INDIAN CHRONICL

499 Gram Panchayat offices free of plastic in Siddipet

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.

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.

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.

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 Ser-

Agriculture Minister writes to Nadda on immediate requirement of fertilizer

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 Nageshwar 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

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."

ADP joins hands with Akshaya Patra to provide 9 lakh

meals to 37,000 govt school students across India

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 ii 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.

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

GNS 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 Celcius, 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 yearThe national capital recorded 17 deaths due to suspected heat-related illnesses in the last 24 hours, even as isolated rain



Delhi across 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 heatstrokes.The Nigambodh 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 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 we 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.

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 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 Chronicle

English Daily

The Nijjar factor

In a sharp response to the commemoration of voked memories of the June 23, 1985, Kanishka bombng, while asserting that India stood at the forefront of ountering the menace of terrorism.

THE Hardeep Singh Nijjar case continues to deine and undermine India-Canada relations, with the Canadian Parliament marking the first anniversary of is murder with a moment of silence in the House of Commons on Tuesday. The bilateral relationship has been in freefall ever since Canadian Prime Minister lustin Trudeau dropped a bombshell in September last ear, claiming that the alleged role of Indian governnent agents in the Nijjar case was being probed. The adical Sikh leader, who had been designated a terrorst by India's National Investigation Agency, was shot lead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia n June 18 last year. New Delhi has been pressing Dttawa to furnish concrete evidence of an 'Indian hand', even as the Canadian police have arrested four Indian nationals in connection with the killing

In a sharp response to the commemoration of Nijjar's death, İndia's Consulate General in Vancouver voked memories of the June 23, 1985, Kanishka bombng, while asserting that India stood at the forefront of countering the menace of terrorism and was working losely with all nations to tackle this global threat. The nessage to Canada was crystal clear: don't give pro-Chalistan elements a platform to target India. After his ecent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in taly, Trudeau said that there was an 'alignment' beween the two nations on several 'big issues' and he aw an opportunity to engage with the new Indian gov-

In West Bengal, how climate change is threatening a beloved, delicate heritage mango

GNS News Agency, June 20

Every summer, for not more than a few days, boxes of mangoes come down from West Bengal's Murshidabad district to Kolkata, holding varieties unique to the state's district, not grown elsewhere in the country. This consignment of mangoes contains some of the most delicate and coveted varieties of the summer fruit and the prices are significantly higher in comparison to the more regular varieties commonly found across India. Categorised by many under the generic umbrella of 'Murshidabad mangoes', today, there are a little over 100 varieties of mangoes that can be found in this district.

Over the years, Murshidabad's small Sheherwali community and its diaspora have laid unofficial claim over the district's unique mangoes, in part because it was incorporated into their summer cuisine and has begun to be associated with them, particularly over the past decade following community efforts to share its heritage and culture. Of the 100-odd varieties, the Kohitoor is the most famed and coveted. It is also one of the most expensive; depending on the size, each mango can cost anywhere between Rs 800 to Rs 900 and is available for a very short window of a few days only, from when it is plucked to when it reaches a customer. "The Kohitoor is very delicate. The other mangoes can be stored as you keep any other fruit, but not this one," says Dr Samarendra Nath Khanra, Deputy Director of Horticulture, West Bengal. Each Kohitoor has to be constantly turned on its side at regular intervals to ensure that the entire mango is uniform and no one side over-ripens, loses its shape or develops pressure marks after it is left lying on one single side. The earliest mentions of the mangoes of West Bengal in the Malda belt can be traced to the Pala dynasty that ruled modern-day Bengal and Bihar from the 8th to the 12th century and can also be found in the writings of the Chinese traveller Hsüen Tsang who travelled across the subcontinent between 629 and 645 AD. During Mughal rule, particularly under the reign of Humayun and Akbar, mango cultivation in the Bengal-Bihar region further flourished. There is documented evidence of how mango cultivation found patronage under the rule of Murshid Quli Khan, who served as the first Nawab of Bengal from 1717 to 1727. British archival records show that under Nawab Murshid Quli Khan's rule, armed guards would secure his mango orchards in Murshidabad district. Mangoes were an important part of the kitchens of the Nawabs of Bengal.

'The Nawabs had a lot of manpower and dedicated people who looked after the gardens and the mangoes. They had an 'ambakhana', a special room to store the mangoes in their properties," says Khanra. Mangoes are climacteric fruits and they have to be harvested and stored during the time its sucrose develops, says Khanra.mangoes from murshidabad The special knife used to cut the delicate mangoes of Murshidabad which is not in production any more. (Photo credit: Neha Banka) The Kohitoor, the most coveted of the Murshidabad varieties, is so delicate that it has to be harvested using gloves and each mango has to be plucked using special nets to prevent damage to the fruit. So much so that the Nawabs of Bengal had a special process for cutting and eating the Kohitoor. "They would dip it in ice water. They would also use knives made of ivory to cut the fruit because any other would leave visible marks on its delicate flesh. So people who couldn't afford ivory would use bamboo knives or cut into the mango using their teeth. But this process is limited to the Kohitoor only," says Khanra. At a community meeting this week in Kolkata where mangoes from Murshidabad were cut and consumed by the Sherwalis, indianexpress.com observed a Kohitoor being cut using a special knife made of treated iron, with the knife dipped in water and wiped before each peel of the mango was stripped away, to make sure no marks are formed. "This knife is not made any more. It was earlier made in Jiaganj. These days, we have to use regular knives to cut the mangoes," Sunil Dugar, a member of the Sheherwali community in Kolkata, says. "The Kohitoor is stored on cotton. The top part of the mango is eaten and the bottom is made into juice because finger marks form on it when you hold the fruit. The bottom part of the Kohitoor is then used to make mango juice. The juice of this fruit is very thin and the best among all mango variet-

The many sops and schemes of Haryana govt that failed legal test



GNS News Agency, June 20

Jolted by the results of the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls, where it lost five seats out of the 10 to Congress, and ahead of the Assembly polls slated for October, the BJP government in Haryana has got busy announcing various welfare schemes and sops. Among others, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini recently handed over possession letters of 100-sq yard plots to 7,500 beneficiaries and reintroduced the HAPPY scheme under which families with an annual income of less than Rs 1 lakh are provided with 1,000 km of free travel annually on state transport buses. The BJP government also removed the age limit cap on a scheme for farmers, farm labourers and market yard labourers under which financial assistance is provided in case of death or disability while operating agricultural machinery.

Now, children younger than 10 years and persons older than 65 years will also be eligible for benefits under the Mukhyamantri Kisan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jeevan Suraksha Yojana. Saini also announced that his government will soon initiate the recruitment process to fill 50,000 vacant posts in the state. Government sources said that majority of these shall be contractual posts to be filled through Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited.

Several other major announcements are in the pipeline. However, the BJP government's several announcements in the past, mostly made keeping polls in mind, have failed to stand the legal scrutiny in the courts of law. In the last one year, the Haryana government suffered setback at least seven times in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and even in Supreme Court.HC terms additional marks under socio-economic criteria in govt jobs unconstitutionalThe latest blow came on May 31 this year when the Punjab and Haryana High Court held as unconstitutional — and violative of Articles 14, 15, 16 of the Constitution — the socio-economic criteria prescribed by the state government to grant additional marks to certain classes of candidates in government jobs. CM Saini later said his government will move Supreme Court against the high court order as the "ambitious scheme" gave "five additional marks to candidates from the poor, weak and deprived sections of the society to bring them forward". Reached for comments, Advocate General (AG), Haryana, Baldev Raj Mahajan said, "Earlier, the HC had appreciated the state government for it. It is a good policy, and a different judge can have a different view on it."

Meanwhile, on April 4, the Haryana govt finally notified the elevation of 13 judicial officers to the post of additional district and sessions judges (ADJs) in accordance with the recommendations made by the Punjab and Haryana High Court as per new criteria for promotion. The move, however, came after a protracted legal battleincluding a contempt petition filed by the judicial officers against the state government. Earlier, allowing the plea by a bunch of judicial officers, the high court on February 23, 2023 had directed Haryana government to to appoint them as as ADJs. On September 12, 2023, Haryana government vide a letter refused to accept the HC order and later moved SC challenging it.

In February 2024, however, while disposing of a bunch of appeals, a top court bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chadrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra upheld HC's verdict even as it took strong note of the Haryana government's move to approach the Centre for seeking legal opinion. The top court observed that a high court's opinion in matters of judicial appointments in the subordinate judiciary is not a mere formality, but has a binding effect on the governor, as per the constitutional scheme. The judicial officers, meanwhile, filed contempt plea in HC, following which the Haryana government accepted the HC recommendation to promote 13 judicial officers as ADJsAG Mahajan said, "There is a difference of opinion between the HC and the government on administrative side."HC holds 75% quota for Haryanvis in private jobs violative of Constitution. The state government, then a coalition of BJP and the Jannayak Janta Party, had hit the headlines when it enacted a law — The Haryana State Employment ofLocal Candidates Act, 2020 - mandating 75 per cent vacancies in private sector jobs with salaries below Rs 30,000 to be reserved for candidates who are state domicile. The coalition government had went ahead with creating the legislation despite heated debates over the issue in the Vidhan Sabha and questions raised by the legal ex-

In November 2023, however, the high court division bench comprising Justices GS Sandhawalia and Harpreet Kaur Jeewan quashed the law while holding it to be "unconstitutional and violative of Part III of the Constitution of India". The bench said it was beyond the purview of the State to restrict a private employer from recruiting from the open market."...the State cannot direct the private employers to do what has been forbidden to do under the Constitution...It cannot as such discriminate against the individuals on account of the fact that they do not belong to a certain State and have a negative discrimination against other citizens of the country," the bench said. Then deputy CM Dushyant Chautala, whose JJP had won 10 seats in the 2019 assembly polls with 75% quota for haryanavis in state jobs as its main promise, had said the government will challenge the HC verdict in Supreme Court. In March this year, the BJP unceremoniously severed ties with the JJP, and formed the government under a new CM on its own. Mahajan said that in the cases, where the notifications by the Haryana government have been quashed by the HC, "we are challenging those orders in the Supreme Court." Talking to The Indian Express, Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda accused the government of making such announcements and decisions to gain benefits during elections. "But, people of Haryana have understood their gimmicks. It was visible in the results of the Lok Sabha polls. Whatever they [BJP] may do or announce, people are not going to fall in their trap. They [BJP] talk of reservation and then announce job opportunities through HKRNL.It is nothing but a move to promote corrupt practices. There is no reservation in HKRNL, neither is it a permanent job, nor is there any merit that is followed. Basically, the government has no intention to give jobs to youth. Had they been serious, they would have filled up over 2 lakh sanctioned posts that are lying vacant."

Jalandhar West Assembly bypoll: CM Mann, family will move to Jalandhar to wrest the seat



GNS News Agency, June 20

Having secured only three of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state recently, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) now wants to win the Jalandhar West (reserved) Assembly bypoll, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann likely to camp in the city in the run-up to the election. Sources close to the CM maintain that a residence has been identified where Mann and his family can stay during this period. The by-election is scheduled for July 10 and the results will be declared on July 13. The seat fell vacant when AAP MLA Sheetal Angural defected to the BJP just before the Lok Sabha elections.In the 2022 Assembly elections, the AAP had secured a decisive victory, winning 92 out of 117 seats. However, the party's performance in the recent Lok Sabha elections has raised concerns in Punjab.

The AAP emerged victorious from Jalandhar West constituency in the 2022 Assembly elections. In the 2023 Lok Sabha by-election, the party maintained its lead in this Assembly segment. However, in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the party suffered a setback, finishing a distant third with just 15,629 votes while the Congress secured 44,394 votes and the BJP garnered 42,830 votes.

Party sources said that the CM will spend more than two weeks in Jalandhar leading up to the election. When reached for comment, AAP's working president in Punjab and MLA from Budhlada (Mansa district) principal (retired) Budh Ram emphasised that the CM is free to stay anywhere in the state. "With the elections drawing near, every member of the party, including Chief Minister saab (sir), is dedicated to winning it. The AAP is determined to retain this seat, as its outcome will reflect on the performance of the Punjab government.

Calling this by-election a make-or-break moment for all three major parties - Congress, BJP and AAP - a political observer and retired professor, G C Kaul, stated that even if the Punjab CM decides to reside in Jalandhar until the by-election, little will change in the next few days. "In the recent Lok Sabha elections, the electorate has sent a clear message to the AAP."Kaul pointed out lack of development in Jalandhar, poor road conditions and inadequate civic amenities despite promises made by the ruling party. He stressed that people cannot be deceived by mere rhetoric and attacks on Opposition parties.Advocate Satpal Virdi, another political observer,

said this Assembly by-election soon after the Lok Sabha election cannot alter people's sentiments. He emphasised that the electorate wants development, basic amenities and welfare schemes, which are currently lacking. Mere speeches, he added, will not suffice to address these

After landslides in Sikkim, govt issues alert for north dists

GNS News Agency, June 20

AFTER incessant rainfall caused devastation in neighbouring Sikkim resulting in overflowing of the Teesta river, the West Bengal Irrigation department issued an alert for the northern districts of the state, an official said on Friday. The release of water from the barrages has resulted in rising the water level of the Teesta and because of that there is a threat of flood in areas on both sides of Teesta in Jalpaiguri district, he said.

Teesta is one of the major rivers of the state, and Jalpaiguri district is in the floodplain of this river. A barrage across the river was built at Gajoldoba in the district. Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts in the northern part of West Bengal share borders with Sikkim where rain-triggered landslides left a trail of destruction and six dead people "The water of Teesta is rising because of the release of water from barrages in Sikkim. Teesta is coming down with great speed and an alert has been issued in this regard. We have taken all precautionary measures. Leaves of all the officials have been cancelled," the official said."In several places, Teesta is almost getting into townships. So much water is coming down from the mountain that it is not possible for the barrage to stop that. As a result, plain lands will be affected. Irrigation department officials have been sent for on-site inspection," he added. When contacted, an official of the Jalpaiguri Sadar Sub-Divisional office said the alert has been sounded in all blocks. "Everything from boats to rescue equipment has been kept ready. Residents have been asked to leave river banks," he added. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Thursday said that heavy rains are likely to continue in north Bengal till Tuesday. The weather department has issued a red alert in five districts Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar — and warned of heavy to very heavy rain in north Bengal. The Met Office also stated that several parts of southern Bengal are expected to witness rain and thunderstorms. However, heatwave conditions are likely to persist in seven districts — Paschim Medinipur, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Jhargram,

Purulia, Bankura, and Birbhum — till next week

App based autorickshaw booth to be set up at Pune railway station



GNS News Agency, June 20

After four years of the booth being shut down at Pune Railway Station, many auto drivers have been calling for the system to be reinstated to manage autos and passengers more effectively. After four years of the booth being shut down at Pune Railway Station, many auto drivers have been calling for the system to be reinstated to manage autos and passengers more effectivelyTo ensure women's safety and prevent other passengers from being inconvenienced at Pune station, an auto booth will likely be reintroduced through a mobile app system. This app will not only operate for auto booths but also track

Following demands that the prepaid auto booth which has been closed since 2020 - at Pune Railway Station should be reopened, the Pune Railway Division, RTO, and Pune Police Traffic Department held a meeting with auto rickshaw unions. After four years of the booth being shut down at Pune Railway Station, many auto drivers have been calling for the system to be reinstated to manage autos and passengers more effectively. A meeting was also held last year in response to complaints about autos overcharging passengers among other issues. Various unions have emphasised the need for the booth to control passenger chaos and prevent commuters being fleeced by illegal autos. A Railway representative said the Railways will provide premises for the auto booth to operate according to RTO guidelines. "Of all the reasons, the security to women passengers is a priority. Cameras will monitor activities, and the app used to book autos will track passengers," he said.

Jagdish Kande, office superintendent of RTO Pune, said that the demands of the auto unions have been acknowledged. "After further surveys and studies on distance and fare, the issue will be presented to the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) and discussed with the Collector," he said. Passengers will pay at the booth and receive two receipts, one of which will be handed over to the auto driver after reaching their destination. The driver will then show the receipt at the booth to collect the fare proportion. According to auto union leaders, one of Pune's auto unions will manage the app after it has been tested. Currently, two unions in Pune are using apps to operate their rickshaws.Shafique Patel, founder of Azad Rickshaw Union, expressed his concern that there should be a yearly contract system for the app to prevent a monopoly by any union. "The booth will enhance passenger safety and provide an integrated system to enforce auto regulations," he said. Keshav Kshirsagar, president of Baghtoy Rickshawala Union, said they have recorded an increase in complaints from commuters about overcharging by auto drivers. "There is a dire need for a booth at the station to stop illegal activities by autos, but administrative delays

1 woman from Punjab killed, another critically injured in US shooting; suspect held

GNS News Agency, June 20

US media reports said that 19-year-old Gaurav Gill was arrested in connection with the case and charged with murder. (File Photo)US media reports said that 19year-old Gaurav Gill was arrested in connection with the case and charged with murder. Two women from Punjab were shot by a man of Indian origin in the United States, leaving one dead and the other critically wounded. The incident took place on Wednesday morning outside of a home in Carteret, New Jersey.

US media reports said that 19-year-old Gaurav Gill was arrested in connection with the case and charged with murder. "Deeply saddened to learn of the tragic demise of Ms. Jasvir Kaur and injuries to Ms. Gagandeep Kaur in a shooting on Roosevelt Av, Cartaret, New Jersey. We offer our sincere condolences to the family of the deceased," The Consulate General of India in New York said in a post on X on June 14. Harinder Singh, a USbased Punjabi who hails from Nakodar, informed The Indian Express that the accused Gill hails from Hussainiwala village in Nakodar, while the victims are from Nurmahal in Jalandhar. The deceased, Jasvir, was 29 and married while her cousin Gagandeep Kaur is 20 years old. Gagandeep and the accused were allegedly acquainted. Following the shooting, both victims were airlifted to nearby hospitals where Jasvir succumbed to her injuries. Authorities are yet to disclose any motive behind the crime or a connection between Gill and the women.

Karnataka High court extends Bhavani Revanna's anticipatory bail plea in kidnap case

The Karnataka High Court on Friday extended the interim anticipatory bail for Bhavani Revanna, mother of rape accused Prajwal Revanna on condition that she would not enter Hassan district and Mysore District's KR Nagar Taluk.On June 7, the court gave its first anticipatory bail to Bhavani in a kidnapping case where a rape victim who was allegedly sexually assaulted by Prajwal was abducted to prevent her from giving statements against the former MP. The interim bail will be extended until a final decision has been taken in the anticipatory bail plea by Bhavani. The verdict has been reserved by a bench consisting of Justice Krishna Dixit

Pay Rs 30,000 to Chandigarh resident for damaging luggage, airlines told



GNS News Agency, June 20

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission of Chandigarh has asked an airlines to pay Rs 30,000 as compensation and litigation cost to a city resident for luggage that was damaged at New Delhi airport. Ekta Sehgal of Chandigarh stated in complaint that she travelled on the flight of the Emirates Airlines from Accra (capital of Ghana) to Dubai and thereafter from Dubai to New Delhi. She said that she had checked in on October 16, 2022, as per schedule, and was carrying two bags, one green bag and one blue bag. At the time of departure, the combined weight of the bags was 43 kilograms.

Around 8.20 pm on October 17, 2023, the flight landed in New Delhi. After waiting for some time, she found that her bags were not there on the airport conveyor belt. After she contacted the authorities, she was told to look over in a deserted corner where some of the luggage was kept. The complainant found both the bags there and found them tampered with and partially open."The bags were in a damaged condition. The bags were partially open and the zippers were not drawn together. On opening the said bags, complainant found that her clothes including her delicate items had been frisked and the entire contents of the bags were upside down. From the condition of the bags, it was clearly inferred that someone had forcibly opened the bags by breaking the locks of the bags and then, ruffled through the bag's contents and extracted the items to their liking. During the inspection of the bags and evaluation of the weight, it was found that the weight of the bags had reduced to 39.2 kg combined against the departure weight of 43 kgs and 4 kg of items were missing from the bags," alleged the complainant. Sehgal alleged that many articles were found missing from the bags. She repeatedly requested the airlines to compensate her for the harassment faced by her but the airlines only offered \$200 to settle her claim. The Emirates Airlines in reply submitted that upon receiving the complaint, their staff at the New Delhi airport took immediate action to understand the cause of such happening to the extent possible. Thereafter, the staff generated a property irregularity report in their system, raised by the complainant and the staff at the New Delhi airport, also requested the complainant to provide a copy of the invoices against the missing items as reported in order to enable them to review and process the claim as required. However, the complainant failed to do so even upon multiple requests.

It was said that the airlines as a goodwill gesture was open to consider the complainant's claim subject to assessment of proof of loss/invoices of the contents allegedly pilfered. In the absence of any proof of loss or supporting evidence, the airlines partially allowed the claim of the complainant bearing in mind the inconvenience caused and the fact that the complainant is a regular flyer with the airlines. Therefore, on November 7, 2022, the complainant was offered an amount of \$200 as settlement for the claim, even though the complainant failed to provide any purchase receipts or supporting documents as requested.

On hearing the contentions of both the parties, the commission observed that "certainly in such like situation the complainant has undergone a lot of harassment and embarrassment as she did not get her luggage back from the airlines for a long time and when the same was received back some articles were found missing therefrom and the chain of the bags were found broken which caused immense harassment to the complainant. Hence there is negligence on the part of the Emirates Airlines."On offering \$ 200 for settlement of the complaint for the damage of the bag, the commission said that as per the written statement of the airlines, it is mentioned that the complainant is bound by Montreal Convention. The commission said that as per rule, the liability of the airlines will be limited to 1288 SDR for damage to checked or unchecked baggage. The commission also asked the Emirates Airlines to pay Rs 20,000 to the complainant as compensation for causing mental agony and harassment to her and to pay Rs 10,000 as costs of litigation.

Karnataka to hike engineering, architecture fees in private unaided colleges by 10%

GNS News Agency, June 20

The management of private professional colleges had demanded a 15 per cent increase in fees but later agreed to a 10 per cent hike. The management of private professional colleges had demanded a 15 per cent increase in fees but later agreed to a 10 per cent hike. (Representational)The Karnataka government has decided to increase the fees of engineering and architecture courses in private unaided educational institutions by 10 per cent for the 2024-2025 academic year. State Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, representatives of private aided and unaided professional educational institutes and office bearers of the Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association (KUPECA) arrived at a consensus on the fee hike on Friday. The management of private professional colleges had demanded a 15 per cent increase in fees but later agreed to a 10 per cent hike. The association had expressed concerns that the Congress government soon after coming to power in the state in 2023 had reduced the fees by 3 per cent and then allowed to increase the fees only by 7 per cent. However, the earlier BJP government had increased the fees by 10 per cent and had assured a 10 per cent increase every year from the 2022-23 academic year, the association pointed out.Private management associations said that the reduction in the



hike okayed by the previous government had led to significant financial burden on them and they were finding it difficult to pay salaries and come up with money for maintenance. In the academic year 2022-23, the engineering course fee in government and aided engineering colleges was Rs 38,200 per semester. It was Rs 91,796 annually in unaided colleges, including minority (Type-1) colleges. In unaided colleges, including minority (Type-2) colleges, it was Rs 98,984 and in deemed and private universities it was Rs 91,796. With the 7 per cent hike last year, the fee was Rs 96,574 for CET seats at private colleges (Type 1) and Rs 1,04,265 at (Type 2) colleges. The colleges are free to choose their category depending upon the infrastructure.

Punjab implements marginal hike: Power tariff up by 10-15 paise/unit; govt stares at addl Rs 600 cr in subsidy burden

GNS News Agency,June 20

The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) Friday announced an increase in power tariff by 10 to 15 paise per unit for different categories of consumers. For the domestic category, the hike is 10-12 paise a unit while for the industry category, it is 15 paise a unit. The power regulator has not touched the tariff for Golden Temple and Durgiana Mandir. The new tariff order will be effective from June 16 till March 31, 2025, the PSERC said in a statement, adding that minimal increase in the charges was made to ensure that the consumers do not feel burdened.

Owing to the the 300 units of free electricity that it gives to domestic consumers per month, the power tariff hike would result in additional burden on the fund starved state government. The government is already paying a subsidy bill of Rs 20,200 crore per year. The hike will put on it an additional burden of nearly Rs 600 crore. The Punjab government also gives a subsidy of Rs 1900 crore to the industry sector. As per the new tariff, the rates for domestic consumers having load up to 2 Kilo Watt (KW) with 0-100 units slab have been increased from Rs 4.19 a unit to Rs 4.29. For 101-300 units, the new rate will be Rs 6.76 per unit, an increase of 12 paise a unit. However, for more than 300 units, the rate of Rs 7.75 per unit has remained unchanged. For those having a load between 2 KW and 7 KW, the new rates for up to 100 units of consumption will be Rs 4.54 per unit and for 101 to 300 units, the new rate will be Rs 6.76 a unit. There is no change in electricity rate for the domestic consumers having a load more than 7 KW.

The fixed charges for the domestic consumers were not changed, according to the order. For the industry category, the new rate for units having up to 20 Kilo Volt Amperes (KVA) load has been revised upward by 15 paise per unit from Rs 5.67 to Rs 5.82, while from 20 KVA to 100 KVA load, the rate has been increased from Rs 6.10 per unit to Rs 6.25. Similarly, from 100 KVA to 2,500 KVA load, the electricity charges have been increased by 15 paise a unit. The fixed charges for the industry have also been increased by Rs 5 per KVA. The tariff for the farm sector (agriculture pumpset) has been raised from Rs 6.55 per unit to Rs 6.70 a unit. The farmers in



"The water of Teesta is rising because of the release of water from barrages in Sikkim. Teesta is coming down with great speed and an alert has been issued in this regard. We have taken all precautionary measures. Leaves of all the officials have been cancelled," the official said.

Punjab get free electricity supply. Earlier, the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) had submitted an aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) petition to the PSERC, seeking Rs 53,360.48 crore while projecting that it has a revenue deficit of Rs 5,419.82 crore. The PSPCL requested for an increase in tariff accordingly. However, the PSERC determined a revenue gap of Rs 654.35 crore after the requisite and thorough brudence check and allowing for previous period dues of Rs 4,072.27 crore. The power regulator determined an additional revenue requirement of Rs 654.35 crore. The average cost of supply (ACoS) for the financial year 2024-25 works out to be 715.55 paise per kWh (kilowatt hours), which is 1.59 per cent higher than the ACoS of 704.34 paise per kWh as determined in the previous tariff order, resulting in an increase of approximately 11 paise a unit over the average cost of supply of 2023-24. Accordingly, the ARR determined for 2024-25 will be Rs 44,239.14 crore and the projected net revenue to PSPCL from the announced tariff during financial year 2024-25 will be Rs 48,467.72 crore

Son diagnosed with rare disease, Delhi couple turns to crowdfunding for injection worth Rs 17.5 crore; AAP MP lends a hand



GNS News Agency, June 20

Mohit and Garima Jain's lives have come to a grinding halt. In February, their only child, 16-month-old Vehant, was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease that has rendered him nearly immobile. Vehant has Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 2, also known as Dubowitz disease, which is characterised by muscle weakness that develops in children between the ages of 6 and 12 months. "Aisa lagta hai paanv ke neeche se zameen nikal gayi hai (It feels like the ground has disappeared from under my feet)," said Mohit, an engineer.

After Vehant was born in 2023, the first eight months passed by normally. Then, the couple began to notice certain things — Vehant's neck would droop while crawling, his muscles grew weak, and his weight did not increase. Eventually, movement stopped. The family took their child to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in February, where doctors told them about the disease. Symptoms of SMA

generally appear between 6 to 18 months after birth. Most patients can survive past the age of 25 years if supported by constant care.

With the initial shock of the diagnosis yet to wear off, the family came face to face with another hurdle — the cost of medication, an injection priced at Rs 17.5 crore. A single-shot infusion, it is to be administered before the child turns two years to be effective. Mohit said while he earns Rs 1 lakh a month and can provide his family a decent life, the injection is simply unaffordable. Garima is a chartered accountant but left her job after Vehant was born to look after him. She did not join back once he was diagnosed with the disease. "We have been in a state of panic since February," said Garima. The couple, who live in Northwest Delhi's Tri Nagar, then got in touch with other parents who got monetary support for the injection through crowdfunding. "They told me I should meet politicians and social media influencers," said Mohit. While the latter were not able to help, politicians were busy due to elections. "Someone then told me we should meet AAP MP Sanjay Singh," said Mohit, adding that he met him right after the elections and the leader promised to help Vehant.On Friday, Singh, in a press conference, appealed to people across the country to support Vehant. "... I have provided financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh from my side. I appeal to the people that everyone should come forward to save the life of this child and help him financially according to their capacity," he said. Mohit has now collected around Rs 24 lakh; Rs 5-6 lakh came in after the MP's appeal. "Today I got many calls from Punjab, Gujarat, Telangana... many asked how they could help," he said.

24 hours after fire, Chandni Chowk shop owners stare at losses: 'I have lost my livelihood... can't rebuild business'

GNS News Agency, June 20

It has been 24 hours since a fire engulfed the Marwari Katra market in Chandni Chowk. The embers were still smouldering and smoke poured out of burnt shops. By the time the first fire tenders arrived Thursday evening, this congested market that houses bridal wear shops, booksellers and textile godowns was already up in flames. On Friday, business owners sat in groups talking about the "mammoth losses". "Tagda nuksaan hua hai (There has been a big loss)," remarked a shopkeeper. The entire market has suffered losses," responded another. The devastation caused by the fire has reminded people yet again of the dangers in these congested clusters. Over 80 shops were destroyed and two buildings collapsed.In 2022, a fire gutted over 100 shops in Bhagirath Palace, a mere 3 km away. "There is no way to save anything whenever there is an accidental fire inside. There is no way for the fire tenders to reach," a store

In fact, the fire tenders — over 40 of them — had to be stationed on the main road Thursday. The pipes were carried through the narrow pathways to the terrace of the multi-storey Marwari Charitable Trust, the tallest building around. This was the only feasible way to pour water and douse the fast-spreading flames. On Friday, four tenders kept working in six-hour shifts, with five men in each vehicle per shift. Although the fire had been brought under control, firefighters were apprehensive that the embers hidden under the gutted structures were still active.

Meanwhile, worried business owners stood guard near their shops to ensure they could raise an alarm if the fire began to spread again. "We spent the entire night here. The fire spread so quickly that when a few of us tried to remove our stocks, we couldn't. It was impossible," said Mudit Jain, a saree shop owner. His shop escaped the flames but the smoke and water severely damaged his goods.

"While several among us have lost everything in the fire, others whose shops escaped will also suffer. Most of the market is in ruins now. I don't think any customer will come here now," said Mohammad Akram, who also runs a lehenga-saree shop.He said he had gone to his village and was planning to stay there till Eid. "I received a call



from a neighbouring shop owner who told me that my shop was gutted," he said. "I've lost my livelihood. This fire destroyed my stocks worth Rs 5-6 lakh. I don't think I can rebuild my business now. I have no money."Rajesh Sharma, who heads the Marwari Market Traders Association, said the losses are huge. "Big shop owners are completely destroyed. They have losses in crores. There were no fire checks in the area," said Sharma, adding that the market isn't unauthorised. "Most shops function from structures that are a hundred years old. They were once havelis and residences subsequently converted into shops 50-60 years ago," he said.Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha MP Praveen Khandelwal also visited the market

"After speaking with the people in the affected market, it was found that around 175 shops were badly damaged, with most goods in these shops reduced to ashes, causing significant loss to the traders," he said and urged the Delhi government and BSES to provide compensation to the affected traders immediately. Congress leader Jai Prakash Agarwal also visited the area. "... Incidents of fire keep happening every day in Chandni Chowk but till now, neither the Centre nor the Delhi government has tried to find a solution...," he said.An MCD official said "these structures were made in the 1960s" and their "status as authorised constructions can only be ascertained after the fire is doused and a proper assessment is carried out". "These are all old structures... there is a possibility that the owners will not be allowed to rebuild their shops again," the official said.

Over a year after launch, study to find sources of Delhi's pollution stops

GNS News Agency, June 20

delhi pollution, delhi pollution control, delhi pollution sources, delhi pollution study, delhi pollution resaons, delhi pollution check equipment, indian express newsAs part of the study, a 'supersite' with equipment was set up at Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Rouse Avenue. A mobile van was also part of the project. An ambitious study to find the reasons behind Delhi's polluted air has stopped — a year-and-a-half after it was formally inaugurated. Meant to identify sources of pollution in real-time near Rouse Avenue, a 'supersite' with equipment was set up at the Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in the area; it began functioning in November 2022. The site was inaugurated in January last year. According to a source associated with the project, IIT-Kanpur's agreement with the Delhi government to carry out the study has come to an end. The government had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT-Kanpur in 2021 to carry out the realtime source apportionment study at a cost of Rs 12.72 crore after the project was approved by the Delhi Cabinet.Apart from categorising how PM (particulate matter) 2.5 stemmed from sources including the transport sector, biomass burning, and soil and road dust, the system was meant to generate air pollution forecasts. Based on the sources identified and forecasts issued, the government was supposed to act on the city's pollution problem. An online dashboard that was set up to make the real-time data public is no longer accessible. DPCC Member Secretary K S Jayachandran did not respond to questions on Friday. The study was also a part of action plans meant to control air pollution in the summer of 2022 and 2023; it did not find a place in the action plan that Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced on Thursday. A Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) official said the period of the agreement with IIT-Kanpur was over, having ended last year, and now the Environment Department would have to decide what was to be done with the equipment purchased for the project.A



mobile van was also part of the project. Rai had said in May last year that the van was to be stationed at pollution hotspots to determine sources of pollution in these areas.AAP spokesperson Reena Gupta, meanwhile, said several consultations were done before deciding to use this technology. "It was not just a standalone lab, but a comprehensive plan, with mobile vans that were supposed to be stationed in different places. In Delhi, the bureaucrats decided to stop the study," she claimed. This is not the first time, however, that the study has run into trouble.Last year, it was stalled briefly following a disagreement between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi government and the DPCC chairman. In October 2023, Rai wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accusing DPCC Chairman Ashwani Kumar of trying to "sabotage the project." According to Rai, the project was stalled after Kumar questioned the project cost and the findings of the study. Minister Atishi had said then that Kumar had halted the lab's operations by not paying a pending amount of Rs 2 crore. After a prayer before the Supreme Court last year asked that the DPCC be directed to release data from the source apportionment study and publish data for the sources at least for the winter season of 2023-24, the court allowed the prayers and directed compliance in November.

60 stretches across 3 phases: PWD floats new road upkeep plan



GNS News Agency, June 20

Delhiites, delhi smooth ride, Public Works Department, delhi road repairs, delhi road stretches, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, delhi mcd, delhi road revamp, indian express newsThe 60 roads will be revamped on priority. Delhiites can soon expect a smooth ride on key city streets as the Public Works Department (PWD) is set to kick off road repairs in three phases.

According to officials, work could not be initiated sooner as the department's initial proposal — a comprehensive plan to repair and maintain all its roads by a single agency under a 10-year contract — proposed in the 2023 Budget, was hanging fire for months owing to several reasons. The plan has now been tweaked. Under the new plan, officials said work will be undertaken in phases, the contract will be for five years and will involve

just maintenance. The earlier plan involved, apart from maintenance, mechanical sweeping and cleaning which faced objections from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Sixty road stretches, spanning 167.65 km, will be revamped on a priority basis. These include 21 stretches in South Delhi, 16 in West and 8 in North and North West Delhi. "Maintenance will be done by the contractor who will be awarded the work... This will be the first time where the contractor will repair and strengthen roads as well as maintain them for five years," said a PWD official.Key roads under the plan include the Outer Ring Road from Modi Mill to Chirag Dilli; Mehrauli Mahipalpur Road; Ghitorni Road; Ring Road from B-avenue flyover and Hyatt flyover; Ring Road from Bhairon Road to Ashram; Mathura Road NH-2; Outer Ring Road from Chirag Dilli to Panchsheel Enclave; Panchsheel Club to Outer Ring Road to Joseph Broz Tito Marg. "Work has begun on some stretches such as Patel Chowk to Subhash Nagar, Vikaspuri stretch, Guru Golwalkar Marg, and Outer Ring Road from Mukarba Chowk to Burari Flyover under Phase 1... Other stretches received financial approval but work could not begin due to the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct during the Lok Sabha election... it will start now...," said an official. Officials also said for other stretches, estimates are in and verification is on for financial sanction. Officials said in South Delhi. repairs will be done in Phase 3. Each stretch has different deadlines. Work will be completed by the end of this month on roads where repairs he begun, said officials.

Latest bone of contention between Chief Secretary, Delhi govt: RWA meet with BJP candidate during MCC



GNS News Agency, June 20

Setting the stage for yet another tussle between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi government and the bureaucracy, Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj Friday wrote to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) over what he termed was the "questionable conduct" of Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar.Bharadwaj alleged that Kumar chaired "patently illegal meetings" with RWA members of the South Delhi constituency in presence of BJP's candidate Ramvir Singh Bidhuri during the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the General Elections.

The same officer, the UD Minister said, citing official documents to Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, was "taking the excuse" of the MCC being in place for not sending reports related to the desilting of drains in time. Sources in the bureaucracy sought to argue that such meetings were "neither illegal nor out of place" despite president Virendra Sac opment work across D AAP leaders' fights" will be better if the Kejr with the L-G and CS in Delhi," Sachdeva said.

the MCC since "no new projects were being announced" during the interactions. The BJP, on its part, accused Bharadwaj of engaging in mudslinging at a time when the capital was facing its "worst-ever water and electricity crisis". "The undersigned had directed the Chief Secretary on 20.05.2024 to provide desilting status of various drains... within 7 days," Bharadwaj wrote. However, he said, the information was not received from Kumar's office even after 15 days after which he again wrote to him on June 5. To this, the CS gave a "very offensive" response, the minister added.

"In the note dated 05.06.2024 from the Chief Secretary, he is giving excuses that he had given directions to the Addl.CS (UD) and he did not respond. This sounds like a lame excuse... Chief Secretary simply did nothing..." Bharadwaj alleged. The CS, Bharadwaj alleged, also did not take action against heads of various departments who failed to show up for a meeting on February 13 regarding a strategy of scientific drain management to avoid water logging in Delhi during monsoon. "...the Chief Secretary is suggesting that Action Taken Reports are being provided to the Hon'ble High Court. Therefore, he is not obliged to provide a report to the Elected Government," Bharadwaj said. In the meantime, Bharadwaj said he had knowledge of meetings held in April by the CS with RWA members in the presence of Bidhuri. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the stalling of development work across Delhi was a result of "a decade of AAP leaders' fights" with L-Gs and Chief Secretaries. "It will be better if the Kejriwal government works in tandem with the L-G and CS in the interest of the development of

Many who perished in Kuwait fire were close to winding up their stay abroad

GNS News Agency,June 20

An Indian Air Force aircraft on Friday brought back the remains of the 46 Indians who died in Wednesday's fire at a Kuwait apartment building that was used by a company to house their employees. Among them were 23 from Kerala, whose bodies were taken to their homes by road from Kochi airport. They included seasoned expats planning to return home for good, and young professionals just starting their careers. Most of them were employees of the NBTC group.K Nooh, 41, hailing from Malappuram's Tirur coast, had been in Kuwait for 11 years. Every year, he would come home, saving that he was winding up his life abroad. But with many commitments yet to be fulfilled, he would always end up going back. The last time he was in Kerala was two months ago. "On Tuesday, he called his wife, Barhath. But his three daughters were at school so he couldn't speak to them. He promised to make a WhatsApp call on Wednesday morning, but fate did not allow it," said Abdul Basheer, the family's neighbour in Malappuram. Also looking to wind up his stay in the Gulf was U K Aneesh Kumar, 56, from Kannur. Having worked in Kuwait for 25 years, he had returned to his hometown of Kuruva in April with the intention of staying back with his family for good. However, at the last moment, he changed his mind and decided on one more innings in Kuwait. He flew back to the country on May 16.P M Muraleedharan, 61, who had been in Kuwait for the last 30 years, also returned home six months ago with the intention of staying back. However, in February, he went back to Kuwait as NBTC, where he was a supervisor, asked him to work for another year.

Among the victims were also younger professionals who had just started their overseas careers. From Kannur's Dharmadam, Vishwas Krishnan, 35, had left for Kuwait only nine months ago. It was his first trip. For years, he had worked in Bengaluru as a draftsman, before deciding to move to the Gulf. He is survived by his wife Pooja and their three-year-old son.

Mathew Thomas, 53, and his nephew Shibu Varghese, 38, from Pandanad in Alappuzha, were also among the victims. Mathew had been in Kuwait for the last 30 years and Shibu for the last 10 years, both working at NBTC. Back home, Mathew's eldest daughter Megha, a nursing graduate, had completed all formalities for a job in Kuwait to join her father. Another victim. Stephin Abraham, 29, from Pambady in Kottayam, was looking to return and get married. He had been in Kuwait for the last five years, and six months ago, he was back home on leave to oversee the construction of a new house. He was slated to come again in October for the housewarming and to look for a bride. The father of a threeyear-old girl, Shibu Varghese, 38, also died in the fire. He used to video call home every night to see his wife and daughter. His wife, Rosy, who works as a nurse in



Kottayam, was worried when he didn't call on Wednesday night. On Thursday, she was resigned to the fact that her husband was dead.

Nitish brought shame to Bihar when he touched Modi's feet: Prashant Kishore

GNS News Agency, June 20

Bhagalpur: Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor charged Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with having "touched the feet" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure his own continuance in power. "People ask me why I am now criticising Nitish Kumar, having worked with him in the past. He was a different man back then. His conscience had not been put up for sale," said Kishor, who had managed the JD (U) president's election campaign in 2015 and formally joined the party two years later. The leader of a State is the pride of its people. But Nitish Kumar brought shame to Bihar when he touched the feet of Modi," he alleged, referring to the NDA meeting in Delhi last week. Kumar's JD (U) won 12 seats in Lok Sabha polls to emerge as the second largest ally of the BJP, which failed to get a majority on its own. "There is so much talk about Nitish Kumar playing a key role in Modi's return to power. But how is the Bihar CM leveraging his position? He is not using his clout to ensure benefits for the state. He is touching feet to ensure that he remains in power, with BJP support, even after the 2025 Assembly polls," Kishor said. Notably, Kishor had first shot into fame in 2014 for handling the spectacularly successful Lok Sabha poll campaign of Modi. By the time he gave up political consultancy in 2021, Kishor had worked for several high-profile politicians, including Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal and Jaganmohan Reddy.

War of words between Opposition, BJP over Delhi L-G action against Arundhati Roy



GNS News Agency, June 20

The Opposition and the Bharatiya Janata Party have engaged in a war of words after Delhi lieutenant governor VK Saxena gave his nod to prosecute author Arundhati Roy and Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a former professor in Kashmir, under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event in New Delhi in 2010. The FIR against Arundhati Roy and Sheikh Showkat Hussain was registered following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi, Raj Niwas officials said

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) condemned the action against Arundhati Roy and claimed that the move "defies logic except the fascist kind". "Condemnable! The Delhi LG has granted permission to prosecute Arundhati Roy under the draconian UAPA for a speech reportedly made 14 years ago - in 2010. Defies logic except the fascist kind. Timing is suspect since courts are on vacation, as are lawyers. Shameful and Condemnable!" the CPI(M) said in a post on X (formally Twitter). Congress leader Hariprasad BK also reacted strongly to the development. "Fascism thrives on crushing dissent, particularly from intellectuals, artists, writers, poets & activists. BJP manufacture crises daily to distract and overwhelm dissenters enabling them to divert attention from their failures. This assault on free expression & democratic values is unacceptable," Hariprasad BK posted on X.Trinamool Congress MP-elect Mahua Moitra also came out in the actor's support.

"If by prosecuting Arundhati Roy under UAPA BJP

trying to prove they're back, well they're not. And they'll never be back the same way they were. This kind of fascism is exactly what Indians have voted against," Mahua Moitra said. Meanwhile, the BJP hit out at the Congress for allegedly being empathetic towards "separatist and terrorist organisations". "Delhi LG approves prosecution of Arundhati Roy under UAPA. Why is the Congress ecosystem rattled? First they support & take support from SDPI and now they cry for separatists. Does it not believe Kashmir is integral part of Bharat? From Afzal to Yakub -Congress puts Votebank niti above Rashtra niti ?" Shehzad Poonawalla wrote on X while sharing a news clip of The FIR in the matter was registered on a complaint made by Sushil Pandit, a social activist from Kashmir, on October 28, 2010. "Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena has sanctioned the prosecution of Arundhati Roy and former Professor of International Law in Central University of Kashmir, Dr. Sheikh Showkat Hussain, under section 45 (1) of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the case," a Raj Niwas official said on Friday.Last October, the LG had granted sanction to prosecute them under section 196 of CrPC for commission of offences punishable under different sections of the Indian Penal Code: 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief). Arundhati Roy and Sheikh Showkat Hussain had allegedly made provocative speeches at a conference organised under the banner of 'Azadi - The Only Way' on October 21, 2010, at LTG Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, in New Delhi. "The issues discussed and spoken about at the conference propagated the separation of Kashmir from India," said an official told news agency PTI. Those who delivered speeches at the conference included Syed Ali Shah Geelani, SAR Geelani (anchor of the Conference and prime accused in the Parliament attack case), Arundhati Roy, Sheikh Showkat Hussain and Varavara Rao. The complainant filed a complaint under Section 156(3) of CrPC before the Metropolitan Magistrate Court, New Delhi, who disposed the complaint on November 27, 2010 with the directions to register an FIR.

Kerala's fading red and the blooming lotus

GNS News Agency, June 20

Wearing the traditional clergy dress, he used to address CPI-(M) dharnas and protest marches against what the party called the anti-people policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre. In the state where Christians constitute 18.38% of voters, Coorilos has always remained a critic of the rest of the bishops, who, according to him, have deviations towards rightist and regressive forces, mainly those affiliated with the Congress, by abandoning the Left.Coorilos was also the face of the LDF campaign, warning different church denominations for affiliations with the BJP, which allegedly targeted the Christians in Manipur communally. Above all, he was a close confidant ochief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who has led the LDF government for the last eight years. However, a social media post by the bishop criticising the Vijayan government for LDF's poor performance in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election has turned him into a persona non grata t the chief minister and his cronies in the

A furious Vijayan's "idiot" barb directed at the bishop while addressing a public function drew eyeballs. Vijayan made strong exceptions to the bishop's remark that an accident would be inevitable if a vehicle that indicated a signal to the left suddenly moved in the right direction, violating all traffic norms. With Vijayan's cyber supporters targeting the bishop by terming him an opportunist, Coorilos has turned into a prodigal son of the left.

But Vijayan's snubbing has provoked angry reactions from many fellow travellers of the left, who repeated what the bishop wrote on social media: "If they don't learn from the continuous shock treatment being given by the people, the Left in Kerala would be in a situation similar to the one existing in West Bengal and Tripura." Considering the electoral outcome, they argue that Kerala would no longer be the last citadel of the Indian left if no corrective measures were taken. In the Lok Sabha election, the BJP opened its account for the first time through actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi, who contested central Kerala's left citadel, Thrissur. Moreover, the BJP has emerged first in 12 assembly constituencies across the state. At present, the BJP's representation in the legislative assembly is zero.

"It's true that the red turns saffron in different parts of the state largely because of the large-scale corruption, nepotism, and irregularities happening under the second Vijayan government. LDF had won all the assembly constituencies forming part of Thrissur in the 2021 election, and now the anti-incumbency spoiled its chances. However, the party still accuses Congress of transferring its votes to Gopi to ensure his victory. Vijayan seems not ready to learn any lesson, as reflected in his arrogant reaction to the bishop," said MN Karassery, a writer, academic, and long-time left fellow traveller. When Vijayan took the oath as the chief minister for the first time in 2016, he was widely described as a canny politician with an iron fist who seldom tolerated the voices of dissent. He had a long track record of being ruthless with rivals inside and outside the party and had an uneasy relationship with the media.

Critics described him as the state's most feared and toughest politician. After eight years in power and despite a poor election performance this time, with the LDF winning only one of the 20 Lok Sabha seats in the state, Vijayan has not changed much. Despite showing administrative acumen during the devastating flood of 2018 and the COVID-induced pandemic later, his public image as a harsh and rigid politician with zero tolerance for dissent continues to grow. Even those who credit him with pulverising UDF in the 2021 assembly election by winning 99 of the 140 seats are now demanding a change in Vijayan's style of functioning. Vijayan emerged to the leadership as the strong man of its North Kerala fortress, Kannur.Popular among his fans as 'Captain', Vijayan led the left's campaign in Kerala this time without allowing party's national leaders like Sitaram Yechury and Prakash Karat to take centre stage. Riding on the poll plank of the Congress's incompetence in taking on the BJP, he tar-



geted the former using harsh language, even though the CPI-(M) is a key partner of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc alliance at the national level. His outbursts against Rahul Gandhi, terming him a poor leader with instability have not gone well with voters in the state. His claim of Congress cheating Muslims in the country over its silence on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act issue has ruffled feathers and also prompted secular and liberal forces in the state to switch over their loyalty to the UDF, which won 18 seats.

'If the prevailing situation continues, it will wipe out the left of Kerala with the UDF recapturing power and the BJP's larger presence in the assembly. The local body elections are nearing, and the assembly election will be just two years away. A course correction is inevitable for the left in Kerala, as that would also be crucial for its national existence," said J Devika, a political analyst and faculty member of the Centre for Development Studies in Thiruvananthapuram. With the disintegration of CPI-(M) units in West Bengal and Tripura, Vijayan has started wielding absolute control over the party at the national and state level. With his staunch loyalists placed in key positions in the party organisation, he is now in total control of the party. That is one reason no large-scale discussions on course correction are happening in the party, despite the humiliating electoral route.

After sidelining his one-time mentor, VS Achuthanandan, in a bitterly fought inner-party dispute more than 15 years ago, he emerged as the last word of CPI-(M) in Kerala. He also has clear sway over the minor alliance partners in the LDF. Vijayan has had several runins with those critical of his party or his government in the past.In 2007, as then CPM state secretary, he called the then bishop of Thamarassery Diocese, Paul Chittilapally, a "wretched creature" for allegedly lying that former CPI (M) lawmaker Mathai Chacko had been given the last sacrament according to his wish. He also publicly used profanity against RSP leader and Kollam MP NK Premachandran."In the last eight years, he has been doing social engineering to get Christians into the LDF fold along with a sizable portion of Muslims. Despite his overtures, many Christians in Thrissur voted for Gopi, and the BJP opened its account in the state. Now, in the postelection, the powerful Jacobite and Orthodox denominations of the church are terming the continuing Manipur violence as an after-effect of traditional rivalry between different tribes, and it has no anti-Christian aspect. Catholics are yet to subscribe to this theory, but some of their bishops favour more associations with the BJP. Vijayan has to change his style to reverse the emerging trend," said leading Kerala-based economist Mary George.

Even CPI-(M) leaders P Jayarajan and MV Jayarajan, who were close confidants of Vijayan until then, have demanded deep investigation and corrections from the party.MV Jayarajan also blamed those who handled the party's social media pages for being impatient with criticism and making all those with different voices enemies.Leaders agree that the LDF won only one seat despite an efficient campaign and fielding heavy-hitter candidates in several key constituencies. Also, unlike 2019, there was no discernible pro-UDF wave nor a burning issue like women's entry to Sabarimala, making the LDF route this time a political problem. The 2024 results in constituencies such as Alappuzha and Attingal show that voting in a major section of the Ezhava community—considered the party's backbone—in favour of the BJP affected the prospects of LDF candidates.

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



. 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 prestigious 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 202, 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 StatesHe 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 @decoverAI, 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.

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 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.

ties 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 Huthis threatens regional stability and endangers the lives of mariners across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. "The Huthis 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 Huthis. 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 Arabialed 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 Huthis struck the Tutor, a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, southwest of Hodeida. They claimed to have used seaborne and aerial drones as well as ballistic missiles. CENTCOM said at the time that the Tutor had been hit by a Huthi "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".

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



GNS News Agency, June 20Kensington 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 Whales 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

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.'

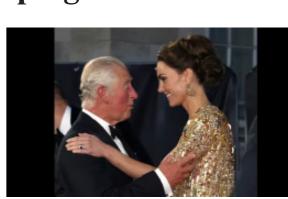
Mr Trump is no Godot. Nor is he really offstage, even on debate nights. He holds court online and in friendly interviews, dominating conversations and front pages whether he shows up or not. His absence projects power, and he evokes fear in many Americans, but he is scarcely a riddle. They have seen 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 as 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.

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



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

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.

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

house price rise, delhi house price rise, mumbai house price rise, residential homes, luxury homes, Indian express business, business news, business articles, business news storiesNew 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 Baijal, 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," Baijal



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

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

financial fraud, urban Indians faced financial frauds, urban financial frauds, financial frauds, Indian express business, business news, business articles, business news storiesLocalCircles 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-



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 "unauthorized charges levied by unknown international merchants/ websites", 53 per cent saying "unauthorized charges levied by domestic merchants/ websites with whom we transact", 41 per cent indicating "unauthorized 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.

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, acnefree 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 recommed applying garlic topically on the skin. "Applying raw garlic on acne spots may lead to contact dermatitis and irritation," she said.acne 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 thiosulfinates, 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.

times?

Despite the risks, moderate spicy food consumption

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

Are there any benefits of eating spicy foods some-

- * 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.



* 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.

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

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?'



Singer and actor Saba Azad, who has been acclaimed 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

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 this 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 me-

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...'



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, Gulaal, 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

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

'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

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 night-mare 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 iDiva, "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 unavail-

able 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

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 extend 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-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 da 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 ACTIONIncidentally, 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 15month-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 up 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 theFormer 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 ingame 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 out 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 Å 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

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

GNS New 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 Fransico 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 postmatch 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.

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