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GHMC's EV&DM wing to get brand-new safety equipment

Hyderabad: Being one of the primary rescue teams in the city, the Directorate of Enforcement, Vigilance, and Disaster Management (EV&DM) wing of GHMC is soon expected to get brand-new equipment. As many as 119 equipment are on the list of requirements to help the Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams gear up to undertake operations. The department has recently published a tender for the supply and delivery of disaster rescue tools, uniforms, and other items. Waist harnesses, safety nets, rope and telescopic ladders, life jackets, different kinds of axes and shovels, submersible pumps, fire proximity suits, medical kits, and others.

Former Telangana Speaker and BRS MLA Pocharam Srinivas joins Congress



GNS News Agency, June 21

Hyderabad: Former Speaker and BRS MLA from Banswada, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy joined the Congress in the presence of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here on Friday. Accompanied by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, the Chief Minister visited the former Speaker's residence here. After having breakfast, the Chief Minister formally offered Congress party scarf to the former Speaker and his son Bhaskar Reddy and welcomed them into the party fold. An appeal was made to Pocharam Srinivas Reddy to extend his cooperation in rebuilding Telangana. Considering the State government's commitment towards farmers' welfare, the former Speaker agreed to join the Congress, the Chief Minister said. "We will seek Pocharam Srinivas Reddy's guidance in ensuring farmers welfare in the State. He will be offered a suitable post in the future," Revanth Reddy said, adding that the State Cabinet would decide on the guidelines for Rs 2 lakh farm loan waiver.

The Congress government would utilise the former Speaker's services in completing the pending projects in Nizamabad. The State government was according top priority for farmers' welfare and all those, who wish to work towards this cause, would be taken along, the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, BRS workers led by former MP Balka Suman, arrived at the former Speaker's residence and raised slogans against him. They demanded him to withdraw his decision to join the Congress. Tension prevailed for a while, when the BRS workers tried to obstruct the Chief Minister's convoy from leaving the former Speaker's residence. Heated arguments took place between the BRS workers and police. It may be recalled that already three BRS MLAs, including Khairatabad legislator Danam Nagender, Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari and Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkata Rao have shifted their loyalties to Congress.

Delhi court cited lack of direct evidence by ED for grant of bail to CM Kejriwal



GNS News Agency, June 21

New Delhi: While granting bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case on Thursday, a Delhi court's order had cited the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) failure to present direct evidence linking him to the proceeds of crime. In a turn of events on Friday, the Delhi High Court has stayed the release of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal on bail and the hearing in the case is going on today. In its observations, the trial court noted that the ED admitted the evidence on record was insufficient to proceed against CM Kejriwal, suggesting that the agency was still attempting to procure further evidence. The court in its order expressed strong reservations about the credibility of the approvers, criticising the ED's tactics. The court said, "The argument that 'investigation is an art' raises concerns. If taken to its logical extreme, it implies any person could be implicated and detained based on selectively-procured evidence, which indicates bias from the investigating agency."

The judge said that the ED must act "promptly and fairly" to uphold the principles of natural justice. The court pointed out several issues: 1. Kejriwal was not named in either the CBI case or the ECIR FIR. 2. Allegations against the Delhi CM emerged only after statements from certain co-accused. 3. Despite not being summoned by the court, Kejriwal remained in judicial custody at the ED's behest. Further, the court found no evidence that co-accused Vijay Nair acted on CM Kejriwal's instructions. It also questioned the ED's conclusions regarding Vinod Chauhan's connections and the alleged proceeds of crime, including an unclarified sum of Rs 1 crore and an unsubstantiated amount of Rs 40 crore. Quoting the legal maxim, "Justice should not only be done but seen to be done," Judge Bindu stated the importance of perceived fairness in judicial proceedings.

'Yoga can attract more tourists, be big source of livelihood in J-K,' says PM Modi in Srinagar

GNS News Agency, June 21

The prime minister said yoga, once made a part of daily life, gives uninterrupted benefits for a long time. The prime minister said yoga, once made a part of daily life, gives uninterrupted benefits for a long time. On account of the 10th International Day of Yoga Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in Jammu and Kashmir for a two-day visit and led the celebrations in Srinagar, said yoga can help the Union Territory attract more tourists which will provide new livelihood opportunities to the local residents. "For Kashmir, yoga can become such a big source of livelihood. It can become a centre of attraction for tourists," Modi said in his address before joining the gathering to perform yoga at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) on the banks of Dal Lake. In



his address at the event, he also urged people to make yoga a part of their daily routine and said that the world is looking at it as a powerful agent of global good. The United Nations has chosen theme 'Yoga for Self and Society' for the decennial year.

"We have to understand the importance of yoga in life. Just like brushing teeth or combing hair becomes a daily routine, with similar ease yoga becomes a process to follow when you get used to it. It keeps giving benefits every moment," he said. The main

10th International Yoga Day celebrated on a colourful note in Adilabad

Adilabad: Collector Rajarshi Shah advised people to practise yoga to stay physically and mentally fit. He, along with MLA Payal Shankar, participated in the 10th International Yoga Day, which was celebrated on a colorful note here on Friday. Narrating the health benefits of yoga, Shah said practising asanas, meditation and pranayama help one to stay physically, mentally, emotionally and socially healthy. He said the ancient system of wellness was invented and codified by sage Patanjali around 200 BCE. It is the wealth of India and is being accepted by many countries today.

good" and said it is making new ways of positive change in the society. "The world is looking at yoga as a powerful agent of global good. Yoga helps us live in the present moment without the baggage of the past," the prime minister said. He also said it has helped people realise that their welfare is linked to the welfare of the world around them. "When people talk about yoga, most of them think it is a spiritual journey as if it is to find Allah, Ishwar or God... Leave aside the spiritual journey, for now, you can focus on personal development and yoga is part of that. If you approach it that way, I am sure you will get a lot of benefits. Personal development leads to the benefit of the society which in turn leads to the benefit of humankind," he added. This event on yoga day was part of PM Modi's first visit to the union territory after being sworn in as a prime minister for the third time.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina arrives on two-day State visit to India

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, June 21

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, on Friday, began a two-day State visit to India with an aim to further expand the already close ties between the two countries. It is the first incoming bilateral State visit by a foreign leader after the formation of the new government in India following the Lok Sabha election.

Hasina was among the top seven leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region who attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union council of ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9. Modi and Hasina are scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks, on Saturday, during which both sides are likely to firm up a raft of agreements providing for cooperation in several sectors. Apart from holding bilateral consultations with PM Modi, the visiting leader is scheduled to call on President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to call on PM Hasina this evening. The talks between the two prime ministers are expected to focus on taking the bilateral ties to new heights, said a source. The overall strategic ties between India and Bangladesh have been on an upswing in the last few years.

Bangladesh is an important partner for India under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the cooperation extends to areas of security, trade, commerce, energy, connectivity, science and technology, defence and maritime



affairs among others. The achievements in the connectivity sector included the inauguration of the Maitri Setu bridge over river Feni in Tripura and the rollout of the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link. Bangladesh is India's largest development partner with nearly one-fourth of New Delhi's commitment under the Line of Credit has been made to that country. It is also India's biggest trading partner in South Asia. India is the second biggest trading partner of Bangladesh in Asia. India is Bangladesh's largest export destination in Asia, with approximately USD 2 billion of Bangladeshi exports to India in 2022-23. In 2022-23, the total bilateral trade has been reported as USD 15.9 billion.

KTR demands govt to fulfill its promise of 'Ambedkar Abhaya Hastam'



GNS News Agency, June 21

Rajanna-Sircilla: BRS working president and Sircilla MLA, KT Rama Rao demanded that the state government fulfill its promise by announcing Rs 12 lakh assistance to dalits under Ambedkar Abhaya Hastam in the next budget session. If the government was committed to the dalit welfare, it should announce a greater scheme than that of Dalit Bandhu introduced by the BRS Chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. To make dalits rich by improving their financial status, Chandrashekar Rao introduced Dalit Bandhu for the first time after independence. If the State was sincere on dalit development, it should fulfill its promise made to the community by giving Rs 12 lakh under Ambedkar Abhaya Hastam. First ever in the country, Telangana state secretariat was named after Dr BR Ambedkar, Rama Rao made these comments after inaugurating Ambedkar statue at Gollapalli of Yellareddy mandal on Friday. Later, BRS

working president participated in the Sircilla Cooperative Urban Bank council swearing-in ceremony held in Padmashali Sangam kalyana mandapam in Sircilla.

Atishi goes on indefinite hunger strike as Delhi water crisis deepens

GNS News Agency, June 21

New Delhi: Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Friday began her indefinite hunger strike in south Delhi's Bhogal to press on her demand for more water from Haryana. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal, along with AAP MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, were present as Atishi began her fast. Sunita Kejriwal read out a message from the Chief Minister, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, in which he expressed hope that Atishi's 'tapasya' would be successful. The Chief Minister said he was immensely pained by seeing on TV the plight of the people facing water shortage amid the ongoing intense heatwave, he said. "It's our culture to provide water to the thirsty. Delhi gets water from neighbouring States. We hoped support of neighbouring states in such intense heat. But, Haryana reduced Delhi's water share. Although there are governments of different parties in the two States but it is this time for politics over water," he said, referring to the BJP that is in power in Haryana.

Telangana Deputy CM Urges Union Minister to Allocate Coal Blocks to Singareni for State's Benefit



GNS News Agency, June 21

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has expressed his concerns over the allocation of Telangana coal blocks to private companies, describing it as a painful decision. He has called upon Union Minister Kishan Reddy to have a special conversation with Prime Minister Modi and seek justice for Singareni, the state-owned coal mining company. Vikramarka emphasized the importance of ensuring that Singareni receives the necessary resources to meet the increasing electricity needs in Telangana. He stated that the allocation of new mines to Singareni is essential for the company's survival, and urged for the Sathupally and Koyyagudem blocks currently assigned to private companies to be allocated to Singareni.

The Deputy CM pointed out that previous decisions made by the government had negatively impacted Singareni's operations, and stressed the need for special initiatives to allocate Godavari catchment area coal blocks to the state-owned company. Vikramarka also proposed that Telangana mines could be reserved for Singareni through a reservation process, ensuring that the company receives the necessary resources to continue providing electricity to the state. "As a child of the Telangana region, Union Minister Kishan Reddy should prioritise the state's interests and work towards allocating coal blocks to Singareni for the benefit of Telangana's future energy needs," Bhatti said.

SC notice to NTA on NEET re-examination, says no to postponement of counselling process



GNS News Agency, June 21

The Supreme Court on June 21 asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) to respond to pleas for conducting a fresh National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) 2024 after allegations of question paper leaks and other irregularities have dented the sanctity of the national-level exams for undergraduate medical admissions which saw 24 lakh aspirants appear across the country. A Vacation Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and S.V. Bhatti however refused to postpone or stay the counselling process scheduled to begin on July 6.

"Counselling is a process. It only commences from July 6. It will continue for a week. Meanwhile, the applicants have many options...to amend/modify..." Justice Bhatti told a counsel for a petitioner. The court for the second consecutive week, issued notice to pleas seeking a CBI investigation into the allegations of irregularities.

A petitioner urged the court to bring the NEET exam under its direct monitoring. "We are seeking re-conduct of the exam as NTA has withheld material information," a lawyer argued.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DEVASI VISHNU KUMAR S/O DEVASI BALARAM (Old name)** born on 27-07-2000 at Kumharo ki Dhani hereby changing my name and henceforth in future I would be known as **DEVASI VISHNU S/O DEVASI BALARAM (New Name)** R/o H.No. 4-4-342 Bhuktapur, Adilabad-504001, Telangana.

DECLARANT.
DEVASI VISHNU
S/O DEVASI BALARAM

Place: Adilabad
Date: 21-06-2024

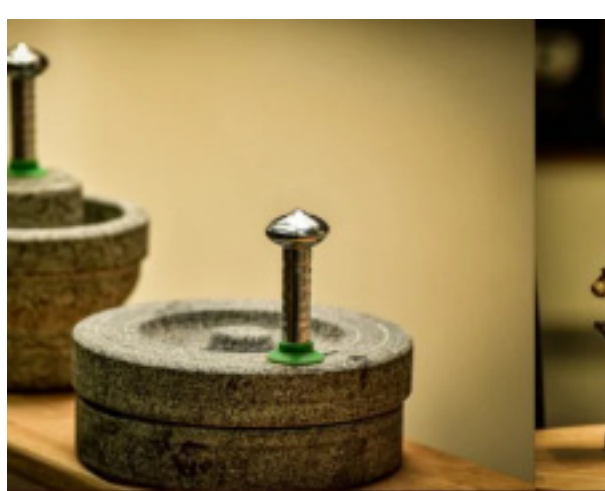
Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Drug crackdown

THE transfer of nearly 10,000 Punjab Police personnel is being projected by the state government as a demonstration of its resolve to take on the drug mafia. Breaking the nexus between drug peddlers and the police is a key element of the crackdown, the Chief Minister has said. He has warned cops of immediate dismissal from service and confiscation of property if a link is established. This development comes amid a political storm triggered by a report in The Tribune on 14 deaths in 14 days due to drug overdose. The acknowledgement of complaints going unheeded and preferential treatment to the accused puts the police at the front and centre of a flawed strategy to deal with those involved in this nefarious trade. The role of civil society has been no less disappointing. The difficulty in enlarging the scope of social resistance to drugs is symptomatic of a gap in policy planning and community involvement. Course correction would require a lot more than just the en masse shifting of mainly lower-ranked cops. An attitudinal shift among the rank and file calls for changes, first and foremost in their demanding working conditions. Unreasonably long duty hours and perpetual staff shortage cannot be the foundational basis of a team that is otherwise ready or even motivated to lead a sustained fight against drugs. Stopping the flow of drugs, through drones from across the border or from ports in Gujarat and Maharashtra, needs constant vigil, and thus, enhanced state-Centre coordination. A reductionist view confining the drug menace to being a Punjab-centric issue and notions of victimhood may be appealing for politicians to indulge in the customary blame game, but that would be a waste of effort. It's a national fight and should be proclaimed as such. The authorities must seek help from all quarters, heed experts' voices, explore new solutions — and change may come.

In Bengaluru's Major General SL Bhatia Museum, witness stages in the journey of medicine



GNS News Agency, June 21

Medicine in Bengaluru and the world has come a long way over the past few decades — and one of the best places in the city to see that journey is the Major General S I Bhatia Museum for the History of Medicine, tucked away at St John's Medical College Hospital in Koramangala. Major General Sohan Lal Bhatia, the museum's namesake, had a notable career, holding prestigious titles such as the Order of the Indian Empire, and a Fellowship of the Royal Society at Edinburgh. He also served with the British Indian Army as a doctor, winning a Military Cross for his service at the famous Battle of Megiddo in 1918 against the Ottomans.

While his efforts to preserve the history of medicine immediately after Independence did not bear fruit, he went on to start the Department of History of Medicine at St John's in 1964. The museum came 10 years later. While the phrase "medical museum" might bring bones and jars of formaldehyde to mind, a large part of the museum also contains literary and artistic representations of the history of medicine. For instance, one of the first things that visitors are likely to see is a 1945 copy of the Field Service Hygiene Notes issued to the Royal Army Medical Corps. Also displayed throughout the museum is a set of artistic prints from 1960 produced by Parke-Davis and Company. These prints, which are part of the second edition of a series titled A History of Medicine in Pictures, memorialise major events such as the first vaccinations against smallpox. Older medical instruments — such as vintage stethoscopes and over a century-old Bausch & Lomb microscope, Major Gen Bhatia's medical kits — can also be seen at the museum. An old Commodore computer that was used at St John's is also an appropriate display in India's Silicon Valley. Dating back to the late 70s, this device ran on a 1 Megahertz CPU (modern consumer processors operate in the multi-gigahertz range). Other items seem archaic but are only a few decades removed from modern medical practice. A portable midwife kit would have helped midwives perform deliveries at home around the 1920s, while mortars for compounding and grinding medicine were essential until the development of the modern pharmaceutical industry.

An archive section above the museum also contains medical texts and papers as old as the early 19th century. While the core of the collection is from Major Gen Bhatia's bequest, it has been expanded by other donors as well. The collection is currently being digitised on account of the frailty of some of the books. According to curator Radhika Hegde, the museum is also working on an Indian medicine section, complete with a herb garden for younger visitors to interact with. Also of note is an upcoming museum event scheduled for June 22 and June 29. Archiving Health Histories is an event intended to "create a safe space for community members to share their lived experiences and personal health histories.....and contribute to a people's medical archive". More details about the registry may be found in the attached poster. The museum is open from 10 to 4 pm on weekdays, and until 1 pm on Saturdays. Although entry to the museum is free, visitors are encouraged to check in at either the contact number 9632172577 or drop a mail at radhika.h@sjri.res.in.

Prohibitory orders in Noida until June 19 in view of religious festivals, protests



GNS News Agency, June 21

In view of religious festivals and protests proposed by various organisations, the Gautam Buddha Nagar police on Sunday announced prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in Noida and Greater Noida until "Due to Ganga Dussehra on June 16, Bakrid on June 17, and the three days of Kurbaani observed by the Muslim community, along with protests by various organisations, there is a possibility of disturbing the peace by anti-social elements. Peace may also be disturbed due to protests by various party workers, farmer organisations, and other protesters," said Hirdesh Katheriya, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (law and order).

"Considering the seriousness and urgency of the situation and due to time constraints, it is impossible to provide an opportunity to hear to any other party. Therefore, this order is being passed ex parte (done with re-

spect to or in the interests of one side only or of an interested outside party)," added the officer. As per the order, there will be a complete ban on drone cameras within a 1 km radius of government offices. Additionally, there will be a limited ban on playing loudspeakers from 10 pm to 6 am in religious places. Moreover, there will be a prohibition of rallies, religious activities, worshipping, namaaz, and other events in public places. Officials stated that no procession or rally of five or more people can occur, nor can five or more people gather at a public spot without police permission.

The order said that permission must be obtained from the police commissioner, additional commissioner, or deputy commissioner in unavoidable circumstances. It added that no religious flags, banners, or posters should be placed on religious places or walls. "No person shall let animals like pigs, dogs, etc. roam on the routes of religious places and near religious places during religious gatherings, which may hurt the sentiments of any individual or community," it said. Officials said violators would be punished under Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servants) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The order further said the Noise Pollution (Control and Regulation) Rules, 2000, regarding the sound intensity of loudspeakers during festivals must be followed. As per regulations, the maximum sound intensity levels are set at 40 to 75 decibels for religious places, 65/55 decibels in commercial areas, 55/44 decibels in residential areas, 50/40 decibels in quiet areas, and 75/70 decibels in industrial areas during both day and night time.

'Never lost his appetite for justice': Family and friends remember 66-year-old who fought for 1984 anti-Sikh riot victims

GNS News Agency, June 21

Wazir Singh's eyes glistened with tears when he recalled his years of friendship with Mohan Singh. They had met at the Sikh Camp in Farsh Bazaar in the aftermath of the anti-Sikh riots in 1984. "We were hungry for justice back then," he said. "Mohan ji never lost his appetite for it." On November 1, 1984, the day after Indira Gandhi's assassination, when mobs began attacking Sikh communities across Delhi, Mohan watched his two brothers — Kewal and Mewal Singh — be killed and set on fire. He barely escaped. When he tried to alert the police at Kalyanpuri about the situation unfolding in Trilokpuri's Block 32, he was beaten and turned away. He then rushed to alert his reporter friends, Alok Tomar, Rahul Bedi and Joseph Maliakan, about the violence — leading the men to witness one of Delhi's most blood-curdling chapters of history.

Mohan hid for the next three days. When his family met him in the Farsh Bazaar camp after 10 days, they were taken aback. "I thought he had died..." said his wife, Sunita Kaur (65), as she took off her glasses to wipe her tears. On April 29, the 66-year-old passed away after a long battle with liver complications and jaundice. Family and friends recalled how he helped the community get back on its feet and was unafraid of standing up to those in power. "It was like he was bitten by a bug after that," said Harvinder Singh (40), Mohan's nephew. "He left auto-driving and took up social work..." Mohan's nephew still lives in the two-bedroom apartment given to their family by the government after the riots in Tilak Nagar's Widow Colony. Sunita cannot help but note the irony of the situation. "They killed all our men and then gave us empty



houses to fill," she scoffed.

Yet even these houses were not easily given to the victims of the riots. "He fought to get us our allotted houses from the government," said Vijay Singh (52), who runs a general store in the area. "Even after we got our homes, we didn't have a single thing... not a bed to sleep on, not a utensil to cook in..." Mohan ji helped the community stand on its feet again," he said. In 2009, when Congress's Sajjan Kumar and Jagdish Tytler, accused in the riots, were declared candidates from Delhi for the Lok Sabha election, the Sikh community in Tilak Nagar was shocked. "Mohan ji had helped us organise a protest in front of Sonia Gandhi's office then," said a 74-year-old tent business owner, also named Mohan Singh. "He helped witnesses go to Karkardooma court and present their testimony against Tytler..." he said. "People who knew him are slowly getting to know that he's passed away... so many people I didn't even know he was associated with have come to pay their condolences to us," added Sunita.

How a couple that met on Instagram became serial vehicle thieves

GNS News Agency, June 21

For over two months, a team from Pune's Sinhad Road Police Station was on the trail of two thieves who had stolen half a dozen vehicles in their jurisdiction since February. When the investigation team finally zeroed in on them on June 7, it was up for several disclosures. Behind the series of vehicle thefts was a young couple. During their questioning, the police found out two had already spent time in prison for vehicle thefts, were released on bail in February, and resumed stealing. Their modus operandi was to steal motorcycles and then use them to steal the cars. A team from Sinhad Road Police Station led by Assistant Inspectors Sachin Nikam and Santosh Bhandwalkar were pursuing the thieves who had stolen bikes and cars in February. Earlier this month, Constables Uttam Taru, Rahul Olekar, and Shivaji Kshirsagar received a concrete lead. On June 7, as the team finally zeroed in on their location, the two were traced and caught when they were in a car in the Wadki Nala area of Loni Kalbhori. The police arrested the man, 24, who is from Baramati, and detained the woman, 21, who hails from Solapur. The man is in police custody till June 18.

Nikam said both are school dropouts from very weak financial backgrounds who battled family issues at a young age. "Their questioning revealed the two had met on Instagram more than three years ago and subsequently got married. They were arrested in October last year by another police unit for a series of vehicle thefts and were in prison till February when they were released on bail. Since then, our probe now suggests, the couple has stolen 17 vehicles, including eight cars and nine bikes," said Nikam. According to Nikam, six of these 17 thefts were from Sinhad Road police jurisdiction and 11 from Bharti Vidyapeeth, Kondhwa, Hadapsar, Koregaon Park, and Wanawadi areas in Pune and also from Nagpur. "After stealing these vehicles in Pune they sold them in Nagpur, Shirdi, and Shirampur areas of Maharashtra. After their arrest, we have recovered and seized all the 17 stolen vehicles, based on the information they provided," he said.

A police officer, who is part of the probe, said the couple started stealing vehicles over two years ago to earn easy money and continued to do so. "They have been on the move since. The two never had a permanent place to live... primarily to evade arrest or getting caught. People are less likely to have suspicions of thefts when a man and woman are seen together and the couple took advantage of this idea. They used to steal a bike and then move to the area from where they intended to steal



cars. The two kept watch on the target by renting a room in lodges. They stole cars mainly in the night hours. They sold these stolen vehicles outside Pune," said the officer. "Our preliminary information suggests that before the two were arrested in October last year, the two had stolen at least 14 vehicles from various parts of Maharashtra. We have recovered from them a large bunch of duplicate keys and the tools they used to steal the vehicles," added the officer.

From Barcelona to Chandigarh: Marta Ramirez's culinary journey and social mission at Casa Bella Vista

GNS News Agency, June 21

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Marta Ramirez has brought a taste of Mediterranean cuisine to India through Casa Bella Vista in Sector 10, Chandigarh — a culinary haven that marries her passion for food with a commitment to quality and community. Despite holding a master's degree in sociology and psychology, Marta's true passion has always been cooking. "Cooking had always been my hobby, but there wasn't a specific course to pursue the art of cooking at the time," she says. After working for a few years, Marta realised her true calling was giving back to the community and helping people in need.

Her journey to India began over two decades ago in Calcutta, where she volunteered for Mother Teresa. After three transformative years, she ventured to Manali to delve into yoga, eventually meeting her husband, a Chandigarhian, amidst the serene backdrop of the Himalayas. It was in Manali where the seeds for Casa Bella Vista were sown 20 years ago. This vision blossomed into reality in 2005, offering authentic Mediterranean cuisine — Marta says she owes her culinary skills to her mother.

The decision to relocate Casa Bella Vista to

In Punjab, govt school principal gives wing to the wish of his meritorious students — flying in an aeroplane



GNS News Agency, June 21

An initiative taken by the principal of a government school in the border district of Ferozepur in Punjab to fulfil one wish of his students if their name appears on the state merit list has taken wings and how.

As first reported by Rakesh Sharma, principal, of Shaheed Gurdas Ram Memorial Government Senior Secondary School (Girls), Zira, Ferozepur district, had announced to sponsor "jahaaz da jhoota" (air travel) for those students who secured a rank on the merit list. In December 2022, four girls from his school made it to the merit. And, two of them travelled to Goa by aeroplane to attend a science expo, while two others went to Delhi at Sharma's expense. This year, a group of 14 girls from his school secured ranks on merit lists of Classes VIII, X and XII and visited Delhi by aeroplane from Amritsar, spending three days with their teachers' visiting places of cultural and educational importance. Spending over Rs 2.80 lakh from his pocket, Sharma sponsored the entire tour, keeping his promise to encourage his students to study harder.

pun govt school students on trip This year, 14 students from Rakesh Sharma's school in Ferozepur went on an educational tour to Delhi by aeroplane at his expense. For them, it was the first experience of sitting on a plane. For the students, who mostly come from financially weak backgrounds, sitting in an aircraft is an exciting experience and a hard-earned opportunity. "All 14 girls who visited Delhi from June 8 to 10 along with their teachers, it was a first-time experience to sit in an aeroplane. They have never taken a flight before. So, in our school, my promise to students to make them travel in a plane has become a motivation to study harder and earn this reward. A total of 18 students has, till now, taken air travel after securing a place on the state merit lists, Sharma said. Festive offer punjab to delhi trip, punjab government school students, indian express The students who went to Delhi recently come from humble backgrounds with their fathers working as mechanics, milk-sellers, running grocery stores and doing other small-time jobs. The students who went to Delhi recently come from humble backgrounds with their fathers working as mechanics, milk-sellers, running grocery stores and doing other small-time jobs, Sharma said.

Sharma said, "When I joined this school three years ago, I noticed students were not securing a place on the merit lists for Classes X and XII board. To boost their morale and motivate them to work harder, I asked them the one wish they wanted me to fulfil if they succeeded. With most of them coming from underprivileged or middle-class families, they said they wanted 'jahaaz da jhoota' (aeroplane travel) if they made it to the merit list. "Sharma said that he decided to take them by air after students themselves decided during a Baal Sansad (Children's Parliament) held in the school every month to discuss school-related issues. "More students have promised me that I should keep their air tickets ready in the coming months. It was just a way to motivate them for better results," Sharma said. punjab govt school students, indian express An initiative taken by the principal of a government school in the border district of Ferozepur in Punjab to fulfil one wish of his students if their name appears on the state merit list has taken wings.

Manjinder Kaur, who scored 99 per cent marks on the Class VIII board, said, "Principal sir has promised that he will arrange air travel for us, so we kept our promise made to him and secured a place on the merit list by working hard." Manjinder hails from Bandala Nau Bamb village near Zira, and her father is a farmer with a one-acre holding. "I never imagined that I would be able to sit in an aeroplane someday." Sukhmandeep Kaur scored 98.17 per cent marks on the Class VIII board. "All of us were sitting in the plane for the first time. I had never imagined that something like this could happen but our principal sir made it happen. His only condition was that we should study hard. I felt proud that I sat in the aeroplane after achieving something. I earned this trip," said Sukhmandeep whose father is a mechanic.

Unsung heroes of Mumbai's beaches



GNS News Agency, June 21

It's a cohort of 93 men, the neon orange of their uniforms a sharp contrast to the sea blues stretching out ahead of them. And yet, Mumbai's heroic lifeguards are easy to miss amid the sound and fury of the beaches. Home to several beaches, the coastal city of Mumbai is flanked by the Arabian Sea on three sides and has a shoreline of 149 km. Come monsoon, the city's shores witness a surge, alongside the swell in the sea currents, in the incidents of drowning.

Take a case in point from last year when less than a month of monsoon onset, nine persons including eight minors lost their lives by drowning in the sea at various beaches in Mumbai. To tackle these mishaps, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) have deployed 93 lifeguards, provided by a private agency, along the coast throughout the year, while a team of 11 personnel from the civic body are also kept on standby and roped into action in the event of any major drowning incident. The lifeguards are deployed at six city beaches — Girgaon, Dadar, Juhu, Versova, Aksa and Gorai, which are thronged by lakhs of tourists annually, with many tourists also arriving at the beaches during monsoon to enjoy the high tidal waves. Even as the city has a shoreline of 149 km, a senior MFB official maintained that the civic body deploys lifeguards at only the six beaches as these receive the maximum footfall. An official told The Indian Express, "During a court case when a PIL had been filed in light of the increasing drowning incidents in Maharashtra, the tourism department had conducted a survey of locations where people can venture into the seas easily."

Following their survey which studied the footfall, sea currents, surface of the beach etc, they identified six beaches which include Girgaon, Dadar in the city alongside Juhu, Versova, Aksa and Gorai in the suburbs as spots which were most prone to cases of drowning. Therefore, as per the orders, we provide lifeguards at these beaches. "Data procured from the civic body shows that between 2019 and 2023, a total of 435 cases of drowning were reported across beaches, nullahs, lakes, wells etc. The highest number of incidents were reported in the sea waters, particularly at Juhu Chowpatty."

According to civic officials, 73 people have died in several incidents of drowning between 2019 and 2022. In 2023, meanwhile, within a month of monsoon onset, nine persons drowned in the sea. In the gap between the drowning reports and the actual cases of deaths lie in huge part the city's unsung heroes — its lifeguards. "Through a private agency, we deploy 93 lifeguards across the city. They guard the beach throughout the year. However, as per our tender contract, during high footfall periods, the personnel are increased by 25 per cent."

Alongside this, the BMC also has its own team of 11 lifeguards. Whenever we get a call related to big accidents wherein 3 or 4 people have drowned, our team also comes in to aid the rescue operations," said a senior MFB official. Last year, in the light of the tragic deaths by drowning, the BMC had announced the deployment of additional lifeguards with officials stating that the total number of rescuers would be increased to 120 during the 2023 monsoon. Adding that the civic body has a fleet of equipment to aid in the rescue operations, he told Express, "We have seven jet skis, floating stretchers, boats, lifebuoys, tubes, ropes among other equipment. Depending on the type of calls that we receive, we dispatch these devices." At 5.30 pm on Juhu beach, teeming with tourists to enjoy the sunset, lifeguards—Santosh Tandel and his cousin Yadnesh Tandel—watch over the shoreline with hawk-eyed precision. Their pet dog, Bobby, stands by closely. "In the evenings, there is a sharp rise in visitors. But it is during weekends when the crowd increases

drastically. On such days, some lifeguards stay in the sea at all times," says Santosh Tandel, who works with Drishti Lifesaving, the agency appointed by the civic body.

Monsoon, when the water currents are strong, pose the hardest hurdles during a rescue operation. "During monsoon, the underwater currents are much more intense. Therefore, in peak monsoon, we install ropes on the 11 entrances to the beach and try our best to prohibit entry by visitors during high sea levels," he says. Dhamendra Jadhav, a training instructor with Drishti Lifesaving told Express, "Despite our warnings, people often venture in the seas and during monsoon, the currents being strong are pulled away into the sea. Since the waves are very strong, this makes it difficult for us. Blue bottle jelly fishes that populate the beach during monsoon and often sting the visitors, are another problem faced in this period." Each lifeguard undergoes a thorough training spanning 45 days where they receive physical training alongside education on several rescue techniques. Hailing predominantly from the Koli community, the lifeguards are also trained in identifying the people entering the sea and categorise them as swimmers, non-swimmers, injured swimmers and weak swimmers. Pointing to his rescue kit, Tandel says, "If a person's head is above the sea when holding the equipment, there is a high chance of their survival. It's very difficult, meanwhile, to save a drowning person whose body is submerged in the water." In a bid to ensure familiarity with all types of shores, the lifeguards work on a rotational basis with the rescuers deployed at different beaches. While the lifeguards work in two shifts of eight hours each, their days are often marked with boredom, unless there is a rescue operation.

Despite being a coastal city, Mumbai faces a significant crunch of lifeguards, according to rescuers. "Lack of manpower amid the high footfall is one of the key issues in Mumbai. Ideally, there should be a lifeguard at every 100 metres. But in reality, at many locations there are no lifeguards for several kilometres," said a lifeguard. Explaining the difficulties, Dhamendra Jadhav added, "At Juhu beach, for instance, we have deployed lifeguards at every 300-metre stretch. However, even that isn't enough. When we see someone drowning a short distance from us, we can rush very fast and save them. However, if a lifeguard spots someone drowning 300 metres away, it takes a while to even reach them. The shortage of manpower becomes more challenging during footfall periods like Ganesh visarjan, when thousands flock the beaches." Many echoed that often their requests during high alert situations at beaches fall on deaf ears, since lifeguards are not legally empowered to prevent people from entering the seas.

Requesting anonymity, another rescuer at Versova beach told Express, "Our work only pertains to rescue when there are accidents or mishaps. Barring that, we have no authority to stop anyone from venturing into the waters or do anything that may lead to any accident. If we are given some rights, it will enable us to prevent any drowning incident even occurring in the first place." The lifeguards are deployed at six city beaches — Girgaon, Dadar, Juhu, Versova, Aksa and Gorai, which are thronged by lakhs of tourists annually. (file photo) The lifeguards are deployed at six city beaches — Girgaon, Dadar, Juhu, Versova, Aksa and Gorai, which are thronged by lakhs of tourists annually. (file photo)

Speaking to The Indian Express, a senior official from Mumbai Fire Brigade said that there is a need to strengthen rules as well as improve awareness among citizens to prevent deaths by drowning. "Even as we deploy the lifeguards and our own staff, people's attitude cannot be changed. Often when people are asked not to go to sea, they pick up fights with the rescuers and there have been incidents where they even injured the lifeguards. In other cases, people evade the rescuers and deliberately go to secluded pockets and get swept away by the waves," the official said. He added, "Currently, the rules are very lenient. But more importantly, there is a lack of sensible approach among the public. That needs to change." Meanwhile, seeking to strengthen its rescue ops during drowning incidents, the BMC—in its fiscal budget for 2024-2025—announced a new project where six robotic life-saving buoys will be procured by the fire brigade. Last year, the MFB also started testing unmanned drones which have the capacity to carry a maximum payload of 100 kg and can carry out operations by going deep into the sea.

Palace, observatory? Many shades of Sher Mandal, where Humayun met his end

GNS News Agency, June 21

A popular legend about Humayun, the Mughal emperor who succeeded his father Babar to the throne in the 16th Century, is that he fell to his death after tripping down the stairs of his observatory — some versions say it was a library — to answer a prayer call but few know that the ruler's beloved structure is situated in the heart of Delhi.

A little over four kilometres away from his final resting place, the iconic Humayun's Tomb, is the centuries-old Purana Qila which has borne witness to the rise of empires and horrors of Partition when it served as a home for refugees. Enter its main gate, take a right from the T-point and one will be greeted by a lone, red sandstone structure, with a cupola on the top. This is the Sher Mandal.

It is widely believed that Sher Mandal was built by Sher Shah Suri, ruler of Bihar who had managed to defeat the Mughal Empire to establish his rule, until his life was cut short in an accident, paving the way for Humayun's return. Historian and author Rana Safvi writes in her book, The Forgotten Cities of Delhi, "Emperor Sher Shah constructed this in 1541 AD as a 'Jahannuma' (or, 'reflecting the world'), naming it Sher Mandal. It is said this small palace could not be completed." However, author and historian Swapna Liddle writes in her 14 Historic Walks of Delhi: "Sher Mandal is a name familiar in history as a palace built by Sher Shah, though it is not at all certain if this was that building; it may have been Humayun who actually had this constructed. This is because, in style, this building is quite similar to some Mughal Pavilions described in historical accounts or seen in illustrations of that period. It certainly does not look like a palace..." According to reformer and educationist Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's book Asar-us-Sanadid (The Remnant Signs of Ancient Heroes), the entire fort was once called Sher Mandal "because of this beautiful building, which is constructed completely of red sandstone. The design includes a narrow circumambulatory aisle constructed around a central room."

Going by Sir Syed's book, first published in 1847, the structure served both as a library and an informal observatory. "He (Hum-ayun) would also climb to the top



to study the sun, moon and stars [astronomy was a passion]." Throwing further light on the architecture of the monument, Safvi writes in her book: "Sher Mandal is an octagonal three-storeyed monument with a narrow balcony running all around the second. On the third floor is an open pavilion with a parapet running around it. This is surmounted by a small eight-columned cupola, which is decorated with floral and geometric design..." In January 1556, barely months after he had regained the throne, Humayun fell to his death at Sher Mandal.

Sir Syed writes in his book: "Death needs but an excuse? Once, while going down the stairs he heard the call for evening prayers and sat down until the call was completed. Then, as he pulled himself up, holding on to the chain that acted as a banister [jarib], it slipped from his hands and he fell down the length of the staircase, dying a few days later from the severity of the injuries he sustained." Later-day historians, however, refute this theory, saying the staircase was winding and he could not have fallen from it, according to Safvi. "Humayun was a keen astronomer, and that night Venus was rising late. He was studying it when he fell over," Safvi told T'Mountstuart Elphinstone and John Clark Marshman say that he fell headlong from the parapet of the roof. The chronogram of his death is: 'Humayun Badshah az baam uftad [Emperor Humayun fell down from the roof]."

GMSH-16 sends proposal to Chandigarh for super-specialty block



GNS News Agency, June 21

ON average, the OPD numbers of the Government Multi Specialty Hospital (GMSH 16) are about 3,000 patients from across the region, plus attendants. Built in 1952 for a population of about five lakh, the district hospital now has patients being referred to its various departments from across the region, with the highest of about 350 to 400 in the gynaecology department itself. "We are a district hospital, but work like a medical college, and are now bursting at the seams, as we have no space to expand. If we do go vertical, it means shifting many departments, and the question is where. The hospital cannot close any facility, with a high number of patients being referred to from across the region. Apart from improving health facilities and infrastructure, on the periphery, the need of the hour is to have super-specialty services here at GMSH-16, starting with cardiology, nephrology and neurology... Also as a hospital, we need to grow and move ahead, so we have sent a proposal to the Adminis-

tration for a super-specialty block here," says Dr Suman Singh, Director, Health Services.

As per Dr Singh, the idea of having specialty services here is to also decrease the hospital's dependency on PGI, which is already overburdened with patients, and always facing a shortage of beds. "We have to refer patients to the institute and GMCH-32 due to lack of specialty departments and that causes a delay in treatment and a lot of running around for patients," she adds. The director is keen to bridge the gap between government and private hospitals in terms of infrastructure, facilities, amenities, and patient care, and so a few areas in the hospital are being upgraded and renovated, with work on for the last two months on the renovation of the gynaecology private rooms, with about 200 beds being shifted to other areas of the hospital.

The emergency of the hospital is also being renovated for space, better placement of beds, and modern amenities. The area caters to 250 to 300 patients daily, with a provision of 70 beds, and more make-shift ones created on trolleys and wheelchairs. In the season of viral fever, dengue, and other seasonal illnesses, the number goes up, with the area inadequate to give the best care. "Better and more powerful lighting, oxygen supply to every bed, pull-in curtains for privacy, separate entry and exit points, modern toilets, and restructuring of the entire area is on the cards so that patients can be given amenities like private hospitals. Due to lack of space, our advanced gynaecology centre is on hold, as we cannot shift the existing set-up. Several proposals for expansion have been sent and we hope we get a positive reply," sums up Dr Singh.

Protest at Delhi Jal Board office leads to smashed windows; AAP sees BJP hand, it hits back

GNS News Agency, June 21

delhi, delhi water crisis, delhi water protest, delhi matka fod protest, delhi jal board, delhi congress water protest, delhi congress, aap delhi water, aap, delhi water, delhi jal board, delhi newsA senior Delhi Police officer said men and women who had gathered outside the office broke the glass using pots. A protest against the lack of water outside the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) office in South Delhi's Chhattarpur ended in the glass windows of the premises being smashed by earthen pots.

Delhi Minister Atishi alleged former BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri led the attack. She also alleged that BJP Yuva Morcha district president Dheeraj Singh Rajput was part of the violent protest and that BJP flags were visible during the protest. A senior Delhi Police officer said men and women who had gathered outside the office broke the glass using pots. CCTV footage of the incident has been collected, he added. "We've received a complaint in the vandalism incident inside the Delhi Jal Board office in Chhattarpur from an official of the agency on Sunday evening... We are looking into it. The scene has been inspected by the crime team and statements of witnesses will be taken before an FIR is lodged," the officer said. EX- MP Ramesh Bidhuri did not respond to calls seeking a response. The Delhi BJP said the party does not approve of any kind of violence but whatever happened at Chhattarpur was not a "case of violence".

Delhi BJP Vice-President and Kalkaji councillor Yogita Singh said, "The BJP does not approve of any kind of violence but whatever happened today was not a case of violence. The entire South Delhi is parched, there is no water supply for days at a stretch. Be it local AAP MLAs or DJB employees, all have been evading people." At a press conference Sunday, Atishi said the attack was part of a conspiracy and shared footage from the incident that purportedly showed people wearing BJP



sashes throwing pots and stones at the DJB office. "First, the BJP is stopping water supply to Delhi through its government in Haryana. You go to Wazirabad Barrage, there is not a drop of water... If the BJP will not provide water to Delhi, if water will not reach the treatment plant, then how will water be supplied?" she said. She also questioned the leakage in pipelines. "Yesterday (Saturday), the main pipeline that supplies water to South Delhi from Sonia Vihar was broken... was this another part of a conspiracy under which water pipelines are being damaged?" she asked. She added, "The third step of their conspiracy has come to light, in which BJP 'goons' vandalised the DJB office."

She also urged the police to take action. "We have complained... Now, we will wait to see whether the Delhi Police will file an FIR against Ramesh Bidhuri..." she said. Singh hit back and said, "During a demonstration today, the people of totally parched Chhattarpur grew restless and threw a matka leading to breaking of a glass pane... it is shocking to see Ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj calling parched demonstrators goondas... Delhiites will never forgive such ministers..."

Elevated highway changes Ludhiana's landscape



GNS News Agency, June 21

Passing through the heart of Ludhiana, Punjab's industrial hub grappling with extreme air pollution and other environmental concerns since decades now, the 4/6 lane Elevated Highway has changed city's landscape, quite literally. In a first such view for Ludhianvis, the old establishments on Ferozepur road such as the iconic Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) or Hotel Park Plaza, the city's first 'five-star' facility are now half-visible, with huge flyover erected at their front. The city has also sacrificed iconic spots such as Aarti Chowk, which had the statue of noted Punjabi poet Prof Mohan Singh, for the project.

However, the 12.65-km-long Elevated Highway, from Samrala Chowk to MC limits (towards Jagraon) via city's bottleneck Bharat Nagar Chowk and Amar Shaheed Sukhdev Thapar bus terminal (main bus stand), has come as a breather for residents of Ludhiana, who have been relieved of constant congestions and traffic woes, to a great extent. The end to end travelling time from Samrala Chowk to MC limits has been reduced from 30-40 minutes to 8-10 only, thus saving at least 20-25 minutes. What still remains a major concern is the lack of greenery under the long flyover, where the patches of soil beds are lying barren and parched, without a single sapling planted either by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which has undertaken the entire project, or the local Municipal Corporation. Started in October 2017, the project initially had met with a lot of resistance from city residents as at least 3,000 trees were chopped for it from Ferozepur road, the city's lifeline (previously NH-95 and new NH-5). Executed by the NHAI, the elevated road has been constructed for Rs 756.27 crore (entirely funded by the

Centre via Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways). It was finally completed in March this year. What has come as another major relief is the accessibility to the city's main bus stand, also near the perennial bottleneck Bharat Nagar Chowk, and now residents of colonies on Ferozepur road such as Aggar Nagar, Rajguru Nagar, BRS Nagar, Sarabha Nagar, PAU residents, etc can reach bus stand in less than 10 minutes, which earlier took at least half an hour.

ACP (traffic) Charanjiv Lamba says that the Elevated Road has become the lifeline of the city, relieving residents from congestions and traffic snarls on the Ferozepur road, which is also a national highway. "Places such as Samrala Chowk, bus stand have become easily accessible. It is not only reducing the travelling time for the people but also saving fuel and will help in reducing pollution due to congestion-free drive on the flyover," says ACP Lamba. However, some issues with the design still remain. "I have also written to the NHAI for extending the median at Bhai Wala Chowk by 200 metres and some redesign work which is required at Bharat Nagar Chowk," says ACP Lamba. The project will also help residents in reaching the upcoming Halwara Airport in lesser time.

No green cover Lack of green cover under and along the new flyover has made the new project merely a concrete jungle. Ludhiana is among the most polluted cities in the world, the major sources being industry and massive vehicular burden. Navratan, project director, NHAI, Ludhiana, said that they have already compensated for the lost greenery by carrying out plantations elsewhere as per original plan. He said that planting saplings under the flyover was not a "part of the original project". "Planting saplings under the flyover was not a part of the original project. But seeing the demand of the residents, we are taking it up and might plant saplings in coming months," said the NHAI official. "Directly, the project has reduced travel time and congestion but indirectly, it will also reduce vehicular emission and save fuel due to hassle-free driving," said NHAI official. Rahul Verma, member, Punjab State Road Safety Council, said that greenery was not only missing under the flyover but also along the highway from where trees were chopped for the project. "It is NHAI's moral responsibility to restore green cover on Ferozepur road from where they had chopped several grand-old trees for the project," said Verma.

Over 2 lakh people fined so far this year for improper parking in Delhi, most from Punjabi Bagh



GNS News Agency, June 21

Over 2 lakh commuters have been challaned by the Delhi Traffic Police so far this year for the offence of improper parking, officials said. According to statistics, Delhi Traffic Police booked 2,40,152 violators for improper parking until May 31, a significant rise from 1,77,800 for the

same period in 2023 — marking an increase of 35% in prosecutions. According to data, Punjabi Bagh area saw the highest number of challans for improper parking, around 14,170, followed by Rohini with 9,615.

Said an officer, "We have also conducted a comprehensive analysis of the 10 traffic circles where the highest number of challans were issued in 2024 due to improper parking. The investigation has identified specific areas where the violations are most frequent. By pinpointing these locations, targeted enforcement measures can be implemented to improve adherence to traffic laws." According to the Delhi Traffic Police, "In addition to issuing challans, the Delhi Traffic Police has also been actively towing vehicles that are parked illegally, especially in areas that are prone to heavy traffic or are designated as no-parking zones. This immediate removal of improperly parked vehicles has helped maintain smoother traffic flow and reduce the risk of accidents."

Teachers protest SOPs by Daulat Ram, DU for appointment as assistant professors; varsity free to choose criteria, says UGC

GNS News Agency, June 21

Two notifications — one issued by Daulat Ram College, and the other by Delhi University (DU) — has triggered discontent among several teachers who claimed that they go against UGC guidelines. While one notification asked faculty appointed as Assistant Professors at Daulat Ram to undergo rigorous training in computer-aided teaching within six months, and submit its proof, the other, issued by DU, requires aspirants to the same post to make a presentation of their body of work to the interviewers in the first round following which they will be permitted to sit for the interview round conducted by the final selection committee.

The UGC chairman, meanwhile, said being autonomous bodies, universities were free to choose qualifications and other processes over and above the minimum standards provided in the UGC regulations with the approval of their statutory bodies. In a notification last week, Daulat Ram College said, "All the faculty appointed as Assistant Professor at Pay level-10 have been directed...to undergo rigorous training in teaching pedagogy/computer-aided teaching methodology including digital technology useful for classroom teaching... The proof...must be submitted to the principal office for their cases to be considered for confirmation." In an email to Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh on June 15, teacher members of the Academic Council, Executive members, along with Delhi University Teachers' Association members wrote: "Directly linking teacher training programmes and confirmation is a clear cut violation of University Ordinance." College Principal Savita Roy told The Indian Express: "It (the notification) is self-explanatory. It was decided by the Governing Body. My teachers are already meeting this criterion; so why the hue and cry?" Officials at the DU administration stated that this was not a university-wide directive. Said an official: "If a policy is being implemented, it should be done so in consultation with the university administration, and it must be the same for all colleges."

Earlier, DU, on June 3, issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for recruitment of Assistant Professors, the process for which now includes a separate round for "Assessment through Presentation Assessment Committee". Speaking to The Indian Express, DU South



Campus Director Shri Prakash Singh said, "This procedure was already in place for recruitment in departments. Now, this is being implemented in appointments across colleges too. This was passed by the Executive Council in December last year. This has been put in place to ensure transparency so that candidates get more time to present their case for a fair appointment. It is not a violation of the UGC."

According to M Jagadesh Kumar, chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC): "If candidates are required to make presentations, it provides an opportunity for them to demonstrate their abilities in ways that written applications or traditional interviews cannot capture. It will help the committee identify candidates with teaching proficiency, depth of subject matter knowledge, and alignment with the objectives of the teaching post." However, a section of teachers disagrees with this. A statement issued by Dr Maya John, Elected Member, Academic Council, DU, on June 11 said, "The new SOP does not restore any transparency to the hiring process...as there is neither any mention of reducing the full weightage assigned to the interview, nor the assigning of higher weightage to more objective parameters like academic record, teaching experience, and research work during the interview stage." Abha Dev Habib, Associate Professor at Miranda House College, said the SOP was unacceptable. "The SOP is against the interests of serving teachers as it reduces the number of candidates who can appear before the Selection Committees. Appointments in many colleges are pending and many colleagues who were displaced are waiting to join back," she added.

Leaky, damaged pipelines compound Delhi water crisis — and AAP govt's woes

GNS News Agency, June 21

In the early hours on Sunday, near Kondli Bridge under the Kalyanpuri crossing in East Delhi, a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) staffer got out of his car to check the main pipeline — only to find a local resident atop it. The employee took out his phone and started shooting a video.

The staff member, who showed the video of the interaction to The Indian Express, said locals then closed in, grabbed him, and threatened him to stop recording the video. He said he left the spot after encountering men equipped with a valve-cutting machine to "tamper" with the main pipeline. Around 20 km away, the South Delhi Rising Mains pipeline near Garhi Mendu (Northeast Delhi) was found to have a big leak. Water Minister Atishi said six bolts were removed, which allegedly led to the leak. It took a six-hour shutdown to fix. Roughly 15 km from here, at Anna Nagar near ITO, a new pipeline had to be put in after the old one was damaged. Across localities, the challenges are different but the underlying issue of tampering with the main pipeline is common. In one of Delhi's hottest summers in 80 years, ensuring water availability has proved to be the AAP government's biggest challenge and the point of contention between it and the opposition BJP and Congress. Nitin Tyagi, a former AAP MLA who switched over to the BJP on Sunday, posted a video of locals taking a bath at the Kondli pipeline on X. "Delhi Jal Board has made arrangements for everyone to bathe in front of Pillar 267 near Kondli Bridge. This has been happening smoothly for two months. Is Haryana and BJP to blame for this, Atishi?" he posted.

Atishi, on her part, alleged a "conspiracy" by the BJP to stop the Haryana government from supplying water and to tamper with pipelines at several locations to disrupt the Delhi government's functioning and worsen the Capital's water crisis. When The Indian Express visited Kondli around 1 pm, a crowd of around 50 people, mostly living in nearby areas of Kichripur and Trilokpuri, had gathered to take a bath in the water leaking from the pipe. A few also came with bottles and bigger containers to take home some water.

Dheeraj, 45, a resident of Old Kondli said, "We have come here to enjoy; since it is a Sunday, there are many people. This water is cold and clear, better than what we get at home so I came to collect this." At Anna Nagar, residents complained to The Indian Express about people damaging the pipeline and water contamination. "People in vehicles come frequently to puncture the pipelines. The water we get here is not suitable for drinking," said a



Atishi, on her part, alleged a "conspiracy" by the BJP to stop the Haryana government from supplying water

resident who did not want to be named. A DJB official, requesting anonymity, explained the reasons for the poor water quality: "The sewer pipes run parallel to the main pipeline which is why if there are holes, the water gets mixed and there is a chance for contamination." DJB officials too have their work cut out in carrying out constant repairs.

According to an official, repairs have been undertaken at Kondli after a consumer in the locality lodged a complaint. "We have been taking care of this matter for over a month now. Even after three repairs, we find bolts open or the valves cut. If the valves are cut, we need to do welding work which is not easy to do repeatedly," said the DJB official who did not want to be named. He also alleged that illegal water tankers fill up water from the line at night. The official added, "In summer, people are in a frenzy to get relief from the heat; pipelines are tampered with and our efforts to repair them are in vain." Atishi, meanwhile, in a letter to the Commissioner of Police, urged the police to patrol for 15 days and provide protection for the main pipeline network

From treatment plants to taps, why over half of city's water goes missing in transit

GNS News Agency, June 21

Delhi may be pumping out over 900 million gallons of water from its water treatment plants, but less than half of this can be accounted for. According to the Economic Survey of Delhi 2023-24, 58% of the water produced by the Delhi Jal Board is "non-revenue".

But what does non-revenue water mean?

After water is pumped by water treatment plants, it goes to reservoirs and is ultimately transmitted to different parts of the city. Not all of it reached the destination, though, and some was lost in transmission. The difference between the water that leaves the water treatment plants and the water that is billed — domestic or commercial — or can be accounted for, is considered non-revenue. It is either stolen or leaked. Across the globe, the average of non-revenue water is around 25% to 30%. In Delhi, official records say the percentage is much higher. In 2021, of the 925 MGD of water produced on an average from April to December, only around 419 MGD was delivered to consumers and billed. In 2020-21, the percentage of non-revenue water stood at 51%, up from 42% in 2019-20. The reason cited for high non-revenue water is "non-billing of consumers in quarter four of 2020-21 and quarter one of 2021-22 due to Covid-19 and non availability of billing agency."

Where does this water go?

While a large amount is stolen by those operating water tankers, a significant amount is also lost because Delhi's pipeline network is old. "Because these lines are not laid in a dedicated corridor, leakages come forward only when there is a big road cave-in, or when water makes it to the surface and people start noticing. Several pipelines in Delhi are many decades old and are rotting," said a senior Delhi government official on condition of anonymity. But leakages in arterial pipelines, which are



mostly above the ground, are rarely accidental, officials say. "There are elements of unequal and unfair circumstances and criminality here. There are times when locals may not be getting adequate water for several days and out of compulsion they may loosen a few screws to release some water. But more probable is the private water tanker owners puncturing the lines to steal water," the official added. While losses in transmission are common across utilities, non-revenue water is among the biggest in terms of size, globally.

But why can the DJB not cut these losses?

Over the past few years, a project to install flow meters at different stages of distribution had been underway. Flow meters can indicate the difference in flow between two points. If the flow is measured at point A and falls by the time water reaches point B, it indicates a leak or pilferage between the two points. The project is at the stage of implementation. A total of 2,715 flow meters were to be installed in the first phase, of which 2,691 were in place. The project cost for all packages was Rs 224 crore. Another 1,537 meters are to be placed in phase 2, which is underway.

Before Rajkot fire, how game zones sprang up: No clear guidelines, lure of quick money

GNS News Agency, June 21

What goes into the setting up of a game zone? How hastily are these gaming areas set up amid rising demand? Was it all fun and games until tragedy struck Rajkot? ADITI RAJA & PARIMAL DABHI delve into the gaming business in the wake of the deadly TRP Game Zone blaze.

A gigantic model of a piranha fish that stood tall in Ahmedabad's GMDC Ground was hard to miss on the busy 132 Feet Ring Road. The huge installation that housed an "underwater aquarium" was the highlight of a summer fun fair that was set to open in the last week of May on the GMDC Ground. Or so was the plan until a massive fire at Rajkot's TRP Game Zone claimed 27 lives, including two children, on May 25. A statewide crackdown on game zones and amusement parks in the aftermath of the tragedy ensured that the fun fair that promised "foreign rides in Ahmedabad" — as claimed on its Instagram handle — was never opened to the public.

Nearly Rs 2 crore was spent to rent the GMDC ground from its custodian — Gujarat University, said Vakil Ahmed Khan, manager of the fun fair. The organisers also got No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) from various authorities, including the Ahmedabad Fire & Emergency Services (AFES), the Light Inspector of the state government, and the city traffic police. In addition, they got a fitness certificate of rides and the foundation certificate from a team of Roads & Buildings Department following spot inspections by the department officials concerned. According to Khan, all the permissions and NOCs can be obtained in 15-20 days on average to run such fun fairs. He says they planned to start the fair on May 23 and run it till July 31. But a delay in the police permission and then the Rajkot fire disrupted their plans. "Before we could get permission from the police commissioner, the Rajkot fire accident happened and authorities 'orally' told us not to start the fun fair," Khan told. Festive offer Rajkot fire, Rajkot game zone fire, piranha fish, Ahmedabad's GMDC Ground, Ring Road, underwater aquarium, summer fun fair, GMDC Ground, Rajkot's TRP Game Zone, crackdown on game zones, police crackdown on amusement parks, Rajkot fire tragedy, rajkot fire, rajkot fire updates, trp game zone, indian express news A team of paramedics and firefighters at the TRP Game Zone accident site in Rajkot a day after the fire. (Express Photo by Nirmal Harindran)

According to state government data, 20 of 101 game zones across eight municipal corporations that lacked fire NOCs and Building Use (BU) certificates were sealed after inspections. The rest have been asked to "shut down temporarily". In Rajkot, eight of 12 gaming zones were sealed — the highest in the state. It was followed by five of 34 in Ahmedabad and three of seven in Bhavnagar. Junagadh saw all four of its game zones getting sealed. Started in 2021, TRP Game Zone stood on JPS Party Lawns and one other adjacent party plot on the posh Nana Mava Road owned by Ashoksinh Jadeja and his brother Kiritsinh Jadeja. The duo are partners at Raceway Enterprise, a firm running gaming facilities. The game zone comprised a tin shed supported by steel frames, two floors as tall as a three-storey building, and 50 metres wide and 60 metres long, police say. Notably, the facility was given a licence by the police commissioner.

The proprietors had applied for licences under the Gujarat Entertainment Tax Act, 1977 for ticketed entry. Dhaval Thakkar, another partner at TRP Zone and proprietor of Dhaval Corporation, had sought a booking licence in 2021. Owner Yuvrajsinh Solanki sought a licence for go-karts in November last year. The licence was renewed in January this year and is valid till December. Solanki and Rahul Rathod are the other partners of Raceway Enterprise. Prakashchand Hiran, one of the co-owners who was also named as an accused, was among the 27 dead. Ten, including the six co-owners and four Rajkot civic body officials, of the 11 people booked for culpable homicide (not amounting to murder) have been arrested so far. Investigations so far have revealed that a 'snow park' was being added for which welding work was underway at the game zone. It is suspected that the fire started there after a stack of inflammable material got caught in the sparks. "The structure put up by TRP Game Zone does not fall in the definition of the term 'temporary structure' and therefore, statutorily stipulated 'development permission' as prescribed under Regulation 3 of the Comprehensive General Development Control Regulations (CGDCR) from the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) was required," the Gujarat government submitted in an affidavit before the High Court. Come summer vaca-

Biden 'freezes' at fundraiser, Obama takes his hand, leads him offstage



GNS News Agency, June 21

US President Joe Biden appeared to freeze up on stage and needed a little help from his friend, former President Barack Obama, at the end of a dazzling campaign fundraiser in Los Angeles on Saturday, the New York Post reported. The awkward moment was caught on cameras and unfolded after a 45-minute interview with late-night funnyman Jimmy Kimmel at the Peacock Theater. As Biden and Obama stood basking in the applause, Biden seemed to lock eyes with the crowd, standing still like a statue for about 10 seconds until Obama swooped

in, taking his hand and gracefully guiding him offstage. The internet had a field day with the videos, sparking another round of debates about Biden's readiness for another term. Critics were quick to jump in, questioning the fitness of the oldest sitting president in US history, especially after he appeared to wander away from other world leaders during the G7 summit in Italy just last week. But the White House wasn't having it. They fired back, accusing the New York Post of spinning tall tales. Senior Deputy Press Secretary Andrew Bates took to X to set the record straight, saying Biden was just soaking in the love from the audience.

"Fresh off being fact-checked by at least 6 mainstream outlets for lying about @POTUS with cheap fakes, Rupert Murdoch's sad little super PAC, the New York Post, is back to disrespecting its readers & itself once again. Their ethical standards could deal with a little un-freezing," Bates quipped.

He added, "By pretending the President taking in an applauding crowd for a few seconds is somehow wrong, all they're really admitting — once again — is they can't take on the leadership that's fueling the strongest economic growth in the world & bringing violent crime to a 50-year low." The star-studded event wasn't just about political theatre; it was a blockbuster hit for Biden's campaign, raking in a record-breaking \$30 million-plus. The night sparkled with the presence of Hollywood A-listers like George Clooney, Julia Roberts, and Barbra Streisand. During their chat with Kimmel, Biden and Obama underscored the mission to keep Donald Trump out of power in what's shaping up to be a history-defining electoral showdown.

Afghan Taliban agree to attend UN's Doha conference

GNS News Agency, June 21

The Taliban government's participation in the conference of foreign special envoys to Afghanistan had been in doubt after it was not included in the first round and then refused an invitation to the second round in February. Taliban authorities will attend the third round of United Nations-hosted talks on Afghanistan in the Qatari capital, a government spokesman said on Sunday, after snubbing an invitation to the previous round.

The Taliban government's participation in the conference of foreign special envoys to Afghanistan had been in doubt after it was not included in the first round and then refused an invitation to the second round in February. "A delegation of the Islamic Emirate will participate in the coming Doha conference. They will represent Afghanistan there and express Afghanistan's position," Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP. The talks in Doha are scheduled to be held on June 30 and July 1.

Mujahid told Afghan media on Sunday that a delegation — yet to be announced — would attend because the agenda of the talks appeared "beneficial to Afghanistan". The agenda includes "topics such as aid for Afghanistan and creating opportunities for investors in Afghanistan, which are important", he said. Civil society groups that included women were invited to the February talks but the Taliban government refused to participate unless its members could be the sole representatives of Afghanistan. It also requested to meet UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Guterres said in a state-



ment after the February talks the set of conditions to participate "were not acceptable", but that delegates hoped for Taliban officials to attend future meetings. Diplomatic sources told AFP there were plans to consult with civil society groups before and after the third round. The sources said the talks were due to cover finance and economic issues, as well as counternarcotics efforts. Several civil society groups have also urged the UN to prioritise issues involving women's rights at the meeting. The international community has wrestled with its approach to Afghanistan's new government, which has not been recognised by any other state, in the aftermath of the Taliban's return to power in 2021. The Taliban government has imposed a strict interpretation of Islam, with women subjected to laws characterised by the UN as "gender apartheid".

Netanyahu opposes Israeli military's tactical pauses to allow aid in Gaza

GNS News Agency, June 21

The military had announced the daily pauses from 0500 GMT until 1600 GMT in the area from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah al-Din Road and then northwards. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticized plans announced by the military on Sunday to hold daily tactical pauses in fighting along one of the main roads into Gaza to facilitate aid delivery into the Palestinian enclave. The military had announced the daily pauses from 0500 GMT until 1600 GMT in the area from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah al-Din Road and then northwards. "When the prime minister heard the reports of an 11-hour humanitarian pause in the morning, he turned to his military secretary and made it clear that this was unacceptable to him," an Israeli official said. The military clarified that normal operations would continue in Rafah, the main focus of its operation in southern Gaza, where eight soldiers were killed on Saturday. The reaction from Netanyahu underlined political tensions over the issue of aid coming into Gaza, where international organisations have warned of a growing humanitarian crisis. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who leads one of the nationalist religious parties in Netanyahu's ruling coalition, denounced the idea of a tactical pause, saying whoever decided it was a "fool" who should lose their job. The spat was the latest in a series of clashes between members of the coalition and the military over the conduct of the war, now in its ninth month. It came a week after centrist former general Benny Gantz quit the government, accusing Netanyahu of having no effective strategy in Gaza.

The divisions were laid bare last week in a parliamentary vote on a law on conscripting ultra-Orthodox Jews into the military, with Defence Minister Yoav Gallant voting against it in defiance of party orders, saying it was insufficient for the needs of the military. Religious parties in the coalition have strongly opposed conscription for the ultra-Orthodox, drawing widespread anger from many Israelis, which has deepened as the war has gone on. Lieutenant-General Herzi Halevi, the head of the military, said on Sunday there was a "definite need" to recruit more soldiers from the fast-growing ultra-Orthodox community. Despite growing international pressure for a ceasefire, an agreement to halt the fighting still appears distant, more than eight months since the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas fighters on Israel triggered a ground assault on the enclave by Israeli forces.

Since the attack, which killed some 1,200 Israelis and foreigners in Israeli communities, Israel's military campaign has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health ministry figures, and destroyed much of Gaza. Although opinion polls suggest most Israelis support the government's aim of destroying Hamas, there have been widespread protests attacking the government for not doing more to bring home around



120 hostages who are still in Gaza after being taken hostage on Oct. 7. Meanwhile, Palestinian health officials said seven Palestinians were killed in two air strikes on two houses in Al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza Strip. As fighting in Gaza has continued, a lower level conflict across the Israel-Lebanon border is now threatening to spiral into a wider war as near-daily exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia have escalated. In a further sign that fighting in Gaza could drag on, Netanyahu's government said on Sunday it was extending until Aug. 15 the period it would fund hotels and guest houses for residents evacuated from southern Israeli border towns.

14 Jordanian Haj pilgrims die due to 'extreme heatwave', 17 missing

GNS News Agency, June 21

At least 14 Jordanian pilgrims have succumbed to death while on the Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia due to an "extreme heat wave." Jordan's foreign ministry said on Sunday that "14 Jordanian pilgrims died, and 17 others were missing" during the Haj pilgrimage. It stated that its nationals passed away "after suffering a stroke due to the extreme heat wave," news agency AFP reported. The ministry said that it has been coordinating with Saudi authorities to either bury the dead in Saudi Arabia or transfer them to Jordan.

Iran also reported that a total of five Iranian pilgrims lost their lives during the Haj pilgrimage; however, they did not specify the cause behind their deaths. Saudi Arabia has not released any official statement regarding the fatalities yet. However, Saudi Health Ministry spokesperson Mohammed Al-Abdulaali told reporters that over 2,760 pilgrims suffered from sunstroke and heat waves on Sunday.

Michigan splash pad attack: Couple shot combined 7 times while protecting their 2 little daughters



GNS News Agency, June 21

A couple who live in Rochester were shot a combined seven times while protecting their little daughters during the Michigan splash pad shooting. 42-year-old Michael William Nash opened fire at the Brooklands Plaza Splash Pad in Rochester Hills, wounding nine people, before dying by suicide. Micayla and Eric Coughlin were both injured, having been shot a combined seven times, while trying to protect their two-year-old and seven-month-old daughters. The shooting site, where the attack took place at around 5 pm on Saturday, June 15, is near

their home.

A GoFundMe set up for the couple says they took their children to the Brooklands Plaza Splash Pad to "enjoy a day with beautiful weather" when they came under the brutal attack. They each grabbed a child to protect them, and were shot and wounded. "Shortly after grabbing ice cream they walked to the splash pad and were not even there for a minute when Micayla and Eric heard gunfire," the page states. "In an effort to save their children, they each grabbed a child to protect them." The husband and wife are hospitalised and undergoing treatment at present. The fundraiser, set up by Micayla's friend Noel Wakula, has urged people to help the family with their medical bills. "Because of their heroic actions, their children were protected and able to go home that evening," the page reads. "Micayla and Eric face a long and unknown recovery from this unthinkable tragedy." Other victims of the tragedy included three members of the same family — an eight-year-old boy, a four-year-old boy and a 39-year-old woman. The oldest of the victims was a 78-year-old man who was shot in the abdomen. Nash reportedly suffered mental health issues. His motive is being investigated, but he reportedly had no connection to the victims, according to Detroit Free Press.

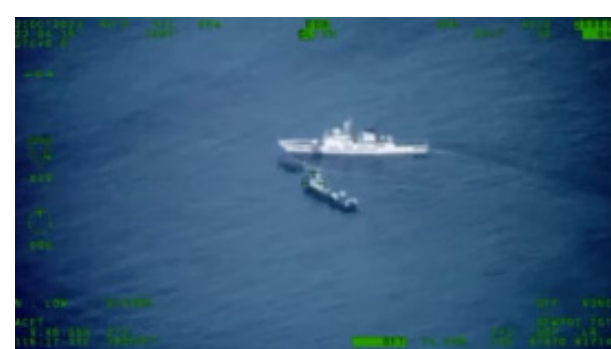
China coast guard says Philippine supply ship bumped Chinese ship in South China Sea

GNS News Agency, June 21

BEIJING, - A Philippine supply ship dangerously approached a Chinese ship resulting in a slight collision after it illegally intruded into waters adjacent to the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, the Chinese coast guard said on Monday, a claim which Manila's military said was "deceptive and misleading".

The Philippine transport and replenishment ship ignored China's repeated solemn warnings, the coast guard said in a statement. The guard said the vessel deliberately and dangerously approached the Chinese ship in an unprofessional manner, resulting in a collision. The statement made no mention of injuries or damage to either vessel. "We will not dignify the deceptive and misleading claims of the China Coast Guard," Xerxes Trinidad, chief of the Philippine armed forces' public affairs office, told reporters, adding they would not discuss operational details of resupply missions. "The continued aggressive actions of the CCG are escalating tensions in the region."

The main issue remains to be the illegal presence and actions of Chinese vessels within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, the military said. Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Jay Tarriela said the agency was not in a position to provide any details as it was not a coast guard operation. For months, China and the Philippines have traded accusations over dangerous maneu-



vers and collisions at the Second Thomas Shoal, an atoll in the Philippines' EEZ. Several incidents have happened when the Philippines deploys resupply missions for Filipino soldiers living aboard an aging warship there deliberately run aground to protect Manila's maritime claims. China claims almost the entire South China Sea, a conduit for more than \$3 trillion of annual ship-borne commerce, including parts claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. China had previously warned the Philippines about intruding into its territorial waters and the country has issued new rules, which went into effect on June 15, that would enforce a 2021 law allowing its coastguard to use lethal force against foreign ships in waters that it claims.

Nikki Haley announces father's death on Father's Day, who was Prof Ajit Singh Randhawa?

GNS News Agency, June 21

Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley announced on Sunday that she lost her father on Father's Day. Professor Ajit Singh Randhawa passed away on June 16, as shared in a social media post. Haley fondly described him as the "smartest, sweetest, kindest," alongside a heartbreaking photo of her hugging her late father. Earlier in March, the first Indian American to serve in a presidential cabinet announced her departure from the Republican presidential race wishing Donald Trump "good luck." "My heart is heavy knowing he is gone," Haley expressed on X (formerly Twitter). "He taught his kids the importance of faith, hard work, and grace. He was an amazing husband of 64 years, a loving grandfather and great-grandfather, and the best father to his four children. He was such a blessing to all of us. Happy Father's Day Dad. We will miss you dearly," she reflected on his career as a professor and a family man. Nikki Haley's father had previously been diagnosed with cancer. Both of Haley's parents, who were affluent natives of India, relocated to rural South Carolina in 1969. Upon immigrating to the US, Haley's father found a new career as a professor at Voorhees College. Her mother, Raj Kaur Randhawa, also entered the workforce, teaching sixth-grade social studies before venturing into entrepreneurship. Her gift shop eventually blossomed into a successful million-dollar fashion boutique.



Throughout Haley's political path, her dad was always there to back her up. He was there too when her presidential bid kicked off in Charleston last year, a crucial point in her journey to the White House. In January, she paused her campaign and flew back to South Carolina to visit her father, who was battling cancer. Then, in March, she bid goodbye to her presidential bid. "The time has now come to suspend my campaign. I said I wanted Americans to have their voices heard. I have done that. I have no regrets," Haley said while announcing her withdrawal. "It is now up to Donald Trump to earn the vote — those in our party and beyond it, who did not support him. And I hope he does that," she added.

Barron Trump to attend University of Pennsylvania? Pro-Palestinian protests influence college choice

GNS News Agency, June 21

Barron Trump's college search impacted by pro-Palestinian protests. University of Pennsylvania introduces new guidelines amid ongoing encampments. Donald Trump's youngest son, Barron, is currently exploring universities to attend. Having graduated from high school last month, Barron has been applying to various colleges and, according to his father, was accepted at all the institutions he applied to. In a recent Fox News interview, Trump stated that Barron's college search has been impacted by the recent pro-Palestinian protests and "rioting" occurring on campuses nationwide. Barron, 18, was previously chosen by the Florida GOP to serve as a delegate at this summer's Republican National Convention, an offer he later declined. He often makes headlines due to his tall height and his resemblance to his mother, Melania. The only child of Donald and Melania Trump, Barron is a senior at Oxbidge Academy near West Palm Beach and recently graduated in the midst of his father's high-profile hush money trial. About a year ago, Donald Trump mentioned that his youngest son was considering the University of Pennsylvania, where he himself attended and studied at the Wharton School. Lately, numerous prestigious colleges in the United States, such as UPenn, Columbia, and NYU, have emerged as key locations for intense pro-Palestinian protests. Across the country, more than 130 educational institutions have seen thousands of stu-



dents come together to protest the current situation in Gaza, arranging rallies and establishing temporary camps. Even with over 2,000 arrests, these protests continue as colleges prepare for their upcoming graduation ceremonies. During his interview with FOX, the Republican party's presumptive nominee said, his son's choice of college destination was changed due to "rioting." Its is yet to be seen where he goes. On June 6, the University of Pennsylvania introduced new, stringent guidelines for campus events and demonstrations. The "temporary standards and procedures" policy specifies that "encampments and overnight demonstrations are not permitted in any University location, regardless of space (indoor or outdoor). Unauthorised overnight activities will be considered trespassing and addressed."

Motilal Oswal says Paytm revenue to fall by 24%. Google Pay, PhonePe to benefit?



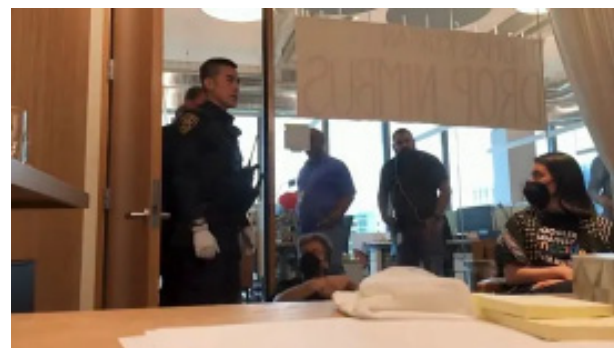
watchful on the ongoing business transition and Paytm's ability to recover lost business and resume growth trajectory over FY25-26E. We thus estimate FY25E revenue to decline by 24 per cent, while contribution profit declines 30 per cent." It also said that the company's contribution margin is expected to sustain at 51 per cent, adding, "We will revisit our rating post Q4 results and in the interim maintain our Neutral stance on the stock." The restrictions could result in the company losing customers and merchants, it warned, noting that even Paytm could lose 15-20 per cent of merchants but the impact on customers may be moderate.

This comes as, earlier this month, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) gave its nod to Paytm's parent company One97 Communications Ltd (OCL) to become a third party UPI app under the multi-bank model under which four banks— YES Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC and Axis Bank— will be included.

Motilal Oswal also said that there will be a major decline in the revenue of the company which is expected to fall by 27 per cent as it projected a 28 per cent cut in payment processing margin to a range of ~7bp which it primarily attributed to reduced business volumes. It said,

Motilal Oswal said, "We remain watchful on the ongoing business transition and Paytm's ability to recover lost business and resume growth trajectory." Following Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to impose business restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) over regulatory concerns, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said that Paytm's FY25 revenue could decline by 24 per cent. In an analysis report, Motilal Oswal said, "We remain

Anti-Israel Google employees arrested after occupying CEO's office with demands against 'apartheid state'

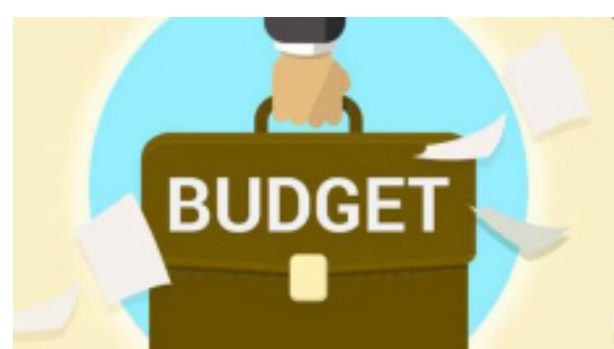


also pushed the organisation to focus on the "health and safety crisis" that caused concern among all those employees who can't bear with their office hours and hard work being used to "enable a genocide." On April 16, Google employees led a national day demanding the company to "stop powering Israel's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza." The No Tech for Apartheid movement has the workers staying in office as part of their protests until Google parts ways with Project Nimbus. In a letter to the Google Cloud CEO, the workers wrote: "By choosing to provide the Israeli government and military with our powerful cloud computing and AI technologies, we have continuously enabled Israel's apartheid state in Palestine and ongoing genocide in Gaza." They also highlighted that they'll sit in Kurian's office until the demands are met. No Tech for Apartheid website reported that workers showed up in solidarity at Google offices in New York City, Sunnyvale, CA and Seattle.

Google employees with anti-Israel demands of ceasing "business with the Israeli apartheid government and military" were arrested on Tuesday after they took over Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian's California office. Occupying the space for over 8 hours, the employees broadcast their Pro-Palestine protest on a Twitch livestream, which ultimately also captured their arrest. The "notech4apartheid" video shows a man informing the employees that they've been put on administrative leave before he asks them to leave voluntarily. To which, the protesters refused, leading to their arrest by the police. The peaceful protestors approached by the man were intimidated that it was getting late and they should cooperate accordingly. "You've been placed on admin leave and we'd like to see if you'd just voluntarily [leave] it's been a while," he said

As the employees refused to comply, he threatened to bring in law enforcement. The protestors acknowledged his remarks, and moments later, the police came in and took them in. At this point, the livestream also abruptly ends. If viewed carefully, the clip puts the focus on a banner, that reads "DROP NIMBUS," attached to the room's entrance. Per a Daily Wire report, these protests were organised internally via email exchanges between the employees, highlighting a set of demands. The paramount call was for Google to sever its ties with Israel by dropping the \$1.2 billion contract for Project Nimbus — a cloud computing project of the Israeli government. The employees have driven a case for Google to divest from its business ties with the "Israeli apartheid government and military" and put an end to "harassment, intimidation, bullying and silencing" of Palestinian and Muslim workers. They've

Budget 2024: Is tax relief on cards as government looks to boost consumption?



targets. Despite strong tax revenues, non-tax revenue remains a challenge due to limited progress in strategic disinvestment, with the sale of Air India being a notable exception.

The upcoming full budget will outline the economic agenda of the Modi 3.0 government, with focus on stimulating growth without exacerbating inflation. Low income earners can expect some tax relief in the upcoming budget. The government is reportedly considering reforms to the current income tax structure, particularly targeting lower income levels, to boost consumption, reported The Indian Express.

The report, quoting two government officials, suggests the budget announcement in July might prioritize tax cuts for low earners instead of increasing welfare spending. These proposed tax cuts are intended to enhance disposable income, thereby stimulating economic activity and consumption. The report highlights concerns about the steep rise in marginal income tax rates under the new tax system.

Relief likely for low-earner

The officials noted that tax cuts may be more efficient in enhancing consumption, rather than increasing welfare spending. One of the officials quoted in the report said rationalising tax slabs will lead to greater disposable income, which translates to "greater consumption, greater economic activities, more GST collection". Currently, the tax rate begins at 5% for income starting at Rs 3 lakh, but escalates sharply to 30% for income at Rs 15 lakh. This sixfold increase in tax rate, despite only a fivefold increase in income, is deemed excessive and in need of rationalisation. Implementing these tax cuts is expected to significantly boost consumption, a crucial factor for reviving demand and restarting the investment cycle, particularly in consumer-driven sectors. This move could also lead to increased GST collections.

As the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 approaches, with a likely presentation in Parliament in late July, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to begin pre-budget discussions with industry groups around June 20, following a meeting with Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on June 18. This budget will outline the economic agenda of the Modi 3.0 government, focusing on stimulating growth without exacerbating inflation, while securing resources for coalition commitments. The overarching goal is to position India as a USD 5-trillion economy and transform it into a "Developed India" by 2047. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forecasts a 7.2 percent growth for the Indian economy this fiscal year, driven by improving rural demand and easing inflation. Key priorities for Prime Minister Modi's third term include addressing agricultural challenges, job creation, sustaining capital expenditure, and enhancing revenue growth to maintain fiscal consolidation. The economic policies of the past decade have been positively received, with rating agency S&P upgrading India's sovereign rating outlook to positive, and a potential further upgrade in the next 1-2 years contingent upon meeting fiscal deficit

Zomato in preliminary talks to acquire Paytm's movie, ticketing business

Zomato confirmed in a stock exchange filing that it is in talks to acquire Paytm's ticketing business, but no final decision has been made.

Paytm also confirmed the discussions regarding the potential transfer of its entertainment business. Food delivery firm Zomato has confirmed that it is in discussions to acquire Paytm's movies and ticketing business, as per an exchange filing, putting an end to speculations. "We acknowledge that we are in discussions with Paytm for the aforementioned transaction, however, no binding decision has been taken at this stage that would warrant a board approval and subsequent disclosure in accordance with applicable law," said Zomato in the exchange filing. "The above discussion is being undertaken with an intent to further strengthen our Going-out business and is in line with our stated position of focusing only on our four key businesses currently," it further added. Paytm also confirmed the discussions regarding the potential transfer of its entertainment business in an exchange filing, stating that all discussions are preliminary and non-binding at this stage. If the deal goes through, it will be one of the largest buyouts for Zomato. Previously, Zomato acquired Uber Eats in 2020 and took over the quick commerce platform Blinkit (formerly known as Grofers) in 2021 in an all-stock deal valued at Rs 4,447 crore. This potential acquisition fits well with Zomato's goal to expand its "Going-out" segment, which covers dining out, events, and entertainment services.

Can you lose 1 kg in 1 week?



Achieving weight loss goals can often seem overwhelming, given the immense discipline and dedication it demands. But, is it possible to shed 1 kilogram in just one week? Nutritionist Simrun Chopra suggests some "easy" steps to incorporate in order to lose weight in a week, in her recent Instagram post. However, Dr Jagadish J Hiremath, medical director at Aasra Super Speciality Hospitals and public health expert asserts, "A safe rate of weight loss is typically 0.5 to 1 kg per week, as supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Rapid weight loss can lead to muscle loss, nutritional deficiencies, and can even adversely affect metabolic rate."

Therefore, it's important to approach this goal in a safe and sustainable manner as rapid weight loss strategies can be effective when done correctly, but you should also prioritise your overall health and well-being. To help you achieve your weight loss target, classical hatha yoga teacher and lifestyle expert, Shloka Joshi, gives a comprehensive guide to fast-track your journey towards better health and body. "In the pursuit of weight loss, a holistic approach encompassing dietary modifications, lifestyle adjustments, and mindful practices can yield significant results," Joshi says, adding that there is no hard-and-fast rule for losing weight in one week as one can always choose the pace of their progress, and achieve results gradually — which is the recommended approach.

Agreeing with Dr Hiremath on his point about consulting medical professionals first, she says, "Consult with a healthcare professional before making significant dietary or lifestyle changes, particularly if you have underlying health conditions or concerns." Here's a comprehensive 7-day plan tailored to help individuals shed excess weight, as suggested by her: Embrace raw food For seven days, you can go on a complete raw diet rich in fruits and vegetables. There are no restrictions on quantity, but avoid consuming raw vegetables after sunset and citrus fruits on an empty stomach in the morning. The best time to consume citrus fruits is between 12:00 noon to 04:00 pm. This approach ensures ample intake of essential nutrients while promoting digestion and metabolism. Those with Vata and Kapha tendencies can add fats by consuming fruits like avocado, nuts (should always be soaked in the morning and roasted in the evening), and bananas. Soaked nuts help to moisturise and lubricate the system, particularly during the Vata dosha period. It's important to note that only peanuts have a Vata aggravating factor, even when roasted.

Adopt a liquid diet

Supplement your raw food intake with a variety of liquid diet options. Start your day with lemon water; in the afternoon or as a mid-day meal you can have buttermilk; soups, porridge or dalia and Kanji serve as nourishing alternatives. Opt for warm water over cold or room temperature fluids to aid digestion and detoxification. Note: For individuals finding it challenging to adapt to a raw or liquid diet, gradual transition is key. Begin by incorporating more raw foods or liquid meals into your daily routine,

IIT study says groundwater in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh contaminated with 'cancer-causing' agents; here's how it affects health



A new study by the Indian Institutes of Technology Mandi and Jammu has revealed a disturbing truth — the groundwater in Himachal Pradesh's Baddi-Barotiwala (BB) industrial area is heavily contaminated with cancer-causing pollutants. The research, published in the journal Science of the Total Environment, employed advanced techniques to analyze groundwater samples and pinpoint the sources of contamination. The results paint a concerning picture: Geogenic uranium, a naturally occurring radioactive element, is present in the water. Industrial activity has significantly increased levels of toxic metals like zinc, lead, cobalt, nickel, and chromium, exceeding safe limits.

These contaminants pose a serious threat to public health, according to Dr Manish Singhal, Senior Consultant, Medical Oncology at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, as they can cause cancer after prolonged exposure. India already faces a water quality crisis, especially in the north, where rapid urbanisation and industrial growth have put a strain on groundwater resources. The case of the BB industrial area exemplifies this problem. Untreated, contaminated groundwater is suspected to be a major factor behind the high rates of cancer and kidney diseases reported in the re-

gion between 2013 and 2018, ANI reported. The research team, led by Dr Deepak Swami (IIT Mandi) and Dr Nitin Joshi (IIT Jammu), is calling for urgent action. Their study highlights the need for stricter regulations and improved water treatment infrastructure to safeguard public health and prevent further environmental damage. TGH-Onco Life Cancer Centre, lung cancer, prostate cancer, artificial intelligence, Pune news, Pune news, Maharashtra news, Indian express news Contaminated groundwater can cause a variety of health problems beyond cancer (file) Dr Singhal noted that

gradually increasing their proportion over time. This approach eases the adjustment process and minimises potential side effects such as fatigue or digestive discomfort.

Mindful wake-up and sleep time

As a thumb rule, wake up before 6:00 am & sleep before 10:00 pm. Sleep and wake timings play a crucial role in weight management. Waking up late, past sunrise, shifts the body into the Kapha phase, potentially leading to weight gain. On the other hand, rising during the Brahma Muhurta, the Vata period, boosts energy levels and thereby facilitates quicker metabolism. Conversely, sleeping late, particularly after 10:00 pm, activates Pitta, the dosha associated with fire and digestion in Ayurveda. This late-night awakening can lead to overactivity and disrupt the body's natural rhythm, potentially resulting in indigestion.

Eat early dinners

If consuming a proper dinner, ensure it is enjoyed before sunset. Early dinner timings promote better digestion and weight management by allowing the body ample time to process food before rest.

Stress management and activity

Incorporate stress-relief techniques such as yoga and regular physical activity into your daily regimen. While exercise is not mandatory for weight loss within this plan, staying active supports overall health and aids in weight management. Mindful practices promote relaxation, reduce cortisol levels, and enhance overall well-being.

Post-plan weight maintenance

After completing the 7-day weight loss plan, focus on maintaining weight by regulating meal times and portion sizes. Establish set meal times to maintain consistency and control portions effectively. Have breakfast between 8-9 am, lunch between 12-1 pm, and dinner between 7-8 pm. This routine helps regulate metabolism and prevents overeating, contributing to long-term weight management.

Who should avoid this practice?

According to Joshi, the 7-day weight loss plan may not be suitable for the following individuals: Pregnant women: Rapid changes in diet and weight can adversely affect maternal and fetal health during pregnancy. Patients on chronic medication, excluding those with obesity and diabetes: Individuals undergoing long-term medication regimens, particularly for conditions such as hyperthyroidism, should proceed with caution. The transition to a new diet should be gradual to prevent any adverse effects on medication efficacy or health. Children below 12 years of age: Young children require a balanced diet for growth and development, and extreme dietary modifications may not meet their nutritional needs. Individuals above 70 years of age: Elderly individuals may have specific dietary requirements and health considerations that need to be addressed with a more tailored approach. However, those in good physical condition may consider the plan after consulting with a healthcare professional.

Contaminated groundwater can cause a variety of health problems beyond cancer, depending on the specific pollutants present. Here's a breakdown of some potential consequences:

not all groundwater causes cancer, but when polluted with certain chemicals and heavy metals, it becomes a threat to health. Contaminated groundwater can cause a variety of health problems beyond cancer, depending on the specific pollutants present. Here's a breakdown of some potential consequences: Heavy Metals: Arsenic, lead, and mercury can damage the nervous system, kidneys, and liver. Nitrate: High nitrate levels can cause methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome) in infants, disrupting oxygen flow in the blood.

Bacteria and Parasites: Contaminated water

can harbor harmful bacteria and parasites, leading to gastrointestinal illnesses like diarrhea, dysentery, and cholera. Fluoride: While essential in small amounts, excessive fluoride can cause dental fluorosis and skeletal problems. Until proper remediation and treatment measures are in place, Dr Singhal strongly advises against drinking untreated groundwater from affected zones. "Residents should seek alternative, verified safe water sources for consumption. This situation underscores the critical need for regular monitoring of industrial effluents and enforcement of stringent water quality standards to safeguard public health."

The Great Indian Kapil Show to be renewed for Season 2, Kapil Sharma says, 'Won't keep audience waiting'



tainment industry. The finale episode of Season 1 will be released on June 22 and will feature Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan as the guest.

Brimming with joy at the renewal of The Great Indian Kapil Show, Kapil Sharma shared, "This has been a wonderful first season of The Great Indian Kapil Show. There have been many firsts and we will cherish those. We are grateful for all the love pouring in from across the globe. Collaborating with Netflix for the Great Indian Kapil Show has been a fulfilling experience and on that note, we promise not to keep our audience waiting for too long for the next season. Enjoy the finale episode with Kartik Aaryan this weekend and stay tuned as we gear up for season 2." Earlier, in the middle of the first season, reports of The Great Indian Kapil Show suffering from low viewership surfaced. The show's cast, however, hit back at these rumours, confirming that their contract with Netflix is getting over for Season 1 but they will return with a new season. Kiku Sharda, who is a part of the show, had told News18, "We have done 13 episodes and the second season will come out soon. We have just wrapped up the first season. It was always meant to be like this. We have already planned the next season and it will come out soon. There won't be a very huge gap."

Even before the grand finale of The Great Indian Kapil Show's Season 1, the makers have announced the renewal of the show. Fans will see Kapil Sharma and his team—Sunil Grover, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda, and Rajiv Thakur—return on Netflix with Season 2.

The ongoing season of The Great Indian Kapil Show featured a diverse array of guests, including superstar Aamir Khan, actor Ranbir Kapoor and his family, cricket heroes Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer, international pop icon Ed Sheeran, and many other stars from the enter-

Sudeep on Darshan's arrest in fan murder case: 'That family deserves justice. That girl deserves justice'

When popular Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa was recently arrested in connection with the murder of 33-year-old Renukaswamy, it sent shockwaves across the Kannada film industry. Renukaswamy, a fan of Darshan, allegedly sent obscene texts to actress Pavithra Gowda, who is said to be in a relationship with the Kateera actor. Pavithra is also among the 16 people arrested in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy.

In a recent media interaction, Kannada star Kichcha Sudeep addressed Darshan's arrest in the fan murder case, emphasising the need for justice for the victim Renukaswamy's wife and his unborn child. Sudeep also noted the widespread blame directed at the film industry and expressed hope that it would be exonerated once the real culprit is punished.

Without directly naming Darshan, Sudeep remarked, "We are only aware of what the media is showing to us because we are not going to the police station to get the information. It looks like the media and the police are working hard to uncover the truth. There's no doubt about that." Sudeep and Darshan were once close friends but had a falling out due to irreconcilable differences. Sudeep then called for justice for Renukaswamy's family, stating, "That family deserves justice. That girl deserves justice. Renukaswamy, who died on the streets, deserves justice. The unborn child deserves justice. Above all, everyone should have faith in justice, and justice should prevail in this case."

Sudeep also commented on the negative impact the murder case has had on the Kannada film industry. "Everyone's heart goes out to that family. The atmosphere doesn't feel right. The film industry should get justice. All the blame seems to be placed on the film industry. The industry needs a clean chit. There are many artistes in-



involved. Cinema is not just one or two people. The film industry will be relieved if the culprit is punished," he said. Earlier, Kannada actress and former Congress leader Divya Spandana addressed Darshan's arrest. The actor wrote, "There's a block option given on social media for a reason. If the trolling persists, you file a complaint. The trolls have trolled me incessantly using filthy language. Not just me, they've trolled other actors too. They haven't spared their wives and children either. What a sad society we live in. I have filed cases like any law-abiding citizen should. Sometimes post a warning from the police to the trolls I've taken back the case too on compassionate grounds."

Condemning the incident, she added, "I've also considered the fact that these people are young and have a future ahead and they're ruining/wasting their lives by trolling using anonymous handles. No one is above the law. No one should take the law into their hands. You don't go around beating up people and killing them. A simple complaint would suffice whether you believe justice will be served or not."

Diljit Dosanjh recalls running away from home at the age of 8: 'It was because of a girl in my school...'

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh, who created history by becoming the first Indian to perform at Coachella, recently recalled the time when he almost ran away from his house at the age of 8. The Punjabi singer said it was because of a girl in his school due to which he decided to run away and even had to lie to his parents to skip school. In a recent interview, Diljit shared the incident from his childhood in detail. "I thought it was end of the world", said Diljit.

Talking to Raj Shamani, the Crew actor said, "I tried to run away from my home at the age of 8. There was a girl in my school, because of her I tried to run away from my house. When I was in school, my seniors were randomly asking all us, 'Tereko kaun ladki pasand hai?' I pointed towards this girl and said, 'I like her.' So my senior was like, 'Go confess it to her and then you will get married to her only.' I was like okay. I went to the girl and told her that you and I will get married. She went and complained to my teacher and my teacher was like 'Go get your parents.' For me, it was the end of the world."

He added, "So, the 8-year-old me opened the fridge, picked two bananas, some other fruits, took my cycle and just left. I just went say five minutes away from my house when one of the villagers just yelled at me, 'Where are you going, go back to your home.' Earlier, in villages, it



was never like nobody apart from parents can yell at you. It was very common for the villagers to yell and shout at kids in the village, they were all like a family, they sometimes even slapped. So, this man made me return home when I tried to leave. Then, the next day, I lied about a stomach ache and skipped school for two days. Then my teacher also let me go." Diljit Dosanjh, who is gearing up for the release of his film Jatt & Juliet 3, recently announced he is featuring on the highly popular The Tonight Show by Jimmy Fallon. The actor-singer will be seen on the show alongside Eddie Murphy and Matty Matheson.

Angelina Jolie gets tiny bird tattoo

The actress and producer of 'The Outsiders' walked the red carpet at the 2024 Tony Awards, held at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater in New York City. Jolie wore a custom light-teal Atelier Versace velvet draped gown featuring a sweetheart neckline, which showed off what appears to be a new tiny bird tattoo, reports 'People' magazine. The sparrow-like bird is depicted in flight.

Jolie's tattoo wasn't visible in April when she and her daughter Vivienne attended the musical's opening night. Jolie also wore a matching velvet shrug and coordinated with 15-year-old Vivienne, who is credited on 'The Outsiders' playbill as a producer assistant.

According to 'People', for Broadway's biggest night, the teenager wore a crisp white shirt under a teal vest, along with teal trousers and a bow tie. She completed her look with Converse sneakers. Jolie was nominated for co-producing the musical adaptation of S.E. Hinton's 1967 book 'The Outsiders'.



Digangana Suryavanshi slaps defamation case on Show Stopper director Manish Harishankar, calls his extortion allegations a 'cheap publicity stunt'



Actor Digangana Suryavanshi recently filed a defamation case against Show Stopper maker Manish Harishankar after she was accused of deceptive practices and financial misconduct by the director. Digangana sent a defamation notice and lodged a complaint under IPC sections 420, 406, 509, 499, 500, 503, 506, 63, 199, and 211. She has refuted the allegations put forth by Manish, who accused the actor of "extortion" and "breach of trust". A few days ago, MH films, the production house behind Show Stopper, made a formal complaint to law enforcement against Digangana. They accused her of serious offenses under sections 420 and 406 of the IPC. According to the complaint, Digangana allegedly provided false information claiming actor Akshay Kumar, along with his organisation, were going to be sponsors of the project.

Now, Digangana Suryavanshi has refuted the claims

and said, "Manish's narrative is his twisted imagination, it's all untrue. A cheap publicity stunt of simply dragging names, clearly he's trying to find a bakra so he can bail out from not being able to sell the show even after more than two years. I don't want to waste any more time explaining further, I've already wasted too much time trying to help him."

Her lawyer Rajendra Misha, in a statement, said, "We would like to officially quote that all the allegations made against our client Digangana are absolutely baseless and an outcome of someone's criminal intention and trying to cover up their own shortcomings. Our client has known Manish for 7 years and is an actress on his series showstopper, when Manish was in a situation where he clearly couldn't help himself, he asked for help from our client and proposed a business deal where his team had executed an MOU between him and our client." He added, "Strangely, Manish Harishankar doesn't understand that extortion doesn't happen in legal binding; it's called business. Under the terms of the MOU. Our client had gotten a presenter on board, and honoured her side of the commitment." "Which is when our client further requested the presenter and after re-editing the show (for which our client invested 4 days at the edit suit) the presenter watched the episodes and agreed to present the show, although a lot of changes were still required, but Manish promised to fix them after their agreement," concluded Misha. Previously, MH Films served a legal notice to Rakesh Bedi and Krishan Parmar, who is known to work closely with Digangana Suryavanshi.

House of The Dragon Season 2 episode 1: A bloody tale of revenge and war

The first episode of the second season of House of The Dragon — a prequel to Game of Thrones — is finally here and it begins with a harrowing twist, culminating in a brutal murder of one of the young sons of King Aegon II and Queen Rhaenyra, an event known in Thrones lore as 'Blood & Cheese'. The first season ended with the onset of war, foreshadowing the bloody conflicts to come in Westeros. As tensions escalated toward the civil war known as the Dance of the Dragons, the lines were drawn between factions led by Rhaenyra Targaryen and Aegon II Targaryen, each vying for the Iron Throne.

After nearly two years without Targaryens or the cold icy winters, House of The Dragon Season 2 plunges back into the fiery family drama. The new season picks up shortly after the first season's finale, where Rhaenyra Targaryen's claim to the throne was dismissed in favour of her half-brother Aegon, leading to the murder of her son Lucerys by his uncle Aemond. The war between the Greens (supporting Aegon) and the Blacks (supporting Rhaenyra) is now inevitable. For those missing Winterfell, season 2's episode one titled A Son for a Son begins in the Stark stronghold. Rhaenyra's son Jacaerys seeks the North's support for his mother, negotiating with Cregan Stark, who takes him to the Wall, hinting at greater threats than those posed by men. Stark pledges thousands of "greybeards" to Rhaenyra's cause, just as Jacaerys receives the devastating news of his brother's death. The first episode sets a dramatic tone with significant consequences for the series. Much like the premiere episodes of Game of Thrones, it lays the groundwork for the unfolding events. With A Son for a Son, House of the Dragon delivers a brutal and gripping return. Having laid the groundwork for the Targaryen civil war in season one, this episode wastes no time, plunging viewers into a relentlessly dark hour where every character, highborn or lowborn, faces the chilling prospect of death.

The new season begins by revisiting key moments from the first. Alicent Hightower and Otto Hightower strategise against the Targaryens while Rhaenyra mourns her son Luke's death. The opening episode establishes a grim atmosphere, with an eye-for-an-eye (a son for a son) mentality leading to further brutality, complex subplots, and, of course, dragons. Daemon Targaryen and Aemond Targaryen plot together, while Queen Alicent



awaits word from her old friend Rhaenyra. Although the season starts on a sombre note, a series of events soon rekindle the intrigue, leading to twists and consequences. The slow-burn intensity might disappoint those expecting immediate action, but it builds a compelling narrative. In terms of performances, Emma D'Arcy (Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen) excels as a grieving mother, Matt (Daemon Targaryen) commands the screen with his presence, and Olivia Cooke (Alicent Hightower), with the most screen time, showcases a range of emotions with finesse. The first episode, with its layered storytelling and stunning cinematography, promises an impressive continuation of the saga.

Set 200 years before the events of Game of Thrones, House of The Dragon aims to match its predecessor's grandeur with epic battles and action sequences. Political intrigue and family drama continue to play significant roles, with the cast divided into the Black and Green factions, inviting audiences to choose sides in the looming conflict. Starting from where season 1 left off, season 2 will chronicle the war between two warring factions of the Targaryen family led by King Aegon II and Queen Rhaenyra in the fight for control of Westeros. Season 2 will consist of eight episodes, a reduction from the first season. Showrunner Ryan Condal believes this will benefit the story's pacing. The source material, Fire & Blood, is a condensed "fictional history," requiring the show's writers to expand on character arcs while focusing on key events. The shorter season also allows for more cinematic episodes, some stretching beyond an hour. With a weekly release schedule, the season finale is set for August 4, 2024.

Sharvari's film remains undeterred by Chandu Champion's release, crosses Rs 50 crore mark

Mona Singh and Sharvari-starrer Munjya is having a dream run at the box office. The film is in its second week and shows no signs of slowing down. According to trade analyst Taran Adarsh, the film earned its highest collection so far on its second Sunday, garnering Rs 8.75 crore and bringing its total domestic collection to Rs 55.75 crore. Munjya might have faced some competition from Kartik Aaryan's latest release Chandu Champion in urban centres, but the film remains undeterred by its release and maintains a dominance in hinterland. The Kabir Khan directorial released in theatres on Friday and minted Rs 10 crore on Sunday. Despite being in its second week, Munjya's Sunday earnings stand almost at par with Chandu Champion.

Explaining the same, Taran Adarsh wrote, "#ChanduChampion may have impacted #Munjya at urban centres [marginally], but #Munjya leads in mass pockets / heartland. Importantly, #Munjya continues to defy all predictions as far as its 'lifetime biz' is concerned... Additionally, it has silenced all those who felt - prior to its release - that it should've taken the direct-to-digital route. [Week 2] Fri 3.75 cr, Sat 6.75 cr, Sun 8.75 cr. Total: # 55.75 cr. #India biz. #Boxoffice." Munjya collected a total of Rs 35.3 crore in the first week and saw an over 85 per cent increase in its collection on Saturday, minting Rs 6.5 crore, followed by further



growth on Sunday. The film will further benefit from the extended holiday on Monday for Eid al-Adha. It had an overall 46.35 per cent Hindi occupancy on Sunday, with maximum occupancy of 61.43 per cent in evening shows. Its worldwide collection stands at Rs 56.45 crore. Munjya is the fourth film of Maddock Supernatural Universe, following Street, Roohi, and Bhediya. Fans of Maddock's horror-comedy series continue to flock to theatres to watch the movie. The film's strong word-of-mouth promotion has also helped increase footfall. Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and produced by Maddock Films, Munjya stars Sharvari Wagh, Abhay Verma, Mona Singh, and Sathyaraj in key roles. Set in Pune and the Konkan region of Maharashtra, Munjya is rooted in Marathi folklore and follows the story of the eponymous mythical creature and how he wreaks havoc in the life of Bittu, played by Abhay Verma of

Why Kylian Mbappe is all set to light up Euro 2024 for France, three years after a forgettable campaign for France



GNS News Agency, June 21

Kylian Mbappe is in the place he wants to be. In Real Madrid, in his dreamland; in the galaxy of his idols, Zinedine Zidane, Cristiano Ronaldo. He is smiling more; he is joyful and relaxed, almost liberated from the gold-caged prison that PSG was in the last few years, the French newspapers would diligently note. It's how France wants him to be in the European Championship, a smiling and happy Mbappe, unshackled and unchained, in the freest of spirits, in the mood to sweep away every human obstacle in his path. "A happy man is more likely to play well," he would say before the friendlies, ahead of the European Championship. Last European Championship, he was not in the place he wanted to be. The world was not in a space it wanted to be, picking broken pieces of life from the pandemic, stumbling in fear. He might have been just a victim of his circumstances, as the world around him; he failed to score in all four games of his country; had just 14 tries at goal, of which only four were on target. Later he fluffed a spot-kick in the round of 16 shootout defeat against Switzerland. When he walked back to the tunnel, spectators abused him racially. "They called me a monkey," he would say. When he checked his phone, he discovered a volley of messages with racial undertones in his social media accounts. He cried that night. A sole assist (penalty in the group against Portugal) and a delightful back-heel pre-assist for Antoine Griezmann to set up a goal in the Switzerland game were but rare flickers of fire in a frosty tournament for him.

His form pained him; the criticism ripped him apart. "I received the message that my ego was what made us lose, that I wanted to take up too much space, and that without me, therefore, we might have won. The most important thing is the French national team and if the French national team is happier without me, I'll go," he would say before the next season, in a moment of rare emotional outpouring.

But France would cajole back their unearliest talent since Zidane. A year later, he netted a hat-trick of more steel-will rather than silken-skill in the World Cup final, a night where he ended the most tragic of tragic heroes in football folklore. In reality, there is a note of melancholia in his career. He was only 19 when he held the World Cup aloft, but thereafter, precious silverware has cruelly tantalised him. Second-place finishes in World Cup and Champions League, a heartbreaking European Championship, a continuing streak of unfulfilled renown in Champions League, endless years waiting for the transfer to Real Madrid. Boredom of the pointless pursuit of stacking titles, accolades and trinkets of trophies in the French league. Suddenly, the teenager is a full-blown adult, 25, going on 26. Where are the trophies? Where is the glory? Where is the Ballon d'Or? Of course, Mbappe is still 25, nudging to his peak years, the best yet to be. But with outrageous talents like him, the expectations are thrust too much too soon. It's the fate of all super-athletes, the scales that measure their success and failure are more stringent than they are for lesser talents. So six barren years outside of the French league title was a slight at his inability to inspire his team. It cannot be further from reality, but that is the capricious burden of being an otherworldly talent.

The dark years, though, are long gone. Mbappe is freed of the clutches. He is France's captain and talisman.

man. These days, manager Didier Deschamps has given him a free roaming role on the left, much like how Barcelona and later Argentina let Lionel Messi be. Rather than tweaking his fellow forwards to enable the optimisation of Mbappe's gifts, he has picked a forward-line that is naturally programmed to ally him. Olivier Giroud is a physically-imposing link-up man, a master at dragging the defenders to the back-line and providing Mbappe with the cut-backs. The young and pacey Randal Kolo Muani's movement off the ball is imperious, he forces the defenders deeper and creates space behind him for Mbappe to rampage; Marcus Thuram does both. Resultantly, Mbappe assumes a more central role when in possession.

The frontline has not quite synced in friendlies against strong nations, and teams have looked to exploit Mbappe's free-roaming role and defensive vulnerabilities, by overloading the left-flank when in possession. England almost pulled off a coup in the World Cup quarterfinal by attacking Mbappe. The strategy carried risk, if Mbappe somehow managed to win the ball, he would be in acres of space and would blitz past them. But such a strategy would take a huge degree of precision and courage to pull off. Besides, it's not just Mbappe that the opponents have to stop. Muani is a trickster with twinkle toes. Ousmane Dembele could flick on the afterburners on the right wing; Griezmann, in many ways Deschamps's Man Friday, has evolved into a sublime No 8, performing various duties of play-making, disrupting and goal-scoring with ease and finesse. Deschamps, ever the man behind the scenes, insists his is a team rather than a collection of brilliant individuals and that no one is more equal than others. But Mbappe is an exception, more so because he would crave for redemption in the European Championships, which he considers tougher than the World Cup, and he is where he wants to be at the moment. Happy, smiling, and ready to take on Europe.

Formational flexibility: Since the start of the 2022 World Cup, Didier Deschamps has persisted with a back four on all but one occasion. His forwards are so versatile that they could be deployed in a variety of roles and functions. Mbappe could be the lone front-man, a false nine, an inside left, or a wide winger. Muani can play on either flank, or drop back as a double No 10 with Griezmann. The latter could perform a variety of roles with equal efficiency, a 10, an 8, or a deep-lying playmaker with an exceptional positional sense. Not to forget, he can slot anywhere into the forward line too. There is pace (imagine Deschamps throwing in Kinglsey Coman too into the pack), subtlety, creativity, and flair. Midfield maestros: The bad news for opponents is that as if France's midfield was not versatile enough already, now N'Golo Kante, though playing in Saudi Arabia, is "back to beast mode", according to the manager. There is no shortage of central midfield generals who can dictate the game's tempo, both of the pass-master and hard-tackling brands. Among the array of established stars such as Griezmann, Eduardo Camavinga, Aurelien Tchouameni (returning from an injury) and Adrien Rabiot, watch out for PSG's Warren Zaire-Emery too. How this midfield could fail would be a mystery that could catch the fancy of Fred Vargas, the queen of French crime fiction and archaeologist.

Defensive depth: Raphael Varane's international retirement injected temporary instability but Deschamps quickly covered the cracks, installing Dayot Upamecano and Ibrahim Konate at the heart of it. That Arsenal centre back William Saliba is their third choice attests to their depth. The biggest strength is a variety of those who could don multiple roles. Both Jules Koukou and Benjamin Pavard could slot play as full backs or centre-backs. France often go with an attack-minded left-back (to supplement Mbappe) Theo Hernandez and the more defensive-bent Jules Koukou on the right (he could play in the centre too). But if he wants more pace on the right flank, he could summon the exciting Jonathan Clauss of Marseille as well. Worse news could be that all have an eye for the goal, with feet and head.

'4-5 Pakistan players were sleeping in dressing room': Mohammad Hafeez slams Pakistani players' attitude

GNS News Agency, June 21

After the Pakistan cricket team was sent home early from the ongoing T20 Cricket World Cup, the knives are out back home for the players. Many former Pakistan cricketers have lampooned the team, which never got off the ground at the World Cup, losing their opening match to Team USA via a super over. Then, they fumbled a seemingly-easy chase against India. And while their fate was sealed due to intervention from the weather, Pakistan's performance has copped plenty of flak back home. Now, a video has emerged where former Pakistan player Mohammad Hafeez, who was the national team director from November 2023 to February 2024, has lashed out against Pakistan players due to their attitude. Recalling an incident from a Test match in an interview with former cricketers Adam Gilchrist and Michael Vaughan,



Hafeez said, "You tell me Gilly, if a player is sleeping in the dressing room and we are playing Test cricket... Four-five players were sleeping in the dressing room, should I allow that as a team director?" Hafeez just told 4/5 players were sleeping in the middle of a test match, that's 2 are batting so that's 4/5 players awake. pic.twitter.com/74mJAozfuy When probed further if the players were sleeping because they

were tired, Hafeez explained, "I really don't know. I went into the dressing room and found four-five players are sleeping in the dressing room while playing Test cricket. I was like, 'how come you guys can do that? If you do something like this, you cannot be a part of this team."

I want you guys to stay focussed during the game. Off the game, whatever the guys do, it is their own life, I never get involved in it. But

in professional timings of the game, I want the team guys to focus on the game. Stay in touch.

If you are a fast bowler, you can have a rest, a good ice bath but you need to concentrate on the game of cricket, like how the other team is also doing.

You cannot switch yourself off during the game, but unfortunately the media (in Pakistan) didn't like it."

Best plan to derail South Africa: take out the openers, watch the middle-order marauders Klassen, Markram, Miller wobble



GNS News Agency, June 21

They severely depend on one of the openers to click in tall chases. Else, the mounting strike-rate pressure triggers indecisiveness and impatience in the middle order of Markram, Klaasen and Miller. After trying to straddle anchor/attack duties for a brief while, they then tend to pre-meditate their big shots a touch frantically in trying to accelerate, which further upsets the apple cart. England who neatly strangled the West Indian torso of Nicholas Pooran and Andre Russell, are bound to exploit this brittleness, even if Saffers don't get drawn into one of their chase-botching ways and bat first. Markram and Klaasen were stellar through the IPL for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Except in two games, against RCB and finals against KKR, when they got leashed in. The same patterns continue for South Africa halfway across the world. Chasing RCB's 206, Sunrisers had just lost Abhishek Sharma when the captain Markram too fell. Klaasen had smacked the tweaker Swapnil Singh over mid-wicket off his second delivery, before the bowler tossed the next one but pulled back the length a tad short. The big-hitter went for the same shot, but couldn't reach it, mistiming his predetermined shot to mid-on. And RCB won by 35 runs.

In the finals against KKR once more, the top order's failure at 21/3 meant Markram and Klaasen had to navigate that tricky rebuilding phase. It's when Klassen doesn't have the liberty of a launchpad to go bonkers and when Markram is caught in a proper pickled quandary - Does he drop anchor or go for broke, hoping Messrs Stubbs, Klaasen & Miller will push the pedal. Andre Russell hurried Markram with a short one, and the South African's committed pull reached only as far as the long on fielder. Once more, Markram had pulled on the heavy veil of strike-rate pressure, and fallen to impatience. Festive off IPL Sunrisers Hyderabad's batter Heinrich Klaasen is bowled out during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 final cricket match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders at MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai, Sunday, May 26, 2024. With the asking rate escalating, Klaasen had clearly premeditated to go after Harshit Rana in the 15th over, and like several Klaasen rushes-of-blood, this too erupted on the very first ball of the pacer's second spell. Bowling full and outside off, Rana duped Klaasen into thinking he could soar it over the bowler's head. KKR skipper Shreyas Iyer had placed midoff inside the circle, leaving an inviting pasture. Rana managed to tug the ball in, and Klaasen dragged it onto the stumps.

The Klaasen cannonball behind the bowler's head

What's behind the rise in long-range goals at Euro 2024

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Arda Guler had done it before. His first-ever goal for Turkey was a delightful curler from outside the box. And so, when he let the ball fly on his Euros debut against Georgia, the 'Turkish Messi' had little doubt about the shot's outcome - piercing through the crisp Dortmund air and bending beautifully to ruffle the top corner. The goal made Guler the youngest scorer at the Euros; the talk of the tournament's early stages. More significantly, it put long-range goals in vogue. Guler's isn't the only one.

Twelve out of the 42 goals scored so far in the Euros (until the Scotland-Switzerland match) were screamers from outside the box. This, the game's stats-keepers said, is an anomaly. Everywhere else, the number of goals and shots from outside the box is decreasing. Long rangers, they argued, were out of fashion and on a sharp decline, if not on the verge of extinction. Numbers backed this theory: at Euro 2012, only 8 out of the total 76 goals were scored from outside the box. Four years later, the figure doubled to 16 but so did the total goals, which increased to 108 meaning the long-rangers accounted for 14.8 per cent. And at Euro 2020, 19 out of the 142 goals were scored from a distance (all stats from Opta). Even in the English Premier League, only 11.5 percent of goals were scored from outside the box last season, the lowest since 2010/11 according to Opta. And at the 2022 World Cup, zero long-range goals were scored in the first round of group-stage matches.

Of course, the sample size of Euro 2024 is pretty small yet and the average might come down as the tournament progresses. Some of the long-range shots have gone in because of deflection and in a few cases, poor goalkeeping might have contributed. But goals from the likes of Guler and Razvan Marin, finding the corner from a distance, have lit up the tournament and contributed to the increasing number of long-range goals. Euro 2024: Arda Guler goal His goal made Guler the youngest scorer at the Euros; the talk of the tournament's early stages. The threadbare analysis will take place in the days to come but prima facie, two compelling reasons stand out. The tactical factor UEFA's technical review of the previous Euros noted that teams were more inclined to 'work the ball into areas' to produce a goal 'rather than the low-percentage option of striking at goal from distance.'

The trend, Sky Sports noted, is in continuation of what is preached and practised at the club level, where more and more players are discouraged from having a wild go at goal and are instead coached to play in patterns in the attacking third. In international football, that's not always the case and smaller nations aren't Real Madrids or Manchester Citys who are managed by su-

is a shot of magnificence. But pre-deciding it, as soon as mid-off is reeled in, makes South Africa's broad-sword the big fish unflinchingly hooked as bait by opposition. His big shots don't always sync with what the bowler hurls, and plans come undone. Sri Lanka's 77 in the Proteas' T20 World Cup opener ought to have been a stroll. But the sub-100 S.R. (a norm on that devilish pitch at Nassau) for Markram (12 off 13) once again saw him try to flick a shortish middle/leg ball from Dasun Shanaka that eventually squared him up for a leading edge. Klaasen though held it together for 22 deliveries, not turning impetuous after hitting just 1 four and 1 six, to get the job done alongside David Miller. Against Netherlands, Markram 0 (3) never got going as early wickets of de Kock and Hendricks, chasing 103, put that boa-constricting pressure on the delicate middle order. Klaasen had run 4 off 6, but at the first hint of going for the big shot, he mangled a pull to hole out at deep square leg. Miller though has finally emerged as the man who can strike the balance between pressure & pyrotechnics in these fraught situations, and took them safely home against Dutch, with 59 off 51. NED vs SA Highlights, T20 World Cup Match Today: Get Netherlands vs South Africa Highlights from the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York South Africa's David Miller celebrates scoring the winning runs against the Netherlands during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, N.Y., Saturday, June 8, 2024. (AP/PTI) The Saffer 'Topple order' that copped wretched starts on American pitches, didn't help Markram. But he has been especially vulnerable against the curling delivery pitched on middle that lures him into shaping up for an on-drive and turning the bat face, but which moves away suddenly off the deck like Taskin Ahmed managed for Bangladesh, ticking off his off stump. Klaasen had 46 off 43 by the time Taskin had him premeditating and swinging for a nothing-sway. A top-spinner from leggie Rishad splattered Miller's slog sweep next as Proteas struggled to reach 120. The bludgeons were busted. Markram's dismissals are prone to trigger harakiri in Saffer ranks, as was seen against Nepal. The minnows playing with a Himalayan sized heart, made things so claustrophobic for him even if South Africa were trotting at 67/1. Operating at a strike rate of 68, he was made to wait by Nepal's Kushal Bhurtel on a ping-pong length outside off, before the South African hacked at the drive and played onto the stumps, a la Gary Kirsten used to perish at times.

Bhurtel again nagged outside off stump to Klaasen who tries hitting through that line often and fell for 3 (5). Bowling full and just outside off, Bhurtel would claim David Miller too in that Nepal nightmare as the team heaved with panic at 97/5, as the middle order was brake-halted, attempting to accelerate. Either de Kock or Hendricks need to get going, for Markram to calmly do his thing. So playing alongside his U19 World Cup winning teammate Qdk, the captain put on 110 for the second wicket against USA. Miller's golden duck was no sweat, as Markram and Klaasen (who tonked 3 sixes), cruised to take the total to 194. But going forward, England will know Markram, Klaasen and Miller can be put under the pump, if they take early wickets up front. Suffocating the trio for runs like Adil Rashid and Jofra Archer strangled Nicolas Pooran and Andre Russell, can get the Proteas crabby thereafter. It's a perfect recipe for a South African chase-melt on a griddle.



per coaches who are quick to reprimand their players if they go slightly off-script. In the first round of the group stage at the ongoing Euros, the best long-rangers have been scored by players from Romania and Turkey. Six out of the nine shots Romania managed against Ukraine, in fact, were from outside the box. This could be because the players lack the telepathic understanding in the final third, where they can find teammates even without looking up, the quality of playmakers and attackers too might not be at the same level as the traditional favourites and the rewards of a long-range effort far outweigh the risks. That could be a basic explanation for why more technically superior players would be cautious of having a go from a distance. This isn't to say, however, that Guler lacks quality. For the Real Madrid starlet, whose youth coach vows he is more talented than Messi, a long-ranger could be as normal as a tap-in for a poacher. Another standout factor in Guler's goal was how the ball stayed true to its trajectory and did exactly what the Turkish scorer intended. The pick of the long-rangers have all been curlers rather than shots thumped in from a distance. That, according to The Athletic, is because of the evolution of the ball. "The Euro 2024 ball is not a major outlier from other balls of the current era, although it appears fast through the air. But the key is that it moves in the correct manner," the report said. Guler got the ball to start from outside of the goal and then got it to bend inwards. Romania's Nicolae Stanciu used the spin of the ball to curl it away from the goalkeeper, while Nicolò Barella scored a half-volley that swung inwards ever-so-slightly. In almost all cases, the ball did exactly what the goal-scorer wanted it to do. Early indications are that it has to do with the ball as much as the skill of the player. The Adidas Fussballliebe - the official Euro 2024 ball - has indentations on its 20 panels on the outer shell, which control the airflow over the ball and provide maximum precision, according to the ball's makers.