

INDIAN CHRONICLE

499 Gram Panchayat offices free of plastic in Siddipet

Siddipet: An idea by the District Gram Panchayat Officer (DPO) in Siddipet has helped in making 499 gram panchayat offices in the district free of plastic. Since gram panchayat offices organise meetings regularly apart from hosting various department officials to the gram panchayat, DPO Devaki Devi had proposed the idea of a steel bank. Speaking to Telangana Today, Devaki Devi said the idea of a steel bank, coined by former Minister T Harish Rao, was a great success in Siddipet town. Drawing inspiration from the idea, she had instructed all panchayat secretaries to buy a steel bank with funds available in the panchayat or with the support of donors in February 2023.

ADP joins hands with Akshaya Patra to provide 9 lakh meals to 37,000 govt school students across India

Hyderabad: ADP, a global leader in human capital management, announced a collaboration with the Akshaya Patra Foundation to provide 9,00,000 meals to 37,000 children studying in government schools across India. This initiative under Tarang – ADP India CSR Program, is aimed at feeding these children for one entire month, underscoring ADP's enduring commitment to community service and social responsibility, a press release said. Vijay Vemulapalli, General Manager and Managing Director, ADP India, said, "Feeding children is not just about providing meals, it's about nourishing their dreams and futures. By ensuring that children have access to nutritious meals at least once a day, we believe that we are also supporting their education and well-being."

NEET row rages further after UGC-NET cancellation; students stage protests, opposition attacks government



New Delhi, GNS News Agency, June 20

The outcry against alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET grew louder on Thursday with several student groups staging protests and opposition attacking the government saying the paper leaks are expansion of the Vyapam scam and future of candidates who appeared in these exams is being destroyed. The cancellation of UGC-NET, amid the raging row over NEET, led to questions being raised over National Testing Agency's (NTA) capability to conduct exams of larger magnitude. The Ministry of Education said it is waiting for a report of Bihar Police's Economic Offences Unit on alleged irregularities in conduct of NEET in Patna and will take further action on basis of that. The ministry also summoned NTA D-G Subodh Kumar Singh to discuss the

issue further. The ministry on Wednesday cancelled UGC-NET conducted by the NTA following inputs that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held a press conference and launched a scathing attack on the government over the alleged irregularities in NEET and cancellation of UGC-NET and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "psychologically collapsed" post elections and would struggle to run a government like this.

He said the main reason for paper leaks is that educational institutes had been captured by the BJP and its parent organisation RSS and paper leaks would not stop unless that is reversed. "It was being said Prime Minister Modi stopped the Ukraine-Russia War and Israel-Gaza war, but he is either not able to stop exam paper leaks or doesn't want to," Gandhi said. He claimed that during his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, thousands complained about paper leaks. There has been an expansion of idea of Vyapam to rest of country," he said of the recent controversy while referring to the Vyapam examination and recruitment scam in Madhya Pradesh. "Nothing should be done in arbitrary manner, rules that apply to one paper should apply to another," Gandhi said. More than two dozen students from different universities and members of various students' groups were detained on Thursday while they were protesting against the cancellation of the UGC-NET examination and irregularities in the NEET. The students were detained from outside the Ministry of Education as well as Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's residence here in central Delhi.

PM Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and other BJP leaders extend wishes to President Murmu on her 66th birthday



GNS News Agency, June 20

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Warm birthday wishes to Rashtrapati Ji. Her exemplary service and dedication to our nation inspire us all. Her wisdom and emphasis on serving the poor and marginalized are a strong guiding force. Her life journey gives hope to crores of people. India will always be grateful to her for her tireless efforts and visionary leadership. May she be blessed with a long and healthy life." Union Home Minister Amit Shah also posted on X and said that the President's dedication to the development of the nation is an inspiration. "Warm birthday greetings to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu Ji. Your dedication to the development of the nation and the upliftment of the poor and marginalized sections of society is an inspiration for all. I pray to God for your good health and a long life," Shah said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also wished the President and said that India has deeply benefited from her insights and contributions. "Greetings and my best wishes to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu on her birthday. She is widely respected for her statesmanship and vision for India's all-round development. India has deeply benefited from her insights and contributions. Her passion for the

welfare and empowerment of the poor & weaker sections of our society is commendable. Praying for her good health and long life," Rajnath said on X. Union Minister JP Nadda while extending his wishes to President Murmu, said, "I extend my heartfelt wishes to President Draupadi Murmu ji on her birthday.

Your dedication to public service, public welfare and the upliftment of the underprivileged inspires us. I pray to God for your good health and long life." Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the President stands as a beacon of wisdom and dignity. "Heartiest birthday wishes to Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu ji. Rashtrapati ji stands as a beacon of wisdom and dignity. Her commitment to the welfare of our people and her inspiring life journey continues to motivate the entire nation. We, in Assam, seek her continued blessings and guidance in the days ahead. I pray to Maa Kamakhya and Srimanta Sankardev to bless her with a long life in the service of the nation," he said. "Hearty congratulations and best wishes to respected President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu ji on her birthday. I pray to Lord Badri Vishal for your healthy, long and auspicious life," he said.

NEET-UG row: Rahul Gandhi slams govt, says Oppn to raise issue in Parliament

GNS News Agency, June 20

New Delhi: With the NEET-UG paper leak case snowballing into a major controversy, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at the BJP-led Central government on Thursday, saying that the Opposition will raise this issue in the upcoming session of the Parliament. Addressing a press conference here, the Congress MP mentioned that during his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' from Manipur to Maharashtra, hundreds of youth brought up the issue of paper leaks. He also took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, suggesting that while it was claimed that the PM stopped the Russia-Ukraine war, he seems unable or unwilling to prevent paper leaks in India. "The reason for paper leaks is that the BJP's parent organisation has taken control of the education system. Unless this is reversed, paper leaks will continue," he said, attributing the "capture of the education system" to Prime Minister Modi. He also labelled this as an "anti-national activity".

Rahul Gandhi further pointed out that institutions in the country are "no longer impartial and have become associated with a single ideology", as he criticized the Centre for exonerating the National Testing Agency (NTA), responsible for conducting NEET-UG. On the cancella-



tion of the UGC NET on Wednesday, a day after the test was held, Rahul Gandhi emphasised the need for a thorough reassessment and redesign of the pre-existing system. He also advocated for a comprehensive probe into the NEET-UG paper leak and urged for accountability against those responsible. About 24 lakh aspirants appeared for NEET on May 5 for admission to medical colleges. The results were announced before time on June 5 but were marred by allegations of paper leak and awarding of grace marks to over 1,500 candidates.

110 heatwave deaths in India, monsoon onset over east in 3-4 days

GNS News Agency, June 20

The intense heatwave across most parts of the country has led to 110 deaths since March even though light to moderate rainfall in Delhi and Kolkata brought much needed respite on Thursday. Relief may soon be around the corner as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted the advancement of the monsoon in the next 3-4 days over east central India and east India.

As per Health Ministry data, the highest number of heatwave-related deaths was reported from Uttar Pradesh (36), followed by Bihar (17), and Rajasthan (16). Madhya Pradesh has reportedly recorded the highest number of heatstroke cases at 10,636, but only five fatalities. The number of patients suffering from heatstroke has been increasing on an average in different hospitals and small clinics as northern and eastern India continue to reel under a relentless heatwave. With maximum temperatures hovering around 46 degrees Celsius, the Health Ministry has advised hospitals to set up special units to cater to such patients. As per PTI, over 40,000 people across the country have been admitted to hospitals with suspected heatstroke between March 1 and June 18 this year. The national capital recorded 17 deaths due to suspected heat-related illnesses in the last 24 hours, even as isolated rain



across Delhi since Wednesday night brought down temperatures.

The respite, though short-lived, came after Delhi recorded its warmest summer night in the last 55 years on Tuesday. IMD scientist Soma Sen said Delhi will see an isolated heatwave on June 23-24, but temperatures won't see a massive rise. "There are pre-monsoon showers. Its impact will weaken from today. But easterlies will advance here due to which the temperatures won't go up a lot. Still, there is likely to be an isolated heatwave on June 23-24 in Delhi," ANI quoted Sen as saying. The brutal heatwave conditions in Delhi have coincided with a rise in the number of cremations at Nigambodh Ghat. However, it is not confirmed if the deaths are related to heatstroke. The Nigambodh Ghat Sanchalan Samiti told PTI that 142 corpses were brought to the crematorium on Wednesday, a massive rise from the daily average

of 50-60 bodies. On Tuesday, 97 bodies were cremated. Heavy rain lashed Maharashtra's Thane and neighbouring Palghar districts on Thursday as the south-west monsoon gathered pace.

While several parts of Mumbai received showers on Wednesday and Thursday morning, Thane and Palghar bore the brunt. In Palghar, an overflowing river flooded

UGC-NET exam cancelled to safeguard students' interest, matter with CBI: Education Ministry

New Delhi, June 20

A day after the UGC-NET was cancelled, Education Ministry officials Thursday said no complaints were received about the exam but a suo motu action was taken on the basis of inputs available with them to protect students' interest. Education Ministry Joint Secretary Govind Jaiswal said the details of the inputs cannot be shared as the matter has been referred to the CBI and is currently under investigation.

"No complaints were received but the inputs were received from agencies indicated that the integrity of the exam has been compromised. The action was taken suo motu to safeguard interests of the students," he said.

AP means Amaravati, Polavaram, says CM Chandrababu Naidu



GNS News Agency, June 20

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu, on Thursday visited Amaravati capital region to get first-hand information about the status of the capital's development work and said Andhra Pradesh stands for Amaravati and Polavaram. A week after assuming office as Chief Minister, he went around Amaravati where work on the capital came to a grinding halt in 2019 after the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government decided to develop three state capitals, reversing the decision of the earlier TDP government to build Amaravati as the sole capital. CM Naidu began his visit from Praja Vedika, a building demolished by the previous government headed by Jagan Mohan Reddy in 2019.

He saw the debris of the structure built by him close to his official residence when he was the Chief Minister between 2014 and 2019. Hon'ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu Garu conducted an on-site inspection of the Amaravati region today and emphasized the need to resume construction of the state's capital.

The Chief Minister later told media persons that the government will keep the debris of Praja Vedika so that people remember the destructive role of Jagan Mohan Reddy like people remember Hiroshima and

Nagasaki. The TDP leader said farmers of Amaravati withdrew their 1,631-days' long protest after formation of the coalition government with the hope that it will complete capital development work. Naidu also visited Uddandarayunipalem, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation for the capital in 2015. Claiming that he tried to create brand Amaravati, he alleged that Jagan Mohan Reddy tried to kill it by making false allegations of insider trading and forced the Singapore Consortium to leave. CM Naidu said the YSRCP government harassed the farmers, who had given their lands for capital development. The Chief Minister visited the Seed Axis Road, the housing complexes for the All India Service officers, ministers and High Court judges.

Agriculture Minister writes to Nadda on immediate requirement of fertilizer

GNS News Agency, June 20

Hyderabad: The State government has requested the Centre for immediate allotment of 80,000 metric tonnes of diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer to meet the demand from Kharif (Vanakalam) farmers in July. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswar Rao on Thursday wrote to union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers JP Nadda, stressing the need for timely supply of fertilisers. He stated that the sowing operations were in full swing in the State and consequently, brisk sale of DAP was being witnessed. Telangana being an early sowing State, the Kharif operations took off well in advance following the pre-monsoon rains received all over, he said, adding that the State required 52,000 metric tonnes of DAP for April and 60,000 tonnes for May this year.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, BARE KALAWATI W/O MADASTU VENKATI (Old name) born on 18-01-1972 at Sangvi hereby changing my name and henceforth in future I would be known as BARE KALAVATHI W/O MADASTU VENKATI (New Name) R/o H.No. 3-1-2-2-1, Tatiguda, Adilabad-504308, Telangana.
DECLARANT.
BARE KALAVATHI W/O MADASTU VENKATI
Place: Adilabad
Date: 20-06-2024

Indian entrepreneur shares inspiring 5 year journey to green card, here's how he made it



tigious Princeton University where he completed a Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) in 2015. He then made his mind up to enter the professional world with a strong foundation. Describing further, he gave a glimpse of his professional run, which started with ThoughtSpot in the Bay Area as a Staff Engineer. Over the next five years, he honed his skills and contributed to the company's goals and vision. He later aspired to build his own startup, but the major challenge was doing it in the US, which felt impossible due to visa constraints. In 2021, the young engineer decided to come back to India and launch his startup with a bang but Covid-19 posed unforeseen challenges. The pandemic combined with the complexities of understanding the B2B market in India made his journey even more challenging.

Way back to the United States He decided to go back to the US on an F2 visa in 2021. (short-term visa for the immediate relatives of F1 Student Visa recipients.) The next two years were all about patience and experimenting with new jobs while also ideating on his entrepreneurial ambitions. The Green Card pursuit

In March 2023, he submitted his application for the EB-1A visa, recognised for its strict standards aimed at people with exceptional talents. After several months of anticipation, a critical turning point came in September 2023 when he received a Request for Evidence (RFE). By December 2023, Ravi's application was granted, securing his journey towards becoming a permanent resident.

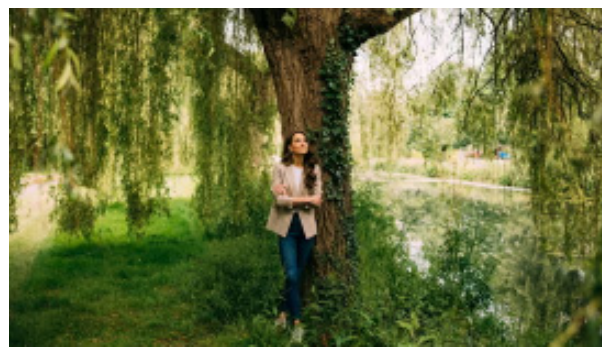
What is EB-1A visa? It's an employment-based visa for non-US residents with extraordinary ability. In such cases, your chance to get one depends on you being a "priority worker" with extraordinary skills in fields of "science, arts, education, business, or athletics." With his future looking stable from where he was standing, he decided to give his all to his startup idea and founded @discoverAI, a legal tech company leveraging generative AI. In May 2024, he finally received his green card. At this point, with momentum and financial backing, he is on the correct trajectory to create numerous profitable projects ahead. He recognises the support and motivation he received from different people who talk about immigration in the United States, acknowledging the problem as difficult and intricate.

GNS News Agency, June 20

Getting a green card has turned into a major hurdle for numerous Indian nationals, as data from the U.S. government shows that more than a million people are currently dealing with lengthy backlogs in employment-based immigration. This logjam, resulting from caps on the number of immigrants from each nation and limited quotas, forces highly skilled Indian professionals to face the possibility of waiting for decades to achieve permanent residency. The Biden administration has announced that certain categories of immigrants, including those seeking green cards and spouses of H-1B visa holders, would be permitted to use their expired work permits for an additional 18 months, offering a reprieve to thousands of Indians working in this country and prevent further disruption for US employers.

The Biden administration has announced that certain categories of immigrants, including those seeking green cards and spouses of H-1B visa holders, would be permitted to use their expired work permits for an additional 18 months, offering a reprieve to thousands of Indians working in this country and prevent further disruption for US employers. LinkedIn feeds are abuzz with congratulations for Ravi Tandon, a skilled engineer and visionary entrepreneur, who finally secured his green card in the US! The journey wasn't a walk in the park. He has now shared his journey on social media detailing all the hurdles and setbacks that came his way, but his unwavering determination to succeed ultimately paid off. Ravi's visionary journey began in 2008 when he enrolled at IIT Guwahati, where he pursued a B-Tech degree. After graduation, his quest for knowledge led him to the pres-

Kate Middleton's cancer diagnosis to Royal duty comeback: A comprehensive timeline



GNS News Agency, June 20 Kensington Palace announced earlier this year about Kate Middleton's cancer which was discovered post-abdominal surgery. Since then, there have been updates about her health from the palace regarding her ongoing treatments and well-being. The Princess of Wales has missed various important occasions due to her health concerns, such as the wedding of the Duke of Westminster, among others. However, she recently confirmed that she will attend Trooping the Colour, a royal family event. This will be her first public appearance since her cancer diagnosis. Let's take a look at her health timeline and how far she has come.

In mid-January, Kensington Palace announced Kate's planned abdominal surgery was successfully conducted. The Palace stated in the announcement that "the surgery was successful." However, during this initial hospitalisation, her cancer went undetected. By the end of the month, Kate was discharged and returned home,

but shortly afterward, further medical tests revealed the presence of cancer. The Princess of Wales was at Adelaide Cottage in Windsor for her recovery from the surgery. In mid-February, during post-operative tests, it was discovered that Kate Middleton had cancer. Later that month, she addressed the public in a video message, revealing her diagnosis and ongoing preventive chemotherapy treatments. On March 22, Kensington Palace issued an official announcement confirming Kate's cancer diagnosis but did not specify a timeline for her recovery from chemotherapy.

A month after celebrating their wedding anniversary in April, when Kensington shared a never-before-seen photograph of Prince William and Princess Kate from their wedding day in the last days of April, the Palace provided updates on Kate's business task force. According to Town & Country, a spokesperson from the Palace reported "early childhood is a huge priority for the Princess and so she has been kept fully updated throughout the development of the Taskforce's work and she has seen the report." However, it was also informed that this should not be taken as a sign of Kate's return to work. She will return when and as the doctors will give her a "green light" but it is yet not defined. The Princess of Wales penned a letter as she explained her days during the chemotherapy, which is ongoing. She also mentioned she has begun working from home and will attend the King's Birthday Parade with her children. Talking about her work in the letter, she wrote, that her "treatment is ongoing." She also mentioned, "it is a joy to engage with school life, spend personal time on the things that give me energy and positivity, as well as start to do a little work from home."

Donald Trump and the dramatic power of not turning up

GNS News Agency, June 20

Her handwriting, her furs, her ostrich-feather fan and azalea perfume—along with her beauty, cruelty, secrets and lies: traces of Rebecca are everywhere in "Rebecca". At Manderley, her husband's country pile, her evening dresses seem to rustle eternally in the breeze. "Her footsteps sounded in the corridors," writes Daphne du Maurier, "her scent lingered on the stairs." Above all she intrudes in the twisted devotion of the housekeeper, Mrs Danvers. Yet Rebecca herself, dead before the novel opens, never directly appears.

His orange skin and blond quiff, the erratically capitalised social-media posts, demeaning nicknames and gimme-a-breaks: in a similar sort of way, although Donald Trump skipped the Republican presidential debate in August, his image haunted it. He may well pull off the same trick in the second debate on September 27th. Mr Trump seems to intuit something which du Maurier and other storytellers have grasped—that a character you don't see can make a bigger impression than those you do.

In fiction, as in life, absence can be a power play. The leader, don or spymaster asserts his authority over other characters, and impresses it on you, by relying on minions to do his bidding. The titular boss in "Charlie's Angels" issues orders to his agents while his face stays out of sight. In the British sitcom "Yes, Minister" the prime minister is capricious but invisible. When, in the first debate, Mike Pence referred to Mr Trump as "one that's probably looking on", he made the no-show sound almost celestial. Absence can cultivate fear, since what you cannot see is often scarier than what is revealed. Stirred by creepy music, each imagination fills the void with its own horrors. Viewers do not see the baddie who stalks the film students in "The Blair Witch Project", nor the hunter who shoots Bambi's mother. The driver whose lorry hounds the protagonist of Steven Spielberg's "Duel" is not identified. (Conversely, the shark in "Jaws" is much less terrifying after it surfaces on screen.) The unseen is a mystery. Sometimes it is ultimately dispelled, as with the Wizard of Oz, Boo Radley in "To Kill a Mockingbird" and Harry Lime in "The Third Man". Sometimes the mystique endures. So remote is Big Brother that readers of "1984" cannot know if he is, or ever was, a real person. In two James Bond films, 007's arch-enemy Ernst Blofeld appears as a pair of hands stroking a cat. During the first debate, live shots of Fulton County jail, where Mr Trump was due to turn himself in, had the air of a villain's lair, the tenebrous place standing in for the elusive man.

Most subtly, a hidden figure can be a mirror and



measure of other people's vices and virtues. Initially, Romeo is moping not for Juliet but for Rosaline, in his view the fairest maiden "since first the world begun". Audiences never meet her, but she supplies an early sense of his overheated emotions. Anton Chekhov was an expert in devising this kind of absentee. In "Three Sisters" the gallantry and philosophising of Vershinin, an army officer, are undercut by his blithe neglect of his suicidal wife—who is always offstage. Likewise in the first debate, Mr Trump provided a spectral yardstick of the other candidates' independence. Chris Christie incurred boos for saying that some of his actions were "beneath the office of president". Vivek Ramaswamy praised Mr Trump to the heavens. Ron DeSantis tried to wriggle between condemnation and defence, a spectacle as agonising as watching him try to smile. The most famous unseen character in literature combines these effects. In Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot", Vladimir and Estragon are not sure what Godot looks like, whether he will ever materialise and, if he does, whether salvation or punishment will ensue. Godot gives them a purpose yet is a pretext for inertia. "In this immense confusion," says Vladimir, "one thing alone is clear. We are waiting for Godot to come."

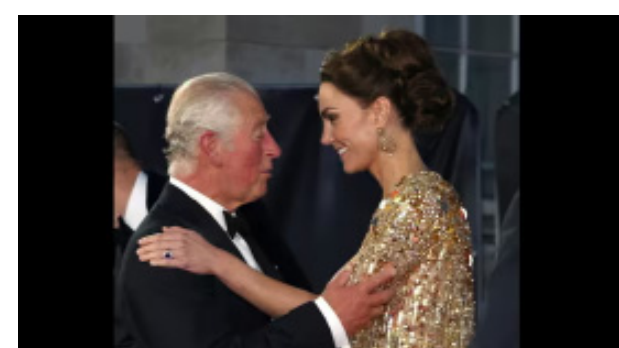
Mr Trump is no Godot. Nor is he really offstage, even on debate nights. He holds court online and in friendly interviews, dominating conversations and front pages whether he shows up or not. His absence projects power, and he evokes fear in many Americans, but he is scarcely a riddle. They have seen the Trump movie before. Still, like Vladimir and Estragon, the rest of the Republican field will again be plagued and paralysed by Mr Trump's shadow should he miss more debates. The play's ending captures their limbo-like predicament. "Let's go," says Estragon, before the deadening final stage direction: "They do not move." For more on the latest books, films, TV shows, albums and controversies, sign up to Plot Twist, our weekly subscriber-only newsletter

King Charles III is 'delighted' to see Kate Middleton in Trooping the Colour

GNS News Agency, June 20

King Charles III has expressed he is "delighted" that Kate Middleton will be attending the Trooping the Colour ceremony with the royal family amidst the "cancer battle". A Buckingham Palace spokesperson said, "His Majesty is delighted that The Princess is able to attend tomorrow's events, and is much looking forward to all elements of the day." Kate had a discussion with the monarch about her plans to participate in the annual birthday parade for Charles on Saturday, June 15. "I am making good progress, but as anyone going through chemotherapy will know, there are good days and bad days. On those bad days, you feel weak, tired and you have to give in to your body resting. But on the good days, when you feel stronger, you want to make the most of feeling well," Kate shared for the first time she has spoken publicly since announcing her cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy treatment on March 22.

The Prince of Wales said her treatment was "ongoing" and "will be for a few more months." "On the days I feel well enough, it is a joy to engage with school life, spend personal time on the things that give me energy and positivity, as well as starting to do a little work from home," she noted. "I'm looking forward to attending the King's Birthday Parade this weekend with my family and hope to join a few public engagements over the summer, but equally knowing I am not out of the woods yet." The Trooping the Colour on June 15 will see members of the royal family gathering at the Household Division of the British Army celebrates King Charles' official birthday with a grand procession through London. It has been confirmed that King Charles, 75, will participate differently



"On the days I feel well enough, it is a joy to engage with school life, spend personal time on the things that give me energy and positivity, as well as starting to do a little work from home," she noted.

due to his own cancer treatment, conducting his review from a horse-drawn carriage alongside Queen Camilla. Last year, he appeared on horseback during his Trooping the Colour as monarch.

Prince William's 'Meghan' warning to Prince Harry 'was correct'

GNS News Agency, June 20

In his bombshell memoir, 'Spare,' Prince Harry revealed that his brother cautioned him against proposing too quickly, fearing their relationship was moving too fast. Jennie Bond, a former BBC royal correspondent, told The Sun, acknowledging William's advice as well-intentioned: "He was correct to guide or warn Harry 'are you sure you're not going a bit fast'. I think it came from a good place."

Bond points out that all of the "long" marriages within the Royal Family to date were "survived" by a long two courtship, for instance the marriage between Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, and Prince Edward and "that is one of the most delightfully happy marriages in the Royal Family." Bond commented further during the Sun's Royal Exclusive show, Comparing Harry and Meghan's rapid courtship to the more gradual romance of Prince William and Kate. "Kate was given ten years to peer into the goldfish bowl of royal life," she observed. Despite Prince William's words of caution, Prince Harry proposed to Meghan in 2017, just over a year into their relationship that spanned continents. Their wedding, a lavish affair at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle on May 19, 2018, was followed by a reception hosted by William at Frogmore House. In his memoir, Harry disclosed that the wedding arrangements strained his relationship with his brother.

Amidst the bombshell claims and while Kate



Middleton is all set to appear for the first time in Trooping the Colour since announcing her cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy treatment on March 22, Prince William secretly attended a meeting with some of the operatives of the British Secret Intelligence Service, MI6 two days before the start of the annual parade. According to Hello! Magazine, records in the Court Circular which is the official listing of the British Monarchs and their family members, engagements/appearances are stated that the Prince of Wales visited the Secret Intelligence Service headquarters on the 13th of June. Once again, there is no official information on this, and also this particular meeting is not mentioned in any official announcement released by the Kensington Palace.

Houthi missile attack severely injures sailor on cargo ship: U.S. military



GNS News Agency, June 20

Two cruise missiles launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a bulk cargo carrier in the Gulf of Aden on June 13, severely injuring a sailor who was evacuated by American forces, the U.S. military said. The Houthis have been targeting vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since November 2023 in attacks they say are in solidarity with Palestinians during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. Although this has caused major disruption to international shipping, casualties have been rare.

The M/V Verbena—a

Palauan-flagged, Ukrainian-owned, Polish-operated ship— "reported damage and subsequent fires on board. The crew continues to fight the fire. One civilian mariner was severely injured during the attack," the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement. "Aircraft from USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) medically evacuated the injured mariner to a partner force ship nearby for medical attention," CENTCOM said. "This continued reckless behavior by the Iranian-backed Houthis threatens regional stability and endangers the lives of mariners across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden." The Houthis on June 13 said they

had carried out attacks on three ships within the past 24 hours, including the Verbena, "in retaliation to the crimes committed against our people in the Gaza Strip, and in response to the American-British aggression against our country." The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), meanwhile, reported an explosion close to a merchant vessel in the Red Sea about 80 nautical miles northwest of Yemen's rebel-held Hodeida port, with no damage or casualties. CENTCOM later said that over the previous 24 hours it had destroyed an air defence sensor, two patrol boats, and nautical

and aerial drones belonging to the Houthis. In the past 24 hours, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) forces successfully destroyed one air defense sensor in a Houthi controlled area of Yemen.

The Houthis, who are at war with a Saudi Arabia-led coalition after ousting the government from Sanaa in 2014, have launched scores of drone and missile attacks on shipping vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since November. The first reported fatalities from the attacks on ships occurred in the Gulf of Aden in March. On June 12, the Houthis struck the Tutor, a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, southwest of Hodeida. They claimed to have used sea-borne and aerial drones as well as ballistic missiles. CENTCOM said at the time that the Tutor had been hit by a Houthi "unmanned surface vessel" that "caused severe flooding and damage to the engine room". On June 13, CENTCOM accused the Houthis of claiming to act "on behalf of Palestinians in Gaza and yet they are targeting and threatening the lives of third country nationals who have nothing to do with the conflict".

Hyundai files for IPO to raise \$3 billion that could be India's biggest



billion. India's second-biggest car maker behind Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai will not issue new shares in the IPO which will involve its South Korean parent selling part of its stake in the wholly owned unit to retail and other investors via a so-called "offer for sale" route.

Hyundai Motor India expects that the listing of the equity shares "will enhance our visibility and brand image", and "provide liquidity and a public market" for the shares, the company said in the draft prospectus filed on Saturday. South Korea's Hyundai will sell up to 142 million of the total 812 million shares, or 17.5%. The sources have said the final percentage could be lower. Hyundai Motor India will be the country's first car maker to go public in two decades since Maruti Suzuki in 2003. The listing is seen putting Hyundai Motor India on a stronger footing versus its rivals such as Maruti Suzuki and Tata Motors as it could make future fundraising easier, without the need for dependency on its Korean parent. India, the world's biggest car market after China and the US, is an important growth avenue for Hyundai and also its third-biggest revenue generator.

Hyundai Motor's India unit sought regulatory approval on Saturday for a stock market listing in Mumbai which could be the nation's biggest and will see the South Korean parent sell a stake of up to 17.5% in the company. The prospectus filed gave no details of the pricing of the initial public offering or the company's valuation, but sources have told Reuters Hyundai aims to raise around \$2.5-\$3 billion at a valuation of up to \$30

Mumbai, Delhi among top 5 global cities in house price rise



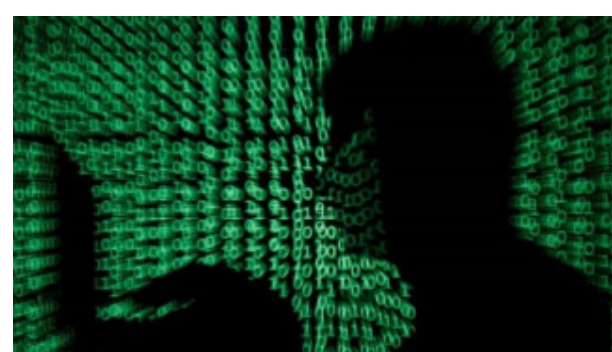
said. Manila's remarkable growth can be attributed to two key factors: a robust economic performance enhancing consumer confidence and purchasing power, and substantial infrastructure investments within and around the city, which have further stimulated demand, Knight Frank said. Tokyo jumped 17 places up with 12.5 per cent YoY growth and ranks 2nd in the index. The significant rise in house prices at the beginning of 2024 can be credited to two primary factors: exceptionally advantageous mortgage terms provided by Japanese banks and a depreciation of the yen, leading to heightened foreign investment in Tokyo's real estate market. Despite Japan's overall population decline, Tokyo sustains a net population growth owing to migration from other regions within the country, it said. The Prime Global Cities Index is a valuation-based index tracking the movement of prime residential prices across 44 cities worldwide. The index tracks nominal prices in local currency, the study said. Liam Bailey, Knight Frank's Global Head of Research, said "The rebound in global housing markets is continuing, as evidenced by our Prime Global Cities Index reaching 4.1 per cent annual growth. Rather than heralding a return to boom conditions, the index indicates that upwards price pressures are stemming from relatively healthy demand, set against continued low supply volumes. The pivot in rates - when it comes - will encourage more vendors into the market, leading to a welcome return to liquidity in key global markets." It said the rate of price declines has slowed: a year ago, in Q1 2023, nine markets were experiencing annual price falls of more than 5 per cent. In Q1 this year, only one market - Frankfurt - was seeing prices fall (6.9 per cent fall) at this rate. Berlin prices fell 4.7 per cent.

house price rise, delhi house price rise, mumbai house price rise, residential homes, luxury homes, Indian express business, business news, business articles, business news stories New Delhi and Mumbai have witnessed a surge in house prices driven by robust economic growth, as indicated by our findings, with annual GDP growth exceeding 8 per cent, Knight Frank said. Mumbai and Delhi were among the top five global cities that recorded an increase in their average annual house prices while Bengaluru witnessed a slight drop in prime residential or luxury homes in the January-March quarter of calendar year 2024, says a study.

Mumbai, with a rise of 11.5 per cent in the index, recorded the third highest year-on-year (YoY) growth in prime residential prices in the January-March quarter among global cities, pushing it up the ranking table by 3 places to the third position from its sixth position in January-March 2023, Knight Frank said in its recent report 'Prime Global Cities Index January-March 2024'. National Capital Region of Delhi which witnessed a rise of 10.5 per cent in house prices during the quarter was at the fifth position. NCR rose from 17th rank in Jan-March 2023 to fifth in Jan-March 2024 with a growth of 10.5 per cent YoY. However, Bengaluru observed a decline in ranking from 16th place to 17th rank even while it recorded a 4.8 per cent YoY growth in residential prices. Manila was at the top with a rise of 26.2 per cent and Tokyo came second with a rise of 12.5 per cent.

New Delhi and Mumbai have witnessed a surge in house prices driven by robust economic growth, as indicated by our findings, with annual GDP growth exceeding 8 per cent, Knight Frank said. The rise in global prime residential price index was recorded at 4.1 per cent across the 44 markets in the 12-month period ending March 2024 where in prices are rising at their fastest rate since the third quarter of 2022, it said. Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and MD, Knight Frank India, said, "The strong demand trend for residential properties has been a global phenomenon, led by gateway markets of Asia-Pacific and EMEA. Like its peers in these regions, the improved rankings of Mumbai and New Delhi on the Prime Global Cities Index was underscored by the resilience in sales growth volume." "We expect the momentum of sales to remain stable over the next few quarters as the economic conditions are likely to remain broadly unchanged," Bajjal

47% of urban Indians faced financial frauds in last 3 years: Survey



actions" and 9 per cent of respondents did not give a clear reply, LocalCircles survey said.

LocalCircles said the credit card data of Indian consumers is easily available for sale by thousands of data vendors across India. With personally identifiable information like PAN card, Aadhaar, mobile number, email and address easily available in databases for sale and credit cards details available with mobile number, email or address being common, anyone with knowledge of spreadsheets can join these databases to profile individuals. "Such datasets being available in public domain make credit card holders extremely vulnerable to frauds as many international websites/apps do not require OTP authentication before charging an Indian credit card once the user has their credit card set to permit international transactions," it said. Of urban Indian household consumers who experienced credit card fraud in the last 3 years, nearly one in two experienced unauthorised charges by domestic and/or international merchants/ websites, it said. On credit card frauds, it said 53 per cent mentioned "unauthorised charges levied by unknown international merchants/ websites", 53 per cent saying "unauthorised charges levied by domestic merchants/ websites with whom we transact", 41 per cent indicating "unauthorised charges levied by unknown domestic merchants/ websites" and 34 per cent mentioning "fraudulent transactions other than the ones listed above", the survey said. Of urban Indian household consumers who experienced UPI fraud in the last 3 years, 4 in 10 experienced that the link/QR code sent to them to accept a payment led to a debit being made from their account. Apart from card (credit and debit) fraud, high among the other financial frauds are linked to online payments, particularly through UPI, LocalCircles said.

financial fraud, urban Indians faced financial frauds, urban financial frauds, financial frauds, Indian express business, business news, business articles, business news stories LocalCircles said the credit card data of Indian consumers is easily available for sale by thousands of data vendors across India. As many as 47 per cent of urban Indians said either themselves or someone in their family have been a victim of financial frauds in the last three years, said a survey.

Among the urban Indians who have experienced financial fraud in the last 3 years, 43 per cent experienced fraud with their credit card while 30 per cent experienced fraud via UPI transactions, the survey conducted by LocalCircles said. "Nearly 1 in 2 credit card fraud victims experienced unauthorised charges by domestic and international merchants and websites," it said. In the case of UPI frauds, 4 in 10 of those who experienced it said that the link/QR code sent to them to accept a payment instead led to money being debited from their account, the survey said. The study shows that the RBI, UPI and banks issuing credit cards need to put in place more safeguards to help prevent such financial frauds, it said. The survey received over 23,000 responses from household consumers located in 302 districts of India. 62 per cent respondents were men while 38 per cent respondents were women, it said. "Consumer awareness needs to be created on priority for both UPI and credit card users. In addition, safeguards must be built so no Indian credit cards can be charged without an OTP authentication," it said. For UPI, increased consumer awareness is critical. In addition to these steps, there is also a strong need to sensitise local police stations so staff their can guide citizens to file an online complaint within minutes as opposed to the current scenario where majority of the staff even in urban India is not capable of guiding a victim of online financial fraud, the survey said.

On different types of financial fraud transactions that family members surveyed have experienced in the last 3 years, some among the 7,409 who responded to the question indicated more than one option with 43 per cent indicating "fraudulent transaction on credit card". Also 36 per cent indicated "fraudulent UPI transactions", 13 per cent admitted "fraudulent transactions on debit cards", 19 per cent said "fraudulent transactions on bank accounts", 6 per cent indicated "fraudulent transactions on ATM cards", 30 per cent mentioned "other types of fraud financial trans-

Can eating raw garlic help reduce acne? An expert reveals the truth



Garlic is a potent superfood and a favourite in cuisines across the globe. The bulbous vegetable, bursting with flavour, has been known for its many nutritional benefits. It helps improve immunity, lower the risks of heart diseases and regulates blood sugar levels.

Lately, many content creators are sharing videos suggesting chewing garlic cloves is the key to clear, acne-free skin. Digital creator and dermatologist Dr Andrea Suarez shared an Instagram reel saying, "The most bioactive compound in garlic is Allicin. It is formed and released when the garlic clove is crushed. I suggest crushing garlic prior to consumption, so as to ensure you are getting this beneficial compound." Indianexpress.com spoke to Dr Priyanka Kuri, consultant-dermatology, Aster Whitefield Hospital, Bengaluru, and found out whether this is just another TikTok viral myth or if it is worth the stinky breath!

Can garlic consumption cure acne? What is the ideal amount of consumption?

"There is no scientific evidence to claim consuming



garlic cloves can single-handedly reduce acne," said Kuri. She also said that she would not recommend applying garlic topically on the skin. "Applying raw garlic on acne spots may lead to contact dermatitis and irritation," she said. Including garlic in your diet can offer multiple ancillary benefits, potentially aiding in maintaining clear skin

What are the health benefits associated with garlic?

Garlic's components, like allicin and thiosulfates, possess anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties. It is also an excellent immunity booster. Including garlic in your diet can offer multiple ancillary benefits, potentially aiding in maintaining clear skin," she elaborated. However, she cautioned against specific daily consumption targets, as excessive intake may lead to heartburn, acidity, and persistent bad breath.

"Garlic that has aged and dehydrated slightly tends to be more potent in its health benefits," she noted. She advised moderation in consumption and recommended consulting a dermatologist before applying garlic topically for acne treatment.

Korean noodles ban: How can eating spicy food cause acute poisoning?



Denmark is spicing things up with a recall of several popular Korean instant ramen noodles produced by Samyang. The reason? High levels of capsaicin, the compound that gives chilli peppers their heat, which Danish authorities fear could pose a risk of "acute poisoning" to consumers. Three fiery flavours are being pulled from shelves: Buldak 3x Spicy & Hot Chicken, 2x Spicy & Hot Chicken, and Hot Chicken Stew. Denmark's food agency issued the recall and urged consumers to discard the products.

However, Samyang, the South Korean manufacturer, is firing back. They claim there's no quality issue with the ramen and that the spice levels are within normal parameters. This fiery debate raises questions about cultural differences in spice tolerance and the potential health risks associated with ultra-spicy foods. Though Ramya, registered dietitian, Cloudnine Group of Hospitals, OMR-Chennai, agreed that people from India, Korea, and Southeast Asia are generally more accustomed to spicy food due to their culinary traditions. However, this doesn't mean they are immune to the harmful effects of extremely spicy food, she said.

Eating extremely spicy noodles can definitely cause acute poisoning because of capsaicin, the compound that gives chilli peppers their heat, Ramya said. It can cause inflammation and irritation in the digestive tract, leading to symptoms like abdominal pain, diarrhoea, and vomiting. In extreme cases, it might lead to dehydration.

Are there any benefits of eating spicy foods sometimes?

Despite the risks, moderate spicy food consumption has benefits, Ramya noted:

* Pain relief and anti-inflammation- Capsaicin-based topical medications are used for pain management.

* Antibacterial properties- Studies have shown that spicy foods containing capsaicin exhibit anti-microbial properties in fighting against bacterial infections.

* Boosting metabolism and weight loss- A study conducted in 2013 states that the combination of capsaicin and protein meal can maintain energy expenditure and improve satiety.

* Improving cardiovascular health- A study on animals was shown to improve vascular oxidative stress and improving heart health.

The invisible signs of multiple sclerosis

Hyderabad: May 30th is World MS Day and it is important to raise awareness of Multiple Sclerosis, a complex and often mThis chronic condition of the Central Nervous System (CNS)—encompassing the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves—particularly impacts young individuals in their prime. The Iceberg Metaphor: MS symptoms vary widely, from minor visual disturbances to total paralysis, significantly impacting daily life. Using an iceberg as a metaphor, the visible symptoms of MS are just the tip, while the larger, hidden part represents the numerous invisible challenges faced by those with the disease. Despite appearing "normal" to onlookers, MS patients endure many unseen struggles.

Heat Sensitivity: Arti, a vivacious 40-year-old, experiences a burning sensation in her feet that often forces her to abandon social activities. Managing heat sensitivity is crucial, as increased body temperature can worsen MS symptoms, causing fatigue and discomfort. Conversely, cold weather also poses challenges, often isolating patients indoors. Fatigue: Fatigue is the most commonly reported and debilitating symptom of MS. Despite



* Anti-cancerous effect- Capsaicin involves in fighting against free radicals and suppresses cancer cell growth.

Should someone specifically avoid eating spicy foods??

Certain individuals should avoid extremely spicy foods, including:

* Children and older adults- The gastric spice level tolerance is very low in children and diminished in older adults. It's not advisable to have highly spicy foods on a regular basis.

* People with pre-existing digestive issues (e.g., IBS, acid reflux)- People with a history of Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Gastro Esophageal Reflux Disease should be very careful with the intake of spices. High intake of spicy foods aggravates the symptoms. *Pregnant or breastfeeding women- Consuming extremely spicy food during pregnancy can have potential impacts on the mother and the developing fetus.

its prevalence, it remains poorly understood and underemphasized due to its subjective nature, making it difficult to measure and manage. Pain: Pain, another hidden symptom, presents an ongoing challenge for MS patients. It is resistant to conventional pain relief and stems from nerve damage, leading to persistent discomfort and significantly affecting the quality of life. Sensory Issues: Patients often experience altered sensations, such as numbness, pins and needles, or heightened sensitivity. A brief electric shock-like sensation upon bending the neck is common, and these sensory disturbances can affect various body parts, including arms, legs, and face. Cognitive Loss: Memory lapses, difficulty concentrating, and mental blankness are frequent issues. These cognitive challenges can disrupt daily life and personal relationships. Sexual Problems: MS causes sexual dysfunction (SD) in many young adults, affecting libido and physical response. This aspect of MS is often not openly discussed, leading to additional emotional and relational stress. About 80% of men with MS experience erectile dysfunction, while 56% to 70% of women face sexual difficulties,

Saba Azad reveals how relationship with Hrithik Roshan cost her 'a whole career', dozens of jobs: 'Are we living in the dark ages?'



like a VO given where you are in life, ie who I am dating." She also calls the director 'super progressive, chill' person.

Saba also discussed how people "assume" that a woman in a relationship with a "successful man" can no longer be interested in working. "Are we really still living in the dark ages where we assume a woman in a relationship with a successful partner no longer has to put food on her own table?? Or pay her rent and bills? Or take pride in her work and take care of herself and her family???" What kind of an archaic assumption to make!!!!?," she wrote.

Attributing her losing out on job opportunities because of people's assumptions, she added, "So I basically lost a whole career that I absolutely loved and appreciated cause people thought I didn't need to work anymore???" This is sadly a one dimensional patriarchal and regressive mindset."She concluded, "For the uninitiated, when two strong independent individuals come together they don't give up their identities or their lives and careers to do so. They hold on to their individuality and share from a place of freedom and strength. Losing a whole career because of someone else's presumptuous ignorance really hurts. So again, no I haven't quit, all ye makers of ads- I still do VOs. So pls for the love of god undo your assumptions and let's get recording already!!."Hrithik Roshan, who was earlier married to Sussanne Khan, started dating Saba a few years ago. The two often cheer for each other's work on social media.

Singer and actor Saba Azad, who has been claiming for her work in both fields, has been dating Hrithik Roshan for several years. She recently opened up about her gradual realisation that her relationship was the reason why she wasn't getting as many voiceover gigs as she used to. She said that she was mystified by this change, which occurred over the last couple of years, and decided to get to the bottom of it once and for all.

Saba shared that at one point, she would do 6-7 voiceovers in a month, but found that the offers were slowly drying up. She stated that this happened even though she never said she was quitting, or hiking her fees. Sharing multiple Instagram stories, Saba discussed how a reputed director once told her that he thought she would not be interested in voiceover jobs now that she is in a relationship with Hrithik. She wrote, "Well, you can imagine what was implied... He didn't think I would do a job

Madhuri Dixit's husband Shriram Nene opens up about the biggest challenge in their marriage, says he 'never knew' that she was a superstar

Dr Shriram Nene, husband of actor Madhuri Dixit, recently spoke at length about their marriage. Nene also shared how a good marriage can impact an individual's physical health. In a recent interview, Madhuri's husband revealed the main challenge that they face in their relationship. Chatting with Ranveer Allahbadia, Nene was asked how different his life in America was before his marriage to the Bollywood superstar. He said, "It was different, there you had your anonymity, your independence, and a lot of it was self-driven. In India, I have a culture, we have a lot of ties, so it is different."

Asked what it was like to marry a celebrity, Nene said, "I don't know her like that. She is my wife and partner, and my encouragement to people is be what you always wanted to be and support the people with you. We are partners in a marriage where we look out for each other forever. If you develop that kind of relationship, it doesn't matter what they did. I never knew her past history and she never knew mine. We came from very different worlds yet similar. Like sub-region Maharashtra, same kind of language and background. Neither of us thought that this would happen. I would say this is the most amazing thing in my life."

He added, "It doesn't matter what you do for a living when you find your soulmate. At the end of day, what matters is your relationship and the fun that you have together."Revealing the kind of challenges the couple face in their marriage, Nene said, "Our main challenge is anonymity. We just wanted to put our pants in one leg at a time and behave like normal people. The luckiest thing is we both enjoy that. We are very grateful for everything."Praising his wife, the doctor said, "She is so down to earth and the way she treats everyone including her fans, same with me, we are both very respectful. We try to be good people. And I think, that should be the mantra for all of us. That will lead us to a better society. My kids have adopted it which I am charmed by to death."



In the same conversation, Dr Nene stated the importance of a good marriage and how it impacts one's physical health. Nene said, "A good marriage adds to physical health, 100%. Stress is one thing, but having not just a marriage but a family, there is really good evidence that loneliness has higher risk of death. In fact, they have amounted loneliness to smoking 15 cigarettes a day in terms of life span. The interesting fact is loneliness does have detrimental effects on your life. So if we broaden the sense whether it is a good marriage, or a good relationship or a good family, that saves you."Madhuri had also spoken about her marriage in a video shared on Dr Nene's YouTube channel. She said, "We always had that partnership where we looked after each other and made sure the kids were always looked after and loved. There are times when it is difficult but there are times when we know whatever we are doing in life is for the good and is something we both want."

In the same conversation, Nene called Madhuri a "supporting spouse". He said, "Having a supporting spouse like this, who loves you and cares about you regardless of what happens, is critical to the journey. Both of us have very challenging careers."

Anurag Kashyap reveals was recently 'ghosted' by two actors who started their career with him: 'They make you go around for three years and...'



the film Maharaja, and is currently gearing up for the release of his upcoming series, Bad Cop.

In a recent interview with Fever FM, Anurag Kashyap was asked his successful collaborations with young actors who've gone on to achieve great things in their careers after being given a platform by him. But Anurag admitted that he is also kept on the hook by some of them. He said, "I like the quality in some people who say no because of whatever reason, I respect them a lot. But people who make you go around for two-three years and then say no, or just start ghosting you, that I have a problem with."He added, "It still happens. There are two actors who started their careers with me and then ghosted me on the film that I am doing. They didn't care to say a yes or no, they just ghosted."

After having starred in movies like Akira and AK vs AK, among others, Anurag will soon be seen in Aditya Datt's Disney+ Hotstar series Bad Cop. He was also seen in the Vijay Sethupathi-starrer Maharaja. In his career, Anurag has been associated with actors such as Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Kay Kay Menon, Manoj Bajpayee, Vicky Kaushal, Richa Chadha, Huma Qureshi and scores of others.Recently, the filmmaker made headlines after Panchayat actor Pankaj Jha allegedly called him "spineless" for replacing him with Pankaj Tripathi in Gangs Of Wasseypur. Reacting to the same, Kashyap told India Today, "We were supposed to start shooting for Gangs Of Wasseypur, and he (Pankaj Jha) was not available. We were on a tight budget and could not wait for him. We made the film in very different conditions and budget."Pankaj clarified to the indianexpress.com that his statements were twisted and he never said anything against Tripathi of Kashyap in any of his interviews. Anurag Kashyap's Bad Cop, also starring Gulshan Devaiah in the lead role, will stream on Disney+ Hotstar from June 21.

He added, "It still happens. There are two actors who started their careers with me and then ghosted me on the film that I am doing. They didn't care to say a yes or no, they just ghosted."

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who is known for cult hits such as Black Friday, Dev D, Gulaa, and Gangs of Wasseypur, among others, recently revealed that two actors who started their career with him recently ghosted him as he tried to mount the cast for a film he's putting together. Kashyap was recently featured as an actor in

'Saroj Khan was ready to kill me': Sonali Bendre recalls 'struggling' to learn dance moves for Shah Rukh Khan's English Babu Desi Mem



Actor Sonali Bendre, who judges dance reality shows on television, recently confessed that she was completely untrained in the art form when she started out in the industry. She recalled how, while filming English Babu Desi Mem with Shah Rukh Khan, the film's choreographer Saroj Khan "was ready to kill" her. She also opened up about how she landed the iconic song "Humma Humma" in director Mani Ratnam's Bombay, which went on to become one of the most popular dance numbers of the '90s.

Sonali admitted that being a part of dance numbers caused her tremendous anxiety. "It is ironical. I am not a trained dancer. I am not a trained actor. I have never done theatre. So songs, shooting for a song was a nightmare for me. I went through sleepless nights. I would get acidity because of the stress I was going through. I was always scared of songs. Can you imagine my career is based on songs. Even if the movie has not done well, I have done well only because of the songs that I was featured in have done well. They have not all been dance numbers, My first song was 'Sambhala Hai Maine...' it was just walking, and it was just expression... It's the songs that have carried me through," she told Mid Day.

Sonali also shared how veteran choreographer Saroj Khan, while teaching her dance steps for the film English Babu Desi Mem, was "ready to kill" her. She said that her assistant, Ahmed Khan, would bribe her into working harder.She said, "I had done English Babu Desi Mem



where Saroj Khan was ready to kill me because I couldn't dance, and I was playing a bar dancer. Can you imagine what she was going through? I was struggling. Every hour I wasn't working, I was trying to learn how to dance and Ahmed (Khan) was Saroj ji's assistant at that time and I remember how he would bribe me with chocolates and ice-cream, he would pick me up from my home in Lokhandwala (Andheri, Mumbai), take me to a rehearsal hall and he would teach me. I was like. 'I can't do it, I am fed up,' and he would say, 'Come on, just one step, just once more. This is the chocolate, this is the ice cream'. He would literally bribe me, like a little child."

Sonali then remembered being asked to be a part of "Humma Humma" in Mani Ratnam's Bombay. She admitted that it would be called an 'item number' now. She added, "It was not shot in Bombay, it was shot in Chennai. It was a Mani Ratnam film. Actually, I felt bad that I didn't have the movie, just one song... There was an equal amount of people saying that I shouldn't be doing it, or I should be doing it. And I said it's ok, I get to learn something and that time the challenge in front of me was that I couldn't dance."

She added, "Till date I don't know why I landed it, but I remember eventually taking it on. I remember I was supposed to dance with Prabhu Deva's brother." Sonali said that she took it on as a challenge, and surprised herself by how well it turned out.

After Poonam Dhillon, Honey Singh confirms Sonakshi Sinha-Zaheer Iqbal's wedding: 'I will make sure I attend'



On the other hand, Pahlaj Nihalani, who is said to be good friends with Sonakshi's father, Shatrughan Sinha, also confirmed the news and sent across his blessings to the couple. He told Zoom, "I am Sonakshi's mama (uncle). All my blessings to her and Zaheer. They are finally getting married. I send them all my good wishes."

Sonakshi Sinha and her longtime partner, Zaheer Iqbal, are all set to tie the knot on June 23, according to a leaked wedding invite. Amid the speculations, Poonam Dhillon confirmed the news to Instant Bollywood recently, and revealed that she had received a 'lovely' invite from the couple. Now, rapper Honey Singh, who has collaborated with the Dabangg star on the songs Desi Kalakaar (2014) and Kalaastar (2023), also confirmed the wedding. Honey took to his Instagram handle to announce that he will be attending the celebrations even though he is currently abroad.

Taking to his Instagram Stories on Saturday, Honey Singh wrote, "Tho I gonna be in London shooting Glory's first song, but I will make sure I will attend my best friend Sonakshi's wedding as she has been a big support in my career and helped me so many times in life. Best wishes to the power couple Sona and Zaheer! Bholenath bless them."On the other hand, Pahlaj Nihalani, who is said to be good friends with Sonakshi's father, Shatrughan Sinha, also confirmed the news and sent across his blessings to the couple. He told Zoom, "I am Sonakshi's mama (uncle). All my blessings to her and Zaheer. They are finally getting married. I send them all my good wishes."He added, "Naturally, these days children take their own decisions. Finally, they are the ones who have to be together; so parents should be happy. A couple has to live the married life and that's the main thing. They should love and

be comfortable with each other."Sonakshi and Zaheer, who've been rumoured to be dating each other for over half-a-decade, never made their relationship public. The couple starred together in the 2022 film Double XL. Just like Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal was also launched by Salman Khan. The 35-year-old actor made his debut with the 2019 film Notebook.Speaking about her wedding rumours, Sonakshi Sinha told iDivya, "Firstly, it's nobody's business. Secondly, it is my choice, so I don't know why people are so concerned about it. People ask me about my marriage more than my parents, so I find that very funny. Now, I am just used to it. It doesn't bother me. People are curious; what can we do about it?"

Shatrughan Sinha too reacted to the news. In a conversation with The Times Of India, the actor-politician neither confirmed or denied the wedding news. He said, "Time will tell. She will always have my blessings. Sonakshi is the apple of my eyes. She is my only daughter and very close to me."He added, "If my daughter is getting married, I will give her my blessings and support her decision and choice. Sonakshi has the right to choose her companion, and I will be the happiest father on her wedding day. I will always wish her the best... ek hi toh beti hai meri."The veteran actor also said that people close to him are constantly asking him why is he not aware about the development. He said, children lately don't take consent of their parents, they simply inform them and he is still waiting to be informed.

Kane Williamson steps down as New Zealand captain after T20 World Cup debacle



GNS News Agency, June 20

Kane Williamson has stepped down as captain of New Zealand's white-ball teams and opted out of a national contract for the 2024/25 season following the Black Caps' early exit from the T20 World Cup. Williamson's decision marks the end of an era for a New Zealand team which made the semi-finals of the previous three T20 World Cups and the 2021 final but ultimately missed out on a maiden white-ball title. Fast bowler Lockie Ferguson has also indicated he will not take up a national contract, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Wednesday, following the team's failure to make the Super Eight phase at the ongoing tournament. One of the world's top batsmen and a campaigner of more than 350 internationals in Tests, one-day and T20 cricket, Williamson will continue to play for New Zealand in all three formats.

However, he has opted to take up a contract outside of New Zealand in January, meaning he will be unavailable

for part of the home summer. "Pursuing an overseas opportunity during the New Zealand summer means I'm unable to accept a central contract offer," the 33-year-old said in a statement. "Playing for New Zealand is something I treasure, and my desire to give back to the team remains undiminished. My life outside cricket has changed however - spending more time with my family and enjoying experiences with them at home or abroad is something that's even more important to me. Williamson's likely destination in January is a T20 franchise league, with competitions running in several countries including Australia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. He gave up the Test captaincy to Tim Southee in 2022, and there will be another changing of the guard as New Zealand look to rejuvenate before the next T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka and India in 2026. Fast bowler Trent Boult, who opted out of a national contract in 2022, confirmed last Friday he had played his last T20 World Cup following the team's elimination from the tournament. NZC said Williamson would be available for eight tests leading into Christmas and the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February-March.

The board said Williamson's decision to opt out of a contract would not hurt his chances of selection, a departure from its usual policy which favours contracted players. "We're happy to make an exception for our greatest ever batter - especially as he remains so committed to the team," said NZC CEO Scott Weenink. "This is a good way to help keep Kane in the international game so that he continues to play a major role for the Black Caps - both now and in the years to come."

If you are number one, you should be able to bat in different conditions: Suryakumar

GNS News Agency, June 20

The world's number one batter Suryakumar Yadav has had to change his game due to the nature of the wickets in the T20 World Cup but he is expecting the surfaces in the Caribbean to be a lot better for strokeplay. India open their Super 8 campaign against Afghanistan in Bridgetown on Thursday. Their other games are against Bangladesh and Australia in St Lucia, which has produced the tournament's highest total thus far, and Antigua. On the 'spicy' wickets of New York, Suryakumar had to play the waiting game, especially playing strokes behind the wicket. He took India over the line against USA with an unbeaten 50 off 49 balls, way below his average strike rate of 168.06.

"If have you been number one for two years, you should be able to bat in different conditions and change the game as per the needs of the team. That displays good batsmanship and that is what I try," said Suryakumar during a media interaction here on Tuesday. "It's difficult to generate that force when there's no pace on the wicket and when someone has read your game nicely. So, at that time, you have to be very smart how you want to end your innings.

"You have to change according to the situation, what team demands at that moment and talk to your partner who is inside, calm your nerves down and then take the innings ahead. Suryakumar is looking forward to return to his 360 degree ways in the Caribbean but it's not that he had a problem with the conditions in the USA.

"I was happy playing there as well (laughs). It's not that we weren't happy playing there, but we were playing for the first time, so yes, the conditions were different and little challenging as well. But we have played here (in West Indies), we know the conditions. The pitch at the



Kensington Oval has a brownish look to it, something that the Indian team witnessed on its last West Indies tour as well. "The practice pitches, yeah, they were a little spicy in New York. It was fresh. They made the conditions after they got to know there is a World Cup there. Here they have been making pictures regularly and they are much better than (USA)," he said. The spinners have been doing well in the Caribbean conditions so far in the tournament but Suryakumar is not perturbed, as part of his game is take the attack to the slower bowlers. "That has always been my strong point (sweeps and reverse sweeps). I've tried to play the same way that I do in the practice sessions. Virat Kohli is opening the batting with skipper Rohit Sharma with Rishabh Pant being promoted to number three. If India lose wickets early, will Suryakumar change his game? "Nothing like that has happened. We try to play the format of the game. If there are early wickets you still have to put runs on the board and bat with that same intent. That is what we try and tell each other to take the positive route. The management has left it to the players to decide at that point of time," he added.

Gautam Gambhir and W.V. Raman interviewed for head coach post



The CAC Ashok Malhotra and his two colleagues - Sulakshana Naik and Jatin Paranjape - were impressed by both the presentations.

GNS News Agency, June 20

Gautam Gambhir and W.V. Raman, former India opening batters, were interviewed on June 18 for the post of India's men's cricket team's head coach. The duo appeared virtually for the interviews conducted by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC, chaired by former India batter Ashok Malhotra, interacted with the duo.

It is understood that Malhotra and his two colleagues - Sulakshana Naik and Jatin Paranjape - were impressed by both the presentations. Raman - with his rich experience coaching the India women's side, a long stint at the National Cricket Academy, various state sides along with being a batting coach in the Indian Premier League - was an automatic choice to be shortlisted for the interview. Gambhir, meanwhile, has emerged as a clear front-runner as Rahul Dravid's successor. After being the team mentor with Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2022 and

2023, he helmed the Kolkata Knight Riders' to the IPL title in the same capacity last month. Despite his lack of experience in coaching in formats other than T20, the BCCI hierarchy along with the CAC is understood to be in favour of him.

The BCCI, in May, sought applications for the head coach's post, for a term of three-and-a-half years starting July 1. Gambhir has been tipped to be the front-runner ever since the BCCI hierarchy met him informally on the sidelines of the IPL playoffs.

While it could not be ascertained whether other candidates were also interviewed, the CAC also interviewed shortlisted candidates for a national selector's post. Mithun Manhas, Ajay Ratra and Reetinder Singh Sodhi were interviewed. It is expected that Salil Ankola will make way for a cricketer from the North Zone. Manhas is a favourite to be inducted into the selection committee.

Like Virat Kohli, like Smriti Mandhana: Memes over their similar bowling actions viral



GNS News Agency, June 20

Fans were awestruck by the similarities in the bowling actions of Smriti Mandhana and Virat Kohli after the former rolled her arm over for the first time in international cricket in an ODI match against South Africa in Bengaluru on Wednesday, June 19. Smriti Mandhana had a dream as she picked a wicket in her first over in ODIs after scoring a landmark hundred at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Smriti Mandhana's first over sparked comparisons as the India vice-captain had nearly a wrong-footed action, much like Virat Kohli. Mandhana also bowled medium pace after captain Harmanpreet Kaur tasked her with the responsibility of bowling in the 15th over. Smriti got the big wicket of Sune Luus for 12 with a length delivery away from the off-stump. Luus went for a wild cut shot and paid the price as she edged it to the keeper.

Smriti Mandhana was delighted as she ran toward the point fielder to celebrate the wicket. She jumped and punched the air in delight before her teammates lauded her for her contribution to the ball. Smriti became one of the rare bowlers to pick a wicket in her first over in international cricket. The Bengaluru crowd roared in delight

and celebrated the heroics of Smriti Mandhana with the ball. Incidentally, Virat Kohli had also picked up a wicket in ODI cricket in Bengaluru in the World Cup last year against the Netherlands.

WHEN SMRITI SPOKE ABOUT HER BOWLING ACTION Incidentally, in 2018, Smriti Mandhana herself had spoken about the similarity of her bowling action to that of Virat Kohli. - Today she picked her Maiden wicket with similar fashion. â•• pic.twitter.com/rEDKeJkS3j — Tanuj Singh (@ImTanujSingh) June 19, 2024 "Initially, my dad had tried making me a medium pacer. My action was similar to that of Virat Kohli's. Off the wrong foot and with a double hop on the same leg," she told broadcaster Gaurav Kapur in an episode of Breakfast With Champions. Smriti Mandhana bowled two overs and gave away 13 runs while picking a wicket against South Africa on Wednesday. Smriti had made merry with the bat, scoring 136 off 120 balls, her highest ODI total earlier in the day in Bengaluru. Smriti equalled Mithali Raj's tally of 7 hundreds, equalling the Indian record. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur hit an 88-ball 103, ending her 15-month-long wait for a ODI hundred as India posted 325.

Igor Stimac breaks silence after India sacking: Didn't expect such a strong bond

GNS News Agency, June 20

Croatian football manager Igor Stimac has finally spoken via his social media accounts, after his sudden sacking from the post of the Indian football team head coach. Stimac reflected on his time with India in the post while thanking the former India head coach Igor Stimac has finally spoken up after his sudden sacking from the national side's managerial duties through a post on his official social media handle. In his post, the Croatian thanked the Indian football fans and the team management for their support throughout his struggle-filled 5-year tenure with the side. After an important virtual meeting between head officials at the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on June 17, the board came up with the decision to close Stimac's chapter with the Indian team after a string of lacklustre performances.

Igor Stimac's tenure as the head coach of the Indian national football team has been marked by controversy and mixed results. Appointed in 2019, Stimac has faced criticism for his tactical decisions, team selection, and in-game management. Despite achieving some notable successes, such as winning three titles in 2023, including the SAFF Championship and the Intercontinental Cup, his overall performance has been questioned by fans and pundits alike. In these 5 years, the Indian team highlighted a consistent inability to draw effective results at big competitions like the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and the Asia Cup. In his post, Stimac reflected on the bond he shares with Indian football fans and how he takes the ultimate pride in it. To all Indian football fans and my blue



tigers, It's been an honour to serve you over the last 5 years. I didn't expect to form such a strong bond with this country and be so personally invested when I first joined you all I'm proud of every player and team member. Together.. pic.twitter.com/flj2RzfjYg — Igor A timac (@stimac_igor) June 19, 2024 "To all Indian football fans and my blue tigers. It's been an honour to serve you over the last 5 years. I didn't expect to form such a strong bond with this country and be so personally invested when I first joined you all.

I'm proud of every player and team member. Together," Stimac's post said. The AIFF have already started off their hunt for a new name by posting a job invitation on their social media handles, where they have clearly stated the criteria that they are specifically looking for in a head coach.

Match-winner Conceicao ultimate example of earning Portugal spot: Roberto Martinez

GNS News Agency, June 20

Euro 2024: Portugal manager Roberto Martinez heaped praise on Francisco Conceicao after the youngster netted the match-winning goal for the side in their Euro 2024 opener against Czechia on June 19. Conceicao's stoppage-time goal secured a positive start for Portugal's campaign against a considerably strong Czech defence. Portugal head coach Roberto Martinez was in full praise of his side's midfielder Francisco Conceicao, after the youngster scored a stoppage-time winner against Czechia on June 19, to ensure a strong start to the side's UEFA Euro 2024 campaign. Brought on to the field as a 90th minute substitute by Martinez, the 21-year-old Conceicao netted the decider within just 2 minutes. After conceding a goal in the second-half to Serbia, Portugal went on to script a vital



comeback on top of an own goal followed by the late Conceicao goal. The last match of the first round of the Euro 2024 group-stage games was an overall dull affair which saw Portugal, a hailed favourite in the tournament, being increasingly unadventurous with their attacking runs for the majority of the game. On the other hand, a disciplined Czechia, despite having barely taken a shot on goal

for the full length of the match, gained the initial lead with a Lukas Provod strike in the 62nd minute of the game. It was only a 69th minute own goal from Robin Harnac that restored parity at the Red Bull Arena, much to Portugal's relief. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Martinez made sure to praise Conceicao's abilities and how he has been impressive for the longer

run with the national team. "Francisco is the ultimate example of earning it, he deserves to be here, and he showed he's ready to help the group... A very natural player, he's got a nose for danger in the box. Francisco is doing what he's been doing over the past four months in his club team, but this is not easy, but he showed character and worth because he was allowed to be here," Martinez said.