

INDIAN CHRONICLE

Trump's \$100,000 H-1B Visa Fee is Unlawful, US Judge Rules

Boston: A federal judge on Monday struck down a \$100,000 fee that U.S. President Donald Trump imposed on new H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers, concluding that it constituted an unlawful tax that Congress never authorized.

U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin in Boston issued the ruling in a lawsuit filed by 20 Democratic state attorneys general challenging a fee Trump announced in September that dramatically raised the cost of obtaining H-1B visas.

Mulukalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj Presents Dashavatara Photo Frame to CM Revanth Reddy

UPPAL, JUNE 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): As part of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to Uppal Bhagayat on Sunday evening, Chilkanaagar Division Congress Party President Mulukalapalli Rajesh Mudiraj presented him with a Dashavatara photo frame as a token of respect. During the interaction, Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, In-charge of the Uppal Constituency, introduced Rajesh Mudiraj to the Chief Minister. On this occasion, CM Revanth Reddy congratulated Rajesh Mudiraj and encouraged him to continue working for the strengthening of the Congress Party. He stated that those who work sincerely for the party would be given due recognition and suitable positions in the future. The Chief Minister remarked that leaders like Rajesh Mudiraj are valuable assets to the Congress Party and assured that everyone working under the leadership of Parameshwar Reddy would be given appropriate opportunities and recognition within the party.

Vizag Steel Plant Mishap Kills 8, Injures 6

Visakhapatnam, June 8

In one of the worst industrial disasters in the state, eight workers have died and six others were seriously hurt when 150 tonnes of molten steel blew up in the ladle in Steel Melting Shop-2 of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) on Monday evening.

"A large ball of fire rose to the ceiling, and the overhead crane-2 caught fire. Eight persons died and six more were injured."

RINL is investigating the accident. A three-member external inquiry committee, led by the director-in-charge of Bokaro Steel Plant under SAIL, has been assigned to investigate the accident.

Joint chief of factories Siva Sankar Reddy told Deccan Chronicle that there was no negligence of the management with regard to safety and maintenance aspects. Eyewitnesses said the molten metal, at a temperature of around 1,500 degrees Celsius, engulfed the work area, leaving workers with little time to escape.

The bodies were shifted to steel plant general hospital and the six injured shifted to the city corporate hospital for treatment. Officials feared that the death toll could rise as some of the injured were in critical conditions.

Fire and rescue personnel rushed to the scene and launched efforts to contain the blaze and prevent further damage. The affected section was evacuated as a precautionary measure.

The dead were Ginthina Bhanu Kumar, G.V. Appa Rao, M. Krishna, K. Prabhakar, G. Kumar - all regular workers. Ramana, Trinadh and N. Appala Raju, all contract workers. The injured were R. Mallikarjuna Rao, P. Srinu, Arjuna Appa Rao, Satyanand, Pydiraju and Suribabu.

Union steel minister H.D. Kumara Swamy said the seriously injured were shifted to city hospitals by air ambulance and that he would visit the plant shortly.



INDIA Bloc to Redraw Strategy After Assembly Poll Setbacks

New Delhi, June 8

Twenty-three political parties of the opposition INDIA bloc will meet here on Monday to forge unity and rework their strategy to take on the BJP, while ironing out differences within after the defeat of regional outfits like the TMC and DMK in the recent assembly polls.

Top opposition leaders, including Congress' Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, TMC's Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Tejaswini Yadav of RJD and Uddhav Thackeray of Shiv Sena (UBT), besides Left leaders and those from smaller parties, are set to attend the meeting at 12 noon at the Constitution Club.

The meeting of top opposition leaders comes after a long time as the last time they met was during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Gandhi had in August last year hosted the opposition leaders at his residence that brought together nearly 50 leaders from over 25 opposition parties. Issues of alleged electoral manipulation, particularly the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls in Bihar, was raised at that meeting.

The INDIA bloc leadership has since then got together formally during consultations ahead of Parliament sessions, when opposition parties discussed floor coordination and issues to be jointly raised against the central government.

The DMK and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will not be part of the deliberations as they have opted out of the bloc.

The AAP has already publicly distanced itself from the bloc, while the DMK earlier announced its decision to boycott the gathering after the Congress snapped ties with it in Tamil Nadu and joined the TVK-led government.

The alliance is set to deliberate on the future course of action and will aim to put a united face to take on the Modi government on national issues in the run-up to the

The recent assembly elections have, however, also brought out differences within the opposition bloc, with the CPI-M set to raise with the Congress the charge that the Left had a political understanding with the BJP in Kerala polls.

next election cycle in states and the 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

The recent defeat of Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal has also forced the opposition bloc to come together to take on the saffron surge in the country. The TMC is likely to raise the issue of alleged attacks on its leaders in Bengal and rally support of INDIA bloc parties.

The recent assembly elections have, however, also brought out differences within the opposition bloc, with the CPI-M set to raise with the Congress the charge that the Left had a political understanding with the BJP in Kerala polls.

The Left parties lost against the Congress-led UDF in the only state they were in power. The issue is likely to be raised at the meeting.

Ahead of the INDIA bloc meeting, the BJP said the opposition alliance is "a figment of imagination" and lacks conviction on the ground.

However, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said like India, the "INDIA janbandhan" continues to stand united through its diversity.

The last official meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) was held in New Delhi on June 1, 2024, just ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

The INDIA bloc originally constituted over 25 parties.



"The tragedy occurred while employees and contract workers were on duty in the Steel Melting Station-2 section," an official release said.

The release from the steel ministry said, "At about 4.15 pm, Caster-2 of Steel Melt Shop-1 at VSP was under casting. Before the slide gate was opened to pour hot crude steel from the ladle to the tundish, which would eventually have gone to the caster, a sudden and severe explosion occurred."

Several Indian Workers Killed in Road Accident in Dubai: Officials

Dubai, June 8

Several Indian workers were killed on Monday when a minibus collided with a truck that had stopped in the middle of a road in Dubai, the authorities said.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Dubai that claimed the lives of several Indian workers," the Indian Consulate in Dubai said in a post on X.

The mission said that it is working closely with local authorities to provide all possible assistance and support.

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Brigadier Juma Salem bin Suwaidan, Director of the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police, said that preliminary investigations showed the truck had stopped suddenly in the middle of the road due to a technical fault.

"The bus driver, who allegedly failed to pay attention and keep a safe distance, then rammed into the truck from behind," he said in a statement.

Telangana Irrigation Minister sets deadlines for Palamuru projects

Hyderabad, June 8

Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy has directed officials to complete rehabilitation measures for the families displaced by the Narlapur, Yedula and Uddandapur reservoirs, part of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS).

He asked the District Collectors to expedite the land acquisition process through consensus and consent awards and ensure rehabilitation packages reached the displaced families without delay.

Chairing a high-level review meeting with top officials of the department, Uttam Kumar Reddy reviewed the decisions and



deadlines recently fixed during Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's tour in the Palamuru region.

He stated that the timelines were non-negotiable and asked them to ensure that all bottlenecks relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, power supply and contractor performance were resolved on a mission mode.

He instructed the engineers to complete the main trunk infrastructure works up to Karivena reservoir by December 2026 and to ensure immediate power connectivity to the Narlapur, Yedula and Vattam pump houses.

Uttam directed the officials to undertake canal works under the Narlapur Reservoir, emphasising that the entire project, including the canal distribution network, be completed by June 2027.

He directed the officials to pursue stud-

ies on solar power generation at reservoirs to reduce future energy costs.

Reddy directed officials to complete land acquisition proceedings for nearly 2,200 acres required for the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme by July 2026. He also asked the district administration to expedite the acquisition and rehabilitation process for around 4,200 acres already under acquisition and accelerate the execution of Phase I packages.

Further, Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to undertake repair and rehabilitation works at the pumping stations of the Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme and ensure that all motors are fully operational by March 2027.

Reviewing the Rajiv Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to complete the acquisition of the remaining 80 acres required for Stage I works by July. He also instructed them to expedite the acquisition of the remaining 167 acres needed for the Koisagar Lift Irrigation Scheme and ensure that all pending works under both projects are completed by March 2027.

With regard to the Jawahar Nettampadu Lift Irrigation Scheme, Reddy directed officials to fast-track the acquisition of 534 acres required to enhance the project's irrigation potential and bring an additional 58,000 acres of ayacut under cultivation.

He reviewed the proposals to increase the storage capacity of Gudemoddi reservoir under the project to 15 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) and directed officials to examine the feasibility of establishing solar power generation facilities on the lands available near pumping stations.

శ్రద్ధాంజలి

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మరణం: 08-06-2026

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Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Humanitarian tragedy must not be normalised

THE restoration of peace and normalcy in Manipur continues to be a Herculean task. As per details disclosed under the Right to Information Act, at least 730 internally displaced people have died in the northeastern state's relief camps since the outbreak of ethnic violence in May 2023. The high death toll is a damning indictment of the BJP-led Central and state governments. Tens of thousands of families have been uprooted by the conflict; they face an uncertain future as rehabilitation is nowhere in sight. Unfortunately, the humanitarian crisis has received scant national attention. More than 43,000 people are living in temporary shelters and relief camps, many without proper healthcare, sanitation or psychological support. The fact that camp residents are dying not only from illness but also from unnatural causes — including drowning, electrocution, substance abuse and violence — shows that the living conditions are both unsafe and sub-human.

Four months after the reinstatement of an elected government, there is no let-up in the attacks and ethnic hostility despite repeated assurances from the authorities. Three persons were killed after armed assailants attacked a village in Kangpokpi district on Friday. Six Naga civilians, who were allegedly abducted by Kuki militants on May 13, are still in captivity. Local residents continue to live in fear, while armed groups are exploiting administrative paralysis and deepening mistrust between communities.

Manipur's tragedy is far more than a collapse of law and order; it is an utter failure of governance and reconciliation. Relief camps were meant to be temporary sanctuaries, not semi-permanent settlements where displaced citizens spend years without hope of returning home.

Members of Lakshmi Pride Colony's Newly Elected Executive Committee Meet Uppal MLA



“UPPAL, JUNE 8 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Members of the newly elected executive committee of Lakshmi Pride Colony, located under Charlapalli Division, paid a courtesy visit to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy. During the meeting, the newly elected committee members introduced themselves to the MLA and discussed colony development, resolution of public issues, and implementation of welfare programs. The new executive committee was elected unanimously at a recent colony meeting. The committee comprises: “President: Shrvan Kumar Reddy” “General Secretary: K. Govardhan Reddy” “Vice President: P. Yugandhar Goud” “Joint Secretary: Linga Santosh Gupta” “Treasurer: P. Narasimha Reddy” “Executive Members: “P. Harish Reddy” “K. Malla Reddy” “D. Mallesh” “K. Ram Mohan” “P. Bharat Reddy” “R. Janga Reddy” The committee members met the MLA and briefed him on various issues and concerns faced by the colony. On the occasion, the newly elected members sought the blessings of MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and expressed their commitment to working collectively for the development of the colony. “Congratulating the newly elected committee, the MLA assured them of his continued support in addressing public grievances and developmental needs. “BRS leaders Mahesh Goud, Dappu Giri Babu, and Gampa Krishna, along with other party leaders, were also present at the meeting.

Youth Dies by Suicide in Nelakondapalli



“Khammam Nelakondapalli, January 8 Indian Chronicle: “A 24-year-old youth allegedly died by suicide in Nelakondapalli mandal. According to local sources, the incident occurred in Ajay Thanda village of the mandal. The deceased has been identified as Banoth Gopi (24). He was found hanging in his house late Sunday night. Villagers reportedly attempted CPR after discovering him, but when there was no response, he was rushed to the Government Hospital in Nelakondapalli. Doctors examined him and declared him dead on arrival. “According to a complaint lodged with the local police, Gopi was allegedly driven to take the extreme step due to harassment linked to an extramarital relationship with a married woman from the village. “Based on a complaint filed by the deceased's mother, Jayamma, police have registered a case and initiated an investigation. The body was shifted to the Government Hospital, where a post-mortem examination was conducted. “If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide, seeking immediate support from family members, mental health professionals, or emergency services can be important.

Sadhana Dental Clinic Chikkadapalli was inaugurated by Gov.Sri.Mutha Gopal and local MLA Musirabad. 200 local people and activists participated.



“Ka.John Wesley, CPI (M) Garu “Inaugurated the Dental Chair. “On this occasion, MLA Garu, Ka.John Wesley, CPM Party State Secretary, spoke about providing good medical treatment to the people from Sadhana Dental Clinic. In this program, “CPM leaders G Ramulu, Narsingha Rao, Mahender, Murthy DYFI leaders, Mannaram Nagaraju, Telangana Lok Satta Party State Presidents “Chikkadapalli people Ramesh Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Patala Venkanna, Dr. Shabana, Dr. Mohan participated.

CM Revanth Reddy Praises Former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy's Development Record



“UPPAL, JUNE 8 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Former Uppal Division Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy served two consecutive terms as corporator and secured victory both times with a massive

majority, backed by the people of the division. During her tenure, she worked tirelessly for the development and welfare of the constituency, striving to repay the trust reposed in her by the public. “Regardless of which political party was in power, she successfully secured hundreds of crores of rupees in funding and played a key role in the development of Uppal. Her efforts and achievements were closely observed by Revanth Reddy, first during his tenure as the Member of Parliament from Malkajgiri and now as the Chief Minister. “Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the new MMC Office and Uppal Area Hospital buildings held at Uppal Bhagayath on Sunday, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy praised Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy for her outstanding work as Uppal Corporator. He commended her for bringing substantial funds to the division and contributing significantly to Uppal's development. “The Chief Minister remarked that “Rajithamma has done an excellent job as Corporator of Uppal,” and congratulated her for securing major development funds and transforming the area through her dedicated efforts.

Rural Sportspeople Should Aim for Global Success: Dayakar Reddy

“Khammam Nelakondapalli, June 8 Indian Chronicle: “Tumburu Dayakar Reddy, In-charge of the Camp Office of Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, urged rural sportspeople to nurture their talent and strive to reach international standards. “He was speaking after inaugurating a sports ground established by the Chetana Foundation at Nachepalli village in Nelakondapalli mandal on Monday. Addressing the gathering, Dayakar Reddy said the government is giving high priority to the promotion of sports and implementing several initiatives to encourage sporting spirit among youth. “He appreciated voluntary organizations for taking up such initiatives and contributing to the development of sports infrastructure in rural areas. He encouraged athletes to excel in their chosen sports and bring recognition not only to their villages but also to the state and the nation. “Later, Dayakar Reddy joined local players in a game of cricket, boosting their en-



thusiasm and motivating them to pursue sports with dedication. “Among those present were Market Committee Chairman Vennapoozala Seetharamulu, Sarpanch Mounika, District Congress spokesperson Bachalakuri Nagaraju, Mandal President Kodali Govinda Rao, Bhadravayya, Nallani Mallikarjuna Rao, Maktala Ramakrishna, Vijay, Kadiyala Naresh, and several others.

Seetha Mahalakshmi's Birthday Marked with Service Activities

“Fruits Distributed to Patients at Sai Ram Gastro Hospital Under the Leadership of Ramaraju Yakan-na – Doctors and Nurses Participate“



“Khammam, June 8 Indian Chronicle: “The birthday celebrations of Mrs. Seetha Mahalakshmi, wife of former MLA Shankar Naik, were observed in a meaningful way through service activities on Monday. On this occasion,

fruits were distributed to patients undergoing treatment at Sai Ram Gastro Hospital in Khammam under the leadership of Ramaraju Yakanna. “As part of the initiative, organized with the message that social service is the best way to celebrate a birthday, fruits were distributed to patients and their health conditions were inquired about. The organizers stated that the service program was conducted as a gesture of goodwill and to convey birthday wishes while wishing the patients a speedy recovery. “Doctors, nursing staff, and hospital employees actively participated in the event and extended their support to the service activity. Those present appreciated Ramaraju Yakanna for demonstrating a humanitarian spirit by providing assistance and encouragement to the patients. “Several attendees remarked that celebrating birthdays through service-oriented activities that benefit society, rather than through extravagant festivities, is truly commendable. “Photo Caption: “Ramaraju Yakanna, along with medical staff, distributing fruits to patients at Sai Ram Gastro Hospital in Khammam on the occasion of the birthday of Mrs. Seetha Mahalakshmi, wife of former MLA Shankar Naik.

CPI Calls for Massive Participation in Collectorate Gherao on June 10

“Khammam, Bonakal, June 8 (Indian chronicle): “CPI Mandal Secretary Yangala Anand Rao has called upon people to make the proposed Collectorate Gherao on June 10 a grand success in protest against the alleged anti-people policies of the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre. “Speaking at a meeting of party leaders held on Monday at Toomu Prakash Rao Bhavan in the mandal headquarters, under the chairmanship of Assistant Secretary Jakkula Rama Rao, Anand Rao alleged that the BJP government has failed in all sectors during its 12 years in power. He claimed that the promise of creating two crore jobs annually had not been fulfilled, thereby disappointing the youth. “He further accused the Central government of favouring corporate houses by handing over public sector enterprises to large business groups and giving priority to corporate interests. He also alleged that the education sector had been weakened and that continuous hikes in the prices of essential commodities were placing an increasing burden on poor and middle-class families. “Anand Rao criticized the rise in petrol, diesel, and cooking gas prices, alleging that the government had secured votes through false promises and later increased prices at will. He claimed that the country's 140 crore people were facing hardships under the Modi administration and predicted that the BJP would face defeat in the next elections. “The CPI leader also targeted the Congress government in Telangana, alleging that it had failed to fulfill several election promises. He stated that the promised farm loan waiver of ₹2 lakh had not been



fully implemented, women had not yet received the promised ₹2,500 financial assistance, and pensions for the elderly and widows had not been increased to ₹4,000. “He further alleged that houses and house sites had not been provided to activists and journalists and that many eligible beneficiaries had not received sanction under the Indiramma Housing Scheme. He also expressed concern over the delay in the second phase of Indiramma house allotments. “Calling for the resolution of public issues, Anand Rao urged people to participate in large numbers in the Collectorate Gherao scheduled for June 10. “Among those present at the meeting were CPI District Committee Member Toomu Roshan Kumar, Mandal Committee Members Enugu Ravi Kumar and A.K.N. Pawan, AIKS Mandal President Kongara Bhaskar Rao, Chirunomula Village Convener Gumpula Jayaraju, and others.

Hindu Sammelan Held Grandly at Mallanna Basti, Mallikarjuna Nagar



“UPPAL, JUNE 8 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): A grand Hindu Sammelan was organized at Mallanna Basti in Mallikarjuna Nagar Colony, Chikanagar, under the auspices of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Hindu Sammelan Organizing Committee. “The event was conducted under the leadership of Chintapatla Brahmachari, President of the Hindu Sammelan Organizing Committee, Mallikarjuna Nagar Colony, along with Sangi Swamy Yadav, Convener of the Chikanagar Shakra Ganesh Utsav Committee, and Sabbani Satyanarayana. “Veldada Raghavendra Sharma attended as the chief guest, while Vadluri Anjaneya Raju delivered the keynote address. Speakers emphasized the importance of patriotism, devotion to God, the uniqueness of Sanatana Dharma, and the need for unity among Hindus. They called upon the Hindu community to strengthen spiritual values and work collectively for the welfare of society. “As part of the event, Bharatanatyam cultural performances were presented. The organizers expressed gratitude to the leaders, activists, and residents of Mallanna Basti, Mallikarjuna Nagar Colony, and Chikanagar for their support in making the program a success. “The event concluded with the distribution of refreshments to attendees.

Rapido Partners with MoRTH to Promote RahVeer Scheme Across India



“Hyderabad, June 08 (Indian Chronicle) : Rapido has partnered with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to create nationwide awareness about the RahVeer Scheme, according to a statement issued by Rapido Co-founder Aravind Sanka on Monday. The initiative was launched in the presence of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, senior officials of MoRTH, including the Secretary and Additional Secretaries, along with Aravind Sanka. As part of the campaign, more than 400,000 Rapido captains simultaneously took the RahVeer Pledge, setting a Guinness World Record. The RahVeer Scheme aims to encourage citizens to provide timely assistance to road accident victims during the critical 'Golden Hour' following an accident. To strengthen awareness of the scheme, Rapido will leverage its technology platform and extensive captain network across more than 400 cities. The company plans to conduct in-app educational initiatives, social media campaigns, and captain outreach programmes to promote the importance of emergency assistance and road safety.

Collector Reviews Security Arrangements at EVM Warehouse



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, June 8: District Collector K. Haritha said that stringent security measures have been put in place at the warehouse where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are stored to ensure their safety and security. “On Monday, the Collector inspected the EVM warehouse located at the district headquarters along with Additional Collector (Revenue) M. David, Election Department officials, and representatives of recognized political parties. “Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that the EVM warehouse is under 24-hour security surveillance and is being continuously monitored through CCTV cameras. She emphasized that all security protocols are being strictly followed to safeguard the stored voting machines. “The Collector also instructed the personnel deployed at the warehouse to remain vigilant and discharge their duties with utmost responsibility. “Election Department Supervisor Jameel, Naib Tahsildar Shyam Lal, representatives of recognized political parties, and other officials participated in the inspection.

Government Committed to Providing Indiramma Houses to Every Eligible Poor Family: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy



eligible poor families irrespective of political affiliations. He emphasized that the government's responsibility does not end with the sanctioning of houses; it is continuously monitoring construction progress and releasing payments every Monday based on the stage of completion. "The Minister attended the housewarming ceremonies of beneficiaries including Vannapuram Subhadra, Dasari Bhadrappa, Kota Veerareddy, Sandra Ellamma from Rajupeta village, and Gunti Durga, Gudipalli Venkata Narasamma, Divvala Ramesh, and Gudipalli Jyothi from Gattu Singaram village. He congratulated the beneficiaries and extended his best wishes to their families. "He noted that out of the houses sanctioned in Rajupeta village, four have already been completed while the remaining houses are under construction. In Gattu Singaram village, 19 Indiramma houses were sanctioned, of which 10 have been completed and housewarming ceremonies have already been conducted. "The Minister said the people's government is implementing the Indiramma Housing Scheme with the objective of providing every poor family with a dignified home. As part of this commitment, the second phase of Indiramma house allotments has also been launched.

Khammam Kusumanchi, June 8 Indian Chronicle: "State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the Telangana Government is firmly committed to ensuring that every eligible poor family receives an Indiramma house. "On Monday, the Minister, accompanied by Khammam District Collector Divakara T.S., participated in housewarming ceremonies of completed Indiramma houses in Rajupeta and Gattu Singaram villages of Kusumanchi Mandal. "Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Indiramma houses are being sanctioned to

"He reiterated that the programme will continue in a phased manner until every eligible beneficiary receives a house. Fulfilling the dream of home ownership for homeless poor families remains one of the government's key priorities, he added. "Congratulating the families who recently moved into their new homes, the Minister wished them a life of happiness, prosperity, and self-respect in their new residences. "Housing PD Srinivas, RDO Srinivas, Tahsildar Saidulu, district officials, local public representatives, beneficiaries, and villagers participated in the programme. "Issued by: District Public Relations Officer's Office, Khammam

District Administration Focuses on Quick Disposal of Public Petitions

"Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, June 8: District Collector K. Haritha stated that applications received under the Prajavani public grievance redressal programme would be examined at the field level and resolved promptly through coordinated efforts among government departments. "On Monday, the Collector, along with Additional Collectors Yuvaraj Marmat and M. David, and District Revenue Officer Dasari Venu, received petitions from citizens at the conference hall of the Integrated District Collectorate Complex in the district headquarters. "Among the petitions received, Ambilapu Kaushik Kalyan of Rebbena mandal requested sanction of a disability pension. Durgam Haktu of Kommuguda village in Sirpur (T) mandal alleged that his agricultural land had been illegally occupied after being leased out and sought its restoration. "Kavita Mandal of Nazrul Nagar in Kagaznagar mandal submitted a representation seeking the release of insurance benefits, stating that her husband had paid LIC insurance premiums before his demise. Desaboyina Naveen of Gundi village in Asifabad mandal requested that his Aasara pension be credited through a bank account. "Perugu Kamalabai of Ankushapur village in Kagaznagar mandal alleged that houses were being constructed illegally on her land and sought appropriate action. Gande Shankarayya of Karjelli village in



Chintalamanepalli mandal stated that his Aasara pension had not been received for the last two months and requested its restoration. "Dongri Sandhya of Tungeda village in Rebbena mandal appealed for a disability pension for her son, while Mallesh of Rebbena village in Bejjur mandal sought employment assistance. "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector instructed officials to thoroughly verify every petition received under the Prajavani programme and ensure their prompt resolution through effective inter-departmental coordination. "Officials of various departments and petitioners were present during the programme.

Former Corporator Golla Chandrakala Venkateswarlu Felicitated for Transforming 25th Division into a Model Ward

"Khammam, June 08 (Indian chronicle): "Former Corporator Golla Chandrakala Venkateswarlu was felicitated by residents of the 25th Division in recognition of her dedicated service and significant contribution to the development of the division over the years. "Residents praised her for treating every household's problem as her own and for extending support during both happy and difficult times. Her services during the COVID-19 pandemic were particularly appreciated and remembered by the people of the division. "She was recognized for her efforts in addressing key civic issues such as road widening, drainage improvements, establishment of a Basti Dawakhana, distribution of books in the local library, park development, and overall progress of the division. She also played a crucial role in helping senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and single women obtain pensions, while supporting children's education and healthcare needs. Her contribution in facilitating Double Bedroom housing and Indiramma Housing Scheme benefits for eligible residents was also highlighted. "Speaking on the occasion, Golla Chandrakala Venkateswarlu said that she always worked with the support and cooperation of people from all sections of society. She stated that she stood by poor and middle-class families, considered their problems as her own, and remained accessible to them at all times, irrespective of caste or religion. "The people of the division are my strength, guidance, and inspiration. If I have knowingly or unknowingly hurt anyone's feelings dur-



ing my tenure, I seek their forgiveness. I will always remain a member of your family," she said. "She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the residents, leaders, and party workers who supported her throughout her public service journey and gave her the opportunity to serve the community. "Among those who attended the felicitation program were Advocate Vanjaku Lakshminarayana, businessmen Sunkara Chiranjeevi and Sudhir, teacher Ravirala Venkat, retired employee Narapu Satyanarayana, Nagishetty Rajesh, Mullapatti Venkateswarlu, and several others.

Amma Nanna Gnana Mandiram Foundation Summer Training Camp Concludes

* Prizes Distributed to Students** Parents Honored Through Pada Puja Ceremony** UPPAL, JUNE 8 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): The month-long Summer Training Camp organized by the Amma Nanna Gnana Mandiram Foundation at the Vamsaraj Welfare Association Hall in Ramanthapur concluded on Sunday. "Under the leadership of Foundation Founder Mannemma Vamsaraj and Chairman Irugajeeva Tirupatayya Vamsaraj, students received training in Karate, Spoken English, Yoga, and other skill-development activities during the camp. "On the occasion of the camp's conclusion, prizes were distributed to students who demonstrated outstanding performance. A Pada Puja (ceremonial honoring of parents) was also conducted to emphasize family values and foster respect and gratitude toward parents. "Speaking as the chief guest, senior journalist Pasham Yadagiri praised the foundation for organizing free training programs and distributing educational materials to underprivileged students. He stated that the social service initiatives undertaken by Irugajeeva Tirupatayya serve as an inspiration to society. "Later, a Pada Puja ceremony was conducted under the guidance of



Acharya Ramesh. "Among those who attended the event were Giribabu, Murali Goud, Chitkela Krishnaiah, Rasani Balaswamy, Payasam Gopal, Chinna Krishna, Venkataiah, Chandu, Chitkela Ramakrishna, G. Veeraswamy, Mallesh, Suresh, Balu, Narasimha, and several others.

Interlink Power Network Ensures Uninterrupted Electricity Supply: SE Uttam Jade



"Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, June 8: Providing consumers with quality and uninterrupted power supply without any inconvenience remains the primary objective of the Electricity Department, said Uttam Jade, Superintendent Engineer (SE), Asifabad Circle. He stated that an advanced Interlink Line System has been established to ensure continuous electricity supply even during power disruptions caused by technical faults, natural calamities, heavy rains, storms, floods, emergency maintenance works, or

other unforeseen circumstances. "Explaining the concept, the Superintendent Engineer said that under normal circumstances, a fault in a power line results in an interruption of electricity supply to consumers within that service area. However, through the Interlink Line System, one 33/11 KV substation is connected to another 33/11 KV substation, while certain 33/11 KV substations are also linked to nearby 132/33 KV substations. Similarly, interconnections have been established between different 33 KV power lines. "As a result, whenever power supply is disrupted along one route, electricity can be immediately restored through an alternative route, significantly reducing outages and ensuring uninterrupted service even during emergencies. "The SE further informed that interlinking arrangements have already been established between multiple 33 KV lines and that work on five additional interlinking lines is currently in progress. These initiatives are expected to enhance the stability and reliability of the power distribution network. "He noted that the system not only minimizes interruptions to consumers but also enables maintenance and repair works to be carried out efficiently by diverting power through alternate routes whenever required. "Uttam Jade added that a phased action plan has been prepared to expand the Interlink Line System to the remaining areas of the district. He reiterated that the Electricity Department is continuously striving to provide consumers with reliable, high-quality, and uninterrupted power supply.

Books to Be Distributed on School Reopening Day

Student Enrollment Drive to Be Intensified During Badi Bata Campaign "Khammam, Nelakondapalli June 08 (Indian chronicle): "District Education Officer (CMO) Bajaju Praveen Kumar stated that the recruitment of teachers and ayahs for newly sanctioned pre-primary schools will be conducted in a transparent manner. "He was speaking at a meeting of government school headmasters held at the mandal headquarters on Monday. Addressing the gathering, he said that while the district previously had only 30 pre-primary schools, an additional 114 pre-primary schools have now been sanctioned. "Applications are being invited to fill Instructor and Ayah posts in these schools. The selection process will be carried out under the supervision of the District Collector by a three-member committee comprising the Tahsildar, MPDO, and MEO of the respective mandals. He emphasized that there is no scope for recommendations or influence in the recruitment process and that selections will be made strictly on the basis of merit and eligibility. "The selected candidates will assume their duties on the very first day of the new academic year. "Praveen Kumar further informed that the district requires around 4.5 lakh textbooks, all of which have already been supplied to schools. In addition, approximately 4.60 lakh notebooks have also been distributed. Necessary arrangements have been made to ensure that students receive their textbooks on the reopening day itself. "He urged officials and school



staff to focus on increasing student enrollment during the Badi Bata enrollment drive, which will continue until June 19. "To identify and address issues in schools, special teams have been formed at the mandal level. These teams will inspect schools across the district and submit their reports by June 10. He also encouraged parents and students to make the best use of government education facilities. "Among those present at the meeting were Nelakondapalli MPDO M. Yarraiah, Mandal Education Officer B. Chalapathi Rao, complex headmasters, and headmasters of various schools in the mandal.

CM Revanth Reddy Appreciates Special Photograph "Parameshwar Reddy Explains the Significance of Three Generations

"UPPAL, JUNE 8 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): A powerful photograph can touch hearts and inspire reflection. Such a moment unfolded on Sunday evening during Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's public meeting at Uppal Bhagayath. "Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge Parameshwar Reddy Mandumula and former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Mandumula presented a special photograph titled "Three Generations" to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. "Parameshwar Reddy explained the significance and message behind the "Three Generations" photograph to the Chief Minister. Impressed by its concept and emotional value, Revanth Reddy gladly accepted the photograph in front of the gathering and appreciated the thoughtful gesture. "The presentation of the photograph became a memorable highlight of the event, drawing attention from attendees and reflecting the emotional connection represented by the image."



Advocate Protection Act Implementation Hailed as Historic



Congress Legal Cell Celebrates at Khammam Court "Khammam, June 8: (Indian chronicle): "Members of the Congress Legal Cell celebrated the implementation of the Advocate Protection Act by distributing sweets at the Khammam District Court premises on Monday. They expressed gratitude to the Telangana government for enacting and implementing the legislation, which is considered crucial for ensuring the safety and professional dignity of advocates. "Several lawyers stated that the long-awaited law would contribute significantly to strengthening the justice system and safeguarding members of the legal fraternity. "Speaking as the chief guest at the event, Edlapalli Ramesh, President of the Khammam Bar Association, said that a special law had long been needed to curb the increasing incidents of attacks and intimidation against advocates. He praised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for recognizing this need and taking steps toward implementing the Advocate Protection Act. He noted that the legislation would not only provide security to lawyers but also enhance the dignity and status of the legal profession. "Addressing the gathering, several Congress Legal Cell advocates emphasized that lawyers play a vital role in ensuring justice for the public. They described the implementation of a dedicated law for the protection of advocates as a historic decision and extended special thanks to the Telangana government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on behalf of advocates across the state. "Among those who participated in the pro-

gram were Singam Janardhan, along with advocates Karlapudi Srinivasa Rao, Battula Basava Punnaiah, Malidu Nageswara Rao, Ravuri Narasimha Rao, AGP Ratnakar, Hemanth, KLN Sastry, Moses Christopher, Immadi Lakshminarayana, SV Ramana, S.K. Latheef, Seshagiri, Maddela Venkateswarlu, Chandrasekhar Gupta, Guru Krishna, Koti, Danayya, Shekhar, Donvan Venkayya, Narasimha Rao, Rakesh, and women advocates Jalavathi, Avula Anuradha, Padmavathi, and Devarakonda Kalyani, among others.

SSI services commendable

"Khammam, Nelakondapalli June 08 (Indian chronicle): "India Bishop Ramesh Balan appreciated the services rendered by Spirit Quest International (SQI). A distribution program of new clothes and bags was conducted under the leadership of Pastor Bishop Y. Satish Reddy at the "Dahinchu Agni Krupa Prayer Mandiram" in Kothakothuru village of the mandal. "Speaking on the occasion, he said that SQI works for the welfare of pastors. He stated that the main objective of the organization is to identify pastors serving in remote villages and provide them with appropriate encouragement and support. He also mentioned that the organization plans to provide social and health security for pastors working under it in the near future. He appreciated the services being carried out by the organization across the state. "The program was attended by Bishop J. J. Samuelson, Zonal Bishop Satish Reddy, G. Prakasham, J. Samuel, Joys L. Raj, Y. Lalitha, Eleazar, John Wesley, Moses, Prashanth, James, and others.



Village development works should be executed with high quality for the benefit of future generations:



ditional District Collector (Local Bodies) Dr. P. Sreeja, laid the foundation stone for CC road and drainage development works worth ₹97 lakh in V.V. Palem village of Raghunathapalem mandal, funded by SUDA. Later, he inaugurated a veterinary hospital building constructed at a cost of ₹30 lakh. "Speaking on the occasion, Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao said that he has a long-standing association with V.V. Palem village. He recalled that he first visited the village in 1982 along with the late N.T. Rama Rao (NTR). He noted that lift irrigation works were taken up during the NTR government and that efforts were made for the development of the village under successive governments. "The Minister advised that villages should be kept as clean as one keeps one's own home surroundings. He stated that funds would be sanctioned for the development of the district veterinary hospital. He also said that the RDO has been instructed to conduct a comprehensive survey of government lands and suggested identifying land to provide housing sites to the poorest of the poor." Additional District Collector Dr. P. Sreeja said that the construction of a sub-centre level veterinary hospital building in V.V. Palem reflects the importance of the region. She stressed the need for farmers to focus on alternative crops to paddy. She added that livestock provides financial stability to farmers and that the newly constructed facility will help deliver better veterinary services. "She further noted that the district veterinary hospital has a good reputation across five to six surrounding districts, but proposals are required for certain repairs. She emphasized efficient land use for infrastructure development in villages and suggested utilizing unused government buildings or renovating them so that school activities are not disrupted. "The event was attended by SUDA Chairman Puvvala Durgaprasad, State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, Library Chairman Khadar Baba, Khammam Market Committee Chairman Hanumantha Rao, Panchayat Raj SE Venkata Reddy, Animal Husbandry Department Officer Dr. B. Purandhar, Agriculture Officer D. Pullaiah, Horticulture Officer Madhusudan, Tahsildar Shwetha, Sarpanch Kapa Adinarayana, Vice Sarpanch Gugulothu Praveen Nayak, ATMA Chairman, public representatives, and concerned officials. "Issued by: District Public Relations Office, Khammam

State Agriculture, Marketing and Handloom & Textiles Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao "Foundation laid for CC roads and drainage works worth ₹97 lakh using SUDA funds" Inauguration of veterinary hospital building constructed at a cost of ₹30 lakh "Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao visits V.V. Palem in Raghunathapalem mandal" Khammam, Raghunathapalem, June 8 (Indian chronicle): "State Agriculture, Marketing and Handloom & Textiles Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao stated that development works undertaken in villages should be implemented with the highest quality standards for the benefit of future generations. "On Monday, the Minister, along with Ad-

Every Legitimate Grievance Received Through Praja Darbar Will Be Resolved: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

Praja Darbar Successfully Conducted in 14 Clusters of Palair Constituency" Another 2,000 Indiramma Houses to Be Sanctioned for Every Assembly Constituency in the Second Phase "Minister Participates in Praja Darbar Held in Edulapuram Municipality" Khammam, Edulapuram, June 08 (Indian chronicle): "State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that the primary objective of the Praja Darbar programme is to directly understand people's problems and ensure their speedy resolution. "The Minister, along with District Collector Divakara T.S., participated in the Praja Darbar organized on Monday under the "Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika - 99 Days Programme" in the Edulapuram constituency limits. "Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponguleti said that 14 clusters had been formed in the Palair Assembly Constituency for conducting Praja Darbar programmes. Of these, 13 clusters had already completed the programme successfully, and the event being held in Edulapuram for the 15 municipal divisions marked the final Praja Darbar in the constituency. He stated that more than 3,500 applications were expected to be received on the day and assured that he would personally remain at the venue until the last application was accepted. "The Minister said that despite the state's challenging financial situation, the government was giving equal priority to development and welfare programmes. He added that the government was systematically implementing the promises made to the people. "He highlighted several welfare initiatives being implemented successfully, including free bus travel for women, distribution of fine rice through ration cards, free electricity up to 200 units for poor households, and issuance of new ration cards. "Ponguleti stated that the government aims to make one crore women financially prosperous and has so far provided interest-free loans worth ₹66,000 crore to women's self-help groups. He said special measures were being taken to strengthen women's economic self-reliance. "Speaking about the Indiramma Housing Scheme, the Minister said the programme was launched to fulfill the dream of home ownership for poor families. In the first phase, 450,000 Indiramma houses were sanctioned, and funds were being directly credited to beneficiaries' bank accounts every Monday based on construction progress. "He announced that the government had decided to sanction an additional 2,000 Indiramma houses for every Assembly constituency in the second phase. The programme would continue in the third and fourth phases as well. He assured that every eligible poor family, irrespective of caste, religion, or political affiliation, would receive an Indiramma house. "The Minister revealed that a total of 21,536 applications had been received through Praja Darbar programmes so far. Of these, 9,731 applications were related to Indiramma houses, around 4,700 for pensions, 4,000



for land-related issues, and about 900 for the Gruhajyothi scheme. He said the large number of applications reflected the growing trust of people in the government. "He further stated that Aasara pensions would be sanctioned in the coming days and that special measures were being initiated by the Revenue Department to resolve land-related issues in the Palair constituency within the next month. "The Minister said clear instructions had been issued to officials to thoroughly examine and resolve every application received during the Praja Darbar programme. "District Collector Divakara T.S. said that nearly 5,000 people had attended the Praja Darbar in Edulapuram Municipality to submit applications, reflecting their confidence in the government. He added that applications received during the previous 13 Praja Darbar programmes were being verified at the field level and necessary steps were being taken to resolve the issues. "Beneficiaries of various welfare schemes, including Nagamani and Roja, expressed happiness that their long-cherished dream of owning a house had come true through the Indiramma Housing Scheme. They also said that free electricity up to 200 units had reduced their financial burden. "Among those present at the programme were Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy, DFO Anuj Agrawal, Edulapuram Municipal Chairperson Anitha, Vice-Chairman Naveen, Municipal Commissioner Srinivasa Reddy, Maddulapalli Market Committee Chairman Harinath Babu, district officials, public representatives, villagers, and members of the public. "Issued by: District Public Relations Officer's Office, Khammam.

Bhrungy International School Inaugurated Grandly in Zaheerabad

Aim is to Provide International Standard Education.. "MP Suresh Kumar Shetkar...



ZAHEERABAD JUNE 08 (Indian Chronicle) "A new milestone in the field of education was marked in Zaheerabad town of Sangareddy district with the grand inauguration of Bhrungy International School. Established with the vision of providing quality education with international standards and modern infrastructure, the school was formally inaugurated on Monday. "Zaheerabad Member of Parliament Suresh Kumar Shetkar attended the event as



the chief guest and inaugurated the institution by cutting the ribbon along with Bhrungy Educational Institutions Chairman, former Minister and Zaheerabad Congress Party In-charge Dr. A. Chandrasekhar, and Correspondent & Secretary Mrs. A. Pramila. "The inauguration ceremony featured vibrant cultural performances by students, which received appreciation from the guests and attendees. The dignitaries later inspected the school's state-of-th

'Only After Sheenanna Came Did Decades of Development Become Possible'



"Khammam, June 8 Indian Chronicle: "A major political development took place in Khammam Rural Mandal on Monday as around 50 families from various political parties, including BRS and CPI(M), joined the Congress party. The new members stated that they were inspired by the welfare initiatives of the Congress government and the development-oriented leadership of Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. "Speaking on the occasion, the newly joined members said that their village, Ponnekal, had witnessed significant development only after Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy assumed leadership. They highlighted the allocation of Indiramma houses to eligible beneficiaries and the establishment of the prestigious Young India Integrated Residential School in Ponnekal as clear examples of the special attention being given to the

region. "The induction program was held at the Minister's camp office, where Camp Office In-Charge Tumburu Dayakar Reddy welcomed the new entrants by draping them with Congress party scarves. The joining ceremony was organized under the leadership of the Ponnekal village Congress unit. "Families That Joined Congress" Among those who joined the Congress party were the families of Rayala Saidulu, Marapongu Naresh, Siripalli Lakshmaiah, Garlapati Upender, and Varagani Upender, along with several others, totaling nearly 50 families. "The new members stated that they believe the long-standing developmental backwardness of their area can be overcome through the initiatives of Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and that they joined Congress with the aim of contributing to the development of their village. "Leaders Present"

The event was attended by Khammam Rural Mandal Congress President Thota Veerabhadram, Kallam Venkat Reddy, Maddi Malla Reddy, Maddi Veera Reddy, Muthyam Chinni Krishna Rao, Khammam Rural Mandal Youth Congress President Koti Ramana, Ponnekal Village Congress President Vanguri Ravi, Linga Srinivas, Guniganti Ramesh, Tellapudi Srinivas, Varagani Srinivas, Kota Venkateswarlu, Ponnekanti Upender, Peddapongu Upender, Moru Ramesh, Murakonda Venkateswarlu, Varagani Nageswara Rao, Boddu Hanumanthi, Kotha Guravaiah, and several other party leaders and supporters.

Sewage Water Inundates Dalit Farmers' Patta Lands; Representation Submitted to Additional Collector

"KEESARA, JUNE 8 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Dalit (SC-Madiga) farmers owning patta lands in Survey No. 248 of Keesara Dayara village submitted a representation to the District Collector seeking immediate intervention over the damage being caused to their agricultural fields. The farmers alleged that an illegal layout developed on the land of Chidam Kunta in Survey No. 249 has disrupted the natural drainage system, resulting in sewage and stagnant water flowing into their farmlands. They stated that water which should have been retained within the tank area is now entering their cultivated lands, causing severe hardship. According to the farmers, the issue has persisted for the past three years, leading to repeated crop losses and making cultivation increasingly difficult due to continuous waterlogging. They said their livelihoods have been seriously affected as a result. The farmers urged the District Collector to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged illegal layout on Chidam Kunta land, take immediate measures to prevent sewage water from entering their patta lands, and pro-



vide adequate compensation for the crop losses they have suffered. A petition highlighting these concerns was received by Additional Collector Vijender Reddy for further action.

Farmers should move towards alternative crops and organic farming

District Collector Diwakar T.S. "Special focus needed on waste management and cleanliness in villages" Public should dispel misconceptions and cooperate with SIR programme "SIR aims to ensure voting rights for every eligible citizen" District Collector Diwakar T.S. participated in the Gram Sabha at Iswarmedaram village, Kusumanchi mandal, Kusumanchi constituency"

"Khammam, Kusumanchi, June 08 (Indian chronicle): "District Collector Diwakar T.S. advised that everyone must maintain cleanliness in their surroundings, remain alert to seasonal diseases during the monsoon, and contribute to environmental balance by planting trees and constructing soak pits. "On Monday, as part of the "Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika" (Public Governance Development Plan), a special Gram Sabha was conducted at the Government High School premises in Iswarmedaram village of Kusumanchi mandal, Paleru constituency. The District Collector attended as the chief guest and held an interactive meeting with the public. He provided detailed information about the SIR programme and clarified doubts raised by the people. "Mandal-level officials discussed and created awareness on various issues including road safety, construction of soak pits during the monsoon season, promotion of alternative crops alongside paddy cultivation, reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and encouraging nano urea, cleanliness, solid waste management, Vanamahotsavam, water conservation, SIR mapping, and school infrastructure facilities. "On this occasion, District Collector Diwakar T.S. stated that villagers should have complete awareness about the SIR programme. He explained that BLOs (Booth Level Officers) will enroll new voters, remove names of those who have shifted to other villages or are deceased, and update records accordingly. "He said that from the 25th of this month, BLOs will visit households and distribute forms. Residents are advised to fill in complete details and attach any one of the 11 government-recognized identification documents while submitting them back to the BLOs. He added that new voter lists will be published at Gram Panchayat offices at the ERO level, and any objections can be reported to the authorities. "He also mentioned that voter data from the year 2002 will be linked. The SIR process is currently ongoing, and pending SIR mapping should be completed immediately, he instructed officials. "Regarding solid waste management, he stated that wet and dry waste should be segregated along with sanitary and medical waste collection. He emphasized that Gram Sarpanchs and Secretaries should create full awareness among the public about waste collection and encourage proper household waste storage. "He further directed that soak pits should be constructed under the MGNREGA



scheme and drainage channels should be cleaned daily. "He cautioned officials to remain alert during the upcoming monsoon season and take preventive measures against seasonal diseases such as fever, dengue, and malaria. He stressed the importance of protecting the environment for future generations. "For the upcoming Kharif season, he said that necessary steps have been taken to avoid fertilizer shortages and encouraged the use of nano urea. "Promoting crop diversification, he advised farmers to focus on alternative crops such as oil palm, vegetables, and fruit orchards based on weather department forecasts. "Considering low rainfall conditions, he stated that farmers with borewell facilities may take up short-duration paddy cultivation. He also urged farmers to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and give priority to organic farming. "The programme was attended by RDO Srinivas, Mandal Special Officer Sunil Reddy, Kusumanchi Tahsildar Saidulu, officials of various departments, public representatives, farmers, and villagers. "Issued by: District Public Relations Office, Khammam

BRS Councillors Urge Restoration of Bullet Train Alignment Through Zaheerabad

"Do Not Deprive Zaheerabad of Bullet Train Connectivity... "Alignment Change Must Be Withdrawn"...

"ZAHEERABAD JUNE 08 (Indian Chronicle) "BRS councillors of Zaheerabad have urged the authorities to reconsider the proposed changes in the Hyderabad-Mumbai Bullet Train project and restore the original alignment through Zaheerabad. They submitted a memorandum to Zaheerabad MP Suresh Kumar Shetkar during the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika programme held at SV Function Hall on Sunday. "Speaking on the occasion, Councillor Nama Sravanthi Ravikiran stated that Zaheerabad has emerged as one of the fastest-growing industrial hubs in Telangana. Several national and international industries are already operating in the region, and the proposed expansion of the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) over more than 12,000 acres is expected to attract massive investments and generate large-scale employment opportunities."



As Punjab heads for 2027 polls, digital news platforms multiply across the state



GNS News Agency, June 8

As Punjab gears up for the 2027 Assembly elections, a digital media boom is radically reshaping the state's news landscape. A growing number of journalists, former newsroom professionals and political commentators are launching independent YouTube channels and news websites. Driven by a desire for editorial autonomy, wider reach and new revenue streams, this rapid expansion is transforming how political information is produced and consumed. However, it is also raising critical questions about credibility, influence and the increasingly blurred boundaries between journalism, political messaging and social media content.

The shift is already gaining institutional recognition. According to officials, the Punjab government's Department of Public Relations has empanelled more than 100 websites and YouTube channels, making them eligible to receive government advertisements. A veteran political observer attributed this digital rush to tightening government control over sections of the mainstream media, the demanding nature of traditional vernacular journalism and the financial rewards promised by platforms such as YouTube. Harpreet Kahlon, founder of Adbi Baithak, said the traditional firewall between journalism and business has largely collapsed. "With the spread of social media, the distinction between journalist, influencer and content creator has become blurred, while the boundaries between government public relations and news media are also disappearing," Kahlon said. This media shift coincides with aggressive state efforts to leverage social media. In October 2023, Punjab became the second state after Rajasthan to launch an Influencer Empowerment Policy. Under the framework, creators are paid to promote tourism, culture and governance on YouTube and Instagram, with remuneration reaching up to Rs 3 lakh for standard tiers and Rs 8 lakh for Category A influencers with more than one million followers. The state's emphasis on these non-traditional voices was evident during the Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit 2026, held from March 13 to 15 at Plaksha University in Mohali. The state government, Invest Punjab and the Department of Information and Public Relations set up a dedicated enclave for social media influencers and content creators. For many journalists, however, independent digital ventures represent an escape route offering both editorial freedom and financial opportunity. "Anybody who understands YouTube and its monetisation has flirted with the option," said Vikram Singh, who runs the YouTube channel Bold Punjab. "Governments are controlling the media, which becomes frustrating for ethical journalists. Journalism is no longer what it used to be. They have found a better option. It not only provides greater independence but also better earnings, and allows one to be one's own boss." Nearly a year ago, Vikram left a vernacular television channel to launch his own platform. "The investment was not much," he said. "I set up an office and started off, armed with the experience of working with a channel. Now, I have a team of 10 people. It is all about content and contacts." His channel has since garnered 1.8 lakh subscribers. Vikram said the farm agitation catalysed

the emergence of many such YouTube channels, helping several journalists earn substantial revenues. "Now, it is an election year. There is huge space," he added.

Other journalists echo the view that constraints in mainstream media had become increasingly difficult to accept. Ravi Sangrahur of the Suneha channel, who worked in mainstream Punjabi journalism from 2018 before resigning from his last network on December 31, 2025, said compromises had become routine. "Many times, hard work would have to be shelved because it could damage a particular person or political party," Sangrahur said. From mainstream media to digital-first ventures The environment has prompted a wave of senior journalists to launch independent digital publications. In December 2025, Pankaj Kapahi, former Political Editor at Living India News who also worked with Zee Media and News18, launched Punjab First Voice with a high-profile interview of former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, promising "accurate, fast and fearless journalism". A few months later, in March 2026, Chandigarh-based BBC journalist Arvind Chhabra launched North Desk, positioning it as an independent digital publication catering to both regional and diaspora audiences. Meanwhile, Kahlon established Adbi Baithak with the stated aim of ensuring that "questions are asked impartially and conversations are recorded not as theatrical sparring but as serious documentation".

Beyond editorial freedom, the digital boom is also altering the economics of the industry, drawing talent away from traditional media organisations with the promise of better work-life balance and higher earnings. Vijay Brar, who recently moved from a television channel to a YouTube platform, said television jobs often demand gruelling hours with limited financial rewards. "I was working for a TV channel. It was a thankless job. At 50, after working 12 to 16 hours a day, we do not earn even Rs 2 lakh a month," Brar said. "I started this channel two or three months ago and I am already breaking even. The hours I spend working are much less." When news breaks online first as a result, the way news breaks in Punjab is also changing. Increasingly, major scoops surface on YouTube channels or niche websites before filtering into mainstream media. A recent example involved reports of an FIR against AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak. The news first appeared on a digital platform and spread rapidly through social media and television debates before a copy of the FIR entered the public domain and eventually reached the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Yet, this rapid, algorithm-driven growth has sparked concerns about journalistic credibility and standards. Kahlon pointed out that political access is increasingly dictated by social media metrics rather than journalistic merit. "Many political leaders and celebrities, before giving interviews, look at a journalist's social media following rather than the seriousness of their questions or the quality of their work. This is a big challenge of this era, where the standards of journalism are often crushed by the game of numbers," he said.

Others note that the growing public preference for short-form, reel-based content means deep-dive investigative reporting often struggles to compete for attention. Nevertheless, some digital pioneers remain optimistic that independent journalism can be both ethical and profitable. Hamir Singh, who launched Pulaangh TV last year, said digital media need not compromise its values to survive. We practise ethical journalism. We do not get personal. We call a spade a spade," Hamir Singh said. "There is no government pressure because we do not depend on anyone for revenue. After a year, I can assure you that one can earn handsomely and hire a team as well. Practising ethical journalism is the need of the hour, even more so in the era of digital journalism."

upstairs and reportedly saw her father physically assault her mother. Her brother, Prashant, also rushed to the third floor and attempted to intervene. "Enraged by the mediation attempt, Tanwar allegedly took out his licensed revolver and opened fire at his wife and son," Gurgaon Police spokesperson, ASI Sandeep Kumar, said. The complainant stated that she and her sister-in-law tried to intervene but fled downstairs out of fear when Tanwar continued firing. After he left the floor, they returned to find Rani and Prashant with multiple gunshot wounds. They were rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared them dead on arrival. Police officers said the family had a history of ongoing domestic disputes. Forensic and fingerprint teams were called to the spot to collect evidence. "The police team has recovered the licenced revolver used in the crime along with 14 empty cartridges from the scene. It appears that the son was hit by 5-6 bullets across the body, while the wife with 3-4. The autopsy report is awaited," Sector 5 police station house officer Inspector Satyawan told

Argument turns violent, 14 shots fired: Gurgaon security officer kills wife and son

GNS News Agency, June 8

A 56-year-old security officer was arrested for allegedly shooting dead his wife and son with his licensed revolver following an altercation at their residence in Gurgaon's Ashok Vihar Phase 3, police said Monday. According to the police, the incident took place around 11 pm on Saturday. The accused, Anil Tanwar, was arrested on Sunday and sent to two-day police remand by a Gurgaon court. The victims have been identified as Asha Rani (52), who ran a private school in Carterpuri and served as its principal, and her son Prashant (27), who assisted her in managing the institute.

"An FIR was registered at the Sector 5 police station based on a complaint filed by Tanwar's daughter, who was visiting her parental home. In her complaint, she stated that her parents had gone to the third floor of the house to sleep, while she, her brother, and her sister-in-law were on the first floor. Hearing her parents argue, the complainant went

BJP rules out another Rajya Sabha term for HD Deve Gowda, picks M Nagaraja

JD(S), BJP, HD Deve Gowda, Rajya Sabha elections. Despite expectations in the JD(S) that its coalition partner in the state would back HD Deve Gowda, the BJP chose M Nagaraja, an OBC, instead. In a midnight announcement, the BJP picked Prof M Nagaraja as its candidate for the biennial Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka, signalling the end of the parliamentary career of the 93-year-old JD(S) patriarch and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda. Despite expectations in the JD(S) that its coalition partner in the state would back the senior politician, the Bharatiya Janata Party chose Nagaraja, an OBC, instead. The JD(S) also did not get a candidate assured of winning in the polls for the Legislative Council seats. The BJP picked Lingaraj Patil, a Lingayat and former president of the state disciplinary committee, and Raghu Kautilya, who heads the state OBC Morcha. While both Nagaraja and Patil hail from Hubballi, Raghu hails from Mysuru. The NDA coalition, meanwhile, is learnt to have finalised one more candidate, JD(S) leader Govindaraju, to contest the polls scheduled for June 18. As a result, eight candidates will be in the fray for the seven seats up for grabs. While the ruling Congress can win four of the seven seats by virtue of its numbers in the Legislative Assembly, it has also announced a fifth candidate in the hope that the Opposition will field only two. Govindaraju's last-minute nomination will ensure a contest for one of the seven seats. The Congress slammed the coalition partners soon after the candidate list was announced. In a post on X, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, accused the BJP

of denying Gowda a Rajya Sabha nomination. "Yesterday in the dead of the night, BJP has denied a Rajya Sabha nomination to Former Prime Minister, H D Deve Gowda," Surjewala said, adding that the party chose the leader in charge of constructing district BJP offices over the ex-PM. "The constant humiliation heaped upon JD(S) by BJP and its leadership and its repeated acceptance by (Union Minister) H D Kumaraswamy merely for sticking to ministerial chair at any cost is highly astonishing and eye opening. Further, accepting this insult is an absolute extreme," he said. Noting that while Gowda had lost the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Surjewala said that, despite their political differences, the Congress had extended its support to elect the senior JD(S) leader to Rajya Sabha in 2020. "Deve Gowda had earlier said and maintained his strong Opposition to BJP, going to the extent of publicly stating that he will 'disown Kumaraswamy', if he joins hands with BJP. Despite all these claims, in October 2023, JD(S) & Kumaraswamy entered into an alliance with BJP and Kumaraswamy became Union Minister in Modi Govt with Heavy Industries portfolio," he said. According to Surjewala, the reaction "tells us - POWER AT ANY COST, POWER AT ALL COSTS - is the one and only motto of JD(S) in Karnataka now." In response, the JD(S) asked the Congress to recall its "dark history". "In 1997, it was you who conspired and brought down HD Deve Gowda from the PM post. Kannadigas have been questioning the great betrayal committed by the Congress party for the last 30 years. Will you answer?" it said in a post on X.

Bengaluru woman employee dies in Kodagu due to suspected gas geyser leak

A Bengaluru woman employee on a weekend trip to Kodagu died from a suspected gas geyser leak. The deceased has been identified as Vinutha, 27, a Mysuru native working in Bengaluru. She had come to Kodagu for a two-day trip with 14 colleagues and put up at a homestay in the Kalkanduru area. The police said Vinutha's colleagues checked on her after it seemed that she was taking unusually long to take her bath. She was found unconscious inside the bathroom and was shifted to a nearby hospital, where the doctors declared that she was brought dead. A police officer said, "We are awaiting the post-mortem report. Prima facie, it looks like Vinutha suffocated due to the inhalation of carbon monoxide leaking from a gas geyser. There was no ventilation, which may have hastened her death."

In case of gas geysers, partial combustion emits carbon monoxide, an odourless and colourless gas. In case of a leak, it may not be noticed at first and can turn out to be fatal. In February this year, Raju, 48, a Bengaluru resident and a driver by profession, died due to a gas geyser leak. Unable to bear the loss, his wife died by suicide the same day. In December last year, Chandini, 26, and her four-year-old daughter Yuvi Kiran died due to a gas geyser leak when the woman was bathing the child. In October 2021, MBA graduate Vigneshwari Eshwaran died after inhaling carbon monoxide emitted from a gas geyser at a Kodagu homestay. According to the Karnataka Police, more than 50 people have died from gas geyser leaks in and around Bengaluru since 2019, and about 100 have died across the state in the same period.

Trinamool 'rebel' MPs at BJP minister's home, Bengal Chief Minister too

GNS News Agency, June 8

The stage of the meltdown in Trinamool Congress in the aftermath of the West Bengal Assembly election has shifted from Kolkata to Delhi. About 20 of the party's 28 Lok Sabha MPs, sources have said, are holed up in an undisclosed location in Delhi. This is playing out at a time when party chief Mamata Banerjee and her nephew and Trinamool general secretary, Abhishek Banerjee, are in Delhi to attend a meeting of the INDIA opposition bloc. The rebel MPs, it is learnt, are discussing two options: to send a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, asking to be treated as a separate bloc and not under Abhishek Banerjee as parliamentary party leader; the second option they are discussing, sources said, is to go for mass resignation. If any of these plans are put into motion today, Mamata Banerjee would be suffering a massive setback during a visit to Delhi. A Trinamool insider close to Mamata Banerjee, however, claimed that the rebel camp of MPs does not have 20 lawmakers. And in that scenario, the insider said, the rebels would attract provisions of the anti-defection law. Interestingly, Bengal Chief Minister, Suwendu Adhikari, once Mamata Banerjee's trusted lieutenant, is also in Delhi today. Sources have now said that several rebel MPs are now at Union Minister and BJP leader Bhupender Yadav's residence and Adhikari has reached there too. Trinamool MP quits party Earlier today, Trinamool's veteran leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy resigned from the party's primary membership and as a member of the Upper House. "In the recently held election to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the people have given huge mandate in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party for the first time in the history of the state to put an end to 15-year anarchi-

cal rule of the Trinamool Congress arising out of widespread unbridled corruption, atrocities committed against women, abysmal failure in the field of health, education, industry, law and order, employment, etc. Meanwhile, the newly elected people's government has started taking initiatives for overall development and reconstruction of West Bengal as per its Election Manifesto," Roy said in a statement. "In respectful acceptance of this historic verdict of the people, I have resigned today from the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) as a member and also from the primary membership of the All India Trinamool Congress," he added. Meanwhile, rebel Trinamool MLA Ritabrata Banerjee, who led the mutiny in the party's legislative party, said he had not spoken to Roy. "We respect what Sukhendu Shekhar Roy did, although I did not talk to him personally. What a section of MPs have felt, we MLAs have felt too," he said.

In a desperate attempt to keep her house in order, Mamata Banerjee has effected a major organisational reshuffle. While Abhishek Banerjee continues to be the party's national general secretary, two joint national secretaries - Rajya Sabha MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen - have been appointed. The move has been seen as Mamata Banerjee limiting her nephew's say in organisational decisions. A senior Trinamool MP said, "Mamata Banerjee already understood that the main discontent in the party's rank and file is against Abhishek Banerjee. Already, during her organisation reshuffle, Mamata gave space to other senior MPs like Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen to assist Abhishek. She is desperate now to regain her footing in the party as well as credibility on the national stage."

No takers for East Delhi 'Towering Heights' flats, DDA extends booking deadline again

DDA, DDA housing schemes, DDA Flats, DDA Flats auction, DDA affordable flats, DDA flats offering localities, Delhi Development Authority, low-income groups, economically weaker sections, Sasta Ghar Housing Scheme, General Housing Scheme, higher-income groups, middle-income groups, houses for EWS categories, Indian express news In the project, DDA is offering 848 two-bedroom on 140-195 sq m at a cost of around Rs 1.8-2.4 crore. While 741 are on offer for individual buyers, the remaining 107 are for bulk allotments to government institutions. (Representational photo) Struggling to find buyers for flats in its flagship Karkardooma project in East Delhi, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has extended the booking period for flats in the project for yet another month.

The booking period for flats under DDA Towering Heights at East Delhi Hub, Karkardooma Housing Scheme 2026, has been extended till June 30, according to a circular issued by the agency. This is the second such extension: the scheme, launched in January was only valid till March 31 initially, and was then extended till May 31. The latest order, thus, gives buyers yet another month to book the flats. Officials and industry watchers have attributed the lack of response to high prices of units, unattractive location and uncertainty due to the ongoing West Asia conflict. The second phase of the scheme, under a first-come-first-service basis, was launched this year after an e-auction held in December 2025 under the first phase saw

subdued response. The DDA was only able to sell 178 units out of 1,026 put for auction. In the project, DDA is offering 848 two-bedroom on 140-195 sq m at a cost of around Rs 1.8-2.4 crore. While 741 are on offer for individual buyers, the remaining 107 are for bulk allotments to government institutions.

Previously, the agency had even waived parking charges to make the scheme more attractive, bringing down prices by Rs 5-12 lakh. The East Delhi Hub, the city's first Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) project, is spread over 30 hectares. It is being developed as a mixed-use urban centre integrating residential, commercial, and civic spaces in a walkable environment. The project will feature Delhi's tallest residential structure yet - a 48-storey building rising to 155 metres. Facilities include a 20,000-sq m central green area, jogging track, open-air gym, cricket field, badminton courts, and landscaped open spaces. Located next to the Karkardooma Interchange Metro Station, the project offers connectivity to the Blue and Pink Lines, major highways like NH-9 and NH-24, and proximity to Anand Vihar Railway Station and the ISBT. The project, whose foundation stone was laid by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in December 2019, had faced delays due to pending forest clearances and water and sewerage approvals from the Delhi government. A DDA spokesperson had earlier said that the work on the project resumed in 2022 following former Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena's intervention.

'Time to finish you off': Man 'threatens' Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge, arrested

GNS News Agency, June 8 The police in Karnataka arrested a man on Sunday for allegedly hurling casteist abuses at Home Minister Priyank Kharge and threatening to kill him in a social media post. Sudhir Bangera, 48, was arrested after one Suresh complained to the Karkala town police that Bangera had used objectionable, derogatory, and casteist language against the minister in response to a post on the Namma Karla Facebook page. Both the accused and the complainant reside at Karkala in Udipi district.

The police registered a case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 351(3) (criminal intimidation), 196 (promoting enmity between groups), 353(2) (statements conducting to public mischief), along with provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. On X, Kharge shared a screenshot of Bangera's post, where he allegedly abused the home minister and

added, "The time has come to finish you off." Bangera was responding to a post on the Facebook page claiming that Kharge had said that as home minister, he would not allow the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to spread communalism. "It hasn't even been 48 hours since I assumed charge as Home Minister, you are already showing your fear, anxiety, and uneasiness," Kharge said on X, tagging the state BJP. He accused the Opposition party of "using the RSS to insult me and issuing death threats". Asking the BJP to convey his regards to the "Body of individuals" - a reference to the RSS - the Congress leader wrote, "Tell them to keep the documents ready to register their parent political organisation." RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat last year described the organisation as a "body of individuals" while rejecting Kharge's criticism over its refusal to register with the government.

TMC's 'Pushpa' Jahangir Khan arrested by Bengal STF near Nepal border

The West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) arrested Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Jahangir Khan, popularly known as 'Pushpa', near the India-Nepal border Monday in connection with multiple FIRs against him. Khan was the party's candidate for the 2026 Assembly elections from the Falta constituency in South 24 Parganas, where he lost the repoll held following allegations of malpractice. According to STF sources, Khan had been hiding in a hotel close to the Nepal border for the past two days. The hotel reportedly belongs to one of his acquaintances. During the raid, the STF also seized a significant cache of documents in his possession. STF sources revealed that Khan went into hid-

ing immediately after the Calcutta High Court vacated his interim protection from coercive action in connection with several FIRs against him. When the police raided his house after the repoll on May 21, they found he had absconded. To evade tracking, Khan had switched off his mobile phones and deleted his WhatsApp account. However, investigators said he kept in touch with his family members and close associates. By tracking those numbers and analysing his frequent travel routes, the STF and local police deployed plainclothes teams to key locations. Khan was eventually spotted and apprehended by one of these undercover units. Legal procedures are currently underway to bring Khan back to Kolkata.

Malviya Nagar hotel popular among foreigners on medical visas



GNS News Agency, June 8

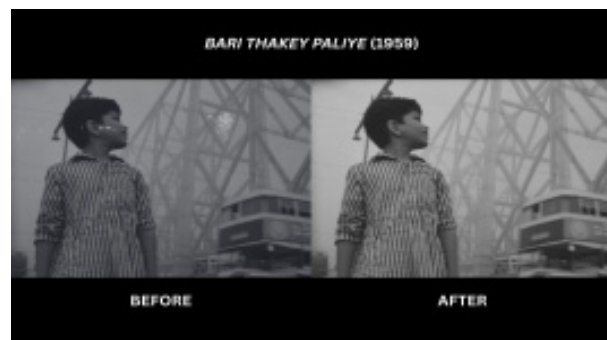
The deadly blaze at a hotel-cum-restaurant in Malviya Nagar was a much sought-after place to stay for foreigners from African countries who came to Delhi on medical visas, said sources. It is located near three major medical establishments: AIIMS, Max Hospital in Saket, and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Hospital. The death toll currently

stands at 21, with police saying several of those killed were foreigners. Eyewitnesses The Indian Express spoke to said they saw people jumping from windows in a desperate attempt to escape the blaze. Mansoor, a local resident who runs a construction business in the area, said the fire appeared to have started on the first floor. "People started jumping from the first floor. Then they began jumping from the second, third and fourth floors. We brought mattresses and placed them below so they could land on them," he said. Mansoor added that he threw a rope from his house toward the building in an attempt to help those trapped inside. "A woman tried to catch it, but she couldn't hold on and fell to the ground," he said. Police sources said the death toll is expected to rise as many tourists were asleep when the fire broke out. Visuals from the spot showed smoke and flames billowing from the premises. The victims have been admitted to Max Hospital in Saket, AIIMS Trauma Centre, and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Hospital. Officials said 13 victims are at AIIMS.

Ritwik Ghatak films restored in 4K; BFI to host retrospective in London marking his birth centenary

GNS News Agency, June 8

The National Film Development Corporation-National Film Archive of India (NFDC-NFAI) has completed the 4K restoration of Ritwik Ghatak's feature films under the National Film Heritage Mission, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's flagship programme for film preservation and restoration. NFDC-NFAI has partnered with the British Film Institute (BFI) to organise a retrospective at BFI Southbank in London marking Ghatak's birth centenary. Beginning in June 2026, the programme will screen restored versions of Ghatak's films along with several documentaries, short films, and unfinished works associated with the filmmaker. According to NFDC-NFAI, the restoration work used original film elements preserved by the archive over several decades, along with material sourced from the West Bengal State Film Archive. The colour grading process was supervised by national award-winning cinematographer Avik Mukhopadhyay. The retrospective will feature restored versions of films, including Meghe Dhaka Tara, Subamarekha, Komal Gandhar, Ajantrik, Nagarik, Bari Thekey Palye, Jukti Takko Aar Gappo and Titas Ekti Nadir Naam. The programme will also include screenings of documentaries and short works such as Bihar Ke Darshaniya Sthan, My Lenin, Puruliah Chhau and Ramkinkar Baij. Mukhopadhyay said working on the project allowed him to closely observe Ghatak's cinematic style and visual language. He described the restoration effort as an important exercise in preserving film heritage for future generations of audiences and researchers.



NFDC Managing Director Prakash Magdum said the collaboration with the BFI would provide international audiences with an opportunity to revisit Ghatak's work while also highlighting India's archival restoration efforts under the National Film Heritage Mission. Ghatak, regarded as one of the most influential filmmakers in Indian cinema, is known for films that explored themes of Partition, displacement, and social change. Though his body of work was comparatively small, his films have had a lasting influence on Indian and international cinema. The restoration of Ghatak's films is part of wider efforts under the mission to preserve and digitise classics of Indian cinema. Over the last few years, several films from different Indian languages and regions have undergone restoration through the programme as part of archival conservation initiatives.

'They were inseparable': In Ghaziabad, a tale of two promising athletes that ended in tragedy

GNS News Agency, June 8

Both families had struggled to support their sons' dreams. Every time a medal or trophy was added to the growing collection, celebrations would follow at their homes in Muradnagar, Ghaziabad. The houses belonged to young para-athletes Chirag Tyagi, 24, and Yash Khatik, 22, who had shared a common dream for the past seven years: to win medals for India and put their district on the global sporting map.

On Sunday, those dreams and hopes came crashing. Chirag was killed in Ghaziabad's Sai Kunj area; police said he had died from a gunshot wound. The person who pulled the trigger? It was Yash, claimed police. The same night, he was apprehended based on CCTV footage and formally arrested, along with another accused, on Monday. The news left the village in shock. Residents said Chirag and Yash were inseparable, often seen riding bikes together and training side by side. What caused the friendship to unravel? According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) and Trans-Hindon Dhawal Jaiswal, Yash claimed he harboured resentment towards Chirag after his disqualification in an event last year. "He claimed Chirag had submitted a complaint to the sports association regarding his qualification, following which his nomination was cancelled and he was disqualified. To take revenge, he killed Chirag," Jaiswal said. At Chirag's home, trophies stood neatly arranged and medals hung from a green wall in his room. Just days earlier, his family had been preparing to celebrate his qualification for the 2026 Asian Para Games, scheduled to be held in Japan in October.

He had won gold and silver medals in the 400 m and 1,500 m races in the Men's T12 (Visually impaired athletes) category in the 8th Indian Open Para Athletics International Championship held at Sri Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru between May 26 and May 28. She recalled how Chirag convinced his parents he wanted to pursue a career in sports even while they insisted he study engineering. "He would wake up at 3 am in the biting January cold to practise, promising his parents that he would prove himself. Villagers lovingly called him 'Chirag Toofan'," she said. Chirag began competing in local events before progressing to relay races and eventually representing the state and the country. "He competed at the state level and twice at the national level. He had also travelled to South Africa and Switzerland for competitions," Himani said. She said all his parents wanted was to see him soar high. "They never compromised on his food... they invested everything in his career..." she said. His father was in a private job but had been unemployed for the past four years. Around two years ago, Chirag shifted to Delhi to practice at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Whenever he visited home, children would gather around. "Usne poore gaon ke bachon ko hausla diya tha (He gave hope to all the children in the village)," said his neighbour, Payal Tyagi. "Anytime he stepped out, people would run and greet him shouting 'bhaiya-bhaiya'... He'd gather the children who usually sat glued to their phones and take them out to practice in the fields. He was their Sachin Tendulkar," she added. Yash's Home Medals and trophies at the accused Yash Khatik's home in Ghaziabad.

Yash was among those who looked up to Chirag, said his mother, Tara (40). She said he started running since school and eventually switched to distance learning to focus on athletics. His father was a mason. Yash and Chirag were closer than brothers, she claimed. "When Yash shifted to Delhi, he shared a room with Chirag. He did not trust anyone else, he never shared anything with anyone in the family... it was only with Chirag," she claimed. In December, Yash returned home after his disqualification in an event. Tara said he grew quiet after that. "He applied five times, submitting all the required medical certificates, but in the



end, he was disqualified... In the middle of all this, he went to Odisha and won gold medals in 100-m and 400-m events but those were stripped from him," she claimed. "He started stocking up on new medicines every day," she recalled. "Whenever I asked what he was taking, he'd just say it was to build strength. He was happy one day and sad the next. Even so, he kept confiding in Chirag, believing he was the only one who could help him get back on track," claimed Tara. A friend who did not wish to be named said Yash considered Chirag a mentor. "But things took a turn after rumours circulated that Chirag could be the reason for Yash's disqualification," the friend claimed. According to a senior police officer, Yash and Chirag had participated in the same category, for runners who could not see beyond 6 m. "But last year, the accused got disqualified at this event after the authorities allegedly found out that he could see. The accused thought that Chirag had filed a complaint against him. However, we have not found an official letter," the officer said.

Florida accuses OpenAI of hiding ChatGPT safety risks; sues Sam Altman

Miami: The State of Florida filed a lawsuit against OpenAI and CEO Sam Altman on Monday, claiming the company knowingly released and aggressively marketed ChatGPT to the public while concealing serious risks. Florida Attorney General James I. Uthmeier said during a news conference that the company suppressed internal safety warnings and deceived users about the true nature and dangers of the product. "Today, we announced the first-in-the-nation state-led lawsuit against OpenAI and its CEO, Sam Altman," Uthmeier said. "OpenAI and Altman ignored internal and external safety warnings, put children at great risk, and allowed a dangerous product to reach millions of Floridians." The civil complaint filed in Florida circuit court references two separate shootings where the alleged gunmen were reported to have asked ChatGPT questions while planning their crimes. OpenAI said in a statement that its models repeatedly encouraged the individuals to seek real-world support, including from mental health professionals. The company also said it has cooperated with law enforcement in both cases. "ChatGPT is a general-purpose tool used by hundreds of millions of people every day for legitimate purposes," an OpenAI statement said. "We work continuously to strengthen our safeguards to detect harmful intent, limit misuse, and respond appropriately when safety risks arise." In April, Uthmeier opened a criminal investigation into OpenAI over whether ChatGPT offered advice to a gunman who killed two people and wounded six others last year at Florida State University.

Fifth IT firm shuts down in Pune in 8 months; owner arrested on cheating charge



GNS News Agency, June 8

A fifth information technology firm in Pune has shut down in the last eight months, allegedly leaving a workforce of 700-1,000 people jobless. Sources said a 4,000-5,000-strong IT workforce has been rendered jobless in the city during this period. The latest firm to join the list is ThynkTech India, which shut down last week. The police have arrested its owner on a cheating charge. "We have arrested the owner, Harshal Thakre, for cheating the employees in the name of providing jobs," Hinjewadi senior police inspector Balaji Pandhare told on Wednesday.

The IT firm has allegedly failed to pay salaries to its freshers and interns for the past five months. Rs 15,000 was collected as a security deposit from freshers and interns for providing them with laptops. We approached the Hinjewadi police to file an FIR against the firm's owners. The owner has been arrested for cheating the IT workforce by taking money from them," said Pavanjeet Mane, who heads FITE, or Forum for IT Employees. "The company

started in August last year. Initially, it paid the salaries, but no one has received a salary since January. The owners kept giving new dates every time the employees approached them for salaries. But they never kept their word," he said. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, an intern from western Maharashtra said, "As per my information, there were three batches of trainee interns. Each batch had 125 trainee interns. Besides us, there were also other interns and hundreds of freshers." Stating that he was working remotely, the intern said, "I have no idea exactly how many were recruited. The firm's office had space to accommodate fewer than 50 people. Most of them seemed to be working online." Mane said the total workforce could be in the range of 700-1,000. "So far, we have information about 700. We are still collecting information about exactly how many worked for this firm, whether as freshers, interns, or trainee interns," he said. Mane said three of the five firms that have shut down recently were from the Hinjewadi IT hub and the rest were from the Viman Nagar-Kharadi IT hub. "In all these cases, we have filed police complaints," he added. One of the firms, Flynote, which shut shop four months ago, had collected Rs 1.50 lakh from each employee as a security deposit, according to Mane. "And then it suddenly closed down its operations and vanished. We suspect the firm was involved in a multi-crore-rupee scam," he said. The firm had carried out recruitment through its job portal. "The modus operandi was to conduct two interviews. Then the candidates are told that they are selected but will have to deposit a security amount," he said. "The firm paid salaries for the initial months to gain their confidence. And then the salaries stopped suddenly, and the company vanished one day," Mane said, citing information gleaned from employees.

Punjab woman's fight against domestic abuse leads to landmark Canadian court ruling

GNS News Agency, June 8

In a landmark judgment that could significantly expand legal remedies for survivors of domestic abuse, the Supreme Court of Canada has recognised a new tort of intimate partner violence, holding that patterns of coercive control and abuse within relationships can constitute a distinct civil wrong. The ruling, delivered on May 15 in the case of Kuldeep Kaur Ahluwalia versus Amritpal Singh Ahluwalia, stems from a decade-long legal battle by a Punjab-born woman who said she endured years of abuse, isolation and coercive control after moving to Canada.

In a 6-3 decision in Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia (2026 SCC 16), the court held that intimate partner violence encompasses more than physical assaults and includes sustained patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour that undermine a person's dignity, autonomy and equality within a relationship. The judgment paves the way for victims to seek monetary damages for harms caused by such conduct. Kuldeep Kaur Ahluwalia married Amritpal Singh Ahluwalia in India in 1999 before the couple immigrated to Canada in the early 2000s. They later had two children. According to court findings, the abuse began shortly after their marriage in Punjab and escalated following their move to Canada. Isolation, the court noted, became a significant factor. Speaking to New Canadian Media after the ruling, Brampton-based Kuldeep recalled how immigration intensified her vulnerability. "In India, at least I had some family nearby. In Canada, I was completely alone. I didn't know anyone. I didn't know the system. That isolation made everything worse," she said. She described being subjected to prolonged silent treatment, financial control, humiliation, intimidation, restrictions on education and employment opportunities, and pressure for sex. The couple separated after Amritpal filed for divorce in 2016. Following an 11-day trial in 2022, during which Kuldeep represented herself, Ontario Superior Court Justice Renu Mandhane recognised what was then described as a novel tort of family violence and awarded her damages of Canadian \$150,000, including compensatory, aggravated and punitive damages. The Ontario Court of Appeal later upheld findings that she had suffered abuse but struck down the new tort and removed the punitive damages award, reducing compensation to Canadian \$100,000.



Kuldeep then appealed to the Supreme Court, which recognised a narrower but distinct tort of intimate partner violence and restored the legal basis for compensation while maintaining the Canadian \$100,000 award. Writing for the majority, Justice Nicholas Kasirer observed that existing legal remedies such as assault, battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress often fail to capture the cumulative nature of abuse. "The tendency to frame intimate partner violence as episodic or incident-based sometimes fails to speak to the cumulative pattern of conduct that is greater than the sum of its parts," the judgment said. The court recognised that intimate partner violence can include isolation, financial control, surveillance, sexual coercion and emotional abuse, and noted that immigrant, racialised and Indigenous women often face heightened vulnerability because of language barriers, financial dependence, social isolation and cultural pressures. The case has drawn particular attention within Canada's South Asian community. Kuldeep said many women are conditioned to tolerate abusive behaviour. "Women in our culture are taught to obey. 'Banda hai, gussa aa hi jaata hai' (He is a man, he gets angry)," she told Aadya Arora of New Canadian Media, adding that fears of social stigma, family dishonour and concerns about children often discourage women from leaving abusive marriages. Advocacy groups working with South Asian women welcomed the ruling. Kaur Collective Foundation described the judgment as an important recognition of forms of abuse that frequently go unnoticed because they leave no physical injuries.

'Stall is our only source of income': Fear of eviction triggers panic in Kolkata's famed College Street book market



A cloud of deep uncertainty has gripped College Street, the heart of Kolkata's book trade, as widespread rumors of an impending eviction drive targeting roadside book stalls spread through the area. Coming on the heels of a broader urban cleanup initiative by the new BJP government, the sudden panic has left hundreds of pavement booksellers fearing loss of their livelihoods.

GNS News Agency, June 8

A cloud of deep uncertainty has gripped College Street, the heart of Kolkata's book trade, as widespread rumors of an impending eviction drive targeting roadside book stalls spread through the area. Coming on the heels of a broader urban cleanup initiative by the new BJP government, the sudden panic has left hundreds of pavement booksellers fearing loss of their livelihoods. Even as Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) authorities deny issuing any official eviction orders, the anxiety on the ground remained palpable. Tension escalated following reports of verbal warnings to vendors directing them to clear the footpaths on Bankim Chatterjee Street. Though no formal written notices ordering eviction have been issued, many vendors have already begun downsizing their displays out of fear.

For the pavement booksellers who form the backbone of Boi Para (book-mart), the threat of eviction comes at an already precarious time. A sharp decline in footfall has left

many struggling to get by, making the current climate of fear particularly devastating. "I am just a small roadside bookseller. Watching stall owners being evicted is upsetting. This stall is our main and only source of income," said Samir Halder, who has sold books in the area for forty years. The anxiety is shared across generations of traders who have known no other life outside selling books on boi para. Indrani Dey, whose family bookstore has been around in College Street for nearly thirty years, highlighted that sales have dropped since vendors were told to downsize their displays. "An entire family relies on this," she said. Beyond the immediate fear of eviction, booksellers also point to a deeper structural crisis that has been eroding their business for years. The traditional market is shrinking, driven by a cultural shift from Bengali-medium state schools to private English-medium institutions. The growing trend of private schools selling textbooks directly to students has also largely cut out traditional roadside vendors.

The reaction to the rumored drive has also exposed a rift between pavement hawkers and brick-and-mortar establishments. Owners of government-approved permanent shops remain largely unconcerned, with some viewing the potential cleanup as a necessary measure to reclaim pedestrian footpaths rather than a direct assault on the book trade. For the students and patrons who frequent the area, however, the pavement stalls are inseparable from the identity of the place. "Many who sit on the footpath of stalls nearby use the space to display more books. If they are removed, College Street will lose what makes it special," said Udit Biswas, a zoology student. Rohit Deb Nath, a final-semester M Com student, suggested relocating vendors rather than evicting them. "Books have been part of College Street for generations. A dedicated area for vendors would be a better solution," he said. As the situation remains tense, authorities have moved quickly to de-escalate the situation by urging vendors not to fall prey to unverified rumors or fraudulent documents. Speaking to the press, KMC Commissioner Smita Pandey denied that any eviction orders had been issued to remove booksellers from the pavement. "There has been no such order from the KMC, nor do we plan for it to happen. If the booksellers receive a notice, it might be AI generated & should be verified with the police for authenticity," Commissioner Pandey stated earlier.

Hilton, Becerra lead primary race for California governor



GNS News Agency, June 8

Republican television commentator Steve Hilton and Democratic former cabinet secretary Xavier Becerra took the lead in the open primary race for California governor Tuesday, seeming to emerge as favorites to advance to the November 3 general election. If the results hold, it would set up a classic race of Democrat versus Republican, after each party had hopes of taking the two spots in the "jungle primary," in which candidates of all parties appear on the same ballot. The two leading candidates advance, regardless of party. Jumpstart your morning with the latest legal news delivered straight to your inbox from The Daily Docket newsletter. Sign up here.

California's next governor, who will succeed Democrat Gavin Newsom who is limited to two terms, will take charge of a \$4 trillion economy—among the world's largest—while confronting deep challenges on water, affordability and homelessness. With 76.1% of election night precincts partially reporting, Hilton was ahead with 26.9% of the vote and Becerra had 25.7%, according to official results. Each had more than 1.1 million votes, with Becerra about 749,000 votes behind. Democratic billionaire Tom Steyer trailed them with 19.8%, nearly 260,000 votes behind. Of the dozens of other candidates on the ballot, none cracked double digits. Becerra is a former state attorney general and U.S. congressman from Los Angeles who was secretary of Health and Human Services under President Joe Biden. If he were to prevail in November, he would become the first Latino elected governor in a state where 40% of the population is Hispanic or Latino. Appearing before his supporters, Becerra mixed Spanish into what sounded like a victory speech.

"While I take nothing for granted - there are lots of ballots left to be counted - it appears that we are on track to

advance to November," he said to cheers. "One step closer to the son of those hardworking immigrants, Maria and Manuel Becerra, becoming the next governor of the great state of California." Hilton is a British-born former Fox News host who was endorsed by President Donald Trump. Once an adviser to former UK Prime Minister David Cameron, he became a U.S. citizen in 2021. He campaigned against the Democrats' record on homelessness, affordability and government regulations in a state where Republicans have been shut out of statewide office since former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's term ended in January 2011.

Sounding triumphant in an appearance before his supporters, he suggested he could follow Schwarzenegger as yet another immigrant to become governor. "California, what an incredible honor. The first time I've run for office, over a million people rising, voting for me this time with a funny accent," Hilton said, before leading the crowd in chants of "Change is coming!" The Democratic field appeared to coalesce around Becerra after former frontrunner Eric Swalwell left the race and resigned from the U.S. Congress in April following accusations of sexual assault from a former staffer. Swalwell denied the allegations. Elsewhere on the ballot, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass took the early lead in her re-election bid against a field of more than a dozen challengers amid voter concerns over homelessness, affordability and the aftermath of the devastating 2025 wildfires. Bass, a Democrat, had 36.5% of the vote, followed by Republican reality television personality Spencer Pratt with 29.5%. Like the governor's primary, the mayoral contest groups all parties on the same ballot with the top two finishers going through to November. Bass was challenged within her party by City Councilmember Nithya Raman, who was running third with 21%. Meanwhile, the primary marks the first major test of a new congressional map that could turn the midterm contest into a high-stakes battle with control of Congress at stake. After U.S. President Donald Trump urged Texas last year to draw new district maps designed to pick up five more Republican seats, Newsom counterpunched by shepherding through a voter initiative aimed at swinging five California seats into the Democratic column. Under California's formerly independent redistricting, Democrats already held a 43-9 advantage within the state's congressional delegation. Daniel Trotta is a U.S. National Affairs correspondent, covering race, guns, LGBTQ+ issues, immigration, homelessness and breaking news in the 50 states. Previously based in New York and now in California, Trotta was awarded the NLGJA award for excellence in transgender coverage. He was previously posted in Cuba, Spain, Mexico and Nicaragua, covering top world stories including the normalization of Cuban-U.S. relations and the Madrid train bombing by Islamist radicals.

US Supreme Court clears way for Alabama to use pro-Republican voting map



WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, June 8 The U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way on Tuesday for Alabama to use a pro-Republican congressional map that eliminates one of its two districts where Black voters make up a majority or near-majority, giving a boost to President Donald Trump as his party defends its control of Congress in November's midterm elections. The justices halted a lower court ruling that had blocked Alabama officials from putting in place a map that aims to flip a U.S. House of Representatives district currently held by a Black Democratic congressman to the Republicans. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. The action by the court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, came in an unsigned order. The three liberal justices dissented from the decision.

In its ruling, the conservative majority said Alabama was likely to ultimately defeat a legal challenge to its preferred map that was brought by several sets of plaintiffs including a group of Black voters. Black voters typically support Democratic candidates. Republicans are defending narrow majorities in the House and Senate in the midterms. The ruling on Tuesday cast doubt on the challengers' claim that Alabama's pro-Republican map violates the Voting Rights Act, a 1965 law intended to prevent discrimination in voting, and the U.S. Constitution's promise of equal protection under the law. "The state is likely to succeed on the merits as to both claims," the conservative majority wrote. It added that, "States are free to decide for themselves whether last-minute changes to an election are in their best interests."

The court's action came amid a new and frenzied round of congressional redistricting that has unfolded across the South, as Republican-led states have scrambled to take advantage of an April Supreme Court decision that severely weakened the Voting Rights Act. In the wake of that landmark decision, Tennessee approved a new map that broke up a majority-Black, Democratic-held district based in Memphis, while Louisiana adopted a plan to eliminate one of two districts with sizable Black populations in that state. Alabama Republicans asked the Supreme Court to lift the judicial block put in place on May 26 by a federal three-judge panel that had halted the Republican-backed map's use in the 2026 elections. The lower court said the pro-Republican map

intentionally discriminated against Black voters in violation of the equal protection principle and likely still violated the Voting Rights Act, even under the significantly heightened legal standard announced in the April ruling. The Supreme Court's three liberal justices condemned the majority's decision in an opinion authored by Justice Sonia Sotomayor and joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson, writing that the ruling "disregards both democratic values and the rule of law." Deuel Ross, a lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which represents a group of Black voters that challenged Alabama's map, said the Supreme Court's ruling on Tuesday "gives cover to Alabama and others to deliberately and openly discriminate against Black voters without fear of any consequence."

"The court's shameful decision to reinstate an intentionally discriminatory map defies any thoughtful or consistent application of the law," he said, adding that his group would continue to fight for Alabama voters "to have the fair representation that they deserve." Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall, a Republican, called the ruling "a major victory for Alabama and for the principle of self-governance."

"The United States Supreme Court confirmed what we always knew: that Alabama's Congressional maps are constitutional and lawful under the Voting Rights Act," he said. "The court's decision to stay the district court's injunction affirms that Alabama's elected representatives, not federal judges, have the primary authority to draw the maps under which Alabamians choose their own leaders." Litigation over Alabama's congressional map has ricocheted between the Supreme Court and the federal three-judge panel in recent years. Republican state legislators have sought to return to a map they approved in 2023 that the same three-judge panel previously had deemed discriminatory. That map would drop the number of districts where Black voters comprise a majority or near-majority from two to one out of the state's seven U.S. House districts. Black people make up about a quarter of Alabama's population. On May 11, the Supreme Court granted the state's request to lift the lower court's prior ruling blocking Alabama from using the map, before the three-judge panel weeks later imposed a new judicial block, prompting Alabama's most recent filing to the justices. Alabama Republicans had argued in their filing to the Supreme Court that voters would face "irreparable harm" if the state were required to use a map approved by the lower court instead of theirs. In a process called redistricting, the boundaries of legislative districts across the United States are reconfigured to reflect population changes as measured by the national U.S. census every 10 years. Redistricting traditionally has been carried out by state legislatures at the start of each new decade, making the mid-decade redistricting fight now unfolding highly unusual. Trump ignited the current battle last year by pushing Republican-governed Texas to redraw its electoral map in a bid to flip five Democratic-held U.S. House seats, setting off similar efforts in a number of other Republican- and Democratic-led states.

Bennett wins Democratic nod in New Jersey primary to face US House Republican Kean

WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, June 8 Democrat Rebecca Bennett emerged from a highly competitive primary on Tuesday to take on Republican U.S. Representative Thomas Kean in the November general election in New Jersey's seventh congressional district, U.S. media projected. Bennett emerged from a crowded field as the winner with a 28 point-lead over her closest rival, Tina Shah, with 48% of the vote counted, according to the Associated Press. Kean, who has been absent from Congress with a mystery medical issue since early March, ran unopposed. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

Kean and Bennett will now square off in November for a seat that has changed party hands twice within the past eight years and now ranks as a key target for Democrats hoping to capture the House of Representatives. Independent analysts rate the contest as a toss-up. The swing district of suburbs and small towns stretches from Staten Island to the Pennsylvania border and includes President Donald Trump's Bedminster golf course. Trump carried the district in 2024, edging out Democrat Kamala Harris by just over a percentage point.

Kean, 57, is the scion of a storied New Jersey political family. His father, Thomas, was governor for nearly two decades. His great grandfather was a longtime congressman. And he is descended from the state's first governor, William Livingston. Most recently, Kean has been promi-



nent for missing more than 100 House votes due to an undisclosed medical condition. Hours before polls closed, Kean released a statement promising to be transparent about his health but pushing his return to work further into the future, after saying on May 21 that he would be back in "a couple of weeks." "Right now, I am focused on my recovery and under the advice of healthcare professionals, I will transition from virtual to in person work within a matter of weeks," Kean said. Bennett, 39, a healthcare executive and former U.S. Navy helicopter pilot, has been seen as the Democratic frontrunner, with a fund-raising advantage and endorsements from Democratic parties in the district's four largest counties.

US university risks losing 2,000 international students amid DHS approval delay

GNS News Agency, June 8

Washington: A New Hampshire university could lose as many as 2,000 international graduate students unless the Department of Homeland Security quickly approves a pending application tied to a new doctoral programme, prompting lawmakers to press the Trump administration for urgent action.

The issue surfaced during a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the Department of Homeland Security's fiscal year 2027 budget request, where Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire raised concerns about delays affecting New England College and its ability to enrol foreign students in a new Doctorate in Business Administration programme. During a Congressional hearing, Shaheen told Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin that the college faces a critical July 1 deadline and warned that failure to secure approval could have serious consequences for the institution and its students.

"As I explained on the phone, there is real urgency about this because, without approval by July 1st, they're going to potentially lose 2,000 students, graduate students," Shaheen said. The senator said the institution prepares students for careers in artificial intelligence, national security, healthcare management and other high-demand sectors. "This is a university that prepares students for jobs in artificial intelligence, national security, health care management, a lot of other high-demand, high-skill professions," Shaheen said, adding that the college plays an important role in both the local community and the state's economy.

Seeking an update on the application, Shaheen asked whether DHS could provide clarity on the status of the school's request to enrol F-1 international students in the new programme. Mullin acknowledged the urgency of the matter and said the department had already begun reviewing the case. "We've got the point of contact. We'd asked



for the point of contact for the college; I believe we did receive that, and we give it to USCIS," Mullin said. The Secretary said the issue had been discussed only days earlier and promised to seek an update from US Citizenship and Immigration Services. "I don't think there's going to be much of one, because we just talked about this Thursday, I believe, and so I think we're working on it," he said. When Shaheen noted that the college had still not heard from the department, Mullin pledged immediate follow-up. "If they haven't heard back from them I will — they will hear back from them today — not — well, tomorrow," he said. The exchange highlighted the growing importance of international students to American universities, particularly graduate programmes in science, technology, business and healthcare fields that depend heavily on overseas enrolment. The F-1 visa programme is the primary route through which international students study in the United States. India has emerged as one of the largest sources of foreign students in the country, with Indian enrolment rising sharply in recent years, especially in graduate-level programmes focused on technology, engineering, business and artificial intelligence.

Iran agrees to new nuclear talks after US strikes: Rubio

GNS News Agency, June 8

Washington: U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Tuesday that Iran has agreed to discuss parts of its nuclear programme that it had previously refused to negotiate, raising the prospect of new talks after recent U.S. military action against Tehran. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rubio said Iran's military capabilities had been significantly weakened and that Tehran was now willing to engage on issues it had long kept off the table. "There is the prospect before us, which could happen today, it could happen tomorrow, it could happen next week, that, for the first time certainly in my memory, they have agreed to negotiate aspects of their nuclear programme that just a month ago, just a year ago, they were refusing to even mention, much less enter into discussions about," Rubio said. Rubio appeared before lawmakers to defend President Donald Trump's proposed State Department budget. Much of the hearing focused on Iran, the Strait of Hormuz, and the administration's broader foreign policy agenda. The secretary defended recent U.S. military operations against Iran, saying they had sharply reduced Tehran's ability to shield its nuclear programme behind conventional military power. "Iran's desire to build a nuclear weapon was going to be effectuated behind a conventional shield," Rubio said. He said "Operation Epic Fury" had achieved its objectives by damaging Iran's missile production capabilities and

military infrastructure. "Operation Epic Fury ... was highly successful in achieving its military objectives," Rubio said. Rubio argued that Iran had sought to build a vast arsenal of missiles, drones, and naval assets that would deter any outside action against its nuclear programme. "The president chose to act to deny them that point of immunity," he said. The secretary delivered one of the administration's strongest assessments yet of the damage inflicted on Iran's military. "Today, there is no Iranian navy. There is no such thing," Rubio said. "There is no Iranian navy. It lies at the bottom of the ocean." Committee Chairman Jim Risch praised the administration's approach towards Iran and thanked Rubio for his role in the operation. Rubio said a ceasefire had been reached after the military campaign but accused Tehran of failing to fulfil a commitment to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. "They would reopen the straits. They did not," he said. The United States responded by imposing, as Rubio described, an effective blockade on Iranian shipping. "The cost to Iran every single day in lost revenue is in the hundreds of millions of dollars," he said. The Opposition Democratic Senators challenged the administration's handling of the crisis. Senator Jeanne Shaheen said the State Department has failed to adequately consult Congress on decisions involving Iran and questioned the broader impact of the conflict.

Allahabad HC declines PIL on 'Cockroach Janta Party'

Lucknow: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on Tuesday declined to entertain a Public Interest Litigation seeking a probe into alleged "anti-national activities" of Cockroach Janta Party and its use of social media platforms to incite youth. The petitioner sought to withdraw the plea after the court raised questions over its territorial jurisdiction. A vacation bench comprising Justices Shekhar B Saraf and Abdhesh Kumar Chaudhary passed the order on a criminal PIL filed by petitioner S Vignesh Shishir. The petitioner levelled allegations against Abhijeet Dipke, a Pune native currently residing in the United States, claiming that he had founded an unregistered organisation called "Cockroach Janta Party" that was allegedly involved in anti-national ac-

tivities through foreign funding. The plea sought a comprehensive investigation by the National Investigation Agency and the Enforcement Directorate. The petitioner also alleged that several handles on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, WhatsApp, Telegram and X were being used to influence and incite the country's youth and sought directions to the Centre to immediately block or shut down such accounts. During the hearing, the bench noted that Shishir described himself as a permanent resident of Bengaluru in the petition and the accompanying affidavit. The court observed that the matter raised issues of national importance and that the petitioner should have approached the Karnataka High Court first.

'Our lives are nearing their end, but we have to ensure our children don't suffer'



Mining Officer, Charkhi Dadri, says they have yet to prepare the report: "The report showing the lowering of the water table has been revoked by the hydrology department after officials flagged some errors. We will conduct another survey soon." Kumar further says the dharna demanded rent and compensation and a halt to water being pumped by the mining contractor. "We have made the mining contractors stop the pumping of water in the area," he says. Women, too, are part of the protest. They reach the site around 11.30 am after finishing chores at home and sending their children to school. "We have more work now, but we are ready to put in effort to shut this down. Our lives are nearing their end, but we have to ensure our children don't suffer," says Lali (60), who suffers from an atrioventricular block diagnosed three years ago.

With a dupatta covering her nose and mouth and palpitating hands, she says she has to take medicines worth Rs 5,000 every month and travel to Hisar, 140 km away, to consult a doctor at a good institute. Neelam Ahluwalia, Founder Member, People for Aravallis group, says, "The Aravallis are the climate-sensitive region's biggest water recharge zone as with their natural cracks and fissures, the hills have the potential to put 2 million litres of water per hectare in the ground every year. Blasting and drilling activities result in puncturing the water aquifers that lie beneath the Aravalli hills which results in water shortage for drinking and farming. Several rivers, lakes and streams have dried up and groundwater levels have fallen to 2,000 feet in many villages across the Aravalli belt... "Around 70 km away from Ramalwas, as the sun goes down in Khatauli Ahir village in Mahendragarh, Manju Devi calls it a day after picking cotton in fields nearby. As she makes her way through the dusty road, trucks zoom past every minute, to and from the 14 stone crushers situated less than a kilometre from the village. The plants on the roadside have layers of dust and roads are riddled with potholes. At her home, allotted under the Mahatma Gandhi Awas Yojana in 2012, dust has accumulated an hour after her sister-in-law swept the floor. "The dust is in our food, water, and floor. Every day when we get up, we have a layer on our body. I have been working for 10 years in these cotton fields and I have a perpetual allergy," she says, showing her shrivelled, dusty palms. Tehsildar of the area, Nisha, refused to comment on the issue. The Dalit basti, where Manju lives, has around 300 people in 60 plots, and they reel off the names of diseases they've been afflicted with ever since the stone-crushing units came up. "We don't have money to even go to a hospital. By the time someone falls ill, the disease gets terminal. A man died of Silicosis recently in the village," says Rambilas, who lives in Khatauli Ahir, less than a kilometre from the basti. Charkhi Dadri, stone mine company, Haryana news, Indian express

Residents of village Khatoli in Mahendragarh district facing health issues, as a lot of Stone Crushers running next to the village, in Haryana. A report submitted during the Central Empowered Committee meeting in March by the state showed the revenue in 2023-24 received from four districts where mining is legal — Rewari, Mahendragarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani — at Rs 363.5 crore. This stood at Rs 5.15 crore in 2013-14, data showed. There is a blanket ban on mining in the Aravalli hills of Faridabad, Gurgaon, and Nuh districts as per a 2009 order by the Supreme Court.

Kumar claims as a result of the air and water pollution in their village, agriculture and dairy farming have also deteriorated. "In 2018, mustard yield per acre would be eight quintals, now, it has dropped to four. Sometimes, farmers sow seeds twice, but in vain," he says. Phogat adds that water contamination has affected cattle rearing as well. "Just last week, three buffaloes died. We have ROs for domestic use, but we give the cattle water from borewells." As per another report by Brajesh Chauhan, a hydrologist and superintending engineer, Loharu, 2023, the condition has deteriorated to the extent that in many parts of the village, the table varies between 150-200 feet. Moreover, the hydrologist reports observed that the samples collected have high values for parameters such as Electrical Conductivity (EC), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Total Hardness, and Chloride crossing the standard maximum permissible limit. However, the Office of Mines and Geology Department in the district said in a memo that the Deputy Commissioner, citing an email from the chief engineer of the Irrigation Department in Panchkula in February, had asked to withhold proceedings based on this report till an "enquiry report" of the hydrologist, who prepared the report, was submitted. No enquiry report has been submitted ever since. The survey of the water table has also not been done despite shelving the previous report.

As villagers announced to boycott polls, a meeting was held in August and it was decided that the mining office obtain a report on the depth of the water table. Rajesh Kumar,

Climate commitments continue to miss key targets of the Paris Agreement: NDC synthesis report



The latest Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) synthesis report reveals a stark reality. Despite increased participation and enhanced commitments from nations worldwide, the world remains significantly off-track from meeting the Paris Agreement's temperature goals. NDCs are national climate action plans updated every five years by countries to align with the Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, ideally to 1.5°C. While the broad participation in the NDC process — with 168 latest NDCs representing 195 Parties and covering 95% of global emissions — suggests international consensus on the need for climate action, it masks a troubling gap between commitments and necessary action. The projected global emissions trajectory, even with full NDC implementation, points to a temperature increase of 2.1-2.8°C — far exceeding the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target. Current plans combined, if fully implemented, would see emissions of 51.5 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2030 — a level only 2.6% lower than in 2019. Greenhouse gas pollution at these levels will guarantee a human and economic trainwreck for every country, without exception. Most concerning is the rapid depletion of the remaining carbon budget. Current NDCs would consume 86% of the budget for 1.5°C by 2030, leaving only approximately 70 Gt CO₂ — equivalent to just two years of projected emissions and leaving a narrow window for meaningful action.

The report highlights a critical disconnect between ambition and implementation capacity. While 91% of Parties provided information on means of implementation, 69% characterised their needs in terms of international support required. This dependency on external support creates vulnerability in the global climate response, particularly given that many conditional NDC elements — which often represent more ambitious targets — remain contingent on financial assistance, technology transfer, and capacity-building support. A promising development is the increasing integra-

tion of climate commitments into national policy frameworks, with 48% of Parties incorporating NDC targets into legislative, regulatory, and planning processes. This integration suggests a shift from viewing climate commitments as international obligations to treating them as central elements of national development strategies. The high percentage (66%) of Parties highlighting policy coherence with development priorities further indicates progress toward mainstreaming climate action. However, this integration faces challenges. The need for enhanced stakeholder consultation, gender-sensitive approaches, and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights demonstrates the complexity of implementing climate policies in diverse social and economic contexts. The report's emphasis on these aspects suggests that successful climate action requires not just technical solutions but also careful attention to social equity and inclusive governance. The sectoral distribution of commitments reveals both opportunities and challenges. The strong focus on energy supply (95% of Parties), agriculture and forestry (89%), and transport (87%) aligns with key emission sources. However, the varying depth and specificity of commitments in these sectors suggest uneven capacity and prioritization among countries.

The identification of specific, cost-effective mitigation options provides a practical framework for action. Yet, the fact that relatively few Parties have committed to some high-potential options — such as industrial energy efficiency (30%) and reducing fluorinated gas emissions (26%) — indicates missed opportunities and potential areas for enhanced action. The synthesis report presents a mixed picture of global climate action. While the breadth of participation and increasing policy integration demonstrate progress, the substantial gaps in emission reductions, implementation capacity, and support mechanisms suggest that current approaches may be insufficient. Three key areas require immediate attention. First, the rapid depletion of the carbon budget demands accelerated implementation of existing commitments and enhanced ambition in future NDC updates. Second, the international community must address the support gap, particularly in financing and technology transfer, to enable the implementation of conditional commitments. Finally, the integration of climate action with broader development objectives needs strengthening to ensure sustained progress and social acceptance. The next few years will be critical. With current NDCs projected to use most of the remaining carbon budget for 1.5°C by 2030, the global community faces a narrow window for transformative action. The path to meeting Paris Agreement goals remains technically feasible but demands unprecedented coordination and commitment from the global community.

What a forecast for 1.5°C warming in 2026 means

The climate summary for October published by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) on November 7 has made a grim (although expected) forecast for 2024. Not only is it almost certain now that 2024 will beat 2023's record to become the new warmest year on record, but it is also almost certain that 2024 will be the first calendar year warmer than the pre-industrial average by more than 1.5°C in the ERA5 global temperature dataset that C3S publishes. Any breaches of the 1.5°C warming threshold at the global level are keenly watched because the Paris Agreement set the goal of keeping long-term global warming under that threshold. Therefore, it is useful to unpack the forecast made by C3S. Scientists have weather models that can forecast temperatures with some accuracy only up to a few weeks, and they are very accurate for only a few days ahead. So, how are they certain what global temperatures will average up to December?

A careful reading of the C3S forecast will show that the scientists are not making global temperature forecasts with certainty for November and December. The trend they are almost certain about is that the January-December average this year will be the highest ever and that this average will breach the 1.5°C warming threshold. Predicting this does not need any big calculations because of the trends in temperatures we have seen so far.

The 12-month running average deviation in global temperatures (from the pre-industrial average) has been above the 1.5°C threshold since January this year. This 12-month average was 1.62°C at the end of October. For the January-December average to drop below 1.5°C, warming in the next two months needs to average less than 0.97°C. That means the two-month average deviation needs to cool down 0.623°C from the 1.595°C average deviation for September-October. That is a pace of cooling/warming planet Earth has never seen in the ERA5 dataset, which begins in January 1940. The most two-month averages have changed in two months since 1940 is by 0.410°C. This was in 1977 when the average deviation for December 1976 and January 1977 was 0.34°C compared to the -0.07°C average deviation for October-November 1976. As the trends described above suggest, a breach of the 1.5°C threshold will not be surprising at all, statistically speaking. However, there is more than just statistics to support the prediction made by C3S. For example, the latest model-based forecast has decreased the probability of the October-December period averaging La Nina conditions to under 50%, less than the 53% forecast for the season averaging neutral. La Nina is a periodic cooling of at least 0.5°C (compared to a 30-year base period updated every five years) of the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which generally has a cooling effect on average global temperature. On the other hand, as the first chart shows, neutral conditions (deviations of SSTs under 0.5°C) after May have not been enough to decrease deviations in global temperature so far.

How bad is the breach of the 1.5°C threshold for the Paris Agreement goal?

While deviation in global average temperature has breached the 1.5°C threshold in individual months before (three months in 2016, two months in 2020, and six months in 2023), 2024 is the first time this has happened consistently for a very long period: all months except July, when the deviation was 1.48°C. 2024 is also the first time, 12-month running averages have breached the 1.5°C threshold (in all months up to October). As suggested in the previous section, this has happened despite neutral conditions in the Pacific after May suggesting that long-term warming has a significant role to play in this. This is why the breach in 2024 is bad news for the Paris Agreement goal. To be sure, a one-year period is not usually considered "long-term" for climate. So, what is a long-term period for climate? There is no consensus on this (and the Paris Agreement does not specify this either), but, usually, scientists use ten to fifty-year averages when talking about climate. The 10-year average warming will be at least 1.28°C if C3S forecasts come true (C3S expects the year to average at least 1.55°C)



and the 50-year average will be at least 0.78°C. As the chart above suggests, temperatures appear to change more slowly on longer time scales. However, it would be a mistake to assume that the expected consequences of a world warmer by 1.5°C are far by looking at the distance from the threshold in the 50-year average. The chart also shows that all averages are inching up faster now than earlier, which means that the past rate of warming is no benchmark for future rates of warming. Moreover, as the string of climate disasters around the globe in 2023 and 2024 show (attribution studies have found global warming's hand in a number of them), the weather does not need the 50-year average to reach 1.5°C to turn deadly. Abhishek Jha, 's senior data journalist, analyses one big weather trend in the context of the ongoing climate crisis every week, using weather data from ground and satellite observations spanning decades.

Google unveils seven new AI updates for enhanced search, maps features



New Delhi: From Maps to Search, Google has recently announced seven new artificial intelligence (AI) updates that offer more ways people can ask questions, search for information and get an AI overview across products. Now, you'll be able to ask Maps more complex queries, like "things to do with friends" to get answers curated with Gemini, quick answers to questions about a place — in addition to helpful review summaries when you don't have time to read through each one, according to the tech giant. "The latest AI update in Maps means that whether you're traveling across town or around the world, you can get the most up-to-date information possible, when you need it. Make sure to also check out the new updates we're making to Waze, Google Earth and our developer products," said the company. Now, the users can also upload PDFs, Google Docs, websites, YouTube videos and more to NotebookLM to glean new insights and get deeper dives on new topics. Google Shopping has rolled out new AI to help you pick the right product for you. The new Google Shopping — which is available in the US to begin with — uses AI to help take the guesswork out of finding the right products. "For example, when researching a product, an AI-generated brief will give you more details about the most important things to know before buying. And, as you browse the results, you will see AI-generated briefs about what to consider before making a purchase.

Light ex-smokers quickly lower CVD risk to never-smokers' level, study finds

New Delhi: Smoking and cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk have a dose-dependent association, with light ex-smokers having a CVD risk similar to that of never-smokers relatively soon after smoking cessation, a new study has revealed. For heavy ex-smokers, greater than 25 years might be required for the residual CVD risk to align with that of never-smokers, said the study published in the journal JAMA Network Open. The study sought to find an answer to the question:



Smoking and cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk have a dose-dependent association, with light ex-smokers having a CVD risk similar to that of never-smokers relatively soon after smoking cessation, a new study has revealed

at least 8 PY, more than 25 years were needed for the residual CVD risk of smoking to disappear, the findings showed. The results suggest that ex-smokers with at least 8 PY should be considered smoking cessation status.

smoking and CVD risk exhibit a clear dose-response association, emphasizing the importance of preventing smoking initiation altogether," said authors. For people who start smoking, if their cumulative smoking amount does

not exceed a certain threshold or the so-called point of no return — 8 PY in this study — they may quit smoking with marked clinical improvements expected soon after quitting.

Bengaluru's summer camps offer children a creative escape



and Surabhi Visisht. Children present a small performance on the last day of their workshop for their families.

Abhitej Gupta, one of the facilitators of the workshops, said, "The workshops are all about diving into children's imagination and creating unique stories through play, sound, rhythm, and performance. Through the workshops, we will explore the question 'What if?' by playing with sound and rhythm to make stories come to life, exploring fun characters, working with props, and learn how to perform with them, and working with a group to create something together." The workshops will also be facilitated by Laya Kumar and Laxmi Priya. On the final day, the children will have the chance to share their creations in a special performance for family and friends. The workshops will take place in Our Theatre Studio at Koramangala and at Courtyard Koota, Kengeri. The children's edition, catering to ages 7 to 11, will include interactive exercises that adapt to the participants' responses. The sessions will begin with activities to help children feel comfortable with one another before transitioning into collaborative exercises. The workshop follows a flexible format, ensuring that each child is engaged and encouraged to explore their creativity. As a culmination of their learning, the children will stage an informal performance on the final day, showcasing their newly acquired skills. Meanwhile, for teenagers, the workshop will place greater emphasis on creativity and self-expression. It will serve as a platform for participants to engage in meaningful discussions on topics such as mental health and body shaming. Through theatre exercises, they will be encouraged to articulate their thoughts and experiences in a supportive environment. This six-day camp is designed to nurture a child's overall development through a blend of engaging and hands-on activities. From gardening to mind sports, art and craft, and theatre, each activity is carefully crafted to inspire creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression, said one of the facilitators. Facilitated by experienced trainers Chaitanya Srinivas and Omkar Kibe, this camp combines artistic expression, cognitive skills, and a connection with nature, the program not only help enhance a child's awareness of their surroundings but also supports their academic and personal development.

Lourd Vijay Dance Studio also known as LVDS is hosting Break a Leg, an intensive dance summer camp for children across 10 locations in the city. It will be held between April 7 and 25. The programme will focus mainly on hip-hop, breaking, and popping. In addition to dance, children will also get to learn gymnastics, theatre and art. The camp will end with a performance by the students. This four-day residential workshop offers a unique blend of outdoor learning methodologies focused on experiential and hands-on activities to facilitate the growth and development of children. One of the founders of the camp said that the core idea behind our summer camp is to empower participants with self-reliance, independence, courage, life skills acquisition while igniting a spirit of adventure within them. The camp offers activities like naturopathy, learn how to make bio-enzymes and probiotics, basics of forest survival, farming and cocoon attraction, tent pitching challenge, cave expedition and more. Yogi Re, a Bengaluru-based yoga organisation, is set to host Srishti, a five-day residential camp for children. Since 2017, the group has been organising immersive yoga retreats, and this year's edition will take place in two scenic locations, Chikkamagaluru and Bandipur. Designed to blend wellness with the outdoors, the camp offers yoga sessions, meditation, guided treks, nature walks, engaging games, and nutritious meals, fostering a holistic experience for young participants.

Ramachandra Guha on the three waves of Indian environmentalism



Environmentalism, according to Dr. Ramachandra Guha, "like feminism, like socialism, like democracy," is a modern phenomenon. "It's really the product of the industrial revolution, which started in Europe and then, of course, moved to other parts of the world," says the Bengaluru-based writer and historian at a recent public lecture at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru. The Industrial Revolution, driven by fossil fuels, for the first time, saw radical transformations of transport and communication systems and gave birth not only to the factory system, but also to capitalism and colonialism, he adds, at this illuminating talk titled The Three Waves of Environmentalism. Guha argues that the Industrial Revolution led to the devastation of landscapes and forests, the tainting of air and water on an unprecedented scale. "It is this colossal destruction that modern industrial technologies enabled for the first time, which gave birth to modern environmentalism...human beings could be architects of their own destruction unless they came up with alternate ways of organising politics, economics, society, technology and lifestyles to achieve some kind of equilibrium with their ecological surroundings," says Guha, suggesting that the English Romantic poet, William Wordsworth, was possibly the first modern environmentalist. "You can see it in his writings."

The Europeans did not take long to bring their destructive technologies to their colonies, including India. In the early 20th century, some intellectuals recognised the scale of environmental destruction that was beginning to unravel in the subcontinent. At the talk, Guha mentions his latest book, Speaking with Nature, which offers insights into the lives and thoughts of ten of these people who "collectively constitute the first wave of Indian environmentalism." He is also quick to point out that Mahatma Gandhi, though "one of the first Indians to recognise the unsustainability of western models of industrialisation", is not among the ten people featured in this book because "I have already written 2000 pages on Gandhi, and I thought that I should give that particular guy a break," he quips.

According to Guha, the first wave of Indian environmentalism sprang up at a time when India was beginning to industrialise, coinciding with the country's freedom struggle. As a result, some of those involved in the movement started thinking and writing about how India, when it became free, should develop and modernise, but they were clear that India should not model its growth after the manner of the West. Guha lays out three principal reasons why some of these thinkers felt that India could not industrialise like the West: one, because of the sheer population of the country, 300 million back then, with a population-to-land ratio that was much higher than early industrialisers like England, France, Germany and the U.S.; two, because the West had already divided the whole world amongst themselves, and there were no new colonies to conquer, India had to live within its own resources; and finally, because tropical ecologies are more fragile than temperate ecologies. Some of the ten thinkers featured in his book include the poet Rabindranath Tagore, "for whom harmonising human needs with ecological integrity was central to his writing, his educational work and his activism", the agricultural scientists and pioneers of modern organic farming Albert and Gabrielle Howard, "an extraordinary couple", the economist J.C. Kumarappa "who worked very closely with Gandhi" and the social economist and town planner, Patrick Geddes "who was Scottish by nationality, spent a decade in India from 1915 to 1924, writing more than 20 plans for Indian cities, foregrounding questions of urban sustainability." Unfortunately, after independence, the writings of these early pioneers were completely marginalised, claims Guha, attributing this development to the "noblest of intentions, which in hindsight, we may see as misguided but at that time was pretty understandable. Those who built economic policy in the 50s and 60s went about adopting the capital-intensive, energy-intensive model of large-scale industrialisation pioneered by the West, thinking that it was the only way that India could develop."

The Chipko Movement in Guha's opinion, the next wave of environmentalism in India began in 1973, through "the celebrated Chipko Movement." This forest conservation movement, consisting of peasants in the Himalayas hugging trees to prevent them from being felled, was significant in several ways, believes Guha: it was an indigenous, grassroots, bottom-up movement; it employed Gandhian techniques of non-violence; it blended concerns of environmental sustainability with social justice; and it was about both community protest and ecological restoration. "All this was what I call the second wave of Indian environmentalism, where, unlike the first wave, it was composed of activism and community mass participation," he argues. Drawing comparisons between the first two modern environmental waves, Guha says that while the first wave was composed of critical intellectual work anticipating the destruction of what was to come, the second was a response to the destruction that actually happened and was articulated by these grassroots movements. "These movements had a significant impact on policy and administration," he says. For instance, in 1974, the year after Chipko, the Planning Commission set up a committee for environmental planning for the first time, while the Indian government, in 1980, established the Department of Environment, now called the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. "Legal and institutional changes begin to take place, not because the politicians or the parliament came up with them, but because of pressure from below," he says. He also feels that the Chipko movement was significant for yet another reason: "Without Chipko, many people now teaching environmental history, environmental sociology in dif-

ferent parts of India would not have taken up that particular career trajectory," he says. "Without Chipko, I would not have been an environmental scholar." The vigorous environmental activism of the 70s and 80s ended when India deregulated and opened up its economy in the 1990s, says Guha. "Now I am not a critic of economic liberalisation; in many ways it was necessary," he clarifies. However, while economic liberalisation raised rates of economic growth, reduced mass poverty and solved India's economic foreign exchange crisis, it "also led to a massively negative impact on the environment," adds Guha, who believes that while the government needed to deregulate the economy, it should have continued to regulate the environment "because the market cannot really solve environmental problems." In response to the new economic agenda, the only people asking tough questions about economic liberalisation, except old-fashioned Marxists who thought the Soviet Union was an economic utopia, Guha insists, were the environmentalists. But they were often subjected to savage assaults, and seen as "the enemies of progress, the guys keeping India back," he says.

Now, after decades of environmental destruction following liberalisation, a new movement is finally beginning to emerge again. "It is incipient, just beginning...is visible among young people. And it is largely caused by the challenge of climate change," says Guha. In his opinion, however, it is too soon to comment on how this third wave of environmentalism, "the response of young people to what they see as a dark future for themselves and future generations," will take shape and evolve. Search operations near flattened houses after a massive landslide hit the Mundakkai village in Wayanad on August 1. Guha goes on to paint a dismal picture of the state of the environment in India today, which he feels would still be abysmal even without climate change. "The first point I want to make is that even if climate change did not exist, India would be an environmental disaster," he states. For instance, many of the major environmental challenges assailing the country today, including air pollution, river death, chemical contamination of soil, degradation of groundwater aquifers, biodiversity decline and the proliferation of invasive species, "are independent of climate change." He also points out that though these environmental issues may not have anything to do with climate change, climate change intensifies their impact, further elucidating this point by talking about the dangers faced by the Himalayas and Western Ghats. "Unregulated, careless building of roads, reckless expansion of tourist resorts and mining, all of which make these ecologies more fragile. And then you have climate change that adds onto it and intensifies the devastation."

On the slightly more positive side, India today has a vast reservoir of scientific and social scientific expertise that can help mitigate our environmental crisis, unlike in the past. The country's universities and research institutes have ecologists, soil scientists, agronomists, hydrologists, urban planners, transport and energy experts who, he says, "combine professional expertise of an international standard with deep field experience of socio-environmental conditions." "In this respect, India may be blessed. It is unlikely that any other country in Asia and Africa has it." Unfortunately, "these domain experts are largely, if ever, consulted by politicians in power, and if they are, their proposals are never implemented," he rues, pointing out that this disregard for environmental sustainability operates across political parties. In his view, this is "a critical time for the environmental development debate in India." The question that needs to be confronted, according to him, is this: How does one lift people out of poverty, give them access to social services, to education, to dignified employment, without undermining the interest and needs of future generations, indeed the interest and needs of nature itself? "The third wave of Indian environmentalism that is emerging, and the work of scientists in this room can help take this forward."

IIT Hyderabad, Goa Shipyard ink pact for shipbuilding with AI, digital twin technologies

Sangareddy: The Centre for Geospatial AI and Digital Twins (CGDT) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to revolutionise shipbuilding through artificial intelligence and digital twin technologies.

According to a press release, this strategic collaboration, undertaken in association with Neer Interactive Solutions Private Limited and Andhra Mahila Sabha (AMS) Arts, and Science College, would leverage the expertise of CGDT of IIT-H to enhance efficiency, security and sustainability in maritime operations.

The partnership will drive innovation by optimising vessel design, strengthening shipyard security and implementing advanced 360-degree surveillance solutions powered by Geospatial AI and object detection AI. By integrating generative AI and digital twin technologies, this initiative aims to set new global standards in India's shipbuilding sector, it said. Director of IIT-H, Prof BS Murty said CGDT-IIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with Neer Interactive and Andhra Mahila Sabha (AMS), were pioneering a holistic Geospatial AI model with 360-degree maritime security solutions. The initiative was the first of its kind in India and across Asia, he said.

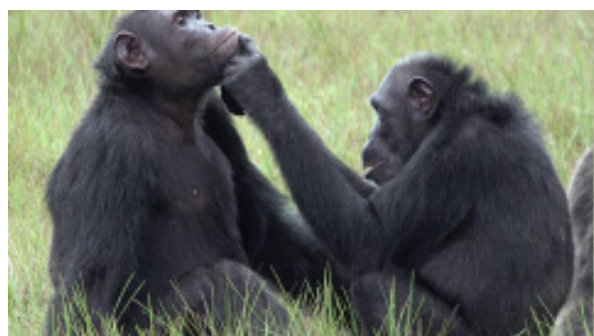
West Africa chimps are losing their culture, in another human legacy

Culture is what we learn from others and pass on to successive generations by practising it over and over. Scientists have found cultural traditions among humans as well as animals, the latter in the way they forage, socialise, use tools, care for themselves, and mate. Among these traditions, the characteristic patterns of behaviour that involve communication are called dialects.

In new research published in the journal Cell, scientists with the Tai Chimpanzee Project in West Africa reported four dialects that male wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) use in the Tai National Park to find mates to copulate with. Unfortunately, after documenting the chimpanzees' lives for more than a generation, the scientists also reported these apes are 'forgetting' parts of the dialect thanks to human influences. "Cultural behaviours are crucial for survival," Catherine Crockford, a scientist leading the project and researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany, and ISC Marc Jeannerod, France, said.

"Illegal hunting or logging may not only be killing individual chimpanzees but also destroying their cultures, which could threaten the survival of the remaining chimpanzees." Chimpanzees are also poached for use as pets or for bushmeat. 'Secretly ask females for sex' Researchers once believed culture separated humans from other animals. But in the last seven decades, research has revealed cultural practices in many animals. Even so, community-specific dialects in non-human primates such as chimpanzees, orangutans, and bonobos have been rare. The scientists with the Tai Chimpanzee Project reported four distinct types of dialects that male West Africa chimpanzees used to find mates: heel-kick, knuckle-knock, leaf-clip, and branch-shake. In a heel-kick, the chimpanzees lifted their feet and kicked against a hard surface to make noise. The knuckle-knock involved repeatedly, but somewhat quietly, knocking their knuckles against hard surfaces. Likewise, in the leaf-clip, chimpanzees bite a leaf and strip it into pieces without eating it, creating a ripping sound. The branch-shake is self-explanatory. "It is amusing to watch how young subordinate males try to secretly ask females for sex without the dominant males knowing," Crockford said. "This is the main function of these more subtle gestures." The team documented heel-kicks among the North, South, Northeast, and East chimpanzee communities; knuckle-knocking in the Northeast community; and leaf-clip and branch-shake among the North, South, and Northeast communities.

The knuckle-knock gesture is restricted to the Northeast community. It was previously among adult males of the North community as well, but since 1999, it has suffered significant population loss. The problem became so bad that between 2004 and 2011, the North group didn't have two adult males existing at the same time. Put another way, any adult male didn't have to compete with other adult males and thus had no use for the knuckle-knock dialect. Researchers understand that demography plays a crucial role in shaping culture and keeping it alive across generations. A systematic data collection effort concluded in 2019 that no members of the North group had used knuckle-knocking in 20 years. Significant changes in a popu-



lation, in this case the near-complete loss of an entire demographic (adult males), can thus have a long-lasting impact on the preservation or loss of cultural traditions. Restoring them isn't easy. For example, with the help of ecologists and the Côte d'Ivoire government, the North group has had four adult males since 2016 but the knuckle-knock gesture hasn't reemerged among them. "While establishing absence is challenging, our observations demonstrate a shift-away from knuckle-knock gesture usage," the researchers wrote in their paper. Learning their own language to further understand the origins of the chimpanzees' culture, the team compared mating solicitation gestures involving the use of tools between Tai chimpanzees and Sonso chimpanzees at the Budongo Forest Reserve in Uganda. Whereas the Tai chimpanzees preferred the knuckle-knock, the Sonso chimpanzees used the object-slap: moving the arm from the shoulder to slap an object with an open palm. Likewise, the Sonso chimpanzees frequently used leaf-clipping to express their interest in mating but the Tai chimpanzees didn't. Chimpanzees have genetically inherited certain gestures across subspecies but individuals have been known to express only a subset. But within a closed group, multiple individuals use the same set of gestures over time and can even differ from the gestures used in a neighbouring group. The Budongo Forest Reserve is about 4,160 km from the habitat of the Tai chimpanzees of Côte d'Ivoire. "We can rule out that the different signals used in each community have a genetic origin. Given they live in a similar forest environment, we can also rule out environmental influences on culture," Crockford said. "This leaves us with the most likely option: that different signals in neighbouring communities arise through social learning." "Cultures emerge over generations. Cultural behaviours — such as the use of specialised toolkits, nut-cracking with stone hammers or digging out underground bee nests with different-sized sticks — are crucial for survival," Crockford said. According to her, the preservation of animal culture is a relatively new concept. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently included it among the metrics it uses to prepare its 'Red List of Endangered Species'. The message seems to be that chimpanzees should be protected as well as their cultures. But the IUCN's job isn't done. In a November 2024 paper in Science, researchers reported that the deaths of a species' elders are disproportionately more harmful than the deaths of other members. This is because the elders possess important cultural knowledge:

US proposes fresh 12.5% tariffs on India amid trade talks, 10% on Pak, Canada, EU



GNS News Agency, June 8

India was on the receiving end of the steepest 50% tariffs last year after trade talks broke down in the face of demands made by the US that were perceived as unreasonable by New Delhi. (AP Photo) India was on the receiving end of the steepest 50% tariffs last year after trade talks broke down in the face of demands made by the US that were perceived as unreasonable by New Delhi. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) on Wednesday proposed 12.5% tariffs on India among 54 countries claiming that the country has failed to impose "a legal prohibition on the importation of goods produced wholly or in part with forced labour" and has also "failed to effectively enforce such a prohibition". This move comes as formal India-US negotiations for a deal began on Tuesday.

However, USTR proposed a lower rate of 10% on Pakistan, Canada, Ecuador, the European Union, Indonesia and Mexico, stating that they have demonstrated a commitment to addressing forced labour imports and have committed to imposing and enforcing a forced labour import prohibition through a formal Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) with the United States. "We found that India has failed to impose and effectively enforce a forced labour import prohibition...and failed to impose and effectively enforce a forced labor import prohibition is unreasonable. In section V, we found that the failure to impose and effectively enforce a forced labour import prohibition burdens or restricts U.S. commerce. For the foregoing reasons, the results of this investigation indicate that the acts, policies and practices of India related to the failure to impose and effectively enforce a forced labour import prohibition are unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce," USTR said.

When may the tariffs be imposed?

The proposed tariffs could be imposed as early as July

7, as USTR is currently seeking public comment on these proposed actions, with written comments due by July 6, 2026, and a public hearing scheduled for July 7, 2026. Notably, India was also one of the worst hit by International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) tariffs before they were declared illegal. Steep tariffs had resulted in a flight of foreign investment and resulted in steep depreciation of the domestic currency. The rupee has fallen almost 12% in the last one year. A formal trade deal remained aloof for months as the US demanded that India wind down imports of Russian oil and accept genetically modified American agricultural products. However, the India-US joint statement of February said India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products.

Indicating signs of disagreement, the US later revised a factsheet softening its claims about the gains it had secured from New Delhi and entirely dropping a section on digital services taxes. The earlier version of the factsheet said India had "committed to" buying more American products and purchasing "over \$500 billion of U.S. energy, information and communication technology, coal, and other products". The updated factsheet, as well as the joint statement, tempered the wording from "committed" to "intends". At a media conference on Monday to announce the operationalisation of the FTA with Oman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the negotiations are more or less complete and that India and the US have already agreed upon the first tranche of the framework agreement. "Talks will continue for a broader bilateral trade agreement," he said, adding he expected to meet USTR Jamieson Greer later this month. Experts pointed out that Section 301 tariffs could be worse than IEEPA (International Emergency Economic Powers Act) tariffs that the Trump administration used to pressure trade partners into accepting steep demands under trade deals. India was on the receiving end of the steepest 50% tariffs last year after trade talks broke down in the face of demands made by the US that were perceived as unreasonable by New Delhi. Ravi Dutta Mishra is a Principal Correspondent with The Indian Express, specializing in economic policy and financial regulations. With over five years of experience in business journalism, he provides critical coverage of the frameworks that govern India's commercial landscape. Expertise & Focus Areas: Mishra's reporting

New WPI series out on June 15, but to be replaced by Producer Price Index in 2031

The commerce ministry, on June 15, will release the new Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series with 2022-23 as the base year, starting with data for May as well as a back-series from April 2023 onwards. However, this new year series will in all likelihood be discontinued after five years in 2031 and the Producer Price Index (PPI) based on output prices will become the main measure of non-retail inflation.

While inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the most widely considered measure of price increases in the country for households and used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to decide interest rates, the WPI is crucial too and used in price escalation clauses in the supply of raw materials, machinery, and construction work. For example, in long-term sales and purchase contracts, WPI inflation is used by companies as an indexing tool to adjust terms to account for changes in prices in the future. The Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure will issue a circular on the same, Praveen Mahto, Principal Economic Adviser in the commerce ministry's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), said on Tuesday. "The purpose of the circular would be to tell users of WPI that the government has decided we'll be transitioning from WPI to PPI in a period of 5 years. So now, when you enter into any fresh contract which is of long-term nature and will go beyond 2031, then you have to start using PPI," Mahto said. He did not specify when the Department of Expenditure will issue the aforementioned circular. Statistical overhaul continues The new WPI series as well as the release of an output PPI continues the government's overhaul of India's official statistics. New WPI series table New WPI series table Earlier this year, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) not only updated the base years for CPI and GDP data but also improved the methods used to calculate these key economic indicators. On Monday, MoSPI released its revised Index of Industrial Production (IIP) series, with 2022-23 as the base year. MoSPI is also working on the services sector counterpart of the IIP.

Along with the new WPI series, the commerce ministry will, on June 15, also release three different types of Producer Price Indices. These include the monthly output PPI – for May as well as a back-series starting from April 2023 – and a monthly input PPI for the manufacturing sector on an experimental basis starting with March. It is expected the input PPI trial will last for around a couple of years, during which time the quality of data is examined



and feedback from the users of data and other stakeholders are discussed. The output PPI helps measure the prices received by producers and excludes net tax as well as trade and transport margins. A year-on-year change in the output PPI will be the output PPI inflation. To begin with, the output PPI will contain 125 items. Once the WPI is discontinued, the items in the output PPI will be disaggregated and rise to around 1,500. Meanwhile, input PPI measures the prices paid by producers to buy inputs, which includes trade and transport margin. PPIs also cover services, while the WPI basket only contains goods. According to officials, while the output PPI is similar to the WPI, the input PPI is closer to CPI.

Economists and organisations such as the International Monetary Fund have repeatedly called on the government to develop PPIs to appropriately 'deflate' nominal GDP into real GDP. So far, MoSPI has been using a combination of WPI and CPI to adjust GDP in current prices to compute the real GDP, although the new GDP series is expected to use the output PPI for once the new index is found to be stable and reliable. To be sure, the government has repeatedly said India's WPI with 2011-12 as the base year is not too different from an output PPI. While both WPI and output PPI are calculated using prices received by producers, the latter is seen as being more consistent with the national accounts framework and aligned with global best practices. Finally, a Services Producer Price Index will also be released on June 15 for seven services: banking, securities transaction, management of pension funds, insurance, railways, air (passenger) and telecom. The services PPI will be on a quarterly basis and the first number will be for January-March 2026.

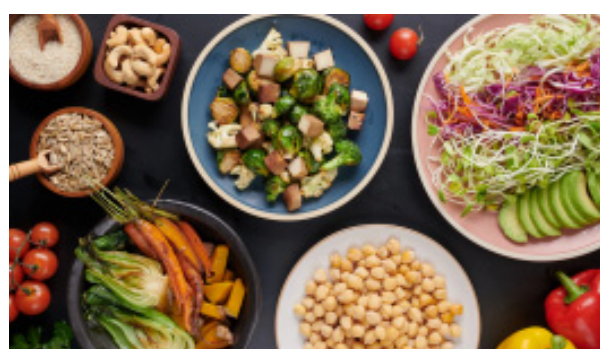
For larger PNG footprint, Government looks at consumer-friendly centralised portal

Moving to push piped natural gas (PNG) connections amid the squeeze in supply of LPG owing to the crisis in West Asia, the government is actively considering a proposal to launch a national centralised portal for consumers to apply for PNG connections. The proposal, a senior official said, also involves putting gas grid maps online to ostensibly facilitate customer requests and their ability to locate a pipeline near their premises. But there are potential security risks around placing natural gas pipeline layouts and maps in the public domain. The proposal is being deliberated upon and there is no clear timeline yet on its implementation. The official said it could be announced over the next few days or weeks. Currently, consumers are required to apply for a connection directly with the city gas distribution (CGD) entities serving their respective areas. Under the proposed centralised interface, the demand for an application for a new connection can be placed by a customer directly on this portal, which would then need to be addressed by the utility serving that area within a given timeframe. Sources indicated that the centralised portal would help the government monitor and keep a tab on CGD entities' response and action on customer applications on an almost real-time basis. The move is part of the government's effort to facilitate migration of LPG consumers — households as well as commercial users — to PNG wherever feasible.

LPG has been the worst-impacted segment of the energy supply disruption due to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. India depended on imports to meet about 60% of its LPG demand, and 90% of the imports came from West Asia via the maritime chokepoint. While India's natural gas supplies have also been hit due to the West Asia supply disruption, the situation is significantly better than in the case of LPG. India's reliance on imports for natural gas is around 50%, and 55-60% of LNG imports come through the Strait of Hormuz, where vessel movements have all but come to a halt over the past three months. LPG has a huge consumer base in households across the country: 33.3 crore domestic connections.

Households with PNG connections are far fewer at about 1.6 crore. In the current scenario, priority sectors continue to get natural gas supplies. In a bid to ease the pressure off of the strained LPG supplies, the government has announced various steps and decisions to effect a migration of LPG consumers to PNG in areas that have access to the latter. On March 14, the government issued an order barring household consumers from simultaneously holding both types of cooking gas connections. Another notification issued in March made it mandatory for households with access to PNG connectivity, but still using LPG, to shift to PNG within three months or lose their LPG connections as well.

FSSAI asks which food group should occupy plate's largest portion; here's the answer



The proportion of foods on our plate plays an important role in maintaining a balanced diet and overall well-being. In a recent X post, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) – the apex food regulator of India under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare — asked a vital question: Do you know which food group should occupy the largest portion of a healthy adult's plate? Dr Sushila Kataria, Vice Chairman, Internal Medicine, Medanta Gurugram, believes the 'healthy plate' concept serves as one of the most useful ways to promote balanced nutrition and prevent the development of lifestyle-related illnesses. The proportion of foods on our plate plays an important role in maintaining a balanced diet and overall well-being.

Do you know which food group should occupy the largest portion of a healthy adult's plate?

And in answer to FSSAI's question, she tells indianexpress.com, "Vegetables must form the major component of the plate with the inclusion of fruits on the plate being ideal, in healthy adult individuals." Explaining why, she says, "vegetables and fruits contain vital components such as fibre, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, which are

'What a weirdo': Soha Ali Khan recalls early dating days with Kunal Kemmu; expert weighs in

When it comes to relationships, the way two people connect at the beginning often shapes how things unfold later. In an interview with Her Circle, actor Soha Ali Khan recalled, "Kunal would send me messages saying, 'Toh aaj raat ko aap kya kar rahi hai (So, what are you doing tonight?)' And I'd be like, 'Nothing', and then he'd say nothing. And I'd be like, 'What a weirdo, like what does this mean?' Like, surely you should follow up. But he never followed up." She admitted she found his approach confusing at first, not knowing how to interpret his silence after reaching out.

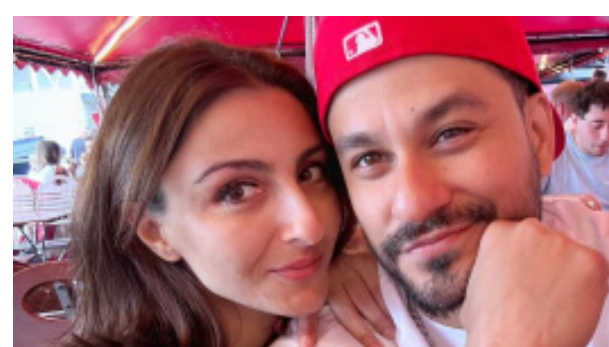
She also shared a funny moment about their first outing. "And then once, I think he said, 'Do you want to go out for ice cream or something. And I was like, I don't eat ice cream, I eat like fat-free sorbet or something. He was like I don't think we can be friends because how can you not eat like...'" For her, food wasn't the main way to bond, but for him, it clearly was. "And his love language is food, so that's a big hurdle in our relationship. He likes to cook, and he likes to feed, and for me, loving somebody is not feeding them. It's probably eating their dinner... yeah and all, like I mean, actually like conversing and you know like looking into each other's eyes and things like that. And he can't, anyway, he doesn't. He doesn't do conversations over dinner. So our first date was over dinner, he didn't even speak to me because he was too busy eating."

So, when someone shows interest vaguely or inconsistently, how should one interpret that?

Gurleen Baruah, existential psychotherapist, tells indianexpress.com, "There's no single way to read such behaviour because people communicate interest very differently. For some, it's nervousness or shyness; for others, it may be testing the waters without knowing what they want. Instead of endlessly interpreting, the healthier way is to ask directly or respond with clarity yourself. This reduces assumptions. Overthinking often comes from trying to decode the other's intent instead of stating your own needs openly."

If two people express care in very different ways, what are some practical ways to bridge that gap without con-

necessary for promoting good digestion and strengthening the immune system". The next components to be included are whole grains and proteins. Dr Kataria explains that whole grains, which include foods like millets, whole wheat, and brown rice, offer sustained energy sources. On the other hand, proteins in the form of beans, lentils, milk products, eggs, fish, or lean meats are important for maintaining good muscle tone and metabolic health, which food group should be there on your healthy plate. Vegetables should take up the lion's share. (AI generated) Healthy eating is not just about food "We see an increasing number of patients suffering from conditions like obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases, and most of these are associated with poor eating habits," Dr Kataria notes. According to her, healthy eating involves not only the type of food consumed but also its quantity and preparation techniques. "The choice of foods that are fresh and minimally processed as well as portion control can contribute significantly to one's health status in the future," she shares. However, it is important to understand that nutritional needs vary from person to person depending on their lifestyle, age, and activity levels. Dr Kataria says that a healthy individual engaged in physically demanding work will have different calorie requirements compared to someone with a sedentary desk job. "Younger individuals may be able to utilise and burn carbohydrates more efficiently, whereas older adults often require greater protein intake to help preserve muscle mass," she mentions, adding that while the healthy plate serves as a useful framework, dietary habits should be personalised to suit an individual's specific needs. The concept of the healthy plate provides a simple visual aid to enable people make proper decisions while selecting healthy foods on a daily basis. "Remember, one size does not fit all. This concept should be viewed as a general guide rather than a rigid prescription," she concludes.



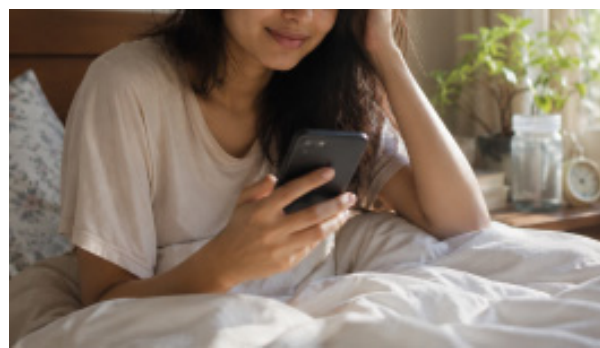
stant friction?

Differences in how people show care don't always have to be a problem, Baruah says; they can be part of what makes a relationship stronger. One person cooking and another talking a lot may feel mismatched at first, but it's really about learning to value each other's "language." She adds, "Instead of wishing your partner loved like you do, notice what they are already giving. Then, add small efforts to meet them halfway — like appreciating the meal and making space for words. This balance keeps both partners seen and respected. Relationships aren't about sameness, but about learning each other's rhythm and adjusting with care."

How can couples navigate early mismatches without writing each other off too quickly?

Baruah mentions, "Start by looking inward. If their silence or focus on food feels rejecting, is that tapping an older story—of not being chosen, not being heard? We often read the present through past templates. Before judging the other, separate the signal from the story: what they did vs. what it means to you. Then try a gentle, clean move—name your need without blame ('I enjoy talking about X; can we do that after we order?'), ask a simple clarifying question ('Are you nervous or just hungry?'), and notice the response."

Checking your phone right after waking up? Doctors warn it may raise stress levels



Doctors warn that checking your phone immediately after waking may affect stress levels, attention span, anxiety, and mental clarity.

In a recent Instagram video, Dr Kunal Sood, an anaesthesiologist and interventional pain medicine physician, explained the neurological and psychological effects of reaching for the phone immediately after waking. He noted, "Morning phone use exposes the brain to notifications, social comparison, information overload, and attention switching during the transition from sleep to wakefulness." According to him, this can intensify the body's natural stress response because "cortisol naturally rises after waking as part of the cortisol awakening response. Immediately adding emails, messages, news, or social comparison can increase sympathetic nervous system arousal and mental tension."

Dr Sood also pointed out that notifications themselves are designed to constantly interrupt attention and create urgency. He explained, "Notifications are designed to interrupt attention and signal that something needs a response. Research shows they can affect cognitive control and attention even without fully engaging with the phone." He further described how repeatedly checking the phone can reinforce anxiety loops, particularly the fear of missing out on something important overnight. According to him, "Many

people check their phones to reduce uncertainty about what happened overnight. That temporary relief can reinforce a cycle where anxiety leads to checking and checking briefly relieves anxiety." Another concern he highlighted was information overload. Dr Sood said, "Phones compress messages, reminders, social media, work obligations, and news into one stream of input. Excessive information can overwhelm the brain's ability to prioritise and process effectively." He added that starting the day by reacting to external demands rather than personal priorities can shape attention and focus patterns for the rest of the day. To understand the impact better, we spoke with an expert.

Why the period after waking up is considered an important transition phase for the brain and nervous system

Dr Jagdish Chattrnalli, senior minimal invasive brain and spine surgeon, Bengaluru West Clinics, HCG Hospitals Bengaluru, tells indianexpress.com, "The first few minutes after waking represent a critical transition period during which the brain gradually shifts from a sleep-dominant state to full wakefulness. During this time, neural networks involved in attention, emotional regulation, and decision-making are reactivating and synchronising. Immediately exposing the brain to notifications, messages, news updates, or social media creates a sudden influx of sensory and cognitive information that it may not yet be optimally prepared to process. This abrupt stimulation can trigger heightened alertness and stress responses before the brain has completed its natural awakening process, potentially leading to feelings of mental overload early in the day." Impact of a heightened stress response When the sympathetic nervous system becomes activated soon after waking, Dr Chattrnalli says that the body enters a state of heightened vigilance. While cortisol is a normal and necessary hormone that naturally rises in the morning, excessive stimulation from emotionally charged notifications, work-related messages, or alarming news can amplify this response. As a result, individuals may experience increased anxiety, reduced concentration, irritability, and mental fatigue as the day progresses. "Repeated exposure to this pattern can make it more difficult to sustain attention, regulate emotions, and maintain stable energy levels. Over time, chronic activation of stress pathways may contribute to sleep disturbances, burnout, and a higher risk of stress-related health concerns," notes Dr Chattrnalli.

FIFA's Gianni Infantino, Trump's favourite sport administrator

GNS News Agency, June 8

In May 2015, as dawn broke over Zurich, plain-clothed FBI agents moved through the corridors of the luxurious Baur au Lac hotel. Curtains were drawn to shield embarrassed football officials from television cameras as they were escorted out. The images travelled around the world: FIFA, football's untouchable empire, finally under siege. The arrests marked the beginning of the end for the old order. Sepp Blatter would soon be gone. Michel Platini's succession plans would collapse. FIFA, battered by corruption scandals and criminal investigations, needed a new face.

When those curtains were eventually pulled back, another figure emerged from the wreckage: Gianni Infantino. The Swiss lawyer – with a perfectly round bald head – whom most football fans recognised only as the man standing on stage during UEFA Champions League draws, reaching into glass bowls to pull out little balls containing team names. A functionary and master of ceremonies was nobody's idea of the most powerful man in world sport. But a decade later, Infantino has become precisely that. He is close enough to US President Donald Trump to be greeted as “my boy Gianni” in public. Close enough to Vladimir Putin to receive Russia's Order of Friendship. Close enough to Qatar's ruling establishment to defend the country with a fervour that often sounded more political than sporting. When Infantino campaigned for the FIFA presidency in 2016, he promised reform. Instead, his presidency has come to be defined by something else: proximity. Not merely proximity to football's centres of power, but proximity to power itself. His relationship with Trump is particularly revealing. FIFA presidents have always dealt with presidents and prime ministers. Yet, Infantino's relationship with Trump feels unusually warm, unusually public and unusually personal.

When Trump established a White House task force for the 2026 World Cup, Infantino was a prominent presence. The FIFA Club World Cup trophy appeared in the Oval Office. The pair has repeatedly shared stages, exchanged compliments and publicly praised one another. Opening doors. The relationship has also taken Infantino into arenas far removed from football. At Trump's invitation, he stood alongside world leaders during the signing of the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration – another reminder that the FIFA presidency under Infantino increasingly resembles a diplomatic posting. When the Nobel committee gave Trump a royal snub, Infantino conjured up a FIFA Peace Prize out of thin air and awarded it to the gleeful American president. When critics questioned the closeness, Infantino defended it openly, arguing that FIFA needed a strong relationship with the US president to ensure a successful World Cup in North America. However, the pattern had emerged long before Trump. Ahead of the 2018 World Cup, Infantino developed a notably cordial relationship with Putin. Russia was already under scrutiny over Crimea, election interference allegations and a state-sponsored doping scandal. Yet FIFA's public posture remained one of enthusiastic partnership.

Infantino repeatedly praised Russia's preparations. Putin publicly thanked FIFA for keeping politics out of football. Infantino declared the 2018 World Cup to be the “best ever”, a phrase he would later recycle for subsequent tournaments. After the event, Putin awarded him the Order of Friendship, one of Russia's highest state honours. Infantino's relationship with Trump feels unusually warm, unusually



public and unusually personal. (Reuters Photo) For critics, the symbolism was uncomfortable. Football's governing body was not merely staging a tournament in Russia. It often appeared to be helping burnish the country's international image.

No World Cup host has faced greater scrutiny in modern times. Questions about migrant workers, labour rights, LGBTQ+ rights and the enormous costs of hosting dominated the headlines leading up to the 2022 tournament. In Doha, on the eve of the tournament, Infantino delivered one of the most remarkable speeches ever made by a sports administrator. “Today I feel Qatari,” he declared. He went on to say he felt like a migrant worker, disabled and gay, while accusing Western critics of hypocrisy. Whether in Moscow, Doha or Washington, Infantino has displayed an uncanny instinct for identifying where influence resides and ensuring football remains closely aligned with it. Supporters would argue this is simply practical politics. World Cups require governments. Borders need opening. Security arrangements need coordinating. Stadiums need building. No FIFA president can afford to antagonise heads of state.

Yet, previous FIFA leaders generally maintained the appearance that football stood above politics, however imperfectly. Infantino often appears fascinated by politics itself. His public appearances increasingly resemble those of a travelling diplomat rather than a sports administrator. He moves between presidential offices, royal palaces and international summits carrying one of the world's most valuable commodities: football's legitimacy. The men's World Cup has expanded from 32 to 48 teams. The Club World Cup has expanded dramatically. Revenues have surged into billions. Development money has flowed to member associations across the globe. Many federations remain fiercely loyal because Infantino has recognised one of FIFA's oldest political truths: success in football governance is measured not by headlines but by votes. And votes often follow money. In that sense, Infantino has been extraordinarily successful. He has consolidated power more effectively than many of his predecessors while avoiding the scandals that consumed them. Yet, there remains a lingering irony. The man who arrived promising to restore trust in FIFA may ultimately be remembered less for reform than for relationships. The administrator, once known for pulling balls from a glass bowl during UEFA draws, now spends his time navigating presidential palaces, royal courts and the Oval Office. His greatest achievement was not inheriting football's power. It was understanding where power already lived – and making sure he was standing beside it when the cameras rolled.

12 matches in 40 days: India set for biggest cricket tour to New Zealand in October



GNS News Agency, June 8

New Zealand are set to welcome India as part of the largest men's bilateral cricket series ever held in the country later this year between October and November this year. As preparation for the 2027 ODI World Cup simmers, the Shubman Gill-led Indian side will feature in five ODIs on the tour between November 4 and 15 across four venues. The 40-day tour will kick-start on October 22 shortly after

India's home series against the West Indies with five T20Is. The all-format series will conclude with two Test matches that will be an integral part of ICC World Test Championship final qualification for both teams. The tour will also mark the first time since 2019 that India will play Test cricket in New Zealand, while it will be their first white-ball assignment in the country since 2022.

“The hosts will face India in five T20Is, five ODIs and two Test matches, with the 12-game itinerary set to become the largest international tour in the history of New Zealand Cricket in terms of the total number of matches,” the ICC said in its statement. India are set to feature in 17 ODIs before the end of the 2026 calendar year. Their immediate assignment begins in the home series against Afghanistan, starting Saturday with a one-off Test in Mullanpur. It will be followed by three ODIs, set to be played in Dharamsala, Lucknow and Chennai between June 13 and 20. The Men in Blue will then depart on a white-ball tour of Ireland and England, featuring in seven T20Is and three ODIs.

SRH captain Pat Cummins mulls skipping IPL 2027 for Ashes: ‘Something has to give’



GNS News Agency, June 8

Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins could have a limited role with the franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL) season next year. Or perhaps none at all. With an intense international calendar set to peak in the 2027 calendar year, Cummins is open to cutting down on his franchise commitments over the season. “Something has to give,” he said. And it's not going to be one of the 150th anniversary Test at MCG in March, the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in India, a potential World Test Championship final or the ODI World Cup defence in late 2027. Sandwiched between either end of a jam-packed international season will be the 20th edition of the IPL, running over two months between March and May and the Sunrisers skipper will be mindful of the workload that could hamper Australia's star pace trio involving himself, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc.

“Something has got to give at some stage next year and it's not going to be Test matches or an ODI World Cup,” Cummins told the Age, reflecting on what the workload of the five-match series in India in early 2027 could do. The 33-year-old said he will assess his stress levels closer to next season and take a call in consultation with the Sunrisers

management. “I will make a call a lot closer and work with the franchise to see what makes sense. Things can change. I've had a couple of injuries pop up, so I don't really want to lock in anything.” “The priorities for me are always the Test matches and that ODI World Cup. I dare say if I play all of India, I need some sort of break before a pretty gruelling Ashes series.” Returning from a length injury lay-off, Cummins took charge of the Sunrisers midway through the IPL 2026 season from deputy Ishan Kishan. The Aussie pacer spearheaded the side to Playoffs qualification where they were blown away by Rajasthan Royals prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's sensational 29-ball 97 in the Eliminator. Cummins heaped praise on the 15-year-old, insisting that the left-hander's rise was not random. “I'd say [the mood in India] is still a little bit of disbelief. I think he's got enough credits now that he's not just a flash in the pan. He's a real talent,” Cummins said. “He's just a really good hitter of the ball. He's clearing [the boundary] by 20 or 30 metres, so your margins for error become really small when someone is that strong and has got so many options. He's really impressive,” added Cummins.

BCCI appoints Sairaj Bahutule as India's spin bowling coach

Hyderabad: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Sairaj Bahutule as the Spin Bowling Coach of the Indian cricket team (Senior Men). A former India international and a domestic stalwart, Bahutule brings with him a wealth of experience as both a player and a coach.

Will biggest be the best? How 48-team draw changes dynamics of the FIFA World Cup

Here's a sentence that might not have been possible in a 32-team World Cup: Norwegian striker Erling Haaland lines up against Iraq at Boston's Gillette Stadium for their group opener. The presence of one of the best strikers in the contemporary game will be new, and so will be the Asian team he goes up against. For long, the FIFA World Cup has excluded some of the game's greatest players and elbowed out teams that didn't have the required strength in depth. Players like George Weah, Ryan Giggs and George Best were never part of the biggest show on the planet because Liberia, Wales and Northern Ireland never qualified for the World Cup during their time. But a 48-team World Cup's most convincing argument is its inclusivity. Ten teams from Africa and nine from Asia – two continents that have never produced a World Cup winner now get to share the stage with Europe's 16 and South America's six. The four extra slots that Europe received has resulted in teams like Norway and Turkey making it – helped in no small measure by the presence of Haaland and, in Turkey's case, Real Madrid star Arda Guler. A 48-team World Cup rewards countries who had been on the periphery of a World Cup till now. Uzbekistan is a country that comes to mind as a beneficiary of a larger World Cup, bringing Manchester City's Abdulkodir Khusanov to a tournament they would have found tough to reach earlier. A tournament of excess! going to be the biggest FIFA World Cup – more host cities, more teams, more games – as well as an extra knockout stage. The 2026 edition will take place across the vast expanse of the United States of America, Canada and Mexico. It will be a 39-day affair – a week longer than the longest FIFA World Cup ever and will have 40 matches more than the 2022 edition in Qatar. 104: With a total of 104 matches in 39 days, the 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the longest World Cup ever, eclipsing Qatar by 40 games.

Who misses out?

Most notably, Italy. The three-time champions have



now not made it to three consecutive editions of the World Cup. They were expected to seal their spot considering more European places were on offer. Missing out from Africa would be Cameroon and Nigeria – both with multiple past appearances. From Europe, Denmark, Wales, Serbia and Poland will be some of the other teams that didn't make the cut. But if FIFA were to be asked, the biggest teams to miss out would be China and India. An unwritten goal of the 48-team World Cup was to welcome the two countries, and their combined populations of over three billion, into the fold – a pipe dream for now. A 48-team World Cup reduces the likelihood of a group stage where three teams of roughly similar strength are pooled together to create some jeopardy. This iteration of the World Cup, with its 12 groups, will see two of the best teams from each group progressing to the Round-of-32. Following them would be the eight best third-placed teams – essentially reducing the excitement that surrounds the last group-stage days at a World Cup. “I believe that 48 teams is the right number. It's less than 25% for 211 countries who are affiliated to FIFA. That means one team out of four has a chance to participate. That means still 75% of the teams are not there.”

Gajewski: ‘Meeting expectations of ex-world champions is not Gukesh's main goal’

GNS News Agency, June 8

In the past 18 months, the crown of world champion seems to be weighing heavy on D Gukesh's head. There seems to be a constant target on the back of the youngest champion in history. The results have sagged, winning chances squandered. Consequently, the cacophony of criticism has been deafening. Former world champions like Garry Kasparov, Magnus Carlsen, Vladimir Kramnik and Anatoly Karpov have offered unsparing comments about the boy who's just turned 20. If one wondered how all that has affected the young man, his coach is not too perturbed.

“I don't think meeting the expectations of former world champions is his main goal as a professional chess player,” says Grzegorz Gajewski, the man who has been a constant corner man for Gukesh since 2023. “I don't think the comments affected him at all. They have the right to their opinions. It's your responsibility as a professional chess player, especially of his calibre, to simply focus on your job.” Since coming together in 2023, Gukesh and Gajewski have ridden the roller-coaster of fortune together. The partnership led to a Candidates win at their first attempt and then a history-making World Championship triumph. Then, the slump began.

“Obviously, his classical results were very disappointing. Even if you look at his recent results from the rapid and blitz event of the Grand Chess Tour in Warsaw, they were not mind-blowing. People thought he was over-performing for a 17-year-old. After that, he's been fairly under-performing. But it's just a matter of time for him,” the Polish grandmaster adds. Gajewski, who once helped Viswanathan Anand as a second in his World Championship battles, was introduced to the youngster by the five-time world champion to help improve Gukesh's opening repertoire. Since then, his role in Gukesh's career has evolved. For the last few years, a challenge that both of them have tried to work on is time-management during games. “We've done a lot of work that was focusing on elements that are somewhere between chess and psychology. The work never ends really. We've done a lot of work on the time management thing, but it's a problem that can never be fully solved. It's his (Gukesh's) nature to think (calculate during games). So



this is not something that can be just solved for good. It's a constant challenge for him,” says Gajewski. Ask him how Gukesh has improved in recent months, and Gajewski says: “For me, it's mainly the resilience he's shown. Because he had a couple of good games in Tata Steel (at the start of the year) and that was it. The rest of the tournament was bad. Then, Prague Masters was also bad. It's not like he's playing some great chess here at Norway Chess. He's playing normal chess. It's not his A game for sure.” Gajewski says that while it's easy to perform well when a player is at his A game, when a player is not there, the important thing is to maintain a level.

“Allow yourself to make mistakes, or to spoil even some winning positions, that he did here. The important thing is to get over every game and do your best in the next game.” He does point out that there are moments when the decisions that Gukesh makes upsets him. But he makes peace with them. “Internally, I get angry but I always remind myself I'm not the one playing, these are not my results. It's important for me not to be too emotionally engaged. I do my job, he does his job, and that's it. Whatever decision he makes, he thinks it's for the best.” With the World title defence coming in six months' time, Gajewski is hopeful that an improvement in form is just around the corner. “There are many aspects in his play which have improved. And while these might not yet be reflected in the results, I think it's just a matter of one good confidence boost that will allow him to show his full potential,” he adds.

Buttler hails Sooryavanshi's impact in IPL 2026: ‘He was the IPL this year’



The former England white-ball captain said Sooryavanshi's impact was impossible to miss during the tournament, with fans turning up in huge numbers specifically to watch the teenage sensation.

Gujarat Titans (GT) batsman Jos Buttler has hailed Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's remarkable rise during IPL 2026, describing the 15-year-old as one of the biggest attractions of the tournament and a player whose popularity extends far beyond traditional cricket circles. Speaking on the For the Love of Cricket podcast, Buttler said Sooryavanshi's performances and popularity made him one of the standout stories of the season, even in a year that ended with Royal Challengers Bengaluru lifting their maiden IPL title.

“Vaibhav, I think, took home five or six of those trophies. RCB are obviously the story of the IPL because they won it, but I feel like Vaibhav almost was the IPL this year,” Buttler said. “At his age, to be MVP of the tournament, score 700-plus runs, more than anyone else, and at a faster strike rate than everyone else, it was amazing to watch.”

The former England white-ball captain said Sooryavanshi's impact was impossible to miss during the tournament, with fans turning up in huge numbers specifically to watch the teenage sensation. “His impact is unbelievable. Seeing it in India, he's the guy everyone's talking

about,” Buttler said. “I was chatting to Rajasthan Royals owner Manoj Badale and he was saying that in Kolkata, half the stadium had turned up just to watch Vaibhav. People were wearing Rajasthan Royals shirts with his name on the back. Imagine that pressure at 15.” Despite the attention and expectations that come with stardom, Buttler believes Sooryavanshi has handled the spotlight remarkably well.

“He seems to soak it all up. There's even a song that plays when he's batting. Whether Rajasthan Royals created it or the tournament did, I don't know. But it's all part of the show. The level of fame he's achieved before playing international cricket just shows the pull of the IPL and how big it is.” Buttler also backed the youngster to enjoy a long and successful career, while suggesting English fans could soon get an opportunity to watch him up close. “He's going to be alright. He's got a decent career ahead of him.”

“I actually think there's a good chance we might see him in England this summer. If we do, it'll be pretty cool because he's one of those players that everyone wants to watch. You can sense it around the ground. Players, support staff, fans – everyone is intrigued. If we get to see him in England this summer, it will be special.” Buttler's own IPL campaign ended in disappointment as GT went down to RCB by five wickets in the final in Ahmedabad. Reflecting on the defeat, the England star admitted he was still hurting from falling short on the biggest stage. “Flat, to be honest. Very flat. Amazing to get to the final. It was a hell of an occasion, 100,000 people in that stadium in Ahmedabad. A privilege to be involved. Big dreams of lifting that trophy and beating RCB,” Buttler said. “We didn't play our best game of cricket, and they were the deserved winners on the day. So, pretty gutted, to be honest. Pretty flat. Getting to finals, especially, you never know how many finals you're going to be a part of. So, to not manage to win it is gutting. So, yeah, disappointed.” Buttler later summed up GT night with a scary yet memorable anecdote. “Our night was summed up by two in the morning on the bus home. The boys at the back started smelling smoke, and we all got off the bus and stood by the side of the road. While I'm sure the RCB party was in full flow, our bus was going up in smoke along with our dreams of winning the title.”

Ranveer Singh sends legal notice to film body over Don 3 ban



informing the body that it has no jurisdiction over the matter. Even though the representative proposed to meet and address the matter personally, the FWICE has insisted that Ranveer shows up personally to resolve the issue.

Both Ranveer's representative and the FWICE refused to comment on the development officially. However, the film body is expected to address the matter and "communicate its further stand" in the "dispute between filmmaker Farhan Akhtar and Ranveer Singh for the forthcoming film Don 3," as per an official invite to a press conference in Mumbai today. Last week, a media and entertainment lawyer told SCREEN that Ranveer has "remedies" to take legal action against the FWICE. "You have the constitutional right to be able to carry out any trade of your choice, so long as it's legal. Right now, the film body is more of a toothless tiger. But when it gains teeth to the point where it restricts him to engage with more producers, I'd imagine he'd challenge the union's directive or at least get them to modify the terms so that his right to work is protected," said Sanjay Vasudevan. If he wishes, Ranveer could seek legal remedies under Section 3(3)(b) of the Competition Act, Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian Constitution, and Section 27, Contract Act. He also argued that since the FWICE is essentially just a trade union, and doesn't hold any statutory powers, its actions aren't legally binding. "Since Ranveer is not even a member of the FWICE, he is outside its jurisdiction, and the directive has no binding force against him or third parties," he said, adding that the film body's "authority is consensual and confined to its members." Additionally, Vasudevan pointed out that Ranveer isn't even legally liable to engage with the FWICE. "Declining a request from a non-authoritative body attracts no liability. Ranveer is well within his rights to not indulge in the conversations," he said. "It's a commercial choice, and not a legal duty. The 'no one is above the law' framing is rhetorical, not legal," added the lawyer, referring to FWICE President BN Tiwari's claim that "a superstar is not above the law".

A day after veteran producer TP Aggarwal challenged in court the 'ban' on Ranveer Singh by a film body, the actor has reportedly sent a legal notice to the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) over the "non-cooperation directive" issued against him in the wake of his sudden, last-minute exit from Farhan Akhtar's directorial Don 3. FWICE is a trade union representing over 5 lakh workers, technicians, and artists in the Indian film and television industry.

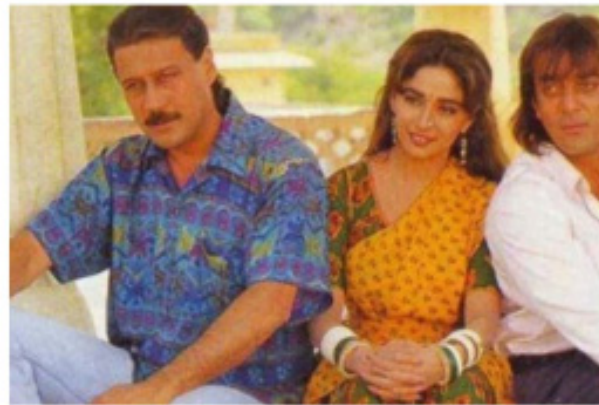
Sources tell SCREEN that Ranveer sent a legal notice to the film body on Tuesday, more than a week after the film body issued the non-cooperation directive that asked its 5 lakh members not to work with the actor. The FWICE had claimed that while Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's production house Excel Entertainment has been cooperating with the film body over the Don 3 standoff, Ranveer has not appeared before the body despite receiving three reminders at 10-day intervals. The actor's last known communication with the FWICE, before the legal notice, was on May 23, when his representative wrote to the film body,

Jackie Shroff hints at reunion with Sanjay Dutt, Madhuri Dixit in Khalnayak

Jackie Shroff isn't complaining that fellow '80s stars are dominating the screens yet again. He headlines a superhero movie, Manish Saini's The Great Grand Superhero, and will be next seen in Ahmed Khan's adventure comedy Welcome to the Jungle. Meanwhile, his former co-star Madhuri Dixit will be seen in Suresh Triveni's comedy Maa Behen on Netflix India this Friday. Their Khal Nayak co-star Sanjay Dutt is on a roll as well, having starred in Aditya Dhar's blockbuster spy thriller Dhurandhar: The Revenge and Riteish Deshmukh's period war drama Raj Shivaji this year.

"I'm sure your mom and dad aren't complaining either," Jackie tells this writer in an exclusive interview. While he hasn't signed on the dotted line yet, he made his intent clear to SCREEN about reuniting with Sanjay and Madhuri in the recently announced sequel to their film, Khalnayak Returns. "There's no discussion yet. The story is yet to reach me. Sanju baba's posters are already out as Khalnayak. Bas police officer Ram Sinha aur unki dharampatni peechhe hain," he says, smiling. Madhuri told SCREEN that "as of now", there are no talks with the makers on her casting yet.

Being a part of the first Khal Nayak (1994) was a no-brainer for Jackie since it was directed by Subhash Ghai, who gave the actor his breakthrough with the 1983 action romance Hero. In retrospect, Jackie feels picking a raw model from a chawl for the titular role was a huge gamble for the visionary filmmaker. "Baap re! Kya tension liya. Panga liya na?," says Jackie, adding, "Boss hain toh sambhalna unhone. Naap tol ke bachcho ki tarah sambhalna. He says his actors are like his kids. He treats them like his own children." The actor adds that working with Manish Saini on



a kids film like The Great Grand Superhero also reminded him of how Subhash Ghai would treat his actors on set. "He's got three National Awards, and I don't even have one in my 40-year-plus career," says Jackie about Manish, claiming that it was his "privilege" to support a budding filmmaker like him. "It's not 'support'. He's obliged me by taking me. He's a sincere director and a simple chap. End of discussion," adds Jackie. With his next film, Welcome to the Jungle, slated to release in cinemas on June 26, Jackie will reunite with Ahmed Khan six years after the 2020 action thriller Baaghi 3, headlined by his son Tiger Shroff. "I'm a compulsory item in Ahmed's films. Wo mujhe leta hi leta hai. It's like when Subhash Ghai, Selim Aftab, and KC Bokadia would take me in seven-eight films together. Whichever house I went to, I'd get four-five films just like that," says Jack

Why Ranveer Singh exited Farhan Akhtar's Don 3: Script disputes, slashed budget, Dhurandhar



While he did cancel action rehearsals scheduled within the week after the film's release, he did attend script-reading sessions with Farhan and principal cast members around 10 days after the release of Dhurandhar. Little did the director know that it would be the last time he'd meet Ranveer as his imminent collaborator. The first indication of Ranveer's possible exit came the next day when his look test got cancelled. It was around a couple of weeks after the release of Dhurandhar that the actor finally broke the news to Farhan on phone. By that time, Excel Entertainment had not only covered the charges for Ranveer's action training and costume trials, but also spent a major chunk on multiple foreign reces and travel and stay bookings of over 200 cast and crew members at an overseas location for the first shooting schedule. Ranveer Singh has not publicly responded to the specific claims regarding the script, budget, or timeline of his exit from Don 3. Here's exactly why Ranveer left Don 3

While it's not known whether Ranveer communicated the reasons behind his exit to Farhan over the phone that day, but the subsequent mediation proceedings with members of the Producers Guild of India spelled out a few key reasons. Firstly, as hinted at by the FWICE, Ranveer didn't approve of the final draft of the script, which was sent to him possibly months before shooting was scheduled to begin. Secondly, the project, first announced in 2023, got delayed significantly as it was finally about to go on floors only over two years after the first announcement. While Ranveer was busy filming the Dhurandhar franchise meanwhile, he didn't feel creatively aligned with Farhan, who was also busy at his end with his musical tour Farhan Live and his return to acting with the lead role in Razeesh Ghai's military action thriller 21 Bahadur, which involved intense action training and a gruelling shooting schedule in Ladakh, before its theatrical release this past November. It's only after the release that Farhan returned with full focus to Don 3, which was about to go on floors within less than a couple of months. Thirdly, it's believed that even the budget of Don 3 was halved since it was first proposed to Ranveer three years prior. As per Variety, the initially and verbally proposed budget was in the range of Rs 300 crore to Rs 350 crore, but by the time pre-production began on the film, the budget was slashed down to approximately

'Lost time with my parents': Manoj Bajpayee says he has wanted to quit acting for a decade



into that tunnel."

The emotional burden, he said, is so intense that he often has little recollection of how he delivered some of his most acclaimed performances. "A lot of times, I don't have any memory of the roles I have done. I don't remember how I did films like Aligarh or Bhonsle. It takes away a lot from me." Sharing examples from his career, Bajpayee recalled how deeply certain roles affected him. "When I did Bhiku Mhatre, I was completely immersed in that role. It took a toll on me. My anger levels became uncontrollable. Then I did Shool and started having nightmares. I wasn't able to sleep properly for several nights." The actor acknowledged that some of his peers may dismiss such experiences as exaggerated or theatrical, but insisted they are very real for performers who adopt his method of working.

"Some actors claim these experiences are made-up stories, fake, or dramatic. I believe they simply don't relate to it because they don't work that way. Maybe they're far more accomplished and can achieve a character without going through this process. I can't. If my audience can see the character in my eyes, then I know I have given a good performance."

While Bajpayee did not mention anyone by name, his remarks touched upon a long-running debate within the industry about method acting and emotional immersion. Actor Prashant Narayanan had previously questioned claims of actors entering a dark emotional space for roles after Ranveer Singh spoke about the psychological impact of preparing for Padmaavat. "I lost too many things chasing materialistic things. Reflecting on my career, Bajpayee admitted that while the sacrifices eventually paid off professionally, they came at a personal cost. "These struggles paid off materially, but I lost too many things. If I look back, I lost time with my parents. By the time they passed away, we were still trying to understand each other." Clarifying what he meant by "materialistic ambition," the actor said it was never about wealth or luxury. "When I say materialistic ambition, I don't mean apartments, cars, or watches. That was never my ambition. My ambition was to have the freedom to choose my roles." Bajpayee then reflected on how distance gradually grew between him and his family. Raised in a village, he was sent away at a young age so that he could receive a better education.

"My parents sent me to a boarding school. Before that, I stayed in a lodge, and that experience was very dark. I was just eight or nine years old." The separation continued as he moved to Delhi to pursue acting and later to Mumbai. "When I came to Delhi, I was completely clueless about urban society and its ways. Delhi was a huge learning experience—not just acting and education, but language, behaviour, understanding complexity, dealing with hunger, figuring out two meals a day, accommodation, rent. Amid all of this, there was very little connection with my family. We wrote letters. Then I moved to Mumbai, and the distance only grew."

Long before he became one of India's most respected actors, Bajpayee went through periods of severe self-doubt. Multiple rejections, lack of opportunities, and unsuccessful attempts to find work as an actor or acting teacher pushed him into one of the darkest phases of his life. "When you start doubting yourself, that's the worst phase. I kept questioning whether I was good enough to act."

When Satya released in 1998, Bhiku Mhatre became a cult figure and Manoj Bajpayee was suddenly thrust into the spotlight. What followed were acclaimed performances in films like Shool, Zubeidaa, and eventually Gangs of Wasseypur, cementing his place among India's finest actors. Known for his remarkable versatility and ability to breathe life into every character he portrays, Bajpayee has given audiences countless memorable performances. Yet behind the applause lies a personal cost. In a recent conversation with Ranveer Allahabadi on his podcast, the actor revealed that for nearly a decade, he has repeatedly contemplated walking away from acting altogether.

Explaining the reason behind these thoughts, he said, "Taking intense characters and performing them over the years makes you a very moody person. The mood swings are way too high. For the past ten years, I've had thoughts of quitting acting. But then I find a nice role and go back to work." According to the actor, the dilemma stems from his desire to preserve acting as a passion rather than allowing it to become a routine profession. "I don't want acting to become a mandatory job. I want to do it out of passion, not because I have responsibilities to fulfill at home or because it's my source of livelihood." After years of immersing himself in emotionally draining roles, Bajpayee confessed that he is now yearning for something lighter. "I am craving a commercial film, want to run away from dark roles." Lately, I have been craving to do a commercial film. I want to be in an out-and-out slapstick comedy. Absolute nonsense. Dance to music. A film that requires no preparation. I just want to go on set without thinking too much about what I am playing and have a good time. I want to escape from all the things I have been doing."

The actor pointed to films like Gali Guleyan, Bhonsle, and Joram as examples of projects that demanded an immense emotional and psychological investment. "These are not easy films or easy characters. You're living these characters as closely as possible, both mentally and physically. You're creating that space for a completely different human being. Suddenly, you're in a tunnel." He added that he now actively avoids dark and emotionally complex roles because of the toll they take on him. "Every time I see a dark character living in a dark world, I want to escape it. Every time there is a dark, complex character, it takes the soul out of you. Now, I want to escape the experience—the process of getting

Bobby Deol recalls sleeping beside Dharmendra till 14, reveals why he called him 'Kaddu'

Actor Bobby Deol has been ruling hearts with his performances on the big screen and on OTT. While the actor is gearing up for the release of his film, Bandar, this week, he recently appeared on Rajat Sharma's show Aap Ki Adalat. During the conversation, Bobby opened up about his close bond with father Dharmendra and became emotional while recalling his childhood. The actor revealed that he slept in his parents' bedroom until the age of 14 and was affectionately called 'Kaddu' by his father. Explaining how he got the nickname 'Kaddu', Bobby said, "My cheeks were very round, and I was a chubby kid. We were at a farm where vegetables were being grown, and I saw a large round vegetable and asked my father what it was. He said, 'Kaddu.' From that day onwards, he started calling me Kaddu. I never felt bad about it because he called me that with so much affection." Bobby Deol on sleeping beside his father till the age of 14

During the interview with Rajat Sharma, Bobby Deol addressed reports of sleeping in his parents' room till he was a teenager. The actor said, "Yes, I slept in my parents' bedroom until I was 14. I feel very lucky I got those 14 years with mom, dad every day. Papa used to come late from shooting every day, and I would be awake waiting for him. Sometimes when I would fall sick, papa used to work a lot, do 3-4 shifts; at night he would take me in his arms and fall asleep. The comfort I would get from that was something else." He further added, "My mother used to scold me and say, 'Go, you should be ashamed, you are growing up, go and sleep with your brother now.' It took me 14 years to reach there; I have always been very attached to my parents. Sleeping with lights on is a habit I got from dad; he would need some light while sleeping. When I stayed with him for 14 years, I also got the habit of having some light on while sleeping. Even after I got married, my wife and I would argue over switching off the light, but later she also got used to it. I just feel comfortable with some light around." Bobby Deol gets emotional remembering Dharmendra. During the same interview, Bobby Deol became emotional while speaking about his late father. When an audience member asked who could play the veteran actor in a biopic, Bobby replied: "Nobody. No one can be like him. The kind of person he was, there can never be another."

He further added, "Dad was the kind of person who could never tolerate anyone speaking unfairly or disrespectfully. He did indeed raise his hands and hit hard. But afterwards, he would bring that same person inside, feed them food, give them milk, buy them new clothes. That's the kind of person he was." The Animal actor also shared that people's admiration for Dharmendra inspired him to pursue acting from a young age. Bobby has often spoken about the influence his father has had on both his personal life and career. In April this year, Dharmendra was also honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chetak SCREEN Awards 2026. While receiving the award on his father's behalf, emotional Bobby Deol had said, "I can see my father's love in all your eyes. My dad touched your hearts without even knowing you, through his work and even through social media. Instagram Reels became his new hobby. He always wanted people to be happy. He believed



that every person has a gift, and if we truly believe in ourselves, we can achieve anything in life. That's why he continued working in this industry for so many years." Legendary actor Dharmendra passed away in November last year. Dharmendra got married to Prakash Kaur in 1954. They had four children together — Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol, Vijeta Deol, and Ajita Deol. During his latest interview, Bobby Deol also revealed that his real name is Vijay Singh Deol, while Sunny's real name is Ajay. On the work front, Bobby will next be seen in Anurag Kashyap's Bandar, which releases on June 5. He also has YRF's Alpha, starring Alia Bhatt and Sharvari, and the Tamil film Jana Nayagan in the pipeline.

Kangana Ranaut reflects on career struggles, calls 'fashion' phase a turning point

Mumbai: The success of "Fashion" did not translate into movies, says actor Kangana Ranaut, recalling a period of struggle where she worked below her intelligence to sustain herself in the industry. The actor-BJP MP from Mandi, who will be next seen in "Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata", has completed 20 years in the industry that began with a hit debut in 2006 with Anurag Basu's "Gangster: A Love Story". She established herself with films like "Woh Lamhe", "Life in Metro", "Fashion", before gaining stardom with "Queen". She subsequently went on to headline powerful women-oriented movies like "Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi", "Panga", and "Emergency", among others. "Whenever you struggle, you should take that time constructively because life is saying something to you and you have to listen to it."