

INDIAN CHRONICLE

19 June, 2024 | Wednesday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:110

Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

Tomato turns red hot again, prices cross Rs. 100 a kg across Telangana

Medak/Mancherial/Khammam: Tomatoes are turning red hot once again. Prices of the fruit, which saw some farmers turning crorepatists last year in June-July, are beginning to shoot through the roof again, with a kilo of tomato being sold at Rs.100 in Zaheerabad on Monday. The price in erstwhile Karimnagar is almost on the same lines, while that in Khammam is inching towards Rs.100, with a kilo of tomato now being sold at Rs.80 on Sunday. It is not just tomatoes, but prices of other vegetables, including onions and of essential commodities are on the rise across the State.

Sabitha Indra Reddy and Satyavathi Rathode meets BRS MLC Kavitha in Tihar Jail



GNS News Agency, June 18

Former Ministers Sabitha Indra Reddy and Satyavathi Rathode met BRS MLC Kavitha who is currently imprisoned in Tihar Jail in connection with the Delhi Liquor Scam. The two ministers traveled to Delhi to meet Kavitha in jail and offer their support.

It has also come to light that BRS working president, KTR, and other family members including KCR have been in regular contact with Kavitha. They have been talking to her on the phone and Kavitha's husband Anil visits her in jail twice a week. Additionally, it is reported that the family members have been engaging in daily phone calls with Kavitha. Kavitha has been in Tihar Jail for the past 80 days since her arrest by ED officials on March 15 in the Delhi Liquor Policy money laundering case. After 10 days in ED custody, she was remanded to judicial custody by Delhi's Rouse Avenue court on March 26. The court has since extended Kavitha's judicial custody multiple times, with the latest extension being for a further 14 days.

2BHK houses ready for allocation to beneficiaries

GNS News Agency, June 18

Mahbubnagar: District Collector B Vijayendra Boi conducted an inspection of the newly constructed double bedroom housing colony at Maulali Gutta in Mahbubnagar town on Monday. The colony, which has 672 double bedroom houses, is part of a major housing initiative aimed at providing quality living spaces for the residents. The District Collector reviewed the 28 blocks of G+2 structures, which were built by the Engineering Department of the Housing Department. Each block consists of 24 houses, with eight double bedrooms per floor. The construction project was divided into two phases, with 588 houses completed in the first phase and an additional 84 in the second, totaling 672 houses.

During the inspection, the District Collector was briefed by the Executive Engineer of the Housing Construction Department, Bhaskar, and AE Vijay Kumar. They provided detailed information on the construction progress and the allocation of houses. Of the 672 houses, 588 have been allocated to beneficiaries, with handover procedures pending. Housing Construction Executive Engineer Vidyam Bhaskar also apprised the Collector that proposals amounting to Rs. 7.8527 crore have been submitted to the government for the sanctioning of essential infrastructure facilities in the colony. This includes Rs. 69.30 for setting up poles, power lines, and a transformer for electricity supply, Rs. 1.7618 crore for the supply of drinking water, Rs. 53.69 lakh for sewerage systems, and Rs. 4.8610 crore for internal roads. The district Collector instructed the officials to immediately expedite all the pending works of the double bed room houses and ensure that they are completed on time. These inspections by the collector are also regarded as significant as there are many allegations that under earlier BRS government rule there were many misappropriations and violations of rules were observed by certain district officials in the allocation of double bedroom houses to ineligible persons.

More than 200 stranded tourists evacuated from Sikkim's Lachung

GNS News Agency, June 18

Gangtok: More than 200 tourists have been evacuated while around 1,000 are still stranded in Lachung in Sikkim's landslide-hit Mangan district, a senior police officer said on Tuesday. The tourists were evacuated via Chungthang and taken to Mangan town from where the vehicles have been arranged by the Transport department to take them to Gangtok, Superintendent of Police (SP) Sonam Detchu Bhutia said. Around 150 stranded tourists were evacuated on Tuesday while 64 were evacuated on Monday from North Sikkim's Lachung and moved to Mangan town, officials said. The district administration along with Border Roads Organisation (BRO), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and other volunteers are taking the stranded tourists to safer grounds, he said. More tourists are likely to be evacuated and moved to safer places as the day progresses, he said. The district administration had to set up log bridges over the slides to facilitate movement by foot and by vehicles where roads were motorable, he said.

BRS Student wing protests against NEET paper leak at Raj Bhavan

Hyderabad: Students of the BRS Vidyarthi (BRSV) wing staged a protest at Raj Bhavan on Tuesday demanding cancellation of the NEET exam in the wake of alleged question paper leak. They voiced their discontent over the Centre's handling of the issue.

A large number of BRSV members arrived at Raj Bhavan and attempted to scale its gates. However, the police foiled their plans and detained the protesters who were shifted to SR Nagar police station.

PM Modi's 1st Varanasi visit today after Lok Sabha poll victory, to release Rs 20,000 crore under PM-KISAN scheme

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, June 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Varanasi on Tuesday will release the 17th installment of the PM-KISAN scheme, in which more than 9.26 crore farmers will receive the benefits amounting to over Rs 20,000 crore. The Prime Minister will also distribute the certificates to more than 30,000 self-help groups trained as Krishi Sakhis to work as para extension workers. The event is being organised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in coordination with the Uttar Pradesh government. After assuming office for the third term, PM Modi authorised the release of the 17th installment of the PM Kisan Nidhi, which aims to benefit 9.3 crore farmers and distribute around Rs 20,000 crore.

PM-KISAN scheme was launched in 2019, to supplement the financial needs of all land-holding farmers subject to certain exclusion criteria of higher income status. Till

now over Rs 3.04 lakh crores has been disbursed to more than 11 crore farmers across the nation and with this release, the total amount transferred to the beneficiaries since the inception of the scheme will cross well over Rs 3.24 lakh crores. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that around 2.5 crore farmers will join the event across the country. Additionally, 732 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), over 1 lakh Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, and 5 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) from across the country will also participate in the event to raise awareness among farmers. Several Union Ministers will also be visiting 50 KVKs to interact with farmers and raise awareness about the various schemes of the Department. They will also distribute certificates to the trained Krishi Sakhis of the area, he added. Later, in the day around 7 pm, PM Modi will also witness the Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat. At around 8 pm, he will perform puja and darshan at Kashi Vishwanath temple.



'Even if there is 0.001% negligence, it should be dealt with': Supreme Court tells NTA over NEET row



New Delhi, GNS News Agency, June 18,

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said even if there was "0.001 per cent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with. Observing that students have to labour hard while preparing for these examinations, the apex court said the litigation pertaining to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024 examination ought not to be treated as adversarial. "Even if there is 0.001 per cent negligence on the part of anyone, it should be thoroughly dealt with," a vacation bench of Justices Vikram Nath and SVN Bhatti told the advocates appearing for the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The bench was hearing two separate petitions raising grievances, including on grace marks given to students in the examination held on May 5. "We all know the labour which the children undergo, especially in preparing for these exams," the bench said, adding, "Imagine a person who has played fraud on the system becomes a doctor, he is more deleterious to the society." "Representing an agency which is responsible for conducting the examination, you must stand firm. If there is a mistake, yes this is a mistake and this is the action we are going to take. At least that inspires confidence in your performance," the bench told the NTA's

'Illegal' transactions case: Kerala HC seeks CM Pinarayi Vijayan's stand on plea for probe against him



Besides the Kerala CM, Justice K Babu also issued notice to Vijayan's daughter, her defunct firm and the mining company, seeking their stand on the MLA's revision petition.

GNS News Agency, June 18

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday sought response of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalnadan's plea for a probe against the CM over the alleged financial transactions between his daughter's now defunct IT firm and a private mining

counsel. Stressing on timely action by the authority, the top court said the pleas would come up for hearing on July 8 along with other pending petitions, including those which have sought a direction to conduct the exam afresh. It said the NTA and the Centre would file their responses on these fresh petitions within two weeks. When one of the advocates appearing for some petitioners raised the issue pertaining to a question asked in the exam, the bench said, "They (NTA and Centre) will respond to it." "Let us understand the purpose of your submissions. In these matters, we are prepared to sit up to evening," it observed.

While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the NEET-UG 2024, the apex court had last week sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam. The Centre and the NTA had on June 13 told the top court that they had cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses. They will have the option to either take a retest or forgo the compensatory marks awarded to them for the loss of time, the Centre had said. The examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier. There have been allegations of question paper leaks in states like Bihar and other irregularities in the prestigious exam. The allegations have led to protests in several cities and filing of petitions in several high courts as also the Supreme Court. Scores of students protested in Delhi on June 10 seeking a probe into alleged irregularities. As many as 67 students scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history, with six from a centre in Haryana's Faridabad figuring in the list, raising suspicions about irregularities. It has been alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the top rank. The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

Bengal govt submits status report to Calcutta High Court



GNS News Agency, June 18

Kolkata: The West Bengal government on Tuesday submitted a report on post Lok Sabha poll violence to a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court. The report submitted at the Division Bench of Justice Kausik Chanda and Justice Apurba Sinha Roy stated that the office of the Director General of Police received 560 complaints of post-poll violence from June 6 to June 12.

Based on those complaints, the Bengal Police filed 107 FIRs. While 92 complaints had no merit, preliminary investigations by the police in 114 complaints revealed that no offense had been committed, the report stated. As per the report, 88 complaints were repetitions of the complaints made earlier, while 18 complaints had no connection with post-poll violence. In case of three complaints, the sender was anonymous. The remaining 138 complaints are in the preliminary investigation stage and in those cases necessary legal steps will be taken after the initial probe is completed, the report stated.

After Verdict 2024, Modi 3.0 will struggle to survive: Rahul Gandhi's big claim

GNS News Agency, June 18

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has described the outcome of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as a "tectonic shift" in Indian politics, claiming that the Modi government will struggle to survive after failing to secure a majority. In an interview with the UK's Financial Times, Gandhi said, "The space in the Indian political system has been blown open. A tectonic shift has taken place in Indian politics. The numbers are such that they are very fragile, and the smallest disturbance can drop the government."

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the opposition INDIA bloc beat expectations by winning 234 of 543 seats, powered by strong showing in the bellwether state of Uttar Pradesh. Congress also delivered its best performance in 15 years by bagging 99 seats. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won 293 seats and secured a third term, but the saffron party, with 240 seats, failed to get the magic number. Gandhi claimed there was "great discontent" within Prime Minister Narendra Modi's camp and hinted at possible defections. "There are people who are in touch with us from within it," he stated, without going into specifics. "Basically, one ally has to turn the other way," he added.

The Gandhi scion characterised the 2024 election results as a mandate against the BJP's divisive politics. "The idea that you can spread hatred, you can spread anger and you can reap benefits of that — the Indian people have rejected it in this election," he said. During the campaign, PM Modi referred to the Muslim community as "infiltrators" and alleged that a Congress-led government would give away employment and quotas set aside for the marginalised. The INDIA bloc, however, won votes among Dalits by playing on fears that the BJP would use a bigger majority to amend the constitution and deprive them of benefits.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Nature of things

ACUTE water scarcity in summer months has a familiar ring to it for Shimla's residents. It's the least of concerns though for the thousands of tourists who flock to the hills in sheer desperation to escape the scorching heat of the plains. In 2018, the scarcity in Shimla was aggravated to a full-blown crisis as taps ran dry for weeks. Elaborate remedial measures were taken. The century-old water storage and distribution network was refurbished. Restoration initiatives were put in place, improving the quality of water was prioritised. Things did look up for some time. This year, the crisis is slowly inching back toward the dreaded 2018 levels. Rationing has been announced. Water will be supplied after a gap of two days. Residents of some localities, mainly on the periphery, claim they are getting supply after three or four days. Much like in Delhi, the alarm bells are ringing.

An expert analysis of the 2018 crisis focused on the man-made factors. In the popular narrative, however, a repeat is being played out six years down the line. The prolonged dry spell is being blamed for the reduction in the water level at all sources of supply schemes. Several are on the verge of drying up due to excessive heat and less snowfall during the winter season. Any hope of relief has been pinned on a spell of rainfall. In short, since nature did us in, nature will bail us out. We pretend that none of it is our doing: neither climate change, nor man-made folly like reckless concretisation or the encroachment of catchment areas. So unabashedly self-destructive are our ways.

Native wisdom says respect nature and it will reciprocate. The construct of collective responsibility and accountability escapes even routine political and policy-making conversations. Each of us is a stakeholder — it's that simple.

HC orders stakeholders' meeting on 'lack of drinking water, air conditioning, Wi-Fi' at Delhi University's law faculty



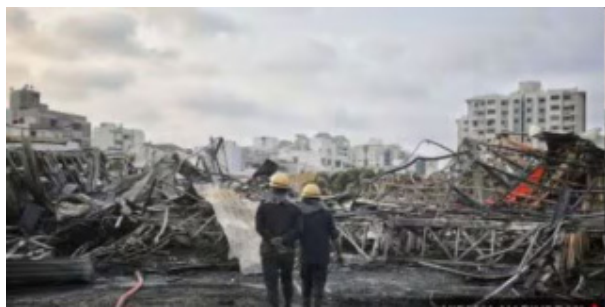
GNS News Agency, June 18

The high court said the meeting would be convened with the mutual convenience of the parties within one week from Wednesday and that the university's counsel should coordinate with the stakeholders. (File Image) Delhi High Court calls for meeting among stakeholders after students file plea over lack of facilities at Faculty of Law. The Delhi High Court has called for a meeting of various stakeholders after a few Delhi University students filed a plea alleging that the Faculty of Law lacked purified drinking water, air conditioning, Wi-Fi and other infrastructure facilities. A single-judge bench of Justice Amit Sharma, which also appointed advocate Rajesh Mishra as an amicus curiae in the matter, said in its order on Wednesday, "Keeping in view the issues raised in the present petition, it is imperative that a meeting be convened amongst all the stakeholders, i.e., Dean Student's Welfare, Delhi University, Dean Faculty of Law, Petitioner No. 2 (Ankur Singh Mavi) and the Learned amicus curiae appointed by this Court with regard to assessing the facilities provided to the students with regard to the water coolers/provision for purified drinking water as well as the other infrastructural facilities including the availability of Wi-Fi services." During the hearing on Wednesday, the university's counsel submitted, "on instructions", that the necessary provisions with regard to water cooler or drinking water are "in existence".

The high court said the meeting would be convened with the mutual convenience of the parties within one week from Wednesday and that the university's counsel should coordinate with the stakeholders. The court also called for a report to be placed before it before the date of next hearing, July 4. The court also impleaded the Bar Council of India and the dean of student's welfare as parties to the matter. In their plea, Ronak Khatri, Ankur Singh Mavi and Umesh Kumar, all students at the Faculty of Law, claim that the "deplorable condition of the faculty infrastructure" has severely affected their ability to pursue education. The law faculty has three colleges under it—Campus Law Centre (where Khatri and Mavi are enrolled), Law Centre-1, Law Centre-2 (where Kumar is enrolled). There are four buildings in the faculty on the university's north campus.

"The lack of air conditioning in classrooms has created unbearable conditions, especially during peak summer months when temperatures in Delhi can reach up to 48°C. The classrooms in Building 1 have no air conditioners installed whatsoever whereas building 2, and 3 are not equipped with functional air conditioning, making it extremely difficult for students to focus and study. This situation is contrasted by the presence of multiple air conditioners in administrative offices and staff rooms, indicating a significant disparity in the allocation of resources," the plea submits. The plea adds that there is an "acute shortage of drinking water" in the law faculty, having "upwards of 5,000 students", as it is equipped with only "four water coolers". "The quality of available water is poor, characterized by high total dissolved solids and a strong chlorine taste, leading to health problems among students," the plea states. On the other hand, the plea states, the college administration daily orders "20-litre water bottles for the administrative staff, Dean's office, PIC office, staff room and other administrative areas". The plea further submits that the washrooms in the faculty are not maintained well and are insufficient—"building 1, building 2 and building 3 have eight washrooms (4 for girls, 4 for boys)". The plea states that though Wi-Fi is available in buildings 1 and 2, its signal strength is "exceptionally weak and the connection speeds are abysmally slow".

Foremost priority should be human life: Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel while referring to Rajkot fire tragedy



GNS News Agency, June 18

Referring to the recent Rajkot TRP game zone fire accident that claimed 27 lives, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Thursday asked officers and elected office bearers of urban local bodies (ULBs) to give top priority to human life. "The pursuit of development will be of no use if the very people for whom it is being done are not being taken care of," the CM added.

The CM said this while addressing an official function of the Urban Development Department at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar to distribute cheques worth Rs 2,111 crore to various municipal corporations and municipalities in the state for developmental works. Top officials and elected office bearers of the ULBs were present on the occasion. Referring to the Rajkot game zone fire tragedy, the CM said, "We think that despite

doing so much development, we commit some mistakes. Why do they (such mistakes) happen?" "Our foremost priority should be the life of a human being. There cannot be any compromise on it whether it is at the level of officers or (elected) office-bearers," he added.

The state government on Wednesday published the draft rules for the regulation of game zones and amusement parks while inviting people's suggestions/objections to them. Referring to the draft rules, Patel said, "We have framed the SOPs for the game zones. We have put them in the public domain as well. Let us ask the public if they want anything to be added; then we can add... So that, no such accident is repeated. All of us should be careful about that." Emphasising the need to maintain quality in developmental works, the CM also suggested that the ULBs sit for two days in a year to monitor and discuss the quality of works being executed.

CM Patel said that what the media show should not be viewed as criticism of the government. "They are not criticising us. By showing our small mistakes, they let us know that these issues need to be addressed," he said. In this regard, he referred to a media report showing a government office with stains of tobacco spitting. "They (media) show it because we are doing it." The CM, in this context, also said that he has suggested that during office hours, officers, office bearers, and even the public should be restricted from consuming tobacco.

Change in eligibility criteria for overseas education scholarship worries students

GNS News Agency, June 18

Maharashtra government provides scholarships to meritorious students coming from marginalised sections of society for their higher education plans abroad. Maharashtra government provides scholarships to meritorious students coming from marginalised sections of society for their higher education plans abroad. The Maharashtra government has changed the eligibility criteria to apply for the overseas education scholarship. As per the recently declared advertisement inviting applications for the scholarship given to students coming from OBC and SC category, applicants need to have scored 75 per cent and above in graduation as opposed to 60 per cent mark, which was the cut-off till last year.

This last-minute change, according to students, is going to hamper higher education plans of many of them. Eknath Wagh, son of a small-scale farmer from Buldhana district who secured admission to prestigious Harvard University for MA in Education Policy and Analysis, said that the new change in policy has made him ineligible to apply for the scholarship. A first-generation learner from his family, Eknath had scored 71 per cent in his Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Fergusson College in Pune. He said, "The gold medallist from my batch had scored 76 per cent. This is proof that in the Arts stream 71 per cent is a good score. Even Harvard University, which takes approval as per international standards, has accepted it."

Eknath highlighted that eligibility criteria for similar scholarship by the central government too prescribes a 60 per cent score. Students complain that they came to know of this change only when the advertisement inviting applications from OBC students was out on June 5. As per the revised criteria, whether a candidate is seeking the scholarship to pursue post-graduation or PhD, he/she needs to have scored 75 per cent and above in graduation and post-graduation, respectively. Maharashtra government provides scholarships to meritorious students coming from marginalised sections of society for their

Pune Metro's underground service from Civil Court to Swargate may start in September

GNS News Agency, June 18

The long-awaited underground rail service of Pune Metro from Civil Court to Swargate is expected to start in September, as the work is likely to be completed by the end of August. Pune Metro executive director Hemant Sonawane confirmed this to The Indian Express. He said the trial run on both lines of the underground rail service had been successfully completed. He added that the railway safety team will visit after the completion of work in August to give its consent to start operations. The original deadline for starting the operations from Civil Court to Swargate was March 31, but it was extended due to the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

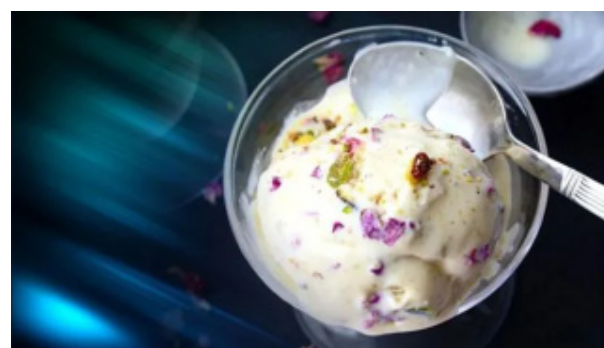
The start of the underground service would mean completing Phase 1 of the project from Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) to Swargate and Vanaz to Ramwadi. The Vanaz to Ramwadi route is fully operational, while the PCMC to Civil Court route is partly functional, except for the underground stretch. Sonawane said

Mumbai man complains of finding piece of flesh with nail in ice cream he ordered online

GNS News Agency, June 18

The man, who is pursuing his post-graduate studies, took up the matter and lodged a complaint with the ice cream company on its Instagram page, he said. (Representational/ File) The man, who is pursuing his post-graduate studies, took up the matter and lodged a complaint with the ice cream company on its Instagram page, he said. A man from Malad area in Mumbai has complained that he found a piece of flesh with a nail in an ice cream cone that he ordered online, police said.

"The complainant in the case, a 26-year-old doctor with MBBS degree who stays in Malad west, had ordered a butterscotch ice-cream cone of Yummo company. While consuming the ice-cream after lunch, he came across a half an inch long piece of flesh with a nail in the ice cream," he said. The man, who is pursuing his post-graduate studies, took up the matter and lodged a complaint with the ice cream company on its Instagram page, he said. But since there was no appropriate response from the company, the complainant put the piece of flesh in an ice bag



and approached the Malad police station, the official said. Based on his complaint, the police registered a case against Yummo ice cream company officials, he said. "The piece of flesh, suspected to be a piece of human finger, has been sent for forensic examination to ascertain whether it is a part of the human body," the official said, adding that a probe in the case is underway.

Gurgaon man barges into former wife's house, tries to kill her and children



GNS News Agency, June 18

The police on Monday arrested a man from a house in a Gurgaon village where he had barged into, with an intention to kill his divorced wife and their two children. The police have recovered a shroud, backpack, pistol with a loaded magazine, and dagger from the accused, identified as Chatrasal Tomar. The woman who lives with her children in Bhimgarh Khedi village, Gurgaon, told the police that she divorced Tomar in 2019 due to his improper behaviour and frequent threats to her life. She also mentioned that her husband had previously attempted to kill her in 2018, and the incident was reported at Sector-9 police station.

"Around 8.45 pm on Monday, her husband suddenly kicked the door and entered the house, attacking her and threatening to kill her and their two children. Their son managed to hold him from behind, while their daughter grabbed his other hand, in which he had a sharp weapon. They overpowered him and immediately called the police. Upon checking his bag, the police found a pistol magazine, sharp knife, and a cutter. The police arrived and arrested him," said ASI Sandeep of Gurgaon police station. On interrogation, Chatrasal Tomar, a resident of Laxman Vihar Phase-II, Gurgaon, failed to produce any documents regarding the permit licence for the pistol. Police said that after the couple's separation, Chatrasal Tomar, out of resentment, had planned to kill his divorced wife and children as well. Prior to the incident, he had carried a shroud, sharp weapon, a dagger, and a packet of red chilli powder. Based on the complaint, a case was registered at Sector-5 police station under sections 307, 452 Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sections 25, 54 and 59 of Arms Act. Police said that Tomar is an accused in another case of attempt to murder under section 302, 34 of the IPC and section 27 of Arms Act, registered on May 29, 2023, at a police station in Bihar, which is pending trial.

With 'Beyond Tradition', 10 award-winning artists relook at their art practices with contemporary lens



GNS News Agency, June 18

Traditional art is often viewed within the confines of its historical and cultural background. However, the ongoing show "Beyond Tradition" showcases the work of 10 renowned, award-winning artists from across the country who respect their roots while innovating and adapting to modern contexts.

Venkat Raman Singh Shyam

Venkat Raman Singh Shyam, from the Gond community, presents contemporary pieces that preserve the vibrant patterns of Gond art. His artwork titled Flying Elephant blurs the line between reality and fantasy, depicting a majestic creature flying amid blue, yellow, and red clouds with wings coloured in yellow and blue. A white outline further enhances the artwork. "To develop my own identity as an artist, I need to develop my own style. If there is no change in my art, it will become stagnant," Shyam shares, reflecting a common drive for innovation and personal expression among the exhibition's artists.

Kalyan Joshi

National Award-winning artist Kalyan Joshi expands the scope of traditional Phad paintings—typically depicting deities or folk heroes from Rajasthan—by addressing contemporary issues like labor migration and the COVID-19 crisis. One standout piece is Jungle Safari, which uses traditional colors to portray animals and a jeep filled with people, set against a black-and-white backdrop of flora.

Lado Bai

Lado Bai, a tribal artist from the Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh, introduces bright acrylic colors to her artworks, giving a modern spin to the traditional Bhil art style, known for its pointillism and animal motifs. Her son Ajay notes that Bhil paintings traditionally use natural ingredients: "Some paintings can have ingredients such as charcoal, gohar, mitti, etc. We grind all these ingredients with our hands."

Sanjay Manubhai Chitara

The exhibition also features artists who have largely stayed true to their traditional practices. Ahmedabad-based National Award-winning artist Sanjay Manubhai Chitara, whose family has upheld the tradition of painting Mata ni Pachedi—a craft of the Vaghari community of Gujarat who were historically barred from temples—brings his masterpieces. These paintings typically depict the Mother Goddess at the center, surrounded by worshippers, reflecting the community's deep spiritual and cultural heritage.

Supreme Court asks Delhi to approach Yamuna board amid water shortage after Himachal U-turn on surplus water



GNS News Agency, June 18

With the Himachal Pradesh government retracting its statement on availability of surplus water, the Supreme Court Thursday directed the Delhi government to approach the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) for water supply. A vacation bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Prasanna B Varale directed the Delhi government to submit its application for the supply of water on "humanitarian grounds" to the Board by 5 pm today (June 13), if not already submitted. "We are of the view that the issue concerning sharing of water between states already signatory to an agreement is complex and sensi-

tive and this court does not have the expertise to decide the formula," the court said. It asked the UYRB to convene a meeting tomorrow (June 14) and take a decision on the matter at the earliest. "If need be, the Board can convene the basis on day to day basis," the court said. The court noted the Himachal Pradesh government's submissions that its earlier statement on the availability of 137 cusecs of water was "not correct" and that they be "permitted to withdraw the statement".

"In view of the statement made by the Advocate General (AG) of Himachal Pradesh, the very basis of our interim order of June 6 does not survive, and we have reached square one to the stage where we were pleased before," the court said. On June 6, the court had directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release on 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it to resolve the drinking water crisis in Delhi, and Haryana to facilitate its smooth flow into the national capital. Amid the ongoing heatwave, the Delhi government had filed a plea before the Supreme Court, stating that the high temperatures had caused an excessive surge in water demand, further leading to an extraordinary shortage in the National Capital Territory (NCT). Water Minister Atishi has alleged that the Haryana government was stopping the flow of water to Delhi.

'Trapped' by fake travel agents, dozen Punjab youths 'stranded' in Armenia send video SOS

GNS News Agency, June 18

A Punjab youth trapped in Armenia when the video (inset) was brought to the attention of MP Balbir Singh Seechewal, he promptly wrote a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs, seeking action. Over a dozen youths from Punjab are apparently stranded in Armenia after falling prey to deceptive travel agents promising greener pastures to them in Europe, if a video circulating on social media is anything to go by.

In the footage, these stranded youths are seen making fervent appeals for help, revealing the ordeal they've endured at the hands of unscrupulous travel agents. Speaking in Punjabi, one of the youths in the video recounts their ordeal, stating they were deceived and trapped on false promise of work opportunities abroad by fake travel agents. "We have been kept in Armavir jail and are threatened with prison sentences of three to six years. We were coerced into signing documents we couldn't even comprehend, as we are unfamiliar with the language. We are also not getting proper food in this Asian country. We are around 10-15 youths." The youth, however, could not give the details of their whereabouts in India in the brief video clip that has gone viral.



When this video was brought to the attention of MP Balbir Singh Seechewal, he promptly wrote a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy there (Armenia), urging swift identification of and assistance for these stranded youths. Also, he shared the clip on his social media platforms, appealing to the public to help locate the families of these youths. "These fake travel agents are preying on the dreams and vulnerabilities of our youth," Seechewal said, urging the government to crack down on such exploitative practices to prevent such incidents in future.

Former GUJSAIL CEO booked in Rs 72 lakh graft case, accused of using government aircraft to ferry his family

GNS News Agency, June 18

A senior police officer said Chauhan had used the government aircraft for personal use and to ferry his family from Mumbai to Ahmedabad at least once. (Express Photo) A senior police officer said Chauhan had used the government aircraft for personal use and to ferry his family from Mumbai to Ahmedabad at least once.

The Gujarat Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday booked Captain Ajay Chauhan, former chief executive officer of Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited (GUJSAIL) and former director of Civil Aviation, along with two others, under the Anti Corruption Act. The ACB said they allegedly "misused powers" and caused a loss of around Rs 72 lakh to the government treasury. Chauhan, GUJSAIL accountant Alpesh Prajapati, and Alpesh Tripathi, a director of Kasmc Aviation, were booked in an FIR lodged at the Ahmedabad city ACB police station on Wednesday. The chief security officer and general manager of GUJSAIL filed an official complaint with the ACB after receiving a go-ahead from the state government. The development comes after a preliminary inquiry report of the ACB was submitted to the state government. GUJSAIL is a public sector company of the Gujarat government.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (ACB) G V Padheriya said the period of the alleged corruption was between 2017 and 2023. Padheriya said, "GUJSAIL is a company that is supposed to manage and operate state-owned aircraft for the movement of VVIPs... Ajay Chauhan, who worked as a Captain in GUJSAIL, was under the scanner after the government ordered a primary inquiry by the ACB into his conduct. The primary investigation has revealed that Chauhan misused his



power and used the government aircraft to fly his family and for other private uses. We also came across other corruption committed by Chauhan during his tenure."

Speaking to The Indian Express, Padheriya said, "One of the major misdeeds was that Chauhan used the government aircraft to ferry his family and for personal use, making payments for the fuel and ground handling charges from the government treasury... Moreover, he could not have offered any flying service as an employee of GUJSAIL, but despite drawing a government salary, he offered private flying services to Aryan Aviation Private Limited and received Rs 47.52 lakh in his accounts. He also embezzled funds in connivance with Prajapati and Tripathi by awarding an outsourcing contract for manpower to Tripathi's firm without a contract. He received Rs 10 lakh in his account from Tripathi's firm." A senior police officer said Chauhan had used the government aircraft for personal use and to ferry his family from Mumbai to Ahmedabad at least once. The officer also told this newspaper that Chauhan is facing an investigation for disproportionate assets.

GNS News Agency, June 18

Hyderabad: Fed up with the harassment by his wife, a man created commotion at Sankeshwar Bazaar in Saidabad when he climbed on to a high-tension electricity tower. Mohan Babu (25), a casual labourer, lives with his wife at Singareni Colony in Saidabad. His wife scolded him for returning home drunk. Furious, Babu went to the nearest high-tension electricity tower on the Sankeshwar Bazaar road and climbed it. Passersby noticed this and informed the local power department officials, who turned off the power supply. Police arrived at the spot and tried to persuade Babu to get down. As their persuasion failed, police personnel planned to climb the tower and bring him down themselves. Noticing that police and power department officials were climbing the tower, Babu came down. He was detained and taken to the police station. Babu told police that his wife was harassing him, following which he got angry and resorted to the act. A huge crowd had gathered at the place to watch the chaos unfold, causing traffic jam.

How Thane police got juvenile accused of Gujarat businessman's murder back from Nepal



GNS News Agency, June 18

In May last year, a 65-year-old businessman from Gujarat visited Thane for work. Hours after he checked into a hotel near Thane railway station, he was found murdered in his room. It took the police 10 days to catch the accused, a juvenile, but not before the trail led them to Bengaluru, Uttar Pradesh and Nepal. The murder took place on the afternoon of May 27, 2023. Businessman Karabhai Rambhai Suva checked into a hotel in Thane after arriving from Rajkot in Gujarat. Needing some money, Suva handed over his debit card to a house-keeping staff at the hotel and asked him to withdraw Rs 16,000 for him, the police said.

"Suva had come to Thane for some business. We assume he was feeling lazy to go down and withdraw cash so he handed over his debit card to the staffer and gave him his PIN," a police official said. While withdrawing the money, the staffer allegedly saw the balance amount in Suva's bank account and decided to kill him and run away with his cash and debit card, the police said. The staffer went to a nearby shop, bought a sharp object, went to Suva's room and stabbed him to death, according to the police. The incident came to light around 6.30 pm and the hotel staffers informed the local Thane Nagar police station. A case of murder and robbery was registered.

During the investigation, the police checked the CCTV footage at the hotel and learnt that one of the house-keeping staff was repeatedly entering Suva's room. "When

we started looking for him, the hotel staffers told us he left the hotel abruptly in the afternoon, saying that he was going back to his native place as his mother was unwell," a police official said. "He had escaped with the senior citizen's mobile phone, ATM card and Rs 16,000 that he had withdrawn," he added. The police decided to track Suva's bank transactions and his mobile phone. "When we went through the staffer's records, we learnt that he hailed from Kaptanganj in Uttar Pradesh. While we were getting ready to leave for his native place, a withdrawal of Rs 80,000 was made from Suva's bank account in Ratnagiri," a police official said.

Suspecting that the hotel staffer was headed to South India, the police checked to see if he had any friends there. Subsequently, a police team went to Bengaluru but the accused's friends could not give any clues about his location. The investigation team then realised that the accused had bought a new SIM card and inserted it into Suva's mobile phone. They started tracking his location. "We learnt that he was in Uttar Pradesh so we went there and enquired with all his friends and relatives. It was confirmed that he was there the night before," an official said. The police team then learnt that the accused had gone to Nepal along with his grandfather to stay with his relative. Through their informers in Uttar Pradesh, the police team comprising Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Barate got in touch with a few locals in Nepal and the relative with whom the accused was allegedly staying. "We took the relative into confidence and told him that the accused was wanted in a murder case after which the relative called the boy's grandfather and refused to provide him shelter," said Barate. The police team were then informed that the accused and his grandfather were returning to Uttar Pradesh. "Our informers were providing us live updates. After waiting for over 26 hours at the border, at around 8 pm on June 6, 2023, the accused was spotted crossing the border and getting into a vehicle," an officer said. The Thane Nagar police followed the vehicle and apprehended him. The accused was then produced before a local court in Gorakhpur and brought to Mumbai on transit remand. Though the accused had claimed that he was 20 years old while seeking employment at the hotel, he produced an Aadhaar card in court to show that he was only 17.

'Breakdown of potential marriage does not amount to cheating': Karnataka HC quashes rape cases filed by woman against fiance

GNS News Agency, June 18

The Karnataka High Court on June 7 quashed a rape case filed by a woman against her fiance, observing that the breakdown of a potential marriage did not amount to cheating. The man and his family members had approached the court to quash a case filed against them on charges of rape and cheating, among others.

In this case, a United States resident posted his profile on a matrimonial website and got to know a woman. They and their families later met and had an engagement ceremony on January 11, 2023. The woman also asked him to invest Rs 4 lakh in a fund which he did. The man returned to the US the next day. Seven months later, a complaint was filed alleging that on noticing that the house was empty on the engagement date, he had forced her to engage in sexual intercourse on the pretext of their upcoming marriage. The man's counsel argued that the alleged rape was highly improbable as the family members had not left the house that day. They also argued that the woman was demanding money over the seven months after the engagement, following which the wedding was called off, doubting her bonafide. The woman's counsel, on the other hand, argued, apart from this aspect, the date of the wedding had been fixed and invitations printed.

When the wedding was called off seven months after the engagement, the impact on the family was so huge that it would amount to cheating, the woman's counsel argued. They reiterated that he had sexually assaulted her on the promise of marriage which was then broken. The bench of Justice Nagaprasanna stated, "In the considered view of the court, it is not a false promise of marriage. It was a betrothal ceremony and ensuing was the marriage. The documents appended to the



charge sheet or the statements would nowhere drive home the point that on the evening of the day of the betrothal ceremony, the 1st petitioner had indulged in such acts that would become ingredients of Section 375 of the IPC for it to become an offence under Section 376 IPC for rape."

The bench also noted, "Seven months passed by. Communications galore between the two, including WhatsApp chats. Nowhere in any WhatsApp chat even a line of narration is made by the complainant about the 1st petitioner or the complainant indulging in sexual intercourse on the day of the betrothal ceremony at 6 pm." The court concluded, "For manifold reasons, as averred in the petition, the marriage has tumbled down. It is not a case where the family of the 1st petitioner or the 1st petitioner had lured the complainant or her family members to get into the marriage... Merely because the engagement breaks at a later date cannot amount to an offence of cheating against the 1st petitioner or his family members."

Delhi HC issues notice on plea to add 'sponsor' of article as party in businessman's defamation suit

GNS News Agency, June 18

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice on a plea seeking to add an entity as a party in a lawsuit for "sponsoring" a newspaper article that allegedly contained defamatory statements about a US-based businessman. The court was hearing a lawsuit moved by the plaintiff Gaurav Srivastava, an entrepreneur-investor based in Los Angeles, USA, who claimed that various media houses and online platforms published "false articles" accusing him of misconduct "without verification, intending to boost their own revenues" at the cost of his reputation.

Srivastava said that he was aggrieved by the publication of a "statement/article" in the newspaper The Tribune, which he claimed "maliciously made defamatory statements and allegations" against him. At the outset, the counsel for The Tribune submitted before a single-judge bench of Justice Neena Bansal Krishna that his client had complied with the court's earlier directions and had disclosed the details of the original sponsor of the article to the plaintiff. The high court had on May 30 issued summons to The Tribune and had also asked it to disclose the details of the sponsor of the article. The court said this after noting that the article carried a disclaimer which stated that the "article is part of a sponsored content programme". During the hearing on Wednesday, senior advocate Rajesh Yadav, appearing for Srivastava, submitted that the newspaper had disclosed the details of one - Exampad Media Private Limited. Yadav said that on June 8, the plaintiff had filed an application for impleadment of Exampad Media Private Limited as defendant no. 16 in the lawsuit. Yadav, who appeared along with advocates Bharat Arora and Abhishek Singh, said that Exampad Media in its June 10 email had in turn informed that the article was supplied to it by one Sachin

Bharadwaj. Yadav said that both Exampad and Bharadwaj be added as defendants in the matter. "Notice of the application to be issued to proposed defendant Exampad Media Private Limited and be also issued to Sachin Bharadwaj through ordinary and electronic mode," the high court said, listing the matter on July 4. The high court also said that the "notice of the suit be issued" to the other defendant entities in the lawsuit. The suit seeks to restrain certain media houses and online platforms from publishing any allegedly defamatory content about Srivastava. On May 30, the high court had said after hearing the matter, "Considering the fact that The Tribune itself claims that the publication was a sponsored content programme, the details of the said sponsor may be disclosed to the plaintiff (Srivastava) by 10th June". The court had said that Srivastava would then be free to take steps as per law, including for "seeking impleadment" of the said sponsor. Srivastava said that he discovered these "defamatory publications" last month and issued a legal notice to the defendants on May 20, demanding cessation of these activities, removal of the defamatory content, and Rs 5 crore in damages. He, however, said that the defendants did not comply or respond, prompting him to file the suit. "The entire false publications have accused the plaintiff even when there is no shred of evidence and iota of truth in such acquisitions which are a part of a paid campaign to tarnish and harm the reputation of the plaintiff," the suit submits. Among various reliefs, Srivastava has sought a permanent injunction against the defendant entities - including The Tribune, India Today and Times of UP among others - for restraining them from publishing any defamatory material. Srivastava has sought an unconditional apology from the defendants for publishing unverified content and a direction to them to remove the allegedly defamatory content.

Angry with wife, Hyderabad man climbs high-tension electricity tower



Chaos unfolds at Saidabad as cops, power department officials try to persuade him to get off the tower

Two senior bureaucrats among six arrested for allegedly murdering 82-year-old man in Nagpur



GNS News Agency, June 18

A woman and her brother, both senior bureaucrats, along with four others have been arrested in connection with the murder of her 82-year-old father-in-law over a property dispute in Nagpur district, said police. To evade arrest, the accused had initially tried to pass off the murder as a hit-and-run case, said the police. The crime branch of the Nagpur police arrested assistant director of town planning, Archana Puttewar, and her brother Prashant Parlewar, director of MSME Nagpur, with four others for allegedly conspiring and killing Puttewar's father-in-law, Puroshattam Puttewar. Police identified the other accused as Neeraj Nimje, who ran over the victim with his car, Nimje's accomplice Sachin Dharmik, Archana's driver Sarthak Bagde and her secretary Payal Nageshwar. A senior police official from the Nagpur police said, "The attack is an outcome of a property dispute."

Sharing details of the crime, the police said on May 22, the victim was on the way to his daughter's residence in Balaji Nagar when Nimje mowed him down with his car around 10.30 am. Before this, at least two attempts were made to injure Puroshattam, said the police. Nagpur Police Commissioner Ravinder Singhal said, "The two other attempts to injure him were made on May 8 and 16. In the first instance, Dharmik had tried to mow him down while in the second, Dharmik and Nimje had hit Puroshattam on head with a rod and escaped on a scooter. As he had not sustained much injury, the senior citizen and his son Manish, who is a doctor, did not lodge any police complaint." Following his death on May 22, the police said that Ajni police station had registered a case of negligence and arrested Nimje. The car used in the crime was also seized and he was released on bail on the same day.

The police started reinvestigating the case as multiple suspicious activities came to the fore during the probe, including renewal of car insurance. Additionally,

Nimje, who is unemployed, was spotted spending money in pubs and bars, around the time of the incident. The crime branch started scrutinising the CCTV footage of the accident.

"Through the CCTV grabs, we came to know that it was not a mere accident as Puroshattam was walking right on the corner of the road and the driver on purpose knocked him down. He even dragged him to ensure that he causes serious injuries," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Nimit Goyal. "During the probe we found an Activa constantly following Puroshattam. The Activa was also found near the accident spot and had fled the area after the mishap. Based on this, Nimje was probed again during which he revealed the role of his accomplice Sachin Dharmik," said the DCP. An FIR was then registered under relevant sections of murder, conspiracy and destruction of evidence of the Indian Penal Code and Motor Vehicle Act after which Nimje and Dharmik were arrested on June 4.

Further scrutiny of Dharmik's call records revealed that he was constantly in touch with Archana. He later confessed to the crime and revealed her driver Sarthak Bagde's role. The police said that Puttewar tried to mislead the cops claiming that she sacked Bagde six months ago and he must have "committed the crime to take revenge from the family". However investigation revealed that Bagde was employed with her till May 20 following which Puttewar and the driver were arrested on June 6 and June 10 respectively.

"Archana Puttewar is the main conspirator in the case. Her father-in-law owned property worth over Rs 40 crore. His daughter, who is a widow was also eyeing a part in it and Puroshattam was supporting her due to which Archana wanted to teach him a lesson," said an officer familiar with the probe. She conspired with her brother Parlewar as he is also one of the direct beneficiaries of the property, said police, adding he was arrested on Tuesday. "The two only wanted to physically incapacitate Puroshattam for which they had hired Dharmik, Bagde and Nimje. They had bought the car recently and renewed its insurance on May 21," the officer quoted above said. Dharmik agreed to do the job as the two bureaucrats, both in their fifties, had promised him a liquor shop license while Nimje was paid Rs 4 lakh, said police. Sharing details of the sixth accused, the police said that Puttewar's secretary, Payal Nageshwar, had paid Nimje cash and she was also part of the (conspiracy) meeting conducted on May 20. She was arrested by the crime branch on Tuesday. Another officer said, "Four other deaths have taken place in the family under mysterious circumstances. We will try to find out if there is any foul play involved."

Its pump runs dry, Punjab village demands new borewell; to bathe cattle, says pvt firm



GNS News Agency, June 18

For the residents of Patton village in Fatehgarh Sahib, the demand is urgent and simple: dig a new borewell to draw underground water as the only pumpset, installed by water supply and sanitation department, has stopped lifting water since August last year. The residents claim that the aquifers in the village have dried up completely and they are not getting any water for past several months. The claim, alarming as it sounds, has failed to find any sympathy with a KNK Projects Private Limited, a firm that has set up a plant at Nanawal to treat canal water that is further supplied by the water supply and sanitation department to several villages, including Patton.

The canal water is supplied via an automated system — for three hours in the morning and three in the evening. "The villagers used to get water supply 24/7 through the pump set only bathe their cattle and waste it. The automated system of water supply has stopped the wastage. They seem to be annoyed over this. They do not understand that they are already facing a shortage of drinking water," says Naveen Kumar Dubey, a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) engineer associated with KNK Projects Private Limited. For the non-descript village, however, the problem is not that simple. A few days ago, when the water resources department cleaned the canal network in the area, the water supply got hit resulting in SOS calls by villagers, who took to social media claiming "aquifers in the village have dried up". Upon visiting Patton on Wednesday, The Indian Express learnt that the groundwater there had high concentration of fluoride — caused by indiscriminate extraction and excessive use of phosphatic fertilisers — making it unfit for consumption.

"Several villages in Fatehgarh Sahib are affected. As many as 69 villages in Khera block alone are drinking canal water. The underground water has a high fluoride content," Sanjay Giri, Junior Engineer handling canal water supply in Khera block, said. "We cannot say there is no water. Water is there, but it is highly concentrated."

Residents having submersible bored to 350 feet can extract water, but it is unfit for consumption," he added. However, SOS calls by villagers brought into sharp focus the issue of shortage of drinking water due to the overdraw of underground water and the use of fertilisers. Paddy crop, a water guzzler, is often blamed for water woes in Punjab but the area under cultivation does not seem to have decreased. Several parts of Punjab are facing a similar situation. According to a 2022 report by the Central Ground Water Board, "Groundwaters with fluoride above 1.50 mg/L are found mainly in Bathinda, Faridkot, Fazilka, Muktsar and Mansa districts and also at isolated places in Firozpur, Sangrur, SAS Nagar and Taran Tarn districts. High fluoride water found in areas with predominant agriculture activities, indicating the possibility of fluoride coming from phosphatic fertilisers containing fluoride as an impurity." However, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib districts have also reported the lowering of groundwater and the presence of fluoride. AAP's Dera Bassi MLA Kuljit Singh Randhawa has repeatedly been raising the issue of lowering the water table to 1,200-1,300 feet in his Assembly segment and the presence of fluoride. "I raised the matter in the Assembly. My constituency does not have drinking water due to the presence of industries. The underground water table has receded and there is a higher concentration of chemicals in the shallow groundwater, which makes it unfit for drinking. I urged the government to supply canal water to my area also," he said.

Dubey says, "I manage operations. I drank several glasses of canal water before the villagers, but they did not listen. They do not want canal water." Patton Sarpanch Manjit Kaur says the district administration should not have any problem in providing a new borewell. "Only Rs 16 lakh is required for digging a new bore well, but they are not doing it despite the inconvenience we face without water." Kamaljit Singh, a village resident, said, "Left with no option, we started a sit-in outside the DC office on Wednesday. Why don't they install a tube well? A few days ago, we had to get water from tankers because submersible water does not wash soap. It halted cooking also. When we bathe, the soap remains on the body." Despite facing a shortage, villagers want more water to be extracted from aquifers. Asked whether they would reduce the area under paddy cultivation, the Sarpanch said, "No, paddy will be cultivated as usual. The government allowed it to be transplanted from June 11. What is the option?" During the recent cotton season, the area under cotton cultivation shrank by 80,000 hectares. Cotton is considered an option for crop diversification. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann often beams that 78 per cent of land in 150 blocks was in the extreme dark zones due to the depletion of the groundwater table.

Yediyurappa moves HC for quashing of PocsO case after victim's brother questions progress in probe

GNS News Agency, June 18

Senior BJP leader and former chief minister B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday filed a petition in the Karnataka High Court seeking to quash a case filed against him in March this year under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PocsO) Act. In a parallel development, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Karnataka Police has moved a special court for PocsO cases seeking an arrest warrant for the former chief minister. Yediyurappa was summoned by the CID on Wednesday for investigations of the case but reported that he was away from Bengaluru and sought time to appear, sources said. Yediyurappa approached the High Court after the brother of the minor victim in the alleged PocsO case also filed a petition on Tuesday seeking the High Court's intervention to speed up investigations in the police case filed under the PocsO Act on March 14, 2024. The brother filed the petition through the senior criminal and human rights lawyer S Balan. The former Karnataka chief minister has refuted the allegations of sexual harassment and said that he had helped the mother and daughter in the past. Both cases, which have received filing numbers, are yet to be registered by the High Court, and are expected to be taken up over the weekend. In his petition, Yediyurappa said the case registered against him based on a complaint by the mother of a teenage girl is false and that it should be quashed under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The victim's brother approached the High Court after the death of their mother on May 26. According to the brother's petition, the Karnataka Police have not progressed with the investigations into the PocsO case



against the former CM despite the lapse of two months after the registration of the case. "Accused was not arrested and not even 41(A) notice was given, hence this petition as there is no efficacious remedy other than approaching this Hon'ble Court for invoking its extraordinary writ jurisdiction," says the petition. The plea indicates that the victim's mother had also written to the Chief Justice of Karnataka for a CBI probe into the matter.

The mother of the victim filed the PocsO case against Yediyurappa in March this year alleging that he had touched her daughter inappropriately in February when she went to the residence of the senior BJP leader seeking help for justice in a 2015 case of assault on the child. The mother, 54, who relentlessly pursued justice for her daughter in the 2015 and the recent case died on May 26 this year. CID has obtained voice samples of the former chief minister for comparison with voices on a video recording done by the mother on the day of the alleged incident. Yediyurappa appeared before CID investigators on April 12 to provide the voice samples, sources said.

2 Punjab Police employees arrested for accepting over 26 lakh bribe: VB

GNS News Agency, June 18

Punjab Vigilance Bureau busted a recruitment scam and arrested two Class IV employees, a sweeper and a barber of the Punjab Police, for accepting bribes to the tune of more than Rs 26 lakh from 102 people on the pretext of getting them Class IV jobs in the state police, a VB official said. "Tarlochan Pal (No. 207/S), posted in the 3rd India Reserve Battalion as a sweeper, residing at Mohalla Begampur in Adampur, Jalandhar district, and co-accused Surinderpal (No. 3B), posted as a barber at the Punjab Police Academy in Phillaur, a resident of village of Sikri in Nilokheri, Karnal district, Haryana, were arrested following an investigation into a complaint lodged at the Chief Minister's Anti-Corruption Action Line portal by complainant Surinder Singh, a resident of Nanglan village, Garhshankar tehsil, Hoshiarpur district," a VB official spokesperson said.

The Bureau on Wednesday produced the duo in a Jalandhar court which sent them to a two-day remand with the bureau. The spokesperson said, "During the preliminary investigation by the VB Jalandhar range, the charges made by the complainant were found to be accurate, leading to the registration of a fraud case against both the accused." "The investigation revealed Tarlochan and Surinderpal had falsely assured the gullible persons that about 560 Class IV vacancies were to be filled in the Punjab Police in the coming months. Acting in collusion, they demanded Rs 25,000 per person to secure jobs as Class IV employees in the state police and thereby col-

lected huge money from numerous individuals across the state. Consequently, Tarlochan received a total of Rs 18,09,100 as bribes, which were deposited in his various bank accounts. Out of this amount, Tarlochan had transferred Rs 5,45,000 to Surinderpal's HDFC bank account. In addition to this, accused Surinderpal had received Rs 7,93,826 in his bank account separately," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson further said, "During the probe, it was found that a total of Rs 26,02,926 were collected as bribes by both accused from about 102 people on the pretext of getting them jobs. Consequently, a case under sections 420 and 120-B of the IPC, and under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered against both accused at VB police station, Jalandhar range."

"Accused Surinderpal, during interrogation, told the VB that he and Tarlochanpal took the said money from job aspirants and gave about Rs 9 lakh to two employees posted at the Punjab Police Headquarters in Chandigarh. He revealed that out of Rs 9 lakh, they had returned some money to him after they failed to get recruited job seekers but the rest of the money was never returned," the spokesperson said. The spokesperson added, "During the investigation, the statements of various victims of this fake recruitment scam are being recorded and more affected persons could appear before the Bureau to provide information in this regard."

Consumer panel asks hospital to pay Rs1.2 lakh to elderly Mohali man for inflating Covid bill

GNS News Agency, June 18

For INFLating Covid-19 treatment bill of an elderly Mohali man, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission of Chandigarh has ordered the Max Super Speciality Hospital to pay Rs 1.20 lakh to the affected person. VK Agarwal (76) from Chandigarh stated in his complaint that he was admitted in Max Super Speciality Hospital at Mohali, on January 23, 2021, as a Covid patient, and was discharged on February 12, 2021.

Aggarwal submitted that for the treatment, the hospital raised a bill of Rs 7,62,445, out of which Rs 1,11,851 was charged from the complainant and the balance was charged from insurance company. Meanwhile, after he was discharged, when he checked the bills, he came to know that the hospital has wrongly charged him for the visit of dietician, the amount of which was not paid by insurance company. The complainant also added that he was surprised to note that the dietician of the hospital advised him to take milk at night, which could lead to serious consequences on his health as he is a patient of ulcerative colitis. Aggarwal also alleged that some breathing exercises were demonstrated by a physiotherapist on the first visit and thereafter she just asked the patient to continue doing the exercises. However, the bill mentioned physiotherapy procedures and physiotherapist's visits twice a day, both of which are not true, according to the complainant. Aggarwal said that after the cashless permission was denied by Raksha Health Insurance, due to wrong information given by the hospital, and later the reimbursement was done by the insurance company due to his personal efforts.

Aggarwal also alleged that there are many types of extraneous charges in the bill, like alpha bed, PPE kits, which are wrong, and the charges of Rs 6,620 towards CT contrast was wrongly mentioned in the bill as the same was not done. The hospital, in its reply, stated that the total bill amount was Rs 762,445, out of which Rs 44,108 was discounted and an amount of Rs 606,486 was approved by insurance company and the balance amount of Rs 1,11,851 was paid by the patient. Max Super Speciality claimed that the bill was raised as per the hospital tariff and according to the memorandum of understanding between the insurance company and hospital. It also pleaded that the hospital bill and treatment record shows the visits and diet chart which was followed under the supervision of a professional dietician. It is further pleaded that the physiotherapy was done as per regular medical treatment of patient, and there are no excessive charges charged by the hospital. The Oriental Insurance Company, in its reply, submitted that its third party administrator, Raksha Health Insurance, has already processed the claim and released the payable amount, and that the coverage is limited to the extent of the amount as mentioned in the Schedule of Policy of Insurance and nothing more has been found payable by the competent authority, further denying other allegations made by the complainant and prayed that the complaint be dismissed.

The Commission on hearing the matter held that the claim of the complainant is that the hospital has wrongly billed him for dietician visit who allegedly advised him milk at night whereas he is a patient of ulcerative Colitis, for visit of physiotherapist twice a day whereas no physiotherapy was done, and illegal charges for the use of 230 surgical gloves among other equipment. "The advice of the dietician to take milk at night to the patient/consumer, who is suffering from ulcerative colitis is a wrong advice which could lead to serious consequences on the health of the patient/consumer, which is a clear cut negligence on the part of the dietician and amounts to deficiency in service," the commission noted. "Further the



hospital failed to lead any cogent and convincing documentary evidence to justify the said charges billed from the complainant. Therefore, it is held that the Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali has illegally exaggerated the medical bill of the complainant by adding wrong charges for the services, which were never provided to the complainant, and this (behaviour) amounts to deficiency in service as well as adoption of unfair trade practice on the parts of the hospital," held the commission. It directed Max Super Speciality Hospital to compensate the complainant by paying a lump sum amount of Rs 1,20,000 for "causing loss, harassment and mental agony due to its deficient services" as well as "indulgence into unfair trade practice", which also includes litigation expenses.

To ease congestion, police reintroduces 'One Minute Traffic Plan' in Shimla city

GNS News Agency, June 18

Taking note of the heavy traffic in Shimla, police have reintroduced the 'One Minute Traffic Plan' in the city to make the state capital jam-free and reduce the commute time. The decision to implement the 'One Minute Traffic Plan' was taken after assessing the number of vehicles — 4.89 lakh — especially from other states, that has entered the state capital in the last 11 days since June 1, the day when summer vacations start in most states. The vehicular population of Shimla itself is over 80,000, including two-wheelers and four-wheelers.

According to the plan, at points 6-8 km from entering Shimla city, every minute motor vehicles will be released for 20 to 30 seconds and stopped for 40 to 30 seconds. "The plan is very simple. It is based on time, number, and space. In the last two months, a trial on all bottlenecks was carried out along with studying the capacity of inflow and outflow of vehicles. Based on the study, the effectiveness of measures to decongest roads was tested. Halting points have a limited capacity to hold up vehicular traffic. Surplus vehicles are held up at 1-Minute holding points as a need-based arrangement. At each point, vehicles are released every minute in the ratio of 40/20 or 30/30, meaning every minute, vehicles will be stopped for 40 seconds and released for 20 seconds. No constant holding-up of vehicles lasts more than 1 minute. This takes a maximum of 10 minutes in the line segment of 500 metres, which will be the maximum line at each halting point," SP (Shimla) Sanjeev Gandhi told.

Sources said, "In the first two weeks of June, over 4 lakh vehicles entered and exited Shimla from all directions. This is a significant number for a hill city like Shimla. In previous years, Shimla faced acute traffic jams.

Former Trump aide John McEntee sparks fury over outrageous TikTok video, 'I give fake money to poor so that...'



GNS News Agency, June 18

Donald Trump's White House aide John McEntee has sparked online fury after he arrogantly admitted to giving fake money to homeless people so they can get arrested when they use it. McEntee said in a now viral TikTok video that he wants to help "clean up the community". The video posted a week back has over 7 million views and almost half a million likes. His outrageous video was posted on the account for The Right Stuff, a dating app for U.S. conservatives that McEntee co-founded. "So I always keep this fake Hollywood money in my car so when a homeless person asks for money, then I give him like a fake \$5 bill, so I feel good about myself, they feel good," McEntee said in the video. "And then, when they

go to use it, they get arrested so I'm actually like helping clean up the community. You know, getting them off the street." After the backlash caption on the video read, "Just a joke. Everyone calm down #fyp" John started his career as Donald Trump 'body guy,' carrying around the then-presidential candidate's bags and relaying messages, at the age of 25. McEntee, now runs a right-wing dating app named The Right Stuff, he is also currently working on HR for Donald Trump's campaign and is a senior adviser for the Heritage Foundation's 2025 Presidential Transition Project. The former UConn college grad recently turned heads after hiring Instagram influencer Camryn Kinsey, 20, as external-relations director. 'Only in Trump's America could I go from working in a gym to working in the White House, because that's the American dream,' she said. The netizens can't believe what they heard from a person who has served with the US President at the White House. "Pretty sure that passing off counterfeit bills as real, even to people he views with such disdain as the unhoused, is still illegal," asserted an X User. Using the incident to attack Trump's supporters another said, "This is your maga party and today's Heritage Foundation, now owned by maga. This is how they think." "So #GeorgeFloyd was murdered by a cop in broad daylight for this crime while this douchebag insurrectionist MAGA from @TeamTrump and #Project2025 gets to go about his privileged life like it's just another day," commented another user.

Israeli forces push deep into Gaza's north, Rafah

GNS News Agency, June 18

Israeli forces pushed deep into the ruins of Gaza's northern edge on Monday to recapture an area where they had claimed to have defeated Hamas months ago, while at the opposite end of the enclave tanks and troops pushed across a highway into Rafah. With some of the most intense fighting for weeks now taking place on both the northern and southern edges of Gaza, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have again taken flight, and aid groups warn that a humanitarian crisis could sharply worsen.

Israel described its latest return to the north, where it pulled out most of its troops five months ago, as part of a "mop-up" stage of the war to prevent fighters from returning, and said such operations had always been part of its plan. Palestinians say the need to keep fighting amid the ruins of previous battles is proof Israel's military objectives are unattainable.

In sprawling Jabalia, the biggest of Gaza's eight camps built 75 years ago to house Palestinian refugees from what is now Israel, tanks pushed towards the heart of the district. Residents said tank shells were landing at the centre of the camp and air strikes had destroyed clusters of houses. Thick clouds of black smoke from explosions could be seen rising over northern Gaza from the Israeli border on Sunday. Israeli troops are seeking to wipe out Hamas, which has said it is committed to Israel's destruction. The militant group burst into Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 and taking more than 250 hostages, by Israeli tallies. The Palestinian death toll in the war has now surpassed 35,000, according to Gaza health officials who fear many more bodies are lost under the rubble. The fighting has laid waste to the coastal enclave and caused a deep humanitarian crisis, with the Gaza health ministry warning in a statement on Monday that the medical system is on the verge of collapse due to a shortage of fuel to power generators and ambulances. Palestinian health officials on Monday said they had so far recovered 20 bodies of Palestinians killed in the overnight air strikes on Jabalia, while dozens were injured.

At the opposite end of Gaza in Rafah, against the border fence with Egypt, Israel stepped up aerial and ground bombardments on the eastern areas of the city, killing people in an air strike on a house in the Brazil neighbourhood. Israel ordered residents out of the east of the city last week, and extended that order to central areas in recent days, sending hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom are already displaced, fleeing for new shelters. Residents said Israeli air and ground bombardments were intensifying and tanks had cut off the main north-south Salahuddin Road that divides the eastern part of the city from the central area. "The tanks cut the Salahuddin road east of the city, the forces are now in the



southeast side, building up near the built-up area, the situation is dreadful and the sounds of explosions never stopped," said Bassam, 57, from the Shaboura neighbourhood in Rafah. "People continue to leave Rafah, even far away near the western areas as no place looks safe now and also because people do not want to escape at the last minute should tanks make sudden incursions and moving out becomes too late," he told Reuters via a chat app.

The assault on Rafah has caused one of the biggest splits in generations between Israel and its main ally the United States, which put some deliveries of weapons on hold for the first time since the war began. Washington has said Israel must not assault Rafah without a plan in place to protect civilians there, which it has yet to see. Jack Lew, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, signalled on Sunday that the Rafah incursion was still on a scale that Washington considers acceptable. "The president was clear in the interview he gave the other evening that what Israel has done so far hasn't crossed over into the area where our disagreements lie," Lew told Israel's Channel 12 TV, without elaborating on what that area entails. "I'm hoping we don't end up with real disagreement. Hamas' armed wing said its fighters were engaged in gun battles with Israeli forces in one of the streets east of Rafah, and in the east of Jabalia. In Israel, the military sounded sirens several times in areas near Gaza, warning of potential Palestinian cross-border rocket and mortar launches. Hamas and the armed wing of Islamic Jihad said in a joint statement that they fired mortar bombs against Israeli forces massing up inside the Rafah crossing, the sole checkpoint linking Gaza to Egypt, which Israel captured last week. Late on Saturday, the Israeli military said forces operating in Jabalia were preventing Hamas, which rules Gaza, from re-establishing its military capabilities there. "They were bombing everywhere, including near schools that are housing people who lost their houses," Jabalia resident Saed, 45, told Reuters via a chat app on Sunday. "War is restarting, this is how it looks in Jabalia."

United Kingdom General Elections 2024 Race for 10 Downing Street: What To Expect

GNS News Agency, June 18

The United Kingdom elections for the lower house are scheduled for July 4, 2024, with the two major political parties engaging in a battle to secure the majority. The elections seek to elect the representatives who will form the government for the subsequent tenure. The United Kingdom general elections are scheduled for July 4, 2024. The election will seek to elect representatives for 650 seats, and the political party securing 326 seats will be able to form their government. The UK general election 2024 will determine the composition of the House of Commons and, subsequently, the Government of the United Kingdom. The election seeks to elect 650 representatives to the House of Commons, the majority standing at 326 seats. Like India, the United Kingdom has several powerful political parties. The two major political parties of the United Kingdom are the Conservative Party and the Labour Party, both having dominated the United Kingdom political scene for the past 100 years. The Conservatives are currently in power, led by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The conservatives pride themselves on having traditional views, opting for a method of stable, responsible governance, rather than radical changes and growth. They give importance to defence and national security, building the UK army to have a strong military capability. While the popular perception of the Conservatives is that they are dominated by the rich and the elites, they are also traditionally seen as strong and effective administration. Facing the conservatives on July 4 will be the Labour Party, which has constantly pressurised and acted as a strong opposition in the past 14 years of

the conservative government in the country. The Labour Party, considered as the voice of the working class, is a progressive party that stands for social justice and believes in a stronger government involvement in the economy, as opposed to the Conservatives who believe in a free and liberal economic policy. The Labour Party also believed in maintaining strong foreign relations, and not building a strong defence. Other parties contesting for election in the United Kingdom General Election 2024 are the Liberal Democrats and the Greens. The country is currently in a pre-election period where ministerial and departmental activities are restricted, and the lower house of the United Kingdom stands dissolved. In the previous elections, the Conservatives secured 345 seats, Labour secured 205 seats and the other oppositions as well as independent candidates bagged a total of 305 seats. Although the conservatives have been in power since 2010, there is a growing dispute amongst British nationals who are unsatisfied with the economy, rise in immigration and deteriorating national health services. The United Kingdom is currently suffering through low growth and performing much worse than other developed countries. The slow rise in their economy has led to a housing crisis, as the cost of living has shot up, making the United Kingdom a lot more expensive in a very short period. The Covid 19 Pandemic and the Ukraine War made the revival of the economy much worse, as thousands suffer to make ends meet, the prices continue increasing, hurting the ordinary citizens. A key issue of the election, the Labour Party promised to restore economic stability, reduce taxes and keep the government finances under control and transparent for the public.

Indonesia's Ibu volcano erupts, spews ash clouds as high as 5 km



GNS News Agency, June 18

Indonesia's Ibu volcano erupted on Monday morning, spewing thick columns of grey ash several kilometres into the sky, the country's volcanology agency said. The volcano on the remote island of Halmahera erupted at 9.12 a.m. (0012 GMT) for about five minutes, projecting ash into the sky as high as 5 km (3.1 miles), officials said.

The alert status of the volcano remains at the second-highest level, Hendra Gunawan, head of Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Centre, said in a statement. All activities within a five-kilometre radius of the volcano were prohibited, he added. "If it starts to rain ash, we recommend people who are near the volcano to wear a mask and glasses," Hendra said. Footage of the eruption shared by the centre showed clouds of grey ash billowing from the crater. The official said a booming noise was also heard. No evacuation of residents has been reported so far. Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and has 127 active volcanoes, according to the volcanology agency. In recent weeks North Sulawesi's Ruang volcano has erupted, spewing incandescent lava as lightning flashed from its crater. The eruption prompted authorities to evacuate more than 12,000 people living on a nearby island. In December, more than 20 people were killed after Marapi volcano, one of Sumatra's most active volcanoes, erupted and belched grey clouds of ash as high as 3 km.

Ukraine's first lady and foreign minister visit Russia-friendly Serbia

GNS News Agency, June 18

BELGRADE, Serbia — Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba made a surprise visit to Russia-friendly Serbia on Monday, together with Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, in a sign of warming relations between the two states. On his first visit to Serbia since the start of the Russian aggression on Ukraine in 2022, Kuleba met new Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vucovic, whose government includes several pro-Russian ministers, including two who have been under U.S. sanctions.

Although Serbia has condemned the Russian aggression on Ukraine, it has refused to join international sanctions against Moscow and has instead maintained warm and friendly relations with its traditional Slavic ally. Serbia has proclaimed neutrality regarding the war in Ukraine, and its authorities repeat that Serbia does not supply weapons to any parties. However, there are reports that Serbia has delivered weapons to Ukraine through intermediary countries. The visit by Kuleba and Zelenska, who toured the Serbian capital with Serbian first lady Tamara Vucic on Sunday, was met with criticism in Moscow. Comments by readers in the Russian state-run media such as "shameful" were published by RIA Novosti.

In what appears to be damage control, soon after his talks with Kuleba on Monday, Vucovic was to meet the Russian ambassador to Belgrade and the two were to tour a big storage facility for Russian gas that is being



imported to Serbia. Pro-Russian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy informally met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy three times on the sidelines of international conferences. Serbia has supplied Ukraine with humanitarian and financial aid. Vucic has for years claimed to follow a "neutral" policy, balancing ties among Moscow, Beijing, Brussels and Washington.

Although he has repeatedly said that Serbia is firm on its proclaimed goal of seeking European Union membership, under his authoritarian rule the Balkan country appears to be shifting closer to Russia and especially China. During a high-stakes visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Belgrade last week, China and Serbia signed an agreement to build "ironclad" relations and a "shared joint future."

Prince William makes surprise appearance at BAFTAs 2024 with special video message

GNS News Agency, June 18

This year's British Academy Television Awards, or the BAFTAs, were held at the Royal Festival Hall in London on May 12. Just days ahead of the prestigious awards ceremony, Deadline confirmed that the Prince and Princess of Wales would not be in attendance. However, Prince William surprised guests Sunday evening with a special recorded video message. In the video recording, Prince William extended his heartfelt congratulations to Baroness Floella Benjamin, who was awarded the BAFTA Fellowship. The former TV presenter, who is known for her work on Play School and Play Away, was honoured for her "longstanding commitment" to television broadcasting, per GB News.

The 74-year-old Baroness was left emotional by the Prince of Wales' sweet gesture. The duo has shared a decades-long friendship since their childhood days. William began his recorded speech with, "Good evening. Tonight we are delighted to recognise Baroness Floella Benjamin's remarkable achievements as she receives this year's Fellowship for her ground-breaking work with children and young people; her longstanding commitment to television broadcasting; and for her work as an unwavering champion of inclusion." Prince William continued, "In a career spanning more than five decades, she has touched the lives of millions. She has graced our screens as a much-loved presenter of children's television, most notably Play School and Play Away," adding, "She has also contributed greatly to BAFTA itself — she



chaired the BAFTA Television Committee from 1997 to 2000 and established the BAFTA Children's Awards in 1995. "Calling her a 'beacon of representation and a voice for change,'" the Prince of Wales added, "Beyond the screen arts, Baroness Benjamin has steadfastly advocated for children's education and welfare, supported a great number of charitable organisations, tirelessly campaigned for social justice - and as a member of the Windrush Generation - she has given voice to those who faced discrimination upon arrival in the UK." "Baroness Floella Benjamin you remind us of the power of empathy, compassion, and action to effect positive change and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. I'm thrilled that you are receiving the BAFTA Fellowship this evening, and I send my heartfelt congratulations," he concluded, per Hello.

Nepal President's economic advisor resigns after criticising inclusion of Indian territories in map on Nepal 100 notes

GNS News Agency, June 18

Kathmandu, The economic advisor to Nepal's President Ram Chandra Paudel has resigned after his controversial remarks on the government's decision to issue new hundred-rupee notes with a map that includes three Indian territories, a move already rejected by India. The President approved Chiranjivi Nepal's resignation on Sunday, according to a press release issued by the Office of the President. "I made the remarks as an economist and a former governor of the central bank but some news media have twisted it in an attempt to unnecessarily drag the respectful institution of the president into controversy, which made me feel sad," Chiranjivi Nepal

The new map includes territories such as Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura. India maintains Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura belong to it. "I, therefore, tendered my resignation taking the moral obligation of the attempt made by some online news portals which have tried to drag the president into controversy based on my statement," he said. "My intention in the statement was just to make people aware as a conscious citizen that such acts could create practical problems to the country and the people at a time when discussions are underway at diplomatic levels," he clarified. A Cabinet meeting last week decided to replace the old map with the new one while printing new notes of 100. CPN-UML chairman and former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli had publicly criticised Chiranjivi Nepal for his remarks.

Earlier, a group of civil society leaders had demanded the removal of Chiranjivi Nepal over his remarks against the government's decision to print new hundred-rupee notes with the map of Nepal as per the amended Constitution. They argued that he had gone against national interest and breached decorum while speaking to the national and international media on the matter. Nepal's government unveiled its new political map with the inclusion of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas within its territory in May 2020 during the government led by Oli. It was later endorsed by the Parliament unanimously. After that, the government replaced the old map used in all the official documents with the new map despite India's objection.

This artificial enlargement of claims is not based on historical fact or evidence and is not tenable. It is also violative of our current understanding to hold talks on outstanding boundary issues," India's External Affairs Ministry said at that time. External Affairs Minister S Jayashankar last week expressed discontent over the Nepal government's decision to issue the new notes. Jayashankar said that it is not going to change the situation on the ground. Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states — Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

In biggest corporate exit since Ukraine war, search engine Yandex's owner to leave Russia in \$5.2 billion deal



Yandex NV has struck a 475-billion-ruble (\$5.21 billion) deal to sell what has been dubbed "Russia's Google" to a group of Russian investors, marking the biggest corporate exit from the country since Moscow invaded Ukraine almost two years ago. The Kremlin-engineered deal would see Russia's largest technology player fall entirely under Russian ownership, including a fund ultimately owned by oil major Lukoil, and cement Yandex's departure from Western tech circles.

Once seen as one of the few Russian companies with the potential to become a global business, Nasdaq-listed Yandex had developed leading online services, including search, advertising and ride-hailing in Russia. Its co-founder Arkady Volozh, who moved from Russia to Israel in 2014, slammed Russia's invasion of Ukraine as "barbaric" in August, leading some within the Kremlin to push to nationalise Yandex, people familiar with the matter said. But ultimately, fear of a technology brain drain helped keep that prospect at bay and has resulted in a complicated deal under which Yandex busi-

nesses accounting for more than 95% of revenues would remain in Russia and come under Russian control. The Kremlin, which welcomed the deal, has been engaged in negotiations with Yandex for around 18 months to try and spin off the Russian businesses from Yandex NV, its Dutch parent. Yandex has always sought to portray itself as free from Kremlin influence, a task that has become more challenging as the company has become such a strategic national asset. The deal calculates Yandex's market capitalisation at \$10.2 billion, based on a three-month weighted average for its shares on Moscow Exchange. In late 2021, before Russia's invasion, Yandex's market value had approached \$30 billion. The sale price reflects "a mandatory discount of at least 50% to 'fair value'", Yandex NV said. Russia's government must approve deals involving foreign asset sales and demands a discount of at least 50%. Almost 88% of Yandex's ownership structure is currently free-float, with many Western funds among its shareholders. Yandex NV said in a statement that the deal would consist of a cash equivalent of at least 230 billion roubles and up to around 176 million Yandex NV Class A shares. "The cash consideration will be paid in Chinese Yuan (CNH) outside of Russia," Yandex NV said, adding that it would cease using the Yandex brand following completion of the deal.

The buyer, Consortium First, is a newly-formed investment fund managed by trustee Solid Management. It was led by members of Yandex's senior management team in Russia and supported by four financial investors including Argonaut, an investment fund ultimately owned by Lukoil. Three other companies – Infinity Management, IT Elaboration and Meridian-Servis – owned by Alexander Chachava, Pavel Prass and Alexander Ryazanov

Jio Platforms gets approval to launch satellite internet in India

Jio Platforms' approval marks an important step in the competition for satellite communication services, alongside efforts by Amazon and Elon Musk's Starlink. Reliance Industries' Jio Platforms, in partnership with Luxembourg's SES, has received the green light from India's space regulator to operate satellites for high-speed internet, reported news agency. According to a government official, three approvals were granted to Orbit Connect India, a venture set to deliver the internet via satellite. These clearances, issued by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) in April and June, allow Orbit Connect to position satellites above India. However, further approvals from the Department of Telecommunications are still required before the service can begin.

The approval comes as an important development in the race to offer satellite communication services, where companies like Amazon and Elon Musk's Starlink are also seeking permission. IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Goenka told Reuters that Inmarsat and others have also received nods to operate satellites, highlighting the growing interest in the satellite broadband market.

Deloitte forecasts strong growth for India's satellite broadband market, estimating a 36% annual increase over the next five years, with revenues expected to reach Rs 1.9 billion by 2030. Globally, the competition to connect rural areas via satellite internet has picked up pace. Amazon's Kuiper initiative, with a planned \$10 billion investment, and SpaceX's Starlink, already operational, are



key players in this space. Recently, Starlink also received preliminary approval from Sri Lanka to offer its services there. Goenka highlighted the benefits of increased competition in India's satellite internet sector, suggesting that competitive pricing would drive innovation to meet consumer expectations, similar to developments seen in the automotive industry. IN-SPACe is set to further authorise private companies to operate ground stations in India, facilitating satellite data downloads. The government's recent policy changes, including opening up the space sector to foreign direct investment, have sparked investor interest, with an increase in funding compared to previous years. "Last year investments into private companies were \$2 million-\$7 million. This year they are talking \$20 million-\$30 million. The proof of concept has happened," Goenka told

Tesla shareholders back \$56 billion pay package, says CEO Elon Musk



GNS News Agency, June 18

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said that the shareholders are voting in favour of his disputed \$56 billion pay package and to relocate the electric vehicle manufacturer's legal home to Texas, in a social media post on Wednesday, adding that passage was by wide margins. "Both Tesla shareholder resolutions are currently passing by wide margins. Thanks for your support," said Musk on X. A vote in favour strengthens the electric carmaker's position in a Delaware court, where a judge voided the 2018 compensation package, the largest in US corporate history at that time, citing the board was "beholden" to Musk, reported news agency Reuters.

This outcome represents a victory for Musk and the board, who have risked their credibility to secure shareholder approval, despite opposition from major investors such as Glass Lewis and Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS). The results will be announced at a meeting at Tesla's Texas headquarters on Thursday. A source aware of the preliminary vote count told Reuters that the 'yes' result was achieved with the support of both major institutional investors and retail investors. However, shareholders have the option to change their votes until the start of the annual meeting.

Tesla shareholders also voted on other proposals, including relocating the company's legal headquarters from Delaware to Texas, and the re-election of two board members: Kimbal Musk, Elon Musk's brother, and James Murdoch. Some investors saw the vote on Musk's compensation as a measure of their trust in his leadership. While Musk has been the driving force behind Tesla and is credited with much of its success, the company has recently experienced a slowdown in sales and profits.

The board said that Musk, the world's richest person, deserved the pay package because he achieved all the ambitious targets related to market value, revenue, and profitability.

They further said that the package is necessary to

keep Musk focused on Tesla, even though a Delaware judge pointed out that the 2018 pay plan did not ensure Musk would dedicate a huge amount of time to the company. Musk has indicated that he might develop AI and robotics products outside of Tesla if he doesn't secure enough voting control, which hinges on the approval of the 2018 pay package. Some large shareholders, including Norway's sovereign wealth fund and California's two largest pension funds, have declared their opposition to the compensation, calling it excessive. Tesla has been actively seeking support for Musk's pay package, especially from retail investors, who form an important part of its ownership base but often do not vote. Company executives have posted messages on social media, highlighting Musk's importance to Tesla's success. Tesla has also run social media advertisements, and Musk has promised a personal tour of Tesla's Texas factory to some shareholders who vote. Previously, a Delaware judge rejected the same package, describing it as an "unfathomable sum" granted by a board with close personal and financial ties to Musk. The board organised the shareholder vote to strengthen its appeal against the ruling, which criticised the board for not fully informing shareholders before approving the 2018 pay package. Musk may have to wait months or years for his pay package to be restored as the appeals process moves through Delaware's Supreme Court. Tesla could also face additional litigation from some shareholders. Recently, one shareholder filed a lawsuit challenging the upcoming vote on Musk's pay package and the change of domicile.

Rampant sexual harassment, hostile work environment: Fired employees sue SpaceX

NEW YORK: Eight former employees sued SpaceX and its CEO Elon Musk, alleging that Musk fired them after they challenged what they called rampant sexual harassment and a hostile 'Animal House'-style work environment at the company.

The employees, who filed a suit in a California state court, detailed their complaints in a 2022 open letter to the management, which they shared via a company intranet. The next day, four of the plaintiffs were fired, they alleged; others were terminated later after an internal investigation. In January, the federal National Labor Relations Board filed its own complaint against SpaceX based on issues raised by nine fired employees

Scientists say exercising 22 mins daily can cut death risk from prolonged sitting; here's a routine to try



In recent years, office workers forced into extended periods of sitting have been bombarded with alarming headlines about the dire consequences of this inactivity, suggesting even regular exercise couldn't fully mitigate the damage.

However, a study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine offers a beacon of hope, finding that as little as 22 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity a day can counter the ill effects of prolonged sitting. Moreover, the researchers discovered a decrease in the risk of premature death from any cause as a person's activity level increases.

What does the research say?

According to the study's lead author, Edvard Sagelv, a researcher at The Arctic University of Norway, the current recommendation of 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous activity "is sufficient to offset the detrimental health effects of prolonged sitting." Quoted by NBC News, he elaborated, "The beauty of this is that we're talking about activities that make you breathe a bit harder, like brisk walking, gardening, or tackling a hill." Seeking to determine whether physical activity could affect the relationship between sedentary time and mortality, the researchers investigated the amount of activity and sitting time necessary to influence this risk. Their findings revealed a decline in the risk of death with increased physical activity. Among those who sat for less than 10½ hours daily, an extra 10 minutes of activity translated to a 15 per cent lower death risk, while for those exceeding

10½ hours of daily sitting, the risk reduction jumped to 35 per cent. Festive offer covid study, exercise Exercise helps decrease the risk of death associated with prolonged sitting by counteracting its negative effects on the body. (Source: Freepik)

Why is prolonged sitting associated with a high risk of death?

Dr Sanjay Kumar, general physician, Cygnus Laxmi Hospital, explained that prolonged sitting increases the risk of death due to its association with several adverse health outcomes, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain types of cancer. "When you sit for extended periods, your muscles are inactive, leading to decreased metabolism, poor blood circulation, and increased inflammation, all of which contribute to higher mortality rates," he added.

Exercise helps decrease the risk of death associated with prolonged sitting by counteracting its negative effects on the body, according to Dr Kumar, who said that regular physical activity strengthens muscles, improves circulation, boosts metabolism, and reduces inflammation. "Engaging in exercise, such as brisk walking, jogging, cycling, or strength training, helps offset the harmful effects of sitting for long periods, promoting overall health and longevity."

What can you include in your 25 minute workout routine?

According to Joel Arun Benjamin, professional track field athlete and fitness trainer, India has one of the highest burdens of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) worldwide. "Brisk walking for 15 minutes can help us to take down the risk of CVD. Along with 15 minutes of strength training at least twice a week is most important thing which every human being should must do it, specially after the age of 30," Benjamin explained in an interaction with indianexpress.com. Human body starts losing lean muscles after the age of 30th by 8 per cent per decade, said Benjamin, adding that by the age of 60 that percentage goes up to 15 per cent per decade and he recommended strength training to prevent this. Benjamin noted, "You have many problems in life unless you have a health problem, once you have a health problem you only have one problem."

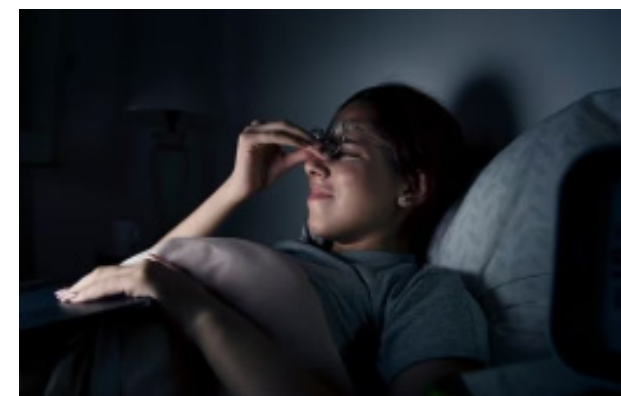
What happens to your body if you sleep after midnight every day?

By incorporating mindful sleep practices into our nightly routine, we can transform our sleep into a rejuvenating and health-promoting experience. By incorporating mindful sleep practices into our nightly routine, we can transform our sleep into a rejuvenating and health-promoting experience. The allure of the midnight hour, with its quietude and serenity, often beckons in a world where our days seem to extend far beyond the conventional nine-to-five. (It's called revenge bedtime procrastination) Yet, the habit of consistently sleeping after midnight may conceal more than just nocturnal tranquility; it might cast shadows on our long-term health.

Dr Dilip Gude, senior consultant physician, Yashoda Hospitals Hyderabad, noted that sleeping very late every day can not only cause a cascade of stress and metabolic issues but is also linked with various mental health disorders such as increased anxiety, depression, and bipolar disorders. "The natural repair cycle that occurs during sleep is hampered when people sleep late. Over all life span is decreased in those that are chronically sleep deprived and go to bed later," Dr Gude explained in an interaction with indianexpress.com.

What are the long-term problems you may face?

Disrupted circadian rhythms: Regularly sleeping after midnight can disrupt the body's natural circadian rhythms, affecting the regulation of essential functions such as hormone release, metabolism, and body temperature. Impaired cognitive function: Prolonged late-night sleep may impair cognitive functions, leading to difficulties in concentration, memory retention, and overall mental alertness. Increased stress hormones: Late-night sleep is linked to elevated levels of stress hormones like cortisol, potentially contributing to increased stress, anxiety, and even weight gain. Compromised immune function: Chronic sleep deprivation weakens the immune system, making the body more susceptible to illnesses and infections. Metabolic consequences: Sleeping post-midnight may disrupt the body's metabolism, potentially contributing to weight gain, insulin resistance, and an increased risk of metabolic disorders. Sleeping late is known to decrease the amount of sunlight exposure during the day, which affects overall mental and physical well-being causing poor focus and impaired memory,



along with inhibited learning, said Dr Gude. You might also be at risk of an increased level of cholesterol and hypertension, he added. Researchers from Nanjing Medical University in China delved into data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) What are the long-term problems you may face? (Source: Freepik)

How can you combat these problems?

Establish a Consistent Sleep Schedule: Cultivate a routine by going to bed and waking up at the same time every day, even on weekends, to regulate your body's internal clock. Create a Relaxing Bedtime Ritual: Develop calming pre-sleep rituals such as reading, gentle stretching, or meditation to signal to your body that it's time to wind down. Limit Exposure to Screens: Reduce exposure to electronic devices with screens at least an hour before bedtime, as the blue light emitted can disrupt melatonin production. Mindful Nutrition: Be mindful of late-night snacks, opting for light and easily digestible options. Avoid heavy meals close to bedtime to promote better sleep quality. Prioritise Quality Sleep: Ensure your sleep environment is conducive to rest, with a comfortable mattress, supportive pillows, and a dark, quiet room. Invest in creating a soothing sleep sanctuary By incorporating mindful sleep practices into our nightly routine, we can transform our sleep into a rejuvenating and health-promoting experience.

Do you experience bloating with pomegranate juice? Here's what to consider

If you find yourself experiencing bloating after consuming pomegranate juice, you're not alone. While pomegranates offer various health benefits, including cooling the stomach, treating acidity, addressing stomach ulcers, and stopping diarrhoea, excessive intake may lead to bloating, particularly in individuals prone to constipation and dry, hard stools, said Sushma PS, chief dietitian, Jindal Naturecure Institute. According to Sushma, this bloating effect is attributed to the astringent property of pomegranates, which can increase Vata or air and space in the gut.

Why does bloating happen?

Ushakiran Sisodia, registered dietician and clinical nutritionist, diet and nutrition, Nanavati Max Super Speciality Hospital said in an earlier interview that bloating occurs due to the build-up of gas in the digestive system, often caused by consuming foods that are difficult to digest. "Bloating and indigestion are common among Indians due to our food choices — spicy, oily, astringent foods, wheat-based foods, and legumes," she said. To avoid bloating, it is important to choose foods that can be digested and metabolised easily by the body or have them with certain dietary additions to neutralise their astringent effects. Some ayurvedic experts suggest that there are practical steps you can take to alleviate this discomfort. According to Dr Alka Vijayan, Ayurveda thyroid ex-



pert, one effective approach is to first try to add a handful of black raisins to pomegranate juice or add a pinch of powdered black salt. Both these remedies can take care of the bloating or flatulence, she said. Sushma described that this combination helps reduce the dryness associated with pomegranate consumption, potentially easing bloating.

Dr Dilip Gude, senior consultant physician, Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad mentioned that black salt contains minerals like magnesium, calcium, iron, etc, and is known to reduce bloating and flatulence. "Pomegranate juice may cause flatulence and bloating and adding a little of black salt can certainly help combat these," said Dr Gude.

Ammy Virk defends Diljit Dosanjh's decision to keep his marriage a secret: 'This is for their security'



of view, it is his private matter. It is his family. There must be a reason that he isn't introducing them to the world. I also have a wife and a daughter. Even I do not want them to come out in public. They also do not want it. For now, they can roam around anywhere and nobody knows they are Ammy's family or Diljit's family. If people know, they (families) will be troubled," said Ammy.

He stressed that in their profession, celebrities don't only have fans but may be facing other challenges, including "enmity," asserting that their families shouldn't suffer because of their popularity. "Families must not suffer. For now, they can go to the market or wherever, nobody cares. If people get to know, they might be targeted. This is for their security and this is their own will as well," the singer-actor added. Ammy also praised Diljit's contributions as an artist and how he has put India and Punjabi music on the global stage. He further added that he is confident that Diljit will eventually win prestigious awards like an Oscar or a Grammy. "He has worked hard. He has been working for almost 24 years now. It takes a lot of courage and hard work. He hasn't performed a Coachella just like this. He has been working for it for so long. He has a catalog. When he performs on stage, he has a different energy altogether. He has been working on his music, he is doing films. We feel really good. This is just the beginning. He will surely win a Grammy or an Oscar soon," he added. While there are no public records or images confirming his marital status, in a profile by The Indian Express for Sunday Express Eye, Diljit's friends claimed that the 40-year-old is married to an Indian-American woman and also has a son. The report, published days before the debut of Imtiaz Ali's Amar Singh Chamkila, mentioned, "An intensely private person, little is known about his family but friends say his wife is an American-Indian and they have a son, and his parents live in Ludhiana."

Diljit Dosanjh, who seems unstoppable at the moment with the phenomenal success of Amar Singh Chamkila, his ongoing Dil-Luminati Tour, and his upcoming appearance on Jimmy Fallon's The Tonight Show, is making ripples across the globe. Despite his global fame, the "Kinni Kinni" singer has remained private and guarded about his personal life. Rumours of the "Lover" hitmaker being married to American-Indian woman has been rife for over a few months now but the musician has remained tight-lipped about it. There are also speculations that the two have a son together. While Diljit is yet to make it official, recently, Punjabi singer-actor Ammy Virk commented on Diljit's relationship, suggesting there might be a reason behind Diljit's decision to keep his marriage a secret.

In a recent conversation with News18 Showsha, Ammy implied that Diljit is indeed married, suggesting that the singer's reluctance to introduce his family publicly might be due to "some issues." Ammy, who will be seen in Kudi Haryane Val Di, elaborated that public exposure could restrict their freedom and even pose risks. "You cannot stop anyone. If we look at Diljit Pajji's point

Nia Sharma, Jannat Zubair, Reem Shaikh recreate Sharmin Segal's 'Ek Baar Dekhlijiye'; netizens say 'they have more expressions'



It's been over a month, but the Heeramandi fever hasn't left the internet yet. While the Sanjay Leela Bhansali show was in the limelight for both good and bad reasons upon its release on May 1, the one person who was targeted and imitated the most was Sharmin Segal. Several people took to social media to lip sync to her "expressionless" shayari, "Ek baar dekhlijiye, deewana bana dijiye, jalne ko hai tayar hum, parwana bana dijiye." The latest ones to join the trend is the trio — Nia Sharma, Jannat Zubair, and Reem Shaikh. All three, who could be seen sitting on a show set, could be seen saying the dialogue together with quite a serious face. Sharing the video, Nia and Reem in a joint post wrote, "Pyari saheliyaan from the Laughter chef Mandi." The video got a lot of attention, with many wondering if this was a dig at Sharmin Segal.

Users dropped comments like, "No Alamzeb was harmed in this video", "That was so disrespectful please do it again", "Sharmin se jyada in logon ke expressions jhalak rhe", "Are they trolling sharmeen", "It's sad these actors make fun of their owns," and "So rude," among others. The television stars, however, haven't tried to clarify anything regarding the video. Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar, which marked the web series debut of Sanjay Leela Bhansali, made quite some headlines for its larger-than-life set and costumes, as well as, the "biased" casting of Sharmin Segal, who is the niece of the Padmavat filmmaker. Several people associated with the series talked in favour of Sharmin, however, the discussion around it hasn't stopped yet. The series also stars Manisha Koirala, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sonakshi Sinha, Richa Chadha, and Fardeen Khan, among others. Heeramandi is currently streaming on Netflix.

Taapsee Pannu loses her cool, shouts at a fan as he chases her for a selfie: 'Hatt jaiye'

Actor Taapsee Pannu, who is all set to feature in Phir Aayi Haseen Dilruba, a sequel to the 2021 film Haseen Dilruba, got annoyed at a fan who was trying to click a selfie with the actress in Mumbai on Wednesday. A video of the incident has now gone viral on social media. In the video, the Naam Shabana star can be seen walking towards her car when fans surround her for a selfie. Taapsee, who was not in the mood for a selfie, asked them to move. Despite her request, a fan chased her to the car which made Taapsee angry and she said, "Hatt jaiye" in an irritated tone. The actress was wearing a white skirt paired with green top.



This video caught the attention of the social media users. Taking to the comment section, users wrote, "Her behaviour is pathetic. Why show this much attitude. They are just doing their job. She should respect them", while another said, "Disgusting behaviour. I get it that sometimes media can be too much as well but you are a celebrity, you chose this career path which comes with this kind of stuff." Meanwhile, another set of people commented, "She was absolutely right btw, people should maintain basic hygiene and distance," while another said, "I am sure something is wrong here."

Taapsee Pannu, who recently tied the knot with her longtime boyfriend Mathias Boe in an intimate ceremony in Udaipur, is looking forward for the releases of her films Phir Aayi Haseen Dilruba and Khel Khel Mein, which also stars Akshay Kumar and Fardeen Khan. The film is set to release in theatres worldwide on August 15.

This video caught the attention of the social media users. Taking to the comment section, users wrote, "Her behaviour is pathetic. Why show this much attitude. They are just doing their job. She should respect them", while another said, "Disgusting behaviour. I get it that sometimes media can be too much as well but you are a celebrity, you chose this career path which comes with this kind of stuff."

Ajay Devgn hints at Singham Again delay: 'Work on it is still going on, we don't want to take a hasty decision'



Actors Ajay Devgn and Tabu, director Neeraj Panday and Oscar-winning music composer MM Keeravaani launched the trailer of their upcoming film Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha in Mumbai At the event, Ajay hinted that his next film with Rohit Shetty, Singham Again, also starring Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Arjun Kapoor, will be delayed.

When asked for an update on Singham Again's

progress and whether it will be released on August 15 as scheduled, Ajay Devgn said, "We are not sure because the work on it is still going on. It is not complete. A little bit of shooting is still left to be done also. So we are not in a hurry because jaldbaazi mein kaam kharaab ho jaata hai. As soon as we are ready, we'll decide."

When asked if it is difficult to experiment with different genres when the trend is to do big screen spectacles, Ajay Devgn said that he consciously chooses to do different genres of films and go against the tide. He said, "More than difficult, I think it is important to stay different. When Neeraj narrated this story, I told him I loved this script. It touches you so much. I said I don't know commercially what is going to happen. He said that he'll manage that." "Many a times we get that doubt in our mind, but it is important to do something different. I have tried doing that since the beginning. I did Thakshak and Raincoat when no one dared to do something different. I think that kept me going and I have learnt few things from it. It is proving to be useful today," Ajay concluded. Ajay Devgn and Tabu's Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha, directed by Neeraj Pandey, is slated to release in theatres on July 5.

Joju George injured during high-stakes helicopter scene in Mani Ratnam's Thug Life

Malayalam actor Joju George suffered a significant injury on the sets of Mani Ratnam's much-anticipated film Thug Life. While performing a high-risk action sequence involving a helicopter in Puducherry, George fractured his left foot. The actor was swiftly transported to a nearby hospital, where medical professionals immobilized his leg in a cast. Post-treatment, George returned to Kochi to recuperate. The injury mandates several weeks of rest, impacting his immediate shooting schedule. Despite this setback, the production of Thug Life, which features prominent actors including Kamal Haasan, will continue.

Only recently on the audio launch of Indian 2, Kamal Haasan opened up about the safety measures on sets and the unfortunate



accident that killed three people on the sets of Indian 2. He said it was unfortunate and underscored the importance to remember them as the film is gearing up for release. Now, the accident on Thug Life sets is set to raise many eyebrows. Thug Life's re-

lease will undoubtedly be a major event in the Tamil cinema landscape, with audiences keen to see the collaboration of Mani Ratnam and Kamal Haasan after a gap of several decades. AR Rahman is composing the music for the film, which also stars

Silambarasan. Produced by Madras Talkies and Raaj Kamal Films International, the movie is about a gangster, which is another highlight of the film as the first collaboration between Ratnam and Haasan was also a gangster drama titled Nayagan.

Dilip Kumar would walk up to 'boodha light man' on set and sip tea from his saucer: Emotional Farida Jalal says she 'couldn't believe' superstar's decency

Veteran actor Farida Jalal, who rose to fame after appearing in the films Aradhana, with Rajesh Khanna, and Gopi, with Dilip Kumar, recalled her contrasting memories of the two superstars. While she found Khanna to be an "arrogant" man who disrespected her on set, she had nothing but kind words to say about Dilip Kumar, whom she considered her brother. In an interview, she recalled how he would show tough love to her, and willed up as she remarked about his decency.

Chatting with Bollywood Bubble about her experiences on Gopi, she said, "I was a hardcore Dilip Kumar fan; him and Meena Kumari both. I still am. He'll always remain in our hearts. When the offer for Gopi came, I knew that I had to do it. I learned so much from him during Gopi, both as an actor and as a human being. He was the kind of person who would spot an elderly light man drinking tea by himself, and say, 'Why are you sitting alone?' He'd go over and share the tea with him, and drink from his saucer. I couldn't believe this."

She continued, "And he didn't do it to make a fake impression, he didn't do it for appearances. Some people did that as well. Nobody was looking. Only I was there. That's who he was. There was nobody else like him. I considered him as my brother." She recalled how the legendary actor would scold her for not taking care of her appearance, and putting on weight. He would also control her diet, but would realise that he was being cruel and make allowances.



"I still call him 'bhaijaan'. He taught me that no matter how successful you become in life, it's important to keep your feet firmly on the ground. Money will come and go, but the audience's love and respect is forever," she

said. By contrast, she didn't have too many positive things to say about Rajesh Khanna. "I would think this man is very proud, very arrogant. When I would ask for rehearsal, he would say 'How many rehearsals?' I was a newcomer. I felt very

bad. I even said 'How can you talk to me like that? I can ask for 10 rehearsals if I want'.

We fought there, Sharmila ji intervened. She protected me, she would speak in my defence," she recalled.

Ram Gopal Varma reacts to Darshan's arrest in murder case: 'A fit example of bizarreness of star worship'

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has weighed in on the recent controversy surrounding Kannada actor Darshan's arrest in connection with a murder case. Darshan, his friend Pavithra Gowda and 11 others were apprehended in connection with the murder of 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a fan who reportedly sent derogatory messages to Pavithra. This incident has sent shockwaves through the entertainment industry and among fans, highlighting the darker side of celebrity worship. In his tweet, RGV remarked, "A star using



one die hard fan to kill another die hard fan who was interfering in his personal life is a fit example of the bizarreness of the star worship syndrome. Fans wanting to order how their stars should run their lives is an unavoidable side effect of the same syndrome." A

star using one die hard fan to kill another die hard fan who was interfering in his personal life is a fit example of the bizarreness of the star worship syndrome. Fans wanting to order how their stars should run their lives is an unavoidable side effect of the same syndrome.

New Zealand lose to West Indies, but can Black Caps still reach Super 8 at T20 World Cup? Yes, with lot of help



GNS News Agency, June 18

New Zealand's Finn Allen reacts after he was dismissed during the men's T20 World Cup cricket match between the West Indies and New Zealand at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, Wednesday, June 12, 2024. (AP Photo) New Zealand's Finn Allen reacts after he was dismissed during the T20 World Cup cricket match against the West Indies at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago. New Zealand lost to the West Indies by 13 runs in their group stage clash at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad in the ongoing T20 World Cup. It's a result that seals the co-hosts' entry into the Super 8s and leaves the Black Caps almost eliminated. Almost.

Yes, despite the Black Caps suffering their second defeat in two games in the Group C, which leaves the

team at the bottom of the five-team standings with zero points and a NRR of -2.425. New Zealand still have two games in hand against Uganda and Papua New Guinea. Mathematically, New Zealand are still not out of the contention for securing a spot in the Super 8 stage where only two teams from each group will progress. In Group C, co-hosts West Indies have already secured the top spot with three wins in three games. How New Zealand can still qualify for the Super 8 New Zealand now need several things to go in their favour if they are to stand a chance to qualify.

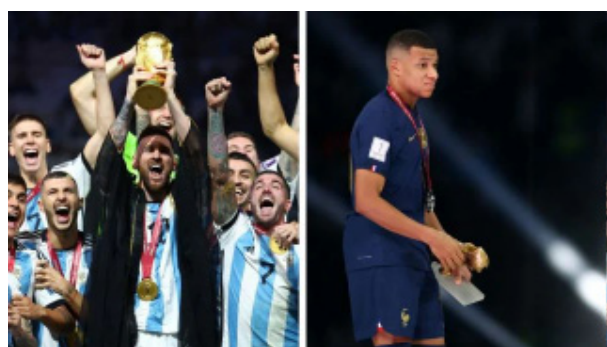
New Zealand will have to pray that somehow Afghanistan — who are currently claiming the second spot in the Group C standings thanks to two wins from two games, including over New Zealand, and a net run rate of 5.225 — lose their remaining two games. This is the tricky part because the high-flying Afghan team meets Papua New Guinea in one of those two games. If they somehow lose that, New Zealand will still have a shot. But if Afghanistan win that game tomorrow morning, it's game over for New Zealand. Even if that game gets rained out, New Zealand are out. Afghanistan also play a match against West Indies, which might be a tough contest favouring the hosts for the moment. Now coming to New Zealand's own games, they will have to win their two remaining matches — against Uganda and PNG — by heavy margins. The margins they need to win by will depend on how bad Afghanistan's losses are in their two games (if they lose that is).

Lionel Messi responds to Mbappe saying Euros tougher to win than World Cup: 'It leaves out too many world champions'

GNS News Agency, June 18

Mbappe claims Euros tougher to win than World Cup, Messi responds Mbappe had taken a jibe at the South American teams in May 2022, stating, "In South America, football is not as advanced as in Europe, that's why when you look at the last World Cups it's always Europeans who win." Lionel Messi, Argentina's World Cup winning captain, has given his take on his former Paris Saint-Germain teammate Kylian Mbappe's recent comments, calling Euros as more complicated to win than the World Cup. "He also said that the South American teams didn't have the same high competition as the Europeans. Everyone values what they play," Messi told ESPN Argentina.

"The Euros are very important, but it leaves out Argentina, three-time world champion; Brazil, five-time world champion; Uruguay, two-time world champion. There are many world champions left out to say that the Euros is the most difficult, right? In the World Cup, the best teams are there, all the world champions are generally there. That's why everyone wants to be world champion," Messi added. Commenting ahead of 2024 European Championships in Germany, Mbappe had said, "I consider the Euros more complicated than the World Cup, more complicated to win. If we talk about level, the Euros is more difficult because we are so used to play against each other. Tactically, it is similar football." It's not the first time the new Real Madrid signing has invited fire from South American football. He had taken a jibe at the South American teams in May 2022, stating, "In South America, football is not as advanced as in Europe, that's why when you look at the last World Cups it's always Europeans



who win." Coincidentally, it was Messi and Co, who beat France the same year to clinch a third world title in a thrilling penalty shootout finish to the World Cup final in Doha, Qatar. Mbappe, who was World Cup winner with France in 2018, had recently conceded the European Championships meant unfinished business for him. "I want to win the Euros. I have to be honest. I won the World Cup. I won the Nations League. That's the only one that missed me with the national team after I did everything with the national team. I really want to win this. My first competition as captain, so it's really important for me and it's always important for the country and we want them to be proud of us. [It's] another opportunity to write the history of my country," the French captain told CNN. Mbappe and Co are grouped alongside Austria, Netherlands and Poland in Group D and kickstart their Euro 2024 campaign next week. Lionel Messi and Argentina will also be in action this summer as they defend their Copa America title in the United States.

Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz set to team up in Paris Olympics



GNS News Agency, June 18

Rafa Nadal teams up with Carlos Alcaraz Rafael Nadal and recent French Open winner Carlos Alcaraz will be teaming up to play doubles in the Paris Olympics.

Royal Spanish Tennis Federation (RFET) on Wednesday said that Rafael Nadal and recent French Open winner Carlos Alcaraz will be teaming up to play doubles in the Paris Olympics. "One pair, which I think everyone knows and was hoping for is Carlos Alcaraz and Rafael Nadal and the second pair is yet to be decided, it hasn't been 100% confirmed yet," said Spain

coach David Ferrer while announcing the squad. "We'll wait a bit before announcing that. But Rafa and Carlos will be playing together in Paris," he added. 5?? Marcel Granollers@DavidFerrer87, Seleccionador Nacional, anuncia la lista de tenistas españoles preclasificados para los Juegos de París#MAPFREtenis pic.twitter.com/YLEatly7vNadal already has a gold medal in the Olympics which was held in Beijing in 2008 while this will be Alcaraz's first foray into the event as he returns to Roland Garros where he was crowned French Open champion on Sunday. Nadal's participation was up in the air with the 14-times French Open champion still not at his best following injuries but Ferrer said the 38-year-old would team up with 21-year-old Alcaraz. Two weeks ago, Nadal had gone down 3-6, 6-7(5), 3-6 in the first round of the French Open to Alexander Zverev. "I don't know if this is the last time, I'm not 100% sure. But if it is, I enjoyed it. For me, it is so special to feel the love of the people in the place I love the most," Nadal said on court after the match. "It's a big percentage chance that I will not be back here. I have some goals in front (of me), I hope to be on this court for the Olympics, but we will have to wait and see." The other players selected are Pablo Carreno Busta and Alejandro Davidovich Fokina while Marcel Granollers, who is ranked world number two in doubles, is also in the squad.

AIFF sacks Igor Stimac as head coach after India's disappointing FIFA 2026 World Cup Qualifiers campaign

GNS News Agency, June 18

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) sacked Igor Stimac as the head coach of the country's senior men's team following a disappointing campaign in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

Stimac, who was appointed as the head coach in 2019, was given an extension last year by the sport's apex body. India could not make the third round of the World Cup qualifier following a 1-2 defeat against Qatar in their final second round match. Noting the disappointing outcome of the Senior Men's National Team's FIFA World Cup 2026 qualification campaign, the members

unanimously agreed that a new Head Coach would be best placed to take the team forward," the AIFF said in a statement. A notice of termination has been issued to Mr. Stimac by the AIFF Secretariat, and he stands relieved of his obligations with immediate effect."

The 56-year-old Stimac, who was part of the Croatia team that made the semifinals of the 1998 World Cup, had taken charge of the Blue Tigers in 2019, after the departure of Stephen Constantine.

Under Stimac, India won four major trophies, including two SAFF Championships, one Intercontinental Cup and a Tri-Nations Series.

Tintin tribute, Barbie-pink at Euro 2024... which football kit is the best? Jersey expert weighs in



GNS News Agency, June 18

"Nobody wants to have that!" It has been a popular response in Germany for their away kit at a home Euros. Dropping the old black or green, this one blends hazy purple with pink. "Barbie-pink? That's not a German jersey." Such was the uproar against it that German football and Adidas partnered together in a satirical advert to stand their ground. "Yes it is." In England, the furore has been over a small St. George's cross on the back of the shirt collar. Usually stitched in traditional red and white colors, it's been given a blue, purple and red update. UK Opposition party leader Keir Starmer raved, "It's a big unifier. I'm not even sure they can explain why they needed to change it." The big international football summer is here, and with it are its many colors. No longer are football kits mere differentiators between two teams.

"They are totems," Neal Heard, a football shirt expert, consultant and exhibition curator, tells The Indian Express. "If you then put them on the nationhood, they become sacrosanct because you're saying this is exactly who we are. This is the national brand. The brands who are making these have a tough job because if anywhere football fans are more conservative, it's the national team," Heard says. Staring at the catalog for the upcoming European Championships, the author of 'The Football Shirts Book - A Connoisseurs Guide' is largely impressed. "Not all are amazing but there are enough good ones," Heard concedes before picking his favorites.

"Belgium away, based on the Tintin story, is a really cool one. France — hands down, the best footballing nation in kits — home and away are probably my favorites. Even Germany away is quite nice. As is England away. Actually, I adore that one." Looks a bit like the French home kit, doesn't it. "It does. Same sort of color. They're referencing a track suit, funnily enough, an iconic one from '66-'70." Speaking over a video call from Wales, he turns behind to access his 400-shirt strong collection and handpicks two — Germany and Holland from 1988 Euros. "Both these jerseys are quite bold even though they're paying homage to the tradition," says Heard.

£1000. That's how much a replica of the Dutch kit Heard is holding costs currently. "Not match worn, just the replica," he presses. "If it was match worn, you'll be talking millions." The gigantic size of the football shirts market can be gauged better through one half of it. Heard equates the retro shirts market in itself to that of the trainers/sneakers. Classic Football Shirts, the biggest players in the game were recently offered private equity of £38 million. "Not to buy the brand, just to actually come and take it to the next level." Heard tracks the beginning of the obsession back to the 1970s with an increase in the number of traveling fans in the two hotbeds of world football — Europe and South America. "In the 70s, teams were traveling in Europe or even with the Intercontinental World Cup, which was a really exotic thing. Once the fans started going to another place, they began swapping kits with

one another." A popular culture that extends to the players. An even bigger development has taken place in the last decade with football shirts becoming a strong fashion product. Heard explains, "You've got the team badge; they can be more visually appealing than one another's. Then the maker's logo. Nike, Adidas or Puma, there are people who specifically love those brands. And then, there are sponsors on the chest. Sometimes they can be a bit more prosaic, like a betting firm which is less attractive, but if you get a really good sponsor on the chest, you've got a treble whammy of brands and logos. I'd say they are one of the most strong-branded things that you'll ever find." Euro 2024: Neal Heard collection Heard's 400 shirt strong collection includes the rarest of football treasures including a 1988 Netherlands home kit replica. The Connoisseur believes a significant credit of the new appropriation of football shirts goes to football backwaters — India, Australia, Korea, and definitely America. "They are the drivers of this fashion thing. Countries who don't have a 150-year-old backlog of knowing everything about the sport. Most football fans in Europe wear a kit to a game or while playing five-a-side. People in America don't have that sort of loyalty associated with the kits. That appropriation of football shirts essentially drove them to being a fashion item."

What makes a kit stand out?

Does it take a big tournament triumph for a football shirt to be revered? It certainly adds to the aura. "The ones which are kind of the apex tick both boxes — an amazing kit coupled with team success. Holland won the Euros in that amazing shirt in '88." But then there's Nigeria at the 2018 World Cup. A team who were knocked out of the group stage but a kit that had the consensus of being "the best" at the tournament. Similarly, some of the Mexico kits have stood out despite underwhelming outings at World Cups. Talking about the other side of the spectrum, Heard believes that even winning a major trophy sometimes may not ensure that a kit goes down well in history. "Thinking back to when Argentina won the World Cup. They obviously wore the blue and white — because that's what they do wear — but was it an amazing shirt? Will I remember it? I won't. Using Maradona as a reference, when Argentina won that World Cup (1986) having that massive le coq sportif logo, I think everybody would remember that jersey."

"I'm kind of waiting for somebody to release that kit where I go...wow," Heard says. The kind that leaves him in an awe similar to what those two classics from the 80s did. He takes us to the Adidas designer labs in the decade. The story goes that when Horst Dassler, son of the German company's founder Adi Dassler, was designing the Germany and Holland kits, rather than working with professionals in their labs, he went to a local art college in search of a new designer. "He got an outsider, someone who looked at things with fresh eyes. And that's how they came out with those amazing kits." Heard believes it is no coincidence that two of the most iconic football kits were designed by a woman. "It's no accident that the Women's World Cup had vastly better kits. Because it was coming from the women's aesthetic, a little bit more freer and fashion led design. I wish they could bring some of that thinking for the men's game," he says. It rarely happens that a bold-unique design is accepted instantly by the majority. "The 90s kits are really hot because that's that generation of kids that have become adults now. They look back to the kits they had growing up, once they maybe couldn't afford at the time. Something that is certainly going to happen is that we will move to kits of the early 2000s." The fresher takes from Germany and England this summer can expect history to be much kinder to them.

Turkey aims to bounce back from Euro flop against debutants Georgia

GNS News Agency, June 18

Turkey begin their Euro 2024 campaign against newcomers Georgia on June 18 knowing a winning start in one of the tournament's weaker groups would give them a great chance of making the knockout stages after disappointing last time around. Tipped as dark horses going into Euro 2020, Turkey crashed out having lost all three group-stage games but they impressed in qualifying for Germany as they topped a group including 2022 World Cup finalists Croatia.

Their more recent form has been mixed: since beating Germany 3-2 in Berlin in November, Turkey have not won in five games and were hammered 6-1 by Austria in a friendly in March before holding reigning champions Italy to a draw this month. Turkey's ambitions of progressing from a group also containing Euro 2016 winners Portugal and Czech Republic rest in large part on captain and midfielder Hakan Calhanoglu, a key part of Inter Milan's Serie A-winning side. Hopes are also high for attacking midfielder Arda Guler after the 19-year-old came back from injury to score five goals in five games at the end of Real Madrid's victorious La Liga campaign.

Georgia, meanwhile,



Georgia, meanwhile, are playing in their first ever major tournament and are the clear underdogs in Group F.

are playing in their first ever major tournament and are the clear underdogs in Group F. Their slim prospects of qualifying for the last 16 will rest largely on the shoulders of talisman K h v i c h a K v a r a t s k h e l i a. With Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili reportedly a target for several top European clubs and forward Georges Mikautadze impressing on loan at Metz last season, Georgia have talent at both ends of the pitch.

But Napoli's

Kvaratskhelia — dubbed "Kvaradona" in a nod to Diego Maradona, perhaps the greatest compliment Napoli fans can give — must be at his best if Georgia are to spring a surprise and try to help unite a fractured nation, recently wracked by huge protests against a controversial "foreign agent" law. "It was the greatest dream of every Georgian to become a part of such an important tournament, and it was the happiest day for all of us when we achieved it," Kvaratskhelia told UEFA.com. "But we didn't come here just to attend, we wish to leave our mark on Euro 2024, to write a new page of history." With a Portugal side full of talent expected to top Group F, Turkey and Czech Republic, who face each other on June 26, will be the likely contenders for second place. Turkey, though, must first overcome a Georgia team who may be unburdened by expectation as they aim to become only the fifth side to win the title on their debut in a European Championship.