron, he would never have believed it. "But before that, all my letters, even from my girlfriend, used to come to her house. That's why I say 'kuch bhi ho sakta hai (anything can happen)'. I had no idea that one day we would fall in love and get married. And yeah, it's been 41 years now." Anupam and Kirron tied the knot in 1985 after she ended her marriage with Gautam Berry. Kirron has a son, actor Sikandar Kher, from her first marriage. What has kept their marriage strong? In an earlier conversation with Filmfare, Anupam shared what it takes to sustain a marriage for four decades, saying that mutual respect matters more than the idea of a perfect relationship. "In a marriage of 40 years, it is very difficult to be only good. There are disappointments. My parents were married for 59 years, it was not the best marriage. The best of marriage is to have mutual respect for the other person," he shared. The actor also revealed that he and Kirron have never had a conventional husband-wife dynamic. "There is no 'aap'. We are like equals. We don't have a filmy atmosphere at my house. Kirron is hilarious. Not intentionally. But, I find her hilarious." Talking about the little quirks that come with spending decades together, he added, "She is superstitious. She also imagines things going wrong. This is not as much now, but this was there initially. Now, we all have our separate rooms, because everybody has their separate habits." Despite the ups and downs, Anupam believes friendship remains the strongest pillar of their relationship. "My marriage has seen its ups and down. But what has stayed with us is an amazing amount of compassion, mutual respect, kindness and friendship. It is the most important thing." Earlier, during a conversation with journalist Shubhankar Mishra, Anupam also made a candid admission about a thought that occasionally crosses his mind. The actor said that while he shares a close bond with Sikandar Kher, he sometimes wonders what it would have been like to have a child with Kirron. "I didn't feel it that much before, but now sometimes I do feel like it. I think in the last seven-eight years. Its not like, I am not happy with Sikandar, but I think its a joy to see a child growing up. Its a joy to see bonding and this is an honest answer to you

For Anupam Kher, his relationship with Kirron Kher began long before romance entered the picture. Recalling their early years as friends, the actor revealed that he had never imagined marrying Kirron, despite the two sharing a close bond for years before eventually falling in love and tying the knot in 1985. Speaking to Times Now, the veteran actor opened up about their friendship, his first impressions of Kirron and the unexpected turn that changed their lives.

Anupam recalled meeting Kirron during their days at the Department of Indian Theatre in Chandigarh, where she was already a well-known figure among students. "Kirron was one year senior to me in the Department of Indian Theatre in Chandigarh. She was a star. She played badminton (doubles) for India with her sister, and did English plays. I never even thought something would ever happen with her. But she had the largest heart," he said. Even after moving to Mumbai, the two remained close friends. At the time, Kirron was married to businessman Gautam Berry, while Anupam was trying to establish himself in the film industry. Sharing a humorous memory from those struggling days, Anupam said, "When I came to Bombay, she was married to Gautam. Satish Kaushik and I used to go to her house, and we would tell her that we would only visit you if you would give us the return taxi fare. So we used to take the taxi fare from her and then take a bus so that we could survive the week." According to Anupam, their relationship remained a friendship for a long time before circumstances brought them closer.

Karan Johar claims 'digital detox', why he unfollowed Shah Rukh, Kareena, Alia

Karan Johar After sparking widespread speculation by unfollowing several Bollywood stars on Instagram, Karan Johar has finally addressed the chatter. Karan Johar shocked his fans and followers on Thursday when he decided to unfollow many of his friends and industry colleagues on social media. While the speculations started as soon as he unfollowed celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor and Alia Bhatt, Karan explained his stance via Instagram stories later in the night. The filmmaker clarified that the move is part of a personal "digital detox" aimed at reducing time spent on social media. Karan Johar's Instagram statement



Karan put an end to the speculation surrounding his recent Instagram activity. The director revealed that the move was simply part of a "digital detox." Karan took to his Instagram Story to explain that he was trying to cut down on the time and energy he spends on the platform. In his statement, Karan wrote, "It's a DIGITAL DETOX!!!! Am unfollowing everyone to reduce my time and energy spent on the gram!!!! This can't be national news for gods sake ??... please clickbait something else! This is irrelevant!" On Thursday, social media users noticed that Karan Johar was following only 78 accounts on Instagram despite having more than 17 million followers himself. Fans quickly pointed out that the filmmaker had unfollowed several prominent Bollywood personalities, including close friends Shah Rukh Khan, Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor and designer Manish Malhotra. Actors such as Varun Dhawan, Sidharth Malhotra, Malaika Arora and Ananya Panday were also missing from his following list. Interestingly, Johar even unfollowed Kartik Aaryan, who is set to headline his upcoming production, Naagzilla. Netizens further observed that Karan is currently not following any Bollywood actor on the platform. Among the few notable names that remain on his following list are Dharma Productions CEO Apoorva Mehta, business associate Adar Poonawalla and actor Priyanka Chopra. Karan Johar and social media

Karan Johar has long been one of Bollywood's most active celebrities on social media. From sharing candid moments with fellow star friends to his kids, Yash and Roohi, Karan keeps fans updated about both his professional and personal life. Karan's Instagram Stories, in particular, are known for playful interactions, fashion showcases, travel

diaries, and support for his close industry friends. Karan has also been at the receiving end of many negative comments on social media. During an earlier interaction with Barkha Dutta on We The Women Asia, Karan spoke about facing the worst troll in his life as he recalled a social media comment. "When they said that, 'Do you realise that you deprived your children of a mother?', and that broke my heart. That made me feel like, for the first time, I questioned my decision of being a single parent. When my kids ask me where they came from, I said to them: 'You came from Dada's heart'. A story I couldn't take very far because now they know the biology of it. But I believe very strongly that I can be more than a single parent, I can be their mother, their father, their everything," he said and added, "But that comment made me question or second-guess my decision for a beat, and after I read that comment, I had a moment where I broke down sitting in my room and I just cried." In 2022, he quit X (then Twitter) and shared that he was doing so to make space for "positive energy." He shared, "Making space for more positive energies only and this is step one towards that. Goodbye Twitter!"

Ram Charan's Peddi earns \$620K in North America advance sales; tickets prices in India shoot up

Ram Charan's most anticipated release of the year, Peddi, is days away from the release, and the team handling its North American rollout has a clear message for fans: the window is closed for premium shows, and it is time to book what is available. PrathyangiraUS, the US distributor for Peddi, put out a statement addressing the growing wait among fans for more Premium Large Format shows ahead of the June 3 premieres. The distributor did not mince words. The PLF shows currently listed are the final count, and no additional screens will be coming.

Premium shows refer to specialized movie theater auditoriums which are designed to deliver an immersive cinematic experience and feature curved screens, state-of-the-art 4K laser projection and multidimensional surround sound. Peddi's premiere dates put it in direct competition with major Hollywood releases that have already locked up most premium screens across the US. "Every release date comes with its own challenges," the statement read. "PEDDI premieres are arriving at a time when major Hollywood releases have already occupied most PLF screens across the country." Despite that, the distributor said it worked closely with exhibitors to squeeze out as many premium shows as possible by adjusting showtimes wherever there was room to do so. The ask to fans is now simple: stop holding out and book standard tickets instead. "Please don't

wait for any more PLF shows to be added and book your tickets to the standard shows that are already available," the statement said, adding that theatres will increase the number of standard shows through the weekend and into Monday depending on how demand builds. The timing of the advisory comes as the box office picture in North America is beginning to look more promising. According to trade tracker Venky Box Office, premiere advance sales have crossed \$620,000, with 22,210 tickets sold across the region. Breaking that down further, the US alone accounts for \$561,204 across 496 locations, 1,519 shows, and 19,959 tickets. The trend has posted its biggest single-day jump since opening day of sales, with six days still to go before premieres begin. Meanwhile, back in India, the Andhra Pradesh government has officially granted permission for premiere shows, with special screenings set to begin at 8 PM on June 3, one day before the official release. Premiere ticket prices have been fixed at Rs 600 including GST. From June 4, single-screen theatres will be allowed to charge an extra Rs 100, while multiplexes can add Rs 125 to their standard ticket prices. The film will also be permitted five shows per day across Andhra Pradesh. Peddi is a Telugu-language sports action drama directed by Buchi Babu Sana, starring Ram Charan alongside Janhvi Kapoor, Shiva Rajkumar, and Jagapathi Babu, with music composed by A. R. Rahman.

Delhi HC grants Naga Chaitanya interim relief in personality rights case



terms to drive traffic, as well as unauthorised merchandise listings carrying his likeness. The suit also flagged manipulated content and allegedly defamatory material related to his personal life that has been circulating online. The suit states that cease-and-desist notices and legal complaints had already been issued to several intermediaries, online platforms and service providers. However, many either failed to respond adequately or provided only partial compliance, allowing the infringing material to continue being disseminated and monetised. The actor has also sought a dynamic injunction, a mechanism that allows courts to extend protection to new infringing URLs as they emerge, without requiring fresh litigation each time. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court issued summons and indicated it would pass an interim order protecting the plaintiff's personality rights pending further proceedings. The matter has been listed for further hearing on September 30.

The Delhi High Court has stepped in to protect Telugu actor Naga Chaitanya's personality rights, issuing summons against unnamed defendants and signalling that an interim order would follow, after the court was shown the scale of misuse of his identity across digital platforms.

The suit, which was heard on Friday, alleges widespread and systematic unauthorised exploitation of Naga Chaitanya's personality rights by various entities through pornographic websites, AI-generated content, deepfake videos, defamatory material, and unauthorised commercial use of his identity. The court was specifically shown instances of websites pairing the actor's name with explicit search

The case is part of a broader wave of personality rights litigation being filed by Indian celebrities against the unchecked misuse of their identities online. Karan Johar, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and Abhishek Bachchan have previously moved the same court over similar concerns. Naga Chaitanya's father, Nagarjuna Akkineni, had also secured an interim injunction from the Delhi High Court in September 2025, with the court restraining entities from using his name, image, voice, and persona without authorisation, including through AI tools such as deepfakes and generative AI. Other Telugu stars including Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu, and Jr. NTR have similarly obtained protection for their personality rights from the court.

Passenger movie review: A predictable road trip film

Passenger movie review: The wise woman Diane (Melissa Leo) who knows all about the things that can go wrong on the road advises Maddie (Lou Llobell) seriously: "People don't take trips. Trips take people." That's just her way of saying that please avoid lonely, dark roads at night, and should you have to, never, ever stop. But by then, the road trip of Maddie and Tyler (Jacob Scipio) has put them in the path of a demonic being that is mythically known as Passenger (Joseph Lopez). Once he has latched on to you, for whatever reason, he travels with you, so to speak.



Maddie and Tyler are on the road in a van, their new home, an adventure that Tyler has been looking forward to. Maddie, who is a product of foster homes and hence constant change, is not very keen and Llobell captures her silent unease well. However, Passenger doesn't have much patience for such subtlety. So, almost everything expected of a horror film, from blood to gore to jump scares, happens in the film. Almost everything that you know will come to pass does. The most striking visual is the Passenger striking when Maddie and Tyler are cosily watching Roman Holiday projected on a screen in a quiet part of the forest -

despite all the warnings they have got. As a scared Maddie tries to make out where the demon is hiding in the dark, she holds up the projector to use its light as a torch, and Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck are suddenly all around them, on trees, trunks, branches, bushes...

Mrunal Thakur teases 'special' project announcement soon

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur, who currently awaits the release of her upcoming comedy film "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai," revealed that she is busy dubbing for 'something special' and will be making an "announcement" very soon. Mrunal on her stories section shared a video of herself in a dubbing studio and is heard saying: "All right lets go!" She wrote: "Dubbing for something very very special! Can't wait for you all to witness the magic we have created... My heart is so overwhelmed and just so grateful to universe! Announcement soon." "Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai is all set to release in June. Directed by David Dhawan, the film is about a boy who had been rejected by many women. He was in a relationship with loneliness. But then he receives help from God, and suddenly, his mind fills with many different thoughts. For those who do not know, 'Hai Jawani Toh Pyaar Hona Hai' is a hit song from David Dhawan's film "Biwi No 1", featuring Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, and Sushmita Sen. The

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai is all set to release in June. Directed by David Dhawan, the film is about a boy who had been rejected by many women.

name of the forthcoming drama is believed to have been inspired from this popular track. It marks the final film for David Dhawan, who started his journey in Hindi cinema in 1989 with "Taaqatwar". Talking about David Dhawan, he has directed 45 films such as Aankhen, Biwi No.1, Judwaa, Coolie No.1, "Hero No.1", "Deewana Mastana", Shola Aur Shabnam, Raja Babu, Bade Miyan Chote Miyan.

