

INDIAN CHRONICLE

14 June, 2024 | Friday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:106

Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

Techie mom jumps with kids into Ameenpur lake; cops save two

Sangareddy: A four-year-old boy drowned after his mother jumped along with her two children into the Pedda Cheruvu in Ameenpur lake on Wednesday night. The woman and her daughter were saved by a police patrol team, which was on duty in the Ameenpur police station limits. According to the police, the woman, Shweta (33), a software engineer, had an argument with her husband Vidyadhar Reddy, also a software engineer. Following the argument, she left their home in Chandanagar in the night along with her children, Srihans and Sriaha, both twins aged four years.

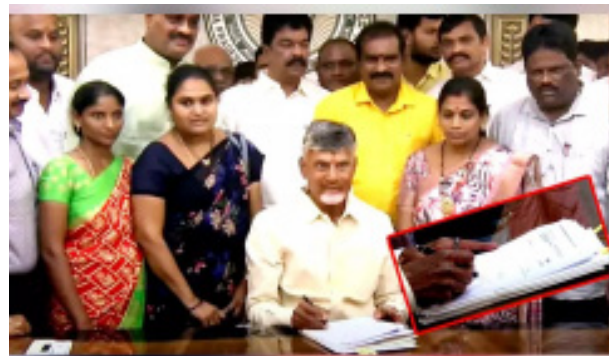
PM Modi leaves to Italy for G7 Summit



GNS News Agency, June 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 13 embarked on a trip to Italy to take part in G7 Outreach Summit, marking his first trip abroad after assuming office for the third consecutive term. Prime Minister Modi, in his departure statement, said that he is glad that his first state visit in third consecutive term is to Italy for the G7 Summit. He recalled his previous visit to Italy and Prime Minister Giorgio Meloni's visits to India which have contributed significantly to enhancing bilateral ties. "I am glad that my first visit in the third consecutive term is to Italy for the G7 Summit. I warmly recall my visit to Italy for the G20 Summit in 2021. Prime Minister Meloni's two visits to India last year were instrumental in infusing momentum and depth in our bilateral agenda. We remain committed to consolidate the India-Italy strategic partnership, and bolster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean regions," PM Modi said. The Italian Prime Minister had invited PM Modi for the G7 Outreach Summit. It will be India's 11th participation in the G7 Summit and PM Modi's fifth consecutive participation at the G7 Summit. On the sidelines, PM Modi is expected to hold bilateral meetings with leaders attending the Summit.

Chandrababu assumes charge as AP CM, signs Mega DSC file



GNS News Agency, June 13

In a historic moment for the state of Andhra Pradesh, TDP leader Nara Chandrababu Naidu took charge as the Chief Minister today, following the victory of the NDA alliance in the assembly elections. The TDP chief entered his chamber amidst blessings and benedictions from Vedic scholars, symbolizing the auspicious beginning of his new term. As Chandrababu Naidu made his way to the Secretariat, he was greeted with massive welcomes from supporters and well-wishers. Upon reaching his office, he wasted no time in signing the official files and assuming the reins of the state, ready to lead with passion and dedication. Later, Chandrababu Naidu signed the Mega DSC file, a significant document that outlines his priorities and plans for the state.

Deputy Chief Minister Batti Vikramarka inaugurated Ashwapuram Busy Kothur Pump House Power Supply

GNS News Agency, June 13

Badrakothagudem distic: Ashwapuram mandal of Bhadrakothagudem district Ammagaripalle Busy Kothur Pump House Power Supply started by Deputy Chief Minister Batti Vikramarka, Pump Hose Sitarama Project Canal Works, a group of Ministers inspected, Dummugudem Dam, Water Drainage Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Vyasaya Department Minister Tummala Nageswarao, Information Minister Pongaleti Srinivasa Reddy, Khammam MP Ramasayam Ragharam Reddy, District Collector, Khammam CC, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu, Kothagudem MLA Kunnamuneni Sambasivarao, Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkatarao, Vaira MLA Ramadasu Naik OSD Saimanohar, dsp Winder Reddy, etc. Seethamma project area Examined.

Combating corruption, cyber fraud among top priorities of Modi 3.0; 100-day campaign planned

GNS News Agency, June 13

New Delhi: In keeping with its zero-tolerance policy against corruption, the Modi government, in its third term, has planned an intensive campaign to crack down on all kinds of graft including that in digital space. On the lines of the 100-day agenda of Modi 3.0, the NDA government has planned a special campaign for clamping down on corruption and cyber frauds. The special campaign is expected to be implemented soon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his first speech after the 2024 election results, made it amply clear that his third term will see exemplary and vigorous action on all modes of



corruption. As part of the special campaign, dedicated teams will be formed to redress grievances of consumers related to cyber frauds of various kinds, including those linked with credit cards. Complaints related to non-grant of family pension to relatives of (deceased) government servants will also be taken up during the 100-day

campaign. Besides the steps to eradicate corruption and cyber fraudsters, the government has planned to make the grievance redressing mechanism smoother and people-friendly to ensure its wider and deeper reach within the public. Popular social media tools like WhatsApp and AI chatbots are likely to be roped in. Citizens can

log their complaints and grievances on WhatsApp. A mobile application is also being planned to facilitate lodging of complaints and grievances by citizens.

The harnessing of technology in the crackdown on cyber fraud and corruption cases is expected to give a major fillip to the drive. According to official data, the grievance redressing mechanism has seen a remarkable improvement in the past few years. In 2019, the average closing time of public grievances lodged on the central portal stood at around 28 days. It has been brought down to 10 days in 2024. Also, the number of complaints by citizens on the official portal saw a noticeable jump from 19 lakh in 2022 to 21 lakh in 2023.

Bengaluru court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa in a POCSO case

GNS News Agency, June 13

New Delhi: A Bengaluru court on Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against former Karnataka Chief Minister and BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa in a POCSO case. According to the police, Yeddyurappa has been charged under the POCSO Act and Section 354 A (sexual assault) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in response to a complaint filed by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who claims he sexually assaulted her daughter during a meeting at his residence in Dollars Colony, Bengaluru, on February 2 of this year. Currently, Yeddyurappa is in Delhi. The CID, which is probing the POCSO case against him, had petitioned the court to obtain an arrest warrant against Yeddyurappa, and one has now been granted. Earlier, the Home Minister stated that, if necessary, the CID could arrest Yeddyurappa. The CID asked Yeddyurappa to appear in this matter on June 12, but he stated that he is in Delhi, so he will appear on June 17. It is worth noting that on March 14, a woman filed a complaint with the Sadashivanagar police station in



Bengaluru, alleging that Yeddyurappa sexually molested her underage daughter while the two of them were at Yeddyurappa's residence for work. The Karnataka government delegated responsibility for the investigation of this case to the CID due to its seriousness. BS Yeddyurappa has also testified before the CID once in this matter.

Terrorists planning suicide attacks on forces in Jammu, says alert from J&K Police



GNS News Agency, June 13

The Jammu & Kashmir Police have raised an alert for security formations in Rajouri-Poonch belt and Jammu districts to prepare for possible "suicide attacks" by militants in the next 48 hours. In an internal cable (communication) raised by the police in Jammu on June 12, the Army in Poonch, CRPF and BSF in Jammu, top police officials in the Rajouri-Poonch and Udhampur-Reasi range were asked "to remain vigilant".

"Inputs received from reliable sources (say) that terrorists are planning suicidal attack on security forces, camps, installations, particularly in Sunderbani, Nowshera, Lamberi, Akhnoor and Domana areas of Rajouri district and Jammu districts in next 48 hours, you are requested to brief the lower formations to remain extra vigilant," reads the communication. The alert comes in the wake of four attacks in the past five days. Nine civilians, one CRPF jawan and two militants were killed in four terror attacks in the Jammu division since Sunday. Two gunfights were reported from the Chenab Valley's Doda district where two groups of militants opened fire on checkpoints at Gandoh and Chattergala area, leaving seven security personnel injured. The police have released sketches of four terrorists believed to be active in the upper reaches of Baderwah, Thathri and Gandoh. A reward of ₹5 lakh was announced for those who will provide information. In Reasi, the police detained 50 individuals in connection with the attack on a pilgrims' bus in the Kanda area, which left nine dead. "Significant leads have been uncovered, aiding in the identification and capture of those who may be potentially involved in orchestrating the attack. To ensure a comprehensive probe, search operations have been expanded to encompass

the far-flung areas of Arnas and Mahore. These operations aim to uncover further evidence and apprehend terrorists who may be hiding in these remote regions," the police said. Mohita Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, urged the public "to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the authorities immediately". Preparing a befitting reply: J&K DGP J&K Director General of Police (DGP) R.R. Swain on Thursday said the security agencies were preparing "a befitting reply to foreign terrorists in the Jammu region". "When terror handlers fail to recruit locals in Kashmir and Jammu, the intent of the enemy is to recruit locals across the Line of Control and push them inside our territory to disrupt peace and kill people," Mr. Swain said. He said the security agencies were "mapping resources to counter foreign terrorism in the Jammu region". "We will give them a befitting reply," he said. Mr. Swain said the number of foreign militants is not large but highlighted that the Jammu region "has a difficult terrain comprising forests, streams and hillocks, etc." "Terrorism will be defeated in the Jammu region like between 1995 to 2005. Those supporting terrorists will repent," he said.

Newly elected MLCs take oath

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: The newly elected Mahabubnagar Local Authorities MLC from BRS Naveen Reddy and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda MLC Chintapandu, Naveen Kumar (Teenmaar Mallanna) of the Congress took oath on Thursday.

Speaking after the ceremony, BRS MLC Naveen Reddy said he would be thankful to all the BRS leaders, who strived for his victory in the elections. "I dedicate this victory to the Telangana martyrs. I won the elections on June 2 itself," Naveen Reddy said, adding that this victory had again proved that Palamuru was not Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's den but BRS Chief K Chandrashekhara Rao's den.

Three laborers killed as compound wall collapses in Mancherial

Mancherial: Three daily wage earners were killed when they were trapped under debris of a compound wall of an under-construction building collapsed on them here on Thursday. Their bodies were retrieved. Police said that the deceased laborers were identified as Bapuram Shankar, Rudrapu Hanmanthu and Poshanna, aged between 40 and 50, all belonging to Mumram Bheem Asifabad district. They were engaged in excavating earth to construct a basement for a building meant for a private hospital. The three were trapped under the wall when it caved in on them, resulting in instantaneous death for them.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar Takes Charge as Union Minister of State for Home Affairs



GNS News Agency, June 13

In a significant development, Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar has assumed office as the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. The ceremony took place at the Home Ministry office in North Block, Delhi, amidst tight security measures to ensure a smooth transition. Acknowledging the importance of the role, Bandi Sanjay expressed his commitment to working diligently towards ensuring the security of the nation. He emphasized that he will carry out his responsibilities under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The ceremony was attended by Vidayaranya Bharti Swamiji, President of Jagadguru Shankaracharya Hampi Virupaksha Vidayaranya, who offered his blessings to the new Minister. Numerous files were signed during the event, signaling the beginning of Bandi Sanjay's tenure. Prior to his appointment as Union Minister, Bandi Sanjay Kumar had successfully contested and won the MP seat from Karimnagar in 2019. He subsequently assumed the role of Telangana State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), playing a key role in the party's expansion in the region. He served as the state president from March 11, 2020 to July 3, 2023, before being appointed as the National General Secretary of the BJP. As he takes on his new responsibilities as the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar is poised to make a significant impact in ensuring the safety and security of the country.

Aspirants must participate in counselling, if and when it happens



GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: Attending counselling sessions for admission into MBBS seats could turn-out to be crucial for aspirants from Telangana in realizing their dreams to secure a government medical seat. With the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts NEET examinations, on Thursday deciding to cancel grace marks that were awarded to nearly 1563 candidates and fresh legal cases related to NEET paper leak still pending in the Supreme Court, the NEET medical rankings are expected to be reshuffled in the coming days. Thanks to these developments, meritorious students from Telangana, who were impacted earlier due to inflated rankings, are in a better position to secure government medical seats. And, participating in counselling sessions, whenever they are held, are crucial in that process, senior doctors and Telangana State Medical Council members on Thursday said. With legal cases related to NEET paper leak in the Supreme Court expected to continue for a while, keeping in mind the academic calendar, counselling process is most likely to continue. Irrespective of the legal cases, doctors and senior residents representing the interests of MBBS aspirants in Hyderabad have advised students, even those who have received high ranks to ensure they attend and be a part of the counselling. "Legal cases will continue for a while and that does not mean aspirants here skip their crucial counselling, if and when they happen. It's always better for students to attend and be part of the counselling sessions. Moreover, there is a definite need for the NTA and others involved to do justice to deserving students. There is going to be a reshuffle of all India medical ranks in the coming days," says vice chairman, Telangana State Medical Council (TGMC) Dr G Srinivas. Experts tracking NEET have said that counselling to take up MBBS admissions are expected to take place only after re-examination results, for aspirants who have received grace marks, and fresh ranks are announced. "There could be many candidates who do not have financial strength to approach the apex courts with a write petition.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Two good for Naidu

IT's a 'best of both worlds' situation for Chandrababu Naidu. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo has not only become the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth time, he has also emerged as a key stakeholder in the BJP-led government at the Centre. On Wednesday, he took oath as CM in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders. The alliance comprising the TDP, the BJP and the Janasena Party recorded a landslide victory in the simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the southern state recently, winning 21 of the 25 Lok Sabha seats and 164 of the 175 Assembly seats. Notably, the TDP alone has the majority in the Andhra House with 135 MLAs. Naidu's enviable status in the scheme of things has led to speculation that he might press Modi to walk the talk on granting special category status (SCS) to AP. The Congress has already upped the ante against the PM, saying that he has failed to fulfil the promise made in this regard in Tirupati in March 2014. The basis of Andhra's demand for SCS is the loss of revenue attributed to the state's bifurcation, which led to the formation of Telangana under the AP Reorganisation Act in February 2014. Another NDA-ruled state, Bihar, is also demanding this status, with CM Nitish Kumar's cabinet having passed a resolution in November 2023. The stability of the Modi 3.0 government will hinge a lot on how far Naidu and Nitish will go for the sake of their respective states. In contrast, things are pretty simple and straightforward for the BJP in Odisha, where tribal leader Mohan Charan Majhi has taken oath as the party's first CM in that state. The saffron party ended the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal's long reign with an impressive win in the recent Assembly elections. The challenge for Majhi would be to sustain the momentum of development that Odisha witnessed when Naveen was at the helm.

Suresh Gopi: The Saffron star



GNS News Agency, June 13

A popular scene from the 1994 Malayalam thriller Commissioner had the hero, an angry young police officer, taking on a Union Minister in public. The dialogues from that scene – meaning 'Do you remember this face?' – are still not forgotten by movie fans. They were delivered by Suresh Gopi, who played a City Police Commissioner. The huge box office hit established him as a superstar of Malayalam cinema.

Three decades later, things have changed dramatically for Suresh. He is today tipped to be a Union Minister, in real life that is, after his stunning victory from Thrissur, Kerala, in the general election. Not even Renji Panicker, who wrote all those scintillating dialogues in his scripts for Suresh, could have conceived the twists and turns in the actor-turned-politician's life. The most dramatic of them all, perhaps, is the convincing win from the Lok Sabha constituency in central Kerala.

It is a historic victory, too – the first ever for the BJP from Kerala in a Lok Sabha election. Suresh has indeed reasons to feel proud of his win. He was, after all, contesting for a party that didn't have a single representative from among the 140 Assembly constituencies. In fact, the BJP has been able to produce just one MLA in the seven-decade-old Kerala Legislative Assembly (O. Rajagopal from Nemom in 2016).

His popularity as an actor has certainly helped. But, Kerala has never been too excited to vote for film stars just because they are film stars. In fact, until actor Innocent won from Chalakudy in the 2014 general election, no star had tasted electoral success (K.B. Ganesh Kumar had won before, but he is seen as more of a politician and the son of a powerful Kerala Congress leader than an actor). Innocent had contested as an Independent backed by the LDF. Another popular actor Mukesh then won successive Assembly elections from Kollam, representing the CPI(M).

Neither would have succeeded without the party's backing. They may have gained from their stardom but what mattered more was the support of one of the two largest political parties in Kerala. It was obvious that he would need a considerable amount of support from voters beyond the National Democratic Alliance. And he was up against two experienced, popular candidates: V.S. Sunil Kumar of the Left Democratic Front and K. Muraleedharan of the United Democratic Front.

Muraleedharan's candidature was, in fact, an afterthought by the Congress. The Congress decided to field him from Thrissur – rather than Vadakara, from where he had won at the last election – after his sister Padmaja Venugopal defected to the BJP. Their father, former Chief Minister K. Karunakaran, had a strong association with Thrissur, though he had lost both the times he contested from there, to the Legislative Assembly and Parliament. The move didn't work. Muraleedharan was pushed to third place. He became the only UDF candidate to lose besides Ramya Haridas, the sitting MP from Alathur. Suresh won by a margin of 74,686 votes. Though most people were surprised by his win, it shouldn't come as a complete shock. The BJP has been building a strong base in Thrissur, which reflected in the votes Suresh polled when he unsuccessfully contested the elections earlier, to Parliament and then the Assembly. Despite his defeats, he kept himself involved in Thrissur. Besides his stardom, his reputation as someone keen to help the needy also may have appealed to the apolitical voter. He had also succeeded in highlighting the Karuvannur Service Cooperative Bank scam that had put the LDF on the back foot. The BJP must be thrilled that its decision to make Suresh a Rajya Sabha MP eight years ago has paid off. Just as Panicker and director Shaji Kailas were about their decision to make a series of films with Suresh back in the early 1990s.

BJP allies should oppose hate agenda: Jamaat



GNS News Agency, June 13

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH), a socio-religious organisation, Saturday called Lok Sabha elections a mandate against "hate and divisive politics", and said that it was the responsibility of BJP allies including JD(U) and TDP to oppose BJP's divisive agenda and injustice to any section of country. It said that all political parties have the responsibility to understand the message of the mandate and do their introspection. Speaking to reporters, JIH chief Syed Sadatullah Husaini said the new government is of the NDA bloc and not of the BJP alone. "TDP and JD(U) in their manifesto have spoken about inclusive policies, justice for all and opposing divisive agenda... They should oppose BJP's divisive agenda," Husaini said.

Referring to the poll results in UP, he said "BJP's loss is the message against communal hate speeches, bulldozer politics and divisive politics." "People in

Maharashtra have given a strong message against 'jod-tod ki siyasat', breaking of Opposition parties and misuse of ED," he said. "The ruling party has got another chance to form a government but with a strong warning. The PM, his cabinet and the ruling party should understand that and introspect," he said. Citing Delhi where Congress-AAP alliance lost elections to BJP, Husaini said that in many areas there was a significant disconnect between the opposition candidates and voters. He also said that the result in Faizabad (of which Ayodhya is a part) where the Samajwadi Party defeated the BJP has shown that people rejected BJP's "mandir-masjid politics". JIH vice-president Mohammed Saleem Engineer said the representation of Muslims in new Lok Sabha was only 4.4%, which he said, should be improved. Vice-president Malik Motasim Khan, citing BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali's suspension, said that "quality representation with freedom for the MPs to express their opinions" was more important.

TDP's smartphone, chip push for Andhra may pose a new challenge for Gujarat

GNS News Agency, June 13

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) – currently the key kingmaker from the new government in the Centre – has given its first indication that it would like a share of new investments in the electronics manufacturing space, in semiconductors and smartphones, to come to the coastal state of Andhra Pradesh. The party's general secretary and son of party chief Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh – who recently won from the Mangalagiri Assembly constituency with a thumping majority – said that while the TDP may not be vying for cabinet berths in the central government with the intensity that has been previously reported, he outlined that increasing investments in Andhra Pradesh under centrally-subsidised schemes like chip and smartphone manufacturing are among the demands they are making to the BJP.

"We have issues like Amravati, Polavaram, backward district funds, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, bringing various agencies to invest in Andhra Pradesh, performance linked incentives in fab manufacturing, bringing electronics manufacturing, investments in the ports sector because ours is one of the largest coastline states," Lokesh said during an interview with NDTV. "TDP never negotiates for posts (in the central government), we only negotiate funds for the state, to bring industries to our state... strong states make a strong nation, and we want to be part of the \$5 trillion economy dream. We believe that Andhra Pradesh alone can be a trillion dollar economy," he added. The Indian Express had earlier reported that the party, and its tech-savvy leader Naidu, will use the leverage they currently have over the formation of the government at the Centre to lobby for such investments to come to the state, which has been reeling the bifurcation and with Hyderabad – its previous economic centre – no longer its official capital.

With the BJP managing 240 seats in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls – well short of the majority mark of 272 – TDP's 16 MP-elects are crucial for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), along with MPs from parties like Janata Dal (United), Shiv Sena, and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). In the last 10 years, when the BJP had a majority in the Lok Sabha on its own, thus relegating the role of its NDA allies, there was a feeling that many of such investments went to the state of Gujarat. Just before the Lok Sabha polls began, three projects in the chip ecosystem, including a foundry by the Tata Group and an assembly plant of Micron Technology went to the western state. A number of smartphone manufacturing plants, including Foxconn which assembles iPhones, went



to states like Tamil Nadu. Together, these two states represent the bulk of ongoing and upcoming projects in the electronics manufacturing space.

When the erstwhile Foxconn-Vedanta chip plant (which later fell apart) was shifted from Maharashtra to Gujarat, it had given way to a lot of political furore. With the TDP's rise now as a crucial ally, some of these investments could now be routed to Andhra Pradesh, a senior BJP leader had earlier told this paper – thus changing the electronics manufacturing map of India significantly. Apple supplier Foxlink, which makes cables for iPhone chargers, already has a base in the state, potentially allowing for more such suppliers to set up shop in Andhra Pradesh. Xiaomi, too, has a manufacturing base in the state. So do car makers like Kia and Isuzu. With Hyderabad no longer the official joint capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Naidu's party could capitalise on the opportunity to develop the capital city of Amravati, along with pulling a number of manufacturing projects along the Visakhapatnam Chennai Industrial Corridor. Naidu's newfound kingmaker status could help resolve the financial constraints that have hit the construction of his dream capital of Andhra Pradesh, Amravati for the designs of which he had roped in British architects Foster and Partners and Baahubali director Rajamouli. However, the project has far from taken off, especially after the World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank dropped plans to lend funding for the capital project due to political uncertainty in the state. Amravati has been central to Naidu's politics and a subject of stiff tension between TDP and key opponent Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) who had stopped awarding contracts in Amravati citing irregularities during his tenure. While Reddy wants Visakhapatnam to be the administrative capital of AP, Naidu has vowed to back Amravati.

Finance to states, depts: Use arbitration only in disputes under Rs 10 crore

GNS News Agency, June 13

Underlining that the arbitration processes are expensive and time-consuming, and that there are "perceptions of wrong-doing including collusion" about arbitrators, the Union Finance Ministry has recommended restricting arbitration clauses in government contracts to disputes of less than Rs 10 crore. "Arbitration as a method of dispute resolution should not be routinely or automatically included in procurement contracts/ tenders, especially in large contracts," said a June 3 office memorandum by the Department of Expenditure's Procurement Policy Division.

The memorandum has been circulated to all ministries in the government of India, including the departments of public enterprises and financial services, and to all states as well.

The new set of recommendations come even as there is an increased push from the judiciary in favour of arbitration and to make India one of the top international destinations for commercial arbitration. Arbitration is no

longer an "alternative", Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud had said addressing the United Kingdom Supreme Court on June 6. "It is in fact the preferred method of seeking commercial justice," he had said. Elaborating how the process has grown, CJI Chandrachud had said that "imposing courtrooms designed to bear the insignia of the sovereign power of the State are being replaced by swanky meeting rooms where parties engage in dialogues over complex commercial matters." He said it was time for countries like India to create and promote a culture of commercial arbitration. In its memorandum, the Department of Expenditure said, "The process of arbitration itself takes a long time and is not as quick as envisaged, besides being very expensive too. The reduced formality, combined with the binding nature of decisions, has often led to wrong decisions on facts and improper application of the law." The directive also said the arbitral process which is "intended to be final with very limited further recourse, is also exposed, particularly in matters of high financial value, to perceptions of wrong-doing including collusion."

Pilgrims feared dead as bus falls into a gorge in J&K, terror attack suspected



GNS News Agency, June 13

A bus carrying pilgrims plunged into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Sunday. According to locals, suspected terrorists had opened fire on the vehicle, and multiple casualties are feared. According to the Reasi Deputy Commissioner, who was on his way to the spot, they only have confirmation of the bus plunging down the gorge, and more details are awaited. The Reasi SSP, Mohita Sharma, and a police contingent have rushed to the spot.

According to locals, the bus was on its way from Ransoo near Shiv Khori – a shrine devoted to Lord Shiva – to Katra town, which acts as base camp to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Trikuta hills. The bus, with a Jammu and Kashmir registration number, was carrying several pilgrims, locals said. Initial reports suggest two masked terrorists opened fire, hitting the driver near Kanda Chandi Morh and causing the vehicle to crash into a gorge. The area falls on the border of Reasi and Rajouri district, and movement of terrorists has been reported there in the past as well. Police and security forces have rushed to the area to launch a rescue operation.

Height criterion relaxed for Bot tribe in J&K Police recruitment



GNS News Agency, June 13

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday relaxed the physical standard for recruitment in the J&K Police for members of the 'Bot Tribe' by two inches. The decision was taken at a meeting of the UT's Administrative Council held under the chairmanship of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, an official statement said.

For other communities, the minimum height required is 5 ft and 6 inch for male candidates, and 5 ft and 2 inch for women candidates. The Bot tribe is a Buddhist minority and it was notified as a Scheduled Tribe by the Centre last year under the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989. More than 3,000 Buddhists belonging to the Bot Tribe reside in four revenue villages of Hangoo, Lossain, Kabbani, and Tun in the Padder area under Kishtwar district. The Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Society, Padder, District Kishtwar had earlier submitted a plea before the Lieutenant Governor seeking a relaxation of the height criterion.

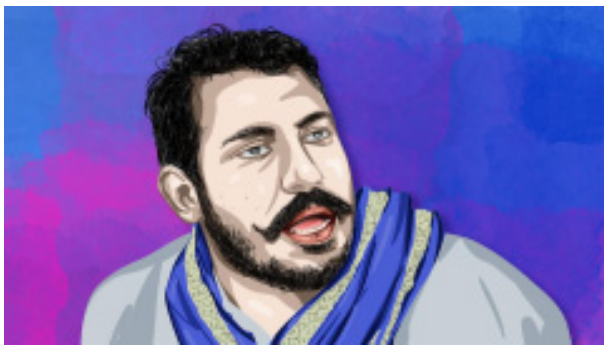
Major crisis in Delhi imminent if 'adequate' water not released in Munak: Atishi to Haryana CM



GNS News Agency, June 13

New Delhi, Delhi Water Minister Atishi Sunday wrote to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, requesting him to ensure 1,050 cusecs water is released from the Munak Canal for the national capital, otherwise "Delhi will have a major crisis in next 1-2 days". In the communication, she said seven Water Treatment Plants in Delhi are dependent on supply from Yamuna and "due to the deficit of raw water, our water treatment plants are unable to run at their optimum capacity." "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! Delhi is supposed to receive around 1,050 cusec water at Munak, but the supply has reduced, she said. "With the water from Munak Canal reducing to 840 cusecs, Delhi will be unable to produce adequate water from our seven WTPs." "If Haryana doesn't release the adequate amount of water by today, Delhi will have a major crisis in next 1-2 days. Therefore, I humbly request you to ensure that 1,050 cusecs water is released from Munak Canal for Delhi," she added. According to the agreement in the 53rd meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board, which was convened on May 2018,

Chandrashekhar Azad: The Dalit commander



GNS News Agency, June 13

Sitting in his room at the Western Court MP Hostel along Janpath, Chandrashekhar Azad fields calls on a phone that does not stop ringing. Two Uttar Pradesh Police personnel are sitting on the couch next to him. There is a beeline of journalists, fellow MPs, politicians, and political workers waiting to meet him. Among them is Manoj Kumar, the newly-elected Congress MP from Bihar's Sasaram — one of the 19 SC seats the INDIA bloc flipped from the BJP during this Lok Sabha election. After an endearing embrace, Mr. Azad introduces him to the room: "He used to be a state unit president of Azad Samaj Party (the party Mr. Azad founded) — a Majboot Chamar." Then he turns to Mr. Kumar, "This is our moment. So what if we are from different parties, we are stepping into Parliament together now."

Mr. Kumar replies, "What can I say? Iss baar Chamaron ne Samvidhaan bacha diya hai bhai saab (This time the Chamar people have rescued the Constitution)." "This is what has happened in this election," Mr. Chandrashekhar, 37, tells The Hindu as he tries to prepare his schedule for the next few weeks after having won a decisive victory in Uttar Pradesh's Nagina constituency — a traditional bastion of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

Mr. Chandrashekhar's victory by a margin of over 1.5 lakh votes on a seat like Nagina, put together with the BSP's abysmal performance this year (the party drew a blank), is now giving more credence to the argument that the firebrand leader has occupied a special place among Dalit voters in the region. An Ambedkarite activist and lawyer by education, Mr. Chandrashekhar's politics is built

on a visible assertion of his Dalit, specifically Chamar, identity. As an activist, his initial focus was on bringing volunteer-run schools to the people of his community.

One of the early instances that catapulted Mr. Chandrashekhar and his organisation, the Bhim Army, into the spotlight was the installation of a board in 2015 on private land in Gharkauli, proclaiming, "The Great Chamar: Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Village, Gharkauli welcomes you", which triggered objection from Thakurs. Ever since, the Bhim Army and its members have worked hard to become the first port of call for the people of their community — whether it is about atrocities by upper caste folk or police brutality or about protecting Ambedkar statues from bulldozers. The Bhim Army has also organised protests demanding government action against atrocities on Dalits and arranged legal help to the victims.

As the conversation in Mr. Azad's Western Court quarters continues, he says, "Now you see what they are doing with the Ambedkar statue's relocation in Parliament complex. I am not going to let that go." A significant part of Mr. Azad's politics over the years has also been to build Dalit-Muslim unity, which was buoyed by his participation in the anti-CAA protests that erupted across the country in December 2019. His protests in front of the Delhi Police headquarters and at Jama Masjid won him an almost cult-like status.

Following the prominence his politics gained after this, Mr. Azad registered his party — the Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) — and immediately started preparing to build his political organisation. In 2021, TIME magazine put him on a list of 100 "emerging leaders who are shaping the future." Now, as he prepares to take oath as a member of the 18th Lok Sabha, Mr. Azad is clear about his priorities — "My work will be for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, backward classes, Muslims, youth and women and it will always be against injustice," he says, without getting into the specifics except one thing — the need for a Caste Census. At the same time, when asked if he thought the vote for his politics was one rejecting Hindutva, Mr. Azad was cautious in his response. "Religion is a personal thing. It should not be brought into politics. So I won't say this was a rejection of anything, but I will say this: BJP leaders repeatedly talking about making a theocratic nation and their arrogance has upset the people and they have spoken accordingly."

NIA makes arrest in killing of four civilians in January

GNS News Agency, June 13

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday said it has arrested a militant currently lodged in an Assam prison for his alleged involvement in the killing of four civilians in Manipur's Bishnupur district in January this year. The arrested person has been identified as Lunminsei Kipgen alias Langinmang alias Mang alias Levi, a resident of Manipur. 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!

He was taken into custody from Central Jail, Lokhra in Guwahati under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the Arms Act. An NIA spokesperson said in a statement that Kipgen "is the first accused to be arrested for the gruesome killings on January 18, when armed assailants brutally murdered four civilians near the water treatment plant at Ningthoukhong Kha Khunou, Bishnupur". The federal anti-terror probe agency had taken up the probe in the attack on February 9. It was found during the probe that "Lunminsei Kipgen was actively involved in the attack, which was part of the ongoing ethnic unrest and violence in the northeastern state", the agency said. "Previously a cadre of the Kuki militant outfit KNF(P), he joined another Kuki militant organisation - the United Kuki National Army - during the current spate of violence and participated in the killings," it added. Since



May 3 last year, Manipur has witnessed clashes between the two communities, which have claimed at least 225 lives to date and uprooted around 50,000 people, many of whom are still residing in relief centres.

The violence has reignited in the state in the last two days after a peaceful couple of months. Just two days after the declaration of election results on June 4, a 59-year-old man identified as S Saratkumar was found beheaded on Thursday allegedly by Kuki militants after a missing report was made at the Jiribam police station. On the same evening, in the aftermath of the incident, an irate mob set ablaze three abandoned Kuki villages located near Jiribam, which is a bordering town of Assam and Tamenglong district of Manipur.

Why no Cabinet post for Ajit Pawar's NCP in Modi 3.0? Devendra Fadnavis, Praful Patel explain



GNS News Agency, June 13

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Sunday that the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party was offered the post of minister of state, but the party has been insisting on a cabinet rank. Devendra Fadnavis added that since the NCP won just one of the four seats it contested in the Lok Sabha elections 2024, it has been offered an MoS berth. "The Nationalist Congress Party was offered one seat from the government- MoS independent charge. But their request was from their side

Praful Patel's name was finalised, and he was already a minister. Therefore, he would not be able to hold the post of MoS independent charge," Devendra Fadnavis told reporters why the NCP wouldn't be part of Narendra Modi's new Cabinet, which will take oath at the Rashtrapati Bhavan at 7.15pm. Follow Live Updates on Narendra Modi oath ceremony 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! "When a government is formed with an alliance,

some criteria need to be decided because several sides are together. But because of one party, the criteria cannot be twisted. But, I am sure that in the future when there will be an expansion at that time they will be remembered at that time... They requested for a cabinet minister post..." Devendra Fadnavis said. Later, speaking to reporters, NCP leader Praful Patel said, "...Last night, we were informed that our party will get a minister of state with independent charge... I was earlier a cabinet minister in the Union government, so this will be a demotion for me. We have

informed the BJP leadership and they have already told us to just wait for a few days, they will take remedial measures..." While the Mahayuti won 17 of 48 seats in Maharashtra, the Maha Vikas Aghadi of the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress won 30. On Saturday, days after he offered to resign taking responsibility for the BJP's poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis said he would continue to work. Speaking after a party meeting where state BJP legislators passed a resolution reposing faith in him and seeking that he continue as party leader, he also said fake narrative acted as another opposition party that the ruling Mahayuti coalition had to fight. His offer to quit as deputy CM was not prompted by emotions or sadness over the electoral setback, Fadnavis told reporters, adding, "I am not someone who runs away. I fight back... When cornered on all sides, we can rise again with force... this is what we learn from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj." "I met Amit Shah (in Delhi) who asked me to continue, and I will do that. Fadnavis added.

Once said to be the political heir, now in the crosshairs of the BJP



GNS News Agency, June 13

Bhubaneswar: Until last week, he was in choppers flying across the state, lecturing thousands of people in election meetings to accompany Biju Janata Dal president and outgoing chief minister Naveen Patnaik on roadshows as well as giving long interviews to visiting journalists over bowls of pakhala (the popular Odia dish of fermented rice and water).

VK Pandian, the Madurai-born 2000-batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, who served as private secretary to chief minister Naveen Patnaik for 12 years before plunging into politics and then spearheading the regional party's electoral campaign over last 40 days had gone to town claiming that BJD would win at least 3/4th of the seats in the 147 member assembly and 15 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats. 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!

It's history now. Five days after BJD was decimated in Lok Sabha polls failing to win even a single seat and barely winning one third of the assembly seats, conceding defeat to BJP, Pandian announced his withdrawal from active politics on Sunday. "My aim to join politics was to assist Naveen babu and now consciously I decide to withdraw from active politics. I am sorry if I have hurt anyone in this journey. I am sorry if this campaign narrative against me has had a part to play with BJD's loss. I apologise to the entire Biju Parivar," said Pandian in a video message that was posted on his Instagram handle.

The announcement of withdrawal from politics came as the clamour in the ruling party went up significantly in the last five days with many senior leaders questioning the way Pandian ran the party and the election campaign. Once, present on literally every billboard, every campaign poster, every important meeting of the Patnaik government, Pandian was conspicuously absent from Naveen Niwas, soon after polls results came in. He was also absent on June 5 when Patnaik went to Raj Bhavan to tender his resignation and the two meetings that Patnaik held with winning and losing MLAs on two consecutive days. Two days later, he was seen leaving the domestic terminal of the Indira Gandhi International Airport with a luggage while his wife Sujata Kartikeyan, went on a six months 'childcare leave' to assist her daughter prepare for the Std 10 exam. Though Patnaik on Saturday defended his protege calling the attacks against him 'unfortunate', the writing on the wall was clear — Pandian is the fall guy in the BJD's biggest electoral loss in over two and half decades.

Known as 5T secretary (a government initiative that circumvented all departments making all department secretaries report to him bypassing the chief secretary) since last five years, Pandian came to wield enormous power in the state government as well as BJD as Patnaik passed on the reins to him. Though Patnaik has been ruling the state for last 24 years, he was largely absent from state administration after the Covid pandemic broke out in early 2020. While Patnaik largely relied on bureaucracy ever since he came to power in 2000, he continued to retain some degree of control and had the final word until end of 2019 when the pandemic broke out. Just before the outbreak, Patnaik began an initiative called '5T', which stood for teamwork, transparency, technology, time and transformation and made Pandian its head. Though there was no department named 5T, all departments were supposed to have their '5T vision' and thus report to the CM's private secretary, dwarfing the chief secretary and the DGP making him the centre of governance. Since early 2020, Patnaik was largely home-bound, administering the state from Naveen Niwas, but even after the pandemic abated, he hardly went to the Lok Seva Bhawan,

the seat of power in Bhubaneswar, barely 3 km away from his home. He would make odd appearances at hockey and other sports events at Kalinga Stadium, but did not deem it fit to go to the chief minister's office, making his residence, the de-facto office.

In Patnaik's absence, Pandian was the last word in the state administration as officers several years senior to him bent backwards to please him. Senior leaders of BJD were no exception. The speculation that Pandian is all set to become successor of Patnaik — in his 24th year of uninterrupted reign — was visible last year when he flew around in a chopper to 30 districts of the state ostensibly to collect people's grievances. The speculations reached fever pitch in October last year when the former quit the bureaucracy and joined BJD. After the pre-poll alliance discussion with BJP broke down in March this year, it was Pandian who decided BJD's ticket distribution and became its star campaigner pushing 40-odd other senior leaders to the backroom. Though BJP made Odia Asmita (Odia pride) its main poll plank, attacking Pandian's Tamil roots, Pandian brazened out all attacks on him as he went around telling everyone that BJD would win 3/4th of the seats in the 147-member Odisha Assembly as well as 15 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats. People familiar with Pandian's functioning say though he was an efficient and hardworking officer, things started falling apart when he started controlling access to the chief minister. Resentment in bureaucracy grew as officers several years senior to him not could not meet CM without Pandian being present. Adding grist to the rumour mills was the remark by Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma who last month during election campaign alleged that Patnaik's digital signature was used on the files reaching him, insinuating the five time CM's complete lack of control over administration. Though Pandian held no position in the party, the perception among party MLAs and senior ministers in BJD grew that they had little say in the affairs of the party. With Pandian in total control of the party, a sense of neglect grew among many district presidents and secretaries who felt their voices not reaching the highest quarters.

MP Bhartuhari Mahtab, who was with BJD till March this year before joining BJP, said the last time he could meet Patnaik was in February this year for inviting him to his daughter's wedding. A video of two senior ministers clearing the traffic for Pandian's car in Balasore district went viral underlining the diminishing stature of party leaders. Seething in anger over the hijacking of party apparatus by an outsider, they could do little. For a consummate politician like Patnaik who could resist the might of BJP all along, many believe it was political suicide on his part to make Pandian, a non-Odia and an outsider, his successor. Though Patnaik's personal popularity is still intact after two and half decades of rule, it was Pandian's Tamilian roots and the growing belief that he would be the popular chief minister's successor that sank BJD.

Sensing public mood towards the last phase of election, Patnaik tried to do a course correction saying Pandian was not his successor. But by that time the damage was done and Patnaik had effectively sealed the fate of his party. Waiting in the wings, a canny BJP jumped at the opportunity of Patnaik promoting a non-Odia who had hijacked the party and governance and made Odia Asmita its main poll campaign. The call of Odia Asmita reverberated through the state wiping off BJD the Lok Sabha poll map and reducing the party to 51 seats in assembly polls. Most BJD leaders are still baffled why the party which was formed in 1997 to protect the language, culture and tradition of Odisha, was handed over to a Tamilian defying all political logic. Having now decided to retire from 'active politics', many believe Pandian will bide his time and may try to make a comeback given that Patnaik is still sympathetic to him. Describing him as a person of integrity, Patnaik said Pandian did excellent work as an officer in many fields in the last 10 years, helping govt with two cyclones and dealing with Covid-19 epidemic in the state. But with the political momentum against him, Patnaik's defence of Pandian holds little meaning as BJD leaders are not ready to forgive him. In the new BJP regime, more trouble seems to be in store for Pandian who may be the subject of official investigation of alleged transgressions done during his tenure. Similar fate also awaits other officers close to him. With an unsympathetic regime in power, many are willing to believe that it could be end of the road for Pandian in Odisha politics.

Who is the richest Lok Sabha MP to be part of Modi 3.0 cabinet?

GNS News Agency, June 13

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani won the Lok Sabha election 2024 from the Guntur constituency in Andhra Pradesh, and is likely to be a part of the Modi 3.0 cabinet. Pemmasani is also the richest candidate to win the Lok Sabha election 2024 and be a part of Narendra Modi's cabinet. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani is a leader of Chandrababu Naidu's party TDP, which is a key member of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Being the richest MP in the Lok Sabha, Pemmasani has declared assets worth ₹5,705 crore, according to poll affidavits analysed by the Association of Democratic Reforms. 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 the Lok Sabha polls in Andhra Pradesh, the TDP leader defeated his rival candidate Kilari Venkata Rosaiah from the YSRCP by a margin of over 3.4 lakh votes. Pemmasani will be sworn in as the minister of state in the Union council of ministers, according to TDP leader Jayadev Galla. Galla posted on X, "Congratulations to Dr. @PemmasaniOnX on being confirmed as a Minister of State. Such an honour to serve the nation at the central level during your very first political stint. The people of Guntur and entire AP are proud of you. All the best for your new role. May you bring positive changes and make a meaningful impact."

Who is Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani?

TDP leader Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, a debutant in the Lok Sabha election 2024, and won from the Guntur constituency in Andhra Pradesh. Pemmasani is a doctor by profession and has family assets worth over ₹5,705 crore, making him the richest MP in the Lok Sabha. His family has been backing TDP for decades, much before his entry into politics. Pemmasani hails from the Burripalem village of Tenali. He is also the founder of UWorld, a prominent global platform for online learning tools designed for high-stakes exams. After winning the



from the Guntur Lok Sabha seat, Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani has replaced two-time MP Jay Galla from the constituency, who quit politics in January 2024. President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday will administer the oath to Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi and his council of ministers on the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan at 7:15 pm.

Strong opposition a healthy sign for democracy, says Rajinikanth

Chennai: Superstar Rajinikanth on Sunday said Narendra Modi assuming office for the third term as Prime Minister is a big achievement and people have ensured a strong opposition and it is a healthy sign for democracy. Speaking to reporters before leaving for Delhi from his residence, the top actor said after Jawaharlal Nehru, it is Narendra Modi who will be taking over as Prime Minister for the third term in office, an achievement. Rajinikanth is all set to take part in the swearing-in ceremony of Narendra Modi and his new Cabinet. Later, at the airport, he told media: "Assuming office for the third consecutive term is Narendra Modi's big achievement, my hearty greetings to him."

Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Azad prepares for a solo battle as Parliamentarian



GNS News Agency, June 13

From a street fighter to a Parliamentarian, Chandra Shekhar Azad has come a long way in a decade-long career and his victory in Nagina has stirred the pot of Dalit politics in the State with around 21% Scheduled Caste population that has been ruled by a Dalit Chief Minister four times. However, despite winning the reserved seat by a handsome margin, neither the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) nor the National Democratic Alliance blocs have acknowledged Mr. Azad's accomplishment. Unperturbed, Mr. Azad has said he would maintain equal distance from both alliances and continue to raise his voice if there is any injustice done to the underprivileged and deprived sections in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or the Opposition-run States. Refusing to be bracketed just as a Dalit face, he expected the media to address him like any other Parliamentarian.

The BJP and its allies had won 15 out of 17 reserved seats in U.P. in 2019. This time the number has come down to eight with Samajwadi Party (SP) securing seven and Congress registering a handsome victory in Barabanki. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) won two seats in 2019 including Nagina. This time its candidate has finished fourth and lost his deposit. In three Assembly segments of Nagina Lok Sabha where the SP won in the 2022 Assembly election, the Azad Samaj Party (Kanshiram) was ahead. Party sources say that they fought the election against the BJP but were surprised by the cold attitude of the INDIA bloc. "It seems they fear Azad's popularity among Dalits and backward Muslims," a party leader said. The same attitude, he said, was shown towards Pappu Yadav (Rajesh Ranjan) in Bihar.

A section of the SP sees Mr. Azad as a plant of the BJP who was given Y+ security just in March end this year after he could not garner the support of the INDIA alliance. "He is the Dalit equivalent of [Asaduddin] Owaisi. The BJP doesn't take action against them and a section of media presents them as the sole representatives of their respective communities to polarise the society because both make provocative statements that make headlines," a SP leader said. But unlike Mr. Owaisi who is based in Hyderabad, it is hard to cast aspersions on Mr. Azad because Bhim Army, the social base of ASP (K), with its countrywide membership of one crore, is present in most U.P. villages and Mission 78, its ideological arm, has teachers and retired government officials many of whom have the training of BAMCEF (The All India Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation) that enriched Bahujan Samaj Party over the years. Kanishka Singh, a senior leader of ASP (K), said that had Mr. Azad been a BJP stooge, Muslims would not have voted for him in such large numbers. The Nagina constituency has

around 43% Muslim population. "The SP didn't want Mr. Azad to develop a base among backward Muslims. But the community knows that he took to the streets during anti-NRC protests while Akhilesh Yadav didn't come out," he said. Interestingly, SP sources say Mr. Azad was offered to win Agra, the Dalit capital, for the INDIA bloc but he had eyes on Nagina which has more Muslim population than that of SCs. Mr. Azad's long-term plan also overlaps with the SP's caste calculus in this election that has paid rich dividends.

This time, political observers, say the SP has followed Kanshiram's formula of Bahujan politics where the political power is principally shared with SCs and the backward. Out of 37 SP MPs that are going to the Lok Sabha this time, 28 belong to Dalit and OBC communities and four are Muslims. Among the Dalits, the SP has focussed on non-Jatav SCs with five Pasi candidates making the cut. Notably, Mayawati had moved away from the Bahujan matrix to the Sarvajana formula where, ideologically, the pie of power is shared with all but practically it worked as a pact between Dalits and the upper castes. This attitude miffed the backward and the way Ms. Mayawati let the OBCs leaders like Om Prakash Rajbhar, Swami Prasad Maurya, and Dara Singh Chauhan drift away from the party, it eroded BSP's OBC base and impacted its electoral prospects. "It also created an impression that the upper castes are funding the party. And when someone brings in large sums of money, his commitment to the mission gets diluted," a BSP leader from West U.P. who is contemplating shifting to ASP said. Mr. Azad believes in the Kanshiram formula where the party would raise the voice for the underprivileged in all communities but would not share power with the upper castes. His supporters say that they fought the Nagina election on 'one note, one vote' slogan and it could be applied when the party will contest a large chunk of seats in the State.

Mr. Singh said the SP had done them a favour by not lending its support and keeping us away from the Congress. "We have realised our strength and now we will contest all the nine assembly seats that will go for byelection in the coming months." In Saharanpur, the home district of Mr. Azad, one found that young Dalit voters were inclined towards him. "We love him for the way he took up the case of the Hathras rape victim and stood up for the family of the teen who was shot down by the police in Rampur," was a common refrain in the region. The elders talked of days when Mayawati made Dalits confident enough to enter police stations and have their say. Azad, they say, is showing the same courage at a time when the BSP is losing its hold on power. However, many of them still wanted to give Ms. Mayawati one more chance. "This is the last time we are reposing faith in her. We see Azad as her successor," Surinder, a young Dalit student, told this journalist in Chhutmalpur, Mr. Azad's hometown. He said peaceful protest and standing up to official apathy is also a constitutional right. "Behenji has ceded this space," he stated. Bareilly-based BAMCEF member Ghamandi Singh said Dalit youth are looking towards Mr. Azad as their future leader. "Akhilesh has to walk the talk. Otherwise, the shift is temporary and has happened because Mayawati was not in a position to defeat the BJP and protect the community from the threat to the Constitution and reservation. We are not fool enough to believe that the BJP would change the constitutional provisions but it would have weakened them," he said.

NCP (SP) demands JPC probe into stock market 'scam' caused by exit polls

GNS News Agency, June 13

Mumbai, The Sharad Pawar-led NCP on Sunday demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into alleged "institutional corruption" like the manipulation of stock markets through exit polls and electoral bonds. The NCP working president PC Chacko also claimed the outcome of the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra has established it as the true NCP.

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! Speaking to reporters after the NCP extended working committee meeting, Chacko said the party demanded a JPC in the "institutional corruption like the manipulation of stock markets engineered through exit polls and electoral bonds." "People lost their hard-earned money due to the stock market manipulation. This kind of corruption has no parallel in society. Moreover, the electoral bonds issue is still unanswered," he alleged. Notably, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had alleged a "biggest scam" claiming that stock markets rose after "fake" exit polls and then crashed the day votes for the Lok Sabha polls were counted on June 4 with retail investors losing their investments.

Chacko also said the party has decided to reorganise at the national level. "We sympathise with those who left us for power," he said in a veiled dig at NCP led by Ajit Pawar, which is part of the Mahayuti government.

He noted that Maharashtra, along with two other states, will be heading to assembly polls in the coming months, and emphasised that his party will work to secure decisive votes in these elections. NCP working president Supriya Sule, who was also present at the press conference, said the party discussed the prevailing po-

litical situation. "We will strengthen our organisation across the country," she said. Sule mentioned that both she and her father, Sharad Pawar, were invited to the swearing-in ceremony of Narendra Modi in Delhi, but had prior commitments. "We have extended our good wishes," she said. When asked about the Ajit Pawar-led NCP not receiving a ministerial berth, Sule said, "I don't peep into others' homes." Meanwhile, Chacko added, "Many are in the queue. Time is not ripe to speak," in response to speculations about members from the Ajit Pawar camp returning to the parent fold. Sule said Sharad Pawar and the working committee will decide if anyone wants to return to the party fold. She highlighted that unemployment, inflation, drought, and corruption are the main issues facing Maharashtra. On the issue of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Sule said, "Congress is the biggest party. Whoever becomes the Leader of Opposition is good for us." "Our relationship with Congress is one of love and respect in the alliance. The same was the case when Uddhav Thackeray joined us. I have seen how BJP treats its allies," she added. Sule expressed happiness that Pune is getting a ministerial berth in the form of newly elected MP Murlidhar Mohol of BJP but criticised the alleged increased crime in the city and the mismanagement of the civic body, especially evident from the havoc caused by rains. "BJP knows only to break families and political parties and pays no attention to administration," she charged.

She also mentioned that the party is fighting for justice in the Supreme Court against the allocation of the party name and symbol to the rebel group and expressed confidence in winning the case. This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

Anurag Thakur, set to be dropped from 'Modi 3.0', extends his 'best wishes' to PM-elect

GNS News Agency, June 13

PM-designate Modi will take oath at 7:15 pm in a glittering ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. His council of ministers will be sworn-in after him. 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!

However, Thakur, who held the Sports portfolio in the second Modi-led government, is likely to miss out on a ministerial berth. He was not among NDA MPs who attended a tea meeting at the PM-elect's official residence on Sunday morning. "I extend my best wishes and congratulations on his third term. I also extend my heartfelt wishes to all his ministers... may they do a wonderful job and take the country forward in the next five years," he told news agency ANI.

"Many people associated with Mann Ki Baat are here. It is my good fortune that they have come to my residence. We will go for the oath-taking ceremony from here," the politician, 49, further stated. Anurag Thakur won from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur parliamentary constituency, defeating Satpal Singh Raizada of the Congress party by a margin of 182,897 votes. In doing so, he retained a seat that he first won in a 2008 by-election, and the Lok Sabha elections of 2009, 2014, and 2019. Other BJP leaders who were Union ministers in the previous Modi-led government but are set to miss out this time include names such as Smriti Irani, Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti, Meenakshi Lekhi, Ajay Bhatt, General (Retired) VK Singh, Arjun Munda, Ajay Mishra, John Barla, RK Singh, Nisith Pramanik, Narayan Rane, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Subhas Sarkar, among others.

How a year-old rivalry led to a daylight murder on campus



GNS News Agency, June 13

Two days before he was beaten to death on the campus of Patna University's Law College, Harsh Raj, 22, had expressed excitement about casting his vote for the very first time from Vaishali Lok Sabha constituency. Exercising his franchise from his hometown, Majhauri village, Raj was among the first ones to queue up outside the polling booth on the morning of May 25, and had excitedly shown off his inked finger and posed for pictures after. After coming home from the booth, he had chatted with his grandfather and mother for a while, telling them about his plans to buy a black SUV. "He was close to those two. He and I spoke less," says his father, Ajit Kumar, who works for a local daily. Raj had returned to Patna that same evening on his beloved black motorcycle, saying his goodbyes ahead of his exam the next day. On May 27, the final-year undergraduate student appeared for his exam at the Law College campus on Ashok Rajpath Road, about 1.5 km away from his own college, the Bihar National College. He was one step closer to finishing his three-year Functional English (Honours) course. But while walking back to his motorcycle along with a friend, Bhanu Kumar, he was met by a group of seven or eight students, who thrashed him with iron rods, hockey sticks and bricks near the auditorium of the college. While his friend fled the scene, several others, including some employees of the college and other students, allegedly watched the violence play out, but did not intervene. Eventually, Raj fell unconscious.

After the gang of attackers ran away, some classmates took Raj to the Patna Medical College and Hospital, situated about a kilometre away. But the doctors there declared him dead. "When we came out after the exam, a group of people armed with hockey sticks and rods attacked us. I was also hit by bricks but ran away. Harsh also tried to run, but he collided with a tree and fell. Within that time, the men, who had masked up to hide their identities, had beaten him to death," recalls Bhanu. "Had someone had the courage to step in and rescue Harsh instead of just watching, my friend would have been alive today," adds another classmate, Nikhil Kumar.

Raj was popular among the university's students for his forthcoming and helpful nature. He often distributed leaflets bearing his contact details among the students for "any help" they might need, said his classmates. One of the leaflets, seen by The Hindu, featured a picture of him and his friend Saayan Kunal, who is the husband of Shambhavi Choudhary, one of the youngest candidates who contested and won the Lok Sabha elections from the reserved Samastipur seat on a Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) ticket. Raj's Facebook account was flooded with pictures of him campaigning for Ms. Choudhary in the run-up to polling on May 13, in the fourth phase of the election.

"Harsh Raj always stood firmly with me as a brother during the election campaign, and even before that. The culprits should be identified and arrested as soon as possible," the MP-elect said after the incident. Her father Ashok Choudhary, a Janata Dal (United) Minister in the Bihar Cabinet, also posted a picture of himself and Raj on social media, saying that he was in touch with the authorities regarding the alleged murder. Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav too condemned the incident, and slammed the NDA government in Bihar over the "miser-

able law and order situation" in the State.

"Our son was nursing political ambitions, and wanted to contest the Patna University Students' Union (PUSU) polls, likely to be held in November this year. He later wanted to become an MLA and MP," Ajit recalls. "But I always told him not to harbour such fantasies and to focus on his studies," he says. Raj's friends told The Hindu over the phone that the student will be remembered for his "unmatched drive for social work". "During the pandemic, he went to his village and provided relief to migrants. He helped in whatever way he could. He was a gem of a person with high political ambitions," says Ravi Ranjan. Other friends add that Raj also ran a social organisation, Lok Nayak Yuva Parishad, and the rising popularity of the outfit is what sparked the jealousy of other students. "The perpetrators should not have attacked him like this. He did nothing wrong. It was only because of his popularity among the students that he was killed. It was such a trivial thing," adds Ramnik Raj. Nikhil says Raj's personality was "infectious", and adds that the on-lookers on the day of the crime are "equally responsible" for his murder. Raj was the only son. His younger sister Rosy Kashyap, a student of Class 10 in the village, is inconsolable after his death. "She keeps waiting for her brother to come home. The two were very close. Watching her grieve for him is emotionally draining," the father says, his voice heavy with emotion. Having completed his primary education from Lalganj St. Paul's School in the village, Raj had moved to a rented accommodation in Patna and was running a hostel, RPS Boys Hostel, in the area to earn some money on the side. Bimal Mahto, the cook at the hostel, remembers him as the "kind and well-mannered" owner who always paid his salary on time. "Harsh was unlike all other hostel owners. He would often knock on our doors to ask if we had any problems, and would try to solve our issues immediately if we told him something," says a boarder, Aditya Raj. The future of the hostel now hangs in the balance. "If his family members or friends take over, I suppose I can keep working here. But who knows," says Mahto.

The FIR, filed at Sultanganj police station, was lodged against unknown persons. So far, the police have arrested three students — Aman Patel alias Aman Kumar from Maner, Chandan Yadav from the university hostel, and Prakrit Anand alias Aarush from Begusarai — while another, Ravish Kumar alias Rahul from Gaya, has surrendered, says Bharat Soni, Patna SP (East), adding that they hope to nab two more accused — Mayank from Supaul and Shivam from Madhepura — in the next few days. "A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was immediately formed to nab the accused and raids are being launched at different locations to arrest those involved in the ghastly crime. Three or four other students have also been identified," Soni says.

According to the police, during interrogation, some of the accused revealed that Raj, along with two or three others, had an altercation with Aman and Ravish at a dandiya (dance) night organised at Miller High School ground on Dussehra last year, resulting in the two sustaining head injuries. Aman and Ravish had rounded up some friends and attacked Raj in order to take revenge. Following Raj's murder, the university gave orders to close down all colleges, and for all students to vacate their hostels by May 31. The university will now likely reopen on June 30, after the summer vacation ends. "The entire administration is shocked that a boy died on campus. I urge the police to identify those responsible and take strong action against them," Vice-Chancellor K.C. Sinha had said at the time, adding that all ongoing examinations have been cancelled until further notice. Bihar Governor and university Chancellor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar also took cognisance of the incident, and asked university authorities to take strong action to ensure that such incidents are not repeated on campus. Several political leaders have graduated from Patna University, including RJD chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad, current Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, BJP national president J.P. Nadda, and late State BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi. But the university, which was once known as the "Oxford of the East", has since seen a deterioration in stature, with frequent incidents of hooliganism dotting the campus. The hostels too have become dens for criminals, and witness frequent police raids. "Today, most of the meritorious students from Patna migrate to other places to study instead of taking admission at Patna University considering the decline in its academic atmosphere," rues a former student, Hitendra Anupam, adding that the death of a student on campus signifies "the worst ebb possible". Meanwhile, Raj's family is still struggling to come to terms with the sudden and violent loss of their son. "We are haunted by his death. He continues to live on in our memory every day," says his father.

From being twice CM to now union minister, Kumaraswamy demonstrates political acumen again

Bengaluru, Two-time chief minister and five-time MLA JD leader H D Kumaraswamy has once again demonstrated his political acumen by bagging a seat in the union council of ministers, despite his party joining the BJP-led NDA just last year. Since the time of its founding in 1999, the JD has never formed a government on its own in Karnataka, but has been in power twice in coalition with both national parties despite being a junior partner for 20 months with the BJP from February 2006 and for 14 months with the Congress after the May 2018 assembly polls. Kumaraswamy was chief minister on both occasions. The son of JD patriarch and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda has now managed to secure a cabinet berth by allying with the BJP, at a time when his party was fighting the "battle for survival". The 64-year-old Vokkaliga leader has made no secret of his desire to become agriculture minister. By winning the Mandya Lok Sabha seat, the former CM has not only managed to regain the JD's lost bastion, but also demonstrated that the party is still a force to be reckoned with in Karnataka, by allying with the BJP. Kumaraswamy defeated Venkataramane Gowda of the Congress by a margin of 2,84,620 votes. Kumaraswamy, who is also the state JD president, is a five-time MLA, and until recently represented the Channarayana assembly seat. It is said that Kumaraswamy hoped that the 2023 assembly polls would yield a hung verdict and that he would emerge as kingmaker or a 'king' himself for the third time, but his dreams were dashed with his party's dismal performance and Congress's emphatic victory. With the compulsions of keeping his party afloat and to remain politically relevant in the state, Kumaraswamy had again joined hands

with the BJP to forge an alliance ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. The BJP leadership persuaded Kumaraswamy to contest from one of the three seats ceded to it, hoping that it will give momentum to his party's prospects in the other two seats and help the saffron outfit, especially in the old Mysuru region, where it is considered to be relatively weak. The plan seemed to have worked as JD won two out of the three seats it contested, and BJP in 17 out of 25 in the state, which has a total of 28 constituencies. Seen as an "accidental politician", Kumaraswamy's first love was films. A fan of Kannada thespian Dr Rajkumar, Kumaraswamy was attracted to cinema since his college days. He took up filmmaking and distribution, and produced several successful Kannada films, including 'Jaguar', starring his son Nikhil. Earlier, in the run up to 2018 assembly polls, Kumaraswamy had said, "I will be the king and not the kingmaker," and his words turned prophetic as the Vokkaliga leader occupied the chief minister's post for the second time, despite his JD finishing a poor third in the polls. It was a coalition government with the Congress. But his tenure was short-lived as the wobbly coalition government that he headed collapsed after 13 months in power. Kumaraswamy had earlier served as the CM for 20 months from 2006 as the head of a JD-BJP government. Kumaraswamy, who grew up in a political environment, forayed into electoral politics by successfully contesting the Kanakapura Lok Sabha seat in 1996. He subsequently lost both the Parliamentary and assembly elections. He was elected to the assembly for the first time in 2004, when the JD joined the coalition government led by Congress's Dharam Singh after the polls threw up a hung house.

Disneyland employee dies from severe head injuries after falling off moving golf cart



Sgt. Jon McClintock said. While the authorities have limited information about the fatal crash, Lear's colleagues revealed that she was thrown off the vehicle after the driver "recklessly" struck a road bump.

Disney California Adventure attractions cast member Rae Delgado said in a Facebook statement that Lear was riding in the rear-facing seat of the cart as it travelled 20 mph behind Critter Country when the tragedy struck. "She went to grab the handrail, it gave way and sent her out of the vehicle. We do not know if the passengers were aware that she had fallen out," Delgado said.

"It didn't have to end this way. All of this mess could've been avoided if the driver of the golf cart wasn't driving recklessly," Delgado continued, adding, "The golf cart from the entertainment department was brand new. How the hell could it fall apart?! It's just so unfair to us & the family." She also revealed that Lear sustained a fractured skull and severe head trauma. Disneyland Resort President Ken Potrock said in a statement that they were left "heartbroken by the loss of Bonnye and offer our sincere condolences to everyone who cared for her." "We are focused on supporting her family and our cast members through this tragic event and making sure they have the resources they need," Potrock added.

A Disneyland employee died after she was thrown off a moving golf cart in the backstage area while on the job. Bonnye Mavis Lear, 60, succumbed to her injuries two days after her severe fall on Friday. Law enforcement responded to the crash site at the California theme park at around 11:30 am on Wednesday, the Anaheim Police Department said in a press release. Lear, who was employed at the Disneyland Resort for 24 years, "supported membership services at Club 33," a high-end private dining club, per Fox News. She was rushed to the hospital after she suffered grave head injuries, Anaheim police

Who is Puja Tomar, 1st Indian MMA fighter to win at UFC?

GNS News Agency, June 13

Puja Tomar emerges as the "historic cyclone" for India. Know all about the pioneering MMA fighter who beat Brazil's Rayanne Amanda dos Santos at UFC. Indian ladies hadn't had their shot in the UFC until 30-year-old MMA fighter Puja Tomar ripped up a "cyclone" at the Ultimate Fighting Championship on Saturday, June 8. Her pioneering fighting spirit opened avenues that may not have previously been considered viable options.

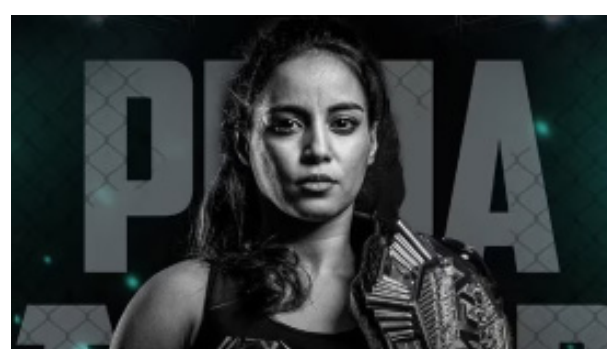
Now, standing tall on the global platform of mixed martial arts, Tomar has recorded history, not only as the first-ever Indian female fighter to sign up with UFC, but also as the first Indian to win a bout in UFC. Period.

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](#)! Scripting a history the nation had never tasted before, Tomar, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, defeated Brazil's Rayanne Amanda dos Santos by split decision at the UFC Louisville. Both players went head-to-head in a fast-paced, gruelling three-round bout on Saturday. Tomar ultimately had the upper hand throughout the stretch, and she beat Santos 30-27, 27-30, 29-28.

After making Indian MMA history and wrapping up her fight, Puja Tomar said, "I want to show the world that Indian fighters are not losers. We are going all the way up! We are not going to stop! We'll become a UFC champion soon!" In a news release via UFC.com, "The Cyclone" wholeheartedly claimed that her mother had always been in her corner. Her post-victory remarks aligned with these comments as she again dedicated her win to her mother.

Who is Puja Tomar?

The UFC debutante who took the split decision victory at UFC Louisville was born in Budhana village, Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh. As a former national Wushu champion, Tomar has participated in other action-packed leagues, including Matrix Fight Night and



One Championship. She secured her UFC contract last year. Proving her stance as one of the best women fighters in India on the world stage, Tomar reportedly trains at the Soma Fight Club in Bali, Indonesia. Fondly addressed as "The Cyclone," the Muzaffarnagar native clinched her daunting triumph over a decade after the UFC officially opened the cage to women fighting in 2013. Her UFC profile also states that Tomar first took up martial arts at 12 when she lost her father. "I just wanted to protect my family after my father passed away. So I started to learn karate and kickboxing, and after that, I think I can make my career in martial arts," she said. Now, following her mother's three-word advice, "Puja, just fight," Tomar has achieved the unthinkable, not only for herself but for girls back in India, for whom the UFC history-maker has revealed a path not taken. Having represented India in the World Wushu Championship, the MFN strawweight Champion went pro in 2013. Her favourite grappling technique is the Heel hook, whereas her most preferred striking technique is the Side kick. In her post-game interview with Sony Sports India, Tomar beamed with excitement and pride as she affirmed that even before she won the match in the Octagon, merely "Walking out with our Indian song and the Indian flag gave (her) goosebumps and made (her) feel proud."

Nijjar case: Canada intel chief made secret visits to India twice this year

GNS News Agency, June 13

New Delhi, Canada's intelligence agency chief David Vigneault paid two under-the-wraps visits to India in February and March to apprise Indian officials of the case relating to the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, people familiar with the matter said. Vigneault, the director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, is learnt to have shared information that emerged during Ottawa's investigation into the killing.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd." Vigneault's visits to India came weeks before Canada arrested three Indian nationals Karanpreet Singh, Kamalpreet Singh and Karan Brar on charges of alleged involvement in Nijjar's killing. Subsequently, a fourth Indian, Amandeep Singh, was arrested by the Canadian authorities. Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in British Columbia in Surrey on June 18 last year.

The murder is being probed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. A government of Canada official said: "We can confirm that the Director of CSIS, David Vigneault, has travelled to India but we do not comment on the nature or substance of closed-door meetings." "With that said, since Canada became aware of the credible allegations, we have consistently provided all the information we can to India on the Nijjar case, through multiple channels," he said. "This has also been noted by Prime Minister Trudeau and Canada's minister for public safety on the public record," he added. The official said, "Canada's priorities from the start have been to ensure truth and accountability. This is in both our countries' interest. In this regard, Canada continues to underscore the importance of the ongoing, independent investigation led by the RCMP." "Given the ongoing police investigation by the RCMP's Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, we refer you to the RCMP for questions on evidence regarding the Hardeep Singh Nijjar case," he said. There was no comment from the Indian side when asked about Vigneault's visits. The people cited above said besides Vigneault, some other Canadian officials also visited India this year apparently to discuss various aspects of the case related to Nijjar's murder. India has officially been maintaining that it has not received any specific information relating to the case from Canada. New Delhi has been maintaining that the main issue has been that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistani elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity.



In the last few months, India has been expressing concern over the security of its diplomats in Canada and calling on Ottawa to ensure that they can carry out their responsibilities without fear.

There have been instances of pro-Khalistani elements threatening to harm Indian diplomats. Days after Trudeau's allegations last year, India asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to ensure parity. Canada subsequently withdrew 41 diplomats and their family members from India. This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

Gaza receives much-needed aid through new US-built pier, says official

GNS News Agency, June 13

Washington: Badly needed aid has been delivered into Gaza from a newly repaired American-built pier, a US official said on Saturday, following problems that had plagued the effort to bring supplies to Palestinians by sea. The pier constructed by the American military was only operational for about a week before it was blown apart in high winds and heavy seas on May 25.

The damaged section was reconnected to the beach in Gaza on Friday after undergoing repairs at an Israeli port. Crews delivered about 1.1 million pounds (492 metric tonnes) of humanitarian aid to Gaza via the pier on Saturday, the US official said. They spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of an official announcement of the delivery.

Indian-American entrepreneur Pritika Mehta's vision for aspiring Indian founders harnessing AI



GNS News Agency, June 13

Where artificial intelligence is reshaping industries and challenging established norms, Indian-American entrepreneur and AI expert Pritika Mehta offers a beacon of insight and inspiration for aspiring Indian founders who are still smashing their keyboards in a corner cubicle in Bangalore, India.

With a Master's in Artificial Intelligence from the State University of New York and a wealth of experience in City by the Bay, San Francisco, Mehta has become an usher in guiding and motivating Indian entrepreneurs through her dynamic social media presence. While talking with HindustanTimes.com, the Indian-American tech geek delves into GPT-4o's transformative potential, the shifting dynamics of search technology, and the unparalleled opportunities Western Silicon Valley presents. The Butternut.AI founder shares her invaluable advice for the "aspiring Indian founders who want to build in AI" on leveraging networks, the importance of understanding global tech trends, and the impact AI can have on India's burgeoning startup ecosystem. For Indian founders eager to carve out a niche in the AI revolution and reach a crescendo-became tycoon, Mehta charts both a roadmap and a call of action, emphasizing the critical need to innovate, "build a strong team and ship things fast"

When asked, 'Founders who are churning the dreams and wanna land in the City by the Bay, what will be your message for them?'

The Chandigarh native replied, "San Francisco is about the same size as my hometown, Chandigarh. But this small city has changed the world. ChatGPT, Uber, Airbnb, DoorDash, Stripe, Dropbox, Notion - almost all products that people use everyday, originated from this special place. The kind of conversations that happen here, the innovation in the air, the investments in bold ideas and unknown founders - no other city offers it. If you drive

down Sand Hill Road, you'll find the offices of VC firms. A small office with three employees would be managing \$1B+. You'll meet random doctors here who invested \$10k in unknown founders and made \$100M from that investment. Where else does it happen?"

"All tech trends originate here. People in the Bay Area knew about bitcoin before anyone else. Tens of thousands of people became bitcoin millionaires, just because they heard about it from friends and bought it early. On the streets of SF, driverless Waymo cars cruise along and no one bats an eyelid. Every nook and corner of SF is filled with startups. In every coffee shop, people are talking about new tech. The level of ambition and talent here is unparalleled. The ambition is supported with money, guidance and networks." How Mehta continues to inspire aspiring Indian entrepreneurs through social media Mehta, who holds a Master's in Artificial Intelligence from the State University of New York, leverages her social media platforms to share knowledge and inspire aspiring Indian founders. Whether it's about shifting your mindset or securing an angel investor, she consistently shares her valuable insights through these channels. While addressing her social role, she briefly explained her very recent post- "SF business trip is the rite of passage for every Bangalore VC-funded founder."

"Bangalore and Bay Area have a direct connection. All the good founders I know in Bangalore make a trip to the Valley - to raise money, understand tech trends, build networks, or to sell to customers," the SockSoho founder lauded. "Many Bangalore startups have one founder in the Bay Area handling sales and fundraising, while other founders and team are in Bangalore. America is the biggest software market in the world and the smartest Bangalore founders know it well (and leverage it). You'd be surprised to see that every Bangalore founder has a B1 visa, and many are in the process of applying for O1/L1/EB1. It's a normal now." "Indian founders have unparalleled access to Silicon Valley, largely because so many Indians work here," Mehta said.

The Indian-American AI expert concluded while addressing the question, "Will this lead to job losses, or will it lead to more efficiency in the world?"

She shared, "There will be short term pain and long term gain due to AI. No one is riding horses to deliver mail now, we've high end vehicles that do it. Repetitive jobs are getting eliminated but at the same time, newer jobs are being created. We will not run out of work to do but if we run out of tedious work to do, it's a net positive for humanity."

Trump not a convicted felon yet, Yale Law professor trashes hush money trial verdict: 'Crime is so unclear...'

GNS News Agency, June 13

Following last week's hush money trial in Manhattan, former President Donald Trump was found guilty on all 34 counts of falsifying business records related to the 2016 payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels around the time of the then-presidential election. The 2024 Republican presumptive nominee will be sentenced on July 11, which could ultimately send him to prison just in time for the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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](#)! However, in the meantime, Yale Law professor Jed Rubenfeld has launched a new podcast, 'Straight Down the Middle,' arguing that the ex-president is not yet a convicted felon. Further dissecting how Trump's legal team could soften the blow of the criminal trial's verdict on the upcoming presidential elections, Rubenfeld weighed in on the options the former president has. The Constitution law professor argued that while Trump could challenge the conviction with an appeal through the New York Appeals Court system as a means to move the Supreme Court, it "would take years" to work in his favour and could even deal out "irreparable harm." "Of course, that would take years, and that's a problem here... It's a problem because the election will have taken place if this conviction is unlawful and unconstitutional, it could have an effect on that election," said Rubenfeld on his podcast. Yale Law professor weighs in on Trump's guilty hush money trial verdict, questions the Constitutional issues facing the conviction

Considering the conviction was to be reversed on appeal years later, Rubenfeld further emphasised that the ill effects would have already transpired by then. "... that effect could not be undone. In legal terms, that's called irreparable harm," he added. Also, turning to surveys demonstrating a considerable surge in Trump's popularity since the guilty verdict, with many voters claiming they would still vote for the former president if he is convicted, Rubenfeld said, "... an unlawful conviction in this case could interfere with, and in fact decide the outcome of, the next election of the next President of the United States."

Even if the conviction were to be reversed upon Trump's appeal down the line, "no years-long appeal could have any effect on that," the law professor foregrounded. Furthermore, he suggested that Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and Judge Juan Merchan would have already "unlawfully interfered with the election and decided the outcome of the next election through unconstitutional means."

Rubenfeld struck down the ongoing string of media reports insisting that Trump is already a "convicted felon." Laying down that one is "not convicted because of a jury verdict, the professor slammed the ongoing claims as "not true." He explained further, "You are not convicted until the judge enters that judgment of guilt. Now, in New York, it's very likely that Judge Merchan will enter that judgment of guilt against Trump on the same day that he issues sentencing." At the same time, Rubenfeld detailed how it was a "very bad look for this country" to criminally target a former president. He insisted, "It's an especially bad look when the folks bringing the case and the judge deciding it are members of the opposing political party." Additionally, stating Trump's crime as "so unclear," he alleged that the state was "hiding the ball about what the actual charges are right up through the trial and... into the trial." Reiterating that we're not exactly sure of what the jury found Trump guilty of, he said, "You better not be pursuing some novel legal theory where you have to hide the ball [and] it's not even clear what the charges are," he said. "That could be a very dangerous precedent for this country. A very bad and dangerous precedent." Diving even deeper into members of opposing political parties



supposedly criminally targeting the "poll-leading candidate" Trump, the 'Straight Down the Middle' podcast creator set aside that if the involved officials were pursuing "some novel legal theory" that had them "hide the ball" while shrouding the charges in mystery, they were essentially setting a "very dangerous precedent for this country." Consistently dwelling on the "constitutionality of this prosecution," Rubenfeld put the onus on the federal court's reviews on the matter. He also affirmed Trump's agency here, stating that his team could make it possible by filing an "action in federal court and ask the federal court to temporarily hold off the entry of the judgment of guilt until the federal courts, and maybe the Supreme Court itself, can, on an emergency basis, adjudicate the likelihood of success of these constitutional arguments." However, if that fails, Rubenfeld underlined the said "irreparable harm" would follow.

Tensions mount as Chinese aircraft, vessels intrude near Taiwan territory

GNS News Agency, June 13

Taipei: In a concerning escalation of regional tensions, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence reported on Sunday morning a significant presence of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft and People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels operating in close proximity to its territory. According to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence, as of 6 am, a total of nine Chinese PLA aircraft and seven PLAN vessels were detected in the vicinity of Taiwan.

Of particular alarm was the breach of airspace, with five PLA aircraft crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait, encroaching into Taiwan's northern and southwestern Air Defence Identification Zones (ADIZ). In response to these provocative manoeuvres, Taiwan's ROC Armed Forces have been actively monitoring the situation, swiftly deploying measures to address the unfolding scenario and upholding national security protocols. The intrusion of PLA assets into Taiwan's airspace underscores the heightened tensions in the region, as Taiwan continues to grapple with increasing military activities from mainland China. This latest incident further underscores Taiwan's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its territorial integrity and sovereignty amidst escalating provocations. Concerns are mounting over the potential ramifications of heightened military posturing in one of Asia's most volatile flashpoints. Since September 2020, China has intensified its use of gray zone tactics by increasing the number of military aircraft and naval ships operating around Taiwan. Gray zone tactics are considered "an effort or series of efforts beyond steady-state deterrence and assurance that attempts to achieve one's security objectives without resort to direct and sizable use of force," Taiwan News reported earlier.

India features in top 3 target markets for London Gatwick Airport: Chief Commercial Officer Jonathan Pollard



the theoretical capability (to operate flights between India and the UK). We are more interested in the market. The airlines that operate the market are still an important consideration, but it is second to the market opportunity and demand potential.

What about UK-based carriers like British Airways and Virgin Atlantic? Do you expect them to launch flights connecting London Gatwick with Indian cities?

Yes. We believe that India would be the kind of market they (UK-based airlines) would be interested in. The market opportunity is huge not just for Indian carriers but for British airlines as well, so it is both ways...Trade between the two countries is growing and there is a huge Indian diaspora living in the UK. So, the demand credentials between the two markets are massive...I think there is every possibility that it (UK airlines operating flights to India from Gatwick) could happen.

What is the cost advantage that Gatwick offers airlines vis-à-vis the larger London Heathrow airport?

Massive advantage. On average, we are 50 per cent cheaper than Heathrow in terms of airport costs—what the airline pays the airport to operate there. At Heathrow, there is a single fixed tariff, so all airlines pay the same. But we have more flexibility and we can put in place specific contracts that are individual to each airline. That means we can offer different incentives to airlines and profile the costs better...You don't get that at Heathrow, and we are 50 per cent cheaper. One way to attract the airlines is to offer them a lower cost, and that is a good lever for us to get airlines interested.

What would you say is Gatwick's USP vis-à-vis other London area airports—Heathrow and Stansted?

Versus Heathrow, I think we are better connected to all of the key destinations in London...We have a better rail connection to those places. A lot of the Heathrow passengers are traveling from the Gatwick catchment. So, where we are actually geographically placed is nearer to where a lot of people want to travel. When you look at Stansted, the airport proposition is that it is a low-cost hub built for short-haul European low-cost carriers, not for full-service international long-haul airlines, where the needs and expectations of the passengers are greater. And that is where Gatwick can play its part because we obviously have an extensive long-haul network.

How are you placed on slot availability? Any plans to significantly increase slots over the next few years?

London is heavily constrained but we do have limited slot availability. And we are quite excited about the future as we are in the middle of a planning examination with the UK government for dual runway operations. Currently we can operate only one of our two runways at a time due to the short distance between them but with some changes (in runway alignment), we can meet the required standards...And if we get that decision, which is expected early next year, in our favour, we will be able to start adding more capacity and releasing additional slots from 2029. India has so far not really seen second airports for major cities, but soon we will have two—Navi Mumbai and Noida airports. In one (Navi Mumbai), the operator is the same as the larger city airport (Mumbai), while in case of the other (Noida), the operator is different from the larger airport (Delhi). According to you, what works better, collaboration or competition between airports serving common catchment areas?

If you look at what happened in the UK, the three largest airports used to all be operated by the same company. Then they split them up and are now run privately. I think by any measure, having done that, the outcome for the passenger is better as there is more competition. Competition is the key, isn't it? So, there is more competition between the airports, between the airlines that operate at each airport, and that ultimately means more destinations, more choice, and better prices for consumers. Going by the experience in London, the market we operate in, our general view would be that having separate ownership and operation of each airport would have good outcomes overall.



for the three months and one year ahead periods increased by 20 basis points (bps) and 10 bps, respectively to 9.2 per cent and 9.9 per cent, respectively. One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point. Their perception on current inflation, however, moderated by 10 bps and stood at 8 per cent, the latest round of the RBI's Households' Inflation Expectations showed. Higher share of respondents expected prices and inflation to rise for all major product groups over the next three months as well as one-year periods. At the aggregate level, female respondents had marginally lower inflation assessment and expectations than their male counterparts. The survey was conducted during May 2-11, 2024 in 19 major cities, with responses from 5,943 urban households. Female respondents accounted for 52.6 per cent of this sample, the RBI said.

Lupin recalls 51,000 bottles of generic antibiotic drug in US

New Delhi: Drug firm Lupin is recalling over 51,000 bottles of a generic antibiotic medication in the US market due to a "defective container", according to the American health regulator. The US-based arm of the drug maker is recalling 51,006 bottles of Cefdinir for Oral Suspension (250 mg/5 mL) due to "defective container: lack of seal integrity", US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) said in its latest Enforcement Report. Cefrine Oral Suspension is indicated for the treatment of a range of bacterial infections. The affected lot has been manufactured at

Lupin's Mandideep-based plant and marketed in the US by Baltimore-based Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc, it said.

The drug maker initiated the Class II nationwide (US) voluntary recall on May 8. As per the USFDA, a Class II recall is initiated in a situation in which the use of, or exposure to, a violative product may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences or where the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote.

Why eating ginger first thing in the morning can be a game-changer



The sunrise ignites a new day, and with it, our ingrained morning rituals. But what if there was a way to boost your routine? Ginger, a common addition to our morning kadak chai, offers a powerful path to enhanced energy and focus. Yes, you read that right, eating ginger on an empty stomach could be the secret ingredient your mornings have been missing!

Dr G Sushma, clinical dietician at CARE Hospitals Banjara Hills in Hyderabad says, "Consuming ginger on an empty stomach in the morning can potentially aid digestion, reduce nausea, improve blood circulation, and boost overall immunity. It also provides a natural energy boost to start the day." Ginger stimulates saliva production and bile secretion, which can help in breaking down food and improving overall digestion. It also has anti-inflammatory properties that may soothe the digestive tract and alleviate discomfort, she adds. Every day, social media introduces a plethora of new tips promoting a healthy lifestyle. Recently, an Instagram page highlighted the benefits of incorporating ginger into one's daily diet. "Do you want to lose that unhealthy and stubborn fat in a speedy and effective way?" the caption states. Dr Sushma explains that regular consumption of ginger on an empty

stomach may help in reducing inflammation, relieving gastrointestinal issues such as bloating and gas, enhancing nutrient absorption, and promoting weight loss. "Additionally, its antioxidant properties can support overall health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases."

Dr Mickey Mehta, pioneer of holistic health coach says, "Some research studies show that ginger may help regulate the emptying of the stomach, which could potentially help prevent conditions like acid reflux or heartburn."

While ginger is generally safe for most people, consuming it in excessive amounts on an empty stomach may lead to gastrointestinal discomfort such as heartburn, gas, or diarrhea, mentions Dr Sushma. She advises, "Individuals with gallstones or those on blood-thinning medications should exercise caution and consult with a healthcare professional before consuming ginger regularly." Dr Sushma adds that daily consumption of ginger on an empty stomach may provide relief from nausea, morning sickness (in pregnant women), menstrual cramps, arthritis pain, and migraine headaches. Its anti-inflammatory properties can also benefit individuals with conditions such as osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis. Dr Mehta concurs and adds, "Consuming it on an empty stomach ensures that the beneficial compounds in ginger are absorbed more efficiently."

Recommended dosage The optimal dosage of ginger, Dr Sushma says, can vary depending on individual tolerance and health condition. Fresh ginger, ginger tea, or ginger supplements can be consumed on an empty stomach. "It's generally recommended to start with small amounts (around 1 gram) and gradually increase as tolerated." When ginger is combined with ingredients like lemon, honey, turmeric, black pepper, it can increase the therapeutic effects, while creating delicious and healthy concoctions, Dr Mehta concludes.

Before the Olympics, the fabulous French fashion flex



GNS News Agency, June 13

At least this appears to be the case with the cruise (or resort or pre-spring or whatever you want to call them) destination extravaganzas that have taken place over the last month. These events increasingly serve to position the big five brands that hold them less as mere fashion houses and more as national ambassadors to the world: billion-euro avatars of influence on unofficial state visits. Once upon a time, back when this interstitial season was invented to bridge the gap between the fall and spring runway shows, cruise collections seemed to contain clothes that were more wearable or practical than designs shown during the regular seasons. Now, at least in the hands of the mega-brands, the clothes (or at least their wearability) are almost besides the point. The point is the spectacle, access and power they represent — of all kinds, including that of celebrity and social media. Indeed, the front-row stars are as much an attention-grabbing part of the shows as the shows themselves. This was especially true this season, as the shows of the five big heritage French brands — Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Hermès, Dior and Balenciaga — served as de facto calling cards for the Paris Olympics, which is being touted as the most "fashion" Olympics ever. It is no coincidence that two of those brands, Louis Vuitton and Dior, are owned by LVMH, which is a top-line sponsor of the Olympics. Nor is the fact that Bernard Arnault, the mastermind of LVMH, has explicitly stated that he sees his mega-brands not as selling luxury, but selling "culture." And it is worth noting that this was the first time Balenciaga had shown in China, and, for Hermès, the first new collection show held outside of France. "Hermès has always had a strong connection with New York," said the brand's designer Nadège Vanhee, before her New York debut, held on Pier 36 and complete with hanging yellow traffic lights and a Gallic cocktail boîte. "It's the same spirited woman: taking in the sounds and energy of the city," Vanhee went on, though her clothes looked more fitting for someone taking the city on, not just in; the slick black and caramel leathers telegraphed an active, rather than passive, vibe. The brand's signature scarf prints and fringe were still there, but the overall effect was more haute night crawler than equestrian, down to the leather paperboy caps. And more alluring for it. Fashion, as much as anything, has been part of France's patrimony and identity in the world. These shows simply expand the territory. On the rooftop of the Le Corbusier-designed MAMO, in front of Kristen Stewart, Tessa Thompson, and Lily-Rose Depp (among others), designer Virginie Viard offered up a parade of athChaneleisure: long-line boucle jackets over bike shorts, tweed hoodie skirt suits and little cocktail frocks with double C-branded plackets. There was even a pair of evening sweats. If the combination of sports and brand semiology was awkward rather than inspiring, at least the lacy takes on tank top dressing were cool. And the setting was spectacular, even viewed remotely via livestream — which is how this critic watched since New York Times reporters do not accept free trips (most of the media that attends, including the celebrities and some Very Important Clients, do so as "guests" of the house). Indeed, it was more memorable than the clothes — per-

haps a harbinger of the fact that a few weeks after the show Viard announced she would be leaving the brand. Next up was Vuitton, where designer Nicolas Ghesquière continued his pursuit of time-traveling architectural grandeur in the multi-columned Hypostyle Room of Antoni Gaudí's Park Güell in Barcelona and in front of Sophie Turner, Cynthia Erivo and the Haim sisters. There, under a ceiling of mosaic domes, he sent out a parade of wardrobe building blocks with just as much structure. The triangular 1980s jackets with jutting shoulders, and precisely angled gaucho hats were weirdly galactic, while the puffed balls of evening taffetas had go-go-decade references in their swirls. Then came Balenciaga, at the Jean Nouvel-designed Museum of Art Pudong in Shanghai, where the city's jutting skyline served as both a backdrop and a starting point for the equally towering boots that went down the runway. They were stacked on 18-centimeter soles and made in the shape of skyscrapers, their height allowing for elongated floor-sweeping trench coats. And that was just the start of the meme-baiting, which continued through trench and puffer coat bags (literally slung over the shoulder) and more duck-billed sneakers. For a brand that has made a signature out of combining show and social commentary, the statement felt less like food for thought than fodder for social media. It was also a distraction from the power player pussy-bow darts silks, fit for an ironic Margaret Thatcher, and the even smarter evening gowns made in upcycled materials. See, for example, one strapless white look made from Tyvek, a strapless sheath crafted in gold foil, and a cotton-candy-pink cocoon dress adorned with what looked like feathers (but turned out to be strips of pink plastic garbage bags). In a country where luxury is a subject of increasing tension, it was a canny representation of mood. As the artistic director of Dior womenswear, Maria Grazia Chiuri, said before her show, held in the elaborate gardens of Drummond Castle in Perthshire, Scotland: "I think it is very important to explain that fashion is not only a brand; that fashion is a territory where we are speaking about many different aspects that are political, economical, cultural." Hence her decision to devote her cruise collections to both highlighting the global history of Dior and marrying it to local artisanship. This time, the focus was on a 1955 collection that Christian Dior showed at Gleneagles, as well as on the history of Mary, Queen of Scots, and her passion for embroidery and its semiology. Throw in the work of Scottish specialists Harris Tweed; Johnstons of Elgin, the knitwear company; and an independent brand called Le Kilt founded by 30-something Samantha McCoach in 2014 to make kilts contemporary, and you get clan Dior. The result positions Dior as a tastemaker, bestowing its seal of approval and aura of chic onto others, and gives the collections a reason for existing in a world that can often seem crammed with too much stuff. Chiuri's interpretation of local aesthetics can be eye-rufflingly banal — Scotland! Tartan! Bagpipes! Argyles! — but it also reflects the curiosity of an outsider. Sometimes that combination works very well, as it did with the softened New Look silhouettes crafted from purple and black tartan shawls and the chain mail evening gowns; sometimes less well, Google maps dot pointing to the show's location.

When Salman Khan cycled past Shah Rukh Khan's Mannat and yelled his name.



Unless you have been living under a rock, you must be aware of Bollywood icon Salman Khan's love for cycling. He has often been spotted cycling around Mumbai, and his love for the activity is well-documented with his frequent outings garnering media attention, showcasing his dedication to maintaining his health and fitness through this eco-friendly mode of transportation.

Back in 2017, Salman shared a video on his Instagram handle where he was seen enjoying a cycle ride and the pleasant weather in Mumbai. While the Bajrangji Bhajjan actor was riding through Bandra, his security team followed him in cars and bikes. The video, which went viral on social media, showed Salman cycling past his close friend Shah Rukh Khan's residence,

Mannat, and calling out his name, "Shah Rukh Khan," much to the delight of onlookers. Fans were thrilled to catch a glimpse of the Dabangg star, who waved back when they called out to him. The highlight of the video, however, was Salman shouting Shah Rukh Khan's name outside Mannat, followed by his mischievous smile.

Salman had previously launched a collection of cycles under his Being Human brand, and in the video, he was using one of these cycles. Salman was once also joined by Shah Rukh and his eldest son Aryan. Salman and Shah Rukh have appeared together in films like Karan Arjun, Hum Tumhare Hai Sanam, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (in which Salman had a special appearance) and Pathaan.

Farida Jalal reveals Anil Kapoor had an issue with her playing his mother in Laadla, felt she was 'too young': 'He would ask to cut the shot'

Veteran actor Farida Jalal has, over the years, portrayed some iconic roles. After winning hearts with her performance as Taha Shah Badussha's grandmother in Heeramandi, the actor recently shared that she started getting mother roles at a very young age. In an interview with India Today, Jalal spoke about how, when she made her comeback with Heena, she had played Rishi Kapoor's mother and during Laadla, Anil Kapoor felt she was too young to play his mom.

Jalal said, "When I was doing Laadla, Anil would stop the shot in between... he is such a sweetheart, he would say 'mother wali feeling hi nahi aa rahi hai yaar' (I cannot feel her as a mother). He would cut the shot saying it was all going wrong, there was this song 'Teri Ungli Pakad Kar Chala', and he would ask to cut the shot and say, she is too young."

When she was asked why she chose to play a mother on screen at such a young age, she added, "It was offered to me. Heera, which was my comeback film after eight years, had Rishi Kapoor. I was opposite him in Bobby. I might have been older than him by two or five years, but I played his mother in Heera. We would be laughing about this on sets."

Jalal also added, "One thing Raza Murad told me



on the sets of Heera was, 'Faridaji, you are coming back after 8-9 years. So, don't think now you will get any sister roles to do. Think of it as now you are going to be put into the mother or bhabhi kind of roles.' I said, 'of course,' I just wanted to act. I am not disappointed at all."

Jalal has played a mother to Shah Rukh Khan in Kuch Kuch Hota Hai and to Kajol in Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jaaenge. In Judaai she played Sridevi's mother, while in Chori Chori Chupke Chupke she was Salman Khan's on-screen mom. Her recent role as Qudsiya Begum in Heeramandi has been quite loved by the audience.

Kartik Aaryan breaks silence on fallout with Karan Johar over his exit from Dostana 2: 'Jab bhi aise koi khabar aati hai...'

Kartik Aaryan, alongside Janhvi Kapoor and Laksh Lalwani, was supposed to play the lead role in Dostana 2 bankrolled by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. (Indian Film Festival of Melbourne)Kartik Aaryan, alongside Janhvi Kapoor and Laksh Lalwani, was supposed to play the lead role in Dostana 2 bankrolled by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.

It all began in 2021, while the much-anticipated Dostana 2 was hyped to be another blockbuster from Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. Announced with Kartik Aaryan, Janhvi Kapoor, and Laksh Lalwani playing the lead roles, fans were eagerly awaiting updates on the film's release date. However, it was not to be. In a shocking turn of events, the production house announced that the star cast would be reconsidered, leading to speculation of a fallout between Karan and Kartik. The statement about recasting for Dostana 2 was shared by Dharma Productions on April 16, 2021. It read, "Due to professional circumstances, on which we have decided to maintain dignified silence - we will be recasting Dostana 2, directed by Collin D'Cunha. Please wait for the official announcement soon (sic)." It was reported that Kartik walked out of the film due to creative differences. The Shehzada actor, who is gearing up for the release of Chandu Champion, recently addressed the rumours without divulging much about his alleged "fallout" with Karan and the said campaign against him being run in Bollywood.

"Dekhiye, woh boht purani baat ho gayi. Kai bar bahut miscommunication hota hai aur kai bar bahot cheezein out of proportion bhi chali jati hai aur specifically jab woh likha jata hai to woh sound kuch aur karta hai." (This news is quite stale now. Many a time, there is miscommunication or something is blown out of proportion especially when something is written and it sounds completely different)," Kartik told The Lallantop.

Kartik, who has been tight-lipped about him being dropped from the film's sequel and his rift with Karan, said he only wants to focus on his work. "Main tab bhi silent tha and ab bhi silent hoon un baaton pe. Main bas 100 pratishat kam karta hain, lekin jab bhi aise koi khabar aati hai ya koi controversy aa jati hai to main apne shell mein rehta hain, main shant rehta hain. Main un cheezon mein zyada ghusta hoon, aur naa kuch prove karne se mujhe kuch milta hai." (I was silent when the news came about and I choose to stay silent even now. I am 100% focused on my work and when controversies of such na-



ture happen, I stay calm about them. I don't get involved a lot in them and I don't have to prove anything to anyone by getting involved). Despite the speculation surrounding the Sonu Ke Tittu Ki Sweety actor's exit from Dostana 2, the actor has maintained a level-headed approach, keeping his focus squarely on his work. "I just focus on my work," Kartik stated in an interview with The Indian Express, choosing to steer clear of the controversy. "What happens, at times, is people make baat ka batangad (make a mountain out of a molehill). There is nothing more to it. No one has so much time. Everybody just wants to work, and do good work. Other than that, things are just rumours."

Speaking at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023, Karan, on the other hand, praised the actor's contribution to cinema, saying, "Kartik's films have deeply resonated with the country and have always brought so much fervour back to the cinema halls. More power to him. May his contribution to cinema always continue. Well done, Kartik." According to a report published in India Today, Karan and Kartik have collaborated on a new project. It will be directed by Sandeep Modi. The untitled film will release in theatres on August 15, 2025. In an earlier interview with The Lallantop, when Janhvi was asked why Dostana 2 was not being made anymore, she shared, "I don't know really. We had even shot for that film for about 30 to 35 days. The shoot was going very well, according to me. I don't know why the film was shelved honestly. Of course, I tried asking also, but I guess (it was because) we began shooting for that film long before Covid. And then Covid happened and essentially there was a one-and-a-half years delay. Then people felt that to restart the film... I don't know."

Ranveer Singh hails Deepika Padukone as a 'stunner' in new Kalki 2898 AD poster; fans say, 'mother is coming'

A day after sharing Amitabh Bachchan's poster from their highly anticipated film Kalki 2898 AD, the makers have unveiled a new poster featuring Deepika Padukone. Alongside the Padmaavat actor, the Nag Ashwin directorial boasts a star-studded cast comprising Prabhas, Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, and Disha Patani, among others.

The new poster depicts Deepika dressed in a black jute-like attire, sporting messy hair and a tense expression. In the caption, the actor hinted at her character, writing, "The hope begins with her. #Kalki2898AD." The makers also announced that the film's trailer will be released on June 10.

Deepika's husband and actor Ranveer Singh was quick to laud her look in the comments section. He wrote, "Boom. Stunner."



Fans also joined Ranveer in praising Deepika. A fan wrote, "Absolute mother." One more fan wrote, "Mother Deepika Padukone is coming." Previously, her fans were given a fleeting glimpse of Deepika's character when the makers unveiled the film's first look at San Diego Comic-Con last

year. In the glimpse, Deepika's character appears as a recruit in the army, entangled in emotional turmoil.

In an interview with Screen Rant Plus, Prabhas shared his experience of working with Deepika Padukone, praising her as "the biggest superstar" and "the most beautiful lady." He

said, "She's the biggest superstar, the most beautiful lady and she's already famous globally. I think she's doing Louis Vuitton, TAM AdEX and the biggest international commercials. So, she's just vibrant when she comes into the set, and I always loved her. I wanted to work with her, this is the first time I'm working with her, so yeah."

Farida Jalal says female actors like her never got the roles they desired: 'Anupam Kher, Amrish Puri and Om Puri got to be more than just father figures, but us...'

Veteran actor Farida Jalal recently took a trip down memory lane, looking back at her journey in Bollywood. While she spoke about the kinds of roles she wanted to play but never received, she also pointed out that many other female actors of her era suffered the fate of being typecast. Yet, today Jalal has no regrets, feels that she has gotten her fill, and is happy to see current actors getting the opportunities they didn't decades ago.

Talking about how her male contemporaries had more scope to perform, even in character roles, back in the day, Jalal told India Today, "My male counterparts like Anupam Kher, Amrish Puri and Om Puri, who have acted opposite me, got to be the comedian and villain, besides just being the father figures. We, as female actors, were never given that, I am damned to it. People say I am very good with my dialogue delivery, voice, etc. But where have they used it? Just to say 'beta kaise ho?' I might be dying to show them that, but who is giving me the chance? Not just me, but so many character artistes like me have been slotted."

She continued, "We are dying to show that side of us to the people, but should I produce a film myself to do a role I want to? Even if you become a producer and do that, then you are ridiculed and laughed at. So I would never do that." Jalal also shared that she feels happy seeing OTT platforms giving such opportunities to female actors today. "Today, when I see OTT, there have been



Talking about how her male contemporaries had more scope to perform, even in character roles, back in the day, Jalal told ,

so many actors who have not been slotted into just playing mother's roles; they get to do so many things now," she observed. Farida Jalal's last outing was on the OTT space in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi. She played the role of Taha Shah's grandmother in the series.

Sonam Kapoor receives adorable gift from husband Anand Ahuja on her birthday: 'I don't know what I did to deserve you'



what I did to deserve you." In another story, the actor can be seen posing for the cameras as she opens the book and offers a glimpse of the first few pages.

Sonam Kapoor, sonam kapoor birthday, sonam kapoor age, sonam kapoor Ahuja, sonam kapoor husband, anand Ahuja, sonam kapoor and anand Ahuja, bollywood Anand Ahuja gifted one of the most loved books, Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali to his loving wife Sonam Kapoor on her birthday. (Image: Anand Ahuja/Instagram)

Sonam and Anand tied the knot on May 8, 2018, in a traditional Anand Karaj ceremony. In March 2022, the couple announced that they were expecting their first child together. In 2022, after their son was born, Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja revealed his name as Vayu on Instagram. They also asked for blessings for their new family member. On the work front, Sonam was last seen in the 2023 crime thriller film Blind. She is gearing up to start shooting for her next movie, Battle for Bittora, later this year.

The Neerja actor took to her Instagram stories to drop a picture of the special gift that she received from her loving husband. Anand gifted one of the most loved books, Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali to his loving wife Sonam.

Actor Sonam Kapoor on Sunday took to her Instagram stories to drop a picture of the special gift that she received from her loving husband Anand Ahuja. Actor Sonam Kapoor celebrated her 39th birthday on Sunday and her husband Anand Ahuja gave her an adorable gift.

who is celebrating her 39th birthday today gave a sneak peek into the special gift she received from husband Anand Ahuja and her intimate birthday celebrations.

The Neerja actor on Sunday took to her Instagram stories to drop a picture of the special gift that she received from her

loving husband. Anand gifted one of the most loved books, Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali to his loving wife Sonam. Sharing the picture of the book on her Stories, she added a caption that read, "Birthday present by my amazing husband... first edition Gitanjali by Tagore translated in English. Thank you @anandahuja I don't know

Shoaib Akhtar's plea for Pakistan team, 'Mulak ke liye khelna, not for individual records or personal milestones'



GNS News Agency, June 13

IND vs PAK: Ahead of the much-awaited India vs Pakistan clash at the T20 World Cup in New York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, Pakistan cricket legend Shoaib Akhtar has issued a plea for the Pakistan team to put their country over their own personal interests. Pakistan come into the IND vs PAK clash after suffering a defeat at the hands of Team USA in their opening encounter. USA dragged Pakistan into a Super Over, where they prevailed by five runs.

"Guys, Pakistan team ke liye khelna. Tumhein khuda ka wasta hai. Apne liye nahi, mulak ke liye khelna hai. Play out of your skins and in the game, don't play for personal milestones. Fans don't remember personal mile-

stones. They remember the six that Javed Miandad hit (on the last ball against Indian cricket team). They remember the wicket I took at Kolkata or the 2009 World Cup or the Champions Trophy. But if you win Pakistan a match, that's what fans will remember over personal milestones. Today, play for each other. Play for Pakistan. Play for Pakistan's morale. All of Pakistan is looking at you. You've burnt your bridges, not you have to swim out of this whole mess. We're with you," Akhtar said in a video he posted on his social media handle while he was on his way to the studio to record a pre-match show. In the IND vs PAK clash on Sunday, Rohit Sharma-led Indian cricket team will be hoping to capitalise on Babar Azam and his team's stumble against USA in their opening clash.

The marquee IND vs PAK game in New York between the Asian arch-rivals is expected to draw the biggest crowd of the tournament so far and will be held at the newly constructed 34,000-seater Nassau County International Cricket Stadium at the Eisenhower Park on the outskirts of New York city. Pakistan captain Babar Azam has also been under fire after he played 43 deliveries for his 44 runs against USA. He will be expected to play much faster in the IND vs PAK game. India and Pakistan have played each other 12 times in T20Is, with India winning eight matches (not including the tied match that India won by a bowl out) and Pakistan tasting victory in only three games.

India's Olympic-bound shuttlers can simulate court conditions, but can they recreate nerve-shredding pressure of 19-19 in a decider?

GNS News Agency, June 13

India's Olympic-bound shooters and archers are attempting to recreate the field-of-play from the Paris Games, in order to be best prepared for the quadrennial. Just how accurately they can mimic the lighting and background texture of the targets on the shooting range, or whip up similar windy or rainy and fading light conditions that routinely thwart India's medal attempts in archery, will be known when the medals fetch up. But the effort cannot be faulted. Can badminton manage the perfect simulation? It is believed, though China doesn't sing and dance about it much, that their resurgence in women's singles at the Olympics when Chen Yufei won gold in Tokyo, came on the back of pin-point dry runs in the leadup. They recreated at their Chinese training base, the entire travel journey in shuttle buses through post-pandemic Olympic streets of Tokyo, after calculating the exact time it would take to go from the athlete's accommodation to the arena. They had a fair idea of the architecture of the venue – entrance, warmup areas, anti-doping control zones, etc. how the court drift would play out due to air-conditioning, and most decisively how a particular type of shuttle (slow or fast or semi of a specific brand), would play out in that specific arena.

It helped that Tokyo had no crowds, taking out immediately the one variable of noise decibel and air-moisture levels that can affect how a court plays in what an amateur would assume is a controlled, indoor atmosphere. Eiffel Tower or cherry blossoms outside, inside it's just a darkened hall with spotlights on the courts, right? Wrong.

Chen Yufei is a mighty efficient player, with plenty of brains and a solid game. But you can't discount that Chinese background preparation contributed that fraction extra to her beating Tai Tzu Ying in the final. PV Sindhu took down the other Chinese He Bingjiao after landing in Tokyo, reportedly after somewhat similar simulations in Hyderabad at Gachibowli stadium, and won bronze too. But she would rue the missed final opportunity when at her best physically, her game completely collapsed against Tai Tzu Ying in the semifinals. It's the robust game that counts foremost, before the atmospheric and accessories chip in with their effects on a sporting contest.

So headed to another Olympics chasing a historic third medal, Sindhu's decision on her lead-up to Paris, will need to be viewed from that lens. Saarbrücken in Germany, with its limited badminton credentials though similar acclimatization as Paris, offers her the mental peace and privacy to train without constant distractions. But assuming her team takes adequate care of keeping her fit while away from being monitored, her preparation will need that levelling up of tactics which are far more crucial for Coach Agus and Sindhu than assorted simulations.

A bunch of juniors, Neer Nehwal, Prajwal Sonawane and Manish Phogat are slated to travel to Germany for Sindhu's month-long stint, while two canny coaches in Sagar Chopra and Thilak will take turns in interactive sparring and tweaking of her techniques. Prakash Padukone is expected to join in the last 10 days of her German preparation, and those will be crucial to sort out Sindhu's most persistent problem – her shot selection and decision-making at the endgame. Women's singles game also throws up unique game styles and Sindhu has recurring problems against lefties. Tournaments in the run-up haven't looked too promising in addressing that issue, but Sindhu is known to turn up at Olympics and get the job done. The gap with the elite field has increased, and she will need more than simulations or solitude to pull it off this time.

Lakshya Sen meanwhile will train with the French Popov brothers at their facility in France. He hopes to get an idea of how the Paris main courts would play in his 10 day soft landing for his first Olympics. The two courts he rents out are expected to be similar to how shuttles will fly in the Games hall, and Ayush Shetty and Chirag Sen will help with sparring. But though tipped to be a big occasion player, Sen too has much work to do in how to close out matches against the top players. Simulating conditions will certainly help Sen because getting the length right on his shots is pivotal for him to get going. He has consistently made quarters in the last few months, but all the top players know they can pin him to the backcourt and wear him down from there. A Plan B has to be formu-

lated, but in Sen's case the Plan A especially when Axelsen, Antonsen or Kunlavut patiently wait out his defensive exuberance and amp up attacks suddenly, needs firming up too. HS Prannoy will stay put at Hyderabad and benefit from having the combined cerebral might of previous Olympians, now his coaches, as well as the best sparring available. Like Sindhu in her prime, not so much in recent times, Prannoy was never fussed over conditions and adapted to them intelligently, with even mid-match adjustments. His challenge is to stay physically intact, and train in familiar environs, surrounded by the likes of Gopichand, Kashyap, Guru Saidu and hopefully Srikanth, as well as doubles pros, who constantly help him in the creative enhancement of his game with tweaked and tasered strokes. Prannoy can take on high intensity sessions, but his recovery and endurance for possible later, medal-rounds remains his challenge. It's where the younger Sen is tireless.

For India's brightest medal hopes, Satwik-Chirag, the yearly simulation for Paris has been winning the titles there, or going down trying at least. Camping in Denmark ahead of their doomed World Championships campaign of 2023, wasn't the smartest idea. The grandest challenge for their team will be in lining up sparring players who can simulate the brilliant whacko serves of a Bagas Maulana or a Liang Weikeng, though Mathias Boe can stand there whole day and mimic all the magnificent oddballs his wards might encounter. Him and his frenzied avatar can simulate all aural, visual, technical probabilities, contrive the problems and bark out the solutions, even as the national training centre chips in with out-of-the-box ideas. Olympic halls tend to be long and grand with shuttles leaning towards the slow, though Paris could throw up a surprise or two. Simulations are all well, as long as the game itself is well rounded and adaptive, ready for the eccentricities of the big occasion. The aesthetic can be recreated. But can the adrenaline of an endgame contest poised at 19-19 in the third?

India fans send fun message to Shaheen Afridi ahead of high-voltage clash

New York: Team India fans have sent a fun message to Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi ahead of the high-voltage clash between both sides in the ongoing T20 World Cup in New York on Sunday. Nerves are a constant factor when two of the oldest cricket rivals appear on the same field. Emotions run high, adrenaline rush kicks in and tension starts to escalate through the roof – all of these are easily visible during the India-Pakistan clash. Fans usually spend time debating about the better side and better players. But in a video that recently went viral on social media, India fans had a fun banter with Pakistan ace Shaheen. They joked that Shaheen should consider India's stalwart duo of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma as his friends. "Rohit ko aur Virat ko apne acche dost samjho," a fan was heard saying. In the past, Shaheen has caused trouble for India batters with his left-arm in-swinging deliveries. A fan wanted Shaheen to bowl below his standards and jokingly said, "Kacchi bowling nahi karni hai. India and Pakistan will step into New York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium to add a new chapter to their historic rivalry.

Hockey 2-3 loss to Germany: Individual errors and lack of accuracy in final third keep holding India back in Olympic lead-up



GNS News Agency, June 13

Craig Fulton expected a strong Germany outfit, resembling something close to their Olympic squad. He got one. But if the India coach hoped his players would raise their game and match the world champions, he didn't get that. Fulton's India, throughout this tour, have shown sparks of brilliance. But in the true schizophrenic nature of this Indian hockey team, they also seem to fuse out during key moments. Saturday wasn't different.

Continuing their irresistible-occasionally-frustrating-sometimes run of form, India were outplayed in the first and third quarters but in the second and fourth, they took the fight to Germany with high, aggressive pressing. Individual errors and lack of quality in the final third, however, meant they succumbed a 3-2 loss in the FIH Pro League in London. There were many different things Fulton tried on Saturday compared to the previous weekend, when they beat Germany and lost to Britain the following day. In the goal, Krishan Pathak played a rare full match with PR Sreejesh restricted to the bench. In the midfield, Raj Kumar Pal and Vivek Sagar Prasad made

way for Shamsher Singh and Raheel Mohammad while up front, Abhishek – one of the standout players on this tour – was dropped, with Lalit Upadhyay getting a chance.

The experimenting didn't stop there. Defender Jarmanpreet Singh wasn't used for the entire first half and at times, it felt like Fulton was simulating different scenarios for the Paris Olympics. When asked about this in the half-time interview, the South African simply replied: "(It's a) top secret." What isn't top secret, however, is India's tendency to make mistakes. For all the improvements they've made of late, including the goal-scorers finding their touch, India have been guilty of making one too many errors, which overshadow all their other hard work.

On Saturday, two such mistakes led to Germany scoring goals. The first was from Pathak who let a feeble Gonzalo Peillat drag-flick pass from in-between his legs. It was a soft goal to concede, especially given the race between him and Sreejesh for the lone goalkeeping spot in the 16-member team for the Olympics. Pathak recovered and stood his ground rest of the match. What would worry India is the mistakes piling up in the outfield, especially in their own half. In the 10th minute, a pass aimed for Hardik Singh was intercepted by a German player who launched a speedy counterattack, which was finished in style by Christopher Ruhr. These two mistakes eventually were the difference. Germany added a third in the 33rd minute, with another Peillat drag-flick, and India cut the deficit with goals from Harmanpreet Singh and Sukhjeet Singh. They had a very good chance to equalise in the final seconds but missed out. Jarmanpreet, who came on only in the second half, had the ball at his stick and had to simply lob it over the German goalkeeper, who had committed himself and was out of position. Instead, he ended up hitting the goalpost.

Iga Swiatek becomes first woman since Justine Henin to win three straight French Open crowns with brutal shot-making

GNS News Agency, June 13

Clay can be the most fickle surface in tennis, especially the kind at the French Open in Paris. The mix of crushed stone and red brick must be kept smooth and dry but also watered and moistened. Conditions, constantly changing due to the unpredictable weather, drastically alter outcomes. Its impracticality feels obvious when a classic slow-burning baseline contest becomes a heavy-hitting power duel when the roof closes due to intermittent rain. The ball can come slow and high under the dry heat, and heavy as the wind rolls in. Mastery of clay-court tennis, rare as it may be due to its many peculiarities, has always prompted fascination. Rafael Nadal's run of sustained success may have permanently changed perceptions regarding this surface, but on the women's tour, Chris Evert remains above all. Her run of 7 French Open titles – which began half a century ago – is unmatched (she also only lost once before the semifinal in her entire career in Paris). Steffi Graf came close during her run of dominance, Monica Seles showed bursts of it before tragedy struck, and Justine Henin went on a run at the start of this century.

Iga Swiatek, the 23-year-old World No. 1 from Poland, defeated Italian 12th seed Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 6-1 to lift a third consecutive French Open singles title – her fourth in five years. It was her fifth Grand Slam singles title. In open era women's tennis, only Evert and Graf (6) have won more Roland Garros titles than her, and she becomes the first woman since Henin in 2007 to triumph thrice in a row in Paris. She also became the only woman apart from Serena Williams to do the Madrid-Rome-Paris triple – winning all three of the most important clay court events on the calendar in the same year. Swiatek has earned her place in the esteemed company. Monday kicks off her 107th week as the top-ranked women's player, putting her ninth on the all-time list. While there is room for improvement in some facets of her game, and she may need to prove herself at Majors on all surfaces, little doubt remains that she has set the modern-day standard for excelling on the red dirt. Sunday's straight-sets scoreline may be harsh on Paolini, a late bloomer making her breakthrough at 28. The Italian has been surging in the rankings this year after winning a first Masters 1000 title in Doha and even causing a major upset by downing World No. 3 Elena Rybakina in the quarterfinal in Paris. She came out bravely and fashioned an early lead with a break of serve, but after Swiatek shed some early nerves, it was one way traffic. The Pole won 11 of the final 12 games, bringing her big return and forehand to the fore and dominating. Paolini was an equal participant in some exchanges, but Swiatek did what she has done to many others, using her



brutal shotmaking to not only take control of the rallies but also take out her opponent's legs. The long exchanges were often followed by easy points won by Swiatek's 1-2 shot crunches.

Even as the crowd willed Paolini on in search of a more even contest, and as she pushed herself to enjoy the occasion, the gulf in class was apparent as Swiatek stepped up in the second set to take total control and come away with the win. "I love this place, I wait every year to come back," she said on court after her near-flawless performance, without a trace of cliché. All weapons on clay. Daughter of an Olympic rower, the 22-year-old enjoys a natural athleticism that makes her a threat on clay. She has sharp, angled, at times devastating returns on a surface that reduces the zip on serves. Her spin-laden forehand, inspired by her idol Nadal, does plenty of damage. Her side-to-side lunges allow her to turn defence into attack. But despite the technique and physicality, it's her appetite to fight, an attribute that is rewarded more on this surface than any other, that she can so readily rely on. Sunday's steamroller was not where Swiatek won this title. Go back a week to her peculiar second round tie against four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka. Osaka, plotting a post-pregnancy comeback, outhit and outplayed Swiatek for the entirety of that contest but Swiatek did not lose focus, raising her game at the right moments and escaping with a win after saving match point. She did not lose a single set on her march to the trophy from there. "I was almost out of this tournament in the second round. I needed to believe this is going to be possible, so it has been a really emotional tournament for sure," she would say after the final. Perhaps Paolini will take solace in the fact that so many players have been well beaten in this situation. Perhaps if she returns to this stage, she will come with clever tactics and more brave hitting. Perhaps she may even down this champion from her perch. But at present, in Swiatek's dominion of clay, it seems like nobody can.

India to take on arch-rival Pakistan in marquee clash

GNS News Agency, June 13

New York: India captain Rohit Sharma lavished praise on Virat Kohli and has asked his team to step up for their marquee clash against their arch-rival Pakistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup. Enthusiasm among fans is at a high as they prepare to witness one of the oldest rivalries appear on the same field after almost eight months. India and Pakistan will step into New York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium to add a new chapter to their historic rivalry.

In the previous edition of the tournament, India needed magic from Kohli's bat to seal a thrilling win at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground in 2022. This time, Rohit doesn't want to rely on individual brilliance and wants the entire team to step up and contribute to the game. "I don't want to rely on one or two individuals to win us the game. I think all 11 of us need to contribute. Of course, there are key players who are going to play key roles for us but I think everyone needs to chip in whatever

they can, however they can in their best possible way," he said in the pre-match press conference. India have had a fair share of experience playing at Nassau County. The Rohit-led side pulled off a dominant win against Bangladesh in the warm-up game. The Men in Blue went on to put a clinical performance in their campaign opener against Ireland. Stalwart batter Kohli missed the warm-up game and scored just a run in five deliveries while opening alongside Rohit. Rohit feels Kohli has enough training to perform and possesses experience which can't be beaten by anything. "[Virat] didn't play the Bangladesh [warm-up] game but he's had enough training under his belt before this game...the kind of experience that he has, playing all over the world, playing in big tournaments, nothing can beat that," Rohit added. India T20 WC squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj.