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Term of Justice P C Ghose Commission extended by two months

Hyderabad: The term of the judicial commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose has been extended by two months. This commission is investigating the construction of the Medigadda and two barrages of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme. The Commission, which was expected to submit its report by June 30, is in fact, halfway through its inquiry process. The commission had completed the preliminary exercise of information gathering from the individuals and agencies concerned involved in the planning and construction of the barrages.

JCO among 5 Army soldiers swept away in flash floods while crossing river during tank exercise in Ladakh



GNS News Agency, June 29

Five soldiers of the Army, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), drowned when their T-72 tank sank due to flash floods in the Shyok river near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Nyoma-Chushul area in Ladakh early on June 29, officials said. The incident occurred near Mandir Morh, 148 kilometres from Leh, during an exercise around 1 a.m., the officials said. The T-72 tank with five soldiers on board sank due to flash floods while they were crossing the river, the officials said. The bodies of the personnel — including one JCO and four jawans — has been recovered, Defence officials said. The Army's 14 Corps, which is headquartered in Leh consoled the lives of the five personnel. "On 28 June 2024 night, while de-inducting from a military training activity,

an army tank got stuck in the Shyok River, near Saser Brangsa, Eastern Ladakh due to sudden increase in the water level. Rescue teams rushed to the location, however, due to high current and water levels, the rescue mission didn't succeed and the tank crew lost their lives. Indian Army regrets loss of five brave personnel while being operationally deployed in eastern Ladakh. Rescue operations are underway," they said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed grief over the unfortunate accident. "Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of five of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate accident while getting the tank across a river in Ladakh," he said in a post on X. "We will never forget exemplary service of our gallant soldiers to the nation. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The nation stands firm with them during this hour of grief," he added. The crucial Sub-Sector North (SSN) consists of the Dopsang plains and Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO). Currently, the airfield at DBO and the area in general is accessible only by the 255 km-long Darbuk-Shyok-DBO (DSDBO) road and work is in advanced stages on an alternate access Saser La, an ancient trade route. DBO also has one of the designated Border Personnel Meeting points between India and China to resolve incidents along the LAC. Over the last decade, India had deployed tanks in Eastern Ladakh and there was significant deployment of tanks, infantry vehicles and other heavy equipment since the beginning of the standoff with China in Eastern Ladakh since May 2020.

Government approves 40% risk allowance for NDRF rescuers, says Amit Shah



GNS News Agency, June 29

The Union government has approved a 40% hardship and risk allowance for NDRF rescuers, keeping in mind the tough operations undertaken by them, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on June 29. He said this while welcoming a 35-member expedition team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) that recently scaled the 21,625-foot-high Mt Manirang in Himachal Pradesh.

"The government has approved a 40% risk and hardship allowance for NDRF personnel only yesterday. This has been a long pending demand... All the 16,000 personnel of the force will benefit from this," Mr. Shah said after welcoming the expedition named 'Vijay'. Officials said this allowance would be granted over and above salaries. Special forces like the National Security Guard (NSG) and the Special Protection Group (SPG) get a 25% hardship allowance owing to the special charter of their duties. This is the second mountaineering expedition undertaken by the federal contingency force. The team was flagged off on June 1 from here. Mt Manirang is located along the border of Kinnaur and Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh. Union Home Minister Amit Shah poses for group

photograph during the flag-in ceremony of mountaineering expedition Vijay, accomplished by the NDRF, in New Delhi, on June 29, 2024. Union Home Minister Amit Shah poses for group photograph during the flag-in ceremony of mountaineering expedition Vijay, accomplished by the NDRF, in New Delhi, on June 29, 2024. Mr. Shah said the government has also decided to make sports a "culture" for the various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and special organisations like the NDRF. It has been decided that at least one team from these forces will mandatorily participate in international and national tournaments, he added. "A committee under the chairmanship of the director of the Intelligence Bureau has been constituted and a roadmap has been prepared. We will soon present a new model," the Home Minister said. Mr. Shah also underlined that forces like the NDRF should ensure that the policy of "zero casualty" during disasters is followed and no lives are lost during calamities. "We have come a long way... the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working on the concept of zero casualties during disasters for the last 10 years," he said. Mr. Shah said his government has allocated higher funds for capacity building and training of the NDRF and state disaster response forces by allocating ₹2 lakh crore during 2014-24 as compared to ₹66,000 crore during 2004-14. He complimented the NDRF team for the successful expedition, saying such exercises will boost the force's capabilities and morale and it will be able to do better during disasters and accident operations. Mr. Shah cautioned the rescuers that they should not rest on their laurels but keep improving. The NDRF was raised in 2006 as a federal contingency and disaster response force and at present, has a strength of more than 18,000 men and women rescuers deployed across the country as part of 16 battalions and 28 RRCs. It undertakes operations to mitigate and combat man-made and natural disasters like earthquakes, floods and train accidents among others.

Yogi govt suspends six officials after road cave-ins, waterlogging on Ram Path



GNS News Agency, June 29

Ayodhya: The Uttar Pradesh government has suspended six officials of civic agencies for gross negligence following road cave-ins and waterlogging at several sections of the newly-built Ram Path in Ayodhya. About 15 bylanes and streets along the Ram Path were flooded after rain on June 23 and June 25. Even homes along the road went under water. Portions of the 14-km stretch also caved in at more than a dozen places.

The suspended officials are Dhruv Aggarwal (Executive Engineer), Anuj Deswal (Assistant Engineer) and Prabhat Pandey (Junior Engineer) of the Public Works Department (PWD) and Anand Kumar Dubey (Ex-

ecutive Engineer), Rajendra Kumar Yadav (Assistant Engineer) and Mohammad Shahid (Junior Engineer) of the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam. Aggarwal and Deswal were suspended on the orders of Special Secretary Vinod Kumar on Friday. Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam Managing Director Rakesh Kumar Mishra issued the orders for the three engineers' suspension. The State government has also issued a notice to Ahmedabad-based contractor Bhuvan Infracom Private Limited in connection with the matter.

Telangana police prepare for transition to new legal framework

GNS News Agency, June 29

Hyderabad: With the three new laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), set to come into force from July 1, police officials across Telangana are taking all steps to ensure a smooth transition. Policemen right from the constable to senior officials ranks attended orientation programs held both in offline and online mode. "In last two months, we attended several sessions of the programs organized to familiarize the force about the new laws," said an Inspector working in Cyberabad.

Customer finds 'hair pin' in Biryani ordered from restaurant in Hyd

Hyderabad: In another incident involving food safety violations, a customer has reported finding a hair pin in a biryani ordered from Mehfil Restaurant in Manikonda on Saturday, through Swiggy. Expressing anguish over the incident, the customer took to social media to share a photo of the biryani containing the safety pin and tagged several authorities including the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Hyderabad City Police (hydcitypolice), and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Acknowledging the incident, Hyderabad City Police promptly responded, directing the complainant to contact Cyberabad police, as the location falls under their jurisdiction

CM Revanth asks officials for Warangal 2050 master plan



GNS News Agency, June 29

Warangal: Stressing that Warangal should be developed on par with Hyderabad, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday directed officials to prepare a 'Master Plan 2050' for comprehensive development of Warangal. All measures should be taken to develop Warangal as a heritage city. Land acquisition for both

inner and outer ring roads should be completed as per schedule. Reports should be furnished on the land acquisition cost at the earliest, he said while reviewing the progress of different development works being executed in the city.

Road connectivity should be developed from outer ring road to the textile park. The outer ring road should be developed as a means to ensure seamless connectivity between national highways, he told to the officials. Under the Smart City Mission, proposals should be prepared for establishing underground drainage system in the city. Similarly, plans should be submitted for laying drinking water lines, he said, adding steps should be taken to ensure nalas were not encroached. "Incharge Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy should review the Warangal development works every 20 days," he said, adding that the State government would extend all support for Warangal city's development. He also assured a permanent solution to address the dumping yard problem in the city.

CM Kejriwal sent to judicial custody till July 12 in CBI case



GNS News Agency, June 29

New Delhi: A city court on Saturday sent Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to 14-day judicial custody (till July 12) in connection with the corruption case linked to the liquor policy case. Earlier in the day, vacation judge Sunena Sharma while reserving its order on CBI's application, remarked that upon the expiry of police remand, the court has no option but to send the accused to judicial custody.

On June 26, CM Kejriwal was sent to CBI custody for three days by Rouse Avenue Court on the agency's application seeking custody of the Aam Aadmi Party supreme for interrogation. Earlier that day, Kejriwal was formally arrested by the CBI when he was produced before vacation judge Amitabh Rawat.

Permission was granted to the CBI to produce CM Kejriwal in the special court after he was questioned by the central

agency in Tihar Jail earlier this week. In a related development, the AAP supreme had withdrawn his plea filed before the Supreme Court challenging the interim stay ordered by the Delhi High Court on his release on bail in the money laundering case linked to the liquor policy scam case. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Kejriwal, submitted before a vacation bench of Justices Manoj Misra and SVN Bhatti that a fresh plea would be moved before the apex court in view of the latest decision of the Delhi High Court staying the trial court order granting bail to CM Kejriwal in the money laundering case. In its final verdict pronounced on a plea filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Delhi High Court on Tuesday had said that the trial court's vacation bench did not apply its mind to the entire material and it ought to give equal opportunity to the ED to argue the bail

CBI conducts searches in Gujarat



GNS News Agency, June 29

The CBI is conducting searches at multiple locations in Godhra, Ahmedabad, Kheda and Anand districts of Gujarat in the Godhra cheating case. The central agency also arrested another accused Jamaluddin, journalist with a Hindi daily, in Hazaribag, Jharkhand, for allegedly assisting principal and vice-principal of Oasis School in Bihar for the alleged paper leak matter, according to CBI source. On June 14, Gujarat Police had arrested five persons, including the head of a coaching centre, in connection with alleged cheating in the medical examination in a centre in Godhra. Around a dozen students, their parents and a Vadodra-based coaching centre run by a group of teachers are involved in the alleged scam.

IMD forecasts heavy rains in northwest India in next 5 days



GNS News Agency, June 29

New Delhi: India Meteorological Department on Saturday forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall over Northwest India including Delhi & the Northeast states during the next 4-5 days. IMD also said that the Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of East Uttar Pradesh and some more parts of West Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. The northern limit of the monsoon now passes through Jaisalmer, Churu in Rajasthan, Bhiwani, Delhi, Aligarh, Hardoi, Moradabad, Una (Western UP), Pathankot in Punjab and Jammu. The weather office said conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest Monsoon into some more parts of West Rajasthan, Haryana-Chandigarh & Punjab and remaining parts of West Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu during the next 2-3 days. Isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over Delhi, Haryana Chandigarh, Punjab Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and East Rajasthan from June 29 to July 3; West Rajasthan on June 29, July 2 and 3; Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha on June 29 and 30 and Bihar during June 30-July 2, the weather bulletin states. The IMD bulletin has forecast widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, and lightning very likely over Northwest, Central and East India during the next five days. IMD also said that widespread moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms

is very likely over Kerala, Karnataka, Konkan and Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra; isolated to scattered light to moderate rainfall over Marathwada, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Telangana, during the next five days. Widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is also likely over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura during next five days, IMD added. The heavy rainfall is expected to lead to localised flooding of roads, water logging in low-lying areas and closure of underpasses mainly in urban areas. Occasional reduction in visibility due to heavy rainfall and disruption of traffic in major cities due to water logging in roads is expected to result in increased travel time.

CM inspects textile Park and Hospital Construction in Warangal

GNS News Agency, June 29

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy embarked on a tour of the joint Warangal district, where he was warmly welcomed by District Ministers Konda Surekha and Sithakka upon his arrival in Shyampet of Geesukonda mandal. During his visit, the CM inspected the progress of construction work at the Warangal Textile Park, where saplings were also planted as part of Vanamahotsavam. He also took the time to inspect the construction of the government multi super specialty hospital. In addition, a Mahila Shakti canteen is set to be opened at Hanumakonda as part of the CM's visit. Following this, he will review the development of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation to ensure the progress of various projects in the region. CM Revanth Reddy's visit highlights the government's commitment to stimulating economic growth and development in the Warangal district, with a focus on infrastructure and healthcare facilities.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Bad loans

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu's address to Parliament on Thursday coincided with the release of the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report (FSR). The President mentioned that the government had carried out reforms over the past decade to save India's banking sector, enacting laws such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). She stated that the non-performing assets (NPA) of public sector banks were continuously decreasing. This is borne out by the FSR, which says that the gross NPA ratio of scheduled commercial banks fell to 2.8 per cent and the net NPA ratio decreased to 0.6 per cent at the end of March this year. As per the RBI, the gross bad loan ratio of banks has reached a 12-year low. This significant drop indicates that banks are managing their bad loans in a better way, reducing the risks of defaults. Non-performing assets are an impediment to the long-term growth and stability of the Indian banking sector; their impact on the overall health of the economy cannot be overemphasised. Since its enactment in 2016, the IBC has helped many banks and financial lenders realise their dues by streamlining the process of resolving insolvency cases. This is very important for the world's fastest-growing major economy, which aims to become the go-to destination for global investors. Doubts and apprehensions about India's legal and regulatory framework can be detrimental to the confidence of investors. The RBI has noted that with healthier balance sheets, banks and financial institutions are actively supporting economic activities through consistent credit expansion, while the President has claimed that India's banking sector is one of the strongest in the world. These observations should be reassuring for domestic investors, even as there is room for improvement in terms of making banks more robust and profitable.

Bombay High Court raps civic body and police, says roads are cleared of illegal hawkers only during VVIP visits



GNS News Agency, June 29

The Bombay High Court on Monday came down heavily on the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the police for failing to act against illegal hawkers who encroach on footpaths, and said roads are cleared only during the visits of the prime minister and other VVIPs. The court also expressed concern over the assaults faced by BMC officers who take action against encroachments as well as people who complain against illegal hawkers. The court said the authorities are effectively forcing people to walk on streets by depriving them of the "fundamental right to a safe place to walk" and directed that strict action be taken against illegal hawkers by identifying them effectively.

A division bench of Justices M S Sonak and Kamal R Khata was hearing a suo motu plea initiated by the court in February last year after two shop owners from Borivali (East) complained that several unauthorised stalls had come up in front of their shop. Identify illegal hawkers to prevent their return.

Senior advocate S U Kamdar, for the BMC, submitted that it was considering the court's suggestions related to the market for itinerant vendors and also deliberating on underground markets. Kamdar also submitted that the election process for the street vending committee had begun, for which a returning officer had been appointed and that representatives of vendors would be part of such a "fully constituted" committee. He added that a special drive for removal of illegal food stalls had been undertaken. As he said that some hawkers returned to those spots after being evicted, the bench orally remarked, "They (unlicensed hawkers) cannot come back. They do because they have not been identified. Let there be a combing operation. Like biometrics are used for slums. Take one street after another and identify them... We have to get data on the density of hawkers. The biggest trouble is identification of hawkers..." The bench added that owing to the lack of identification, people do not know whom to file complaints against. The bench suggested that unauthorised hawkers be identified through various methods including how police capture pictures of vehicles found in a no-parking zone. "Recently, a person was beaten up after raising voice against hawkers, as per news reports. These kinds of things happen... There is a serious problem. If officers of the BMC are also beaten up, you can well imagine the fate of common citizens," the bench said.

"As far as footpaths are concerned, you (BMC) should clear them up on a daily basis. We are forcing people to walk on streets. That is the cascading effect. If footpaths are encroached upon, where are people to walk? That is their fundamental right. We tell our children to walk on footpaths. But if there are no footpaths, what are they going to do? There is a problem with every ratepayer. The State has to do something drastic," it said. "There is a lack of will... For years together citizens keep suffering in this manner and courts keep on passing orders... Why are we not protecting citizens who are ratepayers or taxpayers? When the Prime Minister or VVIPs come, the streets and roads are immediately cleared and it stays so till they are here. How is it done then? Why cannot it be done otherwise for everyone else? We need to have the state really working on this. There have been Supreme Court orders since 2012. The State cannot just file affidavits. People are not able to run shops, they are beaten. There is complete lawlessness. The state has to be seen working," it added. The bench said that "prima facie it appeared the police officers are not performing their duties to deal with a 'huge problem'."

Pune BJP wants all pubs to be shifted out of city, separate women police cell for night patrolling



GNS News Agency, June 29

The Pune unit of the BJP Monday demanded that all pubs be moved out of the city limits. The demand came in the wake of reports that drugs were being consumed illegally at a pub on Fergusson College Road. "The state government should move all the pubs out of the city immediately. The administration should make public the list of pubs and the rules of operation," said Pune BJP chief Dheeraj Ghate. He said the BJP would start a drive against illegal pubs in the city on its own if the administration does not act.

Himachal's Old Pension Scheme burning issue while deciding state share: 16th Finance Commission

GNS News Agency, June 29

Himachal Pradesh Old Pension Scheme Before interacting with the media, the 13-member 16th Finance Commission held a detailed discussion with state government officials including CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The Old Pension Scheme along with other monetary welfare schemes started in Himachal Pradesh will be burning issues while deciding the hill state's share under the Finance Commission, said 16th Finance Commission Secretary Ritvik Pandey in Shimla on Monday. Members of the 16th Finance Commission are on a three-day visit to the state.

Asked about the 'culture of freebies' and how the Finance Commission will handle it, Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya said, "Freebies are an issue but the Finance Commission will only recommend and comment on subjects under its prerogative." When asked about Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's allegation that the state was not getting cooperation from the Centre on financial matters, Panagariya said, "Finance Commission is a low-profile organisation which does not comment on political issues. But I would like to assure you that the commission will examine the interests of the state on a priority basis."

Replying to a question on the possibility of Himachal Pradesh getting a special package, Panagariya said, "Himachal Pradesh is not an isolated subject. Everything

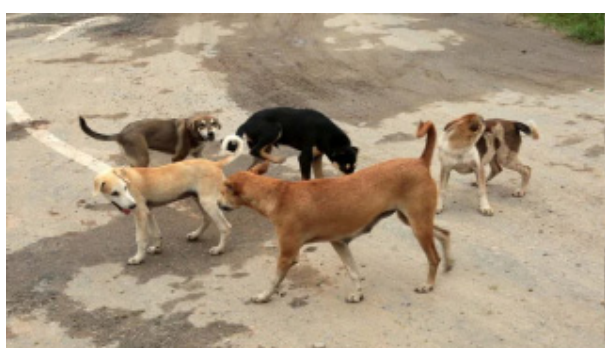
"The speakers in pubs should be switched off after 10 pm as it is done during the Ganesh festival. The complaints of local citizens regarding pubs should be taken up seriously and an independent cell of women police be deployed during the night for the safety of women," Ghate said, adding that action should also be taken against speeding at night. Meanwhile, Pune MP and Union minister Murlidhar Mohol on Monday claimed the city police suspended two officials of the Shivajinagar police station for negligence regarding the pub incident only after he stepped in.

Notably, although the drug consumption charge is yet to be proven, the pub in the eye of the storm was operating way beyond the permissible time limit recently. The MP said the city police must launch a major drive to check the 'rise' in drug consumption. "All colleges, pubs, hotels, and suspicious places must be checked thoroughly and the roots of the narcotics trade unearthed," Mohol said. The MNS also staged a protest against the alleged consumption of drugs at the pub, while members of the Patit Pavan Sanghatana pelted stones at the pub on Monday. The NCP (SP) is set to hold a protest on the issue on Tuesday.



about it will be decided along with 27 states and eight UTs." Before interacting with the media, the 13-member 16th Finance Commission held a detailed discussion with state government officials including CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The Congress government led by Sukhu reintroduced the scrapped Old Pension Scheme in the state after winning the 2022 Assembly elections. In March, the Sukhu government also introduced the Indira Gandhi Payari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna under which Rs 1,500 is given to women every month. The Commission members said they decided to visit Himachal Pradesh first owing to the upcoming monsoon which will make many parts of the state inaccessible. The recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission will be implemented from April 1, 2026.

Stray dog 'thrown down' from 7th floor of Greater Noida building, dies



GNS News Agency, June 29

Greater Noida, Stray dog, Killed Station House Officer (Bisrakh) Arvind Kumar told the Indian Express that no FIR had been filed yet. "We are investigating the CCTV footage and then will look into the matter," he said. A stray dog was allegedly thrown down from the seventh floor of a building in Greater Noida, killing the animal on the spot. The incident at Vihaan Heritage Sapphire Society in Sector 1 was brought to light after Surbhi Rawat, president of People for Animals and a resident of Ghaziabad, posted a CCTV footage of the dog falling on the ground on social media platform X.

Rawat told the Indian Express that Sushmita Jaiswal, a dog feeder and resident of the same society, brought

the incident to her notice. However, it was unclear who threw the dog down from the top of the building. Station House Officer (Bisrakh) Arvind Kumar told the Indian Express that no FIR had been filed yet. "We are investigating the CCTV footage and then will look into the matter," he said. Meanwhile, Sushmita told The Indian Express that around 11.30 am on June 20, a society member called her and informed her that a female dog died after it was thrown from the seventh floor of the society. "The security guard took the picture and shared it with our society's WhatsApp group. After I confirmed it with the guard, we started looking for the CCTV footage. After two days, we got footage but only from the ground floor." "We were used to feeding these dogs. She was a smart and sensible dog. The boundary walls of the terrace are four feet tall, so the dog can't jump on her own," Jaiswal added, suggesting that someone had indeed thrown the dog down. "Nearly two months ago, a female dog died after she was hit multiple times by a car in this society. Her legs and ribs were completely broken," said Jaiswal. Rawat said dogs react in self-defence because of such incidents, and people misinterpret them as dog bites. "If a human is treated like this, will we remain silent? So how can we expect the dog to remain calm or not react?" "Due to such incidents, dogs become aware that humans will harm them. Dogs get things in their mind and react in self-defence by chasing people and sometimes biting," added Rawat.

'Punjab Police forced us to say that my young son died of a heart attack. Why should we lie?', says father of man found dead in Moga

GNS News Agency, June 29

In the fourth such suspicious death this month in Moga district of Punjab, allegedly due to drug-related reasons, a 24-year-old labourer was found dead at Bohana village late Jang Singh, father of the deceased Varinder alias Golu, alleged that police initially tried to pass off the death as a "heart attack". "I clearly told them that they should write the truth. They were forcing us to record the reason as heart attack in our statement," Jang said. After the family refused to record their statement, the Moga Police on Sunday registered an FIR against two people of the same village, including the sarpanch's son Mika. The FIR has been registered on the statement of Jang Singh who alleged that his son was forcibly given some substance by the accused following which he died. Jang claimed that when they reached the spot after getting to know that his son had collapsed, they saw some used syringes on the spot. The body of the deceased was found near the motor room owned by the sarpanch. Jang said, "My son had left the house around 1 pm on Saturday and around 5 pm his body was found in the

sarpanch's motor. My son was an addict earlier and used to consume chitta (heroin) but its been many months that he left drugs." Gurnam Singh, the paternal uncle of the deceased, who first received the call that Golu had collapsed, said, "My nephew was the only son of his parents. He has three sisters. We tried to save him and poured water on his head but he was already dead. Police team which came to recover the body forced us to record statement according to them. Havaladar sahib said we should say he died of heart attack. How can we say that? Our young son was murdered. Both accused left him to die." Gurpreet Singh, cousin of the deceased, said, "Some used syringes and empty sachets of medicines were lying on the spot. Shayad teeka galat lag peya... (Maybe they injected some wrong drug)." However, police denied recovery of any syringe from the spot. Inspector Arshpreet Kaur, SHO of Mehna police station, said that an FIR under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 34 (criminal act done with common intention) of IPC has been registered with Mehna police station against both suspects — Varinder alias Mika and one Hagest.

Uddhav group won more LS seats, but our strike rate was better, says CM Shinde

GNS News Agency, June 29

Bhandara, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday said the Shiv Sena got less seats than the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena in the Lok Sabha polls but his party's strike rate, denoting seats won against seats contested, was better. The Shiv Sena won nine of the 21 seats it contested, while the Shinde faction emerged victorious in seven constituencies after fielding candidates in 15. Speaking at a gathering here, where he laid foundation stones of projects worth ₹547 crore, Shinde said the opposition's fake narrative about change in Constitution to do away with reservations for various segments of society affected the ruling alliance. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, won 30 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state but its vote share and that of the Mahayuti was almost the same, Shinde asserted. "Shiv Sena got less seats but our strike rate was more. Of the 13 seats where the Shiv Sena and Shiv Sena had a direct fight, we won seven. The Maha Vikas Aghadi criticises me daily but I will reply with my work, like granting ₹547 crore to develop Bhandara," he said. He asked the people to compare the work his government had done since June 2022 and that of the MVA dispensation, which was in power for two-and-a-half years. The CM also said OBCs will not face injustice while giving quota to the Maratha community. Maratha activists are seeking Kunbi certificates for the community members to avail reservations, which has been opposed by Other Backward Classes' outfits who say it will reduce their share of quota benefits. Independent MLA from Bhandara Narendra Bhonekar joined the Shiv Sena officially at the event.

Rs 10 lakh fine collected till June 15 over using AC Mumbai locals without tickets



GNS News Agency, June 29

Following numerous complaints from passengers travelling in AC locals, the Mumbai division of Central Railway formed the AC task force to curb unauthorised travel in both AC services and first-class compartments. A month after its formation, the Central Railways AC task force identified a total of 2,979 cases of unauthorised travel and collected fines amounting to Rs 10.04 lakhs till June 15.

Following numerous complaints from passengers travelling in AC locals, the Mumbai division of Central Railway formed the AC task force to curb unauthorised travel in both AC services and first-class compartments. On May 25, the Central Railway released a WhatsApp number, 7208819987, as a helpline for passenger complaints, which initially received around 100 complaints daily. However, since then, the number of complaints has reduced to just 14. According to the Central Railways, the helpline allowed passengers to report incidents of irregular travel, ensuring immediate assistance during peak hours. Speaking with India Today, Chief Public Relations Officer Dr. Swapnil Dhanraj Neela said, "Central Railway formed a task force of 14 personnel to assist complainants and fine passengers travelling without tickets. The task force operated from the first to the last train service daily. Central Railways has received mixed reactions from AC local passengers; some are pleased, while others are annoyed."

Woman and married man kill themselves in Bengaluru after families oppose their relationship: police



GNS News Agency, June 29

A 43-year-old married man and a 21-year-old woman in Karnataka's Tumakuru district allegedly died by suicide after their families objected to their relationship. Police identified the man as Rangaswamy Nayaka, a resident of Bhairagondlu village, and the woman as Ananya, a BCom student and resident of neighbouring Lakkayyanapalya village. Rangaswamy owned an electrical accessories shop and had three children. According to the police, Ananya left home around 9 am June 18 saying she was going to college. When her mobile phone was found switched off later her family members tried calling Rangaswamy, but his phone was also switched off. As the families of both the man and woman were aware of their relationship, Ananya's father Mallikarjuna C A contacted Rangaswamy's wife Gangarathamma, who told him that her husband was leaving on a three-day trip to visit a temple. As Rangaswamy did not return home till June 21, his family members filed a missing complaint at the Kolala police station. The police found that the locations of the duo's mobile phones were last traced to a place near the Mavathur lake in Bengaluru.

Brutal murder of elderly woman and rape of pregnant woman who took blows on her back to save foetus

GNS News Agency, June 29

Pune crime files: The police managed to arrest Abhang within nine days with the help of a sketch made on the basis of the pregnant woman's description. Police officers Ukhaji Sonwane and Ashok Bapurao Shelke investigated the case. A pregnant woman took multiple attacks on her back to save her five-month-old foetus from an assailant who barged into her Pune home. After snatching her gold, the assailant raped her and brutally murdered her grandmother-in-law. This 2007 incident is among the most inhuman crimes committed in Pune.

As per police records, the pregnant woman and her 66-year-old grandmother-in-law, Shalini, were at their home, preparing for a trip to Pandharpur on the afternoon of September 10, 2007. Around 2.30 pm, a mechanic named Sandesh Kailas Abhang, then 23, came to the house and told the pregnant woman that her husband had sent him to repair a car with a punctured tyre. She tried to call her husband but Abhang snatched her phone and brutally attacked both the women. Abhang attacked Shalini with a sickle-like weapon multiple times. The wrist of her left hand and four fingers of her right hand were amputated. He also snatched her gold ornaments.

After fatally attacking Shalini on her neck with the weapon, Abhang demanded more cash and jewellery from the pregnant woman. She asked him to search the entire house and take away whatever he wanted. But he raped her. Abhang then went to the bathroom, cleaned himself and fled from the house with about 50g of gold ornaments after bolting the door from outside. Family members who rushed to the spot after learning about the incident informed the police and took the victims to hospital. The police managed to arrest Abhang within nine days with the help of a sketch made on the basis of the pregnant woman's description. Police officers Ukhaji Sonwane and Ashok Bapurao Shelke investigated the



case. Abhang pleaded not guilty to all the charges during the trial. But medical reports, the victims' belongings and a statement made by a friend in whom Abhang had confided about the crime proved vital in the case. The stolen ornaments were recovered from one of Abhang's aunts. Prosecution lawyer Dhanaji Jadhav examined 18 witnesses, not a single one of whom turned hostile.

In May 2010, Additional Sessions Judge U S Thakare held Abhang guilty under sections 302, 307, 376(e), 394 and 397 of the Indian Penal Code and awarded him the death penalty for the heinous crime. The judge praised the rape survivor as she had taken all assaults on her back to save her baby. She had suffered 19 stab wounds and was in the ICU for nine days. Her child survived. In March 2011, the Bombay High Court upheld the death sentence. But the Supreme Court commuted it to rigorous imprisonment for life. In its order dated December 11, 2012, the apex court stated, "It is a heinous and brutal crime that the accused has committed, but other relevant considerations outweigh it for the Court to state that the present case is not one that is of the rarest of rare cases."

Man forced to chant Jai Shri Ram alleges another attack despite protection order, Bombay HC seeks police response

GNS News Agency, June 29

A man ordered to be given police protection by the Bombay High Court after he was allegedly beaten up and made to chant Jai Shri Ram by right-wing activists has informed the court that two days after its order, he was attacked again and his car vandalised. On June 12 the high court sought the police's response to the man's claim by the next date of hearing, June 26.

According to Asif Ahmed Shaikh, a 37-year-old Chembur resident, he was returning from Kankavli in Sindhudurg district to Mumbai on a train along with his wife and daughter on January 19, when "30 to 40 students" travelling in the same compartment asked others to chant Jai Shri Ram. A 26-second video went viral on social media showing a mob beating up Asif asking him to say Jai Shri Ram. A woman was seen trying to save him and a child was heard crying. Asif filed a police complaint against the group the same day at the Panvel railway station. In April, Asif and his wife filed a petition in the high court against officers of the Kankavli and Panvel police stations as well as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in Panvel with respect to the investigation into the January 19 attack and an incident that took place on January 25.

As per the petition, on January 25, Asif was beaten by around 30 people at the Kankavli police station when he and his wife were detained for three-four hours over an FIR registered allegedly at the behest of a politician. The assailants allegedly told him to withdraw his police complaint. On April 16, a division bench led by Justice Revati Mohite-Dere directed the Sindhudurg superintendent of police to preserve CCTV footage from the Kankavli police station from 12 noon to 4 pm on January 25 and that efforts be made to retrieve the footage if it is not available.

No govt should overlook terrorism threat emanating from its territory for political gains: Indian envoy on Kanishka bombing anniversary

GNS News Agency, June 29

On the 39th anniversary of the Kanishka Air India bombing that killed 329, the Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma said in Ottawa that India is still awaiting "desired and full justice", and that "no government should overlook the threat of terrorism emanating from its territory for political gains".

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa and the consulates of India in Toronto and Vancouver organised memorial services Sunday and solemnly remembered the victims of the "dastardly act of terror" in 1985. "All terrorist activities should be met with exemplary legal and social actions, before they start harming the larger humanity," said Verma, who led the memorial at the Air India Flight 182 monument at Commissioner's Park, Dow's Lake. "The Kanishka bombing was a heinously planned cowardly attack carried out by individuals with a twisted ideology, aimed at striking fear and demonstrating power through violence," Verma said.

Reaffirming "Canada's determination to fight against violent extremism", Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a statement said that the attack "reminds us of the senseless violence that terrorism perpetuates and of our shared responsibility to unequivocally condemn terrorism." In the statement, which did not mention any perpetrator of the terrorist attack, Trudeau explained how Canada is "doing its part to counter terrorism and violent extremism", which included updating the Counter-Terrorism Strategy and providing "funding to organisations that help improve our understanding of violent extremism and our capacity to prevent these acts of violence." On June 23, 1985, the Montreal-New Delhi Air India 'Kanishka' Flight 182 exploded above the Atlantic Ocean 45 minutes before it was to have landed at the Heathrow Airport. At another memorial in Ontario province, India's Consul General in Toronto, Siddhartha Nath, met the families of the victims and highlighted the importance of "unified global efforts to combat terrorism and standing firm against its glorification." A day earlier, recalling the incident, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said that the inci-



On the 39th anniversary of the Kanishka Air India bombing that killed 329, the Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma said in Ottawa that India is still awaiting "desired and full justice", and that "no government should overlook the threat of terrorism emanating from its territory for political gains".

dent is a reminder why terrorism should not be tolerated. Meanwhile, Canadian High Commissioner to India, Cameron MacKay, said on X, "Canadians lowered flags on the 39th anniversary of the 1985 bombing of Air India's 'Kanishka' flight. The attack was planned in Canada and took 329 lives, including 280 Canadians. This anniversary reminds us of the need to counter terrorism and violent extremism at home and globally," he said on X. In a statement, the Canadian police said the investigation into the bombing remains "active and ongoing." Last week, the Canadian Parliament observed silence in honour of Nijjar, who was assassinated in Surrey, British Columbia, a year ago. The circumstances surrounding Nijjar's death have strained bilateral relations between the two nations, with Trudeau alleging India's involvement in the killing.

Suchana Seth wrote note on tissue paper found with son's body, forensic report confirms

GNS News Agency, June 29

Suchana and her son checked into Hotel Sol Banyan Grande in North Goa's Candolim on the night of January 6. She had the room booked till January 10, but cut her trip short, informing the hotel staff on January 7 night that she wanted to check-out due to "urgent work" in Bengaluru. (PTI Photo/File) Suchana and her son checked into Hotel Sol Banyan Grande in North Goa's Candolim on the night of January 6. She had the room booked till January 10, but cut her trip short, informing the hotel staff on January 7 night that she wanted to check-out due to "urgent work" in Bengaluru. Over two months after the Goa Police filed a chargesheet against a Bengaluru tech firm CEO, Suchana Seth, in connection with the murder of her four-year-old son, forensic experts claim to have confirmed that the handwritten note - recovered from inside a trolley bag that contained her son's body - was written by her.

According to police sources, a recent report from the Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL) shows that Suchana's handwriting specimen matched the handwriting in the note. The note, attached to the police chargesheet in the case, was allegedly written in black ink on crumpled and torn pieces of tissue paper and referred to the custody battle between Suchana and her estranged husband Venkatraman PR. The note indicated Suchana not wanting to let the child visit his father. "The FSL report confirms that the note was written by her. The note is a crucial piece of evidence to establish motive," said a police officer, requesting anonymity. Suchana and her son checked into Hotel Sol Banyan Grande in North Goa's Candolim on the night of January 6. She had the room booked till January 10, but cut her trip short, informing the hotel staff on January 7 night that she wanted to check-out due to "urgent work" in Bengaluru. The next day, she was detained from Karnataka's Chitradurga district while allegedly trying to flee in a cab with her son's body stuffed in a trolley bag. According to police sources,



a recent report of the medical examination conducted by doctors at The Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour, at the Goa Medical College, had declared Suchana "fit to stand trial". In March, the Children's Court had allowed her father's plea for a re-evaluation of her mental state and for another medical examination to be conducted. This was after police, in an earlier medical examination report filed in February, had said that "serial mental health examinations of the accused did not reveal any case of psychopathology" and "her judgment was intact and she gave rational answers in her assessments". The chargesheet filed in April states that the four-year-old child died as a result of "shock and respiratory asphyxia" caused by "strangulation".

The chargesheet also said that, in January 2022, Suchana told her husband she wanted a divorce and subsequently filed a petition against him in a court in Bengaluru. She also filed a case in a family court in Bengaluru under the Guardians and Wards Act and obtained an ex-parte order in August 2022 prohibiting her husband from taking custody of his son from her. The chargesheet noted that in subsequent proceedings, the court began to reinstate Venkatraman's access to his son, "but the accused (Suchana) was not allowing him to meet his son giving one or other excuses".

BJD tried to lure me with ministerial berth, mining lease: Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi

GNS News Agency, June 29

Accusing the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which was in power in Odisha before its loss to the BJP in the recent Assembly elections, of trying to lure him to the party with offers of a ministerial berth and lease of a mineral block, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Sunday that he was "not for sale". "Three years ago, when I was fighting for Odisha against the (then) BJD government, it was scared of Mohan Majhi. When I sharpened the attack on the BJD regime in the Assembly, people who called themselves the CM's slave tried to facilitate my entry into BJD camp ahead of 2024 polls," he said at a public meeting in Keonjhar. After assuming charge as Chief Minister, Majhi is on his maiden trip to his constituency, Keonjhar, in the mineral-rich district of the same name.

Majhi, however, did not mention the name of anyone in the BJD. He said the people he referred to "once told me that I would get whatever I want if I would join BJD. They tried to lure me. What's their condition today?" Saying that the BJD had made similar offers to him in 2009, 2014 and 2024, the Majhi said he was not a bikau (someone who is for sale) but a tikau (someone who stays firm). "Mohan Majhi is not meant only for ministerial berth, but he has the capacity to lead the state. With



your blessings, you have made me the Chief Minister of Odisha. You have given me all responsibilities. You have given me the responsibility to manage all the mining blocks in the state," said Majhi. Accusing the BJD government of looting the mineral resources of the state, Majhi said people have given him the responsibility to form a new Odisha and to change the fortunes of Odisha. The CM, who is on a two-day visit to his constituency, is scheduled to hold a roadshow in his native village Raikala on Monday.

'Graduation' after 60 kills: Rewilding rescued tigers at MP 'school'



GNS News Agency, June 29

The students are orphaned tigers who have been rescued and are being trained at the Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh to be released into the wild again. Since its inception in 2005, the Kanha Tiger Reserve has successfully rewilded a dozen tigers, setting a benchmark. Before this, orphaned tigers would typically end up in zoos. Currently undergoing training there is a batch of four tigers rescued from Seoni and Bhopal districts. All four were found under similar circumstances - waiting for their mothers near lakes. In all cases, they were surrounded by village residents who were teasing them. In one case, the villagers threw stones. The four tigers include two siblings - both four months old - from Bhopal. Their mother died fighting a male tiger in the jungles of Reatapani. The two others are unrelated, but are from Seoni. One is now two-and-a-half years old and the other 20 months. Their mothers did not turn up as they waited at the lake. Wildlife officials rescued the tigers by luring them into a cage using a goat as bait. At the reserve, the younger three tigers share a 2,000-square-foot predator-proof enclosure. The older one has been moved into a larger enclosure. They now spend their days lazing around and hunting small animals.

Wildlife officials watch from a distance, noting each kill. Once a tiger racks up a kill count of 60 chitals (spotted deer) it can "graduate" and be released into the wild. "The two senior-most tigers are showing positive signals, and they are able to avoid humans. All the cubs are now able to hunt chickens on their own. They are slowly moving to goats. The cubs are doing well - they are able to kill in 20 seconds," Kanha National Park Field Director S K Singh told. The first tiger rewilding project at the reserve began in 2005. Officials first built a large in-situ enclosure in the tiger reserve. The enclosure holds a small number of chital that can be driven into an inner enclosure for predation by tigers. CCTV cameras were also installed to record activities and minimise human imprinting on the tigers.

Kanha veterinarian Dr Sandeep Aggarwal knows

each tiger that graduated from the enclosure. "Most of the rewilded tigers are still alive. There was a case of two tigers, however, who did not make it - one died in a fight with other tigers and the other one went missing," he said. It is essential none of the tigers get accustomed to human touch.

From the time the cubs are 20-22 days old, they are fed milk, eggs, and mashed meat by park officials for two months. At the age of three-four months, live predation begins in the enclosures. "The cubs first learn to hunt chickens. At around six-eight months, they begin hunting goats, and in 15 months, they are moved to a larger enclosure where they hunt chitals. There are times when the tiger is unable to hunt properly and we intervene, putting it back to hunting goats till it develops its own hunting skills," Aggarwal said. A tiger is rewilded after spending around two-and-a-half years in the enclosure. It is then monitored with the help of a radio collar for another year. Once it is accustomed to its new setting, the collar is removed. According to Aggarwal, young cubs have the highest chance of being rewilded. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) now heavily relies on Kanha's rewilding expertise while developing its standard operating procedures for tiger rewilding, according to Field Director Singh.

Meta AI launches in India on WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram

GNS News Agency, June 29

New Delhi: Tech giant Meta on Monday announced the availability of its artificial intelligence (AI) assistant in India on WhatsApp, Facebook, Messenger, Instagram and meta.ai - that is built with the latest 'Llama 3' large language model (LLM). Millions of users in the country can apply Meta AI in feed, chats and more across the apps to get things done, create content, and deep dive on topics, without having to leave the app they are using, the company said in a statement. "It's starting to roll out in India in English. You can use Meta AI on WhatsApp, Facebook, Messenger, and Instagram to get things done, learn, create and connect with the things that matter to you," said Meta. The company first announced Meta AI at last year's 'Connect' event. The users in India can ask Meta AI in WhatsApp group chat to recommend restaurants with great views and vegan options for you and your friends to consider. "Ask Meta AI to give you ideas of places to stop on a road trip. Cramming for a test? Ask Meta AI on the web to create you a multiple choice test," said the company.

Opposition MPs unite over NEET row, target Modi-led NDA govt. Who said what



GNS News Agency, June 29

Many opposition lawmakers, who took oath on Monday as members of the 18th Lok Sabha, targeted the BJP-led NDA alliance over the paper leaks, demanding an investigation by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The MPs said that the central government needs to find a permanent solution to the issue of paper leaks, especially since unemployment is rising and many vacancies remain unfilled. "Paper leak is a serious issue. The youth of the country are being deceived. Whenever an exam is scheduled, it either gets postponed or the paper is leaked, leading to great disappointment among the youth. The government needs to find a permanent solution to this problem," Samajwadi Party MP Iqra Hasan told PTI. Iqra who has been elected from Kairana constituency in Uttar Pradesh also said, "All opposition MPs will raise their voices to ensure transparency and accountability. With India's unemployment rate on the rise, the government must prioritise filling vacancies," she added. Samajwadi Party MP from Muzaffarnagar, Harendra Malik said, "Papers for various examinations are being leaked across the country, and it is unfortunate

that the government has failed to address this issue. We feel helpless regarding the issue of NEET. Youth represent the future of any country, and you (government) are jeopardizing their future." Opposition collectively will raise the NEET issue in Parliament. We will demand a JPC as opposition is strong in the Lok Sabha. Without initiating an investigation, the government has removed NTA DG. Opposition is strong and we will continue our fight against paper leaks. Rahul Gandhi has rightly said that they will not allow attack on the Constitution," says Purnea MP Pappu Yadav.

DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi said the credibility of exams itself held by the Union government has become a big question and Tamil Nadu has been always saying that there are many issues with NEET examination. "It is always benefiting the rich kids, who can afford to go for coaching classes. It is against social justice. Now students from across the country are understanding that NEET is an examination of elimination," said Kanimozhi. On Sunday, only 813 or 52% of the 1,563 candidates who were initially awarded grace marks in the National Eligibility Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) before they were withdrawn last week appeared for a retest, the National Testing Agency (NTA) said in its statement. On June 13, the Centre informed the Supreme Court of its intention to revoke the scorecards issued to 1,563 students. It proposed that these students could either take a fresh exam or keep their original scores without the additional grace marks. The controversy surrounding the medical exam has ignited widespread protests across India. Thousands of students have taken to the streets in opposition to this year's examination process, while political parties are demanding the cancellation of the exam and a Supreme Court-monitored investigation into the alleged paper leaks.

MLA says she wrote to Guv of her wish to take oath before Speaker

GNS News Agency, June 29

Kolkata, Adding a fresh twist to the latest TMC-Governor flashpoint, newly elected Trinamool legislator Sayantika Banerjee met West Bengal Speaker Biman Banerjee on Monday and announced her intention to take oath in the Assembly instead of the Raj Bhavan, as asked by Governor CV Ananda Bose. Banerjee, who was elected MLA in the Baranagar by-polls which coincided with the Lok Sabha elections, later told reporters that she has shot off a letter to Raj Bhavan stating her intentions to skip the Governor-mandated oath.

The latest faceoff between the Bengal Governor and the state's ruling TMC was triggered by a Raj Bhavan communication inviting two newly elected MLAs of Bhagawangola and Baranagar, Reyat Hossain Sarkar and Banerjee respectively, to be present on July 26 for their swearing-in ceremony. The act, the TMC alleged, was in defiance of the custom of the Governor assigning the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the House to do the needful in cases of by-poll winners. The Raj Bhavan letter also reportedly has no mention of who would administer the oath to the new MLAs. "More than two weeks have passed since I have been elected and I only have a year and a half left to work for the people of my constituency. This complication over swearing-in is hampering my job as a legislator. I have, hence, written to the Governor requesting him to allow me to take oath before the Assembly Speaker since this is the place I will be working from," Banerjee said. State minister Firhad Hakim who accompanied Banerjee during her meeting with the Speaker related how he was himself administered oath by erstwhile Speaker Hasim Abdul Halim when he first won an Assembly by-poll back in 2009. "By doing such things this Governor is repeatedly trying to curb the rights of the Speaker who is the custodian of the Assembly. The Governor is betraying the people by stopping the oath of a representative who is elected by the people, unlike him



who holds a Centre-nominated chair. He is thwarting the rules and conventions of the Assembly where all members are under the custody of the Speaker. Who is he trying to satisfy?" Hakim lashed out. He said, "The members can't serve people until they take their oath. Who is the Governor to stop this process? Can the Governor go against the people's verdict? Why is he creating such unnecessary drama without rhyme or reason?" Calling the swearing-in of MLAs a "Constitutional convention", Speaker Biman Banerjee said he considered it a "misfortune" to witness such developments in current times.

"If the Governor is so keen to administer oaths, let him come to the Assembly and hold that ceremony. We will make all necessary arrangements," he said. The Speaker said he wasn't aware of any instance where an MP who won a by-poll was sworn in by the President of India. "The new Lok Sabha began its business today and we witnessed the Protem Speaker administering oaths to the newly elected MPs. The President was nowhere in the picture today," he said. This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

AAP ministers write to PM Narendra Modi on Delhi water crisis as Atishi's strike continues

GNS News Agency, June 29

Ministers in the AAP-led Delhi government wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to resolve the water crisis in the city, said Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai on Monday. "The total water supply in Delhi is 1,005 MGD. Out of this, a huge chunk of 613 MGD comes from Haryana. For the last many weeks, there has been a decline in water coming from Haryana," the letter read.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi ministers Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Kailash Gahlot and Imran Hussain said that Atishi's health is deteriorating due to the hunger strike. Delhi water minister Atishi is on a hunger strike, which has entered its fourth day, to protest against the alleged decline in water supply from Haryana. Atishi earlier claimed that her health, with elevated ketone levels in her body, has taken a serious hit. She also said that her blood pressure, sugar levels, and body weight have been on a decline, reported ANI. The decision to write a letter to the PM by the minister was taken during a meeting at the hunger strike site at Jangpura's Bhogal, reported ANI. The ministers have demanded Delhi's "rightful share" of water, which has allegedly been denied to them despite the heatwave conditions, reported PTI. The Delhi ministers claim that they have been getting 100 MGD units of less water for the past several days. The letter pointed out that around 28 lakh people are not getting water due to the deficit of 100 MGD units of water, reported At the press conference,



Rai said they would ask the LG to visit Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant and analyse the situation. On Sunday, 10 AAP leaders met the LG over the water crisis. According to Rai, the LG said that Haryana is providing sufficient water, reported Despite an increase in the Delhi population over 30 years, Rai said, the amount of water supplied still remains the same. The minister has also announced a candlelight march to be carried out in favour of Atishi's indefinite fast on Monday at 8 pm. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva criticised the AAP government by describing the fast as an "air-conditioned hunger strike" with a clear intent to end soon. Responding to Rai's claims about the Wazirabad treatment plant, Sachdeva said that silt which is abundant in the area is responsible for Yamuna water flowing away.

BJP chief JP Nadra replaces Piyush Goyal as Leader of House in Rajya Sabha

GNS News Agency, June 29

BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadra has named the Leader of House in Rajya Sabha, replacing Union minister Piyush Goyal who has entered the 18th Lok Sabha from North Mumbai seat. JP Nadra was among the 41 candidates who were elected unopposed to the upper house in February earlier this year. Apart from Nadra, BJP nominated only three members - Ashwini Vaishnav, L Murugan and party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi - for a second term in the latest round

of Rajya Sabha elections. The BJP chief has been allocated the ministry of health and family welfare in the new NDA government. Besides Nadra, there are 11 members of the Upper House who are in the Union Council of Ministers. Congratulating Nadra, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh urged him to accommodate the views of the opposition in the House. "Greetings to J P Nadra ji on his being nominated as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.

'Gimmicks': Kumaraswamy slams Congress MPs for carrying Constitution copies



GNS News Agency, June 29

Union minister and former Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy on Monday slammed Congress MPs for carrying copies of the Constitution to the Parliament, calling it a "gimmick." The Union minister came out in defence of PM Narendra Modi's remarks on Emergency saying, "He is right. He remembered what happened at that time."

BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai also supported PM Modi's remarks on Emergency and said, "Certainly, it's a black mark in the annals of democracy of this country... They had really twisted and turned the Constitution. Now, the Congress leaders are holding the Constitution in their

hands. It is the very Constitution that they murdered. They are holding the piece of the Constitution which they murdered on 25th June 1975... They (Congress) reminded the people that these are the people who murdered democracy... They don't have the right to talk about democracy and Constitution of the country." While addressing mediapersons ahead of the start of the Parliament Session, PM Modi reminded the Congress party of the Emergency imposed in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. PM Modi assured that a resolution will be taken for a vibrant democracy aimed at fulfilling the dreams of the common people.

"Tomorrow is 25th June. 25th June marks 50 years of the blot that was put on the democracy of India. The new generation of India will never forget that the Constitution of India was completely rejected, every part of the Constitution was torn to pieces, the country was turned into a prison, and democracy was completely suppressed," said PM Modi. "While protecting our Constitution, while protecting the democracy of India and the democratic traditions, the countrymen will take a resolution that no one will dare to do such a thing in India again, which was done 50 years ago. We will take a resolution of a vibrant democracy. We will take a resolution to fulfil the dreams of the common people as per the directions of the Constitution of India," he added.

'How long you plan to rule by...?': Kharge jabs PM Narendra Modi for raking up 'Emergency'

GNS News Agency, June 29

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge responded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Emergency remarks on Monday, asking how long the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wants to rule by talking about it. "He will say this 100 times. Without declaring an Emergency, you are doing this. How long do you want to rule by talking about this?" Kharge was quoted as saying by ANI. Follow LIVE updates of the Parliament Session. Earlier today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the Emergency while addressing media persons outside the new Parliament building before taking oath as an MP.

Recalling the 21-month period of Emergency that was implemented during Indira Gandhi's rule, Modi said the new generation of India will never forget that time when the country was turned into a prison, adding that they will take a resolution of a vibrant democracy so that no one will dare to do such a thing in India again. "Tomorrow is 25th June. 25th June marks 50 years since the blot that was put on the democracy of India. The new generation of India will never forget that the Constitution of India was completely rejected, every part of the Constitution was torn to pieces, the country was turned into a prison, and democracy was completely suppressed," he said. Later, Kharge, in a separate tweet, said that Prime Minister Modi was reminding the public about the 50-year-old Emergency, but have forgotten the last 10 years of "undeclared Emergency." "You are reminding



us of the 50-year-old Emergency, but have forgotten the last 10 years of Undeclared Emergency, which was ended by the people," Kharge wrote on X. "People have given their mandate against Modi ji. Despite this, if he has become the Prime Minister, then he should work... People need substance, not slogans" - remember this yourself. "Kharge said Modi made a longer than usual customary address "but clearly, even after the moral and political defeat, the arrogance remains". "He will show some sympathy towards the youth regarding the paper leak in NEET and other recruitment examinations, but he did not take any responsibility for the massive rigging and corruption of his government," Kharge said.

Man accused of assaulting minor boys gets bail as HC rules out sexual intent

GNS News Agency, June 29

Mumbai, The Bombay High Court has granted bail to a 33-year-old man accused of assaulting three minor boys on their private parts on suspicion of being thieves, noting that there was no sexual intent involved in the case. A single bench of Justice Anil Kilor, in an order dated June 21 and made available on Monday, granted bail to Kapil Taak. The court noted that the case pertained solely to physical and mental torture.

Taak was arrested in 2021 on charges of unnatural offence, assault, and criminal intimidation under the Indian Penal Code, as well as for sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Taak and the other accused allegedly stripped the three teenage boys, assaulted them with leather belts, inserted fingers into their anus, and applied balm to their private parts. Taak is also accused of filming the incident on a mobile phone. "After going through the FIR and the allegations made in the FIR against the applicant, prima facie nothing is brought on record to show that there was any sexual intent," the bench stated. The bench emphasised that the case involved "physical and mental torture meted out to the minor victims" as Taak and the other accused believed the victims were thieves. Taak's advocate Sana Khan argued that the provisions of the POCSOA would not apply in this case as there was no sexual intent. She pointed out that Taak had been lan-



guishing in jail since 2021, and a chargesheet in the case has already been filed. The complaint against Taak and others was lodged by the mother of one of the minor victims in April 2022 after she noticed some people watching a video where some minor boys were being assaulted and abused in their private parts. The woman identified one of the boys as her son. As per the complaint, the accused persons had forced the boys to accompany them from a local market and taken them to a secluded spot where they were assaulted. This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

Mahua Moitra's 'warriors are back' post with women MPs as 18th Lok Sabha session begins

GNS News Agency, June 29

The 18th Lok Sabha session began on Monday with PM Modi and other Cabinet ministers taking oath as members of Parliament, while the Opposition held protests. Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Monday posted 2019 vs 2024 pictures with some of the Opposition women Lok Sabha MPs as the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha began today. The throwback picture from 2019 includes MPs Moitra, Kanimozhi, Supriya Sule, Jothimani, and Thamizhachi Thangapandian, sitting on a bench in the lower house of the Parliament, while the latest picture includes new Lok Sabha MP Dimple Yadav.

While Moitra represents the Krishnanagar constituency in West Bengal, Kanimozhi represents Tamil Nadu's Thoothukkudi seat. The other MPs - Supriya Sule, Jothimani, Thamizhachi Thangapandian, and Dimple Yadav represent Maharashtra's Baramati constituency, Tamil Nadu's Karur seat, Chennai South seat, and Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri seat respectively. A total of 74 women have won the Lok Sabha elections, a slight dip from 78 elected in 2019. Out of the total women MPs elected to the lower house, West Bengal is leading with 11 female MPs.

The 18th Lok Sabha session began on Monday with

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Cabinet ministers taking oath as members of the Parliament. On the other hand, the Opposition created an uproar over several issues, including the appointment of BJP leader Bhartruhari Mahtab as the pro-tem Speaker, the alleged irregularities in the NEET UG-2024 examination, and the relocation of statutes within the Parliament building complex. As the session began, several leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc staged a protest in front of the Gandhi statue in the Parliament, holding copies of the Constitution - a video of which was posted by Congress leader K C Venugopal on X. In the video, Congress Parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, party leader Rahul Gandhi, and TMC leader Mahua Moitra were seen protesting. The leaders held the Constitution copies in their hands and raised slogans like -- "Our Constitution long live, long live" and "Who will save the Constitution? We will, we will". According to the Opposition, the appointment of Mahtab by the BJP deviates from the traditional practice of appointing the senior member. Meanwhile, ahead of the Lok Sabha session, PM Modi sent a stern message to the Opposition, saying the people of the country expect "debate and diligence" from members of the parliament, not "disturbance."

Britain's Princess Anne hospitalised with minor injuries after an 'incident'



well-wishes to The Princess for a speedy recovery."The 73-year-old royal family member had been walking on the grounds of Gatscombe Park estate where her home is located when she suffered minor injuries to her head, reported Reuters quoting a royal source. The source added that there were horses in the vicinity and her medical team said the head injuries were consistent with impact from a horse's head or legs. Born at Clarence House, London, Princess Anne was the second child and only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

An accomplished equestrian, Princess Anne began competing in horse riding events at a young age. In 1971, she won the individual title at the European Eventing Championship, and in 1976, she became the first member of the British Royal Family to compete in the Olympic Games, participating in the Montreal Olympics as a member of the British equestrian team. Anne married Captain Mark Phillips in 1973, and the couple had two children, Peter Phillips and Zara Tindall. But she chose to forgo royal titles for her children, aiming to give them a more grounded upbringing and simpler childhood. After her divorce from Mark Phillips in 1992, Anne married Vice-Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence later that year. The couple resides at Gatcombe Park in Gloucestershire, a country estate that also serves as a centre for equestrian events.

Britain's Princess Anne sustained minor injuries and a concussion following an incident on the Gatscombe Park estate on Sunday evening, Buckingham Palace said. Princess Anne, also known as Princess Royal, is currently in Southmead Hospital, Bristol, where she is being kept under observation as a precautionary measure, the Palace added. "Her Royal Highness remains in Southmead Hospital, Bristol, as a precautionary measure for observation and is expected to make a full and swift recovery," it said.

"The King has been kept closely informed and joins the whole Royal Family in sending his fondest love and

Elon Musk slams 'secretly' fathering baby no. 12 with Neuralink's Shivon Zilia: 'All our friends and family know'

GNS News Agency, June 29

Elon Musk welcomed a new baby to his ever-expanding family earlier this year. Sharing his reportedly 12th child, third with Neuralink Corp.'s director of special projects Shivon Zilis, the 52-year-old discreetly added the youngest member of his family. The Tesla founder has yet to announce the name and sex of his newborn, who's been kept out of the spotlight thus far. Despite overarching narratives swirling around the birth of his youngest child, Musk finally addressed that the baby's addition to the family was no "secret." "Elon Musk speaks out about 'secretly' fathering his latest newborn The X Corp. owner told Page Six, "Failure to issue a press release, which would be bizarre, does not mean 'secret'." "As for 'secretly fathered,' that is also false," he confirmed in a statement. "All our friends and family know." The Tesla mogul shares twins Strider and Azure with the Neuralink billionaire. This isn't the first time the birth of a Musk child has been shielded behind privacy. Although he's publicly known to be a father to 11 kids, he hasn't officially outed the total number of his children. Exploring Elon Musk's ever-expanding family and in addition to being a father to Strider, Azure and the youngest newborn, the billionaire also shares three kids - Exa Dark Sideræl (nicknamed Y), Techno Mechanicus and X - with musician Grimes, and five children - twins Griffin and Vivian, and triplets Kai, Saxon and Damian - with former wife Justine Wilson. He also welcomed his firstborn child, Nevada Alexander, with Wilson in 2002. However, the baby, unfortunately, died at ten weeks of sudden infant



death syndrome (SIDS). Reports of his third child's birth hit the Internet days after Wall Street Journal insinuated that the SpaceX co-founder was involved in an illicit relationship with a woman at the company seeking to revolutionise space technology. A former female staff member said the billionaire often nudged her to have children with him.

Bloomberg first broke the report of Musk's latest child in an article titled "Elon Wants You to Have More Babies." The supposed father of 11 has avidly commented on falling birth rates. In an August 2022 tweet, he again voiced his outspoken concerns about the "collapsing" population. "Population collapse due to low birth rates is a much bigger risk to civilization than global warming." He further sub-tweeted, "Mark these words... (And I do think global warming is a major risk)."

Macron's ministers fear Far Right's poll success stoking civil unrest in France



GNS News Agency, June 29

Macron's Interior & Finance ministers fear expressed worry that Far-right's poll success in French polity and a polarised society could lead to civil unrest. France could face civil disorder and violence connected to snap parliamentary elections in which the far-right looks poised to win the largest share of the vote, two ministers from President Emmanuel Macron's centrist government said on Monday.

Marine Le Pen's nationalist, anti-immigrant Rassemblement National (RN) came first in European Union elections two weeks ago, prompting Macron to dissolve parliament and call elections that will take place just before the start of the Paris Olympics on July 26. The interior and finance ministers expressed worry on Monday that the far-right's success and the polarisation in French politics and society could lead to a surge in civil unrest. "I fear for order, for relations between citizens, for serenity, for civil peace," Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on France Info radio. "I don't see the RN as a factor of stability and peace. I see it as a factor of disorder and violence," he said. RN leader Jordan Bardella, who could be prime minister if the RN wins the election - with Macron staying on as president in a power-sharing arrangement - disputed at a press conference the assertion that the RN could be a factor of disorder. Opinion polls suggest the RN has the most support ahead of the first round of voting on June 30, with a new alliance of left-wing parties, the New Popular Front (NFP), in second place and Macron's centrist Together group in third. A run-off will take place on July 7. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin warned of the potential for "extremely strong tensions." He told RTL radio that this was a concern not just for the election period, but also for the autumn return to work after the August summer break.

EMPOWERING XENOPHOBES? The RN, whose forerunner the National Front was long a pariah in French politics due to the openly antisemitic views of its founder Jean-Marie Le Pen, has tried hard to detoxify its brand under the leadership of his daughter Marine Le Pen. But its opponents say their concerns are not only about the party itself but also the attitude of some of its more fringe supporters. France's openly gay prime minister, Gabriel Attal, who is leading the centrist camp's campaign, said last week that he feared xenophobes of all stripes would feel empowered by an RN win. Attal cited media reports of a suspect in a homophobic attack telling police that he

was looking forward to a far-right victory because it would make it easier to assault gay people. "You see a form of hate that would be liberated, authorised in a way," Attal told reporters. Britain experienced a surge in hate crime against Poles, Muslims and other minorities after a majority of citizens voted to leave the European Union in a 2016 referendum, partly driven by a desire to curb immigration. France itself has a history of riots and violent street protests rooted in social divides. The fatal police shooting of a teenage boy of Algerian descent triggered days of nationwide rioting last summer. This story has been published from a wire agency feed without modifications to the text. Only the headline has been changed.

Chinese hackers step up attacks on Taiwanese companies, warns cybersecurity firm

Hong Kong: A suspected Chinese state-sponsored hacking group has stepped up its targeting of Taiwanese organisations, particularly those in sectors such as government, education, technology and diplomacy, according to cybersecurity intelligence company Recorded Future. In recent years, relations between China and Taiwan, a self-governed island across the Taiwan Strait that Beijing claims as its territory, have deteriorated. The cyberattacks by the group known as RedJuliatt were observed between November 2023 and April 2024, during the lead up to Taiwan's presidential elections in January and the subsequent change in administration. RedJuliatt has targeted Taiwanese organisations in the past, but this is the first time that activity was seen at such a scale, a Recorded Future analyst said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The report said RedJuliatt attacked 24 organisations, including government agencies in places like Laos, Kenya and Rwanda, as well as Taiwan. It also hacked into websites of religious organisations in Hong Kong and South Korea, a US university and a Djiboutian university. The report did not identify the organisations. Recorded Future said RedJuliatt accessed the servers of those places via a vulnerability in their SoftEther enterprise virtual private network (VPN) software, an open-source VPN that allows remote connections to an organization's networks. RedJuliatt has been observed attempting to break into systems of more than 70 Taiwanese organisations including three universities, an optoelectronics company and a facial recognition company that has contracts with the government. It was unclear if RedJuliatt managed to break into those organisations. Recorded Future only said it observed the attempts to identify vulnerabilities in their networks. RedJuliatt's hacking patterns match those of Chinese state-sponsored groups, according to Recorded Future. It said that based on the geolocations of IP addresses, RedJuliatt is likely based out of the city of Fuzhou, in China's southern Fujian province, whose coast faces Taiwan.

Netanyahu not willing to end Gaza war, ready to make partial truce deal



GNS News Agency, June 29

Tel Aviv: The viability of a US-backed proposal to wind down the eight-month war in Gaza was cast into doubt on Monday after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would only be willing to agree to a "partial" ceasefire deal that would not end the war, comments that sparked an uproar from families of hostages held by Hamas. In an interview broadcast late on Sunday on Israeli Channel 14, a conservative, pro-Netanyahu station, the Israeli leader said he was "prepared to make a partial deal — this is no secret — that will return to us some of the people," referring to the roughly 120 hostages still held in the Gaza Strip. "But we are committed to continuing the war after a pause, in order to complete the goal of eliminating Hamas. I'm not willing to give up on that."

Netanyahu's comments did not deviate dramatically from what he has said previously about his terms for a deal. But they come at a sensitive time as Israel and Hamas appear to be moving further apart over the latest ceasefire proposal, and they could represent another setback for mediators trying to end the war. His comments stood in sharp contrast to the outlines of the deal detailed late last month by US President Joe Biden, who framed the plan as an Israeli one and which some in Israel refer to as "Netanyahu's deal". His remarks could further strain Israel's ties to the US, its top ally, which launched a major diplomatic push for the latest ceasefire proposal.

The three-phased plan would bring about the release of the remaining hostages in exchange for hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. But disputes and mistrust persist between Israel and Hamas over how the deal plays out. Hamas has insisted it will not release the remaining hostages unless there's a permanent ceasefire and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. When Biden announced the latest proposal last month, he said it included both. But Netanyahu says Israel is still

committed to destroying Hamas' military and governing capabilities, and ensuring it can never again carry out an Oct 7-style assault. A full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, where Hamas' top leadership and much of its forces are still intact, would almost certainly leave the group in control of the territory and able to rearm. In the interview, Netanyahu said the current phase of fighting is ending, but that didn't mean the war was over.

During the initial six-week phase, the sides are supposed to negotiate an agreement on the second phase, which Biden said would include the release of all remaining living hostages, including male soldiers, and Israel's full withdrawal from Gaza. The temporary ceasefire would become permanent. Hamas appears concerned that Israel will resume the war once its most vulnerable hostages are returned. And even if it doesn't, Israel could make demands in that stage of negotiations that were not part of the initial deal and are unacceptable to Hamas — and then resume the war when Hamas refuses them.

Netanyahu's remarks reinforced that concern. After they were aired, Hamas said they represented "unmistakable confirmation of his rejection" of the US-supported deal, which also received the backing of the United Nations' Security Council. In a statement late on Sunday after Netanyahu's lengthy TV interview, the Palestinian militant group said his position was "in contrast" to what the US administration said that Israel had approved. The group said its insistence that any deal should include a permanent ceasefire and the withdrawal of all Israeli forces out of the entire Gaza Strip "was an inevitable necessity to block Netanyahu's attempts of evasion, deception, and perpetuation of aggression and the war of extermination against our people".

Netanyahu shot back and in a statement from his office said Hamas opposed a deal. He said Israel would not withdraw from Gaza until all 120 hostages are returned. Hamas welcomed the broad outline of the US plan but proposed what it said were "amendments". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during a visit to the region earlier this month, said some of Hamas' demands were "workable" and some were not, without elaborating. Netanyahu and Hamas both have incentives to keep the devastating war going despite the catastrophic toll it has had on civilians in Gaza and the mounting anger in Israel that after so many months Israel has not reached its aims of returning the hostages and defeating Hamas. The families of hostages have grown increasingly impatient with Netanyahu, seeing his apparent reluctance to move ahead on a deal as tainted by political considerations. A group representing the families condemned Netanyahu's remarks, which it viewed as an Israeli rejection of the latest cease-fire proposal. "This is an abandonment of the 120 hostages and a violation of the state's moral duty toward its citizens," it said, noting that it held Netanyahu responsible for returning all the captives.

India slams Canada on Air India bombing anniversary: 'Act of glorifying terrorism...'

GNS News Agency, June 29

Terming the frequent acts glorifying terrorism in Canada as "deplorable", India has said it was "unfortunate" that such actions are allowed to be "routine" on many occasions here when it should be condemned by all peace-loving countries and people. In a statement on the 39th anniversary of the 1985 Kanishka bombing, in which 329 persons, most of them Canadians of Indian descent, on board an Air India flight lost their lives, the Indian High Commission said that terrorism knows "no borders, nationality, or race".

The Montreal-New Delhi Air India 'Kanishka' Flight 182 exploded 45 minutes before it was to have landed at London's Heathrow Airport on June 23, 1985, killing all 329 people on board, including 86 children. The bombing was blamed on Sikh militants in retaliation to 'Operation Blue Star' to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in 1984. The Indian High Commission in Ottawa and the consulates of India in Toronto and Vancouver organised memorial services on Sunday and solemnly remembered the victims of the "dastardly act of terror" in 1985.

"While thirty-nine years have passed since the cowardly act, terrorism has unfortunately assumed proportions of an existential threat to international peace and security today," the Indian high commission's statement said. "Any act of glorifying terrorism, including the bombing of AI-182 in 1985, is deplorable and should be condemned by all peace-loving countries and people," it said. "It is unfortunate that such actions are allowed to be routine on many occasions in Canada," it added. Last week, India strongly objected to the Canadian parliament observing a "one-minute silence" in memory of Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in British Columbia in June last year. India also insisted on Friday that the Canadian authorities must take action against those advocating violence and carrying out an anti-India campaign in Canada. India lodged a strong protest with Canada on Thursday over Khalistani extremists holding a so-called "citizens court" and burning an effigy of the Indian prime minister outside the Indian consulate in Vancouver. Asserting that terrorism knows "no borders, nationality, or race" and it is a challenge that the international community needs to combat collectively, the Indian mission here said that over the years, India has led from the front to counter-terrorism with support from like-minded countries. Terming the Kanishka bombing "the worst ever in Canadian aviation history to date", the Indian mission said that the incident will remain an "unbearable loss" not only for the victims' families but also for humanity as a whole. "The perpetrators and the co-conspirators of this dastardly act remain free," it said.

Quoting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the statement said, "...Nor must we countenance that political convenience determines responses to terrorism, extremism and violence. Similarly, respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs cannot be exercised in cherry picking." It called the spirit of the minister's statement from his speech at the United Nations General Assembly last year the "best tribute" to the victims of Air India Flight 182 bombing. High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma on Sunday paid homage to the victims of Air India flight 182 Kanishka on the 39th anniversary of the "cowardly terrorist bombing", the High Commission in Ottawa posted on X along with a series of photographs from the event.

Family members and friends of the victims, Canadian government officials, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner, Ireland envoy and more than 150 members of the Indo-Canadian com-



munity attended the solemn occasion, the High Commission said. "India shares the sorrow and pain of the victims' near & dear ones. India stands at the forefront of countering the menace of terrorism and works closely with all nations to tackle this global threat," it said. The Indian mission in Toronto also marked the day.

"Consul General Siddhartha Nath laid a wreath at the Air India 182 memorial, Humber Park, Etobicoke, in solemn remembrance of the 329 victims of the terrorist bombing of AI 182 on this day, 39 years ago," the Consul General of India in Toronto posted on X along with a photograph. In another post on X, the mission said the Consul General also attended the memorial service held at Queen's Park Toronto for the victims and met with the bereaved families. The memorial services were held at a time when relations between Canada and India are under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd" and "motivated". India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Ottawa giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity.

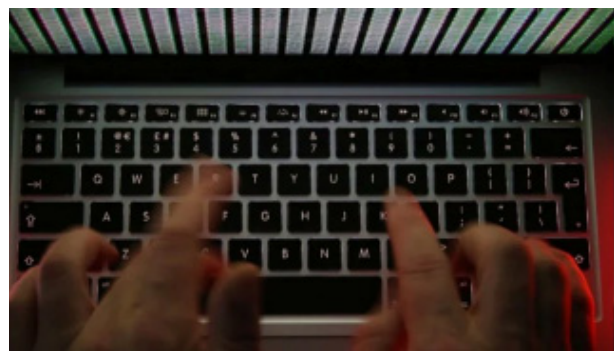
15 police officers and many civilians killed in Russia's southern Dagestan region

GNS News Agency, June 29

Moscow: More than 15 police officers and several civilians, including an Orthodox priest, were killed by armed militants in Russia's southern republic of Dagestan on Sunday, its governor Sergei Melikov said in a video statement early Monday. The gunmen opened fire on two Orthodox churches, a synagogue and a police post in two cities, according to the authorities.

Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee described the attacks in the predominantly Muslim region with a history of armed insurgency as terrorist acts. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were declared days of mourning in the region. Dagestan's Interior Ministry said a group of armed men shot at a synagogue and a church in the city of Derbent, located on the Caspian Sea. Both the church and the synagogue caught fire, according to state media. Almost simultaneously, reports appeared about an attack on a church and a traffic police post in the Dagestan capital, Makhachkala. Authorities announced a counter-terrorist operation in the region.

Cheap engg, tech talent helping India transition up the services value chain



A popular Canada-based multinational clothing company that does not yet have a store of its own in India uses data analyses done by its workers in India to tell its global teams what they should stock up on after poring through sales data. An American retail giant which has no stores in India manages its entire global inventory through offices in the country. Welcome to the home for global capability centres (GCCs). Back in the early 90s India made a name for itself at the global stage as the back office of the world. Today, more high-tech services are being exported from India, with firms offshoring tasks such as data analysis to research and development, helping fuel a new wave of services-led growth for India.

With close to 1,600 GCCs of multinational companies in various sectors, India has become to the world what China is for tech hardware. Leading companies from across sectors – modern trade, apparel, finance, consumer electronics, automobile, and shipping – have opened big headquarters in India from where they manage a number of core functions including designing, inventory and supply chain management and transportation. The movement has come on the back of some key trends: the country's large pool of engineers, availability of relatively cheap labour, low real estate and rental costs compared to other Asian destinations, and comparatively simpler labour laws which allow for longer working hours. Led by information technology (IT) giants like TCS, Infosys and Wipro, in the late 90s and early 2000s, India made a name for itself as a service-led export destination. But then, the move simply happened because of the cost arbitrage – for foreign firms, it was simply cheaper to outsource tedious grunt work to an army of IT professionals in India.

While the movement from the early business process outsourcing (BPO) days to the IT services sector boom leading up to setting up of more cutting-edge GCCs has largely been evolutionary with minimal government support, the Centre is currently discussing with the industry a new IT policy under which it aims to double the number of GCCs in the country in the next five years, The Indian Express had earlier reported. "Almost every tech-enabled enterprise has built a GCC in India – from a supermarket like Tesco digitising its operations from here to tech giants like Amazon and Samsung," said Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and IT. It has been a real transformation for India. Earlier it was a back office during Y2K led by the IT and ITeS and business process outsourcing model where the tech ecosystem was built on cost arbitrage. Now, it is because of the skilled workforce we have domestically and a shortage of such talent in the western world," Chandrasekhar

IT/ITeS policy revamp on cards to push sector's GDP share, exports

IT/ITeS policy, IT sector, Infosys, TCS and Wipro, push sector's GDP share, exports, IT Ministry, Indian express business, business news, business articles, business news stories it is worth noting, however, that as per the government's own IT policy of 2012, it had hoped that the revenue software industry would be worth \$300 billion by 2020. According to the government's current projections (\$254 billion), that does not seem to have happened. The Centre has initiated discussions with the private sector to revamp its decade-old national information technology policy with an aim to increase share of the country's burgeoning information technology (IT) sector in India's gross domestic product, The Indian Express has learnt. The sector, which comprises companies like Infosys, TCS and Wipro along with a range of new-age startups, has been a big part of India's services-led tech exports in the last two decades.

A meeting between the IT Ministry and industry bodies to seek inputs on the contours of the imminent policy, tentatively being called the National IT Policy, 2024, was held earlier this month, three sources told this paper. A senior government official said that the IT Ministry has asked the industry to share their perspective on issues like talent access, reduction in increasing costs, cybersecurity, and how India's digital public infrastructure such as Aadhaar, UPI and ONDC can be used to help the tech sector. The ministry, which is leading the dialogue with the industry, has communicated to them that it aims to expand exports of the software industry from the current \$200 billion to \$400 billion by 2030, and increase revenues of the software industry from \$254 billion at present to \$500 billion by 2030 while generating direct and indirect employment for 10 million people. The current IT policy was finalised in 2012, and the government believes there is a need for the revamp given that the country's tech ecosystem has matured in the last decade.

It is worth noting, however, that as per the government's own IT policy of 2012, it had hoped that the revenue software industry would be worth \$300 billion by 2020. According to the government's current projections (\$254 billion), that does not seem to have happened. The IT Ministry did not respond to a request for comment. The IT sector had a relative share to India's GDP of around 7 per cent in 2023-24 (FY24), according to information on the IT Ministry's website. The sector has also created large employment opportunities and is estimated to employ 5.43 million professionals, an addition of 60,000 people over FY23. Women employees account for 36 per cent share in the total industry employee base. Amid global geopolitical tensions leading to a more cautious approach for investments and delayed decision making, industry body Nasscom estimated that India's technology industry revenue (including hardware) was likely to reach \$254 billion in FY24, an addition of over \$9 billion over last year. Exports are poised to touch the \$200 billion mark, and the domestic technology sector is expected to cross \$54 billion.

"Despite the tough market conditions, the industry continues to be a net hirer, adding 60K employees, tak-

added. The activities of the GCCs are increasingly varied. For instance, since 2006, Goldman Sachs has invested over \$7 billion in India and set up global capability centres (GCCs) in Bengaluru and Hyderabad. The Bengaluru GCC powers a wide range of key banking functions like corporate cash management, liquidity management, developing rich analytics, and virtual accounts payments. In fact, the GCC is understood to have been key in the launch of a co-branded credit card in partnership with Apple in 2019, and credit solutions tied with Amazon in 2020. All major financial services companies including the likes of Visa, Morgan Stanley, American Express, and Wells Fargo, among others have large capability centres in India. Canada-based activewear company Lululemon's India GCC workers go through sales data and tell their global branches to stock up certain colours which are selling the most in their geography. American retailer Target, which does not have a store in India, from its tech centre in Bengaluru services various needs ranging from data analytics, merchandising, marketing to planograms and layouts for stores. AMD, the semiconductor giant, recently opened its biggest research and development centre in India, and for years, the country has served a massive talent pool of design engineers working for all major chip firms like Intel, Texas Instruments, Samsung and STMicroelectronics who have worked on the conceptualisation of chips that end up in things that people use everyday.

According to a 2023 report by tech industry body Nasscom and Zinnov, there were more than 1,500 GCCs in India registering a growth of over 60 per cent since 2015. A large part of these are technology centres established by companies from North America spanning sectors like modern trade, apparel, and consumer electronics. The report suggests that more than 1.6 million people were employed by these GCCs, with more than 70,000 individuals coming from smaller cities. As per estimates by global consulting firm EY, the GCC market size in India will reach \$110 billion by the year 2030. "It is predicted that by 2030, India will have 2400 GCCs and that number can potentially increase to 2550 as India emerges as the world's technology and services hub. The total number of new GCC set-ups every year can jump up to 115 (from the current 70)," EY said in a 2023 report titled 'Future of GCCs in India – a vision 2030'.

Currently, cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, and Delhi NCR remain popular sites for GCC establishments in India, but according to EY, tier-II cities are also grabbing the interest – cities such as Visakhapatnam, Jaipur, Vadodara, Kochi, Chandigarh are becoming popular for new set-ups owing to its improving infrastructure, favourable state policies, and lower real estate and talent costs. Given the competitive talent market, availability, attraction and retention of niche talent, building a pipeline of readily deployable talent with the new emerging skills, finding and nurturing talent equipped for global leadership positions, and cost arbitrage have emerged as key challenging factors facing GCCs in India, according to a report by Nasscom and KPMG released earlier this month. "Navigating these challenges, GCCs are leveraging innovative workforce strategy models, such as hire-build-scale, borrow-augment and co-create, to achieve near, medium, as well as long-term goals," the report said.



It is worth noting, however, that as per the government's own IT policy of 2012, it had hoped that the revenue software industry would be worth \$300 billion by 2020. According to the government's current projections (\$254 billion), that does not seem to have happened. The IT Ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

ing the total employee base to 5.43 million (1.1 per cent y-o-y growth). Europe, APAC, manufacturing, retail and healthcare emerge as the key growth markets for the industry," Nasscom said in its 2024 overview for the tech sector. A big focus of the revamped policy is also expected to be funding original research and development in India in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing. The policy is likely to enable multinational companies to set up more global capability centres in India, which in the last two decades has become the biggest home to such off-shore tech operations. It is understood that the government intends to double the number of GCCs in India from the current 1,600 to 3,200 by 2030. "We will also explore how we can financially support at least 10,000 tech start-ups overall and 2,000 from smaller cities in particular as part of the policy as well," a government official said. The government is also looking to create a talent pool of people who are conversant with nuances of emerging technology that can support the growth of the software product industry. Soumyarendra Barik is Special Correspondent with The Indian Express and reports on the intersection of technology, policy and society. With over five years of journalism experience, he has reported on issues of gig workers' rights, privacy, India's prevalent digital divide and a range of other policy interventions that impact big tech companies. He once also tailed a food delivery worker for over 12 hours to quantify the amount of money they make, and the pain they go through while doing so. In his free time, he likes to nerd about watches, Formula 1 and football.

What happens to your body when you take a tablespoon of psyllium husk every day?



Psyllium husk, popularly known as Isabgol, is popular as a natural remedy for various digestive issues, helping relieve constipation. Rich in fibre and mucilage, it promotes regular bowel movements and can also help in weight loss as it promotes the feeling of fullness for a longer period of time.

But what exactly happens to your body when you consume a tablespoon of this fibrous powder daily?

Dr Pranav Honnavara Srinivasan, senior consultant gastroenterologist at Fortis Hospitals, Bengaluru mentions how it works. "Psyllium husk is a soluble fibre that absorbs water to form a gel-like substance, aiding in softening stools and promoting regular bowel movements." "Daily

intake of a tablespoon of psyllium husk can help lower LDL (low-density lipoproteins) cholesterol levels. Research published in the Journal of Clinical Lipidology found that psyllium binds to bile acids, which are then excreted. This process prompts the liver to use cholesterol to produce more bile acids, thereby reducing blood cholesterol levels," he adds. Psyllium husk helps regulate blood sugar levels by slowing the absorption of sugar into the bloodstream. "A study in Diabetes Care showed that psyllium supplementation improved glycemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes," says Dr Srinivasan.

Potential side effects and risks Dr Srinivasan says, "Some individuals might experience bloating,

gas, or stomach cramps, especially when first starting psyllium husk. These symptoms are typically mild and can be mitigated by gradually increasing the dose, as noted in the Journal of the American Medical Association. People with certain health conditions, he informs, such as intestinal blockages, difficulty swallowing, or chronic kidney disease, should consult a healthcare provider before using psyllium husk daily. Since psyllium husk absorbs water, it is crucial to drink plenty of fluids when taking it to avoid dehydration. Inadequate water intake can lead to dehydration and worsen constipation. Isabgol, psyllium husk. People with certain health conditions, such as intestinal blockages, difficulty swallowing, or

chronic kidney disease, should consult a healthcare provider (Source: Freepik)

Effects on nutrient absorption and gut microbiota Generally, a tablespoon of psyllium husk does not interfere with the absorption of essential nutrients when taken in recommended amounts. However, a review in Nutrition Reviews suggests that excessive use might impact the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E, K), according to Dr Srinivasan. "Psyllium husk acts as a prebiotic, promoting the growth of beneficial bacteria." Recommended guidelines and dietary considerations "Mix a tablespoon of psyllium husk with water, juice, or smoothies and consume it immediately to prevent it from thickening too much. It's best to take it once or twice daily, preferably before meals," suggests Dr Srinivasan. Ensure adequate water intake to prevent dehydration and potential digestive discomfort. If you're new to fibre supplements, start with a smaller dose and gradually increase it to allow your body to adjust. Make sure to avoid taking psyllium husk simultaneously with other medications as it can affect their absorption. It's advisable to take it at least two hours before or after other medications.

We find out if this viral 'age test' actually helps determine how old your body truly is



Do you have the body of a 65-year-old or are you as fit as someone who has just turned 25? This viral 'age test' might just help you determine your 'body age'. Introduced by content creator Dr Suzi Schulman in an Instagram reel, this unconventional method involves crossing your arms, lifting one leg, and closing your eyes — with the number of seconds you can maintain this precarious stance, revealing how old your body truly is. "The process of balancing well is linked with a host of healthy neurological functions necessary to keep you kicking into old age," she captions the post. The premise is simple: the fewer seconds you can hold the position, the 'older' your body age. However, does this method have any scientific validity?

Dr Manjiri Thakur, physiotherapist and vertical head, Product and Strategy, Physioatva, says, "The 'age test' involving crossing your arms, lifting one leg, and closing your eyes to determine your body's age is more of a fun activity than a scientifically validated measure. While this test can assess balance and coordination, which tend to decline with age, it doesn't provide a comprehensive assessment of a person's fitness or biological age. Physiotherapists use more detailed assessments, including strength, flexibility, and overall physical function, to determine physical health." Muscle Strength and Coordination: Stronger muscles and better coordination improve balance. Vestibular Function: The inner ear's role in balance can decline with age. Proprioception: The body's sense of its position in space also decreases as we get older. She says, "While these factors relate to aging, they

don't paint the full picture of an individual's health."

age test, fitness A detailed physical assessment, considering multiple factors, offers a more accurate understanding of an individual's health and fitness. Can short-term balance and coordination tasks like this provide any meaningful insights into overall health and aging? Dr Thakur shares, "Short-term balance and coordination tasks provide a snapshot of neuromuscular health and vestibular function. While they can indicate some aspects of aging, they are not comprehensive measures of overall health." A detailed physical assessment, considering multiple factors, offers a more accurate understanding of an individual's health and fitness. How do the specific time thresholds in the 'age test' correspond to different physiological markers or conditions associated with aging? The time thresholds used in the "age test" (e.g., 5 seconds indicating over 65 years old) are arbitrary and lack scientific basis, Dr Thakur stresses. Physiotherapists use more reliable methods to assess biological age and health, such as: Functional Fitness Tests: These include tests for cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, flexibility, and balance. Biomarker Analysis: Measuring biological markers like hormone levels and inflammatory markers. She recommends consulting professionals such as physiotherapists, who focus on improving movement and function through exercise, manual therapy, and education. "They conduct comprehensive assessments to develop personalised treatment plans. Balance or age tests, while useful, are just one part of a broader assessment strategy."

White noise is old news, pink noise is the rage now. Know what it is

Imagine a sound that gently lulls you to sleep, improves focus, and even enhances memory. This isn't magic; it's the power of pink noise. Unlike white noise, which can sound harsh due to its equal emphasis on all frequencies, pink noise prioritises lower frequencies. This creates a calming effect similar to sounds found in nature, such as rustling leaves or falling rain, explained Dr Neerja Agarwal, Psychologist and Co-founder of Emoneds. Think of it as a soothing symphony designed by Mother Nature herself! Studies suggest pink noise offers a range of benefits beyond simply promoting relaxation, said Agarwal. Here's a glimpse into its potential: Improved Sleep Quality: Pink noise can mask disruptive sounds, allowing you to drift off to sleep more easily and enjoy a deeper, more restful

slumber. Enhanced Memory Consolidation: Research indicates pink noise might play a role in solidifying memories during sleep.

Reduced Stress: The calming nature of pink noise can help reduce stress levels, promoting a sense of peace and tranquillity. Better Focus: By masking distractions, pink noise may improve your ability to focus on tasks and enhance concentration. Exercise To Reduce Stress Levels While generally safe, pink noise isn't a one-size-fits-all solution (Source: Pixabay) Understanding the noise spectrum: White vs. pink vs. green It's important to differentiate pink noise from other types: White Noise: This static-like sound provides equal intensity across all frequencies, which some find unpleasant. Green Noise:

Tanushree Dutta addresses Nana Patekar's reaction to MeToo allegations against him, calls him 'pathological liar': 'He is scared'



A day after Nana Patekar denied all MeToo allegations against him by Tanushree Dutta, the actress has reacted and called him "a pathological liar." In a recent interaction, the actress said, "He is scared. People can see through his manipulations now." In 2018, Tanushree Dutta claimed that during the shoot of the 2008 film Horn Ok Pleasss, Nana Patekar tried to sexually harass her. Recently, in an interview with the Lallantop, Nana Patekar answered questions related to MeToo allegations against him. He said, "I knew that the allegation was all a lie. That's why I didn't get angry. When everything was a lie, why should I be angry? And all those things are old. They have happened. What can we talk about them? Everyone knew the truth. What could I say at that time when nothing like this happened? Suddenly, someone says that you did this, you did that. What would I have answered to all these things? Should I have said that I didn't do this? I know the truth that I didn't do anything."

Reacting to the news, Tanushree Dutta told Zoom, "How big a liar Nana Patekar is the whole world knows now after the Varanasi boy slapping incident during the shooting of Anil Sharma's film. Nana first tried to make it look like as if slapping the kid was part of shoot and then got severe public backlash for trying to cover up his abuse. Then suddenly took a U-turn and apologised half heartedly." Reacting to the need of him talking about the

allegations after almost six years, Dutta said, "I will tell you why... because he knows that I may be contemplating another FIR on Nana for conspiracy to murder, criminal intimidation and threat, stalking and causing physical harm."

She added, "Now, he is scared and his support base in Bollywood has dwindled. All those who supported him are either bankrupt or have sidelined him. People can see through his manipulations now and thus he comes up with another major gaslight. Responding to a six-year-old allegation! Nana Patekar is a pathological liar." To back her claims, Tanushree Dutta gave examples of many actors and directors who have spoke against him, asking if they are all liars? She said, "Every director he has ever worked with has a story to tell about his manipulative and abusive behaviour on the set. Are all of them liars too? If he can slap and hit directors then misbehavior with women is no big deal for him, don't you think?" She claimed that even veteran actress Dimple Kapadia called him "obnoxious" in one of her interviews on YouTube. "She is a liar too? What about the Varanasi boy whom he slapped for no reason? He is a liar too? So many people cannot lie. Nana Patekar himself is the liar." The actress regretted working in Horn Ok Please. "My biggest regret in life is to agree to do a song with a flop character artist whom no one care about."

Akshay Kumar joins tree plantation drive in Mumbai, promotes environmental sustainability



Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar recently participated in a tree plantation initiative organised by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Make Earth Green Again (MEGA) Foundation in Mumbai. The initiative, aimed at enhancing the city's green cover, saw Brihanmumbai Municipal Commissioner and Administrator Bhushan Gagrani planting a sapling alongside Akshay Kumar.

In collaboration with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Tree Authority, the initiative focuses on planting 200 Bahawa trees along the Western Expressway in Kherwadi, Bandra. This effort is part of a broader strategy to mitigate urban pollution and promote environmental sustainability

within the city. Meanwhile, in the realm of entertainment, Akshay Kumar's upcoming film Sarfira has been generating considerable buzz following the release of its trailer. Directed by national award winner Sudha Kongara, known for her critically acclaimed works like Irudhi Suttru and Soorarai Pottru, the film promises to deliver a compelling narrative set against the backdrop of India's startup culture and aviation industry. The trailer of Sarfira showcases Akshay Kumar in a role that has captivated audiences, portraying an underdog determined to challenge socio-economic barriers and make flying accessible to all.

His performance has received praise, with director Suriya expressing his gratitude on social media. Suriya, who makes a guest appearance in the film, shared his admiration for Akshay Kumar's dedication to bringing this inspiring story to the screen. "Sarfira is not just a film; it's an ode to the dreams that keep us awake," remarked Akshay Kumar in an Instagram post unveiling the trailer. The narrative follows his character's journey from debt-ridden beginnings to visionary entrepreneurship, navigating obstacles with resilience and innovation. Scheduled for release on July 12, 2024, Sarfira features a stellar cast including Radhika Madan, Paresh Rawal, and Seema Biswas alongside Akshay Kumar. The film's music, composed by G.V. Prakash Kumar, complements its theme of ambition and perseverance.

Diljit Dosanjh says he didn't get overnight success, had to tirelessly work for 22 years: 'Couldn't give my family much time'

Diljit Dosanjh is currently on a break from his North American music tour, Dil-Luminati, to promote his Punjabi film Jatt and Juliet 3. The singer-actor is also making the most of his time in India, recently visiting Rakab Ganj Sahib gurudwara in Delhi and participating in community service.

During his visit to the gurudwara, Dosanjh took part in the ceremonial transfer of the Guru Granth Sahib, showered flowers during the procession, and served the Palki Sahib. He also spent time in the main hall of the Guru Ghar, performing kirtan. The video, featuring Diljit's song "Aar Nanak Paar Nanak" playing in the background, was shared on Instagram with the caption, "Dhan Dhan Ramdas Gur ?????." While promoting his film in Chandigarh, Diljit spoke about his deep connection to Punjab and how he often returns to his home state to re-energize himself. He said, "I have promised to do one Punjabi film and an album each year. Baaki sab bachon, Punjab pehlan e (Everything comes after Punjab)."

Diljit also dispelled the illusion that he achieved success overnight, explaining how he has worked tirelessly for 22 years to attain his current position. "It's not overnight fame. You can never make it happen in one day. I have been in the industry for almost 22 years and have worked day and night to stand where I am today. This cost me a lot of things, I couldn't give my family much time. All those years of hard work have now paid rich dividends, but I have more things planned. Just wait and watch," he said. The opening show of Diljit's Dil-Luminati Tour in Vancouver, Canada, made history as the largest



While promoting his film in Chandigarh, Diljit spoke about his deep connection to Punjab and how he often returns to his home state to re-energize himself. He said, "I have promised to do one Punjabi film and an album each year. Baaki sab bachon, Punjab pehlan e (Everything comes after Punjab)."

Punjabi concert held outside India. He also became the first Punjabi artist to feature on Jimmy Fallon's The Tonight Show.

Asha Parekh, Waheeda Rehman and Helen delight fans with vacation pictures from Srinagar: 'How lovely!'

Bollywood veterans Asha Parekh, Waheeda Rehman, and Helen turned back time with a picture-perfect reunion in Srinagar. Parekh shared a delightful photograph on her Instagram handle, showcasing the evergreen trio striking a pose on a houseboat. The breathtaking Kashmiri landscape served as a stunning backdrop for their radiant smiles and undeniable camaraderie, radiating timeless charm and friendship. The post quickly went viral, enchanting fans and followers.

Parekh's caption overflowed with joy as she described their getaway. She spoke of cherishing the peace of Srinagar with her "dearest friends," establishing their lifelong bond with hashtags like #FriendshipGoals and #MakingMemoriesThatLast. The caption reads, "Enjoying the houseboat in Srinagar. #FriendsForEver #FriendsLikeFamily #Holiday #FunTime #BeautifulKashmir #Nostalgia #MakingMemories." Fans showered the post with love, with one admirer commenting, "Wow, three



amazing super queens! Legends never die, they shine forever," while another dubbed them "vintage queens."

Recently, Parekh also shared a snapshot of the trio enjoying lunch together, captioning it, "With my dear friends #Helenji & #Waheedaji in Srinagar." This photo also garnered warm reactions, with one user nostalgically remarking, "Wonderful to see you queens together once again! Truly miss Sadhana ji, Nanda ji, & Shammi

Aunty here." Actor Raveena Tandon also commented, "How Lovely!" Asha Parekh began her Bollywood journey at the tender age of 10, starring in Bimal Roy's Maa. Helen, meanwhile, has inspired many with her latest venture into Pilates at the age of 85. In a viral video, she shared how the practice has boosted her vitality and relieved her pain. Now able to walk unassisted, Helen attributes her newfound energy to her regular Pilates sessions. In

the Instagram video, the legendary dancer expresses her joy and enthusiasm for Pilates, guided by trainer Yasmin Karachiwala. "I feel so energetic, so alive, so happy, and look forward to this every day. It gives me a high. I don't have to drink or smoke to get a high; I get high from pilates. I love coming here. I thank all the instructors and my special instructor, Bimal. I am 85 and I am doing it." Helen is heard saying as she showcased her indomitable spirit.

Nana Patekar says he doesn't like Vidhu Vinod Chopra: 'Every time I meet him, I wish it to be the last'

Nana Patekar, who recently made his comeback in films with Vivek Agnihotri's The Vaccine War, is known for his exceptional acting in films like Parinda, Krantiveer, Tiranga, Welcome, and Kaala, among others. Nana, who made his acting debut in Bollywood with the 1978 drama Gaman, recalled working with Vidhu Vinod Chopra for the 1989 film Parinda and said he has some "bad memories". "Every time I meet Vidhu Vinod Chopra, I wish this was our last time", said Nana in a recent interview.

In an interview with Lallantop, the veteran actor shared he doesn't like Vidhu Vinod Chopra at all. He said, "I don't like Vidhu Vinod Chopra. I have no control over my anger. I am still the same. That aspect of my life hasn't changed yet. Every scene has its setting, tune, and note, there is a way to talk. Now, I don't know if you watched Parinda, I was in the character, so when the director says, 'Lights, camera, clap', if you aggressively say 'action', it starts to linger in your ears. It echoes and hurts your ears." He added, "Let us be in our character please. What happens, when someone shouts, we forget the note that is required for the scene and unknowingly pick director's note. Just say 'action' calmly. Let us get into our character and note. It is because of this we must have had a tiff. I have very bad memories of him (Vidhu Vinod Chopra) and even habits."

Nana then shifted his angle from the interviewer to the camera and said, "Vidhu, please hear this. I want to tell you all this to your face and not behind your back." When asked about his last meeting with Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Nana quickly said, "Every time I meet him, I wish it to be



the last meeting." "No, seriously", he added when his response made his audience in the interview laugh.

There is a very famous anecdote from the shooting of Parinda. It is said that during the film's shoot, filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra had given strict instructions to the cast and crew to bring their own food on set. However, Nana Patekar was against this and demanded food on set. This led to an argument between the two, during which Patekar abused the director. Angered Vidhu Vinod Chopra tore Nana Patekar's kurta on set. Apart from Nana Patekar, Parinda also starred Jackie Shroff, Anil Kapoor, and Madhuri Dixit in the lead roles. The film received critical acclaim upon its release and was considered to be the turning point in the introduction of realism in Hindi cinema. Parinda won two National Film Awards. It was also selected for the 1990 Academy Award or Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film, but was not nominated.

House of the Dragon Season 2 Episode 2: The Price of War

The thirst for vengeance gripped the core characters of 'House of the Dragon' in the season opening of the second installment of the acclaimed HBO show. Episode Two set out on a daring mission to portray the gripping arc of the aftermath of the killing of Jaehaerys, heir to the Iron Throne. Written by Ryan Condal and directed by Claire Kilner, the 72-minute episode is the series' longest to date.

The episode opens with an eerie stillness that foreshadows the impending turmoil. As the Red Keep descends into chaos following the assassination, servants and other small folks are rounded up, their panic vividly portrayed through unsettling cinematography. Ramin Djawadi's haunting score, featuring a solo violin, captures the mounting tension. Olivia Cooke's portrayal of Alicent Hightower is a standout, capturing the complexity of her character with remarkable depth. Alicent's journey through guilt and grief, as she grapples with the consequences of her son's actions, is compelling. Her depiction of a mother tormented by the fear of divine retribution befalling her and her daughter, Helaena, is particularly poignant. The raw emotion in her scenes, especially when she faces the possibility that her family is being punished, adds a profound layer of depth to her character. Cooke's performance brings a powerful authenticity to Alicent's struggle, making her storyline deeply affecting.

Phia Saban and Tom Glynn-Carney deliver noteworthy performances as Helaena and Aegon, respectively. Their reactions to Jaehaerys' death are markedly different, capturing their distinct personalities. Aegon's explosive anger and public outbursts contrast sharply with Helaena's quiet, seclusion mourning. This divergence in their grieving processes further highlight the personal and familial impacts of the war—providing a rich emotional texture to the episode.

A pivotal moment in the episode is the confrontation between Rhaenyra (Emma D'Arcy) and Daemon (Matt Smith). The tension between them reaches a boiling point as Rhaenyra is strategically blamed for Jaehaerys' death. Their argument is a showcase of strong character dynamics, with Daemon's obstinate nature clashing with Rhaenyra's resolute determination. With this, Aemond's admission during a brief brothel scene reveals his muted regret over Lucerys' death. His companion's remark about the suffering of the small folk when princes lose their temper serves as a poignant reminder of the broader



impact of war. This theme is further explored through the subplot involving the Cargyll twins, Arryk and Erryk, whose tragic confrontation displays the senseless brutality of the civil war.

The climax of the episode features a heart-wrenching battle between the Cargyll twins, portrayed by Luke and Elliot Tittensor. Ser Criston Cole's (Fabien Frankel) orders for Arryk to infiltrate Dragonstone and kill Rhaenyra set the stage for this intense and emotionally charged fight. The choreography and raw emotion in this scene highlight the devastating personal toll of the war, making it one of the episode's most memorable moments.

In a key moment of the episode, King Aegon II replaces Ser Otto Hightower with Ser Criston Cole as Hand of the King, signaling a major shift in his war strategy against Rhaenyra and Team Black. Otto, who favored a more measured and diplomatic approach to garner support from the small folk and other houses, is dismissed due to his reluctance to launch immediate aggressive retaliations. In stark contrast, Criston Cole's readiness to take decisive action, such as ordering Ser Arryk Cargyll to impersonate his twin and assassinate Rhaenyra, appeals to Aegon's desire for swift vengeance. This impulsive decision, driven by grief and anger over the death of his heir, reflects Aegon's preference for immediate action over long-term strategy. Otto's departure from King's Landing to Oldtown leaves a void in Aegon's council. Criston, lacking Otto's political foresight and careful consideration, is ill-prepared to fill this gap. Unlike Otto, who approached his role with a blend of governance and diplomacy, Criston focuses primarily on military strength and rapid responses, potentially compromising the kingdom's stability.

History beckons South Africa, India wish to erase recent history to lift a world cup



GNS News Agency, June 29

If you weigh the strengths and weaknesses of the T20 World Cup finalists, India and South Africa, the pendulum of the scale would strike the perfect balance, the two pans dangling from equal heights, like the statue of Lady Justice. It's poetically and sportingly fair that the two unbeaten sides of the tournament are in the final too, two teams with identical flaws and powers, two teams with a left-arm wrist spinner, and two teams longing to lay their hands on an ICC silverware. India, have not translated their wealth in talent and treasury to trophies since the 2011 50-over World Cup triumph; South Africa's waves of wondrously gifted cricketers have contrived to slip glory through their palms. The proverbial carpe diem is winking from the Bridgetown skies. The most fascinating is the coming together of two generational fast bowlers, Kagiso Rabada and Jasprit Bumrah, the collision of the most natural bowling action and the most unnatural one in the modern game, of athletic grace and outlandish explosiveness. The South African has been quietly influencing games, like a whispering breeze, his music more classical than reggae. Though Rabada is not counted among the modern greats of this version, he has the tools to torment the best of batsmen in this format too. The leg-cutter, the nip-backer with which he stunned the Afghans, and the change-up accounting for 80 percent of his slower balls, is a thing of distilled beauty.

Historically he has been profligate in T20s, a byproduct of aggression, he had once said, but this tournament, he has been miserly, offering only 5.88 runs an over. But putting brakes on run-scoring has seldom been his priority. He would be happier if he could prise out the rampaging Rohit Sharma, which he has four times in 15 meetings in T20s, picking his scalp once every 19 balls. Sharma has managed to score 90 runs off 76 balls at a strike rate of 118.42. Rabada would rather skittle his wicket than keep him shut, adding to his already splendid tally of 12 wickets.

So would Bumrah when he lines up against his former Mumbai Indians teammate Quinton de Kock. But across 13 innings across formats, he has devoured him five times, striking once every 30 balls. De Kock rates him "as good as Dale Steyn", and his influence in this tournament has been like pomp Steyn. An economy rate of 4.12, striking once every 11th ball for his 13 wickets, bowling like raging wind, pinching wickets in critical junctures. If India were to hoist the trophy, it would have his name engraved in bold. He has been the true architect. It's fitting that they would demonstrate their range in the cradle of West Indies fast bowling, tearing up from ends named after two of the finest of the island nation Barbados has produced, Malcolm Marshall and Joel Garner. There are others too, like Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith, the pair

before the quartet, Sylvester Clarke and Franklyn Stephenson, the unfortunate duo, reduced to side-acts in the glut of fast bowling talent, unsung just like Arshdeep Singh and Anrich Nortje, the highest wicket-takers of their respective nations. The left-hander has coaxed the tiniest hint of help from the surface, swinging and seaming the ball both ways with the new ball, reverse swinging the ball in New York, and impacting at the death with his slower-ball off-cutter.

The virtues of Nortje are different. As his strapping frame suggests, he is a deck-the-best beast with the heaviest of heavy balls. Add blinding pace—he has been the quickest among the lot—and subtle alteration of length, he would not be as simple for Suryakumar Yadav to pick off as Chris Jordan or Reece Topley. Especially if there is the barest tinge of uneven bounce. The ever-bettering Marco Jansen and Hardik Pandya, two cleanest strikers of the ball too, complete the pace quorum. Both have a left-arm wrist spinner and orthodox left-arm spinner to bolster the spinner ranks, though Ravindra Jadeja furnishes India an extra skin of depth and experience. South Africa, though, could summon part-timer Aiden Markram.

How they would wish their batting line-up were as flawless. The form of Virat Kohli gnaws India most, just as Reeza Hendricks' touch worries the Proteas. Kohli has selflessly approached the bust-or-boom team tactic, but a meagre haul of 75 runs would froth uneasily in his mind, but Kohli is a seen-it-all cricketer with a preternatural sense of occasion. There wouldn't be a better time to rediscover the runs. Hendricks, on the other hand, tucked in form-boosting runs against Afghanistan on a wicked decks. In an indifferent tournament for batsmen in general, runs have come from different directions. If Quinton de Kock has donned the lead role, like Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav has chimed in with valuable and entertaining runs. David Miller has sporadically shone for Markram's men, even though the captain himself would seek an upturn of fortunes at No 3. India's opposite number, Rishabh Pant, too has experienced form fluctuations, veering between the outrageous and ordinary. Both, though, possess middle and lower-order ballistics to define games. Only one batsman in either set has crossed 200 runs (Sharma at 248), but collectivism is the buzzword.

Where they differ is their batting philosophy. India has adopted a postmodern flashing gun method. As a result only five half-centuries were raised, but three batsmen commanded a strike rate of 149 or more. Only De Kock has a corresponding number anywhere in this region (143). There's have been more traditional, and relative to circumstances. Fueling them would be the burden of history. South Africa have never played a final, cruelly denied the entry by a combination of wretched rules and a knack to combust, leaving unhealed scars in the nation's cricketing psyche. In the same vein, India have contrived to freeze when at the final hurdle, or the one before. The skeletons laugh from the cupboard of the past. In the last 10 years, they have stumbled in the finals four times, and in the semifinals thrice. The never-been-in-final team meets the final fumble. Proteas look to etch history, and India to kick the butt of a bad habit. Thus, in their perfections and imperfections, the match-up has a splendid symmetry, though it does not necessarily imply that Saturday night's game would be a perfect script. And the scales at the end of the game would inevitably tilt to one side.

How Shafali Verma smashed 205 on a record-breaking day for Harmanpreet Kaur's side at Chepauk

GNS News Agency, June 29

The biggest threat to Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana's 292-run opening partnership at Chepauk on Day 1 against South Africa came from (not necessarily in that order): stray throws aimed in the vicinity of their existence, at times disjointed running between the wickets, minor lapses in concentration and Chennai's humidity. It was therefore no surprise that Shafali's stunning knock of 205 was ended by a run out, because she didn't look like getting dismissed any other way. In what will go down as one of the most memorable knocks by an Indian batter, the 20-year-old walked off to a standing ovation from a sparse but engaged crowd, appreciation from the South African players and a proud applause from Mandhana in the dugout. By the end of the day, a mammoth opening partnership had laid the foundation for India to finish on a whopping 525/4, already their highest total in women's Tests.

For the first part of the day, it was the Shafali-Smriti show as they piled up an all-time best women's Test opening stand of 292. Once Mandhana departed for 149, Shafali took centerstage and how. One shot out of the 23 fours and eight sixes that the Indian youngster hit on the opening day of the One-Off Test stood out. Sharp at 2.10pm local time, with two deliveries left for tea, Shafali danced down the track against Delhi Tucker, and smashed the ball over long on. That one moment summed up how Shafali was in complete control of her knock, assured in her footwork all day. When the day's play began, the Indian openers took their time to get a feel of the wicket. There wasn't significant movement with the new ball but the bounce was consistently on the lower side. While we have come to expect textbook technique from Smriti, it is not an adjective one would associate with Shafali. And yet, the right-hander was decisive in her front-foot press, playing with a straight bat, and not losing her shape.

The swashbuckler from Haryana, who made her international debut at 15, has always had the reputation of a big-hitter who can delight and frustrate in equal measure. Her best format remains T20 while in ODIs she has found the going tough. But paradoxically, it's in Test cricket where she has often looked the most comfortable. A debut in England didn't faze her when she scored 50+ in both innings. She notched up a fifty in Australia too for good measure. And just on the back of a less-than-ideal run in the ODIs in Bengaluru last week, she stepped it up in Chennai as she donned the whites once more. Shafali Verma Chennai: India Women's Shafali Verma plays a shot during the one-off test cricket match between India Women and South Africa Women, at MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai, Friday, June 28, 2024.

Just like another aggressive batter from her state: Virender Sehwag. It was in Tests he sparkled the most

with some real tall scores throughout his career. It is a strange thing to say on the day she registered the fastest-ever recorded double century in women's Tests, but her effort at the MA Chidambaram Stadium had phases of impressive restraint too. She didn't mindlessly slog at any point of the day, but kept peppering the boundaries regularly. In fact, it was only when she went from 187 to 199 with back-to-back sixes that her strike rate crossed 100 for the first time. And with a tap to long off for a single, she leaped in front of the famous Madras Cricket Club.

A double century off 195 balls. The second youngest behind Mithali Raj to reach the landmark. Part of the second highest ever partnership in the format. "I really hope Shafali crosses 214 and breaks my record (for an Indian). After all, records are meant to be broken," Mithali had posted on Twitter as 'Shifu' closed in on her double. But it wasn't to be when a mix-up with Jemimah Rodrigues led to the unfortunate run out. Picking up where she left off in Bengaluru, was Smriti. After ending a long wait for her first international century in Indian, she now has scored three in the span of two weeks (and one 90 in between). The first boundary of the day came in off the fifth ball of the seventh over, but from there, the floodgates opened. In the 22 overs preceding lunch, a total of 24 boundaries were hit by the duo and the rate only went up in the second session. Shafali Verma Chennai: India Women's Smriti Mandhana celebrates her century during a one-off test cricket match between India and South Africa, at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai, Friday, June 28, 2024. (PTI Photo/R Senthilkumar) In the first ball of the 32nd over, Mandhana was put in mild discomfort by Masabata Klaas, as a good length ball kept a tad bit low. The opener got her bat down just in time and stood firm in the crease. Klaas, for some reason, decided to take a shot at the stumps but her throw was so wild that it went for four. Mandhana shrugged and smiled, as she earned four easy runs to her name. It also personalized South Africa's struggles. Not that the rest of her runs seemed hard as Mandhana peppered the offside fence with immense regularity, scoring 76.5% of her 149 runs off boundaries. (For comparison, Shafali scored around 68% of runs with fours and sixes). In fact, when the two were batting together, the only real contest seemed to be who would reach their century first. (Shafali did a ball earlier than Smriti, for the record). A measure of how well Mandhana had been batting could be gauged from the feeling that accompanied her dismissal. Even a supremely elegant 149 felt a few runs short. 292: Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma recorded highest-ever opening partnership in women's Tests for India, and second highest partnership for any wicket by any team in this format 205: Shafali Verma became only the 2nd Indian to score a double ton in women's Tests, after Mithali Raj. Shafali also the 2nd youngest behind Mithali to achieve the feat.

'We bowled a little bit without luck in the powerplay': Jos Buttler after being outplayed by India in T20 WC semifinal



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India's Virat Kohli, right, shake hands with England's captain Jos Buttler at the end of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup second semifinal cricket match between England and India at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana. India's Virat Kohli, right, shake hands with Guyana's captain Jos Buttler at the end of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup second semifinal cricket match between England and India at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Hindisight is 20/20, they say, and after the Twenty20 World Cup semifinal in Guyana on Thursday, England captain Jos Buttler rued one aspect he wished he had done differently.

India outplayed defending champions at the Providence Stadium on a pitch that had assistance for spinners and kept low regularly. Batting first, Rohit Sharma powered his side to what felt then like an above-par 171

in a rain-hit first innings. And it proved too far out of reach for Buttler's champion side as they lost by 68 runs. Buttler's decision to bowl first, citing the possibility of weather playing a part later on, proved to be less than ideal with Rohit correctly estimating the pitch will get much tougher to bat as the match went on. "I thought we bowled a little bit without luck in the powerplay, a few close calls there. But, yes, I think the benefit of hindsight and reflecting, I would have got Moeen [Ali] in the game of course," Buttler said after the match.

A defining factor in the match was how well Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav (3 wickets each) and Ravindra Jadeja bowled. The trio combined for 11 overs, 58 runs and 6 wickets. Buttler, meanwhile, employed just two spinners in Adil Rashid and Liam Livingstone, both of who bowled tidily for 49 runs in their 8 overs with the former dismissing Rohit Sharma. Buttler however insisted that he had no second thoughts about bowling first, even in hindsight. He was asked if there was anything he would have done differently in selection or at the toss.

"Not at all," the captain said. "We thought long and hard about selection, about whether we kept the same balance that we'd been playing with that had been working well, or did we need four seamers on that particular wicket. I think that was a really tough call that we made and we ended up sticking with what we had. I think India played a really good game of cricket, whatever team or whatever happened at the toss — they were going to be a tough team to beat and we had to be at our best if we were going to win the game and we were short of our best today."

Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav spin a web, power India to T20 World Cup final

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Rohit Sharma allowed himself a visibly irritated grin and a sharp glare, the one that gives questions he doesn't want to delve deep into. The question was about packing four spinners to the West Indies. Sharma took a deep breath and explained in an assertive tone: "I don't want to go into details on this. I definitely wanted four spinners. There are technical aspects involved in this. I won't reveal it now." Rohit exuded a resounding conviction about the quartet, which has been gloriously vindicated as the tournament has progressed. If India's pace trio had grabbed most of the bouquets in the group games, the spin trio had spread their wings and fluttered in the latter games of Super Eight and the semifinal against England. Sharma knew exactly when to unleash them—Kuldeep Yadav was preserved for the Super Eight, and his wisty cunningness makes him as dreaded a proposition as Jasprit Bumrah.

Irrrespective of how the strip in Kensington Oval in Barbados for the final behaves, he daunts on South Africa's batsmen. And Sharma knew exactly when to use him.

India's Kuldeep Yadav is congratulated by teammates after taking the wicket of Australia's Glenn Maxwell during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, India's Kuldeep Yadav is congratulated by teammates after taking the wicket of Australia's Glenn Maxwell during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia. The Guyana pitch shared the soul and habits of a third-day subcontinent pitch. A distant cousin of the Green Park deck in Kanpur. The bounce was low, the pace was slow, some balls turned, though not sharply, and some did not. The semi-final stands swayed to Bhojpuri and Bhangra tunes, ringing in subcontinental festivity. So he summoned Axar Patel, the prince of parsimony, but here in the terminator's armour. Of all his spinners, Patel hits the stumps the most, he is the smartest exponent of using the crease and varying the releasing points. So, as early as the fourth over, Sharma threw him the ball. And clapped, as though exhorting him to "go for the kill." And so he did. As though he had mastered the mind of Jos Buttler, the England captain and their biggest hope in taking them a step closer to defending the title, he flung in a flat ball from wide of the crease at Buttler, as though anticipating a reverse sweep. But he did exactly that, only the ball dipped and arrived at a much slower pace than Buttler had anticipated. That he toe-ended rather than top-edged shows how early the England batsman was into the short.

There was no magic or marvel about the ball, but an irresistible precision, shocking simplicity, a battery that you needn't possess a bagful of variations to gather wickets. He is an artist in his own way, one Quinton de Kock and friends would be as wary as they could be of Yadav, the left-arm spinner as indispensable to Sharma as the left-arm wrist spinner is. He unpacked another blow. Jonny Bairstow, after all his experience facing Patel in IPL, ODIs, and Tests, faced him like a novice would. He left his gate wide open to let a straight ball through it. In the first sighting, it looked like a gift-wrapped wicket. But here, Patel went really wide, released the ball from a lower point and gave an almighty rip. You could see the edges of the seam whirring in the air. The angle sucked Bairstow's eyes into it. A fundamental error, but that's how Patel steals his wickets. In plain-sight, a daylight heist, when you know what he could and could not, yet let him take the wicket. When batsmen expect his deliveries to skid on, he slows them down, and when they anticipate him to slow his pace, they end up getting beaten by his skid, not so much zip. Like his bowling, his words too are simple, almost underselling himself. "I knew the wicket was assisting and didn't try too many things. Wicket is slow, so I didn't want to push the pace too much," he said when receiving the man of the match cheque. Moeen Ali's wicket was clumsy, not that it would bother Patel much. India's Axar Patel bowls a delivery during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup second semifinal cricket match between England and India at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana. India's Axar Patel bowls a delivery during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup second semifinal cricket match between England and India at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana. (AP | PTI)

Soon, Yadav took over the show and whipped up three wickets including the priced one of Harry Brook,



twinkling him out with delectable drift. Yadav is perhaps the antithesis of Patel, wields the most exotic of arts in the game, has an aura around his edges of curls and a deep pocket of tricks. For Sharma, they are but two men treading different paths to the same goal of influencing games. Another box too was ticked—the sparsely used Ravindra Jadeja bowled three overs of stifling lines. He showed no rust or restlessness in being used as a bit-part bowler. That Sharma could afford to slot both Jadeja and Patel in the eleven is partly due to their batting skills. Both emphasised that in Georgetown. Jadeja's nine-ball 17 and Patel's six-ball 10 are the sort of mini cameos modern day teams expect from all-rounders. Suddenly, the team could boast a splendid balance—three spinners, of which two could crunch boundaries, three seamers, of which one could launch lusty blows. Give Sharma any type of track, he has the ammo to blast opponents. New York was seam friendly, so he unloaded his seamers, St Lucia was a shirtfront, so he harnessed the best of his pitch-transcending bowlers, Bumrah and Yadav; Guyana was spinner-friendly, so pushed Patel upfront. It's a classic case of a resourceful bowling firm used resourcefully by a worldly-wise Sharma. The nature of the Kensington Oval pitch would hardly pique Sharma in the hasty dash to the final. And by now, he has eloquently answered the spinner question.

Lakers draft Bronny James, form first father-son duo in NBA history



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New York: Following weeks of anticipation, 19-year-old Bronny James was selected by the Los Angeles Lakers with the 55th pick in the NBA draft, forming the league's first active father and son duo.

LeBron, a four-time NBA champion nearing the end of his career, could potentially share the court with his son next season. The move is of great significance as the league has never seen a father-son duo share the court together. It is also a testament to LeBron's longevity and legacy in the league as he has been dominating the game ever since his debut in the 2003/04 season.

The 20-time all-star posted a series of photos with his son following the announcement. "Legacy!!" read the caption on Instagram. Bronny James faced a health scare last July when a cardiac arrest revealed a congenital heart defect. Fortunately, he received clearance to resume playing in November. While Bronny might not be a starter in his rookie season, the chance of seeing him alongside his legendary father has basketball fans excited to the core. The 39-year-old LeBron, has the option to become a free agent this summer.