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## Man killed in landmine explosion, Maoist involvement suspected

Mulugu: A 55-year-old man was killed in a landmine explosion, suspected to have been planted by Maoists, in the Kongala hills forest under Wajedu mandal of Mulugu on Monday. The deceased was identified as Yellandula Yesu. According to reports, Yesu, along with three other villagers from Jagannadhapuram village ventured into the forest to collect firewood. As they were busy collecting firewood, Yesu stepped on a landmine, resulting in an explosion. He died on the spot. However, the other three persons escaped unhurt. They informed the police about the incident. The police reached the spot and shifted the body to the government hospital for postmortem.

## Section 144 imposed near Lok Sabha counting centers

Hyderabad: In view of the counting and declaration of results of the Lok Sabha elections, Section 144 of CrPC has been enforced in a 200-metre radius near the counting centres. To this effect, City Police Commissioner K. Sreenivasa Reddy has issued orders, which will stay in force from 6am on June 4 to 6 am on June 5.

Section 144 (Power to issue orders in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) prohibits assembly of five or more persons in the said radius near counting centres.

## Monsoon Arrives in Telangana: Higher Rainfall Expected



GNS News Agency, June 3

The Southwest Monsoon has made an early entry into Telangana, reaching areas such as Kurnool, Gadwal, and Nalgonda. Typically, the monsoon arrives in the state in the second week of June, but this year it has arrived a week ahead of schedule. Meteorological department officials are predicting that this year's monsoon season will bring higher than normal rainfall to Telangana. A surface circulation is causing light to moderate rains in the state on Monday, with heavy rains expected in southern districts for three days starting from Tuesday. Residents are advised to be prepared for potential flooding and take necessary precautions during this period of increased rainfall. Stay tuned for further updates on the monsoon situation in Telangana.

## Modi Reflects On India's Progress And Future In Letter To Citizens

GNS News Agency, June 3

In a letter to the people of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after completing a 45-hour meditation in Kanniyakumari, expressed pride in the country's development. He described the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections as a significant democratic event, coinciding with his three-day spiritual journey. "The development trajectory of Bharat fills us with pride and glory," Modi stated. Reflecting on his experiences during the meditation, he felt a profound energy and a sense of detachment from the political strife typical of election periods. After concluding his campaign in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Modi traveled to Kanniyakumari,



where he meditated, drawing inspiration from Swami Vivekananda. He felt a deep connection to Kanniyakumari, noting its historical and spiritual significance. In his meditation, Modi thought about Bharat's bright future and the unity embedded in its vast landscape. He emphasized the importance of

continued national development, inspired by the ideals of Swami Vivekananda and the cultural heritage of Kanniyakumari. Modi praised Bharat's governance model, especially its efforts in poverty alleviation and technological advancements. He highlighted the global recognition Bharat received post-G20 and the pivotal role the nation plays for the Global South. Addressing the future, Modi urged the citizens to embrace new dreams and responsibilities, focusing on reform, performance, and transformation. He stressed the need for speed, scale, scope, and standards in national endeavors. Modi called for redefining heritage with modern values and shedding negativity for success. Reflecting on the nation's potential, he encouraged a 25-year dedication to making Bharat a developed nation by 2047. The letter, written on his flight back to Delhi, encapsulated Modi's commitment to serving the nation, as he pledged in a message at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

## Over Rs 1,100 crore laundered, alleges ED in supplementary charge sheet filed against K Kavitha



New Delhi, GNS News Agency, June 3

The Enforcement Directorate has alleged in its supplementary charge sheet filed against BRS leader K Kavitha before a court here that more than Rs 1,100 crore was laundered in the alleged Delhi excise scam. According to the ED, out of Rs 1,100 crore, Kavitha was involved in proceeds of crime (PoC) worth Rs 292.8 crore. The allegations were made in a supplementary prosecution complaint, ED's equivalent to a charge sheet, filed before Special Judge Kaveri Beweja, who on Monday extended Kavitha's judicial custody till July 3.

The judge extended the custody after Kavitha was produced before the court in pursuance of its earlier order issuing a production warrant against her. The court had issued the warrants after taking cognisance of a charge sheet against the BRS leader in the case on May 29. The court also granted bail to three co-accused persons -- Prince, Damodar and Arvind Singh. The three accused were charge sheeted without being arrested during investigation by the ED. "As per the investigation so far, the total proceeds of crime identified is Rs 1,100 crore, out of which PoC of Rs 292.8 crore is being dealt with in this Prosecution Complaint. Through activities of the accused persons, ie, Kavitha, Champreet Singh, Prince Kumar, Damodar Sharma and Arvind Singh, huge proceeds of crime have been generated," the charge sheet alleged.

The charge sheet claimed that Kavitha was involved in PoC (money generated and laundered in crime) of Rs 292.8 crore, out of which kickbacks of Rs 100 crore were given to AAP leaders. "Kavitha conspired with the members of the South Group and the AAP leaders through accused Vijay Nair (who was acting on behalf of the top leaders of the AAP) to pay kickbacks to the tune of Rs 100 crore and receive undue benefits," the documents claimed.

## Three-tier security at counting Centre: PC



GNS News Agency, June 3

Khammam: Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt said that three-tier security has been arranged to prevent any untoward incidents during the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha general elections. District Collector VP Gautam and Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt visited the strong rooms set up at Sri Chaitanya Engineering College in Khammam Rural Mandal Ponnekalu on Sunday.

Addressing media on the occasion, the Police Commissioner said that 250 police force and special parties were kept ready for the counting to be held on June 4 (Tuesday). It is mentioned that strict security arrangements have been made with three platoons of special police forces to prevent any minor untoward incidents in the commissionerate area after the election results are announced. Similarly, as per the election rules, assembly meetings and victory rallies should not be held without permission, he said. Legal action will be taken against those violating the rules, he said. Dog squad and bomb squad are constantly checking the surrounding areas of Sri Chaitanya Engineering College. Officials attending the counting of candidates and agents said that cell phones, prohibited items such as matches, lighters, ink bottles, liquids and any explosives should not be brought into the counting centers.

## Supreme Court Orders Pinneli Ramakrishna Reddy to Stay Away from Counting Area

GNS News Agency, June 3

In a controversial decision, the bench comprising Justices Arvind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta in the Supreme Court today ruled on the SLP filed by Namburi Shankar Rao regarding the protection given to Pinneli Ramakrishna Reddy through the High Court's interim order. During the hearing, senior advocates Adinarayana and Jawwaji Sarath presented webcasting videos of the Election Commission to the bench. Upon viewing the evidence, the lawyer representing Ramakrishna Reddy was left speechless and chose not to comment further.

The Supreme Court ultimately ordered that Pinneli Ramakrishna Reddy must provide an affidavit stating that he will not enter the surroundings related to the counting process. The court emphasized that the High Court should carefully consider all aspects before passing any further orders in the case.

This ruling comes amidst heightened scrutiny and controversy surrounding the upcoming election results. The decision has sparked debate among legal experts and the public alike, with many questioning the integrity of the judicial process.

## Supreme Court finds no merit in YSRCP plea against relaxation of postal ballot norms in Andhra Pradesh

GNS News Agency, June 3

The Supreme Court on June 3 found no merit in a petition filed by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) against a May 30 circular issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) "relaxing" postal ballot norms exclusively in the State of Andhra Pradesh. "Considering the facts and circumstances, we find no merit in the case," a Bench of Justices Arvind Kumar and Sandeep Mehta recorded in its short order dismissing the case.

The petition, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and Mahfooz A. Nazki, said the petition concerned five lakh postal ballots, which comprise 1.5% of the total votes polled in the State. The party had approached the Supreme Court after the State High Court dismissed the plea on the sole basis that there was an alternate remedy available, that is, to file an election petition. "Postal ballots are very, very significant. They are a major deciding factor in the current elections. The May 30 circular has waived or changed the Rules of election. The circular was only meant for Andhra Pradesh... It is important to note that the results of the Assembly as well as Parliament constituencies are scheduled to be declared on June 4. In the event invalid votes are taken into account, the same is bound to cause grave prejudice to the petitioner (YSRCP)," Mr. Singhvi pointed out. He referred to how the Conduct of Election Rules of 1961 require a postal ballot in Form 13A to be signed by the



elector in the presence of an authorised officer, who would affix his designation, signature, and seal on the document. Rule 54A(4) mandates that an unsigned or unattested Form 13A ought to be rejected. "However, in Andhra Pradesh, the May 30 circular has waived the requirement of attestation of the Form 13A. A signature or a mere squiggle to validate a postal ballot... That is, even if Form 13A only contains the signature of the attesting officer, the same is to be accepted... The action of the Election Commission is ex-facie unsustainable," Mr. Singhvi argued. He asked how a circular could outweigh the mandatory requirements listed in the 1961 Rules for validating postal ballots.

## World record! 64.2 crore people voted in Lok Sabha elections



GNS News Agency, June 3

New Delhi: India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha elections this year, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Monday. Addressing a press briefing, he said over 68,000 monitoring teams and

1.5 crore polling and security personnel were involved in the world's largest electoral exercise. "India created a world record with 64.2 crore voters, including 31.2 crore women, participating in the Lok Sabha elections this year," said Kumar.

On social media memes calling election commissioners 'Laapataa Gentlemen', Kumar said, "We were always here, never went missing." "Now memes can say the 'Laapataa Gentlemen' are back," he said. Kumar said that nearly four lakh vehicles, 135 special trains and 1,692 air sorties were used for conducting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "Only 39 repolls took place in the 2024 general elections as against 540 repolls in 2019," he said. The CEC further said that Jammu and Kashmir recorded its highest turnout in four decades at 58.58 per cent overall and 51.05 per cent in the Valley. "Seizures of Rs 10,000 crore, including cash, freebies, drugs and liquor, were made during the 2024 polls as compared to Rs 3,500 crore in 2019," he said.

## 13 killed, 15 injured as tractor-trailer overturns in Rajgarh

GNS News Agency, June 3

Rajgarh: Thirteen people were killed and 15 were injured as a tractor overturned near the Rajasthan-Rajgarh border late night on Sunday, police said. The people who were on board the tractor were coming to Rajasthan to attend a wedding, the police said adding that two of those who have been injured are in critical condition. "Some people from Rajasthan were coming to the state to attend a wedding, in a tractor. Near the Rajasthan-Rajgarh border, the tractor was overturned in

which 13 people died and 15 were injured. Two people were in serious condition and have been admitted to the hospital and we have referred them to Bhopal. The injured are being given proper treatment as per the instructions of the government..." Rajgarh Collector Harsh Dikshit said speaking to ANI. President Droupadi Murmu expressed her condolences to the families who died in the Rajgarh accident. "The news of the death of many people in a road accident in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh is very sad.

## Main entrance of Telangana Secretariat locked; Vaastu changes in offing

GNS News Agency, June 3

Hyderabad: Visitors to the BR Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Monday were in for a surprise after they found the towering main entrance gates locked on Monday. The locks were not all. The two giant gates were closed using aluminum and copper binding wires, besides being locking with padlocks, indicating that they were closed for good.

Though officials are tight-lipped over the closure of the main entrance, speculations are rife that the gate was closed to make Vaastu changes. "We have been orally instructed to close the main entrance from today," a police constable said. Meanwhile, the closure of the main gate a day after the Congress suffered a defeat in the Mahabubnagar Local Authorities constituency bypoll on Sunday raised eyebrows of officials and employees alike in the Secretariat. There are also reports of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy making a few changes in his visits to the Secretariat. Revanth Reddy, who usually makes his entry into the Secretariat through the main gate, will from now on be using the West gate to enter the complex and will exit through the North gate. IAS, IPS and other senior officials will be using the South East gate to enter and exit the Secretariat. This is the first time Vaastu changes are being made at the Secretariat after Revanth Reddy took charge as the Chief Minister on December 7 last year. In addition to the entry and exit changes, the Chief Minister's Office is also reportedly being shifted from the sixth floor to the ninth floor. Already minor changes and other works are in progress on the ninth floor to accommodate the Chief Minister's Office. More changes would be made inside the Secretariat complex, according to X handle Telangana Awaaz. It may be recalled that soon after becoming the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president in July 2021, Revanth Reddy had made a few changes in Gandhi Bhavan, the State Congress headquarters as well. Since the move is being seen as one that brought success, it is being reportedly replicated at the Secretariat as well.



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## Tragic negligence

The suspension of six J&K transport department officials following a mishap in which an overloaded bus fell into a gorge in Akhnoor, leaving 22 dead, underscores the dire need for accountability and systemic reform. The bus, with a capacity of 55, was carrying around 85 passengers. Such blatant disregard for norms and the fact that the bus was previously challaned for overloading are a sorry reflection on the regulatory mechanism. The situation is exacerbated by the poor condition of roads in Jammu district. Most of them are poorly maintained and have sharp bends, leading to frequent accidents. Last year alone, over 890 lives were lost on J&K's roads.

The magisterial inquiry and the suspensions must lead to a paradigm shift in road safety and the enforcement of rules. It is also imperative to address the root causes of frequent accidents. The inquiry panel, tasked with submitting its report within a week, must operate in a thorough and transparent manner. It should also look into the regulatory framework. The involvement of technical experts in analysing the wreckage and the inclusion of eyewitnesses' testimonies are critical to getting to the bottom of the matter.

This bus accident should catalyse a comprehensive review of transport policies and practices. Perfunctory investigations ordered after every major mishap have failed to curb the fatal errors committed by drivers. Robust measures to improve road infrastructure, scale up driver training and stringent enforcement of traffic regulations are essential for fostering safe driving practices in the long run. It is crucial to ensure that justice is served so that devastating losses are prevented. Only through rigorous accountability and proactive measures can we hope to transform our roads from deathtraps to safe pathways for all.

## Stubble burning partly responsible for extreme temperatures in Punjab: IMD



"While every activity we undertake leaves behind a carbon footprint, stubble burning is the biggest reason behind the extreme temperature," A K Singh said.

GNS News Agency, June 3

Stubble burning in Punjab was partly responsible for the extreme hot weather conditions currently prevailing in the state, the India Meteorological Department IMD Chandigarh director A K Singh addressed the media in Chandigarh on Tuesday and said that the burning of stubble during the end of the paddy and wheat season was responsible for an increase in carbon dioxide in the environment. "This is leading to extreme temperatures," Singh said. He was accompanied by IMD scientist Shavinder Singh.

"While every activity we undertake leaves behind a carbon footprint, stubble burning is the biggest reason behind the extreme temperature," A K Singh said. Punjab has been witnessing abnormally high temperatures this month. On Monday, the mercury had touched 48.4 degrees Celsius in Bathinda. The spike in temperatures comes at a time when wheat farmers across the state have set their fields on fire to burn the crop residue - Punjab has reported over 11,000 field fires in the current wheat harvesting season.

"The stubble that could have provided food and energy to the next crop was reduced to carbon dioxide and released in the immediate environment. Not only this, paddy crop also produces methane gas. It is not a suitable crop for Punjab and Haryana. Farmers should stop considering it for sowing," the IMD Chandigarh director said. He said that though the heat wave could not be attributed to global warming alone, certain phenomena were causing the heat wave. "For instance, the war between Ukraine and Russia...the effect of El Nino is also visible," A K Singh said.

Speaking on the possibility of exploring artificial rain through cloud seeding, especially in Punjab after the farmers set their paddy crop ablaze, he said, "It is possible but it is playing with nature. Firstly, cloud seeding can only be done if there is humidity of 30 per cent. We have a dry summer. Then you can decide to create artificial rain but you cannot decide where the cloud will burst and how much will it rain...Take the case of the recent floods in Dubai due to cloud seeding." With Lok Sabha elections around the corner - Punjab goes to polls on June 1 - and campaigning at its peak, the weather experts advised people to stay indoors between 11 am and 4 pm. If people do need to venture out, they should not step out directly from an air-conditioned room, the officials said. "The temperature in an AC room is between 20 to 25. The outside temperature is between 40 to 45. The body gets into shock if there is a stark difference of 20 degrees. It is advisable to first acclimatise to the outside weather and then venture out," said A K Singh. He also spoke about getting queries on organising wedding functions on a given date. "We want to tell people that it is not possible to predict the weather beyond five days. We can only say that the monsoon will reach us on June 30," he added.

## Ousted Jamia officiating V-C moves Delhi High Court against new appointee



GNS News Agency, June 3

Jamia Millia Islamia During the hearing, the high court orally said that the May 22 order was "very clear" that the appointment has to be made by the Visitor, and questioned how the appointment was stated to have been done by the university. Professor Eqbal Hussain, the ousted officiating vice-chancellor (V-C) of Jamia Millia Islamia, moved the Delhi High Court on Tuesday challenging the appointment of Professor Mohammad Shakeel to the post.

The high court had on May 22 quashed Hussain's appointment as the pro-V-C and consequently as the officiating V-C of Jamia Millia Islamia, holding that it was contrary to the university's statutes. On Tuesday, a single-judge bench of Justice Tushar Rao Gedela listed the matter for hearing on May 30 after the high court was informed that the Visitor of the university, the President of India, was seized of the matter. "At the outset, Additional Solicitor General [ASG] Mr Chetan Sharma submits that the Visitor is in seisin of the subject matter in the petition.

He submits that some time may be granted to take appropriate instructions in that regard," the high court noted. During the hearing, the high court orally said that the May 22 order was "very clear" that the appointment has to be made by the Visitor, and questioned how the appointment was stated to have been done by the university.

"How did you do this? When did we permit you to do it? We were very clear. Please see the order...It was the Visitor who was given the power. We were very clear, this power was granted only to the Visitor. We wonder under what powers has Jamia done this?" the high court orally said to the varsity's counsel. Hussain's counsel submitted that the fresh appointment of Professor Shakeel as the officiating V-C was illegal and arbitrary. Meanwhile, during the hearing, the ASG, who also appeared for Jamia, said that nothing would be done against the law, and if the "petition has to be allowed so be it". The high court had said in its May 22 order, "Since the respondent no. 2 (Hussain) has not been appointed in terms of Statute, his continuation in the office of Vice Chancellor as the Officiating Vice Chancellor cannot be permitted further".

It had further said that the Visitor may, in the meanwhile, "in exercise of the powers conferred by the Statute direct the initiation of process of appointment of a VC on regular basis". The high court had thereafter directed that the appointment of the (officiating) V-C or administrator (temporary) shall be done within one week from the date of receipt of the May 22 order. "The initiation of appointment to the post of Vice Chancellor on (a) regular basis shall commence not later than two weeks of the appointment of Vice Chancellor (Officiating) Administrator (Temporary), and be completed within 30 days, thereafter," the high court had said in its order last week.

## Supreme Court stays Karnataka High Court order granting relief to police officer in Bitcoin scam probe

GNS News Agency, June 3

The Supreme Court has stayed a May 2 order of the Karnataka High Court granting virtual anticipatory bail to a police officer being investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in a Bitcoin scam-linked case in the state. The SIT approached the Supreme Court on May 15 after the High Court ordered the release of Shridhar Pujar on a surety of Rs 2 lakh at the end of a day of questioning despite the deputy superintendent rank police officer not seeking bail in his petition in the HC. In orders passed on May 24, a vacation bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Bela Trivedi and Justice Pankaj Mithal ordered a stay on the May 2 order of the Karnataka HC but has allowed Pujar to approach the court for formal bail by filing a separate plea.

The court issued notices to the deputy superintendent rank police officer and others following the plea and said "there shall be stay against the implementation of the impugned order". "However, respondent No. 1 shall be at liberty to file a separate application seeking anticipatory bail/bail before the concerned Court and if any such application is filed, the same shall be considered by the Court on its own merits, without being influenced by the impugned order passed by the High Court and/or earlier rejections of the application(s) filed by the respondent No. 1," the bench said on May 24. Pujar was granted relief by the Karnataka High Court even though he did not seek anticipatory bail but asked for the quashing of two cases registered by the SIT, and the quashing of a proclamation order issued against him by a magistrate for evading investigations.

"In a case filed under section 482 of the CrPC (quashing of FIRs) by the police officer, the honourable court has issued orders that fall under section 438 of the CrPC (anticipatory bail). This order has been challenged in the Supreme Court," an SIT official said. A special court for CID cases in Bengaluru rejected the bail plea of Pujar on February 23 by stating that the Bitcoin scam case involving police corruption in cases filed against an international hacker Srikrishna alias Sriki, 29, in 2020-21 seemed prima facie like instances of a fence eating the crop. Subsequently, an FIR was registered against the officer for attacking SIT officials who attempted to apprehend him and a proclamation order was issued by a magistrate's court against the officer for failing to participate in investigations. Pujar approached the Karnataka High Court to quash the First Information Report registered by the SIT for alleged wrongdoing in the probe of the Bitcoin scam, the FIR for attacking investigating officials, and also for quashing the proclamation order is-



sued by the magistrate's court. On May 2, the Karnataka High Court quashed the magistrate court's proclamation order against Pujar in the Bitcoin scam case and asked the police officer to appear before the SIT on May 8 to "join the investigation and cooperate with the investigation process," for a day. The bench also said the SIT could take him into judicial custody for a day on May 8 for investigation but ordered that the police officer should be released at the end of the day on the furnishing of a bond for Rs 2 lakh. Pujar visited the SIT office on May 8 as directed but was told to return when called again on account of the investigating officer being unwell. Pujar, who is a former Bengaluru Central Crime Branch (CCB) inspector, and three of his former colleagues are among four police officers named by a CID SIT police unit in Karnataka, along with a cyber expert in an FIR alleging illegal confinement, breach of trust by a public servant, and destruction of evidence filed on January 24, 2024, in connection with the crime branch's handling of cases following arrest of Srikrishna in November 2020. Srikrishna, 29, was arrested again by the SIT on May 6 this year in connection with the theft of 60.6 Bitcoin valued at Rs 1.14 crore in 2017 from a cryptocurrency exchange in Tumkur, Karnataka. The four former Crime Branch officers accused of wrongdoing in the cases filed in 2020 against the hacker are Pujar, inspectors Prashanth Babu, Chandradhar S R and Lakshmi Kanthiah along with a private cyber expert K S Santhosh Kumar, who assisted the probe in the hacker's case in 2020. Three officers and the private expert were arrested by the SIT. The investigations in the case have found dozens of procedural lapses by the CCB in its probe against the hacker and his associates, including illegal detention, no documentation of the logins, passwords and data for the computer usage by the accused, and even the provision of a laptop worth Rs 60,000 by the police to Sriki to display his hacking skills in police custody.

## Water seepage in coastal road tunnel: CM says no problems, announces opening of north bound second leg on June 10

GNS News Agency, June 3

A recent incident of water seepage inside the tunnels of Mumbai's Coastal Road has led to a political slugfest in Mumbai with Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and Shiv Sena (UBT) legislator, Aaditya Thackeray taking shots at each other. Meanwhile, Shinde who was carrying out an inspection visit at the tunnels on Tuesday also announced that the northbound arm of the coastal road will be opened on June 10 for vehicles. Earlier on Monday, water seepage was seen in the walls of the coastal road tunnels. Meanwhile, officials from the civic body said that the water was seeping from an expansion joint and that there was no leakage. An expansion joint in civil engineering terms is a joint or a gap that is designed to permit expansion and contraction of the structure during temperature changes. "These joints have a minimum 20 metres gap between them, to free contraction and expansion during a temperature change. The inflow of seepage is taking place through these joints which could be treated by waterproofing measures such as employing injection waterproofing and grouting to seal the leaks immediately. This is a temporary issue and it would not occur after waterproofing is completed," said the official. CM Shinde also reiterated this in a post on X, stating that the leakages "posed no threat". Following this, Sena UBT's Aaditya Thackeray in a post criticised the state government for haphazardly opening the coastal road in order to claim electoral credit. "Inaugurations were planned multiple times in February, and yet as I pointed out back then, only for 1 lane. Finally, the 1 (southbound) lane was opened hurriedly, to claim electoral credit for



our project, before elections. The 1 lane works from 8 am to about 6 pm! Then we were given timelines that the entire road would be opened by March, then April, then May. Now it's almost June. Will the @mybmc give an official update on the final date of opening it up to citizens? More so, when we form the government, we will investigate the delay, in detail," read his post from social media site X. Shinde who carried out an inspection on Tuesday at the tunnel said, "There's no question of taking credit. Coastal Road has benefited the city of Mumbai and made life easy for Mumbaikars, and we have also seen how actor, Amitabh Bacchan also spoke about the benefit of this project publicly." The second arm of the coastal road will be operational from June 10. This part will cater to northbound traffic between Haji Ali and Marine Drive, while the complete stretch of coastal road between Marine Drive and Sea Link will be carried out by October end this year," Shinde said.

## 'Such weather can play havoc with body; stay indoors during peak heat'



GNS News Agency, June 3

Amid intense heatwave that has gripped the Tricity with temperatures touching 44.5 degree Celsius, cases of heat rash have been reported at various hospitals. Dermatologists have issued an advisory for residents. Dr Vikas Sharma, Chief Consultant Dermatologist, at National Skin Hospital, Panchkula said it is important to take steps to prevent heat exposure and avoid heatstroke, dehydration and other heat-based illnesses.

The doctor added that the disorders ranging from redness, burning sensation over face, itching, eczematous disorders, polymorphous light eruption, excessive dryness, chapping of lips, acne, perioral dermatitis, premature ageing of skin, wrinkling, greying of hair (canities), precancerous skin disorders, actinic keratoses, cheilitis, melasma, and skin pigmentation, have increased at the hospital's outpatient department (OPD). "High temperatures can play havoc with the body and damage skin, brain, heart, kidney and cause other long-term issues. Stepping outdoors at peak heat hours must be avoided at all costs and hydrating yourself well with water, fruits, vegetables, buttermilk, lemon water, coconut water is crucial," he advised. Sharma explained that when temperature is high as now, the body's natural ability to regulate temperature may go for a toss and lead to conditions like heatstroke where people may suffer from fever, confusion, dizziness or seizure.

"The body loses fluids rapidly through sweating in an attempt to cool down, leading to severe dehydration. This can cause symptoms like extreme thirst, dry mouth, reduced urine output, and in severe cases, confusion, dizziness, and fainting," said the expert. Acting as a shield against the environment when excessive temperatures threaten to overheat body, the skin protects the delicate inner organs and maintains a steady body temperature, according to the dermatologist. "However, in the process it bears the brunt of the heat and gets sunburned, tanned, wrinkled, blemished or damaged. Learning to protect your skin in summer is thus very important," Sharma said. Sunscreen is best applied about 20 minutes before going outdoors so that the skin gets time to soak in the cream. The dermatologist further said all types of sunscreens, even water-resistant ones, are more effective if reapplied, adding that these must be applied after three hours at least three times a day. Sharma said chances of developing a sunburn is the greatest between 11.30 am and 3 pm, when the sun's rays (UV-B) are the strongest. It is easier to get burned on a hot day, because the heat increases the effects of UV rays.

## Bangladesh MP murder: Police recover flesh, hair from septic tank of Kolkata flat

GNS News Agency, June 3

Investigators of the West Bengal CID claimed to have recovered pieces of flesh and strands of hair from the septic tank of a flat in New Town area near here, where Bangladesh MP Anwarul Azim Anar was suspected to have been murdered. An arrested person, who police claimed is a butcher by profession, allegedly chopped the body of the Bangladeshi lawmaker into 80 pieces and mixed them with turmeric before disposing them of at different locations including a canal around New Town.

"A total of around 3.5 kg of flesh and some strands of hair were recovered from the septic tank. Forensic tests will be conducted on these items to confirm whether they belong to Anar or not," the officer told. Assuming that blood was drained out of the washroom bathroom of the flat, where the lawmaker of the Bangladeshi ruling party, was suspected to have been murdered, a team of police officers had examined the drain pipes and the septic tank, he said. "We had requested the authorities of the housing complex to help us examine the sewage pipes and the septic tank," he said. The Disaster Management Team of the Kolkata Police on Tuesday resumed search in the Bagjola Canal adjacent to an amusement park near Rajarhat, an officer said, adding that drones were also employed in the search.

Kolkata Police officers had earlier said that finding the body parts would be a tough job due to heavy rainfall following Cyclone Remal on Monday. "It's been over a fortnight that the crime was carried out. The body parts were chopped into smaller parts and there was a high chance that those were eaten up by aquatic animals. The Bagjola Canal has dirty water and the body parts could be swept away by the flow," the police officer said.

Divers were employed to spot the body parts as well as the murder tools from the canal, he added. Earlier, the Bangladesh Police said that they may conduct DNA tests of the blood specimen found in a flat in New Town near here to match the results with that of one of the relatives of the Bangladeshi MP to confirm that the politician was murdered. The DNA tests would be conducted as the last option in case the body parts of the Awami League MP could not be found, an officer of the Dhaka police visiting Kolkata as part of the investigation said. "In case the body parts are not found, then we will conduct DNA tests on the blood samples and match the result with the DNA of one of Anar's family members to establish the identity and start a case according to the law," the officer said. A three-member team of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch is in the city to investigate the death of Anar. The team is being led by the Detective Branch chief Mohammad Harun-or-Rashid. The search for the missing MP, who reportedly arrived in Kolkata on May 12 to undergo medical treatment, began after Gopal Biswas, a resident of Baranagar in north Kolkata and an acquaintance of the Bangladeshi politician, filed a complaint with the local police on May 18.



## Enforcement Directorate raids illegal mining sites in Punjab, recovers Rs 3 crore



GNS News Agency, June 3

In the midst of the Lok Sabha election fervour, the Enforcement Directorate in Jalandhar said that it achieved a significant breakthrough on Wednesday morning by uncovering illegal mining operations in Punjab's Rupnagar (Ropar) district and seizing Rs 3 crore.

The raids, conducted at 13 locations, targeted individuals involved in illegal mining activities on land seized by the ED in the Bhola drug case. The investigation in the drug case, currently at a critical juncture in trial proceedings before the Special Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), has unearthed various

criminal networks. Among those implicated in the illegal mining operations are Nasib Chand, identified as a key figure in the mining mafia, Shree Ram Stone Crushers and others. The recovered cash, totalling Rs 3 crore, represents a significant dent in the financial infrastructure supporting the illicit activities. The Bhola drug case, spearheaded by now-dismissed cop Jagdish Singh Bhola, exposed a synthetic drug racket estimated to be worth over Rs 10,000 crore in Punjab over a decade ago. The ED has attached properties worth over Rs 200 crore belonging to various people, including politicians, NRIs and Bhola himself.

ED sources have indicated that the recovered funds may only scratch the surface of the illicit wealth amassed, with further seizures expected as investigations progress. Additionally, the raids yielded crucial documents pertaining to the illegal mining operations, providing investigators with valuable leads to pursue.

Despite the rampant nature of illegal mining activities in Ropar district and its environs, the ED's jurisdiction is limited to cases involving substantial sums of money and cases registered earlier. Sources in the agency said the police, which retain primary authority to address illegal mining, have to do more. The ED raids serve as a stark reminder of a menace that has been prevalent for over the past two decades in the state.

## In Gurgaon, cracking down on hospitals and clinics violating fire safety norms is not easy. Here's why



GNS News Agency, June 3

clinics violating fire safety, delhi clinics violating fire safety, Gurgaon, gurgaon hospital or clinic, delhi news, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express India. Currently, there are 50 registered establishments with over 51 beds in the city and 932 units under the pathology/diagnostic/radiology category, officials said. In the wake of the deadly fire at Baby Care New Born Hospital in East Delhi which claimed the lives of six newborns, neighbouring Gurgaon is cracking down on any medical establishment — hospital or clinic — without valid fire safety norms.

There, however, is a problem. There are different rules governing different establishments depending on a range of factors — whether it has beds, the number of beds, the height of the building, and the area they occupy. Consider the Clinical Establishment Act adopted by the Haryana government in 2018. It only applies to all

establishments with more than 50 beds. This gives little power to the district health department over establishments that do not qualify under the Act. It is unclear if the Baby Care hospital branch, which used to run from plot no. 997 in Sector 15, was registered with the government. Senior health department officials said there are lacunae in the Act as many establishments do not come under it and they are powerless to inspect or raid them. "If there is a facility claiming it has 45 beds, it won't be under the purview of the Act and we won't be able to inspect them on our own," an official said. The Act aimed to "establish a digital registry of clinical establishments" and to prevent "quackery" by unqualified practitioners; it was amended in 2019 to include establishments relating to diagnosis or treatment of disease, pathological and bacteriological. Other diagnostic or investigative services, usually carried on with the aid of laboratory or other medical equipment, also come under this. Currently, there are 50 registered establishments with over 51 beds in the city and 932 units under the pathology/diagnostic/radiology category, officials said. As per the fire department norms, facilities with an area of less than 500 sqm and 9m in height do not require a fire NOC. As per their records, 115 units under the category of hospitals (the definition is different from the CEA) have NOCs. Under the fire department, clinics with no beds come under the category of business structures and those with beds are under hospitals. Labs, outpatient clinics, and research establishments come under Group E (business buildings) while hospitals come under Group C. The department sent notices to 83 units in February for violation. A reminder was sent in March.

## National Women's Commission seeks report on Punjab minister Balkar Singh's sleazy video, AAP remains silent

GNS News Agency, June 3

The NCW said chairperson Rekha Sharma has asked Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav to submit the report by Thursday, following the controversy that stemmed from the video clip shared by Bharatiya Janata Party leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga two days ago. Days after the BJP released an obscene video clip allegedly featuring Punjab Minister Balkar Singh, the National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked the state police head to "ensure a prompt and impartial investigation".

The NCW said chairperson Rekha Sharma has asked Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav to submit the report by Thursday, following the controversy that stemmed from the video clip shared by Bharatiya Janata Party leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga two days ago.

In a post on X, the NCW wrote, "The National Commission for Women is gravely disturbed by a Twitter post allegations against Punjab MLA Mr. Balkar Singh. The reported acts, if substantiated, constitute serious violations under IPC sections 354 and 354B, directly affronting a woman's dignity. @sharmarekha vehemently condemn such behavior and call for urgent intervention from @DGPPunjabPolice to ensure a prompt and impartial investigation. A comprehensive report to be submitted in 3 days." In his social media handle, Bagga accused Balkar



Singh, former Jalandhar deputy commissioner of police, of engaging in inappropriate sexual conduct during a video call with a woman, who had called him to seek employment in government service, much before he joined the Aam Aadmi Party in 2021 after retirement. After the obscene video clip of Balkar Singh, an MLA from Kartarpur, went viral, Opposition parties demanded his resignation and asked Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to expel him. However, the ruling AAP is yet to comment on the issue which has cropped up days ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in Punjab. A few months ago, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia also claimed he had the video and had submitted a complaint to Governor Banwarilal Purohit, along with the digital proof.

## Co-owner and accused confirmed dead in Rajkot gaming zone fire, police arrest 1 more accused

GNS News Agency, June 3

After six more DNA samples matched with those missing after the Rajkot TRP gaming zone fire, investigators confirmed on Thursday its co-owner Prakashchand Hiran alias Prakash Jain was among those killed on May 25. Hiran, who was also among the six TRP Game Zone partners facing charges of culpable homicide (not amounting to murder) over the fire, was reported missing by his family. Forensic investigators on Wednesday confirmed the identities of 25 of the 27 DNA samples and remains they collected from the fire site. In all 28 people are suspected to have been killed in the fire, with the 28th victim being listed as "human remains" in the First Information Report (FIR) filed in connection with the accident.

Apart from Hiran, the police confirmed Khyatiben Ratilal Savaliya, Haritaben Ratilal Savaliya, Tisha Ashokbhai Modasiya, Kalpesh Pravinbhai Bagda, Mitesh Babubhai Jadav, all from Rajkot, are among those dead. Prabhav Joshi, District Collector, Rajkot, told The Indian Express on Tuesday DNA sample of Hiran's mother was taken after his brother came from Vadodara to report that he was missing.

The Rajkot police arrested Kiritsinh Jadeja, one of the owners of the party plot on which the gaming zone was set up on Nana Mava Road. Of the six accused



named in the FIR, the police have so far arrested four. Ashoksinh and Kiritsinh Jadeja are owners of the party plot on which the gaming zone had been set up and partners in Raceway Enterprise apart from Yuvrajsinh Solanki and Rahul Rathod who were arrested earlier. Dhaval Thakkar, who was arrested on Tuesday, is the proprietor of Dhaval Corporation. The gaming zone had been set up on JPS Party Lawns and two other adjacent party plots on the posh Nana Mava Road of Rajkot. The indoor gaming facilities had been developed in a tin shed supported by steel frames. According to police, the shed had ground floor and first floor but the structure was as tall as a three-storey building, 50 metres wide and 60 metres long.

## Bibhav lawyer says prosecutor was with judge before order, gets court warning

GNS News Agency, June 3

There was high drama in Tis Hazari court on Tuesday when the lawyer for Bibhav Kumar, the arrested aide of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, alleged that the Additional Public Prosecutor was sitting in the magistrate's chamber for an hour before Kumar was sent to police custody for three days.

Advocate Rajat Bharadwaj, representing Bibhav who was arrested for allegedly assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal and was produced in court at the end of four days of judicial custody, said: "We want to mention something... The public prosecutor was sitting in your chamber... Please record my statement that after the order was reserved, the PP was sitting in the chamber of the judge... This is unfair." Responding to this, Metropolitan Magistrate Gaurav Goyal said: "Mera order, mei pronounce karunga. Aaram se, you are levelling allegations against the court (It is my order, I will pronounce it... you are levelling allegations against the court)." In an application moved before the court, Kumar's lawyer also asked that the CCTV footage in the corridor outside the magistrate's chamber be preserved and looked at for "fair

dispensation of justice". The Delhi Police sought Kumar's custody for five days, saying that Kumar was seen in the vicinity of the place where the alleged incident took place in a CCTV footage provided by a forensic expert. Police also said Kumar was seen with two phones while entering a hotel room but left with only one phone. The police were requesting for his custody to recover the second phone. Advocate Rajiv Mohan, also appearing for Kumar, said police were seeking custody to create false evidence against Kumar and he may even be tortured in custody. Mohan said there was nothing left to recover from Kumar. Following these apprehensions, the court directed the agency not to subject Kumar to any kind of torture. Kumar was held by the Delhi Police on May 18 from Kejrival's official residence at Civil Lines. He was placed under arrest when his anticipatory bail plea was being heard in a Delhi court. In her complaint, based on which the Delhi Police registered an FIR against Kumar and arrested him, Maliwal alleged that when she went to the CM's residence on May 13, Kumar had slapped her seven-eight times, "kicked on the chest, stomach and pelvis area" and threatened that she would be killed.

## Audi involved in hit-and-run of retd AIR staffer found in Noida, 2 men arrested

GNS News Agency, June 3

Audi involved in hit-and-run, delhi hit-and-run, Noida hit-and-run, delhi news, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express India... CCTV footage from nearly 150 spots of Noida and Delhi were analysed... and the car was recovered from the parking area of a multi-storey building near AIIMS Delhi... The duo, who was in the car at the time of the incident, has been arrested...," said Manish Kumar Mishra, ADCP, Noida. Two days after a 64-year-old retired All India Radio (AIR) employee died after an Audi allegedly hit him in Noida Sector 53, police on Tuesday arrested two men for their alleged involvement in the case. Police have also recovered the white Audi which hit the victim, said officers.



According to police, the car belonged to Pramod Kumar Singh — a resident of Gurgaon in Haryana — which was being driven by 24-year-old Luv Kumar alias Mamu, who was accompanied by Prince Kumar, 28 when the incident took place. Pramod had allowed one of his relatives to drive the Audi, who further gave the car keys to his friends Luv and Prince. Luv and Pramod are distant relatives, police added. Early Sunday morning, Janak Dev Shah had left home in Gijhor village in Noida Sector 53 to buy milk from a shop right across his residence. Within a few seconds, a speeding white car had allegedly hit him, flinging him up in the air before he crashed on the ground. He had died on the spot, police added.

"A total of seven teams of officials were formed to nab the accused... CCTV footage from nearly 150 spots in Noida and Delhi was analysed, based on which, the car was recovered from the parking area of a multi-storey building near AIIMS Delhi. The vehicle owner was identified as Pramod Kumar Singh, who is a resident of Gurgaon, and questioned... The duo, who was in the car at the time of the incident, has been arrested. Further investigation is underway," said Manish Kumar Mishra,

additional deputy commissioner of police, Noida. Pramod is also from Jharkhand and a businessman by profession. A police officer said that on the day of the incident, the duo drove from Delhi to Noida for a "joyride" and coffee. "He (Pramod) had allowed a relative to drive the Audi, who further gave the car keys to two of his friends who had come to Noida that day... They hit the elderly man and escaped, and later quietly parked the car in Delhi's Kidwai Nagar," said the official.

Based on a complaint filed by the family of the deceased, an FIR under Indian Penal Code sections 304A (causing death by negligence) and 279 (rash driving) was registered against the accused at the CCTV footage of the Noida incident has gone viral on social media, which showed a car hitting the elderly person in white clothes before speeding away. This incident comes a week after another luxury car, a Porsche, driven by a 17-year-old boy hit two engineers in Pune resulting in their deaths. In the Porsche crash, the city police on Monday had arrested two doctors and a staffer of the state-run Sassoon General Hospital for changing the blood sample of the minor driver, which was collected close to eight hours after the accident and replacing it with another.

## Delhi health secretary 'incommunicado' amid fire at Delhi hospital that killed 6 babies: Saurabh Bharadwaj

GNS News Agency, June 3

In a letter to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj Tuesday complained that state health secretary S B Deepak was "incommunicado" amid a major fire incident at Baby Care New Born Hospital in East Delhi's Vivek Vihar that led to the death of six children. Bharadwaj also said the Lieutenant Governor is not refraining from politics even over the death of innocent children and has taken no action against the health secretary.

He claimed it has been four days since the accident and the Health Secretary is "absconding" and not responding to his repeated calls, messages and emails. The minister said on May 27, he called a meeting with the health secretary and other health officials but alleged Kumar did not attend it. "I was informed he is on leave but he did not inform me that he is on leave," Bharadwaj wrote. Bharadwaj further said this is happening because officials have been told they do not have any accountability towards the minister. "I believe the death of newborns is a very sensitive matter and if someone is on leave, sick, or has gone somewhere, they should have either informed their minister about the reason or should have cancelled their leave or continued their duty from



where they are," he added. He alleged that officers who do not follow orders, stop free treatment, stop free medicine, or stop the work of the public, the L-G protects them. "This is very unfortunate that the L-G does not know about administrative issues. On top of it, he is doing politics on such sensitive issues," he wrote. Bharadwaj Sunday had asked officials to speed up the inquiry in the case and directed the health department to ensure the best treatment for the injured newborns at the best private hospitals under the Farishtay Scheme.

## SP MLA sent to 14-day judicial custody in 1995 arson case

Meerut, SP MLA sent to 14-day judicial custody, 1995 arson case, arson case, Meerut, Samajwadi Party, Lucknow news, Uttar Pradesh news, Lucknow, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express India. Since the first non-bailable warrant (NBW) served in 1997 till he was arrested last evening, the sitting MLA was served with 101 NBWs but he never appeared in court.

SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) legislator from Meerut, Rafiq Ansari, who was arrested by the Meerut police from Barabanki district on Sunday evening following an Allahabad High Court directive, was produced in a court on Monday and sent to judicial custody for 14 days. Rafiq,

who won a second consecutive term in the 2022 UP Assembly polls, is a history sheeter in the Meerut police records. He has been elected as councillor thrice, with the support of the Samajwadi Party. In 2012, Rafiq contested the Assembly polls for the first time on an SP ticket but lost to the BJP nominee Lakshmi Kant Bajpai by a margin of 4,000 votes. However, the then Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav gave Rafiq a ministerial berth that year. Five years later, Rafiq defeated Bajpai by around 38,000 votes. In 1997, Rafiq was declared an absconder by a Meerut court after he did not appear in court in connection with two FIRs registered at Nauchandi police station over arson and damage to the property of meat shops in Hapur Road area in 1995.



## HC quashes FIR against jailed MLA Abbas Ansari under UP Gangsters Act



GNS News Agency, June 3

The Allahabad High Court has quashed the FIR registered in Chitrakoot district in January this year against jailed MLA Abbas Ansari, the son of the late gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari, and four others under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act. The court's direction came during a hearing on a petition filed by Abbas' associate Shahbaj Alam Khan who requested the FIR to be quashed. The petitioner argued that the Chitrakoot Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate did not assess the situation personally and instead relied on reports and opinions from "various authorities". The government counsel cited a joint report from the SP and the District Magistrate, which alleged that Abbas formed a gang with his former associates for "financial and material gains".

In its order, the HC said, "After hearing the rival contentions, this court finds that finding in the gang-chart recorded by the District Magistrate, Chitrakoot, and Superintendent of Police, Chitrakoot, that they are recommending the gang-chart on the basis of legal advice and

report of the certain authorities does not finds mention in the joint meeting of the same date i.e, 25.1.2024." The court further stated, "After considering overall facts and circumstances and material on record, this court finds that the findings recorded in the joint meeting on 25.1.2024 and the findings recorded while granting approval of the gangchart by the Superintendent of Police, Chitrakoot and District Magistrate, Chitrakoot are at variance and it shows that mere formality has been observed while holding joint meeting and approving gang chart. In view of the above, impugned First Information Report is hereby quashed. The writ petition is allowed."

The Chitrakoot police had filed an FIR against Abbas, Navneet Sachan, Niyaz Ansari, Faraz Khan, and Shahbaj Alam Khan, under Sections 2 and 3 of the UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act at the Karvi police station on January 29. They alleged that Abbas, upon his transfer to the Chitrakoot jail from Prayagraj, formed a gang with his associates, engaging in extortion through intimidation. Abbas, who won the Assembly election from the Mau seat on a Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) ticket, has been in jail since November 2022. In February last year, Abbas's wife Nikhat Bano was arrested along with her driver Riyaz for allegedly providing "undue help" to her husband. A case was registered against senior prison officials, including the jail superintendent, and suspension orders were issued against them. A team comprising the administration and police officials had conducted a surprise check in the Chitrakoot jail and allegedly caught Nikhat Bano in a room next to the jail superintendent's office. The police said she got inside the jail without completing formalities required for a visitor. On February 14 last year, the state government had ordered to transfer Abbas to the Kasganj jail on "administrative grounds".

## Key conspirator in Rohingyas, Bangladeshi trafficking case arrested

GNS News Agency, June 3

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested a Tripura resident for allegedly trafficking Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingyas into the country through the north-eastern borders. The accused identified as Jalil Miah, a key conspirator, was carrying a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh, according to the NIA. At least 33 people have been arrested in the case and 24 accused have been chargesheeted so far by the NIA, which had taken over the case from Assam Special Task Force (STF) last year. According to NIA, investigations have revealed that a large number of Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingyas are being trafficked to India every month through the porous stretches of the Indo-Bangladesh border and are transported to different parts of the country and provided fake documents and forced into labour. "The NIA had in February declared a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Jalil, who was absconding in the case, in addition to nine others," an NIA spokesperson said. The NIA said Jalil was a close associate of chargesheeted accused Jiban Rudra Pal alias Jibon alias Saman.

"Jalil was also closely associated with two other absconders, Juj Miah and Shanto, all hailing from Tripura. He had managed to escape during the initial operation on November 8, 2023, in which 29 accused were arrested," the spokesperson said, adding that electronic devices and other incriminating documents seized from his residence had pointed to his complicity. "A subsequent



crackdown on December 29 last year had led to the arrest of another four accused in the case, exposing a massive network of human traffickers. "The manhunt for tracking the other absconders is continuing," said the spokesperson. In the searches conducted across the nation in November 2023, the NIA had seized incriminating data, including digital devices, along with foreign currency (Bangladeshi Taka and US Dollar), Aadhaar cards, PAN cards etc. "A subsequent crackdown on December 29 last year had led to the arrest of another four accused in the case, exposing a massive network of human traffickers. The manhunt for tracking the other absconders is continuing and investigations are in progress to connect the missing links in the elaborate racket," the spokesperson said.

## Sikkim High Court introduces menstrual leave policy for its women employees

GNS News Agency, June 3

In a first-of-its-kind move, the Sikkim High Court has introduced a menstrual leave policy for its women employees in the registry. In a notification on May 27, the Sikkim High Court registry stated that women employees may avail "2-3 days of menstrual leave" in a month. However, such leave would only be granted on the prior recommendation of the Medical Officer of the High Court. "This leave will not be counted against the employee's overall leave account," the notification stated. The Sikkim HC, the country's smallest High Court, has three judges, with just 9 officers in the registry including one woman officer, as per the High Court website. The Sikkim High Court is the first High Court to introduce a menstrual leave policy. Currently, there is no national policy or law for menstrual leave.

In February 2023, the Supreme Court declined to hear a petition seeking menstrual leave for students and working women in the country, stating that it was in the domain of policy and not for them to decide. The bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud recommended that the petitioner file a representation with the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development



instead. In December 2023, Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani opposed a menstrual leave policy. Though Irani said she believes "menstruating and menstrual cycle is not a handicap", she expressed concern that "equal opportunities just because somebody who does not menstruate has a particular view towards menstruation." In the same month that year, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare formulated a draft Menstrual Hygiene policy which stated that work-from-home or support leaves should be available to women so that there is no discrimination against them.

## MP orders closure of 66 nursing colleges after directive from HC



GNS News Agency, June 3

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh government, Madhya Pradesh High Court, mp nursing colleges, Madhya Pradesh nursing colleges, Indian express news, current affairs In February this year, the CBI had given a clean chit to 169 nursing colleges, found 65 nursing colleges to be unsuitable and 74 others with curable deficiency in its

report to the High Court. The Madhya Pradesh government has ordered the closure of 66 nursing colleges across 31 districts in accordance with the High Court order in the alleged nursing college scam being probed by the CBI. Among the colleges in question, eight are in Betul, six in Bhopal, five in Indore, four each in Chhatrapur, Dhar and Sehore, three in Narmadapuram, two each in Bhind, Chhindwara, Jabalpur, Jhabua, Mandla, Rewa, Seoni and Shahdol. Advocate Vishal Baghel, president of the Law Students Association, had filed a PIL before the Jabalpur Bench of the High Court in January 2022, saying that 55 nursing colleges started in the year 2020-2021 in tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh were being run without essential infrastructure. Following this, the court ordered an around a week ago, the CBI arrested 13 persons, including four of its own officers tasked with probing the irregularities in the nursing colleges over bribery charge. In February this year, the CBI had given a clean chit to 169 nursing colleges,

## Mani Shankar Aiyar triggers another row with China remark; Cong distances itself



GNS News Agency, June 3

Weeks after former Union minister and Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's found himself in the middle of a row over his comments on Pakistan, his remarks, this time on China, have again triggered a controversy. Aiyar, while speaking at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia, referred to the 1962 Indo-China war as an "alleged Chinese invasion". "In October 1962, the Chinese allegedly invaded India," Aiyar is heard saying in a video that has gone viral. When a member in the audience questioned his use of the word "allegedly", he sought to amend his stance and apologised for having used the word "mistakenly". However, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came down heavily on the comments, calling it a "brazen attempt at revisionism". BJP's IT Cell chief Amit Malviya alleged that Aiyar wanted to "whitewash Chinese invasion".

Mani Shankar Aiyar, speaking at the FCC, during launch of a book called Nehru's First Recruits, refers to Chinese invasion in 1962 as 'alleged'. This is a brazen

attempt at revisionism. "Nehru gave up India's claim on permanent seat at the UNSC in favour of the Chinese, Rahul Gandhi signed a secret MoU, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation accepted funds from the Chinese Embassy and published reports recommending market access for Chinese companies, based on them, Sonia Gandhi's UPA opened up Indian market for Chinese goods, hurting MSMEs and now Congress leader Aiyar wants to whitewash the Chinese invasion, post which the Chinese have been in illegal occupation of 38,000 sq km of Indian territory," he wrote.

However, the Congress was quick to distance itself from the comments, with General Secretary Jairam Ramesh saying: "Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar has subsequently apologised unreservedly for using the term 'alleged invasion' mistakenly. Allowances must be made for his age. The INC distances itself from his original phraseology." Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar has subsequently apologised unreservedly for using the term "alleged invasion" mistakenly. Allowances must be made for his age. The INC distances itself from his original phraseology. He added: "The Chinese invasion of India that began on October 20 1962 was for REAL. So too were the Chinese incursions in Ladakh in early May 2020 in which 20 of our soldiers were martyred and the status quo disturbed." He also pointed out, tagging a clip shared by Congress in-charge of research and monitoring Amitabh Dubey, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had himself denied Chinese invasion into India back in 2020. "The outgoing PM, however, gave a clean chit publicly to the Chinese on June 19th 2020, seriously weakening our negotiating position. 2000 sq km of territory including Depsang and Demchok remain out of bounds for Indian troops," he wrote on social media platform X.

## Judges have right to respond to allegations of bias: Delhi high court

GNS News Agency, June 3

The Delhi high court has underlined the importance of guarding the reputation of judicial officers and said judges have the right to respond to the allegations of bias against them while dealing with a case. A bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma on Tuesday said that denying such opportunity would lead to a culture of unchecked and unverified accusations against any judge. "Judges, by virtue of their duties, are tasked with upholding the principles of fairness and impartiality while adjudicating cases before them and authoring judgments. However, when the conduct of a judge itself comes into question, the principle of audi alteram partem [let the other side be heard as well] must be equally applied in such cases to the judges," said Justice Sharma. "The application of audi alteram partem in cases involving judges would ensure that the judiciary remains accountable, while also protecting the rights of judges to defend their conduct and decisions." Justice Sharma said the judges build their reputation over years of dedicated service and thus it is of utmost importance for them to guard their reputation.

The judges' right to be heard was stressed in connection with an Enforcement Directorate (ED) plea challenging a local court's May 1 order transferring the Bhushan Steel money laundering case from Judge Jagdish Kumar, who allegedly remarked, "Let them take dates, where is the question of bail in ED matters."

The May 1 order was passed after one of the accused, Ajay S Mittal, filed a transfer application saying that Judge Kumar was sitting with a "pre-determined" and prejudicial mind to dismiss his bail application. Mittal claimed his wife, who was watching the proceedings virtually, allegedly overheard Judge Kumar making the alleged remarks during a conversation with the court staff. In the May 1 order, a district judge allowed Mittal's plea noting his apprehension of the judge's "probable bias" in the probe agency's favour could not be said to be mis-conceived or misplaced.

ED moved the high court claiming the district judge transferred the matter based on an affidavit of Mittal's wife without calling for a report from the concerned judge. It said that the "wild allegations" against the judge could not be considered "gospel truth" as none of the lawyers



present during the hearing heard the judge's remarks. In his 41-page order, Justice Sharma observed a judge's stray general comment to one of his staff members, who is neither a participant in the decision-making process nor has any interest in the outcome of the case, cannot be a ground to infer that the judicial officer was saying something in the context of the similar case.

He said the relationship between the staff and the judge must be treated as confidential and should not become a subject of scrutiny by the litigants or the lawyers. The high court took a dim view of the growing tendency of the litigants to write abusive or inappropriate comments in the chat box during video conferencing. It urged the formulation of appropriate guidelines for countering it. "The growing tendency of writing abusive or inappropriate comments in the chat box at the time of video conferencing, using inappropriate, defamatory, contemptuous and abusive language against judges have also come to the notice of the courts in the recent past in addition to now the present case where allegations regarding an overheard conversation between the judge and the staff when the Court was not in session have been made [the] basis of alleging bias against the concerned judge. These developments are a matter of concern," the high court said. The court set aside the transfer order saying that the district judge failed to grant any opportunity to Kumar to respond to the allegations of bias before passing the ruling. It observed that this oversight had undermined the basic tenets of fairness and natural justice. The court directed the district judge to consider the matter afresh after calling for comments from Judge Kumar.

## How doctors 'changed' teen driver's blood sample | Sequence of events

GNS News Agency, June 3

Pune Porsche car accident news updates: Two young IT professionals were killed after their motorcycle was hit by a speeding Porsche car, allegedly driven by a 17-year-old boy, in the early hours of May 19 in Kalyani Nagar area in Pune. According to the Pune Police, the teenager was drunk at the time. On Monday, Pune Police commissioner Amitesh Kumar claimed that the teen's blood samples were discarded and replaced with another person's samples which showed no traces of alcohol. The Pune Police has arrested Dr Ajay Taware, head of the Sassoon General Hospital's forensic medicine department, Dr Shrihari Halnor, the chief medical officer, and a staffer, Atul Ghatkamble, who works under Dr Taware. They were remanded in police custody till May 30. News18, citing unnamed sources, reported the sequence of events that led to the manipulation of the blood sample of the teen driver. What happened after Pune Porsche accident On May 19 at 11am, a blood sample from the minor accused was taken to Sassoon General Hospital. Vishal Agarwal, the teenager's father contacted Dr Ajay Taware. Dr Ajay Taware asked Dr Shrihari Halnor to switch the samples, after which a different person's blood sample was sent to the forensic lab. Sassoon General Hospital doctors reported that the minor accused had not consumed alcohol. Police took another blood sample from the juvenile accused for DNA testing at a different government hospital. The second blood sample matched both the minor accused and the father. The blood sample from Sassoon General Hospital did not match the accused. During police interrogation, the doctor admitted to switching the blood sample. The Pune Police suspects that a lab technician or attendant assisted the three arrested individuals. Pune car crash: Panel visits Sassoon Hospital A three-member committee conducting an inquiry into the alleged manipulation of the blood samples of the juvenile driver involved in the Porsche car crash on Tuesday visited the Sassoon Gen-



## Pune Porsche car accident: Police has arrested two doctors of Sassoon General Hospital and a staffer. They were remanded in police custody

eral Hospital and also met police officials who are probing the case. In a related development, a local court remanded the father of the 17-year-old in police custody till May 31 in the case of 'kidnapping' of the family driver. The committee headed by Dr Pallavi Sapale, dean of the Grant Medical College and JJ group of hospitals, arrived at the Sassoon hospital earlier in the day. The committee also visited the office of the Pune crime branch which has taken over the accident case. "We will submit our observations to the state government and it is the prerogative of the government as to what action it wants to take," said Dr Sapale. "We have been directed by the government to submit the report at the earliest," she added.



## Israel denies strike on camp near Rafah that Gaza officials say killed 21 people



group Hamas, in Israel,

[1/8]A tank manoeuvres near the Israel-Gaza border, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Israel, /Amir Cohen Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabsIsrael said it had targeted two senior Hamas operatives and had not intended to cause civilian casualties. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the harm to civilians occurred when "something unfortunately went tragically wrong." Global leaders voiced horror at the fire in a designated humanitarian zone of Rafah where families uprooted by fighting elsewhere had sought shelter, and they urged the implementation of a World Court order last week for a halt to Israel's assault. After a meeting of the U.N. Security Council closed doors on Tuesday over the latest developments in Rafah, Algeria's U.N. Ambassador Amar Bendjama said the country would propose a draft council resolution to "stop the killing in Rafah." The Israeli military said it was investigating the possibility that munitions stored near a compound targeted by Sunday's airstrike may have ignited and touched off the blaze. The Biden administration said on Tuesday it was closely monitoring the probe into Sunday's air strike. U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris said: "The word tragic doesn't even begin to describe" what happened on Sunday. But Kirby said there was nothing in the incidents on Sunday or on Tuesday that would prompt the United States to halt its military aid to Israel. In a further blow to aid efforts, part of the U.S. military's pier off Gaza's coast broke off, probably due to bad weather, putting it out of operation temporarily, two U.S. officials said.

Saudi Arabia - which has been in talks to normalise relations with Israel before the war in Gaza erupted - on Tuesday accused Israel of committing "genocide massacres" by targeting Palestinian tents in Rafah, saying it held Israel accountable for its actions. Egypt is again trying in tandem with Qatar and the U.S. to revive talks on a ceasefire and the release of hostages held by Hamas, but efforts have been hampered by Israel's assault on Rafah, Cairo's state-affiliated Al-Qahera News TV channel said on Tuesday, citing a senior official. A person familiar with the issue said that Israel delivered its latest ceasefire and hostage release proposal to Qatar, and Qatar was to provide it to Hamas on Tuesday. Hamas has said talks are pointless unless Israel ends its offensive in Rafah. More than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive, Gaza's health ministry says. Israel launched its air and ground war after Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israeli communities on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people and seizing more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Israel says it wants to root out the last major intact formations of Hamas fighters hunkered down in Rafah and rescue hostages it says are being held in the area. Coming soon: Get the latest news and expert analysis about the state of the global economy with Reuters Econ World. Sign up here. Reporting by Nidal al-Mughrabi and Dan Williams; Writing by Ros Russell, Gareth Jones and Deepa Babington; Editing by Mark Heinrich, Gareth Jones, Deepa Babington and Cynthia Osterman

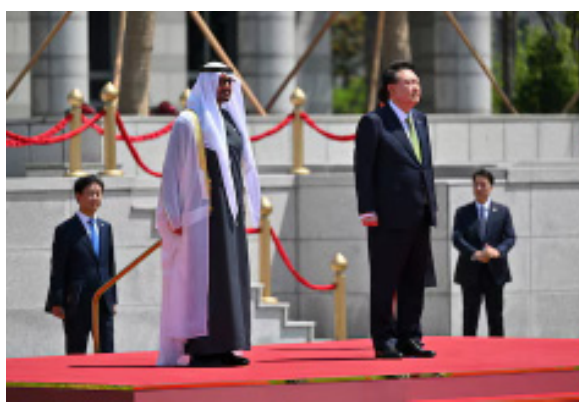
A senior correspondent with nearly 25 years' experience covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict including several wars and the signing of the first historic peace accord between the two sides.



"The Israelis have said this is a tragic mistake," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters at the White House, when asked about whether the events over the weekend qualified as the type of "death and destruction" U.S. officials have warned could result in the withholding of more aid to Israel.

operations. "So this is of concern, clearly, because it's not in Israel's best interest," Kirby said. "And it's not in our best interest for Israel to become increasingly isolated on the world stage." The U.S. administration's response was criticized earlier Tuesday by human rights and Arab American groups. "Sadly, because of President Biden's insistence on sending more bombs to enable Netanyahu's war crimes in Rafah, this is now as much an American genocide as it is an Israeli genocide," said Nihad Awad, executive director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Israeli and U.S. officials have denounced the use of the term genocide to describe events on the ground in Gaza. The State Department said on Tuesday that as soon as it saw reports of Sunday's Rafah incident, Washington expressed deep concern to Israel and urged an investigation, which Israel has promised. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters that Washington will be closely watching Israel's probe but Israel's military operations so far in Rafah have not been as large-scale as those in central or northern Gaza. Global leaders have expressed horror at the fire in a designated "humanitarian zone" of Rafah where families uprooted by fighting elsewhere had sought shelter. More than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive, Gaza's health ministry says. Israel launched its air and ground war after Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israeli communities on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people and seizing more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Coming soon: Get the latest news and expert analysis about the state of the global economy with Reuters Econ World. Sign up here. Reporting by Trevor Hunnicutt, Humeyra Pamuk, David Ljunggren and Daphne Psalidakis; additional reporting by Kanishka Singh; editing by Rami Ayyub, Heather Timmons, Cynthia Osterman, Deepa Babington and Rod Nickel

## South Korea, UAE sign deal to slash import duties at leaders' summit



GNS News Agency, June 3

SEOUL, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates signed a trade pact on Wednesday to sharply cut import duties at a summit of their leaders that pledged closer business and investment ties. Host South Korea welcomed the UAE's President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan with a traditional honour guard and a flypast of air force jets. "The special bond between the two leaders serves as an opportunity to deepen and advance the two countries' special strategic partnership," the office of President Yoon Suk Yeol said in a statement. The summit, which follows Yoon's state visit last year to Abu Dhabi, focused on energy and defence, as South Korea seeks to tap the investment potential of the energy-rich Gulf state.

In its statement, Yoon's office said the UAE reaffirmed last year's pledge of \$30 billion in investment for South Korean businesses, in areas from nuclear power and defence to hydrogen and solar energy. The two sides also signed an agreement to boost investment flows into future-focused sectors in South Korea's economy, it added. The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company signed a letter of intent for a South Korean company to build at least six LNG carriers valued at about \$1.5 billion, it said. The industry ministers formally signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) agreed in October that will remove all tariffs on South Korean arms exports when it is ratified, South Korea said. The UAE will also drop import duty on automobiles over the next decade, during which South Korea's tariffs on crude oil imports are to be removed. The deal will eventually scrap tariffs on more than 90% of the imports of both. On Tuesday, Sheikh Mohammed met the leaders of some of South Korea's top conglomerates including Jay Y. Lee of Samsung Electronics, SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won and Kim Dong-kwan of Hanwha Group, which has emerged as a major defence contractor. No new arms deal was unveiled, but Yoon's office said both aim to boost long-term co-operation of their defence industries. South Korea has signed a series of global defence equipment contracts as part of its plans to become the world's fourth-largest defence exporter by 2027. One such recent deal involves Poland, which seeks to bolster its defences as a close neighbour of Ukraine, which is at war with Russia. Coming soon: Get the latest news and expert analysis about the state of the global economy with Reuters Econ World. Sign up here.

## South Africans vote in most competitive election since end of apartheid

GNS News Agency, June 3

SOWETO, South Africa, South Africans began voting on Wednesday in the most competitive election since the end of apartheid, with opinion polls suggesting the African National Congress (ANC) will lose its parliamentary majority after 30 years in government. Polling stations opened at or shortly after 7 a.m. (0500 GMT), with voters queuing at some locations including Hitekani Primary School in the vast township of Soweto near Johannesburg, where President Cyril Ramaphosa was expected to vote later. Security guard Shivambu Yuza Patric, 48, came straight to the polling station after working a night shift. He said he had not voted in the previous election because he had lost faith in the ANC, but he was hopeful this election would bring change.

"They do nothing for the people," he said of the ANC. He said he would decide at the last minute who to vote for but was leaning towards small opposition party ActionSA. Then led by Nelson Mandela, the ANC swept to power in South Africa's first multi-racial election in 1994 and has won a majority in national elections held every five years since then, though its share of the vote has gradually declined. If it falls short of 50% this time, the ANC will have to make a deal with one or more smaller parties to govern - uncharted and potentially choppy waters for a young democracy that has so far been utterly dominated by a single party.

However, the ANC is still on course to win the largest share of the vote, meaning that its leader Ramaphosa is likely to remain in office, unless he faces an internal challenge if the party's performance is worse than expected. Voter dissatisfaction over high rates of unemployment and crime, frequent power blackouts and corruption in party ranks lies behind the ANC's gradual fall from grace. "I voted for the EFF and that's because I need fresh minds in parliament," said Andrew Mathabatha, 40, a self-employed engineer, who arrived early to vote at the Midrand High School in a northern suburb of Johannesburg.

He was referring to the Economic Freedom Fighters, a party founded by Julius Malema, a firebrand former leader of the ANC's youth wing. It wants to nationalise mines and banks and seize land from white farmers to

address racial and economic disparities. "I feel like the current government is slow in terms of implementing certain things and I just think that it's time for a different way of thinking and doing things," Mathabatha said. More than 27 million South Africans are registered to vote at more than 23,000 polling stations that will be open until 9 p.m. (1900 GMT). Voters will elect provincial assemblies in each of the country's nine provinces, and a new national parliament which will then choose the next president. Among opposition parties vying for power is the pro-business Democratic Alliance, which won the second-largest vote share in 2019 and has formed an alliance with several smaller parties to try to broaden its appeal. Former president Jacob Zuma is backing a new party called uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), named after the ANC's former armed wing. Zuma, who was forced to quit as president in 2018 after a string of scandals, has enduring influence, particularly in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal. The election commission is expected to start releasing partial results within hours of polling stations closing. The commission has seven days to announce final results but at the last election - also held on a Wednesday - it did so on a Saturday. Based in Johannesburg, Anait reports on breaking news across Sub-Saharan Africa. Previously she spent over two years in Gdansk, Poland, covering company news and translating Reuters articles from English into French. Prior to joining Reuters in 2020, Anait studied journalism at Sciences Po, Paris, and linguistics at Moscow State Linguistic University.

## Thailand to indict influential former PM Thaksin over royal insult

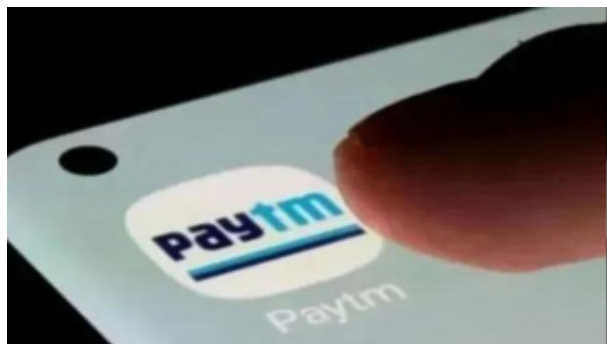
BANGKOK, GNS News Agency, June 3, Thailand's attorney-general will indict former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra for allegedly insulting the monarchy, an official said on Wednesday, in a setback to a political heavyweight whose loyalists are currently in government. The complaint, lodged by the royalist military that ousted the government of his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, had stemmed from an interview the influential tycoon gave to foreign media in 2015. Other charges against him include violating a computer crime law. "The attorney-general has decided to indict Thaksin on all charges," spokesperson Prayuth Bejrugana said, adding the former premier would need to appear before court on June 18. Thaksin, 74, denies wrongdoing and has repeatedly pledged his loyalty to the crown, criticism of which is forbidden under Thailand's lese-majeste law, which is one of the world's strictest of its kind. Thaksin would be the highest-profile case among more than 270 prosecutions in recent years under the controversial law, which carries a maximum jail term of 15 years for each perceived insult of the royal family. His lawyer Winayat Chartmontri said a comprehensive defence had been prepared and his client would seek bail. He also questioned the authenticity of the video of the interview in which the alleged insult was made. Thaksin did not appear at Wednesday's hearing because he had been infected with COVID-19, he said. "We have to proceed based on our rights in a criminal case," Winayat told a press conference. "Thaksin Shinawatra is ready to prove his innocence in the justice system." Thaksin, the founder of the populist juggernaut Pheu Thai, has seen his family's parties win all but one election since 2001, with three Shinawatra governments toppled by coups or court rulings. The billionaire made a dramatic return to Thailand in 2023 from 15 years of self-imposed exile, during which he remained a central figure throughout repeated bouts of political upheaval. He was convicted of abuse of power and conflicts of interest and sentenced to eight years in prison, but was released on parole in February after just six months in detention. His return and relatively short time in detention, spent en-



tirely in hospital, has fueled speculation he had struck a deal with his bitter rivals in the conservative establishment and military which he has long blamed for trying to stifle pro-Thaksin governments. His allies have denied any such deal. Pheu Thai leads the current government, with Thaksin's business ally Srettha Thavisin the prime minister and daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra the party chief. The announcement of his indictment comes days after an opposition lawmaker and an activist musician were given jail terms for alleged insults of the crown. The palace typically does not comment on the law. The popular opposition Move Forward Party, the biggest in parliament, has found itself in hot water over its campaign to amend the law, with the Constitutional Court due to decide whether to dissolve the party, which would see bans for its leadership. A separate complaint with another body is seeking life bans for 44 current and former Move Forward legislators over the amendment plan, which it has since been forced to abandon. Commentators are anticipating Thaksin will seek to wield significant political influence from behind the scenes, raising the possibility of another confrontation with his powerful rivals in the establishment. He insists he has retired from politics.



## Paytm terms Adani stake buy reports as 'speculative'; stock hits upper circuit



contours of the deal' "...we hereby clarify that the news item is speculative and the company is not engaged in any discussions in this regard," One97 Communications said in a filing to exchanges.

"We have always made and will continue to make disclosures in compliance with our obligations under SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015," the company informed. Sharma's direct and indirect holding in One97 Communications is 19.39 per cent, as per the company's website.

After the clarification, the share price of One 97 Communication hit the 5-per cent upper circuit at Rs 359.55 apiece on the BSE. The media report comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in January this year, barred Paytm's payment bank arm — Paytm Payments Bank — from accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer account, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags and NCMC card after March 15, in the wake of persistent non-compliances and material supervisory concerns.

## Reliance to buy Russian oil from Rosneft in roubles: Report

India's Reliance Industries, operator of the world's biggest refining complex, has signed a one-year deal with Russia's Rosneft to buy at least 3 million barrels of oil a month in roubles, four sources aware of the matter told Reuters. The shift to rouble payments follows Russian President Vladimir Putin's push for Moscow and its trading partners to find alternatives to the Western financial system to facilitate trade despite U.S. and European sanctions.

A term deal with Rosneft also helps privately run Reliance to secure oil at discounted rates at a time when the OPEC+ group of oil producers is expected to extend voluntary supply cuts beyond June. The OPEC+ group comprising the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia is due to discuss the output cuts in an online meeting on June 2. India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, has become the biggest buyer of seaborne Russian crude since the West halted purchases and imposed sanctions against Moscow in the aftermath of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. India has also paid for Russian crude in rupees, dirhams and Chinese yuan. State-owned Indian refiners, meanwhile, have been tapping spot markets for Russian oil because they were unable to finalise term supplies for this year, Reuters has reported previously.

"India is a strategic partner for Rosneft oil company," the Russian company said in an emailed response to questions from Reuters, adding that it does not comment on confidential agreements with partners. "Cooperation with Indian companies includes projects in the field of production, oil refining and trading of oil and petroleum



products." Rosneft also said that commercial approaches to determining the value of sold crude are the same for all companies, regardless of whether they are private or state-controlled. Reliance did not respond to a request for comment.

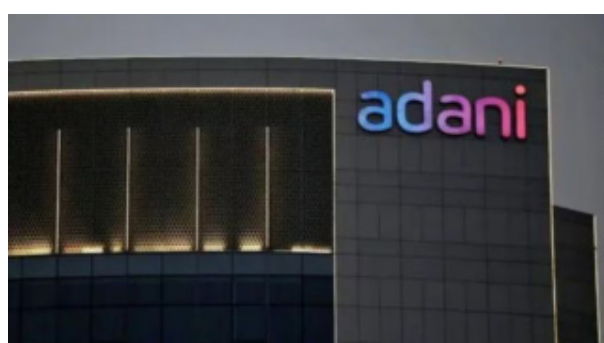
Under the terms of the deal, which took effect at the beginning of the Indian financial year from April 1, Reliance will buy two cargoes of about one million barrels of Urals crude with an option to buy four more each month at a discount of \$3 a barrel to the Middle East Dubai benchmark, the sources said. The refiner will also purchase one to two cargoes a month of low-sulphur crude oil, mainly ESPO Blend exported from Russia's Pacific port of Kozmino, at a premium of \$1 a barrel to Dubai quotes, the sources added. Reliance has agreed to make payment for the oil using Russia's rouble through India's HDFC Bank and Russia's Gazprombank, the sources said. Further details on the payment mechanism were not immediately available.

## Adani Enterprises board okays raising up to Rs 16,600 crore via QIP

Adani Enterprises on Tuesday received board approval to raise Rs 16,600 crore through the qualified institutional placement (QIP) route. In a filing to exchanges, the Adani Group's flagship company said that the board of directors has approved raising of funds by the way of 'issuance of such number of equity shares having face value of Re 1 each of the Company and / or other eligible securities or any combination, for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 16,600 crore or an equivalent amount thereof by way of QIP or other permissible mode in one or more tranches'.

QIP is a method by which listed companies raise funds by issuing equities to qualified institutional buyers. The fund raising announcement by Adani Enterprises comes a day after another group company — Adani Energy Solutions received approval from its board to raise Rs 12,500 crore through QIP route. The stock price of Adani Enterprises closed at Rs 3,244.35 apiece, down 1.33 per cent, on the BSE. In February 2023, Adani Enterprises had called off its fully subscribed Rs 20,000 crore follow on public offer (FPO) and announced to return the money to the investors. The FPO was called off after the US-based Hindenburg Research on January 23 released a report alleging the group of brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud, which the conglomerate denied.

Following the release of the Hindenburg report, shares of Adani Group companies came under heavy



selling pressure on the stock exchanges. All the listed companies of the Group crashed in the range of 30-80 per cent. However, stock prices of Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports have now erased the losses caused by the Hindenburg report.

Adani Ports has risen over 80 per cent from pre-Hindenburg report levels. In the quarter ended March 31, 2024, Adani Enterprises profit after tax (attributable to owners) dropped 39 per cent to Rs 449 crore from Rs 735 crore in the year-ago period. For fiscal 2024, its profit after tax rose 31 per cent to Rs 3,240 crore as compared to Rs 2,464 crore in FY23. Its total income marginally rose 1 per cent to Rs 29,630 crore from Rs 29,311 crore in the quarter ended March 2023.

tion in a time bound manner. More application forms would be made available as may be required, it said.

With regard to the retail direct mobile app, the statement said retail investors can now transact in G-Secs using the mobile app on their smartphones. The mobile app can be downloaded from the Play Store for Android users and App Store for iOS users. At present, the retail direct portal is available to facilitate retail investors to open their Retail Direct Gilt accounts with the Reserve Bank of India under the Retail Direct Scheme. The portal launched in November 2021 allows retail investors to buy G-Secs in the primary auctions as well as buy and sell G-Secs in the secondary market. The FinTech Repository aims to capture essential information about FinTech entities, their activities, technology uses, etc. FinTechs, both regulated and unregulated, are encouraged to contribute to the repository. Simultaneously, a related repository for only RBI regulated entities (banks and NBFCs) on their adoption of emerging technologies (like AI, ML, Cloud Computing, DLT, Quantum, etc.), called EmTech Repository, is also being launched. The FinTech and EmTech Repositories are secure web-based applications and are managed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI.

## As Fahadh Faasil reveals ADHD diagnosis at 41, understanding the symptoms and treatment for adults



Malayalam actor Fahadh Faasil recently opened up about being clinically diagnosed with Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The Aavesham actor opened up about his diagnosis at an event in Kothamangalam, Kerala, where he recalled a conversation with his doctor. "He told me it can be easily cured if diagnosed at a young age. I asked whether it can be cured if it is diagnosed at the age of 41. I am clinically ADHD diagnosed," Fahadh, 41, said. For the unversed, ADHD, a neurodevelopmental condition that affects cognitive processes, has traditionally been associated with childhood diagnoses. As such, let's understand if one can remain undiagnosed till later years and how that changes the course of treatment.

How can a diagnosis be missed?

ADHD is usually seen in children, however, symptoms may persist in some during adulthood too. "This means that ADHD symptoms usually do not start in adulthood. It is most likely that symptoms of ADHD were milder

or were missed when they were younger," noted consultant neurologist Dr Sudhir Kumar, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad.

Symptoms of adult ADHD

According to Dr Kumar, common symptoms of adult ADHD include difficulty paying attention, impulsiveness, and restlessness. "Symptoms can range from mild to severe. They are unable to focus on their work and prioritise. They are also poor at multitasking. This results in delays in completing the tasks leading to missed deadlines. Adults with ADHD often report poor performance at work and are unable to fruitfully engage in social gatherings. As a result of impulsiveness, they get frustrated waiting in queue or if they are stuck in traffic," explained Dr Kumar. Most adults with ADHD also have co-existing anxiety, mood swings, or depression, added Dr Kumar. Diagnosis of ADHD in adults requires careful and detailed history. "Since some symptoms of ADHD may overlap that of psychiatric diseases, ADHD may be difficult to diagnose, especially in milder cases," said Dr Kumar.

Is it a cause for concern when diagnosed late?

It is not a cause for concern when diagnosed late. "However, personal and professional life can get adversely affected if ADHD remains undiagnosed and unaddressed. If the person finds significant impairment in social, or professional life, he/she should consult a doctor," said Dr Kumar. Appropriate treatment can result in significant improvement in quality of life. Treatment of ADHD in adults is similar to that of children, and includes medications, counselling, psychotherapy, and treatment of coexisting psychiatric disorders, said Dr Kumar.

## Bhumi amla: Know what makes it a 'powerful liver toner'

You probably consume amla — known to be good for the digestive system — as part of your diet. But have you ever heard of or seen bhumi amalaki, the tinier version of amla that is considered to be excellent for liver health? Introducing us to this powerful fruit was Ayurveda practitioner Salila Sukumaran, founder, Ayurveda Wellness Concierge who took to Instagram to share, "This amla is something else; you will find it growing close to the earth. The tiny fruits are juicy and taste like nothing but are powerful liver toners. Bhumi amalaki along with Punarnava and Neem makes an effective combo for gastric, liver, and kidney health. Take these herbs only under the care of an experienced elder, a qualified practitioner, or an Ayurveda physician."

Bhumi amalaki, also known as Phyllanthus Niruri, is a potent herbal remedy highly esteemed in Ayurveda for its remarkable medicinal properties, said Dr Yamuna BS, chief doctor, Guduchi Ayurveda. "Revered as the best liver tonic, Bhumi or Bhumyamalaki is a go-to remedy for enhancing liver health and function. Its hepatoprotective properties make it an exceptional treatment for conditions like jaundice, a personal favourite in my clinical practice, where I have extensively used it with remarkable results," noted Dr Yamuna.

One of the distinguishing features of Bhumi amalaki compared to the regular amla (Indian gooseberry) is its broader spectrum of benefits. "While amla is renowned for its high vitamin C content and overall health-boosting properties, Bhumi amalaki stands out with its specific efficacy in treating liver disorders, fever, and jaundice. Furthermore, it possesses powerful properties that help in addressing various skin issues, providing relief and promoting skin health," said Dr Yamuna. Bhumi amalaki also acts as a natural appetite enhancer, making it beneficial



for individuals experiencing loss of appetite. According to Dr Yamuna, this herb is versatile in its therapeutic applications, extending its benefits to managing conditions like diabetes, menorrhagia (heavy menstrual bleeding), and urinary tract infections (UTIs). "Its multifaceted action makes it a valuable addition to holistic health regimens," mentioned Dr Yamuna. It also contains powerful anti-inflammatory, antibiotic, and anti-asthmatic properties. Dr Yamuna elucidated that it is commonly used to relieve symptoms of the common cold, sore throat, cough, and flu. "It also thins and loosens the rheum particles in the chest and nasal cavities, making breathing easier and helping the body eliminate mucus. It also alleviates bronchitis and asthmatic symptoms," said Dr Yamuna. However, while Bhumyamalaki is generally safe for most people, it is crucial to consider a few aspects before incorporating it into your health routine. "Individuals with underlying health conditions or those on medication should consult a healthcare provider to ensure it does not interact with their current treatments. Pregnant and breastfeeding women should also seek medical advice prior to use," cautioned Dr Yamuna.

## Heat waves can be deadly for older adults: An aging global population and rising temperatures mean millions are at risk

A deadly heat wave gripped large regions of Asia for weeks in April and May 2024. As temperatures climbed past 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) in India on May 7, campaigning politicians, local news announcers and voters waiting in long lines passed out from the oppressive heat. From as far north as Japan to as far south as the Philippines, the relentless heat wreaked havoc on everyday life. Students and teachers in Cambodia were sent home from school, as their hand-held fans provided little protection against the stifling heat and humidity in their poorly ventilated classrooms. Farmers in Thailand saw their crops wither and mourned the loss of livestock that perished under the punishing sun. Hundreds of people died from the heat. Most of the planet has suffered the dire effects of extreme heat in recent years. A weeks-long heat wave in the southwestern United States in 2023 was described as "hell on earth" in Phoenix, where temperatures hit 110 F (43.3 C) or higher for 31 straight days. At the same time, Europe saw unprecedented high temperatures that killed hundreds and contributed to devastating wildfires in Greece. Regardless of where or when a heat wave strikes, one pattern is a constant: Older adults are the most likely to die from extreme heat, and this crisis will worsen in the coming years. We study climate change and population aging. Our research documents two global trends that together portend a dire future.

More older adults will be at risk of heat stress. First, temperatures are hotter than ever. The nine-year period from 2015 and 2023 had the highest average temperatures since global records began in 1880. Second, the population is aging worldwide. By 2050, the number of people ages 60 and older will double to nearly 2.1 billion, making up 21 per cent of the global population. That proportion is 13 per cent today. These combined forces mean that ever-rising numbers of vulnerable older adults will be exposed to intensifying heat. To understand the risks ahead, we developed population projections for different age groups and combined them with climate change scenarios for the coming decades. Our analyses show that by 2050, more than 23 per cent of the world population ages 69 and older will be living in regions where peak temperatures routinely surpass 99.5 degrees F (37.5 degrees C), compared with just 14 per cent today. That

means that as many as 250 million additional older adults will be exposed to dangerously high temperatures. Mapping the data shows that most of these older adults live in lower- and middle-income countries with insufficient services and limited access to electricity, cooling appliances and safe water. In historically cooler regions in the Global North, including North America and Europe, rising temperatures will be the main force driving older adults' heat exposure. In historically hotter regions in the Global South such as Asia, Africa and South America, population growth and increases in longevity mean that steeply rising numbers of older adults will be exposed to intensifying heat-related risks.

Policymakers, communities, families and older residents themselves need to understand these risks and be prepared because of older adults' special vulnerabilities to heat. Heat wave analyses show that by 2050, more than 23 per cent of the world population ages 69 and older will be living in regions where peak temperatures routinely surpass 99.5 degrees F (37.5 degrees C), compared with just 14 per cent today (Source: Freepik) Extreme heat is especially harmful to older adults

High temperatures are oppressive for everyone, but for older adults they can be deadly. Extreme heat worsens common age-related health conditions such as heart, lung and kidney disease and can cause delirium. Older people don't sweat as much as younger people, which makes it harder for their bodies to cool down when temperatures spike. These problems are intensified by common prescription medications, such as anticholinergics, which further reduce the capacity to sweat. Spending time outdoors in hot humid weather can cause dehydration, a problem worsened by the side effects of prescription medications such as diuretics and beta-blockers. Dehydration can make older adults weak and dizzy, increasing their risk of falls and injury. These threats are even worse in regions lacking access to safe and affordable drinking water. Poor air quality makes it difficult to breathe, especially for those who already have lung problems such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD. For older adults with physical health problems, temperatures as low as 80 F (26.7 C) can pose significant danger. And when humidity is as high as 90 per cent,



## Saif Ali Khan reflects on 'awkward' kissing scene with Rani Mukerji in Hum Tum, says she tried to get out of it: 'Please don't do it'



The role was reportedly first offered to Hrithik Roshan and Vivek Oberoi, who turned it down.

Saif won a National Film Award for his performance, which to this day remains a favourite trivia topic. In an interview with Indian Express on the film's 20th anniversary, Kunal Kohli spoke about Saif's National Award win, and said, "We were doing an ad film in Spain. Siddharth was handling the production for me; Saif and I were there. Post that, we went for a holiday. Saif was going to London, when it was announced that he has won the National Award. Saif is like, 'Should I go?' I was like, 'Are you mad, please go!' He said, 'I am on a holiday in London. You think they would give me a ticket from London?' We laughed and said they will give you a ticket from Mumbai to Delhi, not London to Delhi. Then he said, 'Yes Ammi and Abbu are also saying that I should go.'"

In an earlier chat posted on the YRF YouTube channel, Saif had described the kiss as the 'worst' in the history of cinema. Rani asked, "Do you remember how scared we were to do the kissing shot?" Saif replied, "I remember how scared you were to do the kissing shot." He continued, "So, I arrived on set, and you were being extra nice to me that day, and you were saying, 'How are you? How was the drive? What's happening?'" Saif said that Rani was being extra nice because she wanted to back out of the scene. Hum Tum also featured Rishi Kapoor, Kirron Kher, and Jimmy Shergill. It made Rs 43 crore globally, and launched a new era in Saif's career as a solo hero. Previously, he'd appeared in hit films Dil Chahta Hai and Kal Ho Naa Ho, after starting out as a leading actor in the 1990s.

Actor Saif Ali Khan opened up about shooting a kiss with Rani Mukerji in the film Hum Tum, which was among a wave of Hindi movies aimed at an emerging multiplex audience in urban areas. Directed by Kunal Kohli, Hum Tum was released by Yash Raj Films to mixed reviews but modest box office success in 2004. In an interview, Saif said that Rani was self-conscious while filming the kiss, and would rather have not done it.

He told Times Now that producer Aditya Chopra wanted a 'proper kiss' in the movie, but Rani, his future wife, was nervous. She told Saif to not go ahead with the kiss because she was 'conscious'. Saif said that he still laughs about it, but they went through with the kiss, even if it was 'awkward'. In the interview, Saif also spoke about clashing with Kunal on set, and things becoming so heated on one occasion that he told the director that he would rather Aditya Chopra helm the film instead, in retaliation to Kunal's comment about not wanting Saif as the hero.

## Zaira Wasim's father passes away; Dangal star pens note: 'Ask Allah to forgive his shortcomings'

National Award-winning actor Zaira Wasim's father has passed away, the Dangal star posted late Tuesday evening. Zaira took to Instagram and shared a throwback picture with her father, Zahid Wasim, where she is seen kissing him as a toddler.



Zaira posted the image on her Instagram page writing, "Verily the eyes shed tears and the heart grieves, but we will not say except that which is pleasing to our Lord. My father, Zahid Wasim, has passed away. Please remember him in your prayers and ask Allah to forgive his shortcomings, make his grave peaceful, protect him from its torment, ease his journey from here ahead." "May he be called to an easy accounting and be granted the highest level of Jannah and Maghriah. Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed, to Him, we shall return."

The actor also took to her Instagram story to inform that her father's funeral was taking place at Masjid Muhammadiyah in Srinagar. Fans and well-wishers of Zaira posted condolence messages on her Instagram page.

Zaira was last seen in Shonali Bose's The Sky is Pink, which also starred Priyanka Chopra Jonas and

Farhan Akhtar. She had also appeared in the lead role in Advait Chandan's blockbuster hit film Secret Superstar in 2017, which was her second film after Dangal headlined by Aamir Khan. It was on June 30, 2019, that Zaira announced her "disassociation" from the field of acting, saying she was not happy with the line of work as it interfered with her faith and religion. In a detailed post on her Facebook page, the Kashmiri-born said she realised "though I may fit here perfectly, I do not belong here."

## Janhvi Kapoor on romantic scenes with Rajkumar Rao in Mr & Mrs Mahi: 'Bad tummies, broken bodies'

Janhvi Kapoor on Tuesday participated in an Ask Me Anything (AMA) session on Reddit. The actor opened up about her upcoming film, the sports drama Mr & Mrs Mahi, also starring Rajkumar Rao. Janhvi said that both she and Rajkumar were tired after a long day when they were asked to shoot a romantic scene for the film. She wrote, "Most of mine and Raj's romantic moments in the movie, we were completely exhausted. I think one of our first romantic moments was after a 20-hour shift, and both of us were feeling like we were dead. We had bad tummies, our bodies were broken, and then we had to look like we were falling in love and we were going to have our first kiss, but really, we were feeling like we were dying inside."



Reddit is one of the most prominent platforms for Bollywood gossip on the internet. However, Janhvi said that she finds the website "scary." When a user asked Janhvi if she lurks on Reddit like many other celebrities, the actor said, "I actually don't. Honestly, I feel like I've fleetingly heard, like, threads, I think, like, threads and theories on Reddit, and it's always kind of scared me a

little bit. The scrutiny, I guess, on Reddit, it seems a bit extreme." "I think my sister's (Khushi Kapoor) quite in sync and hooked on to what's going on Reddit, and sometimes I'll ask her what the tea is on Reddit, but I myself don't. I mean, I don't know how, I think I tried once, but I just couldn't understand how to, like, see what the threads are, all of these things. But no, I think I want to protect myself from it a bit," she added.

## Imran Khan says his mother was disturbed by news reports claiming he looked like a drug addict in pictures: 'Ye kya ho raha hai?'

Actor Imran Khan said that his time away from the public eye invited a tremendous amount of speculation that "disturbed" members of his family, especially his mother. The actor moved away from the industry after his film Katti Batti, co-starring Kangana Ranaut, flopped in 2015. During his sabbatical, Imran said there were things written about him in the news that he didn't take notice of. But his family would often read what was speculated about him, and his health, and be really worried for him.

"Even if you are not on social media, it still reaches you because of newspapers. I would get newspapers in the house. My mom, aunts and that generation of people who still get newspapers at home, they would see (what's written about me) and get disturbed by it. They would say, 'See what they are saying about you? They have posted this photo where you look like this, they are saying you are taking drugs. Kya ho raha hai?' It is disturbing," he told India Today.

The actor said he had to sit down and have a "complicated" talk about the rumours with his parents, to make them understand that what was written about him—without any sensitivity—was not true. "It is complicated then to have that conversation with your parents, family and tell them I can't manage what those people say or do. People say these things without any consideration or thought of where it lands." "When asked if he ever felt the need to release a statement and take the narrative in his own hands, Imran said he was never interested in clearing the air. "Just because those people say it, doesn't make it real. The way I engaged with it was, 'You guys are saying something about me, you don't know the truth. You are saying it to people, who also don't know and I don't care enough to correct you or to talk to you. I don't know who any of you are.'" "Previously, in an interview with Film Companion, Imran Khan had said that he had a "mental health scare" in around 2016-2017, where he realised he wasn't "healthy, strong or capable."

## From Priyanka Chopra, Alia Bhatt and Kareena Kapoor to Dulquer Salmaan: Indian celebrities condemn Israel's attack on Rafah, extend solidarity with Gaza



Many Indian celebrities have come forward denouncing the Israeli airstrike which reportedly triggered a fire and murdered 45 people in Rafah. The celebrities who condemned Israel's attack on Rafah include (clockwise) Alia Bhatt, Dulquer Salmaan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Kareena Kapoor Khan.

The Israeli airstrike which reportedly triggered a fire that killed 45 people in a tent camp in the Gazan city of Rafah has prompted an outcry not only from global leaders, but also from the Indian film fraternity. Ever since the incident late Sunday night (IST), many celebrities, including A-listers, have taken to social media to condemn Israel's actions and show solidarity with Gaza. These celebrities include Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Varun Dhawan, Sonam Kapoor, rapper Honey Singh and Madhuri Dixit Nene, among others. Bollywood star Alia Bhatt took to her Instagram stories to share a post by another user that stated, "All children deserve love. All children deserve safety. All children deserve peace. All children deserve life. And all mothers deserve to be able to give their children those things," accompanied by the hashtag "All Eyes On Rafah".

Kareena Kapoor Khan shared a post by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), condemning the Israeli attack. "Images of burned children and families emerging from bombed tents in Rafah shocks us all. The reported killing of children sheltering in makeshift tents is unconscionable. For over seven months, we've witnessed this tragedy unfold, resulting in thousands of children killed or injured. There must be an immediate ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages and an end to the senseless killing of children," the post signed by the UN agency's executive director Catherine Russell said.

Rafah, Rafah news, Rafah attack, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Varun Dhawan, Sonam Kapoor, Dulquer Salmaan, palestine, palestine

## Furiosa A Mad Max Saga: Chris Hemsworth goes for broke in the most relevant film Indians can watch this election year

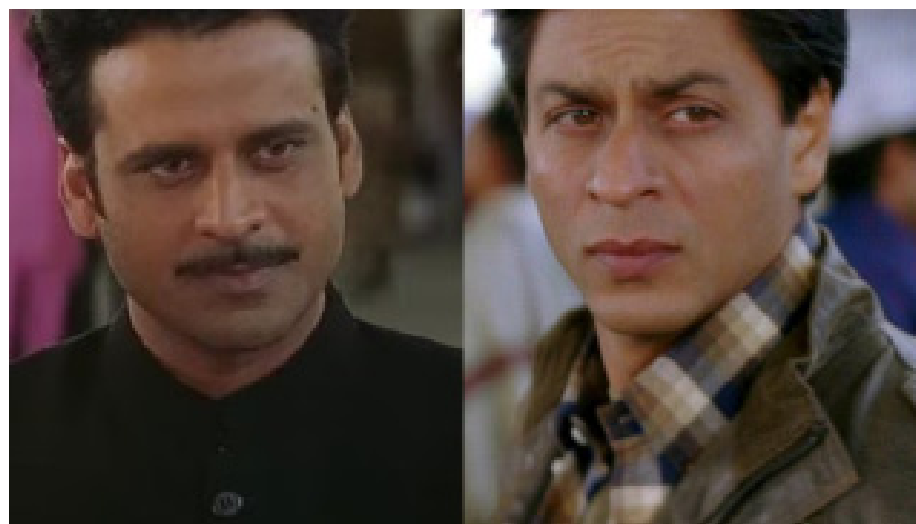
Like all dictators, Dr Dementus sustains himself on a drip-feed of delusion. Played by Chris Hemsworth in Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga, Dementus peacocks his way through the Wasteland, speechifying, showboating, and salivating at the thought of mass domination. He rides a chariot cobbled together from the remnants of a forgotten past, chews sausages made of human flesh, and strongarms himself into the minds of his minions. But despite overt nods to the many leaders of today, Dementus isn't the sort of one-note villain you'd normally see in a summer blockbuster. "We cannot be soft," he yells in one scene, a little teddy bear strapped to his chest to offset his guzzolene-fuelled mania.



His goals are fairly simple, but his motivations are murky. Dementus aims to expand his empire and present formidable opposition to the Wasteland's numero uno warlord, Immortan Joe. But for long stretches of Furiosa, he engages in a sort of performative villainy that feels more a product of his own deficiencies than a genuine desire to do evil. Director George Miller runs the risk of short-changing his own protagonist, played by the very

able Anya Taylor-Joy, by giving Hemsworth the room to exercise his unhinged urges. But he justifies the tonal dissonance by creating easily the most complex antagonist of his insane franchise — an antagonist whose autocratic aggressions will resonate across the world, but more acutely in an India that is currently in the process of deciding its fate.

## Manoj Bajpayee recalls sharing cigarettes with Shah Rukh Khan during theatre days: 'No one could afford to smoke alone'



Manoj Bajpayee and Shah Rukh Khan started their acting journey together when they were in the same theatre group in Delhi. At the time, both Manoj and Shah Rukh were struggling to make it as actors and were not very comfortable with their finances. In a recent interview, Manoj was asked to

recall the time when he and Shah Rukh would share cigarettes during their theatre days.

Recalling the time, Manoj said that not just Shah Rukh, but all the actors would share their cigarettes. He shared with Galatta India, "When you are in a theatre group, and someone is smoking, they

would never smoke alone. No one would smoke one cigarette all by themselves because no one could afford it. So if anyone had one cigarette, they had to share it with four people."

He added, "Even if he had the money to buy a pack of cigarette, or buy one cigarette, he could not afford to have it alone be-

cause others have shared it with him in the past and now it is his turn to share it." Manoj said that while he stayed in Barry John's theatre group for a few years, Shah Rukh stayed in it for a short while before moving to Mumbai and starting his Bollywood career. Manoj shared that he moved to the city of dreams only after he worked in Shekhar's Kapur's Bandit Queen. In an earlier interview with Galatta Plus, Manoj Bajpayee had said that his first visit to a nightclub in Delhi was with Shah Rukh Khan. He said, "Shah Rukh was with Barry, I was with Barry, at the same time. So many friends who were there that night, I am still in touch with them, still very good friends. Shah Rukh's life has become different from us. I still remember looking for shoes to get into the discotheque, because I was in chappals."



## Short-handed Australia field coaching staff in T20 World Cup warm-up win against Namibia

GNS News Agency, June 3



9-man Australian cricket team had to enlist the help of selection chief George Bailey and fielding coach Andre Borovec in the T20 World Cup warm up match against Namibia due to some of their regular players being unavailable. Pat Cummins, Travis Head, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Starc, Glenn Maxwell and Cameron Green were all absent from the squad, taking some time off their IPL commitments. Bailey and Borovec were also joined by batting coach Brad Hodge and head coach Andrew McDonald when captain Mitchell Marsh and Josh Hazlewood were off the field. Borovec and Bailey even took catches for their team. Australia called on their veteran support staff to make up the numbers as they flexed their muscles for a comfortable win against Namibia in their first #T20WorldCup warm-up. @LouisDBCameron has all the details from Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad ??Despite all the setbacks, the 2021 T20 World Cup champions chased down Namibia's total of 119/9 in dominant fashion with 10 overs remaining with a quickfire half century from David Warner (54\*). "When it comes to these tournaments he always stands up as we know so I expect nothing but big things again from the Bull (Warner). He looked good out there on what looked a pretty tough wicket and he timed the ball pretty well from the outset.

## Team India takes part in first training session in USA ahead of the T20 World Cup

GNS News Agency, June 3



Team India T20 World Cup cricket 2024 Players like captain Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Sanju Samson, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Arshdeep Singh and Suryakumar Yadav among others were seen taking part in the drills. The Indian contingent took part in light training exercises a day after they landed in the USA to take part in the T20 World Cup. "We came in day before yesterday and we just eased into our routines here. The idea was to get used to the time zone. Today we are having our first ground session," Soham Desai the strength and conditioning coach of the team said in a video shared by the BCCI on Wednesday. "They have been away for 2 and a half months from us. Just getting them together to know where they stand, what needs to be done before the World Cup was the goal. The goal today is to spend 45 mins to an hour on the park in this heat or whatever to again get going," he added.

Players like captain Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Sanju Samson, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Arshdeep Singh and Suryakumar Yadav among others were seen taking part in the drills. "We have not yet played cricket. Come here for a team activity today. Hopefully it'll be good. The weather is really good, so looking forward to

## Every ball, 100% intensity: Will Jacks on his learning experience from Virat Kohli at RCB

GNS News Agency, June 3

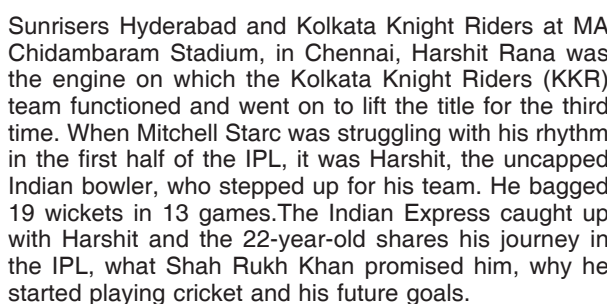


RCB vs GT Will Jacks Virat Kohli Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli and Will Jacks celebrate after winning the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 T20 cricket match between Gujarat Titans and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at the Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad, Sunday, April 28, 2024.

England batter Will Jacks who shared a dressing room with Virat Kohli at the Royal Challengers Bengaluru opened up on his experience working with the Indian batter on the sidelines of the 3rd T20I between England and Pakistan. Asked by Nasser Hussain on his learning experience with the Indian maestro, the 25-year-old said, "I think, firstly his attitude towards training. Every day is a day to get better. And that was really obvious. Some guys say but it's harder to do that but with him, it was very obvious. And the way he goes into the game. Every ball, 100% intensity. When I batted with him in a chase, it was how he picked out how to do the chase. It was not just going ball by ball, looking ahead, really to see where he could plan and take risks at a certain time." Kohli was in the other end from Jacks when he scored a blistering century against the Gujarat Titans in the recently-concluded IPL where the Englishman went from 50 to 100 in just 10 balls. In that match, he had taken a while to find

his notes. At one stage, he was going along at a run-a-ball 17. Then Jacks simply broke free with his neat swings down the ground, leaving the bowlers broken and bruised. "Definitely surprised myself. I didn't realize how quickly it was until I found out afterwards. But now, especially batting at number 3, I realise I need to take my time," Jacks said, talking about the knock. Next up for the batter is the 4th T20I against Pakistan at the Kennington Oval in London on May 30 after the 3rd T20I was washed out on Wednesday. After that, he along with England, will head to the T20 World Cup where they'll be facing Scotland in the first match on June 4.

## Shah Rukh Khan promised that he would celebrate the IPL win with a 'flying kiss': Harshit Rana



Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders at MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai. Harshit Rana was the engine on which the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) team functioned and went on to lift the title for the third time. When Mitchell Starc was struggling with his rhythm in the first half of the IPL, it was Harshit, the uncapped Indian bowler, who stepped up for his team. He bagged 19 wickets in 13 games. The Indian Express caught up with Harshit and the 22-year-old shares his journey in the IPL, what Shah Rukh Khan promised him, why he started playing cricket and his future goals.

Pratyush Raj is a sports journalist with The Indian Express Group and specializes in breaking news stories and conducting in-depth investigative reports for the paper. His passion extends to crafting engaging content for the newspaper's website. Pratyush takes a keen interest in writing on cricket and hockey. He started his career with the financial daily Business Standard but soon followed his true calling as Times of India's sports reporter for Punjab in Chandigarh, a job that required extensive travel to states such as Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. He has also contributed to the sports coverage of India Today Group. Pratyush's love for sports blossomed during his upbringing in flood-prone Saharsa, a district in North Bihar, where 'Cricket Samrat' was his cherished companion.

GNS News Agency, June 3

Harshit Rana KKR interview Kolkata Knight Riders' Harshit Rana celebrates the wicket of Sunrisers Hyderabad batter Heinrich Klaasen during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 final cricket match between

## T20 World Cup rewrite: India unpredictable, Pakistan not unpredictable, England likeable, Kiwis chokers

GNS News Agency, June 3

The T20 format routinely subverts stereotypes that followers of this sport have historically lumped upon national teams. The game and the teams need a fresh look as the T20 World Cup moves out of conventional cricketing boundaries. With the USA playing and hosting cricket, not baseball, change is in the air. A disclaimer before the June 2-29 event: When it comes to describing a team, the usual adjectives just don't apply. When it comes to T20 cricket, the England team is not only respected for its bowling innovations and big-hitting accelerations, but are also reasonably well-behaved and a non-cribbing side. That is why, unlike in the game's older formats, no one quite grudges their big wins. They also don't bottle up in this format.

South Africa: Chokers who?

South Africa haven't won a T20 World Cup, not even made a final, but are spared the chokers' tag by never looking good enough to win, making just two semis until now. The country has a steady stream of outrageous talent like Heinrich Klaasen, but is not quite expected to go the distance. So South Africa, for now, will remain underdogs. The true bottlers have been New Zealand, who have reached three semifinals and one final, without ever winning. It ties in with their 50-over history of anti-climactic finishes, but they have out-South Africa-ed the Proteas in T20s. In the one final they made, they did well to post the highest score of 172 in all T20 World Cup finals. But then predictably lost to Australia, who cantered to a win by 8 wickets. India too choke routinely since Dhoni's first Cup, and will land in the Americas resembling the infamous squabbling Pakistan sides of yore. But the core of this team did play gorgeous cricket during last year's 50-overs ICC event. With coach Rahul Dravid getting the opportunity to erase memories of 2007 in the Caribbean, non-favourites India will hope to land a Pakistanesque win despite the extra ego baggage they carry. Pakistan too have lost three semifinals and two fi-



nals. But in what can be a spectacular rebranding statistic in their favour, they can be called the most consistent of all T20 teams, making the last-4 six times in eight editions. The 'unpredictable' tag can fly out of the window because of this record. Faction-ridden and combustible, Pakistan remains a formidable T20 side on paper. Speaking of combustion, Bangladesh have strangely shown no spark whatsoever at T20 World Cups, never making the knockouts. They lost to the USA recently, and their usual mix of unrealistic chest-thumping chatter has never translated to big wins in this format. This generation of cricket-watchers, who might only consume T20, will scarcely comprehend why the rampaging yellow brigade was feared in Tests and ODIs. They have just one T20 title, which is less than England's tally, compared to owning 6 off 12 editions of the ODI World Cup. David Warner and Glenn Maxwell have a title, but haven't set the T20 World Cup on fire. It's taken Messrs Starc, Cummins and Head time to come to grips with the cadence of this format and truly ace it. Former champions Sri Lanka have waned over the years, and are no longer preceded by headlines of their latest 'mystery' find. And West Indies have in their ranks Shamar Joseph, known far more for his Test-sealing spell against Australia at the start of this year, than any franchise-exploits.

## How a course correction in the middle of the season paved way for KKR's title triumph, recalls Bharat Arun

GNS News Agency, June 3

IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders bowling coach Bharat Arun recalls a bowlers' meeting mid-way through the tournament. The team had failed to defend a score of 261 against Punjab Kings. Their plan A was seemingly failing, their 'smart' tactic of bowling well outside off-stump, away from the reach of marauding batsmen, wasn't getting the desired results. Arun brought out data to steer the course-correction. The answer was staring at their faces. It was time for bowlers to look into the eyes of the batting bullies and stand up to them. "Midway through the season, we looked at our stats. The lengths we were hitting with the ball finishing on the stump line or in the channel had been one of our best deliveries. That was what had given us the most number of wickets. Even the economy rate was under eight, fabulous considering the high scores we saw in this IPL," Arun tells in a double-edged sword, as Arun would concede. "Interestingly, the same balls were also the ones that were hit out of the park!"

But the team decided it was time to be braver as it was also the more sensible move. According to Arun, during that phase, KKR had also started training with defensive lines, where their pace attack - which included Mitchell Starc, Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana - consistently hit the wide-line mark. "We just kept it as Plan B. That wide-of-off-stump channel was becoming predictable for batsmen. So we would just use it to bluff them and then go back to attacking the stumps. Those deliveries were getting us wickets. So even if a batsman hit it, we were okay with it and our bowlers could again bowl the same delivery. But if we went for the wide line and got hit, the bowler would go for a different length and the battle would become easier for the batsmen. So our plan was even 'if you get hit, go back to the same line that is working for you,'" Arun says.

Thereon, KKR would go back to bowling those aggressive lines - targeted at the stumps. With a well-rounded attack at their disposal, they finished the IPL with 110 wickets - the highest for any team - and four of their bowlers finished among the top-20 wicket-takers. Despite the attacking line and length, there is another figure that stands out. KKR delivered 597 dot deliveries, 27 more than the second-best Rajasthan Royals. Playing most of their matches at Eden Gardens, a venue known for high scores, their bowlers went at a run rate of only 9.16. It was also a reward for employing a horses-for-course policy. With six bowling options available, KKR didn't let reputations come in the way of making the best use of their resources. It meant there were matches when Rana and Arora bowled more overs than Starc, particu-



larly when the Australian was struggling to get used to the conditions. "Any of the six could finish their quota and it was totally up to the captain as to who he went with. We were not looking at the names, whoever did well on that day would finish their quota. We were absolutely okay with being hit, because in T20s, batsmen will go after the bowlers," Arun says. As much as the impact made by their seamers, Kolkata gained big time from their two mystery spinners Varun Chakravarthy (21 wickets) and Sunil Narine (17), who took 38 wickets between them. In a departure from the past, when teams were prepared to play at least one of them out without losing a wicket, the Impact Player rule meant batsmen came out swinging against them. And in a season where several spinners were taken to the cleaners, Varun and Narine were an exception. While the former went at 8.04 runs an over, Narine conceded only 6.69 runs an over. "Both are attacking bowlers, so to make them do anything different wouldn't have worked. So like the pacers, they also attacked the stumps. Varun did it more than Narine, which showed how bold he was. The mindset becomes more important... Bowling not to get hit is a lot different from bowling to get wickets. Like Starc, even Varun was going for runs initially, but once you get into the mindset of going for wickets, it becomes easy," Arun says. Though Starc walked away with the kudos after standout performances in Qualifier 1 and the final, Rana and Arora too were impressive. Rana, especially, looks a promising prospect for India to invest in. "Rana has got pace, control and a good slower one. It is a good combination to have. But having talent is one thing. Knowing how to use it, depending on the circumstances, is another aspect. Through the IPL, he has matured a lot. The first match, where he bowled well in the last over and won us the game, improved his confidence. He has been able to translate that confidence into performance. Now you need to nurture him, not just technically and tactically, but also in terms of diet and fitness that complements his bowling," Arun adds.

## USA vs Bangladesh warm-up cancelled due to tornado in Dallas, stadium suffers damage

GNS News Agency, June 3

Severe tornadoes and thunderstorms that have wreaked havoc in central and southern US over the last few weeks made their presence felt at the ICC T20 World Cup when an official warm-up match between the United States and Bangladesh was cancelled at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, Texas on Tuesday. While Canada and Nepal had featured in the first warm-up game at the venue on Monday, harsh weather conditions including a severe storm stalled proceedings on Tuesday morning. Cricket journalist Peter Della Penna reported that a thunderstorm with wind speeds over 80 miles per hour and flash flood warnings had swept through the stadium, due to host the tournament opener on June 1. A temporary giant screen, set up at the venue for replays and match-

related graphics, was also destroyed by the severe storms.

Storm to threaten more T20 World Cup matches?

According to an Associated Press report, the death toll in the storms had risen to 22 by Monday, bringing a large share of the population to a standstill in the country. "The destructive storms caused deaths in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kentucky and were just north of an oppressive, early season heat wave setting records from south Texas to Florida."

Forecasters have also predicted that the storms could move towards the East Coast later on Tuesday, issuing an official tornado watch between the states of North Carolina and Maryland. The region falls between New York and Florida where other T20 World Cup matches are scheduled to take place.