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13 killed as heavy rain and thunderstorms hit Telangana

Hyderabad: As many as 13 people were killed in separate incidents as heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning lashed several parts of Telangana on Sunday night. The downpour along with thunderstorms under the impact of severe cyclonic storm Remal in Bay of Bengal claimed 13 lives, uprooted trees, damaged electricity and communication towers and disrupted transport and power supply. Nagarkurnool district alone accounted for seven deaths. Four deaths were reported from various parts of Hyderabad and two from Medak.

Eight Injured in Lift Accident at Nagole's Kinnera Grand Hotel

Several people were left seriously injured after a lift accident at the renowned Kinnera Grand Hotel in Nagole. The incident occurred when the lift suddenly plummeted from the fourth floor, leaving the exact number of passengers inside unknown. Eight individuals were reported to have sustained serious injuries as a result of the fall. They were promptly taken to LB Nagar Kamineni Hospital for urgent medical attention. Reports suggest that the victims were attendees at an engagement party being held at the hotel. Authorities are currently investigating the cause of the accident and ensuring necessary measures are in place to prevent similar incidents in the future.

'When ED will question...': Rahul Gandhi jabs PM Modi over 'sent by god' remark



GNS News Agency, May 27

Rahul Gandhi claimed that PM Modi would allegedly say that he does not know anything about it and was asked to do so by 'parmatma'. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 'sent by god' remark. Gandhi said after the election when the Enforcement Directorate (ED) asks PM Modi about industrialist Guatam Adani, he'll say that it was asked to him by Parmatma (god).

Tried to 'steal' power instead of helping after Himachal's monsoon disaster: Rahul Gandhi hits out at Modi "You know why he (PM Modi) has brought this story of Parmatma? Because, after the election when the ED will ask Narendra Modi about Adani, he will say, I don't know, it was asked to me by Parmatma," Gandhi said at a rally in Bihar's Bakhtiyarpur.

He further hit out at the prime minister over unemployment and said, "Modi ji, stop giving long speeches and dividing the country. First, tell this to the people of Bihar, of the country, how many jobs you have given to the youth of the country?" Gandhi's remarks came days after PM Modi had said in an interview with a news channel that till his mother was alive, he felt that perhaps his birth was biological and after her demise when he connects various experiences, he is convinced that God has sent him. "Until my mother was alive, I used to think I was born biologically. After her demise, when I look at my experiences, I am convinced that I was sent by God. This strength is not from my body. It has been given to me by God. That's why God also gave me the ability, strength, pure-heartedness, and inspiration to do this. I'm nothing but an instrument that God has sent," PM Modi reportedly said during the interview.

Voting will take place in Sasaram, Nalanda, Patna Sahib, Pataliputra, Arrah, Buxar, Karakat and Jehanabad Lok Sabha constituencies of Bihar in the last phase on June 1. Rahul Gandhi enjoys vacations abroad, PM Modi celebrates Diwali with jawans: Amit Shah In Bihar, NDA coalition partners BJP and JD(U) are contesting on 17 and 16 seats, respectively. Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is in the fray on five seats, and Jitan Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha are contesting on one seat each, while the Mahagathabandhan (Grand Alliance) comprises the RJD, Congress, and Left parties.

Arvind Kejriwal seeks 7-day extension of interim bail on health grounds in money laundering case linked to the Delhi excise policy scam.

GNS News Agency, May 27

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on May 27 moved the Supreme Court for a seven-day extension of an interim bail granted to him in a money laundering case linked to the liquor policy scam. The Supreme Court had granted Mr. Kejriwal interim bail on May 10 to campaign for the Lok Sabha polls.

Mr. Kejriwal was ordered to surrender on June 2. In an application seeking an extension of time by a week, Mr. Kejriwal said he had to undergo a series of medical tests, including a PET-CT scan. The interim bail was granted till June 1. The election results are due on June 4. "There is no gain saying that General Elections to Lok Sabha is the most significant and an important event this year, as it should be in a national election year. Between 650-700 million voters out of an electorate of about 970 million will cast their votes to elect the government of this country for the next five years. General Elections supply the vis viva to a democracy," a Bench of Justices Sanjay Khanna and Dipankar Datta had observed in its order.

The court had barred Mr. Kejriwal from visiting the Chief Minister's office or the Delhi Secretariat. He would not sign any official files unless it was required and necessary for obtaining clearance or approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. The order has prohibited him from making any comments with regard to his role in the liquor policy case. The court had made it clear that the grant of bail was not a comment on the merits of the case or on the pending appeal filed by Mr. Kejriwal against his arrest on March 21.

The eight-page order had rejected an argument by the prosecution agency, Directorate of Enforcement (ED), that releasing Mr. Kejriwal on interim bail to canvas votes would create an impression among the public, worse still, a judicial precedent, that politicians were a separate class, higher in status than the ordinary citizen and immune from arrest.

PM says he met film fraternity despite ideological differences to harness cinema's soft power

GNS News Agency, May 27

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in an exclusive interview with IANS, spoke about the meetings he had with Bollywood artistes, even though they may have had different ideological persuasions. The Prime Minister said he wanted to capitalise on the soft power of cinema that would put India on the global map. He told IANS: "I did many workshops, after being voted to the Prime Minister's Office, somewhere around 2015 and 2016, I did workshops with start-ups and with sportspersons. Not just



this, I had meetings with people belonging to the film fraternity."

PM Modi went on to say he was aware of the

to make the country a rising power in the world through its cinema. He told IANS, "I know the film fraternity is very different in terms of its ideology from me and our party, but as a Prime Minister, it is my job to talk to them and understand their problems."

The Prime Minister added: "If Bollywood proves to be beneficial to us in the global market, if Tamil or Telugu films can prove to be profitable across the world, then for me as a PM, it's important to capitalise on the power that cinema can lend to our country."

Electoral bond scheme's alternative should be found: Amit Shah



GNS News Agency, May 27

Home Minister Amit Shah believes that the influence of black money will increase during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections following the Supreme Court's decision to scrap the electoral bond scheme, and said it is for Parliament to decide on an alternative. If the impact of black money rises, then an alternative should be found, he said. He told in an interview on Saturday that the scheme, which allowed donors to fund political parties anonymously by purchasing bonds from the SBI, was scrapped at an important time. The Supreme Court had struck down the scheme in February, a month before the Lok Sabha elections were announced. Replying to a question on the issue, he said, "I believe and this is my guess that it will increase the influence of black money in elections and politics. When political parties submit their

account for this fiscal year, then how much money is by cash donation and how much is through cheque will be known. The donation figure by cheques had reached 96% at the time of the bond."

He added, "Now you will know. If the impact of black money rises, then an alternative should be found. There should be a debate in Parliament." Asked if he thought the influence of black money would increase in the ongoing elections due to the scrapping of the electoral bond scheme, Mr. Shah said, "I guess so." When asked what he considered an alternative to the bond scheme, he said the issue needed to be discussed with all stakeholders, including different political parties. He said, "This will have to be debated in Parliament. We will have to discuss this with all parties. The Supreme Court's view since their judgment has come is also very important. The Attorney General and Solicitor General will also have to be consulted. So we will have to deliberate collectively and decide on a new alternative." The Supreme Court had struck down the electoral bond scheme, saying it violated the right to information and the freedom of speech and expression under the Constitution. The court had also made public the names of all donors and their beneficiaries. The Central Government, has, however, insisted that the scheme was aimed at curbing the influence of black money in politics and that donors were allowed to remain anonymous so that they were not targeted by one political party or another for funding their rival parties.

Prajwal Revanna says he will appear before SIT on May 31



GNS News Agency, May 27

Exactly a month after he left the country, Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of sexually abusing many women, has said he will appear before the Special Investigation Team probing the cases against him on May 31. "I will personally on Friday, May 31 at 10 am will come before the SIT and will cooperate with the investigation and will respond to it (charges). I have faith in court and I am confident I will come out of false cases through court," Mr. Pajwal said in a video statement aired on Kannada TV channel Asianet Suvarna News. There was no independent confirmation from the JD(S) or the family of the suspended party MP immediately over the matter. "Let God's, people's and family's blessing be on me. I will surely come before SIT on May 31, Friday. After coming, I will try to put an end to all this. Keep faith in me," he added. The 33-year-old Prajwal, the grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former PM H D Deve Gowda and the NDA candidate from Hassan Lok Sabha segment, is facing charges of multiple instances of sexually abusing women. Mr. Prajwal reportedly left for Germany on April 27, a day after Hassan went to polls, and is still at large. A 'Blue Corner Notice' seeking information on his where-

abouts has already been issued by the Interpol, following a request by the SIT via the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). A Special Court for Elected Representatives issued an arrest warrant on May 18 against Prajwal Revanna, following an application moved by the SIT. The Congress-led Karnataka government has urged the Centre to cancel his diplomatic passport.

Nehru death anniversary: Congress pays tributes to 'Hind ke Jawahar'

GNS News Agency, May 27

The Congress on May 27 paid rich tributes to India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying the country's history is incomplete without the incomparable contribution of "the architect of modern India". Mr. Kharge and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi also paid floral tributes to the former prime minister at his memorial 'Shantivan' in New Delhi. In a post in Hindi on X, Mr. Kharge said the history of India is incomplete without the incomparable contribution of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India, who took India forward in scientific, economic, industrial and various fields. Nehru was a dedicated guardian of democracy and our source of inspiration, he said. "Our humble tribute to 'Hind ke Jawahar' on his death anniversary," Mr. Kharge said. The Congress president quoted Nehru as saying that the protection of the country, progress of the country, and unity of the country is the national religion of all of us. "We may follow different religions, live in different states, speak different languages, but that should not create any wall between us. All people should get equal opportunity in progress."

MLC by election- Polling ends peacefully



GNS News Agency, May 27

Hyderabad: By election for the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda ended peacefully on Monday at 4 pm. According to official figures the total percentage of votes polled by 4 pm was about 69%. Final figures are yet to be announced. All the voters who were in queue by 4 pm would be allowed to exercise their franchise. A total of 4,63, 839 graduate voters from the constituency spans over 34 assembly constituencies cast their votes in 605 polling booths. There were 53 candidates in the fray and the main fight was between Congress, BJP and BRS parties. All the ballot boxes are being shifted to strong rooms amidst tight security. The counting of these votes will take place on June 5. There would be a three tier security at the counting centres.

Two dead as Cyclone Remal rips through West Bengal, more rains in store

GNS News Agency, May 27

Kolkata: At least two persons died in West Bengal and its coastal areas suffered extensive damage to infrastructure and property, as Cyclone Remal tore through the State and neighbouring Bangladesh with winds speeds reaching 135 km per hour, officials said Monday. A man died of his injuries when a wall collapsed due to the relentless downpour on Sunday evening at the Bibir Bagan area of Entally in Central Kolkata, a State disaster management official said. An elderly woman in the Mousuni Island near Namkhana adjacent to the Sunderbans delta also succumbed to injuries on Monday morning, following a tree collapse on her hut that resulted in the roof caving in, the official said. After tearing through the coasts of Bangladesh and West Bengal, Cyclone Remal left a trail of destruction with pictures of devastation becoming evident across the State's coastal areas, with extensive damage to infrastructure and property, soon after daybreak on Monday. Roofs of thatched huts were blown away, uprooted trees blocked roads in Kolkata as well as in the coastal districts, and electricity poles were knocked down causing significant power disruption in various parts of the state, including in the city's outskirts, the officials said. While several pockets of Kolkata remained waterlogged on the morning of the first working day of the week, suburban train services from the Sealdah terminal station remained partially suspended for at least three hours, adding to commuters' woes, before operations limped back to normal. Flight services at the Kolkata airport resumed on Monday morning after remaining suspended for 21 hours in view of Cyclone Remal. Airport sources, however, said it will take some more time for the situation to become normal. The cyclone ravaged adjacent coasts of the state and Bangladesh between Sagar Island and Kheppurpara, near the southwest of Mongla in the neighbouring country, after its land-fall process began at 8.30 pm on Sunday and lasted for a good four hours. In a later update, the Met office said 'Remal' weakened into a cyclonic storm at 5:30 am on Monday, about 70 km northeast of Canning and 30 km west-southwest of Mongla. The system is likely to gradually weaken further. Efforts to restore normalcy are underway, with emergency services working to clear debris and restore power in the affected areas. However, the relentless heavy rain is hampering these operations in most of the affected areas, the officials said. The state government has initiated relief operations, providing food, drinking water and medical assistance to the people affected.

Hamas chief of staff killed in Rafah by Israeli airstrike

GNS News Agency, May 27

Jerusalem: Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Monday that an Israeli aircraft killed Yassin Rabia, the Hamas Chief of Staff in the West Bank, last week in the southern Gazan city of Rafah. The strike was carried out in the area of Tal as Sultan in northwest Rafah, based on precise intelligence, said an IDF statement, noting that Rabia "managed the entirety" of Hamas' activity in the West Bank, transferred funds to targets and planned Hamas attacks throughout the West Bank, Xinhua news agency reported. Rabia had carried out "numerous murderous attacks," including those in 2001 and 2002, in which Israeli soldiers were killed, it said. According to the statement, Khaled Nagar, a senior official in Hamas' West Bank Headquarters, was also killed by Israeli airstrike. He allegedly directed attacks in the West Bank and transferred funds intended for Hamas' activities in the Gaza Strip.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Muted voices

WHEN the results of Haryana's 10 Lok Sabha seats that went to the polls on Saturday are out on June 4, they will, sadly, reflect the muffled voices of women voters in the 18-19 age group, drowned out by the louder participation of their male counterparts. For, the data from the Election Commission of India reveals a glaring gender imbalance: only 34 per cent of these first-time voters are women. Of the nearly 4.2 lakh such voters, a staggering 2.8 lakh are men. This disparity highlights the state's patriarchal character and deep-rooted societal biases, where the registration of young women as voters is often postponed until after marriage. Efforts by officials to encourage voter registration among young women face resistance. Many families prioritise marriage over political engagement, reinforcing a cycle of disenfranchisement.

Making matters worse, women's political agency is further limited as men are often seen dictating their choices. Equally skewed is the representation of women in the electoral fray. Of the 223 candidates in the contest in Haryana in the General Election, just 16 are women — including five from mainstream political parties — even though women constitute nearly 47 per cent of the voters. Major parties, despite their claims of supporting women's rights, have failed to field female nominees proportionately.

However, there is a silver lining in certain pockets of the state. Women are beginning to voice their concerns on issues like water supply, electricity and employment; an increased female participation at public meetings has also been witnessed. But a lot remains to be done to bridge the gender divide and dismantle patriarchal structures. Amplifying women's voices is essential for making India a truly transparent and inclusive democracy.

Tensions flare in Nandigram as BJP protests killing of party worker



GNS News Agency, May 27

Tensions flared in Nandigram in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district on Thursday, hours after a woman worker of the BJP was killed and seven others were injured after being attacked on Wednesday night, days before the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections in the state. As the BJP took to the streets in protest on Thursday by torching shops and blocking roads using trees and setting them on fire, security was beefed up with Rapid Action Force and central forces being deployed, apart from the police. Police sources said that no arrests have been made yet. The incident sparked a blame game on Thursday with the BJP accusing the Trinamool Congress (TMC) of orchestrating the attack and the ruling party denying the allegations, saying that it was a fallout of infighting within the local BJP. "The incident took place in the Sonachura area on Wednesday night. The deceased has been identified as Rathibala Adi. As the condition of one of the injured is critical, he has been shifted to Kolkata," a senior police official said. According to local sources, the critically injured victim is the son of the deceased BJP worker. According to sources, BJP supporters were guarding the Mansapukur market area of Sonachura on Wednesday night in the last leg of the election campaign when a group of bike-borne men allegedly attacked them with sharp weapons. When Rathibala Adi fell on the road bleeding, her son Sanjay Adri tried to save her and was grievously injured. After villagers gathered on hearing the workers' screams, the accused fled, sources said. The locals rushed the BJP workers to Nandigram Super Speciality Hospital where Rathibala Adi was declared dead. When her son's condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Kolkata. While BJP Leader of Opposition and Nandigram MLA Suvendu Adhikari blamed the TMC for the "barbaric murder" and called the accused "jihadists", the TMC denied the allegations. "BJP workers were guarding the booth in the Mansabazar area of Sonachura in Nandigram last night. At that time, the miscreants jumped on them with sharp weapons. Seven people were seriously injured by sharp weapons. Rathibala Adi lost her life. The Trinamool committed this barbaric murder knowing defeat for sure. These jihadists do not hesitate to kill a woman," Adhikari said in a post on X. "The incident is a fallout of BJP infighting in Nandigram. There are two BJP groups in Nandigram. The vote is on the 25th. BJP knows they will be defeated by TMC. It is pre-planned and they are firing from TMC's shoulder to malign TMC. It is TMC's administration...efforts are on to identify the culprits and anyone found involved will face the law," TMC leader Santanu Sen said. The incident came hours after TMC's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee held a meeting in Nandigram where he targeted Adhikari, who had won the Nandigram seat in 2021 by a margin of 1,956 votes, alleging fraud. Banerjee asserted that the people of Nandigram would deliver their verdict in the Lok Sabha elections. "The game that started in 2021 will end on June 4," he had said. At a public meeting in Kanthi, Adhikari blamed Banerjee. "He (Banerjee) went yesterday to protest in 80 booths. This incident happened at (his) instigation...We have also named him in the FIR. The end result of this incident will not be good," Adhikari said. TMC leader Sheikh Sufian dismissed the "BJP lie". "A fight broke out between new BJP and old BJP in the area in which one died. Every death is unfortunate and Abhishek Banerjee never asked people...Hundreds of houses of our supporters have been vandalised. I will ask the administration to conduct an impartial investigation," Sufian added. Nandigram falls under the Tamruk Lok Sabha constituency, which is scheduled to go to polls on Saturday. TMC's Debangshu Bhattacharya will contest against BJP's Abhijit Gangopadhyay, the former Calcutta High Court judge.

Indian star tortoises, parakeets seized during raid at Bengaluru's Billionaire Street, 3 held



GNS News Agency, May 27

In a major seizure involving endangered species in Bengaluru, Karnataka's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Wednesday arrested three people, including an associate of the founder of a major e-commerce firm, for possessing nine Indian star tortoises and four parakeets. One of the raids was conducted at the city's famed Billionaire Street, at the luxurious bungalow where the associate, Balaji, works as a supervisor, said the CID's forest cell officials. The Billionaire Street houses residences of many CEOs and business tycoons. During the

raid at Koramangala 3rd Block, the officials arrested Balaji, and seized three Indian star tortoises and four parakeets from him. The CID also arrested Roohi Om Prakash, the house owner.

The Indian star tortoise, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, is critically endangered and its possession can lead to seven years of imprisonment and a fine; while Indian parakeets are listed under Schedule 2, which also covers endangered species. Bengaluru wildlife seizure, Karnataka CID, endangered species According to a CID source, the two people acquired the tortoises based on an astrologer's advice, under the belief that the animals would bring them good luck and health. (Express Photo) According to a CID source, the two people acquired the tortoises based on an astrologer's advice, under the belief that the animals would bring them good luck and health. "We are investigating the origins of these animals and will track the procurement trail," said a police officer. Police said that Balaji is reportedly the associate of the founder one of India's biggest e-commerce firm, headquartered in Bengaluru. The sleuths also raided a house in Pantharapalya in western Bengaluru, and arrested pet vendor Karthik and seized six more Indian star tortoises.

As Chandigarh temperature soars, city's power demand touches a high

GNS News Agency, May 27

Amid the intense heat wave across North India, the demand for power in Chandigarh on Wednesday crossed 400 megawatt after the highest recorded in 2019. In mid-May, the power demand in Chandigarh was 340 MW and crossed 400 MW from 260 MW, according to officials of the power department. The peak power demand touched 425 MW which is the highest of this season," said C B Ojha, Chief Engineer, Chandigarh administration. A senior official of the engineering department of the Union Territory told The Indian Express the power demand in Chandigarh touched 430 MW in 2019. Amid soaring temperatures, houses with a sanctioned load of four air-conditioners now have around 8 ACs thereby increasing the load. Amidst this rising demand, some sectors are reeling under outages as the Chandigarh administration has been forced to bring in power cuts for around one hour every day. There are more than 2.47 lakh power consumers in Chandigarh, of which 2.14 lakh or roughly 87 per cent are domestic users. Chandigarh spends approximately Rs 640 crore every year to purchase at Rs 3.26 paise per unit. The electricity department does not have a power generation source and buys its power through its allocation from the Central generating stations (CGS) — the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), and the Tehri Hydro Development



Corporation Ltd (THDC). To meet increased demand during summers, the department sometimes procures un-requisitioned surplus power usually from power plants at Dadri, Jhajjar, Unchahar-I and Unchahar-II, among others. According to officials, this unallocated (or extra) power quota has increased from 9 per cent to 14 per cent this year.

The Chandigarh Meteorological Department has already issued a red alert in Chandigarh, Punjab, and Haryana until May 24 and predicted that the temperature may touch 44 to 46 degree Celsius. Last Friday, Chandigarh recorded this season's hottest day as the maximum temperature touched 44.5 degree — the first time in the last 13 years since the record was maintained by the MeT Department.

Minor in Pune Porsche case lodged at British era 'reformatory school', now observation home

GNS News Agency, May 27

The 17-and-a-half-year-old boy accused of driving a Porsche car at high speed in an inebriated state and killing two software engineers in Pune on Sunday has been lodged at the Nehru Udyog Kendra Observation Home, once established by the British in April 1889 as 'Reformatory School Yeravada, Poona'. Officials said that in the United Kingdom and its colonies, a reformatory school was an institution that housed children held for crimes. On the other hand, industrial schools were for children who required protection. night, the Pune Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) remanded the minor to the Yeravada home, located on the same premises as the JJB, until June 5. "He is lodged with other juvenile inmates of the observation home. While it has separate cells for those whose trial is on and those whose cases have been decided, all inmates do their routine activities together," an official from the home said.

The observation home was designated a reformatory school between April 1889 and April 1936. It was redesignated as 'Yeravada Industrial School Poona' from 1936 to 1989. In February 1990, it was redesignated as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Udyog Kendra and turned into a care home for destitute children, until it became an observation home for juveniles in conflict with law in 2009. Officials said that currently, the establishment has a sanctioned capacity of 100 children under three heads — observation home for children detained for various crimes with a capacity of 50; a special home for children held for serious crimes with a capacity of 25; and a care and protection home for destitute children with a capacity of 25.

However, with limited resources, at any given time, the establishment houses less than 40 children in the observation home and special home categories at any time, and no children under the care home category. As of Wednesday, the facility has 36 juveniles. The facility only admits boys between 14 and 18 years of age. There



is a separate facility for girls, and children below this age group are processed into separate facilities. In the Porsche crash case, the JJB is expected to rule at a later date on the police application to try the minor as an adult, after completion of various procedures stipulated under the Juvenile Justice Act. Aneesh Awadhya and Ashwani Koshta, engineers working in Pune's Kalyani Nagar area, were killed after the speeding Porsche car, with the 17-and-a-half-year-old son of a Pune realtor at the wheel, knocked down their motorcycle in the Yeravada area early on Sunday. Following his detention after the accident on Sunday, the minor was produced before the JJB in Pune on the afternoon of May 19.

The police had sought his custody in the juvenile observation home and had also appealed that he be tried as an adult. The JJB, which consisted of just one non-judicial member on Sunday instead of its full strength of three including one judicial member, had rejected both applications and had granted bail to the accused on various conditions, including writing an essay, studying traffic safety norms and undergoing de-addiction counselling. The Pune police had then challenged this JJB order in the Pune district court which had referred the matter back to the JJB to be decided again as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Mumbai's water stock dips to 10% – lowest in three years

Mumbai's overall water stock dipped to 10 per cent on Thursday — the lowest level recorded in the past three years — as per Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) records. According to BMC data, Mumbai's water stock stood at 10.28 per cent on May 23. On the same day in 2023, the city's water stock stood at 15.99 per cent; in 2022, it was 20.63 per cent. "The current water stock is adequate to last till July 31 and the usage and method of deployment of the water supply has been planned systematically by the BMC. However, a review of the water stock will be taken again in the first week of June," a civic official said. Earlier this month, the state government's irrigation department had approved the BMC's request to use a reserve water stock of 1.37 lakh MLD from Bhatsa

Dam and 91,130 lakh MLD from Upper Vaitarna Dam. "Monsoon in Mumbai is expected to arrive by the first or second week of June...so going by this, we have adequate stock that will last us till the arrival of monsoon. As a result, there is no provision of announcing a water cut at this moment and the monsoon forecast is also very good," the official added. The average water stock during April and May usually ranges between 20-25 per cent every year. Civic officials said that every 1 per cent of water stock lasts up to three days. The officials also maintained that the BMC would consult with the India Meteorology Department (IMD) before announcing a cut. Mumbai draws its waters from seven different lakes — Tansa, Bhatsa, Modak Sagar, Tulsi, Veihar, Upper Vaitarna, and Middle Vaitarna.

'Return, surrender...will have to face my anger if you don't': Deve Gowda warns grandson Prajwal Revanna



GNS News Agency, May 27

The former PM warned his grandson that he would be isolated from the family if he did not return and surrender before the police. Express archive Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Thursday warned his grandson and Hassan Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing several sexual abuse allegations, that he would be isolated from the family if he did not return and surrender before the police.

"At this juncture, I can do only one thing. I can issue a stern warning to Prajwal and ask him to return from wherever he is and surrender before the police. He should subject himself to the legal process. This is not an appeal that I am making, it is a warning that I am issuing. If he does not heed to this warning, he will have to face my anger and the anger of all his family members. The law will take care of the accusations against him, but not listening to the family will ensure his total isolation," Deve Gowda, the JD(S) national president, said in a letter titled 'My Warning to Prajwal Revanna'.

3 SDRF personnel drown in Maharashtra's Pravara river while rescuing 2 villagers



GNS News Agency, May 27

Two men from the Sugaon Budruk village in Akole had allegedly drowned while they were swimming in the Pravara river in the afternoon. Representational/Express archive

Three personnel of the state disaster response force (SDRF) died on Thursday after their boat capsized while trying to rescue two men who drowned in the Pravara river in Akole taluka of Ahmednagar district on Wednesday. Search operation is on to find the fourth personnel, who is also feared drowned. The deceased SDRF personnel have been identified as Nama Shinde, Vaibhav Wagh and Rahul Pawra.

Two men from the Sugaon Budruk village in Akole had allegedly drowned while they were swimming in the Pravara river in the afternoon. A search and rescue operation was launched to look for them. A team of the SDRF from Dhule was pressed into service. While the dead body of one of the men was fished out from the river in some time, the search for the other victim continued. Two boats of the SDRF were carrying out the searches on Thursday morning as well. One of the boats capsized after it got caught in the strong water currents in the river. There were six people in this boat. Of them, three died by drowning and two others, Pankaj Pawar and Ashok Pawar, were rescued. The bodies of the Shinde, Wagh and Pawra were fished out while a hunt is on for another SDRF personnel, Arjun Jedgule, who is still missing. When contacted, Rakesh Ola, superintendent of Ahmednagar district police, confirmed the death of the three SDRF personnel during the search operation.

5 bodies recovered after 38 hours, search on for 1 more body

GNS News Agency, May 27

The National Disaster Response Force on Thursday morning fished out five bodies from the backwater of Ujani dam on Bhima river, more than 38 hours after a boat ferrying seven people capsized in the waterbody in Maharashtra's Solapur district due to rough weather. Search is on for locating the body of one more person that is missing, said NDRF Inspector Surendra Poonia. A 20-member NDRF team recovered the bodies of two men, one woman, and two children, who drowned in the backwater on Tuesday evening, and handed them over to Solapur district administration, which will handle the identification of the bodies. After a whole day's search exercise, the NDRF team was instructed to halt the search operation at 6 pm on Wednesday due to inclement weather and the possibility of rain. Apart from the boatman, those in the boat comprised a family of four — Gokul Jadhav, his wife Komal, their one-and-a-half-year-old son Shubham and three-year-old daughter Mahi — and a police inspector, Rahul Dongre, and his cousin who had set out from nearby Kugaon village to attend a function in Kalashi, nearly 130 km from Pune. Dongre, who managed to swim to safety, is lone survivor of the tragedy. "We resumed our work around 6 am and recovered the first male body between 7 and 7.30 am. The continued search led to the recovery of five bodies by around 8.30 am," Poonia said. He said that night-time winds might have moved the bodies, making them easier to locate. "

How CCTV footage and a horoscope helped Mumbai police crack techie Esther Anuhya's murder case



GNS News Agency, May 27

Ten years ago, a software engineer from Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh returned to Mumbai after a nearly two-week Christmas break at home and stepped out of a train at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) in Kurla. It was the last time 23-year-old Esther Anuhya was seen alive. Over the next few days, after her anxious father approached the police in Andhra Pradesh and Mumbai and reported her missing, a frantic search began for Anuhya. The search ended nearly 10 days later after her burnt and decomposed body was found in the bushes near Eastern Express Highway in the Kanjurmarg area. Anuhya had been raped and murdered.

The subsequent probe by nine Mumbai Police teams saw investigators scan CCTV footage from 36 cameras installed at LTT and question over 1,000 people before the Kanjurmarg police zeroed in on Chandrabhan Sudam Sanap, alias Chowkya, a son of a porter and a history-sheeter known to steal bags at the railway station. A horoscope found in Sanap's jeans helped the police cement their case and led to Sanap being sentenced to death. The incident took place on January 5, 2014. Anuhya had moved to Mumbai after completing her B.Tech from Kakinada and securing a job with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). She stayed in a hostel in Andheri. After her New Year vacation at home, on the morning of January 4, 2014, Anuhya took a train from Vijayawada, the station nearest to her hometown, and reached LTT on January 5.

When her father called her to inquire if she had reached safely, the repeated calls went unanswered. Worried, he lodged a missing person's complaint at Vijayawada railway police station and later came to

Mumbai and approached Kurla police station. When a decomposed body was found near the Eastern Express Highway in Kanjurmarg, Anuhya's father identified it as hers based on the metal ring on her finger and other belongings lying nearby. A complaint was registered at the Kanjurmarg police station and the probe was later transferred to the Crime Branch. As the police swung into action, CCTV footage from cameras at LTT revealed that Anuhya had walked out of the station along with a stranger, who was seen carrying her trolley bag. The police made inquiries with over 1,000 people, including passengers who travelled with Anuhya, auto and taxi drivers, porters and vendors near LTT and people near the spot where her body was found. After comparing the face of the man seen in the CCTV footage with police records, the investigators homed in on Sanap (29). Sanap had many cases of bag lifting and stealing registered against him. Nearly two months after the incident, on March 2, 2014, Sanap was arrested from Nashik, where his family was.

As per the police, Sanap had a few drinks with his friends on the night of January 4, 2014, and had reached LTT early morning with the intention of stealing and robbery. After noticing Anuhya, he allegedly offered to drop her at her Andheri hostel by posing as a driver. After reaching the parking lot, Anuhya realised that Sanap did not have a taxi but a motorcycle, the police said. He allegedly assured and convinced her that he would drop her at Andheri on his bike. However, he took her to the crime spot and raped and murdered her, the police said. To destroy the evidence, Sanap allegedly burned the body at a secluded place nearby. During a physical search of the accused, the police found a piece of paper with his horoscope in the back pocket of his jeans. During Sanap's trial, the astrologer concerned deposed that on January 5, after committing the crime, Sanap had visited him in Nashik with his mother and had asked him if any puja could rectify the 'sin' he had committed against a woman. The astrologer allegedly advised him to perform a certain puja at Trimbakeshwar. A priest who performed the said puja on January 6 also said Sanap had paid him Rs 3,000 for the same. The high court noted that prosecution has proved these subsequent circumstances. After a sessions court in October 2015 sentenced Sanap to death row, the Bombay High Court in December 2018 upheld the same and noted that "such a person would surely remain a menace to the society".

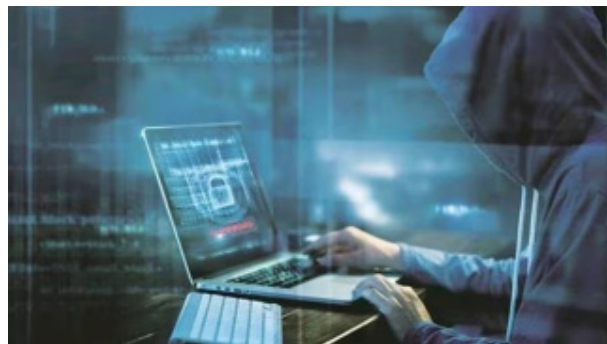
'Crime Branch officials' con Ireland Consulate official in Mumbai who falls into cyber fraud trap

GNS News Agency, May 27

Santacruz police said that the next morning the man also took part in a video call interrogation with Singh where he was seen in a police uniform inside a 'Crime Branch office'. Santacruz police said that the next morning the man also took part in a video call interrogation with Singh where he was seen in a police uniform inside a 'Crime Branch office'. A Mumbai resident working at the Ireland Consulate General office at Bandra Kurla Complex has been conned by a cyber fraud gang of 'Crime Branch officials and courier company executives' and ended up losing Rs 7 lakh, said the police that registered a case on Tuesday. According to the 49-year-old senior executive of the embassy, the fraudsters trapped him in a false story of money laundering and drug trafficking case against him and to make the whole episode more convincing he also received a letter from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The complainant, a resident of Santacruz said he received a phone call on May 17 from 'an executive of a renowned international courier company' who introduced himself as Mohan Kumar and informed him that he had a parcel booked in his name from India to Taiwan and on interception by the customs department it was found to contain 200 grams of MDMA drug, five passports, three bank credit cards, a laptop, and Rs 35,000 in cash.

"Claiming it to be a criminal matter, Mohan Kumar transferred the phone call to 'police sub-inspector' Vikram Singh from the Mumbai Crime Branch. Under the pretext of verifying his ID proofs, the police officer told him that his Aadhaar card was used in opening multiple bank accounts for deceptive purposes. He also told the complainant that the fraud money had been transferred into his HDFC bank account," the FIR stated. Santacruz police said that the next morning the man also took part in a video call interrogation with Singh where he was seen in a police uniform inside a 'Crime Branch office'. However the Skype conversation did not last long as the 'officer'



soon disconnected the camera, claiming that they needed to maintain the secrecy of the investigation, the police said. Singh later sent a letter from the CBI to the complainant stating that the complainant was booked in a criminal case involving money laundering, drug trafficking, and identity theft, the FIR stated.

Police said that the complainant panicked when Singh mentioned "he was checking his involvement" in the money laundering case and hence asked him to transfer Rs 7 lakh into a given bank account which he promised to refund once his bank account is verified. Though the complainant transferred the money, the next day Singh told him that his account could not be verified and he would need to transfer Rs 25 lakh more to proceed with the investigation, the FIR stated. The complainant grew suspicious and asked Singh to share his office address, where he could visit physically and deposit the rest of the money. The embassy official realised he was conned when Singh gave an incomplete and imprecise address and hung up the call. The man lodged a complaint after dialling the national cybercrime reporting portal in 1930. The Santacruz police are trying to trace the criminals by tracking the details of the beneficiary bank accounts, said a police officer.

Advocate, who impersonated judicial officer, sent to judicial custody

GNS News Agency, May 27

judicial custody In his bail application filed through counsel Vikas Malik and Rohit Khullar, Marwah has said that he has been falsely implicated in the FIR, and should be granted bail. The 33-year-old city-based advocate arrested by the Chandigarh Police on Monday for allegedly impersonating a judicial officer was sent to judicial custody by the district court. The accused, Prakash Singh Marwah, filed an application before the court seeking bail. The court issued a notice to the Chandigarh Police for Thursday. After his one-day police remand ended on Wednesday, he was produced in the court of Ajay, JMJC (Judicial Magistrate First Class), which sent him to judicial custody at Buraill jail. In his bail application filed through counsel Vikas Malik and Rohit Khullar, Marwah has said that he has been falsely implicated in the FIR, and should be granted bail. Marwah through his counsel Gagandeep Goel and S L Goel has also approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court, challenging the order of one-day police remand granted by the JMJC court. The matter is yet to come up for hearing. Marwah, 33, is an advocate enrolled with the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association in 2023.

After a video went viral about a man impersonating JMJC (Judicial Magistrate First Class) and arguing with traffic policemen over a violation for which his SUV was stopped at a light point, the Chandigarh Police had registered an FIR against Marwah for allegedly impersonating a judicial officer and obstructing public servant from



The 33-year-old city-based advocate arrested by the Chandigarh Police on Monday for allegedly impersonating a judicial officer was sent to judicial custody by the district court

discharging his duty. Marwah, a resident of Sector 51, Chandigarh, was booked on the complaint of ASI Ajit Singh under sections 170 (personating a public servant), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public duties) and 419 (cheating by personation) of the Indian Penal Code at Sector 49 police station, Chandigarh. The accused was issued a challan for traffic violation of red light signal, tampering with number plate.

Booked in 2 cases, Karnataka BJP MLA Harish Poonja's supporters clash with police to prevent 'arrest'



GNS News Agency, May 27

A day after a second FIR was registered in four days against Karnataka BJP MLA Harish Poonja for abusing police officers, party workers on Wednesday entered into an altercation with the team that came in an apparent bid to arrest the legislator at his residence in Dakshina Kannada district. The Bharatiya Janata Party workers gathered at the Belthangady residence of Harish Poonja amid rumours of the MLA's arrest in connection with two cases where he allegedly threatened police officers. The first case was registered against Harish Poonja at Belthangady police station on May 18 after he barged into its premises demanding the release of Shashiraj, the president of the Belthangady taluk Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) unit, accused of illegal quarrying.

The second case was registered on Tuesday after a protest was organised in front of the taluk office against the FIR registered against him. In the protest, the MLA had hurled abuses at the local police officers and tahsildar, while ridiculing C B Ryshyanth, Superintendent of Police. Defending his actions which led to the first FIR, the MLA said at the protest, "In the future too, if you touch BJP

karyakartas from Belthangady, I am ready to pull them (police) by their collar." Referring to the 2020 KG Halli and DJ Halli riots in Bengaluru, in which a police station was torched, the MLA had threatened the Belthangady police station with the same fate if such instances continued. Subsequently, an FIR was registered against him under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 341 (wrongful restraint), 504 (intentional insult to provoke), and 506 (criminal intimidation).

According to sources, a notice in connection with the first case was issued on Wednesday morning asking him to appear before officials, after which rumours of his arrest started doing rounds among BJP workers. At around 11 am, outgoing BJP MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, party MLAs Rajesh Naik, Umanath Kotyan Vedayyas Kamath, and Bhagirathi Murulya, and leaders from right-wing groups arrived at Poonja's residence. This came even as the police ramped up security to prevent any untoward incidents. At around 4 pm, a team of district police tried to enter the residence of the BJP legislator to take him for questioning in connection with the second FIR but were prevented from doing so by BJP workers. They shouted slogans against the state government while taking a dig at the police for being 'Congress agents'. An altercation ensued after which two police officers were allowed to enter the MLA's house. They served a second notice to Poonja, who sought five days to appear before the investigating officials. Speaking to reporters after the incident, Poonja said he would cooperate with the investigation, adding the police served him two notices. Meanwhile, Kateel accused the Siddaramaiah government of 'revenge politics' and said the police ploy to arrest Poonja in bailable cases was thwarted by BJP workers. "We won't let him be arrested. If he is arrested, we will call for a district-wide bandh," he said.

Form medical board to examine accused admitted to private hospital

GNS News Agency, May 27

The district court has ordered the formation of a medical board to ascertain the injuries of a man admitted to a private hospital in Chandigarh. He is accused of mowing down a man on the airport road on May 9 and was sent to a private hospital for treatment. On May 9, a speeding Skoda Laura car coming from Mullanpur side on the airport road had allegedly mowed down 65-year-old Ajmer Singh Sagar who was on Activa scooter and then hit an electric pole. After hitting the pole, one of the occupants of the car, Joban Sandhu, fell from the car and died.

The driver of the car was identified as Aman Ehsan and another occupant of the car as Ambrose Marcus. After the accident, the Kharar (sadar) police registered a case under sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 427 (mischief, damage to the property of fifty rupees) of the Indian Penal Code on the complaint of Ajmer Singh's son Harpreet Singh. On May 10, Aman was produced in the court of judicial magistrate, Kharar, and an application for obtaining his judicial remand was filed. Aman's counsel told the court that he was injured and was also in a wheelchair. The counsel for the accused requested that Aman needed medical treatment and made a request to refer the accused to Apolo Clinics, Sector 8, Chandigarh, for treatment and father of the accused gave his undertaking that he will pay the treatment expenses of the accused. The court allowed the request and ordered that the accused shall be committed to judicial custody after taking the medical treatment. Hence, he was remanded in judicial custody till May 24.

Meanwhile, the complainant filed a revision petition in the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Harsimranjeet Singh. The accused also filed a bail plea in the same court which came up for hearing on May 21. The counsel for the revisionist urged that the accused had not suffered such grievous injuries which necessitated private treatment. Rather he should have been got admitted to Civil Hospital, Phase-6, Mohali, and his injuries be got examined from the medical board. The counsel for the accused stated that the accused was not in a position to stand and his hipbone got dislocated on account of which he is getting medical treatment from



Apollo Hospital, Sector 8, Chandigarh. He stated that he has no objection if the accused be examined by the medical board to elucidate the controversy and ascertain that whether injuries suffered by the accused are sufficiently grave in nature to justify his treatment from private hospital.

Thus, the counsel for Aman submitted that it would be in the fitness of the things if the accused is ordered to be examined by the medical board regarding the nature and impact of injuries suffered by him in the accident. After hearing the contentions, the court ordered, "Keeping in view the rival submissions, the court is of the considered view that it is imperative in the interest of justice that Aman Ehsan be examined by the medical board as to ascertain whether accused is required any hospitalisation and, if so, for how long."

The court ordered, "In view of the above, necessary directions are ordered to be issued to Chief Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Phase-6, SAS Nagar (Mohali) to constitute Board of Doctors immediately for examination of accused Aman Ehsan regarding the nature, extent and impact of injuries received by him. IO present in the Court is directed to ensure production of accused Aman Ehsan before the Medical Board on May 22 or any other convenient date for his medical examination and the Medical Board is directed to submit its report on or before May 24." The doctor who was on duty when Aman was taken to the hospital at Kharar Civil hospital deposed in the court on Wednesday that Aman suffered minor injuries.

'BJP candidate had to rely on diesel generator for rally': Gurgaon resident writes to Haryana CM Saini over power issues

GNS News Agency, May 27

bjp, Gurgaon, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Gurgaon resident writes to Saini, power issues, Lok Sabha polls, Rao Inderjit Singh, Nayab Singh Saini, delhi news, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express India On Tuesday, in Sikanderpur Ghosi, a transformer got shut due to a technical issue and we had to reduce the load on the other two transformers in the area, resulting into a prolonged outages," said Pradeep Kumar Chauhan, superintendent engineer, DHBVN.

A resident of Gurgaon has written to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, raising concerns over power outages in the city. He stated in the letter that the BJP candidate for Lok Sabha polls, Rao Inderjit Singh, had to rely on a diesel generator for his election rally. Though the power department has refuted allegations that the demand was below their supply capacity, various resident welfare associations (RWAs) have also flagged frequent outages. In his letter to the CM, Ravinder Yadav, a resident of DLF Phase 1, said that his area contributes the most revenue/tax, but the administration does not pay much attention to the basic amenities of this village. On Tuesday, he said, there was a power outage in the village as well as the Sikanderpur Ghosi market from 5 am to 1.30 pm. "Although we contacted all related power employees and DHBVN officials, we received nothing but assurances, and the power did not resume until 1 pm... This is the fourth time in the last one and a half



months that there has been a continuous power outage of four to five 5 hours in the village/ market," he said. Further, he said that on May 18 night, "when your party's current MP and the BJP candidate from Gurgaon, Rao Inderjit Singh, visited the village to campaign around 9 pm, the entire village was in darkness for about three hours, due to a power outage. The programme was carried out with the help of a generator," the letter read. Meanwhile, the daily consumption has touched 2,225 MWD, while on the same day last year, it was 1,322 MWD. "We have a capacity to provide 4,000 MWD and the outages are not due to demand and supply problems. On Tuesday, in Sikanderpur Ghosi, a transformer got shut due to a technical issue and we had to reduce the load on the other two transformers in the area, resulting into a prolonged outages," said Pradeep Kumar Chauhan, superintendent engineer, DHBVN.

Jang-e-Azadi memorial probe: Vigilance books Ajit Group editor Hamdard, 25 others; arrests 15



GNS News Agency, May 27

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau Wednesday booked 26 people, including Barjinder Singh Hamdard, the editor-in-chief of Ajit Group, and IAS officer Vinay Bublani, for the alleged manipulation and misappropriation of funds in execution of the Rs 315-crore Jang-e-Azadi Memorial at Kartarpur in Jalandhar. Those arrested include 14 officials and a contractor, a senior officer said, adding that the Vigilance Bureau, during its investigation, detected irregularities worth Rs 27 crore in execution of the memorial's construction.

Those booked include owners of Deepak Builder, the firm that had secured the contract for the construction of the memorial, several executive engineers, SDOs, and contractors and manager of Godrej Group, who were closely associated with the project, said Rajeshwar Singh Sidhu, Senior Superintendent of Police, VB, Jalandhar Range. The VB, Chandigarh, in a statement said that an FIR under sections 420, 406, 409, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of the IPC and section 13(1)A read with 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered at VB police station, Jalandhar range. "The work of Jang-e-Azadi project was reviewed by various technical teams. It was found that a direct financial loss of Rs 27.23 crore to the government exchequer has been done in the construction of the memorial by paying extra to the contractors and still the project is incomplete, which is another financial burden on the government," read the statement.

The VB, an official spokesperson said, registered the case after a thorough investigation where the cardinal concern was that several companies had been disbursed full payments despite not completing work as stipulated in the tender documents. During the probe, it was found that out of the total 235 civil items, 103 were executed as non-scheduled works for which contractor Deepak Builder was paid extra "due to which many constructions/components like 10 statues, four galleries at first floor, memorial icon, food court, and atrium could not be constructed", the spokesperson said. A laser show installed at a cost of Rs 14 crore was found to be non-operational since 2020. "Hamdard was responsible for this work but he did not perform his responsibilities and kept the laser show non-functional causing financial loss to the government," the spokesperson said. However, Hamdard, who was closely associated with the project as a member secretary of the Jang-e-Azadi Memorial Foundation and the chairperson of its executive committee, had earlier said that he had resigned from all his posts and accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) govern-

ment in state of "maligning the name of the memorial by sending police and vigilance teams". Following a complaint of the alleged misappropriation of funds in the construction of the project dedicated to the heroes of the freedom struggle, the VB had in March last year started an investigation into the charges and summoned several officials.

Hamdard, meanwhile, had secured an interim relief from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, according to which he must be given a seven-day notice if an FIR is registered against him. Hamdard had approached the High Court seeking transfer of the VB investigation to an independent agency like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for "de novo inquiry". Earlier, Hamdard had received a VB notice with several questions, to which he had sent his reply in writing. It was in 2012 that the then SAD-BJP government proposed to build a memorial depicting the contribution of Punjabis in the freedom struggle, beginning from the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh to till August 1947. Punjab government sanctioned Rs 315 crore for the project allotted 25 acres of prime land located on national highway at Kartarpur in Jalandhar. Various committees were formed in which Hamdard was appointed as the president of executive committee/management committee and IAS officer Bublani the chief executive officer. A VB report into the alleged scam mentions: "Alarming discrepancies have been identified in the actions of the executive committee overseeing the Jang-e-Azadi project, besides the officers and employees concerned. Substantial projects worth crores had been outsourced to private companies without adhering to the tender process. Instead, non-tendered work had been commissioned by these entities, who then compensated the companies in full, raising serious questions about financial prudence." "An instance of irregularity came to light in the case of the contract awarded to Godrej Company for the interior work of 10 galleries... Work related to only six galleries was executed by the company, while the work on the remaining four remains incomplete. It has also been observed that the statues provided by Godrej Company were not installed at the designated galleries, contrary to the contractual terms," it adds. Those arrested by the VB include Deepak Kumar Single, a contractor; Arvinder Singh (chief engineer retired); Tej Ram Katnoria (executive engineer, retired as chief engineer) PWD B&R, Jalandhar; Rajeev Kumar Arora, JE (SDO retired) PWD B&R; Rohit Kumar, JE, PWD B&R Construction Division, Jalandhar; Santosh Raj, executive engineer, electrical division (Retired), Amritsar; Raghvinder Singh, executive engineer, PWD Electrical division; Harpal Singh, SDO, electrical subdivision, Jalandhar currently executive engineer, electrical Ludhiana; Jatinder Arjun, SDO, (currently executive engineer, electrical division, Jalandhar); Harpreet Singh, JE, electrical sub-division, Jalandhar Cantt; Mandeep Singh, JE, electrical sub-division, Jalandhar; NP Singh, executive engineer, water supply and sanitation department; Rajat Gopal, SDO, water supply and sanitation department, Jalandhar, (currently executive engineer, water supply and sanitation Tarn Taran); Gauravdeep, JE, water supply & sanitation, Jalandhar; and Rohit Kondal, JE, water supply and sanitation, Jalandhar, bureau officials said. According to bureau officials, the arrested officials were "directly involved in the project scam".

Chandigarh Administration gets rap for 'casual' affidavit on action taken to remove plants of cannabis

GNS News Agency, May 27

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has pulled up the Chandigarh Administration for its "casual" affidavit filed on the action taken on the removal of cannabis plants growing in Chandigarh. The division bench of Justices Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Sandeep Moudgil said that the action taken by the authorities so far on behalf of the UT Chandigarh Administration is totally "unsatisfactory". The HC on previous hearing while noting about the cannabis plants seen growing in Chandigarh and even in the open areas near the judges residential houses, including the Secretariat roundabout and outskirts of High Court, had issued notice to Advocate Generals for the states of Punjab and Haryana and senior standing counsel for UT, Chandigarh, to apprise the court of the steps being taken by the two states and Chandigarh in the matter of wild growth of cannabis.

The HC is hearing a plea for suspension of sentence in a drugs-related matter under the NDPS Act. During the course of hearing, the court was apprised of the cannabis plants growing in Chandigarh. During the resumed proceedings, a status report was filed by Pritpal Singh, executive engineer, Horticulture Division no. 1, MC Chandigarh, on perusing which the HC held, "This court can infer an attempt has been made by the said officer ensuring that all possible steps have been taken by the department concerned for cleaning all the wild growth growing in the areas of Sector 4/7/10/11/24 and Rajindra Park, Sector 24 Chandigarh etc. including other areas which vest within the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation Chandigarh and necessary manpower and other machinery has been deployed to curb the growing of cannabis plant. A further stand has been taken by the Municipal Corporation that regular cleaning of such wild growth is done at regular intervals or as and when required."

The Bench, however, observed, "This court is amazed at such response wherein a casual affidavit has been filed. Such an issue needs to be addressed with all seriousness and a special team of staff, including the labour, must be deployed to ensure that no such wild growth of cannabis plant ever grows again but it does not seem to be the intention of Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh... the manner in which this wild growth has been dealt with, despite orders of this Court is also not known to the procedure as enshrined in the Drug Law Enforcement Field Officers' Handbook issued by Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India which ensures that such plants should be burnt or damaged to make it dead sure that these are not misused for unlawful and illegal activities either by the drug addicts or peddlers..." said the Bench.

On perusing the photographs placed on record by the Administration, the Bench said that "it is further evident that after cutting down of such wild growth of cannabis, a part of it is still lying scattered at that very spot itself though major part or it has been transported but to which place or what has been done to those cut-out cannabis has not been explained by the Senior Standing Counsel, UT Chandigarh". On another affidavit by Navraj



Singh, executive engineer, Horticulture Division No.2, Chandigarh, the HC said that "the action taken by the authorities so far on behalf of the UT Chandigarh Administration is totally unsatisfactory though this court, at the very initial stage of the present proceedings, and, thus would refrain itself from passing any harsh order inviting UT Administration to take more stern steps which is by uprooting such wild growth from the roots itself and also to place on record the action plan to restrain its growth during the rainy season which would flourish and mushroom such wild growths." On Punjab and Haryana not filing their replies, the HC said that "such clandestine stand taken by both the state counsel for Punjab and Haryana is condemnable and not accepted by this court". The HC, however, granted one more opportunity to the two state counsel, while adjourning the matter for May 28.

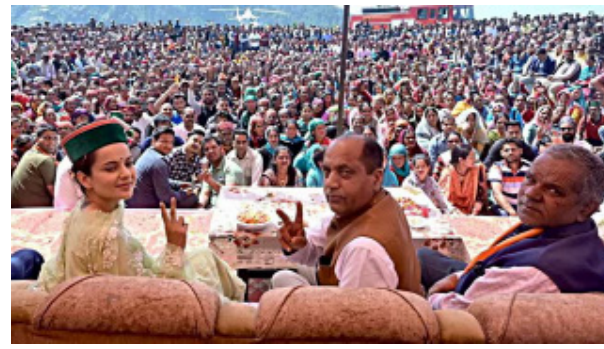
Missing from AAP, BJP and Congress discussion — Delhi's pollution crisis

GNS News Agency, May 27

GNS News Agency, May 27 Every fall when a brown haze engulfs Delhi, lasting all through winter, the hazardous levels of air pollution take centre stage in politics. This key issue, however, is glaringly absent from the Lok Sabha poll pitches of the AAP, BJP and Congress. This even as study after study shows the impact of Delhi's toxic air on the lives of its residents. The World Air Quality Report, prepared by IQAir, said Delhi was the most polluted capital city in the world in 2023 — its air quality had worsened last year when compared to 2022. But the public health problem is not Delhi's alone as multiple states, especially neighbouring Haryana and Punjab, contribute to the pollution load.

In the BJP and Congress manifestos, the only specific mention of air pollution is a reference to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Both manifestos, however, refer to renewable energy — the Congress manifesto includes a promise to provide clean cooking fuel at affordable prices, while the BJP one includes a mention of electric buses and "ethanol and bio-fuel promotion". NCAP was launched by the Union government in January 2019, with a target of reducing PM 10

FIR against unknown persons for 'obstructing' Ranaut rally; notice issued to HP Youth Congress



GNS News Agency, May 27

The Himachal Pradesh Police Wednesday registered an FIR against unknown persons in Lahaul and Spiti for allegedly obstructing a rally of actor and BJP candidate from Mandi Lok Sabha seat Kangana Ranaut. Separately, the returning officer issued a notice to the office bearers of the Youth Congress in connection with the same incident.

The BJP has alleged that the Ranaut's rally was obstructed in Monday in Kaza and she was shown black flags by Congress workers and some locals. The BJP had filed a complaint with chief electoral officer Maneesh Garg demanding an investigation into the incident, claiming that a party worker was injured when Congress workers tried to illegally restrain the political procession and pelted stones. It had also demanded the transfer of election officials and an investigation into the incident as both the BJP and the Congress were given permission to hold rallies adjacent to each other at Kaza. "An FIR has been registered under Sections 341 and 323 IPC at Kaza on the complaint filed by the BJP, for obstructing the rally of their Lok Sabha candidate. Also, a notice has been issued by the returning officer-cum-SDM to the Youth Congress," a spokesperson at CEO office in Shimla said.

In Kaza slogans of "Kangana, go back", "Kangana Vangana nahi chalegi" were raised. State Congress chief Pratibha Singh had declined any role of Congress in the incident. She had termed it as anger among local people against Ranaut over her remarks on the Dalai Lama from

April last year. Bhisnan Shashni, the Congress' election coordinator for Lahaul and Spiti, claimed that his party workers were peacefully protesting but a large number of local people joined the protest as they were hurt by Ranaut's remark. From BJP's legal cell, Advocate Anshul Bansal said, "An FIR has been lodged. We will submit the evidence establishing the involvement of Congress workers in the attack on our candidate's convoy. Such things are unacceptable in democracy". News Agency PTI quoted Lahaul and Spiti SP Mayank Chowdhary as saying that workers of both the BJP and the ruling Congress came face to face but there was no clash and no person was injured. However, one BJP worker had sprained his leg, he added. Meanwhile, Ranaut and Pratibha's son Vikramaditya Singh, who is also Congress' Lok Sabha candidate from Mandi, said "People of the tribal area worship the Tibetan spiritual leader as their god and if someone passes any remarks against their god, they will surely not like it and protest".

Hitting back, Ranaut alleged that the Congress was behind the protest against her and added that the Kaza incident would prove to be the last nail in its coffin and contribute to her winning margin. Singh, however, said his party had nothing to do with the incident and accused the BJP of blaming the Congress as it was losing the elections. Ranaut had in April last year tweeted a meme featuring the Dalai Lama that said, "The Dalai Lama receives a warm welcome at the White House". The photoshopped picture in the tweet showed the Dalai Lama sticking his tongue out with US President Joe Biden with a comment — Both of them have the same illness, definitely, they could be friends. A spokesperson at the Chief Electoral Office in Shimla said that the Mandi DC has been directed to take action against Ranaut for her public announcement regarding meeting out the medical treatment of a girl who was severely injured in an attack with sharp edged weapon at Palampur bus stand. "Another notice has been issued to Ranaut by Mandi DC for her religious remarks during campaigning at different areas in Mandi. On a complaint filed by BJP against Congress' Vikramaditya Singh for making derogatory remarks against Ranaut, an inquiry has been made and report has been sent to Election Commission," he said.

Heat-related illnesses on the rise, Delhi hospitals step up preparedness

GNS News Agency, May 27

As the national capital continues to reel under scorching heat, hospital authorities in Delhi say arrangements are in place to treat patients suffering from heat-related health problems such as exhaustion and stroke, said officials. Several hospitals across the Capital have set up dedicated units to treat patients suffering from heat-related health problems, amidst a heatwave warning being issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) — from May 22 to May 25. The temperatures are likely to fluctuate between 31 degree Celsius and 45 degree Celsius on Wednesday, the IMD said. At Safdarjung Hospital, two beds in casualty, five in emergency, and seven in emergency ward have been kept for heatstroke patients.

"We have not seen heatstroke cases so far, but there are chances we will receive such cases as the temperature rises along with the heat wave. We have made all the arrangements," said Dr Shivani Sharma, assistant professor (Medicine Department) and nodal officer (Medicine Department), VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital. At RML, a separate unit has been set up in the emergency department for heatstroke patients. No such cases have been reported so far. "Total four beds have been kept for heatstroke patients in this unit. We also have an ice-making machine that can generate 250 kg of ice cubes in a day. A heat stroke patient may require 40-60 kg of ice cubes for rapid cooling. Ice cubes are made from RO water in order to maintain hygiene and safety," said Dr Amlendu Yadav, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, and in-charge of the heatstroke unit. Medical Superintendent Dr Sumit Ray, Holy Family Hospital in South East Delhi, said that the hospital has designated an area in the emergency for patients suffering from heat-related issues, and the staff is being sensitised for quick pick up of diagnosis. "Rehydration therapy, triaging for admission in the ward, high-dependency unit or ICU — depending on the severity," Ray added.

Meanwhile, Gurgaon Fortis received a heatstroke case a week ago. The patient was from a village near Pataudi in Haryana. The family of the 80-year-old patient, who had suffered a heat stroke, was moved to Fortis Hospital as they thought he had a brain stroke. Dr Praveen Gupta, principal director and chief (Neurology) at Fortis Hospital, said the body temperature of the patient shot up to 105 degree Fahrenheit, along with a state of deep sleep from which he was unable to wake up. "His family



thought he had suffered a brain stroke, given his low consciousness and pulse... The patient was immediately referred to the emergency room. Multiple tests, including MRI scans, were conducted on him, which were normal. He had low urine output and blood pressure, and his kidney and liver enzymes were high — a requirement for inotropic medication. He was given a final diagnosis of heatstroke with multiple organ dysfunctions," Dr Gupta said.

The patient, who was shifted to the ICU, recorded a body temperature of 104.9 degree Fahrenheit. His treatment included measures such as a cooling blanket, intravenous (IV) fluids for hydration, medications to stabilise blood pressure, antibiotics to prevent infections, and anti-seizure medications following seizure episodes. Heat stroke, one of the most serious heat-related illnesses, occurs when the body can no longer control its temperature and it can rise up to 106°F or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Among such patients, their body temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body fails to cool down. In heat exhaustion cases, the body loses an excess amount of water and salt — typically from sweating. Emphasising the importance of rapid diagnosis and intervention in heat stroke cases in elderly and children, Dr Gupta said that quick recognition and immediate cooling are crucial for recovery in heatstroke patients. "Supporting vital organs such as the heart, brain, kidneys and liver at the onset can prevent multiple organ dysfunction and lead to miraculous recoveries."

Dr Smita Malhotra, senior consultant (Paediatric Gastroenterologist) at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said there have been several cases of diarrhoea, vomiting and dehydration in the last week, and such cases are reported every year during the heatwave. "

and PM 2.5 levels by 20% to 30% by 2024, compared to 2017 levels, and achieving national ambient air quality standards by 2025-26. BJP: The section in its manifesto on 'improving air quality' states: "We have initiated the NCAP framework, aimed at reducing air pollution across 131 cities. Further, we will ensure NCAP effectively achieves and maintains the designated annual average ambient air quality standards in all regions of the nation, especially achieving National Air Quality Standards in 60 Cities by 2029."

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed his first campaign rally in Delhi Saturday, he made one reference to the environment — "to deal with environment-related problems, the Indian government took an important step... (it) is giving e-buses to big cities, including Delhi, both for convenience of Delhi's people and to protect the environment". The issue does not seem to be a priority of the party's candidates and is largely missing from poll campaigns. On Tuesday, it found a mention in Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's address in Northeast Delhi. He said, "If you continue to live in Delhi, your life will be cut short by 10 years... In five years, all buses will be electric... and Delhi will be free from pollution." Congress:

The party's manifesto also referred to NCAP. "We will strengthen the National Clean Air Programme in order to urgently tackle the problem of air pollution," it says. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh did talk about the "pollution problem" while addressing the media last week, focusing on the Centre's inability to address the issue. "In the election in Delhi, environment holds a special place... air pollution is at such dangerous levels... compare it to other major cities worldwide and you will find Delhi is in first or second place. Where Delhi is situated, its administrative system places the responsibility primarily on the Union government. If the Union government does not fulfil this responsibility, then Delhi's environmental problems can't be resolved just by the Delhi government," he said. AAP: Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has not brought up air pollution in his speeches over the past week. Kejriwal's '10 guarantees' also did not include it. As for candidates, videos of speeches made at 'jan sabhas' over the past week, up on their social media feeds, have no mention of air pollution. Experts who have researched the causes and implications of rising air pollution, particularly in Delhi, however, see even the mere mention of air pollution in manifestos as a positive sign.

Indian-Austrian director's new film focuses on deportation of illegal immigrants



GNS News Agency, May 27

Indian-Austrian filmmaker Sandeep Kumar's 'Happy' portrays an undocumented Indian immigrant in Austria who is facing deportation. Mumbai-based actor Sahidur Rahaman plays the role of Happy, an Indian immigrant who is denied asylum after living in Austria for over a decade, and his relationship with his 9-year-old daughter. A still from Sandeep Kumar's latest film 'Happy'. Sahidur Rahaman plays Happy, an Indian denied asylum after having lived in Austria for over a decade.

The latest film by Indian-origin Austrian filmmaker, Sandeep Kumar, explores the struggles of illegal immigrants facing deportation. 'Happy', shot in Vienna, features Mumbai-based actor Sahidur Rahaman in the lead role as Happy, an Indian who is denied asylum after living in Austria for over a decade. Sandeep Kumar, who previously directed 'Mehrunisa', wrote and directed 'Happy'. The film centres on an illegal immigrant in Aus-

tria grappling with a deportation notice and his relationship with his nine-year-old daughter. Happy from India is denied asylum in Austria after having lived in the country for over a decade. He ignores the deportation order, and stays on in Vienna to take care of his nine-year-old daughter, Maya, who lives in a children's home. Exploited by the system, he works round-the-clock as a newspaper vendor and deliveryman to make ends meet, according to an Austrian film website.

"Newspaper sellers in the subways and other spaces of Vienna are mostly immigrants from the subcontinent who lead precarious lives," Kumar was quoted as saying by PTI. Initially, he considered making a documentary but decided on fiction after interviewing immigrants and hearing their stories. "I felt I would be more at ease making fiction. Documentary filmmaking is not my forte," said Kumar. "A large number of illegal immigrants were deported from Austria in 2023. The time was ripe. I simply had to tell the story," he added. The film, supported by the Austrian Film Commission, is set for a festival run followed by a theatrical release later this year. Rahaman, a Mumbai-based actor who plays the father's role, is an alumnus of the National School of Drama (NSD) in Delhi. He previously appeared in Karan Tejpal's 'Stolen', which premiered at the 80th Venice Film Festival last year. For 'Happy', Rahaman dedicated four months to learning German. "I had first contacted a busy Mumbai actor to play the lead role in 'Happy'. He liked the script, but his other commitments prevented him from boarding the project. Sahidur has done an incredible job," Kumar told PTI on the sidelines of the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

China holds military drills around Taiwan as 'punishment' for 'separatist acts'



GNS News Agency, May 27

China on Thursday launched two days of military drills to surround self-ruled Taiwan in what it said was "strong punishment" for the island's "separatist acts". A furious China launched "punishment" drills around Taiwan on Thursday in what it said was a response to "separatist acts", sending up heavily armed warplanes and staging mock attacks as state media denounced newly inaugurated President Lai Ching-te. The exercises, in the Taiwan Strait and around groups of Taiwan-controlled islands that sit next to the Chinese coast, come just three days after Lai took office, a man Beijing detests as a "separatist". China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has denounced Lai's inauguration speech on Monday, in which he called on China to stop its threats and said the two sides of the strait were "not subordinate to each other". On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called Lai "disgraceful".

Lai has repeatedly offered talks with China but been rebuffed. He says only Taiwan's people can decide their future, and rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims. The Eastern Theatre Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) said it had started joint military drills, involving the army, navy, air force and rocket force, in areas around Taiwan at 7.45 am. The drills are being conducted in the Taiwan Strait, the north, south and east of Taiwan, as well as areas around the Taiwan-controlled islands of Kinmen, Matsu, Wuqiu and Dongyin, the command said in a statement. Chinese state media said China sent out dozens of fighter jets carrying live missiles, and conducted mock strikes, along with warships, of high value military targets. Taiwan's defence ministry condemned the drills, saying that it had dispatched forces to areas around the island, that its air defences and land-based missile forces were tracking targets, and that it was confident it could protect its territory.

"The launch of military exercises on this occasion not only does not contribute to the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait, it also highlights (China's) militaristic mentality," the ministry said. Taiwan's presidential office expressed regret that China was threatening the island's democratic freedoms and regional peace and stability

with its "unilateral military provocations", but said people could rest assured Taiwan could ensure its security. China's state broadcaster CCTV said Lai's inauguration speech was "extremely harmful" and China's countermeasures are "legitimate, legal and necessary". Lai's speech was a confession of a desire for Taiwan independence and undermined peace and stability across the strait, it said. A senior Taiwan official, speaking anonymously given the sensitivity of the matter, told Reuters that the drills are part of a scenario Taiwan had anticipated and that the island's government had a "comprehensive grasp" of Chinese military movements. Taiwanese officials had said in the run-up to the inauguration they were keeping watch for Chinese military movements. China last staged large-scale war games near Taiwan in 2023 and 2022.

The drills focus on joint sea-air combat-readiness patrols, precision strikes on key targets, and integrated operations inside and outside the island chain to test the "joint real combat capabilities" of the forces, China's military said. "This is also a strong punishment for the separatist acts of Taiwan independence forces and a stern warning against interference and provocation by external forces," the command added. Chinese state media published a map of the drill zones, in five areas all around Taiwan and the islands Taiwan controls near the Chinese coast. Taiwanese officials told Reuters those areas were outside Taiwan's contiguous zone, which is 24 nautical miles from the main island's coast. One of the officials said China has not announced any no-fly zones, nor has Taiwan observed any large-scale movements of China's ground and rocket forces. Su Tzu-yun, a research fellow at Taiwan's top military think tank, the Institute for National Defence and Security Research, said that although the drills would only last two days, the scope is large relative to previous exercises, as they included Taiwan's outlying islands.

This is designed to demonstrate China's ability to control the seas and prevent the involvement of foreign forces, he added. "The political signals here are greater than the military ones," he added. There was no sign of alarm in Taiwan, where people are long used to Chinese military activity. The benchmark stock index, currently at a historic high, was up 0.2% on Thursday morning. "The drills will have a short-term psychological impact, but won't reverse the long-term upward trend of Taiwan stocks," said Mega International Investment Services vice president Alex Huang. A central bank official told Reuters the foreign exchange market was operating as normal, with no abnormal entry or exit of foreign capital. In August 2022, China launched live-fire military exercises around Taiwan immediately after a visit, much condemned by Beijing, by former US House speaker Nancy Pelosi. That series of exercises, the scale of which was unprecedented, lasted for four days, followed by several days of additional drills.

A 1971 boiler and barbarity even Hitler couldn't have imagined

GNS News Agency, May 27

The 100-ton boiler from a jute mill in Khulna is a reminder of the extreme brutality of the Pakistan Army during Bangladesh's freedom struggle in 1971. A heavy steel boiler in which people were burnt alive, legs shoved in first and the torso later, stands as a reminder of the horrors of the Pakistani regime in Bangladesh in 1971.

The brutal repression by the Pakistan Army during Bangladesh's freedom struggle in 1971 is well known. However, the extent of the barbarity during the genocide might not be fully known to people. The steel boiler is a reminder of that barbarity and horror. It is the latest addition to the revamped Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum in Khulna, Bangladesh, which is marking its 10th anniversary in May. The steel boiler from Platinum Jute Mill, was used to burn alive at least 100 Bangladeshis by the Pakistani regime. "In today's world, genocide is taking place in multiple places, like in Palestine. Speaking sarcastically, the cost of such genocide is high. With gas chambers, Hitler made it cost-effective. But what Pakistanis did in 1971 in Bangladesh, even Hitler couldn't have imagined that sort of barbarity," Muntassir Mamoon, chairman of the board of trustees of the Genocide Museum, tells India Today. In Hitler massacred millions of Jews with his ingenious methods, including the gas chambers.

The atrocities committed by the Pakistani regime before and during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 led to the deaths of an estimated 3,00,000 to 30,00,000 Bengalis, with countless others subjected to unimaginable brutality. The crackdown on political dissent began with Operation Searchlight to silence the Bengali demand for autonomy and independence. It marked the beginning of a systematic campaign of mass murder, rape, and arson. Intellectuals, students, and civilians were targeted, with entire villages razed and women brutally violated as a weapon of war. According to a media release by the museum, Bengalis opposing the Pakistani regime were stuffed into gunny bags and shoved into the two boilers at Platinum Jute Plant. The torso and heads of the shrieking people were pushed in later. The jute mills in the Khalishpur area of Khulna had become slaughterhouses for the Pakistani Army and the goons backed by it.

"The heavy steel boiler is a witness to the horrors and genocide of 1971, that is why we brought it to the Genocide Museum. This shows the barbarity that Pakistanis were capable of," says Mamoon. The heavy steel boiler is a witness to the horrors and genocide of 1971. The heavy steel boiler, now displayed at Khulna's Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum, is a witness to the horrors and genocide of 1971. (Image: Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum in Khulna, Bangladesh) An eminent profes-



sor of history, Mamoon, has played a key role in curating the over 9,000 articles in the genocide museum. A gold medal has been instituted in Dhaka's Jagannath University's history department in recognition of Mamoon's contribution. The historian emphasised how remembering the 1971 genocide could help in averting similar horrors. "The new generation of Bangladeshis should understand what the horrors of genocide are. This will help them remain alert to the developments surrounding them," Muntassir Mamoon tells India Today. In explaining why the 100 ton heavy steel boiler was shifted to the museum site, Mamoon accuses the West of not recognising the 1971 genocide like it has done in other cases. "The West, particularly the US, did not want to recognise the Bangladesh genocide of 1971 because they were participants in it. Even China and other Islamic countries remained silent. Only India helped the Bangladeshi people resist the genocide," says Mamoon.

The genocide museum in Khulna, Bangladesh, has been developed on the lines of the Holocaust museums in Jerusalem and Washington DC, and is the only second such in Asia. The boiler, the latest addition to the museum, will be the first exhibit that visitors see and stop to ponder on the horrors of 1971 perpetrated by the Pakistani regime which murdered lakhs of Bengalis. The Pakistani oppression fueled an uprising in the erstwhile East Pakistan, which, combined with the Pakistani military's atrocities, led to a massive refugee exodus; approximately 10 million people fled to India. Chief of Staff of the Indian Army General Jagjit Singh Aurora and Lt. General AAK Niazi of the Pakistani Army sign the papers on December 16, 1971 that ended the war between the two countries and led to the creation of Bangladesh. Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, General Jagjit Singh Aurora and Lt. General AAK Niazi of the Pakistani Army signed the papers on December 16, 1971 that ended the war between the two countries and led to the creation of Bangladesh. The crisis prompted India under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to intervene militarily, leading to a Pakistani defeat and the birth of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

9 dead, 50 injured as stage collapses at Mexico presidential candidate's rally

GNS News Agency, May 27

A minor was among the dead after a stage collapsed during a rally for Mexican presidential candidate Jorge Alvarez Maynez. At least nine people, including a minor, died as gusty winds tore off the stage in northern Mexico during an election campaign rally on Wednesday. Nearly 50 people were wounded at the rally for the Citizens' Movement party in the northern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, state's governor Samuel Garcia stated on his official X handle. Nuevo Leon governor Samuel Garcia stated that 50 people sustained injuries.

"I have just visited Clinic 7 and I regret to report that so far the number of people who died in the accident amounts to 8 adults and 1 minor. The injured who are in this clinic are now stable," he further added. The injured were treated at the local clinics, the director of Mexico's social security institute stated, Reuters reported. Local media captured chaotic scenes at the site of the incident, showing the crowd fleeing as a stage collapsed. Highlighting how gusty winds collapsed the stage, Alvarez Maynez told reporters: "I've never experienced something so sudden." After getting a medical clearance from the local hospital, Maynez returned to the site of the accident and stated that he was suspending the campaign and hoped that officials would probe the incident, while urging transparency in the process.

"We have to have solidarity, there is nothing that can repair an accident, damage to this nature, and people will not be alone in this tragedy and through the conse-



quences that this tragedy will have on their lives," Maynez was quoted as saying by CNN in its report. Mayoral candidate for San Pedro Garza Garcia Lorenia Canavati on her official X handle stated that she along with her team are coordinating with the authorities "so that they are given all the attention and support". Mayoral candidate for San Pedro Garza Garcia Lorenia Canavati said that she is coordinating with the authorities to support people. Interior Minister Luisa Alcalde stated that Mexico's national guard along with the army were on the ground to provide support. Meanwhile, Governor Garcia asked residents to stay indoors amid strong thunderstorms in the area. Alvarez Maynez, currently in third place in Mexico's upcoming presidential election slated for June 2, trails behind the ruling party candidate Claudia Sheinbaum and second-place contender Xochitl Galvez, who represents an opposition coalition.

US confirms second human case of bird flu, dairy worker infected

GNS News Agency, May 27

The infection of a dairy worker in Michigan expands the outbreak of the virus that has circulated in poultry for years, though the US CDC said the risk to the public remains low. A second human case of bird flu has been confirmed in the US since the virus was first detected in dairy cattle in late March, officials said on Wednesday. The infection of a dairy worker in Michigan expands the outbreak of the virus that has circulated in poultry for years, though the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the risk to the public remains low. The CDC told reporters on a call it had not seen evidence of human to human transmission of bird flu and that it had tested close to 40 people since March, including the Michigan worker. All the people who were tested were connected to or had exposures on a dairy farm, the CDC said. Michigan and Texas are among nine states that have reported bird flu in dairy herds. Scientists have said they believe the outbreak is more widespread based on US Food and Drug Administration findings of H5N1 virus particles in about 20 per cent of retail milk samples. Similar to the Texas case, the patient in Michigan only reported eye symptoms, the CDC said. The Michigan worker had mild symptoms and recovered, according to the state's Department of Health and Human Services.

The worker had regular exposure to livestock infected with bird flu, the Department said. The leading hypothesis is that the case was a result of cow to human transmission, according to the CDC. The agency said "similar additional human cases could be identified" given high levels of the virus in raw milk from infected cows, and the extent of the spread in dairy cows. Influenza experts said the second case associated with exposure to dairy cattle was concerning.

"It is worrisome that the virus is spreading widely in cows because this can lead to changes in the virus that could potentially increase human susceptibility," said Scott Hensley, an influenza vaccine expert at the University of Pennsylvania. Bird flu has caused serious or fatal infections globally among people in close contact with infected wild birds or poultry, and scientists have long viewed the virus as being capable of causing a global health crisis. "It doesn't appear to be the start of a pandemic but we urgently need to assess if additional human cases have occurred," said Dr Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said it believes unpasteurised milk is the primary vector for transmitting the virus among cows, though officials do not know exactly how it spreads. To limit transmission in cattle, the USDA in late April started requiring dairy cows to test negative before being shipped across state lines.

The USDA will provide financial support to farmers whose herds have not tested positive for avian flu for developing and implementing biosecurity and testing measures, said senior adviser Eric Deeble. The agency will also retroactively compensate farmers for lost milk due to infected herds, Deeble said. It's likely that there will be several cases that emanate from exposure to infected cows and their milk amongst farmworkers," said Dr Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease expert at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. "The key thing is to make sure that testing is wide enough to capture them." Nirav Shah, the CDC's principal deputy director, said the agency received the Michigan patient sample on Tuesday and confirmed the positive test result that evening. Investigators are looking into whether the worker



was wearing or was offered protective equipment. A nasal swab from the worker tested negative for influenza in the state, but an eye swab was shipped to the CDC and tested positive for the bird flu virus, the agency said.

The CDC said it recommended isolation, not quarantine, for close contacts of the person who tested positive for avian flu. It added that close contacts of exposed workers will be offered antiviral drugs. The US is in "active conversations" with mRNA vaccine makers Pfizer and Moderna on a potential vaccine for humans, a US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) official said. Last week, the US government started the process of manufacturing about 4.8 million doses of vaccine matched to the currently circulating strain of H5N1, a move that Dawn O'Connell, assistant secretary for preparedness and response at HHS said "further strengthens our preparedness posture".

UK general elections to be held on July 4

GNS News Agency, May 27

London: Rishi Sunak, Britain's first Prime Minister of Indian heritage, on Wednesday announced that the UK's general election will be held on July 4, saying it is time for the country to choose its future. In an address from the lectern on the steps of 10 Downing Street on a rainy London evening, Sunak confirmed a summer poll in six weeks' time and that the Parliament would soon be dissolved after he formally informed King Charles III of the election timeline.

The announcement comes as the governing Conservative Party is forecast for a general election drubbing by most opinion polls, with the Opposition Labour Party holding a firm lead after a series of recent by-elections and local election victories. The 44-year-old leader laid out his record dating back to his term as Finance Minister during the Covid lockdowns in his pitch to the British electorate, who will soon give their verdict at the ballot box. "Earlier today (Wednesday), I spoke with His Majesty the King to request the dissolution of Parliament and the King has granted this request and we will have a general election on the fourth of July," said Sunak, as he was drenched in the pouring rain. Setting out his election stall, Sunak, who assumed office in October 2022, pointed to the furlough scheme he introduced as Chancellor of the Exchequer to protect jobs during the pandemic and the "economic stability" he brought as Prime Minister over the "darkest of days" in the country.

RBI's record dividend of Rs 2.1 lakh crore to govt can help trim deficit



from 6 per cent in 2022-23 as the economy remains robust and resilient. The CRB is the country's savings for a 'rainy day' (a financial stability crisis) which has been consciously maintained with the RBI in view of its role as Lender of Last Resort (LoLR). It is the component of the RBI's economic capital required to cover its monetary and financial stability, credit and operational risks. Bank of Baroda's Chief Economist Madan Sabnavis said the higher dividend to the government is partly because of an increase in the revenue of the RBI from the variable repo rate (VRR) auctions conducted through the previous year to provide banks funding support amid tight liquidity conditions. "RBI has been a lender to banks through the year (2023-24) because of the liquidity deficit. Through the VRR auctions, the RBI earned revenue at 6.5 per cent on Rs 1.5-2 lakh crore average deficit," Sabnavis said. The higher payout will also help the government in managing the fiscal deficit; it can use the additional amount for spending or reduce the fiscal deficit by cutting gross borrowing, he said. The revaluation gains on forex reserves, higher interest rates on domestic and foreign securities and significantly higher gross sales of foreign exchange can also be attributed to the RBI's higher dividend to the government, analysts said. "This is an unexpected bonanza for the government, getting more than Rs 1 lakh crore above the market expectations. It surely will have a positive impact on the government's fiscal position and liquidity," said V Ramachandra Reddy, Head Treasury, Karur Vysya Bank. The RBI normally pays the dividend from the surplus income it earns on investments and valuation changes on its dollar holdings and the fees it gets from printing currency, among others. The rupee's depreciation against the dollar also weighs on the surplus transfer. In 2022-23, the RBI's dividend to the government was Rs 87,416 crore. In 2021-22, the RBI transferred a surplus of Rs 30,307 crore, which was the lowest in 10 years. The RBI transferred Rs 99,122 crore in FY2021 to the government. During the accounting year 2019-20, Rs 57,128 crore of surplus was transferred to the government. In FY2019, the RBI approved a record transfer of Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the government, which included a surplus or dividend of Rs 1.23 lakh crore, and a one-time transfer of excess provisions amounting to Rs 52,637 crore.

The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday approved a highest-ever surplus transfer, or dividend, of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to the Central government for the accounting year 2023-24.

This amount is much higher than both the budgeted (Rs 1.02 lakh crore announced in the Interim Budget for FY2025, including dividends from banks and financial institutions) and market expectation of Rs 1-1.1 lakh crore surplus, and would come as an unexpected boost to the government's fiscal position. The bumper dividend payout is likely to help ease FY25 fiscal deficit by around 0.2 per cent of the GDP, analysts said. In the Interim Budget for FY2025, the government had set an ambitious target of bringing down the fiscal deficit target to 5.1 per cent of GDP in FY25 from 5.8 per cent of GDP in FY24. "The higher dividend represents additional fiscal revenue of 0.4 per cent of GDP. Incorporating potential shortfall in disinvestment receipts and more moderate tax collection growth than budgeted, FY25 fiscal deficit could undershoot Budget Estimate by 0.2 per cent of GDP," said Gaura Sen Gupta, Chief Economist, IDFC First Bank. In a press release, the RBI said, "The Board approved the transfer of Rs 2,10,874 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-24." The decision on the surplus transfer was taken during the 608th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India, held in Mumbai.

For 2023-24, the RBI's board also decided to increase the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) to 6.5 per cent

Actively encourage wealth creation, startups; committed to provide right environment for them to flourish, says PM

Following recent praise for the central government from various startup founders and business leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led dispensation at the Centre "actively encourages" startups and wealth creation in the country, and remains committed to providing the right environment for startups to flourish. In a series of posts on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Modi responded to comments made by top executives of companies like Zomato, Urban Company, Mamaearth, and MapMyIndia at an event on Monday hosted by Cabinet Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

At the event, which also had Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar in attendance, some big names in India's startup ecosystem had praised the Modi government for encouraging entrepreneurship and startups, and pushing for more technological innovation and manufacturing in various sectors. Coming bang in the middle of the Lok Sabha election, the comments are seen as an endorsement of the Modi government by a section of the industry. "In today's India, one's surname doesn't matter. What matters is hardwork. Your journey is truly inspiring, @deepigoyal! It motivates countless youngsters to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams. We are committed to providing the right environment for the startups to flourish," Modi posted in response to a video clip of Zomato founder Deepinder Goyal. At the event on Monday, the Zomato founder had remarked that his father thought Goyal would not do well as an entrepreneur due to their "humble background", but the government and its initiatives enabled "a small town boy" like him to build Zomato, which has provided employment to lakhs of people.

"Keep up the great work and continue to inspire others with your success, Varun! Ours is a Government which actively encourages StartUps and wealth creation. We are proud of the youthful energy in every part of our nation, especially the Tier-2 and 3 cities," Modi said in a post responding to comments made by Mamaearth founder Varun Alagh. At Monday's event, Alagh had said that despite coming from middle class backgrounds, he and his wife Ghazal were able to build their company from scratch over the past eight years with the help of the ecosystem provided by the Modi government. Urban Company founder Abhiraj Singh Bhal had said that the government was instrumental in helping the home services startup build a certified and skilled workforce, and praised the Startup India initiative as well. In response, Modi posted: "Rightly said, Abhiraj! The @startupindia initiative has clearly fostered a conducive environment for innovation and growth." The entrepreneurs also commended the opening up of the strategic sectors like space, geospatial, and defence. MapMyIndia CEO Rohan Verma had said that the government unlocked opportunities in the space and geospatial sectors over the past four years. "And not just for us as a company but for the country, it is Prime Minister Modi's vision for what maps and geospatial can do...in one year 2021, opening maps, geospatial, space and drone, he unlocked this trinity of technologies that can take the country into a different direction," Verma said. Modi in response posted that India's recent strides in the space sector has been appreciated by the entire world. "Our government has and will continue to make every possible effort to transform the crucial space and geospatial sectors," Modi said in a post.

Venture capital firm Peak XV Partners's Managing Director Rajan Anandan had also praised the opening up of strategic sectors like space and defence, which has "spurred innovation" in these areas. He said that with the government's efforts, India has emerged as the "top innovator" in sectors like aerospace, space, and defence, something that was "unthinkable" earlier. "Agree with you, Rajan Anandan! Our government stands steadfastly with innovators and wealth creators. We appreciate their zeal and efforts to enhance growth," Modi said in a post.

Sunil Vachani, Chairman, Dixon Technologies said



India was earlier importing all mobile phones and now is producing \$100 billion worth of electronic products. "Probably it is the first time in history that our country has produced \$100 billion worth of electronic products. Not only that, the category of electronics and mobile phones is the fifth largest category of exports. The Josh is so high now that we are looking at almost \$100 billion of exports of mobile phones alone happening in the country," he said, thanking proactive policies of the Government of India and the ministries. Vachani said the biggest change that has happened was the call by the Prime Minister a few years ago to make in India. "This is the biggest change that has happened," he said. Responding to criticisms about India's manufacturing sector, Vachani said the value addition is still low, at about 20 per cent. "But I am very happy to tell you that if you look at other product categories like LED lighting, televisions and some other products, the value addition in the country is as high as almost 75 per cent," he said, adding that one of the priorities should be creation of a strong and robust component ecosystem with support like inclusion in the production-linked incentive scheme. Responding to the video of Vachani's remarks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was in agreement. "The transformation in India's mobile phone and electronics industry is truly remarkable. It is a testament to India's potential and the proactive steps taken in the last few years to realise it," Modi said in a post.

India to benefit from falling global oil prices amid geopolitical tensions

New Delhi: Oil prices declined for a third day in a row in the international market on Wednesday, despite geopolitical tensions, as the US Federal Reserve is not expected to reduce interest rates any time because of the high inflation rate. Prices of the benchmark Brent crude have now come down to \$82.28 a barrel from close to \$84 a barrel at the end of last week. The US West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) futures were trading at \$78.02 on Wednesday indicating the further softening of prices. Since India imports close to 85 per cent of its crude requirement, the decline in oil prices reduces the country's import bill and strengthens the rupee. The Government has also helped to cut the country's oil import bill by allowing the oil companies to buy Russian crude at discounted prices despite the pressures from Western countries to stop these purchases in the wake of the Ukraine war. Russia has now emerged as the largest supplier of crude oil to India replacing Iraq and Saudi Arabia which occupied the top slot earlier. India has in fact become the largest purchaser of Russia's seaborne oil which accounted for close to 38 per cent of India's total oil imports in April.

Is palm oil as bad as we've made it to be?



The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) have joined forces to release a vital update to India's dietary guidelines for 2024. One of the most unexpected highlights in these updated guidelines is the inclusion of palm oil. While palm oil is often a source of debate, the guidelines acknowledge that moderate consumption can contribute to lower blood cholesterol levels. These new dietary guidelines aim to empower Indians to make informed choices about their nutrition, ultimately promoting better health and potentially reducing the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) affecting the population.

Palm oil has a complex reputation. Often demonised for its saturated fat content, it can surprisingly offer some health benefits. G Sushma, a clinical dietician at CARE Hospitals, explains how incorporating palm oil mindfully can contribute to a healthy diet. Palm oil is a mixed bag when it comes to fats. While it does contain saturated fats, which can raise LDL ("bad") cholesterol, it also offers healthier monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. Additionally, palm oil boasts vitamins A and E, essential for immunity and healthy skin, said Sushma. It even contains antioxidants that fight free radical damage

in the body. cholesterol Studies suggest palm oil may raise LDL cholesterol, though not as drastically as trans fats. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock) Palm oil and cholesterol: A balancing act

Studies suggest palm oil may raise LDL cholesterol, though not as drastically as trans fats. However, a hidden benefit is its ability to raise HDL ("good") cholesterol, which helps remove LDL cholesterol from the bloodstream, promoting heart health, pointed out Sushma. Making palm oil a healthy choice The key to reaping the benefits of palm oil lies in mindful consumption, said Sushma. Moderation is Key: Treat palm oil just like any other oil – use it sparingly. Excessive saturated fat intake can put your heart health at risk. Aim for a balanced fat intake by incorporating healthy fats from olive oil, fish, nuts, and seeds. Dietary Balance is Essential: Palm oil should complement a diverse and balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. Prioritize whole, nutrient-rich foods over processed options that often contain high amounts of palm oil. Smart Cooking Practices: Use palm oil for low-heat cooking methods like sautéing and baking. High-temperature methods like frying can generate harmful compounds. Consider blending palm oil with healthier oils like olive oil or canola oil for high-heat cooking. Sustainable Sourcing Matters: Choose palm oil sourced sustainably, such as those carrying the RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) certification. This minimizes the environmental and social impact of palm oil production. Read Food Labels Carefully: Be aware of hidden palm oil in processed foods by checking ingredient lists and nutritional labels. Opt for products with healthier oil alternatives or those using sustainably sourced palm oil whenever possible. Palm oil can be a part of a healthy diet when consumed thoughtfully. By prioritising moderation, mindful cooking practices, and sustainable sourcing, you can maximize its benefits while minimizing potential drawbacks.

'Your cinnamon is probably not real'; learn about the two most common types of daal chini and their benefits

Cinnamon is a popular Indian spice known for its sweet, warm flavour, and aromatic scent. But did you know there are different types of cinnamon available in the market? Krish Ashok, a food scientist and content creator, addresses the fact that most people don't know what kind of cinnamon they are consuming. "Your cinnamon is probably not real cinnamon," he captions the reel. Dilip Kumar Rai, principal at Yangsum Senior Secondary School, Sikkim and senior botanist, says, "Ceylon cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum*) and cassia cinnamon (*Cinnamomum cassia*), often referred to as 'true cinnamon,' are two of the most commonly used types of cinnamon. Despite their similarities, they differ significantly in flavour, health benefits, sourcing, and historical significance. "Historical and cultural significance Rai says that ceylon cinnamon has been prized since ancient times. It was highly valued in ancient Egypt for embalming and religious ceremonies and in medieval Europe for its medicinal properties. "It has been used traditionally in Sri Lankan and South Asian cuisines, as well as in European desserts and beverages." Used extensively in traditional Chinese medicine and cuisine, cassia cinnamon was also traded along the ancient spice routes. Integral to many Asian dishes, as well as Middle Eastern and African cuisines, its strong flavour makes it popular in spice blends and rubs, he adds.

Talking about how the cheaper and widely available cinnamon is considered harmful as compared to the expensive one, Ashok in his video says, "It's a very common pattern in food economics for a 'premium' scarce product to be marketed as far more healthier and tastier than the price difference suggests. This is true of expensive wine and it is true for cinnamon." Cinnamon Dilip Kumar Rai, principal at Yangsum Senior Secondary School, Sikkim and senior botanist says, "Ceylon cinnamon has been used traditionally in Sri Lankan and South Asian cuisines, as well as in European desserts and beverages."

However, Rai mentions that both types of cinnamon are beneficial for health but can have certain drawbacks as well. "Ceylon cinnamon is rich in antioxidants and has



anti-inflammatory properties. It may help regulate blood sugar levels, improve heart health, and enhance cognitive function. Whereas, cassia cinnamon also has anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. It is effective in regulating blood sugar and has been used in traditional medicine for its antimicrobial properties. "Ceylon cinnamon is generally safe for consumption, even in larger quantities. It contains lower levels of coumarin, a compound that can cause liver damage if consumed in large amounts over time. Cassia cinnamon contains higher levels of coumarin, which can pose health risks, especially liver damage, when consumed in large amounts over extended periods. "Both Ceylon and cassia cinnamon have unique characteristics and benefits. While Ceylon cinnamon is often preferred for its subtle flavour and lower coumarin content, cassia cinnamon is valued for its robust taste and traditional medicinal uses. Understanding the differences between these two types can help consumers make informed choices based on their dietary needs and health considerations," Rai informs.

Can blinking reduce dry eyes? An expert answers

In today's digital age, where staring at our screens for extended periods has become normal, dry eye syndrome has become a common problem. Many individuals experience discomfort, irritation, and even vision impairment due to prolonged exposure to screens, air conditioning, or other environmental factors. Content creator Allan Mandell suggests a simple solution: blinking your eyes for one minute. "When we spend long hours staring at our screens or in dry environments we tend to blink less, leading to dry, irritated eyes," he notes.

Mandell adds that by consciously practicing blinking exercises you will open up the meibomian glands, the tiny oil-producing glands along the eyelids on the top and the bottom which are essential for lubricating our eyes. "And this simple act of blinking helps to spread the tears evenly across the surface of our eyes, preventing dryness and discomfort." He suggests incorporating a quick blinking exercise into your daily routine. "Close your eyes gently for a few seconds. Open them up, open them wide. Blink rapidly. Just start blinking, stimulating that tear production to keep your eyes well lubricated. I hope this helps make it a great day," he says.

Navya C, senior consultant ophthalmology at Athreya Super Speciality Hospital agrees with Mandell. "Blinking plays a crucial role in maintaining eye health by spreading tears evenly across the surface of the eye, which helps keep the eyes lubricated and removes irritants. Each blink facilitates the secretion of tears from the lacrimal glands, which contain moisture and essential proteins that maintain eye surface integrity and combat dryness." This regular lubrication is vital for preventing the evaporation of the eye's tear film, a common issue in dry eye conditions.

Festive offer dry eyes, blinking While blinking exercises are beneficial, Navya C, senior consultant ophthalmology at Athreya Super Speciality Hospital, as-



serts that relying solely on them may not be sufficient for individuals with severe or chronic dry eye conditions.

For alleviating symptoms of dry eyes, she says, complete blinks where the eyelids make full contact are recommended. These ensure maximum tear spread and eye surface hydration. A specific pattern known as 'voluntary blinking exercises,' where one intentionally blinks fully every few seconds, can be beneficial. This practice is particularly important in environments that promote tear evaporation like air-conditioned rooms or while using digital devices. Risks and drawbacks of relying solely on blinking exercises

While blinking exercises are beneficial, Navya asserts that relying solely on them may not be sufficient for individuals with severe or chronic dry eye conditions. "These conditions often require a multifaceted approach including artificial tears, prescription eye drops, or punctal plugs. Over-reliance on blinking alone without addressing underlying causes or more severe symptoms can lead to inadequate treatment, potentially exacerbating the condition."

Jeremy Renner reflects on his near-fatal snowplough accident, recovery and getting back to work on Jimmy Fallon show: 'There's wonderful lessons in that, right?'



After a near-fatal snowplough accident, Jeremy Renner recently made a triumphant return to work, sharing his nervousness in an Instagram post, "Hope this works out that I can ACTUALLY pull this off for our production and more importantly the fans." Recently during his appearance on The Tonight Show, Renner discussed the challenges of filming an action scene for the upcoming third season of Mayor of Kingstown, premiering on June 2.

The action scene in question played on the show, saw Renner's character, Mike McClusky, request brass knuckles to administer street justice before launching a surprise attack on two unsuspecting men. The show will air on the Paramount+ streaming service. "I wasn't confident in it, by any means, but it happened. We got it done. I think that's even what the clip we even brought is part of that sequence, which is great," he told host Jimmy Fallon.

Fallon, before playing the clip, inquired if the Avengers actor was "back up to 100 per cent" following the snowplough incident which left him with more than 30 broken bones, a collapsed lung and a pierced liver from a shattered rib. Renner answered, "I don't know what that

is. But I expect to be, like, 150 per cent by maybe the end of the year." He added that doing stunts was challenging for him. "Cause I was barely kind of walking around. But, you know, I went up and just said, 'I'll just try it.' And put on these tennis shoes, I go, 'Let me try it.' Muscle memory just kind of happened," he said. Jeremy Renner credited his recovery to the unwavering support of his family, particularly his daughter, and shared insights on embracing life's challenges. "There's wonderful lessons in that, right? I mean, I could go on and on about what happened in the 45 minutes of being on the ice. But the real learning lessons from it. There are so many great gifts that — are being tested to your limits, right? Your physical limits, your spiritual limits, right? Emotional limits. I won't have a bad day for the rest of my life. It's impossible. There's that gift."

Recounting his journey towards recovery, Renner added, "If we get too stressed, or things are too difficult, or if it's insurmountable odds, or whatever it might be, just put one foot down. And then put another foot down. And then move towards it, right?" As a result of his extensive injuries, Jeremy Renner's rib cage was rebuilt with metal and metallic plates were used to reconstruct his eye socket. Additionally, a titanium rod and screws were inserted into his leg.

The Arrival actor also recalled how in 2023 when he was trying to clear a road, a 14,000-pound snowplough machine got out of control and moved towards his nephew. "So, I jumped back on it, or tried to, and got caught up in the tracks. And I broke, like, 38 bones and it was brutal, dude. It was brutal," Renner said. The actor added if he had panicked, he would've died. The Tonight Show episode had some lighter moments, too. Renner recalled the day when he was hospitalised and received a text from Fallon in the ICU. "Dude, you're trending!" Jimmy had texted him.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali reveals what Sharmin Segal told him about the portrayal of Alamzeb in Heeramandi: 'I will underplay'



Sanjay Leela Bhansali praises niece, Sharmin Segal and Manisha Koirala for their performance in Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar. Sanjay Leela Bhansali praises niece, Sharmin Segal and Manisha Koirala for their performance in Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar. It has been a few weeks since Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramani: The Diamond Bazaar debuted on Netflix, marking the filmmaker's foray into the world of OTT. While the show, despite trending on the streamer, received a mixed response. However, Bhansali's niece Sharmin Segal was singled out for criticism for her portrayal of Alamzeb, with the internet calling her out for her 'wooden expressions' and poor acting skills, and labeling her as a 'nepo kid.'

Neither Sharmin nor Bhansali publicly addressed the criticism surrounding her portrayal, but Bhansali did provide insight into his on-set collaboration with Sharmin. "She kept saying, 'Mama, I'll underplay.' I said, 'Underplay? Are you thinking I'm going to ask you to overplay?' Nevertheless, Bhansali acknowledged that he found her "new energy" fascinating. "I know that they (the new generation of actors) love me as much. I can see it in the way (they ask me), 'Are you happy? Should we do one more take? Can we do it one more time? Are you okay? I can

see that love in their eyes. Now that's very rare," he added.

Sharmin, who has assisted Bhansali on his recent projects, made her acting debut in his 2019 production Malaal. Heeramandi, her streaming debut, serves as a potential re-launchpad as she plays the daughter of Sheeshmahal's tawaf Mallikajaan (Manisha Koirala), longing for a life beyond her courtesan destiny. Her performance was criticised as bland by audiences, appearing lacklustre among the more experienced ensemble, compelling her to disable comments on an Instagram post featuring her with Bhansali at the recent premiere of Heeramandi in Los Angeles. Bhansali, who directed Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Black, Bajirao Mastani, Padmaavat and Gangubai Kathiawadi, he reunited with his first leading lady, Manisha, whom he directed in Khamoshi: The Musical, for Heeramandi. Speaking about her performance, Bhansali said, "She sat on the set every time for 7 hours, putting mehendi and then giving two shots. She'd go home, put the mehendi for seven hours again the next day, give two shots again and then go home. It's unbearable." He further added that the actor gave him the best takes in those two shots. "The scene in which she says, 'Chaand baramde mein utarta nahi.' I knew she got her sur there itself. She looked just splendid. So each one is giving me something to take home," he recounted.

Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli's photo with fan after IPL match in Bengaluru goes viral

Right from Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli welcoming their second baby, a boy — Akaay in London to Anushka returning to India to now RCB's performance in the ongoing IPL, and Anushka's viral moments from the tournament, the couple is all over the internet. While Virat Kohli's team lost the match against Rajasthan Royals in the IPL 2024 Eliminator on May 22, a photo of the couple from the IPL season is going viral on social media.

In a photo shared by fitness instructor Shubham Raheja, the couple can be seen smiling for a photo along with Raheja. In the photo, Virat can be seen sporting his RCB jersey, while new mom Anushka is posing in a chic black dress. The photo was taken outside Taj Westend in Bengaluru.

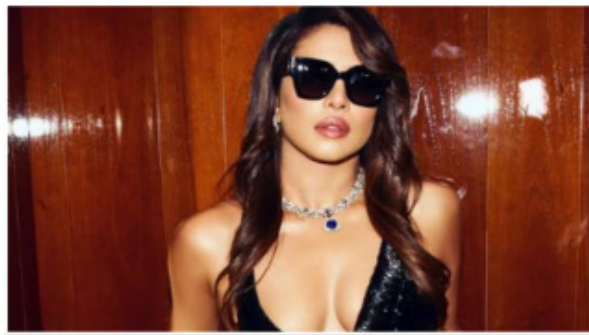
Anushka Sharma, who has been missing from films since her 2018 movie Zero, is currently busy with her mom duties. Evidently, the actor is one of the biggest supporters and cheer leader of her husband and cricketer Virat Kohli, often making headlines for her reactions during Virat's matches throughout the year. Anushka has been working on sports drama Chakda Xpress, the biopic of cricketer Jhulan Goswami, for quite some time now.



The film was supposed to have a direct-to-OTT release on Netflix. However, there has been no updates regarding the movie, despite the actor having shared a couple of BTS photos and a teaser long ago.

On the other hand, Virat Kohli recently made his fans emotional after hinting at "going away" for a while after retiring from cricket. "Once I am done, I will be gone, you won't see me for a while," said the cricketer in a video shared by RCB.

Priyanka Chopra fans slam British host for mispronouncing actor's name, call it 'disrespectful'



While Priyanka Chopra has been busy serving looks at Bulgari's 140th anniversary celebration, a video of British TV host Andi Peters mispronouncing the actor's name has gone viral on social media. Though it's understandable to mispronounce names, Priyanka's fans have accused Andi of intentionally mocking her.

In March, Andi visited Madame Tussauds in London for Good Morning Britain to discuss the celebrities

immortalised in wax there. During the show, Andi struggled with Priyanka's name, calling her 'Chianca Chop Free'. TV hosts Adil Ray and Charlotte Hawkins, who were in the studio, corrected him and gently reprimanded him, saying, "Honestly, Andi. If you're going to stand next to somebody, at least work out what their name is. That's Priyanka Chopra, the Indian Bollywood actress who is now a massive star in America." Priyanka Chopra's fans were outraged by Andi's lack of preparation and accused him of deliberate disrespect. One fan wrote, "It's a huge disrespect, not just a mispronunciation, because anyone can make a mistake, but this was intentional." Another fan commented, "Someone needs to tell Andi Peters that Priyanka Chopra has earned her place in Madame Tussauds, unlike him." Another simply wrote, "Disrespectful." One disappointed fan said, "I used to like Andi — not anymore! That was really rude, and it's not that hard to say her name at all!" On the professional front, Priyanka will next star in Head of State. Directed by Ilya Naishuller, the film also features Idris Elba, Jack Quaid, and John Cena in leading roles.

Shivangi Joshi slams people for 'misconstruing' and 'misinterpreting' her statements: This is not human at all

Shivangi Joshi has been in headlines ever since her photos with Kushal Tandon went viral on social media. The photos sparked dating rumours between the Barsatein-Mausam Pyaar Ka co-stars. On May 18, on the occasion of her birthday, the actress interacted with the media and addressed speculations around her personal and professional life. One of the rumours were of the actress joining hands with her Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai co-star and rumoured ex Mohsin Khan. Her statement and clarifications were later tweaked and misinterpreted, which attracted severe backlash online. Now, the television star has broken her silence. On May 23, Shivangi took to her Instagram Stories to share a long note, slamming a group of people for 'misconstruing' her words. She wrote, "I am very disappointed by a group of people for misconstruing my words and misinterpreting them. Recently, at an event, I was asked a generic question about a lot of rumours going around, to which I said, 'That's what rumours are for, right? They come and go.' Unfortun-

nately, my response was tweaked with voiceover, and the outcome was a lot of uncalled-for remarks and statements causing emotional turmoil for my family and me." The actress, whose photos from Thailand with Kushal Tandon went viral on social media, also addressed people's interest in her personal life. She added, "I've always kept my personal life private and refrained from talking about it in open forums. Hence, I request you to kindly respect my privacy. When the time is right, you will know. But taking advantage of someone's generic statement and bashing them and their families is not at all human." "I respect everyone, and I expect the same in return. Thank you," Shivangi concluded. The rumours of Shivangi and Mohsin collaborating on another show after Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai began after the show's creator Rajan Shahi mentioned the duo in one of his interviews. Later, Rajan, who is also the owner of Director Kut Productions, shared a photo of the duo on his Instagram handle.

Turbo movie review: A double-engine Mammooty and nefarious Raj B Shetty shoulder this wafer-thin actioner

"He never begins anything he isn't sure he can complete," Indulekha (Anjana Jayaprakash) tells Vetrivel Shanmugha Sundaram (Raj B Shetty) about Jose (Mammooty) with full conviction, despite facing death head-on at that moment. Cinema lovers too can indeed say the same about Mammooty, as, at the age of 72, he has delivered a character that is extremely physically demanding with finesse in director Vysakh's Turbo, emphasising that if, someday, he is to bid adieu, the thespian will do so only in style. Turbo opens somewhere in Tamil Nadu during Diwali festivities, where a man and his wife are brutally murdered by some assailants in front of their young son, though the motive is not immediately revealed. The movie then cuts to Idukki, Kerala, where a local man is desperately trying to send Aruvippurath Jose (Mammooty) away from the area before the upcoming church feast, fearing his presence would invite trouble. With the help of Jose's mother Rosakutty (Bindu Panicker), they devise a plan and execute it. However, true to his friends' words, "What feast without Turbo Jose's fight," he returns just in time and gets into an altercation with a few goons. Cinema Anatomy | Once not adept in comedy, Mammooty tirelessly chiselled himself, bringing to screen the iconic Kottayam Kunjachan, Rajamanikyam and more. Meanwhile, he soon discovers that these goons were sent by the family of his close friend Jerry's (Shabareesh Varma) girlfriend Indulekha, to deter Jerry from pursuing a relationship with her. Irked, Jose intervenes, but the situation quickly spirals out of control, forcing him to flee to Chennai with Indu and Jerry. Nonetheless, what awaits them there is even worse, as they get entangled in a situation far beyond their capabilities, clashing with political kingmaker Vetrivel after meddling in his business. The remainder of the film focuses on their dilemma: whether to run for their lives or confront Vetrivel face to face. Unlike typical actioners where the hero is introduced with a fight sequence accompanied by a mass BGM, Jose makes his first appearance while his mother scolds him for his reckless behaviour and his pride in the nickname "Turbo", earned due to his full-throttle stunts. As a middle-aged man obedient to his elderly mother, Jose is initially shown as an innocent soul. However, once trouble arises, he transforms into Turbo Jose, relentlessly facing his targets until they are defeated. From his first appearance, the movie begins to revolve entirely around Mammooty and he skillfully carries Turbo with his remarkable screen presence. Unfortunately, the megastar's towering presence is one of the few redeeming qualities in an otherwise thinly plotted film. From the outset, Turbo suffers from poor writing, exacerbated by unimpressive moments and "jokes" that mostly don't land. Despite the instances being all too familiar, none manage to leave an impression or evoke excitement, except for the stunt sequences, which owe their success entirely to the technical team, especially stunt master Phoenix Prabhu. As the film progresses, writer Midhun Manuel Thomas' script continues to decline, with his attempts to balance mass, comedy and drama mostly backfiring due to consistently weak writing. As much as the mass and comedy elements lack impact, the script also fails to build tension or do justice to the characters in emotional moments. Several instances that could elevate the emotional and tense atmosphere pass by without evoking any sensation in the viewers due to the shoddy nature of the script and without the technical quality, these shortcomings would have significantly detracted from Turbo's overall impact. Making



things even worse, almost all characters, including Jose, lack depth and are extremely flat. While Jose is initially presented as a simple and good-hearted villager who knows how to stand his ground, there are moments when his behaviour strays into the supernatural, in terms of fights, only to revert back to his original nature, creating inconsistency. Sometimes he cracks "jokes", mostly with his mother; then he shares a sentimental story about why he decided that he needed no one in life except his mother; soon afterwards, he would fight off rivals like a seasoned martial artist, leaving one wondering who or what he actually is. While Rosakutty's character is that of a typical mother to a reckless son, who disciplines him with one hand and pampers him with the other, the narrative fails to explore their bond too thoroughly. Though the movie introduces several characters, such as Jose's friends, in the beginning, they all disappear immediately, never to be seen again. It would have been nice if the writer had read Chekhov's gun principle. Indu is yet another flat character in Turbo, displaying a single expression of perpetual irritation or tension. Though the movie provides ample build-up to Vetrivel, it fails to make him anything more than the typical ruthless villain often found in mass, action movies. Due to these poorly developed characters, Turbo also fails to effectively portray their relationships and bonds, thus not invoking any sympathy or empathy for them from the audience. In fact, without the emotional moment where Jose recounts his mother saving him during a childhood landslide, even their connection would have gone underdeveloped. And what was the purpose of showing that husband and wife being murdered in the beginning itself if they have no significance in the story whatsoever? Guess we'll never know. Also, the placement of the title following this gruesome murder was an extremely poor artistic choice on the director's part. Even as the script drags on endlessly, the movie is predominantly salvaged by Mammooty's no-holds-barred performance, operating in top gear. Although he falls short of eliciting laughter or tears when necessary, largely due to the weak writing, his mere presence compensates for Turbo's deficiencies. His appearance and swagger, along with his improved handling of stunts, previously considered a weak point, are indeed commendable. While the script's attempts to create mass appeal often falter, Mammooty manages to achieve it single-handedly through his expressions and body language. Simultaneously, Raj B Shetty's portrayal as the despicable antagonist is exceptional, despite his character lacking depth. With a commanding screen presence and his ability to transcend a character far beyond its limitations, Raj portrays Vetrivel with finesse and if the character had been well-developed, he could have set a benchmark for villains in Malayalam.

England cricket turns to Manchester City for help ahead of T20 World Cup, bring back former psychologist



GNS News Agency, May 27

England cricket team has hired Manchester City football club's psychologist ahead of the T20 World Cup in June. David Young, who was part of the men's setup between 2016 to 2020, has been associated with the English Premier League champions during their recently successful reign that has seen them lift the league title four years in a row. For now, he has returned back in the England dressing room on a temporary basis for the marquee tournament in the US and Caribbean.

"He's previously been with the team and he's already been a great ally in messages back to me, making sure my messages are clear," Matthew Mott, England's white-ball coach, said. "It's always good to have someone who's a little bit removed from the squad to make sure you're landing your messages... He's still doing other roles but we've got him for this series, and the start of the

World Cup as well." Stressing on the need for Young in the dressing room, Mott described the T20 World Cup as 'death by a thousand cuts'. He said, "When you've had the kick in the pants like we've had, you can't just go 'business as usual'. You have to redefine how you go as a team. As a group, we've made a commitment to be a bit more open in and around our training sessions, to help each other out a bit more. In India, all of us were guilty of being a bit insular, and trying to problem-solve ourselves. We've made a commitment to open up and be a bit more vulnerable as a group so that we're helping each other." England are currently featuring in a four-match T20I series against Pakistan in preparation of the World Cup in June. It was skipper Jos Buttler, who had initiated the early exit of England internationals from IPL ahead of the business end, as told by England men's managing director Rob Key. "Look, as England captain, you're obviously going to have this series against Pakistan. How do you see it?" And straightaway, he said, "No, no, I want to come back and start getting ready for the World Cup in that series that's just before it," Key was quoted saying by ESPN Cricinfo earlier this month.

"We feel like it's time to get the mojo back and go out and really express ourselves as a team. I think T20, as opposed to ODI, is so much clearer in the way the players can approach it. We've seen in the IPL, you have to go out and really take the game on from the start. Most teams are going to go that way, so it's going to be an exciting World Cup," Mott said. England are grouped alongside Australia, Namibia, Scotland and Oman and will kickstart their T20 World Cup campaign against Scotland on June 4.

Ambati Rayudu posts CSK video after RCB's loss to RR in IPL eliminator: 'Sometimes a gentle reminder is required'

GNS News Agency, May 27

Former Chennai Super Kings player Ambati Rayudu on Thursday posted an old video of CSK players who were gesturing 5 indicating the number of times they had won the IPL. The post which is captioned, "Sometimes a gentle reminder is required" came a day after Royal Challengers Bengaluru were eliminated from the IPL after losing to Rajasthan Royals. On Wednesday during commentary after the RR vs RCB match, Rayudu had said that passion and celebration don't win a team the IPL trophy which was a veiled dig at the Faf du Plessis-led franchise.

"If you talk about RCB, it shows that only passion and celebration don't win you trophies. You don't get the IPL trophy just by reaching the playoffs. Don't think you will win the trophy just by beating CSK," he had said. The issue between the two franchises have been bubbling since RCB managed to pull off a heist against the CSK in their final group stage game of IPL 2024 last Saturday. Needing to defend 17 runs in the final over, Yash Dayal got Mahendra Singh Dhoni's wicket on the second ball to help RCB qualify. It was one of the biggest turnarounds of IPL 2024: the RCB team was at the bottom of the standings of the IPL at one stage. However, visuals from the



ground appeared to indicate that RCB players were so engrossed in celebrating their win, that they may have missed out on a few formalities.

This irked analysts like former England captain Michael Vaughan and Harsha Bhogle. Both felt that RCB players should have first shook hands with CSK players, especially Dhoni, since there is uncertainty about whether Dhoni will play in the IPL again after this. Since Dhoni has retired from international cricket, the IPL is the only form of cricket he currently plays.

T20 World Cup: Yuvraj Singh explains why he'll pick Rishabh Pant over Sanju Samson in playing XI



GNS News Agency, May 27

Sanju Samson and Rishabh Pant are the wicketkeepers India decided to take for the upcoming T20 World Cup in West Indies and the USA. While the former has churned out 521 runs at an average of 52.10 striking at 155.52 so far in the IPL for the Rajasthan Royals the latter has scored 446 runs at an average of 40.55 and a strike rate of 155.40 leading Delhi Capitals. However, given the composition of the Indian side only one of the players can make it to the playing XI,

and former Indian player Yuvraj Singh revealed that he would go with Pant over Samson. "I'd probably go for Rishabh," Yuvraj said speaking to ICC. "Sanju is also in great form, but Rishabh (is a) left-hander," he would reason. "I believe that Rishabh has massive potential to win games for India, which he has done in the past," Yuvraj would predict. "Lot more in Test cricket, and he's (Pant) someone who I feel can be a match-winner on the big stage." Hardik Pandya has had a forgettable season at the Mumbai Indians on his return as captain. In addition to his captaincy, the all-rounder struggled with both bat and ball throughout the season. However, Yuvraj has shown a vote of confidence towards the Indian vice-captain and predicted that he could do something special come the World Cup. "Well, the good thing is that the selection has been made. (Selectors see) how players have performed in international cricket and then they look at IPL form. Just not the IPL form," Yuvraj noted. "Because if you look at the IPL form, Hardik's not done well. Looking at his background for India, what he's done for India, he must be in the squad." "I think his bowling is going to be important, and his fitness is going to be important. And I think he might do something really special in this World Cup," he further went on to say.

Sport, as always, there is no fairytale endings: Dinesh Karthik looks back on RCB's season after loss to RR

GNS News Agency, May 27

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru's fairytale comeback was cut short by the Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday when the Faf du Plessis-led side were dumped out of the tournament with a 4-wicket defeat in the Eliminator. RCB who had started the IPL season with 1 win from the first 8 matches were written off from playoffs contention but at the business-end of the tournament, they went on a blistering run, winning 6 matches out of 6 and finished the group stage as the 4th-placed team. With all the momentum behind them against a RR side who had lost 4 back to back matches, RCB tripped when it mattered the most and lost in the Eliminator.

Unfortunately, sport is not a fairytale and our remarkable run in #IPL2024 came to an end. Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis and Dinesh Karthik express their emotions and thank fans for their unwavering support.

"Things turned around, winning six out of six felt like, 'wow! This is going to be the year!' But sport, as always, there is no fairytale endings, there is always a hard day,

one day that does not go your way... but still should be really proud of the boys. I thought that the batters, bowlers and fielders fought right up to the end. And that is all you can ask for in sport. The attitude matters, the belief in wanting to do something special matters. And on both counts, RCB had a very, very special season," Karthik said in a video shared by Royal Challengers Bengaluru. "It is a season where a lot of people will look at and be like 'wow, that was a good effort.' We should be very proud of ourselves and I hope all the fans are very proud of us for what we have done this year," he added.

Virat Kohli who was despondent after the defeat, also chose to look at the positives from the season. "We started expressing ourselves, started to play for our self-respect and then the confidence came back. The way we turned things around and qualified was truly special, something that I will always, always cherish and remember, because it took a lot of character from each member of this team, something that we can be really proud of. And eventually we played the way we wanted to play," Kohli

Former world champion shooter Rudranksh Patil wants to be picked for Paris Olympics ahead of trial-topper, writes to NRAI



GNS News Agency, May 27

Former world champion shooter Rudranksh Patil has appealed to the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) to include him in the team for the Paris Olympics ahead of Sandeep Singh, who topped five-shooter the selection trials earlier this week. In a letter to the governing body, Patil urged the selectors to look at 'overall performances' rather than comparing him and Singh only based on the selection trials, which concluded in Bhopal last Sunday. "I believe there is a better probability of me doing well (at the Olympics) than Sandeep because I have the experience of competing under high pressure," Patil said.

In 2022, Patil became only the second Indian shooter to win the World Championship gold medal in the 10m air rifle event. In the process, he also won a Paris Olympics quota for India but he finished third behind Singh, whose high scores caught everyone's attention, and Arjun Babuta in the four-stage selection trials that were held over the last month. The 20-year-old was 0.3 points behind second-placed Babuta and 1.4 short of Singh based on the final average scores. As per the NRAI's selection policy, the top two finishers in the trials of each event would be picked for the Olympics team regardless of whether they won the quota place or not. "I realise I have finished third but I have written to the NRAI only because the selection policy clearly states that the final decision will be in the hands of the selection committee," Patil told The Indian Express. "Had this not been mentioned, I wouldn't have made this appeal." The rules state that the 'NRAI reserves the right to amend the Selection Procedure wherever appropriate or necessary' and 'regardless of anything contained herein (the document) the decision of the Selection Committee of NRAI shall be

final and binding.' Rudranksh Patil aims during World Championships in Cairo. When contacted, Singh told this newspaper that he was unaware of the letter Patil sent. "I have nothing to say on this. It will be the NRAI's decision eventually," he added. NRAI Secretary General K Sultan Singh said they have received his letter and it will be 'presented to the selection committee' when they meet. "It will be up to the committee, what they decide," he said. The NRAI only last week won one legal battle over its selection policy, which was challenged by shooter Manini Kaushik after she wasn't included to participate in the trials. In a statement after the order, the NRAI had said the Delhi High Court had 'upheld' its guidelines.

The outcome of the 10m air rifle event, considered one of India's strengths, was seen as the big upset of the trials. Patil, a former world record holder, has been among the consistent shooters over the last Olympic cycle. But when the situation demanded during the trials, he couldn't shoot high scores in the qualifying rounds like Singh, who lacks enough international experience and couldn't back up his qualifying scores with good performances in the finals. Patil said he didn't have anything personal against Singh nor did he wish to challenge the federation on its selection policy. "I wouldn't even have done this if I had finished fourth or below in the selection trials. I would have backed out," he said. "Neither would I have done this if it was any one of Arjun, Divyansh (Panwar) or Sri Karthik, because they have all proven themselves." He added: "I understand Sandeep is in good form. But he doesn't have international experience and hasn't proved himself in the finals. And there, I feel experience matters. I had the quota for the last two years, so I was already dealing with that pressure. On top of that, I had to compete in multiple international tournaments and keep producing good performances, which I have done."

When asked about his performance at the trials, in which he couldn't match the high scores Singh shot to finish first, Patil said: "I couldn't shoot the highest scores in the trials, that is something I will continue to improve on. But I have shot scores that would be good enough to make it to the finals of the Olympics. There are still two months left for the Olympics, so I have a window to improve." The shooting team is scheduled to leave for Munich in the next few days and after participating in the World Cup there, from May 31 to June 8, they will proceed to France for a training camp.

Virat Kohli should leave Royal Challengers Bengaluru to win trophies, says Kevin Pietersen

GNS News Agency, May 27

Virat Kohli's Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Wednesday lost to Rajasthan Royals in the Eliminator of the Indian Premier League 2024 by four wickets. With the defeat, the franchise has been eliminated from the tournament and will remain trophyless since the inception of the showpiece event 17 years ago in 2008.

Despite the ups and downs of the team Virat Kohli has been consistently delivering the performances for them over the years. The 35-year-old is the highest run-getter in IPL ever with 8004 runs at an average of 38.66 and a strike rate of 131.97. However, despite his performances, the IPL trophy has been elusive. "I have said it before and I will say it again — the greats of the game in other sports, have left teams to go and seek glory somewhere else," former English player Kevin Pietersen would suggest to Star Sports.

When he has tried and tried so hard — won the Orange Cap yet again and done so much yet again and the franchise fails again I understand the brand of the team and the commercial value he brings to the team... But Virat Kohli deserves a trophy. He deserves to play in a team that could help him to get that trophy," Pietersen added. Pietersen would take football references where



star players have moved clubs to win trophies. "I think it's about time Virat Kohli thought long and hard. Beckham left, Ronaldo left, Messi left, Harry Kane just left Spurs and went to Bayern Munich," he would say. Ironically Pietersen would suggest Virat Kohli to move from one trophyless franchise to another in Delhi Capitals. "I think it should be Delhi. Delhi is the place where Virat needs to go. Virat can go away, and stay at home most of the time, I know he has a home in Delhi. He has a young family. He can spend more time there. He is a Delhi boy. Why can't he go back? Delhi is as desperate as Bengaluru."

'With Sanju Samson, if you ask him, he'll say he's been playing very selfishly this year'

GNS News Agency, May 27

Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson is having his best Indian Premier League season statistically in 2024 with the bat. The Royals batter churned out 521 runs at an average of 52.10 striking at 155.52 which has been by far his best season in terms of run-scoring (previous best of 484 runs in 2021) and strike rate (previous best of 253.39 in 2023). However, the team's off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has revealed that Samson believes he has been playing selfishly in the ongoing season. "With 'Sanju, if you ask him, he'll say he's been playing very selfishly this year, but he's striking at 165 (155.52)," Ashwin would tell on Star Sports after RR's Eliminator win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Ashwin though would back his captain. "That's exactly what we needed from Sanju Samson this year," the veteran said. "I'm so happy for



him, and I'm thrilled that he's made it to the Indian World Cup side. So it's a great group to be around, but they can make you pull your hair apart many times. Riyan Parag's failures and criticism on social media and pundits have been well-documented. However, the Assam player finally brought his domestic form to Rajasthan Royals and has had a stellar season batting at four, becoming a key part of RR's

success this year. However, Ashwin would give his opinion that Parag should also close out the games for the side. "My expectations out of Riyan Parag are high. And I would say he misses out on closing games down, and that is something that I always tell Riyan and Yashasvi because they are top-class players, and now we are seeing the silver lining, the stuff they are made of. That's why I'm so excited

about this group of players." Ashwin would say. Earlier in the season during a game against Sunrisers Hyderabad chasing 202 runs RR lost Jos Buttler and Samson early however, Jaiswal and Parag stitched on a mammoth partnership but both fell at crucial junctures of the game. RR eventually kept losing their way and lost the game by one run after which their losing streak began which was overturned last evening.