

INDIAN CHRONICLE

12 June, 2024 | Wednesday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:104

Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) ₹ 3

Farmers advised to utilise services through Rythu Nestham

Adilabad: Collector Rajarshi Shah advised farmers to utilize services offered through Rythu Nestham programme. He participated in the Rythu Nestham programme held in Echoda mandal centre on Tuesday. Shah said that the government launched a video conference service through Rythu Nestham programme to provide various services. He stated that farmers could discuss their problems with scientists and field-level officials with the help of the service and make agriculture a profitable occupation. He informed that they could get suggestions and tips online. The Collector told the officials to compulsorily organize the programme on every Tuesday and to ensure farmers attend the event in large numbers.

Rains, thundershowers likely in Hyderabad on Tuesday: IMD issues yellow alert

Hyderabad: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for Hyderabad, forecasting rainfall and thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds on Tuesday.

The city is expected to see these weather conditions until June 13, with a generally cloudy sky and light to moderate rain or thundershowers likely to occur in all zones, including Charminar, Khairatabad, Kukatpally, LB Nagar, Secunderabad, and Serilingampally. On Monday night, areas such as Quthubullapur, Kapra, Shaikpet, ECLIL, and Dammaiguda experienced moderate rainfall.

Prez Muizzu discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties on first official India visit: Maldives Foreign Ministry

GNS News Agency, June 11

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation with India on his first official visit to the country, the foreign ministry said here on Tuesday. Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, was in India for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Council of Ministers. Modi was sworn in as prime minister on Sunday for a record-equalling third term, heading the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. Top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region, including Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Mauritius President Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, attended the ceremony. Muizzu concluded his official visit and arrived back in Male on Tuesday morning, according to the Foreign Ministry here. "The President travelled to India at the invitation of Prime Minister His Excellency Narendra Modi, to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers of the Government of India," the ministry said in a statement. "During the visit, President Dr Muizzu attended a banquet hosted by the President of India, Her Excellency Droupadi Murmu, in honour of the visiting dignitaries," it said. "The two Presidents also had a meeting in which they discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation between the Maldives and India," it said. During the meeting, President Murmu conveyed her greetings to the new government and the people of Maldives. She expressed confidence that the island nation will continue on the path of prosperity and development under Muizzu's leadership.

"Both leaders noted the longstanding and multifaceted ties between two countries and highlighted important pillars of our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation including people-to-people linkages, capacity building cooperation, economic and trade relations and development cooperation," a statement by the President's Secre-



tariat in New Delhi said. Swearing in ceremony with Maldives President in Delhi President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe, Maldives President Mohammad Muizzu, Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay during the swearing-in ceremony of new Union government, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. (PTI)

Murmu expressed hope that India-Maldives relations will continue to strengthen in the years to come. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also called on Muizzu. "Delighted to call on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu of Maldives today in New Delhi. Look forward to India and Maldives working together closely," Jaishankar said in a post on X. Muizzu was accompanied by a high-level delegation of the government, according to the foreign ministry statement. "This marks his first visit to India since the assumption of office on November 17, 2023," it said. Unlike his predecessors, who made the first port of call to New Delhi after assuming office, Muizzu had travelled to Turkey first and to China for his first state visit in January.

GNS News Agency, June 11

New Delhi: Sultan of Oman Haitham Bin Tarik's call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday assumes great significance as both countries work on further scaling up the India-Oman partnership during Modi 3.0. Oman's Head of State, who had travelled to New Delhi last December -- the first visit to India by the Sultanate of Oman's Sultan in over 25 years since late Sultan Qaboos' trip in 1997 -- congratulated PM Modi on his historic third term following the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections. During the call, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen and strengthen the India-Oman partnership for the mutual benefit of both countries. "His Majesty emphasised the centuries-old ties of friendship between Oman and India and conveyed his best wishes for the progress and prosperity of the people of India. Prime Minister thanked His Majesty for his warm wishes and highlighted his historic visit to India in December 2023 which led to the deepening of bilateral cooperation in all areas," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik's India visit in December 2023 marked a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two countries which share a longstanding history of friendship and cooperation, built on the foundation of mutual trust and respect, and strong people-to-people ties going back centuries. A Joint Vision document titled 'A Partnership For the Future' was adopted during the visit, encompassing a shared vision of the leadership of Oman and India. It acknowledged the remarkable synergy between Oman Vision 2040 and India's development objectives, under 'Amrit Kaal', affirming commitment to harnessing these complementarities for deepening the partnership between India and Oman. "The document identifies a range of areas such as maritime cooperation and connectivity, energy security and green energy, space, technologies, and applications, digital payments and financial cooperation, trade and In-



vestment, health, tourism and hospitality, IT & innovation, as well as agriculture and food security with specific action points as part of the future roadmap to deepen ties between both countries for implementation," stated the India-Oman Joint Statement released on December 16, 2023. Oman, a key strategic partner of India, also remains an important interlocutor at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab League, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) fora. India, which is one of the largest markets for Oman's crude oil exports, continues to show its interest in a network of ports and freight corridors in the region that lead into Eurasia and the African continent. This also includes the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) located at a distance of 550 kilometers from Oman's capital Muscat. PM Modi, during his visit to the country in 2018, lauded the Sultanate's efforts to diversify its economy and welcomed the invitation to Indian companies to invest in various sectors in the special economic zones of Oman, including SEZs in Duqm, Sohar, and Salalah. Last year, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval visited the strategic port after calling on Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and holding wide-ranging discussions with the Minister of the Royal Office and the country's Foreign Minister.

Rahul Gandhi attacks BJP over dynasty politics, dubs Union Cabinet 'parivar mandal'

GNS News Agency, June 11

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday targeted the Modi government over dynastic politics and dubbed the NDA ministry a "parivar mandal" as he pointed out several ministers in the Modi 3.0 government who hail from political families. "Those who call the tradition of struggle, service and sacrifice of generations as nepotism are distributing the will of power to their 'sarkari parivar' (government family)," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. "This difference between the words and actions is called Narendra Modi," he added.

In his post, Gandhi named H D Kumaraswamy, son of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, Jyotiraditya Scindia, son of former Union minister Madhav Rao Scindia, Kiren Rijiju, son of first pro tem speaker of Arunachal Pradesh Rinchin Kharu, Raksha Khadse, daughter-in-law of former Maharashtra minister Eknath Khadse, Jayant Chaudhary, grandson of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, Chirag Paswan, son of former Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, and J P Nadda, son-in-law of former MP and Madhya Pradesh minister Jaysree Banerjee as part of NDA's "Parivar mandal". To the list, he added Ram Nath Thakur, son of former Bihar chief minister Karpooori Thakur, Ram Mohan Naidu, son of former Union minister Terren Naidu, Jitendra Prasad, son of former MP Jitendra Prasad, Rao Inderjit Singh, son of former Haryana chief minister Rao Birendra Singh, Piyush Goyal, son of former Union minister Ved Prakash Goyal, Ravneet Singh Bittu, grandson of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, Anupriya Patel, daughter of Apna Dal founder Sonelal Patel, and Kirti Vardhan Singh, son of former Uttar Pradesh minister Maharaj Anand Singh.

BJP tribal leader Mohan Charan Majhi to be new Odisha CM

Bhubaneswar, GNS News Agency, June 11

BJP's tribal leader Mohan Charan Majhi will be the new chief minister of Odisha, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced here on Tuesday. KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida were made deputy chief ministers, he said.

The decisions were taken at the BJP legislature party meeting attended by Singh and Union minister Bhpender Yadav as observers. "Mohan Majhi has been elected by the legislature party unanimously," Singh told reporters. Mohan Charan Majhi, 52, defeated Mina Majhi of the BJD by 11,577 votes from Keonjhar constituency. The chief whip of the BJP in the previous assembly, he was elected to the assembly for the fourth time. KV Singh Deo who was named a deputy chief minister defeated Saroj Kumar Meher of the BJD by 1,357 votes from Patnagarh, while the other deputy CM Pravati Parida beat BJD leader Dilip Kumar Nayak by 4,588 votes from Nimapara.

NEET-UG 2024 results: Supreme Court seeks response for conducting the exam again

GNS News Agency, June 11

The Supreme Court on Jen 11 sought the National Testing Agency's response to a plea seeking the fresh conduct of NEET-UG 2024 on the grounds of alleged question paper leak and other malpractices. A vacation bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, however, refused to stay the counselling of successful candidates for admissions to MBBS, BDS and other courses. NEET-UG 2024 was held on May 5



and its results were declared on June 4. It was expected to be declared on June 14. The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) examination is con-

ducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS and AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the

country. The top court tagged the plea filed by Shivangi Mishra and others with the pending one and asked the NTA to file the response in the meantime. The plea alleged that NEET-UG 2024 was riddled with malpractices as various instances of paper leaks have come to the knowledge of the petitioners. The alleged paper leak was violative of Article 14 (right to equality) under the Constitution as it gave an undue advantage to some candidates over others who chose to attempt the examination in a fair manner, it said.

'UP showed the way', Rahul, Priyanka thank votes of Raebareli, Amethi



GNS News Agency, June 11

Raebareli (UP): Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday thanked the people of Raebareli and Amethi for voting for the INDIA bloc and said that it was a vote against "violence, lies, and arrogance". While Rahul Gandhi won the Lok Sabha elections from Raebareli, in addition to retaining his seat in Kerala's Wayanad, Congress' Kishori Lal Sharma won from Amethi. Addressing an 'Aabhar Sabha' here, Rahul Gandhi said that in the recent Lok Sabha elections, people voted against those who planned to change the Constitution. "People have forced them to touch the Constitution to their foreheads now," he said. The Congress MP also said that it was for the first time that different parties across the country fought together as one army and it was Uttar Pradesh that showed them the way.

"You have changed the political narrative of the country. But the work is not over yet. In fact, it has only begun.

The BJP lost Ayodhya because not a single person from the poor or weaker sections was present in the consecration ceremony. Ayodhya gave a befitting reply in the elections," he said.

Rahul Gandhi also said that had Priyanka agreed to contest the Varanasi seat, the results would have been different there. He also assured the gathering that though he had been elected from Raebareli, he would make sure that Amethi gets whatever Raebareli gets for development. Speaking on the occasion, Priyanka Gandhi thanked all the leaders and workers of the Congress and Samajwadi Party and said the results have sent a message that the country wants clean politics. "You have worked hard for us and now we will work with double the strength for you," she said. Samajwadi Party leaders were also present on the Congress stage, as Priyanka Gandhi expressed her gratitude to the SP workers.

Amaravati will be capital of A P, Chandrababu Naidu says day ahead of his swearing in as CM

GNS News Agency, June 11

A day before he is set to be sworn in as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Telugu Desam Party chief N Chandrababu Naidu confirmed on Tuesday that Amaravati would be the state capital. He made the announcement at the NDA Legislative Party meeting held at Vijayawada, during which he was unanimously elected the alliance's leader of the House. Jana Sena Party chief

Amit Shah takes charges as Cooperation Minister; pledges to strengthen sector



GNS News Agency, June 11

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday assumed charge as the Minister of Cooperation, vowing to bolster the cooperative sector by effectively implementing policies at the grassroots level. Shah, a two-time MP from Gujarat and a close confidant of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has held the cooperation portfolio since July 2021, when the new cooperation ministry was established.

"We laid the foundation for the development of the cooperative sector in the last tenure. We will focus on percolating the policies to the ground level in the next five years," Shah stated, underlining his commitment to the sector's growth. The ministry is set to initiate the implementation of a 100-day development plan for the cooperative sector, Shah informed. As the Union Cooperation Minister in the second term of the Modi government, he played a pivotal role in shaping key policies, including amendments to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, Model Bylaws for Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and the establishment of three multi-state cooperatives for promoting exports, seeds, and organic products. "We have done the policy-level work; the focus will be to take it to the grassroots level," he added, highlighting the ministry's priorities. The 59-year-old Shah, who was elected from the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat, is known for his meticulous approach. His tenure has been marked by proactive decision-making and a commitment to realising the vision of "Sahkar se Samridhhi" (Prosperity through Cooperatives), strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.

Amaravati will be capital of A P, Chandrababu Naidu says day ahead of his swearing in as CM

K Pawan Kalyan proposed his name, and this was supported by BJP state president and newly elected MP D Purandeswari. "Amaravati will be the capital of our state. We will aim to develop the entire state, not just a few places," Naidu said. The NDA, which comprised the TDP, JSP and BJP in Andhra Pradesh, comprehensively defeated the ruling YSRCP in the simultaneous state Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Terror attack in J&K

THE tragic incident in Reasi, Jammu and Kashmir, where a bus carrying pilgrims was attacked by terrorists, resulting in the loss of nine lives, underscores a renewed and disturbing wave of terror in the region. The attackers, armed with AK-47s and M4 carbines, targeted the bus driver, causing the vehicle to plunge into a gorge. Intelligence reports indicate a shift from local to foreign terrorism in the Valley, with nearly 80 foreign terrorists currently operating in the area. This poses a significant challenge for security forces, as the foreign elements bring a new level of sophistication and brutality. The use of advanced weaponry in the Reasi attack is an indicator of this escalating threat. The broader implications of this attack are profound as it disrupts the peace and stability of J&K and also instils fear among local residents and visitors. Even as the swift deployment of security forces and the launch of a comprehensive search operation demonstrate a proactive approach, the incident calls for a deeper examination of security protocols, especially in vulnerable areas frequented by civilians. The recent uptick in terrorist activities, including ambushes on military vehicles and attacks on civilians, signals a strategic effort by terrorist groups to destabilise the region and undermine the government's efforts to restore normalcy, including the democratic process. In this challenging environment, the role of local communities and village defence guards becomes crucial. Their prompt efforts to rescue bus victims underline the need to strengthen community-based mechanisms as they can serve as a vital line of defence against attacks. As J&K navigates these turbulent times, the government must enhance security measures and foster a sense of unity and resilience among the populace. Terrorism must not be allowed to derail the aspirations of the local people.

Fresh FIR against father, grandfather of juvenile in alleged cheating case



GNS News Agency, June 11

One more first information report (FIR) has been lodged against the father and grandfather of the juvenile accused in the Porsche crash case. A Pune based real estate businessman Mushtaq Momin lodged this FIR at Kondhwa police station as per the FIR, the minor's father and grandfather, who are prominent builders from Pune, had promised Momin Rs 1.5 crore if he could settle a dispute over their land in Kondhwa in 2019.

They allegedly gave Momin Rs 18 lakh in advance for the work. However, after he solved the dispute and got them possession of the Kondhwa land, they allegedly refused to give him the remaining amount of Rs 1.32 crore. When Momin demanded for the money, they allegedly threatened him. He had then filed a complaint against them with the police. He had also filed a private complaint against them in Lashkar court in Pune. However, they allegedly forced Momin to withdraw the complaint by giving threats to kill him, the FIR stated. Police have now booked three persons from the minor's family including his father and grandfather in this case under sections 420, 406, 504, 506, 120-B, 392, 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

On Thursday, the police had booked the minor's father and grandfather for their alleged role in an abetment of suicide offence involving a businessman's son in Wadgaon Sheri on January 9 this year. An FIR in the case was registered based on a complaint by the businessman, who runs a construction firm in Pune, regarding his son's suicide, at Chandan Nagar police station on January 12 this year. The accused minor driver's father and mother are in police custody in the Porsche car accident case. The minor boy on May 19 allegedly drove the Porsche at high speed under the influence of alcohol when the car crashed into a bike, killing two software engineers who were on the two-wheeler vehicle.

Police lodged three FIRs related to the case. The first FIR was lodged against the minor at Yerwada police station on the day of the accident. The boy was then taken to Sassoon hospital for a medical examination, where his blood sample was allegedly replaced with his mother's. Police arrested his father, mother, Dr Ajay Taware — the former head of the forensic department of Sassoon Hospital, Dr Shrihari Harnol — who was the casualty medical officer at the time, and a Class IV employee Atul Ghatkamble, for allegedly changing the minor's blood sample by taking financial favours. Police further arrested two men Ashpak Basha Makandar of Dhanori and Amar Santosh Gaikwad of Yerawada — who allegedly acted as middlemen between the father of the accused teenage driver and two doctors and a staffer of Sassoon Hospital — for swapping the minor's blood sample. A court had remanded the duo and minor's parents to police custody till June 10 and the other three till June 7. While the juvenile is in an observation home till June 12, crime branch sleuths produced Dr Taware, Dr Harnol, Ghatkamble and Amar Gaikwad before a special court on Friday afternoon.

The court remanded all four to judicial custody. Assistant commissioner of police Sunil Tambe told the court that they reserve the right to Gaikwad's police custody later for investigation. Police are probing his mobile phone call details and CCTV footage. The father was initially arrested along with the owner and managers of the two restaurants where his minor son had allegedly consumed liquor before the accident, in the second FIR that had been lodged by the police under sections of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Malabar Hill reservoir won't be demolished: Guardian Minister



GNS News Agency, June 11

Mumbai guardian minister, Mangal Prabhat Lodha on Friday announced that the 137-year old Malabar Hill water reservoir will not be entirely reconstructed but will only have phase-wise repairs taken up. Lodha, who is also an MLA from the Malabar Hill constituency had met with Mumbai's municipal commissioner and state appointed administrator, Bhushan Gagrani on Friday regarding this issue, following which the announcement was made by him.

"Today, I met with the commissioner and a principal agreement was made that the reservoir will not be demolished entirely for reconstruction and only phase wise repair works will be taken up inside the chambers, as per requirement. The process of scrapping the tenders has been initiated and is likely to be completed in a week's

time," Lodha said on Friday. The proposal of reconstructing the reservoir was mooted by the civic body last year, after structural audits pointed to poor stability of the reservoir structure. However, the move was met with immense resistance from locals as a total of 389 trees were to be cut and transplanted to make way for the new reservoir. "The Hanging Gardens is used by several citizens and it's also a prominent open space of Mumbai. The loss of so many trees would be damaging for the environment, therefore, we took this decision to not demolish the tank entirely," he said. Last year in December, the BMC had appointed a technical committee of structural engineers and civil engineers for carrying out an independent audit of the reservoir. The committee of eight members submitted a report where four of them supported reconstruction of the reservoir, while four didn't sign the report upon disagreement over certain facts. Following this, the BMC had approached IIT Roorkee, this year in April to carry out another independent survey. The IIT experts had conducted their site visit earlier this week on Monday, however their report is yet to be submitted to the civic authorities. Built in 1887, the Malabar Hill Reservoir is one of the first artificial water reservoirs that was built to meet the regular water requirements of the island city. The reservoir is located underneath the surface of the Pheroze Shah Mehta Park (Hanging Gardens) situated at Malabar Hill and has a capacity of supplying 150 million Litres per Day (MLD). Malabar Hill is one of the highest locations of Mumbai and the main idea of having this reservoir at such an elevated height is to augment the force of water through natural gravitational force.

Pune RTO cracks the whip, suspends licences in cases of drunken driving, unregistered vehicles

GNS News Agency, June 11

Pune RTO has initiated action against those caught speeding and or driving unregistered vehicles in the city. This move comes in the wake of the Porsche car accident on Kalyani Nagar Road last month, where a minor was involved in the tragic incident resulting in the death of two young techies from Madhya Pradesh. In the last two weeks, from May 22 until now, around 60 cases of 'drunken driving' have been recorded, whereas 11 vehicles were caught without registration. The Pune RTO had previously announced that in cases of unregistered vehicles, notices would be sent to vehicle dealers, and their business licences would be canceled.

The RTO has also nabbed three underage drivers, who will be sent to court for further procedure, and notices had been issued to the parents of the minors for handing over vehicles to them. An RTO official said the drive is aimed at ensuring safety of the public and to prevent undesirable incidents. "In cases of both, drunken driving and underage driving, offenders will be sent to court for legal action. However, in the cases of unregistered vehicles, notices will be issued to the dealers concerned for suspension of trade certificates," he said. Besides, there are dealers from districts other than Pune, and their names will soon be revealed. "For



drunken driving, licences have been suspended for 6 months," the official added. Following the accident, Pune RTO had issued a notice to all vehicle dealers in the city, mandating that vehicles not be allowed on the road without full registration. RTO official Sanjeev Bhor, after the Porsche crash case, said that the RTO is committed to acting against those found driving unregistered vehicles in the city. "It is the dealers responsibility to oversee the registration process. When vehicles are bought from other states or districts, dealers often do a temporary registration," he said.

After winning 3 seats, BJP-JDS alliance to remain majority in Karnataka Legislative Council



GNS News Agency, June 11

The tally of 35 seats included seven candidates who had filed nomination papers for an election scheduled June 13, where members of Legislative Assembly elect MLCs. The tally of 35 seats included seven candidates who had filed nomination papers for an election scheduled June 13, where members of Legislative Assembly elect MLCs. The BJP-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka is all set to remain a majority in the Karnataka Legislative Council after winning three of the six council seats that went to polls on June 3. The ruling Congress will have to wait till the 2026 council polls to ensure a slim majority of 38 seats in the upper house of the state legislature. Congress had to win all six seats to secure a majority in the council. By winning three seats, it has succeeded in increasing its tally to 35. While results of two constituencies were announced on Thursday, others were announced on Friday due to the prolonged counting process involving preferential votes.

For the election, the BJP had fielded candidates in

ED opposes Kejriwal's regular bail plea, claims it has 'ample' evidence to nail him

GNS News Agency, June 11

The Enforcement Directorate asserted before a Delhi court on Friday it has "ample evidence" to link Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to "grave" economic offences, as it opposed his application for regular bail in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam. The central probe agency told Special Judge Kavari Baweja it was in possession of several incriminating evidence against Kejriwal. The judge posted the matter for June 14 for further arguments on the application.

"There is ample evidence on record to link the applicant to the commission of the offence of money launder-

ing, and his release on bail would adversely affect further investigation to unearth the deep-rooted multi-layered conspiracy," the ED claimed. "He is involved in grave economic offences," it alleged. The court had on Sunday sent Kejriwal to judicial custody in the case. The judge had passed the order after he was produced before the court through video conference after surrendering before Tihar central jail authorities. The judge passed the order on an application filed by ED on May 20, when Kejriwal was out on interim bail granted to him by the Supreme Court. The court had on June 5 dismissed the AAP national convenor's plea seeking interim bail on medical grounds.

four constituencies, leaving two to JD(S). In a morale booster for the regional party, both JD(S) candidates S L Bhojgowda and K Vivekananda, were declared winners on Thursday from Karnataka South West Teachers' and Karnataka South Teachers' constituency, respectively. In an upset, Vivekananda defeated four-time MLC from the segment Marithibeggowda, who was formerly with the JD(S) but resigned from the party to contest on a Congress ticket. The three Congress candidates who won are D T Srinivas (Karnataka South East Teachers'), Ramoji Gowda (Bangalore Graduates) and Chandrashekar Patil (North East Graduates). At the South West Graduates' constituency, BJP's Dhanajay Sarji was able to secure a win and BJP rebel K Raghupati Bhat, contesting as an independent, came second. Congress candidate and former MLC Ayanur Manjunath was pushed to the third position. The tally of 35 seats included seven candidates who had filed nomination papers for an election scheduled June 13, where members of Legislative Assembly elect MLCs. The seven included CM Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra Siddaramaiah, Science and Technology minister N S Boseraju and political secretary to CM K Govindaraj, who were elected unopposed. Apart from them three BJP and one JD(S) nominee were also elected. The number of candidates for each party for the said election is based on the strength of each party in the Legislative Assembly. With the results, the BJP-JD(S) alliance will now enjoy a slender majority of 38 seats in the 75-member Legislative Council. Of the 38, BJP has 30 and JD(S) eight MLCs. The two remaining seats in the Council includes Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti — a BJP MLC — and independent MLC Laxman Jarkiholi.

Surat textile traders protest civic body action to shut shops over lack of fire NOCs, other clearances



GNS News Agency, June 11

Angry textile traders hit the streets on Friday and chanted slogans against the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) for sealing over 25 markets and 4,000 shops for not having fire NOCs and Building Use Certificates (BUC). The SMC action came in the backdrop of the Rajkot gaming zone fire which killed over 27 people, including children. Apart from the SMC, the mob raised slogans against the Federation of Surat Textile Traders Association (FOSTTA), the parent body of the textile traders. At the protest, held in front of the FOSTTA office at Millennium Market on Ring Road, the traders said they have lost 10 days of business and are also facing problems in submitting GST as their offices have been shut down. Meanwhile, the labourers working at these shops have been asked to take leave till the situation eases out. The textile traders have also made a request to the FOSTTA to resolve the issue and get the shops opened at the earliest. There are over 170 textile trading markets which house over 75,000 traders of mostly sarees and dress materials. Clothes from these markets are exported to different countries.

While traders of only a few markets have been affected by the SMC action, the protest was joined by other textile traders too who showed their solidarity to the agitators. Meanwhile, the protest led to traffic snarls on the main Ring Road, causing inconvenience to the people. Huge tailbacks of vehicles were seen on the main road. Later, the traffic police and Salabatpura police reached the spot and removed the protestors.

Manoj Agrawal, former FOSTTA president, said, "The SMC should understand that these textile markets are old and in those days, there were no rules to acquire BUCs and fire NOCs. Textile markets have also worked on emergency exits and have even installed fire extinguishers at their shops. Many traders have taken the shops on rest and the business has been hit for the last 10 days." Senior textile trader Tushar Jain, whose shop has been sealed, said, "We are facing huge losses as we have not been able to meet demand of traders from other states. It is important to deliver on time because if we fail to deliver, they will start working with new traders." Jain added, "Even our office work has been affected and we have not been able to pay our GST bills on time. Over 10,000 labourers have been affected and they are spending days without wages and work. We want the SMC to work on the issues and get the shops opened as soon as possible." Surat city mayor Daxesh Mawani said, "FOSTTA president Kailash Hakim and a few other textile market presidents came and met us on Friday. They have requested us to get the sealed markets open, as the traders are facing losses. They have put up the issue before us and we have assured them that we will take the matter up with the state government to come up with an amicable solution." Mawani added, "The FOSTTA leaders had also requested two months' time so that they can get the FIRE NOCs. On the BUCs, the leaders said the builders have to take care of it."

Talking to the Indian Express, FOSTTA president Kailash Hakim said, "In our meeting with the Mayor and Municipal commissioner Shalini Agrawal, we requested a solution to get the shops open so that the traders do not have to suffer. We have also requested them to look for some amicable solution. We have said that the presidents of all the affected markets will give affidavits to the municipal authorities that they will procure fire NOCs and even BUCs but their shops should be open first." Hakim added, "We have got a positive response from the municipal officials and they have told us that they will hold a meeting and work towards a solution."

'Dynamics' about to change in Parliament, says Moody's Analytics

GNS News Agency, June 11

New Delhi: Moody's Analytics on Friday said reduced political stability and the need for consensus building in a coalition government will likely slow decision-making and erode investors' confidence in the near term. In a post-election note, Moody's Analytics said the Lok Sabha election results mean dynamics are about to change in Parliament, as coalition partners will gain influence and leverage in policy decisions, allowing for a more inclusive approach to governance. "The BJP will need to use the tools of negotiation and compromise to maintain a cohesive government. This will likely slow decision-making and potentially dilute some of the party's key policy initiatives," it said in a note titled 'India Election Review: Voters Force the BJP into Coalition Government'. The BJP, which won 303 seats in 2019, bagged 240 seats in the 2024 elections. The BJP-led NDA won 293 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, comfortably above the majority mark of 272. Moody's Analytics said though Prime Minister Narendra Modi secured a third term in office, the BJP's greatly weakened position marks a significant shift in the political landscape. Just how well it goes at forging new alliances to govern effectively and steer the economy will be closely watched in the coming years, it added. "Reduced political stability and the need for consensus building that is inherent with coalition government might erode investor confidence in the near term," Moody's Analytics Associate Economist Aditi Raman said. It said markets will want to see how the new-look government goes about addressing longstanding challenges such as inflation, high unemployment, and socio-economic disparities. The effectiveness of policies implemented by the coalition government will determine India's growth trajectory for the next five years, it said.

Is your doc legit? Soon, you can scan QR codes to know in Maharashtra



GNS News Agency, June 11

Soon, doctors will have to display QR codes at their clinics and hospitals to verify their authenticity. The initiative has been taken by the Maharashtra Medical Council (MMC) and authorities said that they are in the process to finalise it. "Anyone who visits a doctor for consultation at his/her clinic can scan the QR code to verify the requisite qualification. This in a way will also help keep a check and prevent the practice of bogus doctors," Dr Vinky Rughwani, administrator at the MMC told.

There are 1.8 lakh registered doctors with the MMC. However, an increasing concern over unqualified practitioners has led the semi-quasi judicial body to initiate measures to verify the doctors' credentials. "We do receive complaints from patients who have undergone treatment and have not recovered. In the past too, measures have been taken and now we are in the process of finalising the new project," Dr Rughwani said. Previously, the MMC had also decided to issue registration certificates having individual QR codes to curb forgery or tampering in certificates. Dr Sandeep Yadav, Chairman, Diagnostic Committee, Indian Medical Association, welcomed the move. "However, it is important that committees set up to check and prevent the practice of bogus doctors at the district and municipal levels meet regularly. For instance, in Sangli, we found that there were several laboratories that were not run by pathologists and were managed by technicians. Committee members need to proactively design strategies to prevent such illegal practices," Dr Yadav said.

According to Dr Sanjay Patil, state secretary of IMA's Hospital Board of India, the cases are prevalent in the fringe rural areas. "Due to sustained efforts of the civic health department and the IMA, awareness has been stepped up about the practice of bogus doctors and there is a fair amount of vigilance in the urban areas," he said.

Recently, the Pune Municipal Corporation's health department registered a case against a man who posed as a doctor and was allegedly running a clinic at Karvenagar. Dr Suryakant Deokar, assistant medical officer of health, Pune Municipal Corporation, said that the doctor was not registered with any medical council and prescribed some ayurvedic and allopathic medicines. Meanwhile, Dr Amit Dravid, an infectious diseases consultant, said that sterner measures need to be taken. "It is important to get tough about quackery. Multiple issues need to be addressed; right from ensuring that the doctor's registration number and degrees are displayed at the reception desk and on his/her prescription letter pad. Beyond this QR code initiative, more strategies need to be sternly implemented to check the malpractice," Dr Dravid pointed out. "Fires at hospitals can be devastating, especially where a large number of people admitted in ICUs may be on life support, and incapable of moving on their own. They need to be evacuated hence there are special requirements that must be met while evacuating such people in case of fire emergencies," Dr Dinesh Thakare, president of IMA Maharashtra said.

Considering several mishaps and accidents regarding electrical connections and appliances, gas leakages and inflammable gas problems and fires in recent weeks, the Indian Medical Association (Maharashtra) recently issued an advisory on safety regulations that need to be followed to prevent fires. These include that hospitals should get fire NOCs from the fire department or the B form from an authorised agency; setting up a safety committee and ensuring that large hospitals should appoint fire safety officers in-charge, an emergency command centre and codes for announcements that become functional immediately whenever there is an emergency. Fire exits should be well defined and signages should glow in the dark and be visible in two languages, apart from ensuring fire alarm systems are properly tested also forms part of the advisory, the IMA said.

Rahul Gandhi reviews Congress performance in Karnataka in Lok Sabha elections, seeks report

GNS News Agency, June 11

Following a meeting with newly elected MPs and candidates of the Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday sought a report on the performance of the party in the state. Responding to media queries on Congress trailing in several Assembly constituencies represented by ministers of the Karnataka Cabinet, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D K Shivakumar said Gandhi has tasked three senior party leaders to come up with the report.

"We will discuss and submit a report. He has asked me, Chief Minister (Siddaramaiah) and AICC general secretary (Randeep Singh Surjewala) to submit a report," he said, adding that the party leadership would fix 'accountability' for the performance of the party. An upbeat Congress was expecting to win around 15 seats in the Lok Sabha elections 2024 but could secure only nine in Karnataka which has 28 seats. The BJP and JD(S), which is a part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), won 17 and two seats, respectively. "He (Gandhi) has asked them to avoid Bengaluru and Delhi, except when Parliament is in session, and to be in touch with their constituents. He has asked the MPs to be with the people," Shivakumar said, adding that even those who lost the polls will have to keep in touch with the people.

According to Shivakumar, Rahul Gandhi also met a few ministers of the Karnataka Cabinet and enquired about voting patterns in their respective constituencies. "We had expected to win five to six more seats. Gandhi stressed the importance of accountability," he



said. Gandhi was in Bengaluru to appear for a court hearing in connection with the defamation case filed against Congress leaders by the Bharatiya Janata Party over allegations made in the run-up to the Karnataka Assembly elections 2023. The meeting with MPs, MP candidates, and other Congress leaders was held after he appeared in the court. The Karnataka unit will chalk out a plan of action next week to address the setback faced by the party in the Lok Sabha elections, Shivakumar added. On the bypolls for three seats in Karnataka, the KPCC president said the party was yet to discuss the issue. "We are still sad about the loss (in Lok Sabha polls)," he said. By-poll will be held for the Channapatna, Sandur and Shiggaon constituencies as sitting MLAs from the segments — H D Kumaraswamy (JD(S)), E Tukaram (Congress), and Basavaraj Bommai (Shiggaon) — were elected as MPs.

Here's all you need to know about BMC's under-construction ROB aimed at decongesting Mumbai's Ghatkopar

GNS News Agency, June 11

To ensure a respite from the infamous traffic congestions in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is constructing a cable-stayed traffic road-over bridge (ROB) to connect the Eastern Express Highway (EEH) with the Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Road in Ghatkopar. Why is the project important? Ghatkopar is one of the congested parts in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai. The only connectivity between the LBS road and the EEH is a 77-year-old ROB and it cannot take heavy traffic loads. As a result, the intersection of the LBS Road and the EEH remains congested during the peak hours.

Significance of the project To ensure seamless connectivity, a new cable-stayed bridge is being planned. This project will be carried out in two phases and will intersect the Metro lines that will become operational in the fourth phase. Besides this, the bridge will also pass above railway tracks allowing east-west traffic movement.

Features of the project The bridge will be 38 metre wide and will have six lanes for vehicular movement, including service roads, footpaths and emergency lanes. Besides this, the bridge will also boast of an aesthetic approach since the administration aims to illuminate it in a very unique way. Current status The cost of this project has been pegged at Rs 550 crore and the work order was issued to the Maha Rail in 2022. As of now, 30 per cent of the work has been completed. The BMC aims to open this bridge by the end of 2025 or early 2026. An official of the BMC's bridges department said, "The key advantage of this project will be that this bridge is going to provide a direct connectivity to the EEH for all east-bound vehicles. The bridge will also have direct access to Metro stations which will also prove to be a boon to the daily commuters of Mumbai in the days to come."



To ensure a respite from the infamous traffic congestions in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is constructing a cable-stayed traffic road-over bridge (ROB) to connect the Eastern Express Highway (EEH) with the Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Road in Ghatkopar.

Congress demands SC-monitored probe into NEET exam 'irregularities'



GNS News Agency, June 11

The Congress on Friday demanded a high-level investigation under the supervision of the Supreme Court into "irregularities" in NEET for medical courses and accused the BJP of cheating youngsters and playing with their futures. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said paper leaks, rigging and corruption have become an integral part of many examinations, including the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). "The Modi government is directly responsible for this. For the candidates appearing in recruitment exams, then facing several irregularities, getting caught in the labyrinth of paper leaks, is playing with their futures. The BJP has cheated the youth of the country," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

"We demand that a high-level investigation should be conducted under the supervision of the Supreme Court so that our talented students appearing in NEET and other exams get justice," he added. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has denied any irregularities and said the changes made in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks and grace marks for losing time at examination centres are behind the students scoring higher marks. Jairam Ramesh, the Congress general secretary in charge of communications, said the "scam" involving lakhs of candidates is "completely unacceptable and unforgivable".

"This is a direct gamble with the future of lakhs of candidates of the country, which should be immediately investigated at the high level under the supervision of the Supreme Court," he said in a post in Hindi on X. "This year, there was news of a paper leak in it that was suppressed. Now, many candidates have alleged that the marks of the students have been increased. Students say that this time a record 67 candidates have secured the top rank and six of these candidates are said to be from the same examination centre," he claimed. The results for the medical entrance exam NEET-UG on Tuesday. "The question is how did the students get cheated, who did it and why was this result deliberately declared on June 4 amid the noise of election results, whereas it was to be declared on 14 June?" Ramesh asked.

He further said, "Several questions are being raised

V K Pandian's wife goes on childcare leave for 6 months

GNS News Agency, June 11

Senior IAS officer Sujata Karthikeyan, wife of former bureaucrat and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) chief Naveen Patnaik's aide V K Pandian has proceeded on a childcare leave for a period of six months till November 26. This comes weeks after the Election Commission ordered her transfer from the Mission Shakti department to a "non-public facing department" following a complaint of alleged misuse of public office, lodged by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Sujata was granted leave as her minor daughter is appearing for the class 10 examination, said a notification issued by the state general administration department.

The BJP, which won the recently concluded assembly polls in Odisha, had during the campaign lodged multiple complaints accusing her of "actively participating in the elections as BJD's front person". Known as one of the most powerful bureaucrats in Odisha's power corridors, the 2000-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer was then ordered to be transferred by the poll panel. When she was posted in the Mission Shakti department, where she worked for six years, the BJP alleged that the Mission Shakti's functionaries were threatening the self help groups (SHGs) to stop their financial benefits if they failed to vote for the BJD. The Mission Shakti department worked for economic empowerment of around 70 lakh rural women, who are a part of six lakh SHGs. Pandian has,



meanwhile, remained out of public glare since the BJD's loss. He neither accompanied the CM to Raj Bhavan on June 5 to submit his resignation nor attended the meeting of BJD leaders with Patnaik at Naveen Niwas.

Amid reports that he has gone to Delhi Wednesday evening, BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra Thursday clarified that Pandian has gone to Delhi "on the direction of the CM". Meanwhile, two retired IAS officers, Suresh Chandra Mohapatra and R Balakrishnan, posted as the advisors to the CM, have already resigned from their positions after the results. Similarly, IRTS officer Manoj Mishra, posted as the principal secretary of Odisha's Electronics & Information Technology Department, has also resigned from his position.

'We reject Modi likening himself to Nehru on gaining third term in office,' says P Chidambaram

GNS News Agency, June 11

Congress leader and former union minister P Chidambaram on Friday rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi likening his third consecutive term in office to the monumental record set by former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Modi, who is set to take charge as prime minister for a third term, has compared himself with Nehru, Chidambaram said. The BJP under Modi obtained 282 seats (in 2014), 303 (in 2019), and now obtained 240 seats (32 below the halfway mark), he said.

But Nehru's Congress secured 361 seats, 374 and 364 seats, respectively he pointed out. "We reject Modi

comparing himself with Nehru. People will also reject it," Chidambaram told reporters here. In his victory speech, Modi had said that "after 1962, for the first time, a government has comeback to power for the third time after being in power twice back-to-back." Speaking about the exit polls, Chidambaram said the people were fooled through the projections, which were proved false by the election results. "No one stood outside the polling booth to ask for the trends but suddenly they claimed through their survey that BJP would win 350 seats or more. How did they all arrive at this number? The reason is it was manufactured in a place and photostat copies were circulated to others," he claimed.

Delhi police probe entry of three men to Parliament with fake IDs

GNS News Agency, June 11

New Delhi: Delhi Police have launched a probe after three men, also labourers were nabbed for entering a highly secure Parliament on forged Aadhaar cards, an official said on Friday. The incident occurred on June 4 and the three were identified as Kasim, Monis and Soyeb. The three have been booked under Sections 465 (forgery), Section 419 (cheating by personation), Section 120B (criminal conspiracy), Section 471 (using as genuine a forged document) and Section 468 (forgery for cheat-

ing) at Parliament Street police station. According to FIR, the CISF official deployed at Parliament House, Iron Gate No. 03 for checking photo IDs, on June 4 at 1.30 p.m., detected three workers — Kasim, Monis and Soyeb, all residents of Uttar Pradesh, while they were trying to get entry on Casual entry pass. "Monis and Kasim displayed the same Aadhaar card number with the individual's photo. They made these forged documents under a conspiracy and used them as genuine and Kasim also impersonated Monis," read the FIR.

Himanta Sarma's 'Sensex' counter to Rahul Gandhi's stock market scam charge



GNS News Agency, June 11

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, without naming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, took a jibe at him over his recent statement on an alleged stock market "scam" amid the Lok Sabha elections 2024. Sarma pointed out that Sensex surged to an all-time high on Friday, just days after it crashed by nearly six percent. Posting on X, Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote, "Sensex surges to an all-time high. Should we order an enquiry by a Joint Parliamentary Committee to examine why it has reached this level today?"

3.6 Crore Indians visited in a single day choosing us as India's undisputed platform for General Election Results. Explore the latest updates here! His remarks come

day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Nirmala Sitharaman were part of a massive stock market "scam", where investors ended up losing ₹31 lakh crore in a single day. Addressing a press briefing on Thursday, after the results of the Lok Sabha election were released, Rahul Gandhi demanded a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) investigation on the alleged scam. "Why did the PM and Union Home Minister give specific investment advice to the five crore families investing in the stock market? Is it their job to give investment advice? Why were both interviews given to the same media owned by the same business group which is also under SEBI investigation for manipulating stock?" Gandhi said at a press briefing. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was quick to hit back at Congress and Gandhi over their claims, saying that they have "not yet overcome" from the loss in the 2024 general elections. BJP MP elect Piyush Goyal said, "Rahul Gandhi has still not overcome the loss in the Lok Sabha Elections. Now, he is conspiring to mislead the market investors. Today, India has become the fifth-largest economy." "In the last 10 years of Modi Govt, for the first time our market cap has crossed over 5 trillion dollars. Today, India's equity market has entered the market cap of the top 5 economies of the world... We know that the market cap of PSUs listed in the market has increased 4 times under the Modi Govt," the BJP leader said.

SP, Cong taunt Jayant Chaudhary over his seat at NDA meet; BJP leader explains

GNS News Agency, June 11

NEW DELHI: The Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress on Friday taunted Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary for not being accommodated on the dais at the meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) lawmakers, saying it was an insult to Chaudhary and the jat community. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rejected the interpretation, and underlined that Chaudhary could not be accommodated on the dais due to space constraints at the NDA meeting to formally endorse Narendra Modi for a third term.

3.6 Crore Indians visited in a single day choosing us as India's undisputed platform for General Election Results. Explore the latest updates here! On social media, several opposition leaders from Uttar Pradesh counted Jayant Chaudhary's exclusion from the dais an insult to the RLD, which has 2 Lok Sabha MPs, though Apna Dal (S) president Anupriya Patel and Hindustan Awami Morcha (HAM) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi, both of whom have won just one seat each, were seated on the stage. A senior BJP leader said space constraints did not allow more than 13 chairs to be placed on the stage.

"While Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu are leaders of the party, and chief ministers, Jitanram Manjhi is a former CM, Ajit Pawar and HD Kumaraswamy are also deputy CMs... And Anupriya was given space because we needed a woman representative..." said the

leader. Asserting that there was no "ulterior motive" or "signal" in the seating arrangement, the leader said, "We could not even accommodate several other allies who have a single member in Parliament...". To be sure, Andhra Pradesh's JanaSena Party led by Pawan Kalyan, who was on the stage, also has two MPs in Lok Sabha. In a post on X, Samajwadi Party's media cell said Jayant Chaudhary should walk away from the NDA.

"If Jayant Chaudhary is really a farmers' well-wisher, he should distance himself from the NDA and raise his voice against the BJP in farmers' interests. One should not trade self-respect and the interests of farmers with the BJP due to petty and immediate greed," it said. UP Congress president Ajay Rai said this wasn't a first. "The BJP has a habit of doing such things... insulting its smaller allies," he said. The RLD was part of the Opposition's INDIA bloc but switched sides weeks before the national elections were announced. It was allotted two seats by the NDA and won both; Chandan Chuhan from Bijnor and Rajkumar Sangwan from Bagpat. RLD MLA Anil Kumar said too much was being made of the seating arrangement. "When has the INDIA bloc given us respect? Whether one sits above or below is not a big deal. One should do politics with a broad mind. One should not think about small matters. RLD is a main constituent party of the NDA and will remain with it," Kumar told India Today

'Sarkar banegi, jhagda shuru': Bhupesh Baghel's big claim on NDA 3.0

GNS News Agency, June 11

Former Chhattisgarh chief minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel on Friday claimed that mid-term Lok Sabha elections will be held within a year. 3.6 Crore Indians visited in a single day choosing us as India's undisputed platform for General Election Results. Explore the latest updates here!

Commenting on NDA ally Janata Dal (United), the Congress leader said, "The government has not been formed yet but JD(U) spokesperson is talking about cancelling the Agniveer scheme and conducting caste census. They say that there is no need for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). These are all the issues that Rahul Gandhi has raised." "Now the government will be formed and the fight will start. Aur ye samaj le ki jab jhagda shuru hoga to ghar ujadne me zyada der nahi lagega. Sarkar banegi aur jhagda shuru honge (You should understand that when the fights begin, the house will be eroded. The government will be formed and squabbles will begin)," Baghel, who lost from Rajnandgaon to BJP's Santosh Pandey by 44,411 votes, said. In Chhattisgarh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 10 out of 11 seats while Congress secured one seat, Korba, which was won by Jyotsna Charandas Mahant. Prime Minister-designate



Narendra Modi and his council of ministers will take oath of office at 7:15 pm on June 9. President Droupadi Murmu appointed 73-year-old Modi as the prime minister-designate after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief J P Nadda handed her a letter on the BJP stalwart's election as the leader of the BJP Parliamentary Party and NDA leaders submitted their letters of support. The BJP won 240 seats in the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls, falling short of the halfway mark in the 543-member House, but the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) together won 293 seats, which is a comfortable majority.

Prashant Kishor's first reaction after Lok Sabha prediction proven wrong

GNS News Agency, June 11

"Yes, I and pollsters like me got it wrong. We are ready to eat the humble pie," the Jan Suraj founder told India Today in an interview. Ahead of the June 4 Lok Sabha election results, Kishor had predicted the Bharatiya Janata Party's seat tally could be close to or even surpass its 2019 tally of 303.

The Lok Sabha election results turned out to be completely opposite to the exit poll projections that had predicted a landslide win for Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The BJP's seat tally dropped to 240, lower than the previous election. The saffron camped alliance is now dependent on the likes of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal (United) for majority in the lower house. The NDA as of now has 293 seats and Modi is set to take oath as prime minister for the third time on June 9.

During the India Today interview, Kishor declared that he would not get into predicting seats won in the elections in future. The poll strategist, whose team advised BJP to its victory in the 2014 general elections, conceded that his projections 'significantly missed the mark' in several key areas.

"I had put my assessment in front of you and I have to admit on camera that the assessment that I did was wrong in terms of numbers by a big 20 per cent. We were saying BJP would get somewhere close to 300 and they



Prashant Kishor had predicted the Bharatiya Janata Party's seat tally could be close to or even surpass its 2019 tally of 303.

got 240," he said, while asserting that he did mention there was a little anger but no widespread discontent against Modi. Prashant Kishor told India Today that there was no 'positive clamour' from the opposition and that is why a status quo is being created with some geographical expansion in the east and south. "Now, obviously, we have been proved wrong. But if you just go beyond the numbers, it's not that wrong. Because ultimately, they got 36 per cent vote share, which is the status quo. 0.7 per cent down in terms of vote share," Kishor added.

Delhi airport working to increase international passenger capacity: CEO



GNS News Agency, June 11

New Delhi: Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) chief executive officer (CEO) Videh Kumar Jaipuria on Friday said that the airport is aiming to increase its international passenger handling capacity by 40% to 50%, with more international airlines wanting to connect with India. The airport has a maximum capacity handling of around 105 million passengers, and the international passenger capacity is around 22 million, the airport chief said. 3.6 Crore Indians visited in a single day choosing us as India's undisputed platform for General Election Results. Explore the latest updates here! "We are running out of international capacity. We are looking at various ways to increase the capacity, and the plan is to increase it by 40% to 50% in six months to one year. We have consultants working to get the best solution in terms of operational as well as passenger convenience and also the airside infrastructure matching with that of the terminal infrastructure," Jaipuria said at the CAPA India Aviation Summit in Delhi.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) consists of three terminals— T1, T2 and T3. The expanded terminal 1 is expected to be operational by the end of the month. "We are hoping that sometime during this month itself, T1 will be operational," the CEO said, adding that all low-cost airlines, including IndiGo, will operate from the expanded T1. Talking about the international flights from T3, the DIAL chief said, "We have around 20% of transit or connecting passengers whether domestic to international or domestic to domestic, and some of the segments are seeing faster growth". The airport saw in-

ternational passenger traffic of close to 20 million last year.

DIAL, a consortium led by the GMR Group, is working on a 10-year master plan, which is being discussed and will be finalised after discussions with the airlines. "Looking at the kind of change in dynamics that has happened in the last five to six years, we have advanced our master plan that was otherwise planned in 2026. We are therefore taking inputs from all airlines and planning," Jaipuria said, adding that they are not closed to options such as dedicated terminals for airlines or even dedicated terminals for international and domestic connections. The airport is expected to have four fully operational runways by July with one side of the fourth runway being CAT III compliant. A CAT III compliant runway enables flights to land even in poor visibility with a runway visual range of 50m to 200m. Talking about enhancing the airport's capacity on the air side of the airport, Jaipuria said that the airport currently has a capacity of 1,500 slots per day. An airport slot is a permit to use an airport's infrastructure for take-off or landing at a specific time and date. "There is a potential to increase the slots by 500-600 slots per day. We currently see 84 aircraft movements (departure and arrival) every hour and we see the potential of over 110 aircraft movements in the final stage of our runway optimisation," he said. The airport, Jaipuria said, is also in the process of introducing the Airport Operations Centre (APOC) system that collects data over time to estimate footfall of passengers at specific time frames. This helps in decongesting the airport and allows various airport officials to be better prepared for the peak hour rush.

The airport has also planned to connect the passengers internally with the help of automated people mover (APM) systems between terminals one and three. This is in line with the government's aim to make Delhi airport an aviation hub. The airport officials have even presented their plan to the government. We have done the commercial evaluation of APM. We expect that some funding will be required... We may approach the government for one-time funding support for APM. The infrastructure is owned by the AAI (Airports Authority of India), and we are just the operator 2066," the DIAL CEO said.

HC refuses to interfere with order rejecting accused's plea against charge framing

GNS News Agency, June 11

New Delhi, The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to interfere with a trial court order rejecting Hyderabad-based businessman Arun Ramchandra Pillai's plea raising objections against the commencement of arguments on framing of charges in the excise policy "scam" case till the conclusion of the CBI investigation in the matter. Pillai, an accused in the corruption case, had assailed the trial court order passed on March 22, contending that until the Central Bureau of Investigation concludes its probe against the co-accused in the alleged conspiracy and all material is provided to him, any consideration on the aspect of framing of charges should be deferred. 3.6 Crore Indians visited in a single day choosing us as India's undisputed platform for General Election Results. Explore the latest updates here! Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma said the trial court has already taken note of the petitioner's grievance and there was no infirmity in its order.

The high court further requested that the arguments on charge be heard immediately by the trial court. "The learned trial court, in all fairness, has already mentioned in its order that though 16 accused persons have been chargesheeted and hearing arguments on charge will take considerable time, in case any further supplementary chargesheet is filed qua any other accused person, the hearing on arguments on charge may then be halted and copies of such chargesheet and relied-upon documents be supplied to all the accused persons, and the present accused will also get an opportunity to address his arguments with respect to the new material or evidence brought on record," the court said in its order. "Therefore, this court is of the opinion that no interference at this stage is required by this court in the impugned order as the learned trial court has already taken note of the grievance of the present petitioner and the said order does not suffer from any infirmity," it opined.

The court said the rules of natural justice, a fair trial and the criminal jurisprudence mandate that the accused is entitled to get any additional documents filed against the co-accused in the alleged conspiracy and therefore, as and when any fresh incriminating material is filed by way of a supplementary chargesheet, he would be "additionally heard". It further observed that prima facie, the alle-

gation against the petitioner was that he was part of the conspiracy involving co-accused K Kavitha and since both of them acted in "close conspiracy" with each other, it would be important for him to peruse the contents, allegations and material collected by the prosecution against the Bharat Rashtia Samithi leader, before he addressed the arguments on charge. Taking note of the CBI's stand that a supplementary chargesheet in relation to Kavitha would be filed on or before June 10, the court directed that on the first day of hearing itself, the investigating officer would ensure that hard copies as well as digitised copies of the same are provided to the accused persons. Earlier in the day, the investigating agency filed a supplementary chargesheet against Kavitha before the trial court. In its order, the high court also said the trial court will give "short dates" for a scrutiny of documents in the case and as many of the accused are in judicial custody, it would be in their interest that long dates or adjournments are not sought for the purpose of scrutiny of documents. The court said there should not be any unnecessary delay in the scrutiny of the documents on the part of the accused also in order to ensure a speedy trial. "The trial court is requested that the arguments on charge be heard immediately, keeping in view the timeline, and block dates be given to each accused for arguments on charge.... The learned trial court is requested to ensure that short dates are given for the above purpose," it said. The petitioner represented in the court by lawyer Nitesh Rana had said in his plea that the trial court order dismissing his application in this regard was arbitrary, illegal and violative of his fundamental and legal rights. The case pertains to the alleged corruption in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 that was later scrapped. Pillai is on bail in the CBI case. He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 6 in a related money-laundering case amid allegations that he represented the "south group" at meetings with other accused when the excise policy was being formulated and implemented, and is presently in judicial custody. The excise policy was scrapped last year after the Delhi lieutenant governor ordered a CBI probe into alleged irregularities and corruption involving its formulation and execution.

Delhi govt directs district offices to seek reports from vehicle dealers on issuance of RC

GNS News Agency, June 11

New Delhi, The Delhi Transport department has directed all its district offices to seek reports on issuance of vehicle registration certificates from vehicle dealers under their jurisdiction on a fortnightly basis. This comes following complaints that sellers were not handing over registration certificates to the buyers at the time of purchase of vehicles. 3.6 Crore Indians visited in a single day choosing us as India's undisputed platform for General Election Results. Explore the latest updates here! In 2021, the Delhi government had begun the facility wherein the buyers would be able to get a registration certificate for their vehicles directly from the dealer. There are dealers that have self-registration facility.

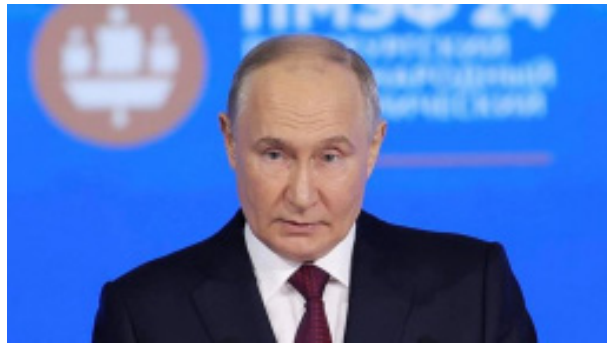
However, there were complaints that vehicle dealers were not following the norms. "It has been observed that vehicle dealers having self registration facility are not printing and handing over the registration certificate to the registered owners at the time of delivery of vehicle. It has also been observed that in some cases the delay is more than 30 days," said an official order issued by the department on June 6.

The order directed all District Transport Offices to take fortnightly report from each dealer under their jurisdiction over the date of delivery of vehicle and date of delivery of RC for each vehicle and forward it to the Operation Branch within three days. "It is further directed to take strict action against the vehicle dealer not following



the direction in this regard," read the order. The order was issued following the directions of Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot. "The order has been issued pursuant to my directions as I had received many complaints," Gahlot told PTI. According to an estimate, over 1,800 vehicles are registered in the national capital on a daily basis. The number of registered motor vehicles in Delhi in 2019-20 stood at 1,18,92,877 which rose to 1,22,53,350 in the next fiscal. It saw a minor decline in 2021-22 to 77,39,369 and then rose to 79,45,596 in the 2022-23 fiscal. This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

Putin says Russia's economy is growing despite heavy international sanctions as he courts investors



President Vladimir Putin said Friday that the Russian economy is growing despite heavy international sanctions and the country has expanded economic ties with countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, as he sought to court investors. Addressing the leaders of Bolivia and Zimbabwe and business leaders at the forum, Putin said Russia "remains one of the key participants in world trade," despite the fact that the country is under sweeping sanctions for sending troops in Ukraine.

The forum has been used by Russia for decades as a showcase for touting the country's development, though

Western officials and investors have steered clear of the session since sanctions cut off much of Russia's trade with Western Europe, the US and their allies. The main driver of Russia's economic growth is the fighting in Ukraine — now as important to the Kremlin economically as it is politically.

Russians are finding a few imported staples, and most global brands have disappeared — or been reincarnated as Russian equivalents. But not much else has changed economically for most Russians, with massive state spending for military equipment and hefty payments to volunteer soldiers giving a strong boost to the economy. Putin has heavily controlled his media appearances since sending his forces into Ukraine but he took questions Wednesday from international journalists, including some from Western countries he has criticized, on the sidelines of the forum. At that meeting, Putin warned that Russia could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets in response to NATO allies allowing Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory. He also reaffirmed Moscow's readiness to use nuclear weapons if it sees a threat to its sovereignty. Last year, journalists from countries that Russia regards as unfriendly — including the US, the UK and the European Union — were not invited to the forum.

Trump defends vow to prosecute rivals, saying 'sometimes revenge can be justified'



GNS News Agency, June 11

Former President Donald Trump has in recent days been escalating his suggestions that he could prosecute his political enemies if elected in November. In interviews broadcast on Thursday and earlier this week, Trump's remarks demonstrated how he is trying to put his legal troubles on the ballot as a referendum on the American justice system and the rule of law. His allies in the Republican Party have also joined his calls for revenge prosecutions and other retaliatory measures against Democrats in response to his felony convictions by a jury in a New York court on 34 charges.

Trump was offered several opportunities by sympathetic interviewers in recent days to clarify or walk back his previous statements. Trump instead defended his position, saying at points that "I don't want to look naive" and that "sometimes revenge can be justified." Dr. Phil McGraw, the television host and a self-described donor to Trump's campaign, brought up the former president's previous statements in an interview that ran on Thursday and gave him an opportunity to say, as McGraw put it: "Enough is enough. Too much is too much. This is a race to the bottom, and it stops here. It stops now." Trump initially responded, "I'm OK with that," but then added, "Sometimes, I'm sure in certain moments I wouldn't be, you know, when you go through what I've been through." Then, when

McGraw said that revenge and retribution were unhealthy for the country and that Trump did not have time to "get even," the former president replied: "Revenge does take time. I will say that. And sometimes revenge can be justified. Phil, I have to be honest — sometimes it can." In an interview with Sean Hannity, the Fox News host, that was broadcast Wednesday night, Trump was also offered several opportunities to pledge he would not carry out "retribution" against his political opponents. Trump was asked to respond to critics who fear he would look for "retribution" if he wins in November and returns to the White House. "So No. 1, they're wrong," he said. "It has to stop because otherwise we're not going to have a country."

Trump instead said that "based on what they've done" — referring to Democrats — "I would have every right to go after them." He added, "And it's easy, because it's Joe Biden, and you see all the criminality, all of the money that's going into the family and him." Hannity then pushed the former president to condemn "this practice of weaponization." Trump replied: "You have to do it. But it's awful — look, I know you want me to say something so nice," but, he added, "I don't want to look naive." The former president was also asked, in an interview with ABC15 News in Arizona that aired Thursday, about prosecuting his opponents, and he suggested he was considering it. "I thought it would be a horrible thing to do to Hillary Clinton," Trump said, repeating a recent false suggestion that he had never called to "lock up" Clinton. But he added: "The world is different now. So when you ask me the question, would we do it? I'll talk to you in about three years from now." "You know, it's a very terrible thing. It's a terrible precedent for our country. Does that mean the next president does it to them? That's really the question," Trump told Newsmax host Greg Kelly when asked whether the conviction could help him politically. He added, "So, you know, it's a terrible, terrible path that they're leading us to, and it's very possible that it's going to have to happen to them."

US-built pier in Gaza reconnected after repairs, aid expected to flow soon, US Central Command says

GNS News Agency, June 11

A key section of the US military-built pier designed to carry badly needed aid into Gaza by boat has been reconnected to the Gaza beach following storm damage repairs, and aid will begin to flow soon, US Central Command announced Friday. The section that connects to the beach, the causeway, was rebuilt nearly two weeks after heavy storms damaged it and abruptly halted what had already been a troubled delivery route. Humanitarian aid is expected to begin moving into the enclave through the maritime route in the coming days.

A large section of the causeway broke apart May 25 as heavy winds and high seas hit the area, and four Army vessels operating there went aground, injuring three service members, including one who remains in critical condition. The damage was the latest stumbling block in what has been a persistent struggle to get food to starving Palestinians during the nearly 8-month-old Israel-Hamas war.

Bad weather had earlier slowed the delivery of sections of the pier and US military personnel from Virginia to the region. And early efforts to get aid from the pier into Gaza were disrupted as residents stormed the trucks that aid agencies were using to transport the food to the warehouses for distribution. The maritime route for a limited time had been an additional way to help get more aid into Gaza because the Israeli offensive in the southern city of Rafah has made it difficult, if not impossible at times, to get anything through land routes that are far more productive.

President Joe Biden's administration has said from the start that the pier wasn't meant to be a total solution and that any amount of aid helps. Because of the storm damage to the causeway, large sections were disconnected and moved to the Israeli port for repairs. Two of the US Army boats went aground near Ashkelon in Is-



rael, but those have been freed, and the other two beached on the Gaza shoreline. Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said those two took on a lot of water and sand and that the Israeli Navy has been helping with the repairs. Biden, a Democrat, announced his plan for the US military to build a pier during his State of the Union address in early March, and the military said it would take about 60 days to get it installed and operational. The initial cost was estimated at \$320 million, but Singh said earlier this week that the price had dropped to \$230 million, due to contributions from Britain and because the cost of contracting trucks and other equipment was less than expected. It took a bit longer than the planned two months for installation, with the first trucks carrying aid for the Gaza Strip rolling down the pier on May 17. Just a day later, crowds overran a convoy of trucks as they headed into Gaza, stripping the cargo from 11 of the 16 vehicles before they reached a UN warehouse. The next day, as officials altered the travel routes of the convoys, aid finally began reaching people in need.

More than 1,100 tons (1,000 metric tons) of aid were delivered before the causeway broke apart in the storm, Pentagon officials said.

In New Caledonia, 'no confidence' with France after violent protests

GNS News Agency, June 11

The police station in Hienghene, a remote town in the Pacific island of New Caledonia, has been barricaded in for nearly three weeks. A few dozen protesters have blocked off the station's access road and take turns keeping watch from the outside. Their cause is evident in the words written in chalk on the road: the names of three prominent French politicians, including the president, paired with the word "Assassins." The standoff is one example of the uneasy stalemate existing now in New Caledonia, where protests against more than 170 years of French rule turned violent last month and drove the territory to the brink of civil war. Seven people died, many more were injured, and businesses suffered losses worth hundreds of millions of dollars. France quelled the worst of the violence by rushing thousands of armed police to the semiautonomous territory. President Emmanuel Macron even made a surprise visit. Macron ordered a dayslong state of emergency, banned the use of TikTok, and shut the territory's main airport. Those restrictions have since been lifted, and commercial flights are slowly resuming from a smaller airstrip near the capital, Noumea, though the territory's main airport remains closed. Authorities continue to enforce a nightly curfew and a ban on alcohol sales, while Indigenous Kanak protesters maintain barricades on Noumea's outskirts and in remote towns like Hienghene.

"We closed their door and keep them there and make them see what it's like when a Kanak boy is kept in their jail in Noumea," Jonas Tein, a protester in Hienghene, said about the town's police station, which appears to have been resupplied through regular visits by police helicopters. "We try to stay calm," he said, but the crack-down by French police made him "want to have guns and do what they did in Noumea." Tensions over French rule have simmered in New Caledonia since a civil war in the 1980s. The current agitation has its roots in a proposal from Macron that would add thousands of French migrants to New Caledonia's electoral rolls. Macron called the change a step toward full democracy in the territory. But to many Kanaks it was a betrayal of a decades-old peace agreement. They also worried the influx of new voters would make it impossible to win independence in any future referendum. New Caledonia, and its vast nickel deposits, have new strategic value for France in the Pacific, where China has increasingly been jostling for influence. An independent New Caledonia, French loyalists argue, could easily be swayed toward Beijing. During his trip to New Caledonia, Macron announced he would delay his voter-roll proposal. Kanak leaders and some moderate French loyalists have since urged him to withdraw it entirely. "The only way to make the situation calm is to take away the text" of the constitutional amendment, said Joël Tjibaou, who is helping lead the siege of the



Hienghene police station. Tjibaou's father was a prominent Kanak leader who was assassinated after negotiating an end to the territory's 1980s civil war. Politicians from the territory's pro-independence and loyalist parties are now working with a delegation of senior French civil servants to find a compromise that could resolve the tensions, although participants warn progress will be slow. "The state has the watch, but we have the time," Roch Wamytan, the pro-independence president of New Caledonia's congress, has told local news media.

Pro-independence leaders have called for an end to the violence. Nonetheless, the unrest has made some white residents of New Caledonia anxious about their future. Mining has made New Caledonia prosperous, but there is stark economic inequality between whites and the Kanak people, who are now a minority in their homeland. Nicolas Sougnac lives in Koumac, a settlement north of Noumea. He said that though the protests have not led to violence in his town, they have cut off supplies of fuel and made it hard to get food. He said that he felt like he had been taken "hostage," and that the French government had "abandoned" him. "The last few weeks have shown that there's no future for France in New Caledonia unless it can come to some kind of agreement with the aspirations of the independence movement," said Adrian Muckle, a history professor at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. "It has really underscored the capacity the independence movement has to bring the territory to an economic standstill." Most of the unrest has been concentrated around Noumea, in New Caledonia's south. French authorities are investigating several episodes of the previous weeks: some Kanak protesters were shot by unknown assailants; a video showed French police officers forcing a Kanak protester to his knees so that one officer could kick the man's head; and a police officer of Kanak heritage reportedly got a severe beating from members of a local French militia. Two police officers have been killed by protesters. According to French authorities, 192 more officers have been injured. Police leaders have said that protesters weaponized some barricades with gas tanks.

A careful dance: How Hezbollah and Israel have kept the lid on a wider war

GNS News Agency, June 11

Set to a peppy electronic soundtrack, a recent video clip showed what the Hezbollah militia said was a missile-firing drone, a new weapon in its arsenal as it ratchets up its strikes on Israel. Flaunting a new weapon is the type of muscle flexing that Hassan Nasrallah, the organization's elusive leader, craves about. "What protects you is your strength, your courage, your fists, your weapons, your missiles and your presence in the field," he said in an address earlier this year. Hezbollah's attacks, which started in October in solidarity with Hamas in the war in the Gaza Strip, have gradually intensified as the group uses larger and more sophisticated weapons to strike more often and deeper beyond the border between Israel and Lebanon. Israel, too, is hitting targets farther into Lebanon. The latest surge by Hezbollah came this week, with a series of daily drone strikes by the militia hitting some civilian targets well into Israel. Senior officials starting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stoked their rhetorical threats against Hezbollah, suggesting that a day of reckoning was close at hand.

Yet whenever the fighting escalates, both Hezbollah and Israel seem to calibrate their tit-for-tat attacks so that no strike starts a larger conflict. While concerns about a wider war remain, both sides appear hamstrung in different ways that force restraint. The video clip — released by Hezbollah's military media office in May — illustrates how in some ways, the group has never been stronger. Its main patron, Iran, has supplied an increasingly powerful range of missiles. Plus Hezbollah gained valuable battlefield experience after years of deploying what is believed to be at least 2,500 special forces troops in Syria to help shore up the rule of President Bashar Assad.

But Hezbollah is not just a fighting force; it has evolved into a broader Lebanese political movement that must weigh dragging the whole country into another war as the conflict-weary population continues to stagger through an extended economic crisis. The violence at the border has already cost billions of dollars in tourism and agriculture revenue, according to Lebanese officials. The last war, in 2006, left a path of devastation across the country, displacing at least 1 million people. Arab states and Iran helped pay for reconstruction. It is unclear whether they would do that again, and countless Lebanese have since fallen into poverty as the value of the pound has plummeted from 1,500 per dollar to 89,000.

Since October, about 100,000 Lebanese civilians have been displaced along the southern border. Many are farmers, who, with harvests aborted, eke by on a \$200 monthly subsidy from Hezbollah. Questioning of why the Gaza war should involve Lebanon is widespread. Hezbollah supporters watch a televised speech by Hassan Nasrallah, the group's leader, during a tribute to Ebrahim Raisi, the former Iranian president, in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, May 24, 2024. Israel and Hezbollah have their reasons for calibrating their attacks to avoid a regional conflict. (photo: New York Times) Hezbollah supporters watch a televised speech by Hassan Nasrallah, the group's leader, during a tribute to Ebrahim Raisi, the former Iranian president, in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, May 24, 2024. Israel and Hezbollah have their reasons for calibrating their attacks to avoid a regional conflict. (Photo: New York Times) Khodor Sirhal, 60, a farmer from the border village of Kafr Kila, sells olive oil soap at Souk El Tayeb, the market where Beirut hipsters flock every Saturday for organic produce. He described how in October, he and his wife were harvesting olives when intense explosions nearby forced them to flee to Beirut, where they remain.

"If you ask me why this war happened, I don't have an answer," he lamented. He was not sure whether his house or the long-dreamed-of cafe that he opened in the village a week before the fighting erupted was still intact.

One small business owner forced to abandon about 100 jars of olive oil among other goods said the Hezbollah officials he had questioned cannot explain why Lebanon should be involved. "They either speak in poetry or in predictions," he said, declining to give his name out of fear of retribution. "They themselves do not have an answer." Since October, more than 300 Hezbollah fighters and around 80 Lebanese civilians have died, while at least 19 Israeli soldiers and eight civilians have been killed. The usual bustle of the seaside capital of Tyre was

absent, with muffled explosions booming in the distance. Three local schools housed displaced families.

Salwa, 49, said she had abandoned her house for one small room in a school, where 25 families share three bathrooms and one shower. Residents often make lightning visits south to survey the destruction, ranging from flattened houses to furniture gnawed to pieces by rats. One local mayor estimated that 6,000 housing units across the south had been totally or partially destroyed. On her last trip home, Salwa, who declined to give her full name out of fear of retribution, discovered only one cat still surviving among her 10 cats and 15 dogs. "I asked myself why we are in this war," she said. "They say it's because of Palestine, but Palestine will take a long time to be liberated. God help the Palestinians."

Israel also has a number of factors holding it back. Its military is already struggling with its stated goal of eradicating Hamas from Gaza, while Washington has warned Israel against inflaming the wider region. The country also has its own population to consider. Netanyahu has threatened that Israel would repeat the destruction of Gaza in Lebanon in a full-scale war. In response, Hezbollah has gradually unleashed more sophisticated weapons like that shown in the video. "The Israelis have made it very clear that they would go in with no holds barred, this would be a massive operation," said Mona Yacoubian, who heads the Middle East and North Africa Center at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington. "By the same token, this is a much more powerful Hezbollah." "This is a conflict that could potentially envelope much of Israel," she continued, adding, "I think that is actually what has given both sides pause. This would be a conflict unlike any that has preceded it." Despite their frustrations at their extended evacuation, residents at the Lebanese border are often loath to criticize Hezbollah, fearing its security apparatus and still grateful that its guerrilla warfare helped to end the Israeli occupation from 1982 to 2000. A family in a dark corridor at a school housing people displaced along Lebanon's southern border with Israel amid rising tensions between Hezbollah and Israel, in Tyre, Lebanon, May 20, 2024. Israel and Hezbollah have their reasons for calibrating their attacks to avoid a regional conflict. (photo: New York Times) A family in a dark corridor at a school housing people displaced along Lebanon's southern border with Israel amid rising tensions between Hezbollah and Israel, in Tyre, Lebanon, May 20, 2024. Israel and Hezbollah have their reasons for calibrating their attacks to avoid a regional conflict.

Some villagers who have not fled have rallied to try to prevent Hezbollah from bringing the war to them. In early April, a group of men in the mostly Christian village of Rmeish, near the border, rang the church bell to raise the alarm when some Hezbollah fighters arrived with a mobile rocket launcher and were preparing to fire. After a confrontation, the fighters left. The dizzying, sectarian patchwork of Lebanese politics mirrors the ambivalence on the ground; the fighting has won some new allies for Hezbollah while estranging others. Some Sunni Muslims, who have traditionally supported the Palestinian cause, have endorsed the attacks, for example.

But Hezbollah has long attracted the ire of other factions for maintaining its own army and for its allegiance to Iran. "The problem today is that the state of Lebanon doesn't control its territory, it doesn't control the decision of war and peace," said Samy Gemayel, a member of parliament and the head of a right-wing, mainly Christian political party and whose father, Amine Gemayel, served as president of Lebanon. Iran built Hezbollah at least partly as a deterrent to Israel's attacking the Islamic Republic. So Iran does not want to sacrifice Hezbollah in an effort to save Hamas, Gemayel said, but it can also be cavalier about destruction in Lebanon. "The militia logic is if they stay alive after the war, then they won — whatever the losses," he said. Other border disputes between Lebanon and Israel over land and possible gas reserves in the Mediterranean Sea have aggravated relations. Washington, negotiating indirectly with Hezbollah, had brokered an agreement on the maritime border and was working on land issues, but the group suspended its participation while the Gaza war continues. Nasrallah of Hezbollah has repeatedly said since October that "the Resistance Front in Lebanon" is achieving its goal of weakening Israel. "The war of attrition is eating away at the human, security, economic, spiritual, moral and psychological levels," he said in a recent speech.

RBI survey shows Indians feel and expect higher inflation and unemployment



The RBI's inflation expectation survey and consumer confidence survey show marginally increasing pessimism towards the economy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s household inflation expectations survey revealed that households expect inflation to increase by 20 basis points (bps) for the next three months and 10 bps for the next one year. The survey was conducted from May 2 to 11 in 19 major cities, with responses from 5,943 urban households. Female respondents accounted for 52.6% of this

sample.

3.6 Crore Indians visited in a single day choosing us as India's undisputed platform for General Election Results. Explore the latest updates here! A higher share of respondents expected prices and inflation to rise for all major product groups, with self-employed respondents expecting the highest level of inflation, according to the RBI's press release. The RBI's Consumer confidence survey also showed that consumers expected a higher rise in overall spending, including both essential and non-essential spending over the next one year.

The consumer confidence survey shows the current sentiments of the public on the state of the economy. The CSI (Current situation index), highlighting the current sentiments dropped to 97.1 in May from 98.5 two months back. The FEI (Future expectations index) also reduced to 124.8 in May from 125.2 earlier, indicating a slight increase in pessimism towards the state of the economy. Consumer confidence declined marginally due to "relatively tempered sentiments on the general economic situation and employment prospects," according to the RBI's press statement.

Who is Keith Gill, the online influencer sending GameStop shares soaring again?

WASHINGTON - Keith Gill, the office worker who shot to notoriety after his online personas and bullish bets on GameStop sparked a retail trading frenzy, appears to be re-emerging from obscurity. 3.6 Crore Indians visited in a single day choosing us as India's undisputed platform for General Election Results. Explore the latest updates here! Known as "Roaring Kitty" on YouTube and "DeepF***ingValue" on Reddit's popular WallStreetBets, Gill was a key figure in the so-called "Reddit rally" in which shares of GameStop surged 1600% at one point in Jan. 2021, crushing hedge funds that had bet against the videogame retailer. But after drawing congressional and regulatory scrutiny for his role in the extraordinary saga, Gill quickly disappeared, albeit much richer thanks to his GameStop investment which at one point reached \$48 million in value.

For three years, Gill's accounts on YouTube, X, and Reddit lay dormant. He did no media interviews and when film-makers came knocking he declined to participate in their projects. Then out of the blue Gill appeared in recent weeks to resurface online, sending GameStop's shares soaring once again. On Monday, they rose 21% after Gill's Reddit account posted a screenshot showing a \$116 million bet on the stock. On Thursday, they surged almost 50% after Gill's YouTube account scheduled a livestream for 12 p.m. ET on Friday.

The post, featuring Gill's trademark cat, sparked a deluge of excited messages from his followers, many of whom have likened the social media phenomenon to a David who took on Wall Street's Goliaths and won. "I will watch this screen without blinking all night," a user with the handle Clay DeNicola posted on Gill's YouTube channel on Thursday. Gill has not responded to multiple attempts by Reuters to contact him. Born in 1986 to a truck driver and nurse, Gill grew up in Brockton, Massachusetts. "I grew up playing videogames and shopping at GameStop," he told lawmakers during a 2021 hearing. He graduated from Stonehill College in 2009 and between 2010 and 2014 worked at a start-up where he tried to build software to help investors analyze shares, according to his testimony.

"My salary never exceeded \$40,000, but I did learn something about investing. I learned how to do the tedious work of digging through a company's financials and focusing on its real long-term value," he said. While unemployed in 2017 Gill, a husband and father, began analyzing stocks and investing his savings, an interest he "pursued passionately" even after taking on a marketing and financial education job at MassMutual in April 2019.

When in early June GameStop's shares fell on worse-



than-expected earnings, Gill spied an opportunity. Believing the stock was trading below its fair value, he bought GME options and from there continued to add to his position, he said. Gill began sharing his positions on WallStreetBets in September 2019, posting a screenshot indicating he had invested \$53,000 in GameStop. With exuberant YouTube streams in which Gill frequently wore a bright red pirate bandana as he made the bull case for GameStop, and Reddit posts touting his positions, Gill helped to attract a flood of retail cash into the beleaguered bricks-and-mortar retailer. By late Jan. 2021, Gill was up over 4,000% on stock and options in the company, with his GameStop position plus cash worth nearly \$48 million, according to his posts.

In an April 16, 2021 WallStreetBets post, which would be his last for three years, Gill shared screen shots showing he had exercised call options on GameStop to acquire 50,000 more shares in the retailer, sparking thousands of comments lauding the punchy move. Now that Gill is back in the limelight, he is also back in the crosshairs. The Massachusetts securities regulator, which had opened and closed a probe into Gill, has said it is again reviewing his activities. The Securities and Exchange Commission is also reviewing his trades, the Wall Street Journal reported. The agency has declined to comment. Some have accused Gill of causing huge losses for investors who followed him into GameStop, a claim he has long denied.

"I was abundantly clear that my channel was for educational purposes only, and that my aggressive style of investing was unlikely to be suitable for most folks," he told lawmakers, adding his investment thesis focused purely on GameStop's fundamentals. Still, on Thursday many of his followers were contemplating buying more GameStop shares, with one handle George Black asking the group: "Is it too late to buy?"

Adani Ports bags 5-year operation and maintenance contract at Kolkata port

Adani ports Kolkata APSEZ whole-time director and CEO Ashwani Gupta said, "The award of the O&M contract for container handling facilities at Netaji Subhas Dock to APSEZ underlines our commitment to develop ports and logistics infrastructure across the country and the potential we see in West Bengal." Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Friday said it has secured a five-year Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contract for the container facility at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata.

With this, APSEZ has to deploy cargo handling equipment within seven months from the letter of acceptance (LOA) date, the company said in a statement. "APSEZ won the five-year O&M contract through a competitive bidding process, which mandates the successful bidder to deploy cargo handling equipment within seven months from the letter of acceptance (LOA) date,"



the statement said.

"The presence of APSEZ at the dock is likely to improve connectivity between the terminal and its container ports, particularly with the transshipment hubs at Vizhinjam and Colombo that are targeted for commissioning during the year," it said. APSEZ whole-time director and CEO Ashwani Gupta said, "The award of the O&M contract for container handling facilities at Netaji Subhas Dock to APSEZ underlines our

commitment to develop ports and logistics infrastructure across the country and the potential we see in West Bengal.

"We will bring our experience of over two decades of efficiently managing various container terminals within India and outside, benefiting customers and the people of the state." Netaji Subhas Dock is the largest container terminal on the eastern coast of India. It handled around 0.63 million TEU ((Twenty-

foot Equivalent Unit) in FY2023-24, serving a vast hinterland encompassing West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam, the northeastern hill states and the landlocked neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bhutan. The Kolkata port is the nominated port for the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade route. Netaji Subhas Dock has regular liner service calls from the hub ports of Singapore, Port Kelang and Colombo.

ICMR issues guidelines urging Indians to avoid using protein supplements; here's why



Shubha Ramesh L, chief dietician at DHEE Hospitals adds, "High protein intake, particularly from supplements, has been associated with increased urinary excretion of calcium, an essential mineral for bone health. This phenomenon can potentially lead to negative calcium balance and bone density loss over time if not counterbalanced with adequate dietary calcium."

While protein-rich diets are generally safe for healthy individuals, she says, excessive protein, especially from supplements, can exacerbate kidney strain in those with pre-existing kidney dysfunction. Protein Meet your protein needs naturally According to Kanikka Malhotra, clinical dietician and diabetes educator, research demonstrates the need for more regulation and guidance on protein supplement use, particularly among groups at risk of kidney failure. Shubha reveals, "The concerns about protein supplements are backed by various studies which highlight the potential for negative impacts on renal and bone health when consumed in excessive amounts without adequate hydration and dietary balance." The ICMR-NIN guidelines are influenced by these findings, she confirms, suggesting that protein from natural food sources is typically accompanied by other essential nutrients that create a more balanced nutritional profile, thus mitigating potential health risks. Individuals for whom protein supplements might pose a higher risk Elderly individuals, those with pre-existing kidney conditions, and pregnant women are at higher risk with protein supplements due to potential kidney strain and altered calcium metabolism, says Sanghavi.

Malhotra stresses, "Vegans, vegetarians, or those with limited food choices may need careful planning to meet protein needs without overdoing supplements. Alternative dietary strategies or sources of protein recommended for individuals seeking to build body mass or meet their nutritional needs For building muscle or meeting protein needs naturally, Malhotra recommends taking the following steps: *Prioritize whole foods: Choose a variety of high-quality protein sources including lean meats and poultry; fish and seafood; eggs; beans, lentils, tofu, and other plant-based proteins; dairy products (if tolerated); and nuts and seeds. *Timing matters: Distribute protein intake across meals for optimal use by your body. *Don't neglect carbs and fats: A balanced diet of whole foods provides all the necessary nutrients to support health and fitness goals. *Personalisation is key: Work with a qualified dietitian to establish a personalised nutrition plan that considers your individual needs and health status.

Led by the health research body the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad, these guidelines stem from a meticulous process involving extensive research. According to PTI, "The DGIs have been drafted by a multidisciplinary committee of experts led by Dr Hemalatha R, Director, ICMR-NIN and have undergone several scientific reviews. Seventeen guidelines have been listed in it."

Among the seventeen listed guidelines, a notable emphasis has been placed on avoiding the prolonged intake of protein powders or high protein concentrates, citing potential health risks such as bone mineral loss and kidney damage. Specific risks associated with prolonged intake of protein supplements Aaiisha Sanghavi, nutrigenomics counsellor, HaystackAnalytics informs, "Prolonged intake of protein supplements can strain kidney function by increasing glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and serum creatinine levels. Acidic protein diets may lead to calcium loss, impacting bone health. A diet high in acid-ash proteins causes excessive calcium loss because of its acidogenic content."

Kerala govt issues alert after rise in West Nile fever cases: Know the causes and symptoms of the disease

To combat the spread of West Nile fever, the state government has urged all districts to heighten vigilance and implement stricter mosquito control measures. This includes intensifying pre-monsoon cleaning efforts and increasing mosquito surveillance activities.

What causes West Nile fever?

According to Dr Rakesh Gupta, Senior Consultant — Internal Medicine, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, West Nile fever is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the West Nile virus. It is primarily spread through the bite of an infected mosquito, which becomes a carrier after feeding on infected birds.

The birds are the primary carriers of the virus. According to the health department, approximately 80 per cent of those infected will not show any symptoms. The virus can also spread through organ transplantation, blood transfusion, or from mother to child during pregnancy or breastfeeding, albeit rarely. Festive offer west Nile fever In milder cases, the symptoms can be managed through over-the-counter medications for pain and fever relief. (file)

What are the symptoms? Most people infected with the West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. However, around 20% of infected individuals may experience fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and skin rash, explained Dr Gupta. "In severe cases, which occur in less than 1% of infections, the virus can cause neurological complications like encephalitis, which is inflammation of the brain or meningitis, which is an inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord," Dr Gupta said in an interaction with



indianexpress.com.

Can it be treated? There is no specific treatment for West Nile fever, noted Dr Gupta. In milder cases, the symptoms can be managed through over-the-counter medications for pain and fever relief. Severe cases, he added, may require hospitalisation, intravenous fluids, respiratory support, and prevention of secondary infections.

"Recovery from the illness depends on the individual's age and overall health condition, with older adults and those with weakened immune systems being at higher risk for severe complications," Dr Gupta said. While there is no specific cure, the focus is on managing the symptoms and preventing further complications, the doctor explained. Individuals with weakened immune systems or underlying medical conditions are at a higher risk for severe complications and may require more aggressive treatment.

Science says rocking yourself to sleep works: Here's how to do it right

In the quest for a good night's sleep, many of us have tried various remedies, from herbal teas to white noise machines. But what if the key to unlocking restful slumber lies not in a medicine or gadget, but in a simple, yet unconventional technique?

According to content creator Allan Mandell, this method can help put you to sleep quickly. "Before you go to bed, put a pillow between your knees, get out of your side, either side. And once you're comfortable, I just want you to rock from your hips down. Just rock this portion back and forth," he explains. He suggests doing this for a few minutes. Mandell continues, "What this is going to do, this is going to stimulate the stibular portion within our inner ear. It's going to send messages to the brain, as well as the prefrontal cortex. This is going to wind you down, take away your anxiety, your negative thoughts and your stresses." "sleep, rocking, sleep hack While gentle rocking might help some people fall asleep faster, its effectiveness can vary widely among individuals.

Does this technique hold up to scientific scrutiny, or is it merely another bedtime myth?

Dr Manoj Mishra, senior consultant ENT, Head, Neck and Cancer Surgeon at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Lucknow, says, "The vestibular system in the inner ear plays a crucial role in maintaining balance and orientation. Rocking movements can stimulate this system, which is linked to the areas of the brain involved in sleep regulation." Research suggests that rhythmic rocking can enhance brain wave oscillations, he cites, associated with faster sleep onset. This effect is believed to stem from the synchronisation of neural networks involved in sleep transitions. "Stimulating the vestibular system through gentle rocking can influence the brain's prefrontal cortex,

which is involved in regulating emotions and stress. By activating this part of the brain, rocking may help reduce anxiety and promote relaxation, creating a conducive environment for sleep," remarks Dr Mishra. The motion may also stimulate the release of endorphins and other neurochemicals that contribute to mood elevation and stress reduction, he says, further aiding the relaxation needed for sleep.

Potential risks and drawbacks associated with using this sleep hack

For individuals with certain vestibular disorders such as vertigo or balance issues, Dr Mishra warns that the rocking motions could potentially exacerbate symptoms. "It's important for those with underlying health conditions to consult healthcare providers before trying this sleep hack." He also mentions that there's a risk that reliance on this method could delay seeking treatment for underlying sleep disorders or medical issues that might be causing sleep disturbances.

How effective is this technique compared to other established sleep aids?

While gentle rocking might help some people fall asleep faster, its effectiveness can vary widely among individuals. "Traditional sleep aids, whether behavioural techniques like cognitive-behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) or pharmacological solutions, generally have more consistent results across diverse populations," he confirms. Studies like those published in Current Biology, he says, suggest that rhythmic stimulation, including rocking, can positively affect sleep. However, more extensive research is needed to fully compare its effectiveness against other established methods.

Aparshakti Khurana on sharing screen space with his brother Ayushmann Khurrana: 'Maybe something like a Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar...'



his brother, Aparshakti explained, "The double R in Ayush bhaiyaa's Khurrana and the single R in mine, my father's gururji did that when we were born! That is it. It wasn't done later. It is just by chance. Mumma and I have a single R, father and bhaiya have a double R. Simple. It has got nothing to do with Bollywood."

When Cyrus Broacha noted that many people change names after getting successful in the industry and then stick to it, Aparshakti quipped, "If that was the case then he would have added triple R after the success of RRR!" The actor also opened up about a possible union of the brothers on-screen. Aparshakti said the two can come together for a film, only if it is something like the iconic Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar. "In the last 8 years, since I have become an actor, both of us have taken close to 10 narrations from different production houses. The kind of space we both have... He has had a tremendous growth and graph in his space and I have a gradual graph in a different journey. So for us to come together, the script has to be really special. Maybe something like a Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar. If there is a remake... I am not saying a remake exactly, but a film which is very pure, organic, something with music or sports," he added. On the work front, Ayushmann Khurrana was last seen in Dream Girl 2, co-starring Ananya Panday, and will be next seen in Border 2 with Sunny Deol. Aparshakti Khurana is awaiting the release of Stree 2, starring Rajkumar Rao and Shradha Kapoor.

Real life brothers Ayushmann Khurrana and Aparshakti Khurana have many things in common but the spelling of their surname. The actors, who were born and brought in Chandigarh and are both established names in the film industry, have different spelling of the surname—the former has double R— and the reason, Aparshakti reveals, has nothing to do with finding success in Bollywood.

Ayushmann made his film debut with Vicky Donor in 2012 while Aparshakti broke out with Aamir Khan starrer Dangal in 2015. The difference in the letters of their surname dates back to what their astrologer father's gururji had decided, Aparshakti said. In a chat with Cyrus Says, when asked why did he not add letters to his name like

Little Hearts movie review: Shane Nigam, Mahima Nambiar film tries too hard to present itself as simple and rooted



Aby Treasa Paul also aim to achieve something similarly modest: to keep the smiles on viewers' faces unfazed.

Set in the small, pristine village of Pushpakandam in Idukki district, the movie revolves around three romantic relationships and the conflicts that arise within and due to them. In the case of childhood friends Sibi (Shane Nigam) and Shosha (Mahima Nambiar), the two have kept their relationship a secret from their respective families, fearing how they would react. Meanwhile, Sibi's father Baby (Baburaj), a widower, is romantically involved with Cicily (Ramya Sivi), whose husband abandoned her and their teenage daughter years ago. However, due to Cicily's daughter's opposition, they must stay apart, hoping for better times. (Spoilers ahead) While their conflicts are ongoing, Soshi's brother Sharon (Shine Tom Chacko) comes out to Sibi that he's gay and seeks the latter's help to introduce his relationship with a foreign man to his parents. The remainder of the movie follows them as their lives and relationships cross paths. Anandu Suresh is a Senior sub-editor at Indian Express Online. He specialises in Malayalam cinema, but doesn't limit himself to it and explores various aspects of the art form. He also pens a column titled Cinema Anatomy, where he delves extensively into the diverse layers and dimensions of cinema, aiming to uncover deeper meanings and foster continuous discourse. Anandu previously worked with The New Indian Express' news desk in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Little Hearts, Little Hearts movie review, Little Hearts review, little hearts malayalam movie, Shane Nigam, shane nigam movies, shane nigam new movie, shane nigam and baburaj movie, shane nigam new movie 2024, Mahima Nambiar, mahima nambiar and shane nigam movies, Shine Tom Chacko, shine tom chacko movies, shine tom chacko new movie, little hearts movie 2024, Anto Jose Pereira, Aby Treasa Paul, Anto Jose Pereira and Aby Treasa Paul's Little Hearts, starring Shane Nigam and Mahima Nambiar in the lead roles, is now running in theatres.

Remember Little Hearts, those sugar-glazed, heart-shaped biscuits that used to make our day and melt our hearts? Just one bite of it was enough to turn the frown on our faces upside down, right? With their romantic comedy-drama Little Hearts, directors Anto Jose Pereira and

Kartik Aaryan says he didn't renew contract for fairness cream endorsement, refused pan masala brands: 'I don't relate to those things'



ad for a face cream a long time ago but then I stopped it. I was not convinced with it. I did not renew it because then I understood that it could be wrong." In 2018, after the success of Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti, Kartik was seen endorsing a product named 'Fair and Handsome' which was targeted towards men trying to make their skin fairer. Two years later, the product's name was changed to 'Glow and Handsome'.

Kartik Aaryan then shared that he has been offered a lot of pan masala brands but he has never signed on to them. "I have been offered a lot of brands that I have refused. Like those supari, pan masala brands. I don't relate to those things. And I try that as long as I can, I refuse these things," he said. When asked about other actors who actively endorse many such brands, the actor said, "I can't say who is right or wrong, everyone has their own way of thinking. But this doesn't fit my plans." Actors like Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn, Tiger Shroff, Saif Ali Khan and Mahesh Babu have all endorsed such brands. Previously, even Akshay Kumar was associated with one such brand but after immense backlash from his fans, the actor had to withdraw from his brand commitments.

Kartik Aaryan, who is currently promoting his upcoming film Chandu Champion, recently spoke about his brand endorsements and said that while he appeared in an ad for a fairness cream a few years ago, he stopped endorsing the brand after he understood "that it could be wrong". Kartik also spoke about rejecting pan masala brands which are promoted by almost all major Bollywood male celebrities.

In a chat with The Lallantop, the actor said, "I did an

Heeramandi songwriter accuses actors of 'hogging the limelight', not crediting technicians: 'Who's stopping you from writing yourself?'

Heeramandi songwriter AM Turaz, who has worked with director Sanjay Leela Bhansali on projects such as Padmaavat and Gangubai Kathiawadi, recently expressed his resentment against actors. He said that they do not credit the technicians who work tirelessly behind the scenes to bring out the best in them. In a recent interview, Turaz said that when a project becomes successful, actors tend to claim full responsibility. He told Bollywood Now, "If actors let the creators of the songs speak... The creators are not getting the appreciation that they deserve." Turaz further said that writers are not paid enough, and it affects their creativity. "In our industry, all the credit and the appreciation and the money is taken by them (actors). Because the creators are not given enough (credit and money), it affects their creativity and

their next project suffers. When the creation is bad, the performances are also bad," he said. Turaz demanded that the writers should be given respect and also insisted that the actors should not steal the limelight. "Until the actors stop hogging all the limelight, you can't create good things," he said. He also encouraged actors to highlight the contributions of the crew in their interviews. Using a casteist remark, he said, "Why did you work with them (directors, writers)? You write it yourself, who is telling you not to? You should credit them because not naming them is like snatching their credit away. And it is unfair." In an earlier conversation with Galatta Plus, Bhansali also said that actors tend to "hijack" a project, and added that this was one of the biggest problems with Indian cinema. "A performance does not belong to an actor.

'Maybe that's Sharmin Segal's capacity, why be mean?': Farida Jalal comes out in defense of Heeramandi co-star amid trolling



Farida Jalal is the latest Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar cast member to defend actor Sharmin Segal, who has been receiving a lot of flack for her perceived "expressionless" acting in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut web series, which was released on Netflix in May. Sharmin has been on the receiving end of trolling, but some of her colleagues are taking on the responsibility of defending her.

Joining Richa Chadha, Taha Shah Badushsa, and Aditi Rao Hydari, Farida Jalal, who plays the role of Qudsia Begum in the period drama, has reacted to the trolling, and said that people should be kinder to Sharmin. She

said that Sharmin "has done her best" with whatever tools she has at her disposal. Talking to India Today, the veteran actor said, "I know, I am not happy about this. Be kind. What her capacity as an actor is, she has done her best. I don't feel the character needs to be very boisterous and loud, the role was not like that."

Farida also said that people are being too mean to Sharmin. She said, "What were you expecting? Yes, what you thought you needed... It's ok, why should we be mean to the girl? Be kind, maybe that's her capacity, just that much. I don't think the real role was boisterous, it wasn't. She is a shayara, she falls in love with my bacchha (Taha Shah's character) and that's it."

Before Farida, Richa Chadha took to her Instagram story to share a screenshot of a comment that read, "Don't ever return to that show. It was specifically made for an emotion less hamming nepokid." Highlighting the comment, Richa Chadha wrote, "Kind is cool." Previously, many other co-stars of Sharmin Segal including Aditi Rao Hydari and Taha Shah defended the actor. Other co-stars such as Adhyayan Suman and Jason Shah, however, appeared to side with the criticism. Sharmin herself broke her silence regarding the trolling recently, and said that she was trying to evoke the 'nothingness' of Meena Kumari's performance in Pakeezah.

The Chainsmokers recall performing at 'amazing' Ambani pre-wedding festivities in Switzerland: 'Probably the coolest wedding'



The Ambani family hosted lavish weddings for Akash Ambani and Isha Ambani, and are pulling out all the stops in the run-up to the wedding of Anant Ambani this year. His pre-wedding celebrations have taken place across the world. A few months ago, global pop star Rihanna performed at one of the pre-wedding events in Jamnagar but she wasn't the first musical guest to have performed at an Ambani wedding-related event. Beyonce, Chris Martin, Katy Perry, Pitbull, Akon, and The Chainsmokers have all performed at earlier Ambani events. In a recent interview, The Chainsmokers duo spoke about having performed not just for the Ambanis, but also the Kotak family.

The duo revealed that they were in India to perform at Uday Kotak's son Jay Kotak's wedding in 2023. "Jay had been to 16 of our shows, which was amazing," they shared on a podcast with Raj Shamani. Describing the event as "really fun," they added, "We were there for the first or second day, it was like a 12-day event. (After that) we went back to the US and moved on with our lives and then everyday, for the next two weeks, I was like, 'This wedding is still going on', and it just kept getting bigger and bigger." They also spoke about performing at Akash Ambani's pre-wedding event in 2019. Held in St Moritz,

Switzerland, the pre-wedding also saw a performance by Chris Martin and was attended by the likes of Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Karan Johar, and Aishwarya Rai, among others. "It was amazing, it was probably the coolest wedding I've been to," said Alex Pall, one half of the electronic music duo. The Chainsmokers were also very curious about arranged marriages in India, and spoke about how American weddings are different from the Indian weddings that they've attended so far. "Well, the US has some fascinating weddings, if you want to zoom in on the weird s**t that Americans do for weddings. It's more of a family and a cultural thing. Maybe in India that's not the case, but in the US, some people love big, grand weddings, but it also depends on if your parents are still together or not. If your parents have been divorced for 20 years and hate each other, maybe let's not spend too much on the wedding," Alex said with a laugh. After hosting a three-day event in Jamnagar for son Anant, the Ambanis recently hosted another round of pre-wedding festivities on a cruise in Europe. They also hosted a big celebration in Portofino, Italy. During this round of festivities, Katy Perry, Pitbull and the Backstreet Boys performed for the high-profile guests. Indian singer Guru Randhawa also performed at the festivities.

Dinesh Vijan's latest horror-comedy is neither scary nor funny, goes downhill after 30 minutes

'Munjya' comes from the makers of 'Stree' and 'Bhediya', with their very Maddock mix of comedy-and-supernatural-horror, the former doing a better job of it than the latter, but both leaving an impact.

Sadly, 'Munjya' is neither funny-haha, nor does it make you want to look under your seat, despite its liberal use of jump-scaries, and a CGI ghoul. It is based on a Konkani tale which uses the myth of 'munjya', an adolescent boy who dies before he is of age, and whose spirit breaks loose in order to fulfill incomplete desires. For the first thirty minutes of the two-hour film, I was riveted, as the present day Bittu (Verma) returns to his ancestral village with his mother (Mona Singh) and grandmother (Joshi), where he is confronted by the 'munjya', leading to a tragic bump in the road. But after that, it's all downhill.

Part of the appeal of supernatural tales, if you like this sort of thing, is to wonder just how much lies beneath the surface, and how little we know of our world. Suggestive hints, and flashes of darkness builds suspense, and leads us to the big reveal. Here, after a shocking twist, the malevolence of the in-you-face 'munjya' is actively muted so as to make it more annoying than scary, and that takes away the sting from this stretched-out tale. In reaching for Casper-the-friendly-ghost territory (or is it the long-fingered Gollum from 'The Lord Of The Rings?'), 'Munjya' loses an opportunity to have created a truly original bad boy whose rancid desire for an older girl keeps it alive all these decades. Its attempts to turn into a family friendly film, makes it neither here nor there.

Read more - Gullak 4 review: Reuniting with Mishra family is like a cool glass of Roohafza on blistering summer day After an excellent beginning, the plot begins



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meandering. You get a hero's Sardar BFF (Taran Singh), who seems to show up just for laughs. Also thrown in, is a kind of exorcism, helmed by a Jesus loving godman (Sathyaraj) And Bittu's own romantic tangle, featuring old friend Bela (Sharvari) and her bumbling foreign beau. Equating the 'munjya' with heavy-handed patriarchy is underlined, but doesn't leave any impression. You feel for the Harry Potteresque curly-haired, bespectacled Bittu: Verma does earnest-and-bewildered well. As the 'puran-poli' making grandma, Joshi stands out. The green Konkani landscape is, as ever, good looking. But, and this goes for the film as a whole, Mona Singh as the supportive-mummy-of-young-hero could have done with better writing: she is capable of being really, truly spiky.

