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Sporadic rain showers bring relief to Hyderabad; more expected

Hyderabad: Residents of the Hyderabad relished a pleasantly cool climate accompanied by sporadic, substantial rain showers. Despite their short duration of merely 20 minutes to 30 minutes, the downpour was intense, drenching the city. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad, the city's temperature was likely around 33 degree Celsius, with forecasts predicting a range between 33 degree Celsius to 35 degree Celsius until June 13. Heavy rains were reported at Uppal, Tarnaka, Musheerabad, Begumpet, Ameerpet, Malkajgiri, Kapra, ECIL, Nagaram, Sainikpuri, Khairatabad, Tank Bund, Secunderabad, Himayatnagar, Jubilee Hills, Serlingampally.

Telangana RTC To Run Special Buses for Group-1 Prelims Exam Candidates

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced that special measures are being taken to ensure the convenience of candidates appearing for the Group-1 Preliminary Exam. With 897 exam centers set up for the exam scheduled to be held on Sunday, June 9, 2024, TGSRTC Managing Director Sajjanar shared the news on social media. In his tweet, Sajjanar revealed that special buses will be operated on Sundays specifically for candidates writing the Group-1 Prelims exam. This initiative aims to provide easy and hassle-free transportation for all candidates across the state.

PM Condoles death of Ramoji Rao



GNS News Agency, June 8

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the demise of Ramoji Film City founder, Shri Ramoji Rao. Shri Modi said that Ramoji Rao was a visionary who revolutionized Indian media. His rich contributions have left an indelible mark on journalism and the world of films.

"The passing away of Shri Ramoji Rao Garu is extremely saddening. He was a visionary who revolutionized Indian media. His rich contributions have left an indelible mark on journalism and the world of films. Through his noteworthy efforts, he set new standards for innovation and excellence in the media and entertainment world. Ramoji Rao Garu was extremely passionate about India's development. I am fortunate to have got several opportunities to interact with him and benefit from his wisdom. Condolences to his family, friends and countless admirers during this difficult time. Om Shanti."

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy orders for Ramoji Rao's rituals with state honours

GNS News Agency, June 8

The sudden demise of Ramoji Rao, the head of group companies, has left the Telugu industry in shock. Various celebrities and politicians are expressing their condolences on the passing of the renowned figure. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has fondly remembered Ramoji Rao for his contributions to Telugu journalism and the industrial sector, stating that his loss is deeply felt. He extended his prayers for the soul of Ramoji Rao to rest in peace and extended his deepest sympathies to the family members of the late industrialist.

Ramoji Rao's last rites will be conducted with official formalities, as per the orders issued by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to Chief Secretary Shantikumari. Despite being in Delhi for a CWC meeting, the CM ensured that the funeral arrangements are supervised by the Ranga Reddy Collector and Cyberabad Commissioner. The entire Telugu industry is mourning the loss of a visionary leader in journalism and industry, and his legacy will continue to be remembered by all those who knew him.



Nepal PM 'Prachanda' to arrive for PM Modi's swearing-in on Sunday

GNS News Agency, June 8

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' along with his daughter and a delegation will arrive in New Delhi on Sunday to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi, Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced. "At the cordial invitation of Prime Minister of India His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' is paying an official visit to India to attend the former's swearing-in ceremony to be held on June 9, 2024, in New Delhi," the Ministry's official release said.



"The Prime Minister will leave Kathmandu for New Delhi on 09 June 2024. He will be accompanied by his daughter Ganga Dahal, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Hon'ble Mr Padam Giri, and high-ranking officials of the Government of Nepal," it added. PM Modi and Nepal PM 'Prachanda' held a telephone conversation on Wednesday evening, during which PM Modi extended an invitation to his Nepali counterpart for

the ceremony. The Nepali Prime Minister, in turn, confirmed his attendance, with a formal announcement expected soon. "During Wednesday evening's telephonic conversation between two leaders, the invitation was extended to the Nepali PM for attendance in the swearing-in ceremony. The Nepali Prime Minister also confirmed the attendance. A formal announcement will be made soon," a senior official told ANI. This development

came after PM Dahal extended his congratulations to PM Modi on Tuesday for the "electoral success" of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the recent Lok Sabha elections, marking their third consecutive term. Prachanda also commended the enthusiastic participation of the Indian electorate, hailing the completion of the world's largest democratic exercise. "Congratulations to PM Narendra Modi on the electoral success of BJP and NDA in the Lok Sabha elections for the third consecutive term. We are happy to note the successful completion of the world's largest democratic exercise with the enthusiastic participation of the people of India," said 'Prachanda' in a post on X. Several leaders and State heads of neighbourhood region and Indian Ocean region have been invited for PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony as distinguished guests, a testament to India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in an official statement on Saturday said, "President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe; President of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu; Vice-President of Seychelles, Ahmed Afif; Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina; Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth; Prime Minister of Nepal, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'; and Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay, have accepted the invitation to attend."

Nitish Kumar was offered PM-ship by INDIA bloc but party has decided not to look back: JD(U)

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, June 8

Ahead of the swearing in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government on Sunday, key ally of the ruling block Janata Dal (United) has claimed that the opposition INDIA bloc leaders made an offer of Prime Ministership to their supremo and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Speaking to the media persons in the midst of hectic negotiations around the contours of the new union council of ministers, Janata Dal (United) general secretary, KC Tyagi, on Saturday said, "Proposals to the extent of the offer of Prime Ministership to JDU president, Nitish Kumar have also come from the opposition INDIA alliance leaders. These are the same people who had problems making Nitish Kumar the convener of their block. Some INDIA leaders even wanted to speak to Nitish Kumar in this regard, but the party decided, that it is not going to look back." Tyagi said the JDU will stay in alliance with the BJP-led NDA, as clarified by Nitish Kumar on Friday while endorsing the candidature of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister and NDA leader in the Parliament. Tyagi said Nitish Kumar was the architect of the opposition INDIA alliance and was humiliated by that camp. Tyagi recalled how Rahul Gandhi vetoed the declaration of Nitish Kumar, as the convener of INDIA at a crucial meeting of the alliance, immediately after which Kumar quit the block and rejoined NDA. Gandhi had said the proposal needs vetting by TMC's Mamata Banerjee who was not in that meeting. Meanwhile, the JDU is learnt to be keen on the cabinet portfolio of railway ministry, which the BJP is unlikely to part with given its importance to Prime Minister Modi's infrastructure push in the



country. Nitish may also want advancement of Bihar polls to reap advantage of the ground support his party got in Lok Sabha elections besides financial aid for the state. Meetings are currently underway between top BJP brass and the Prime Minister to finalise the portfolios for the swearing-in of the new government on Sunday at 7:15 pm at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Nearly 9,000 people are on the guest list for the mega event, including several heads of neighbouring countries, rat miners who helped save lives of workers in the Silkyara tunnel of Uttarkashi last year, sanitation workers, and labourers engaged with flagship projects of the government, including those who built the new Parliament building and are involved with aspirational projects such as Vande Bharat trains, key infrastructure projects in the country among others.

Results of over 1,500 students awarded grace marks in NEET-UG to be re-examined: NTA



GNS News Agency, June 8

New Delhi: The education ministry has set up a four-member panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,500 candidates in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Saturday. The move comes amid allegations of inflation of marks leading to 67 candidates sharing first rank in the exam.

"The panel headed by a former UPSC chairman will submit its recommendations within a week and the results of these candidates might be revised," NTA Director General Subodh Kumar Singh said at a press conference here. "The awarding of grace marks has not impacted the qualifying criteria of the exam and the review of results of the affected candidates will not impact the admission process," he added.

Several aspirants of the medical entrance exam NEET have alleged inflation of marks which led to a record 67 candidates bagging the top rank, including six from the same exam centre. The National Testing Agency (NTA), however, denied any irregularities and said the changes made in the NCERT textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks.

Kangana Ranaut responds to those backing CISF constable

GNS News Agency, June 8

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut has once again reacted to the slapping incident where she was hit by a woman CISF constable at the Chandigarh airport. The actress took to X on Saturday and shared a long note addressing those supporting the CISF personnel.

"Every rapist, murderer, or thief always have a strong emotional, physical, psychological, or financial reason to commit a crime, no crime ever happens without a reason, yet they are convicted and sentenced to jail. If you are aligned with the criminals strong emotional impulse to commit a crime violating all laws of the land," she wrote. "Every rapist, murderer or thief always have a strong emotional, physical, psychological or financial reason to commit a crime, no crime ever happens without a reason, yet they are convicted and sentenced to jail. Responding to expressions of support."

FARM LANDS FOR SALE

Wgl-Hyd Industrial Corridor H/w Near: Aler Jain Temple 100 Acres Farm Land venture in 20, 40 Guntas with 60 Fruit, 60 Maha gani Plants + Drip, 12, 24 monthly EMI facility also available. 20 Guntas @ 35 lacks only gated community.

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Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Child food poverty

A recent Unicef report highlights a grim reality: over 180 million children under five globally live in severe food poverty, an alarming crisis that affects one out of four kids in this age group. This stark statistic underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts to address malnutrition and ensure the wellbeing of future generations. Even as India marches towards rivaling the top economies of the world, the report is a sobering reminder that the country figures among the 20 that account for 65 per cent of the children living in severe food poverty. Unicef's guidelines emphasise the need for children to consume a diverse diet from at least five out of eight food groups daily. Yet, millions of children worldwide, including 64 million in South Asia, fail to meet this standard, leading to severe nutritional deficiencies and long-term developmental impacts. However, amidst this dismal scenario, there is a beacon of hope in India as the country has reduced the gap in severe child food poverty between poorer and wealthier households over the past decade by at least five percentage points, highlighting strides made towards nutritional equity. This progress is a testament to the impact of targeted government policies, community-driven initiatives and partnerships aimed at improving access to nutritious food for the most vulnerable children. But India cannot be complacent; a lot remains to be done. The global food system, criticised for promoting cheap, high-calorie and nutrient-poor foods, exacerbates the crisis. To combat this, governments and international partners must prioritise the reduction of child food poverty, ensuring that nutritious and diverse foods are accessible and affordable. Health systems should deliver essential nutrition services and social protection systems must be responsive to the dietary needs of vulnerable families.

How startup led by 2 women is reworking boardrooms in Pune, other major cities



GNS News Agency, June 8

Pune MMB business According to MMB's founders, Divya Momaya and Neha Shah, this revealed a critical lack of governance awareness among directors. One of the unsung heroes of a successful professional's journey is the mentor, the corporate world's equivalent of the wise person who guides and supports. Like all myths, it is widely believed that beginners and mid-level executives alone benefit from mentorship but, as the founders of a startup, Mentor My Board (MMB), keep realising, directors and senior members have an equally strong need for mentorship.

In September 2017, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs had disqualified over two lakh directors by applying section 164 (2) of the Companies Act, 2013, which allows this action if a company does not file financial statements or annual returns for a continuous period of three financial years. According to MMB's founders, Divya Momaya and Neha Shah, this revealed a critical lack of governance awareness among directors. The duo felt that there was a need to educate founders, promoters and those in charge of boards about good governance practices. Momaya is a company secretary and Shah an HR professional with long track records. In 2018, they set up MMB to guide business leaders in developing ethical and progressive leadership habits, and equip them with insights to make their boardrooms competitive.

Last year, MMB held a Directors' Meet in Pune, their first outing after their home city of Mumbai, to expose business leaders here to new ideas, real-world board challenges and a growth trajectory that involves learning, collaboration and an understanding of critical leadership reviews.

"We are in the process of setting up a small community in Pune to ensure that the best practices from each member is present on a common platform so that everybody can learn from one another. There are around seven mentors in Pune and a community of 25 to 30 people who come and network. They understand and they absorb from each other," says Momaya. While Pune is one of the leading startup hubs of the country, it is also home to several traditional businesses where the old generation is making way for the younger family members. Many of the latter want to transform to align their businesses with global practices.

"Many startups work as 'solopreneurs'. We work with companies in their startup journey and holding them to create their advisory boards. Then, there is a company from Pune, which is listed, and has been growing. The promoter told us that they had a secretary and every other resource but they wanted to ensure that their governance practices were better. We have created a mentor panel, which speaks to the promoter and helps them," says Shah. As India looks to boost its economy, business is increasingly at the forefront of the government's attention. "In 2023, we did not make many unicorns. Instead, there have been governance challenges. We need better informed directors, promoters and people who are in the boardroom so that a company can grow through collective wisdom," says Momaya.

Delhi HC asks Centre to decide in 6 weeks AAP request seeking temporary accommodation for party office



GNS News Agency, June 8

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to decide within six weeks the Aam Aadmi Party's request for allotment of a housing unit on a temporary basis from the general pool for its party office in the national capital. The High Court passed the direction while disposing of AAP's plea for allotment of a housing unit on temporary basis from the General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) for office use "on payment of license fee as provided to National Parties" till an office is constructed by the party after land is allotted to it for "permanent use".

In March, the Supreme Court asked the AAP to vacate its office in Rouse Avenue by June 15 as the land in question had been allotted for the expansion of judicial infrastructure. A single judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad in a detailed order took note of 'Consolidated guidelines for allotment of GPRA to Political parties' as per which National Political Parties have a "right to retain/secure allotment of one housing unit from General Pool in Delhi for their office use on payment of licence fee". The court said that the fact that AAP is a national political party cannot be overlooked. This accommodation, the court noted, is to be provided for three years during which the party "would acquire a plot of land in an institutional area and will construct its own accommodation for (the) party office".

"The dispute regarding allotment of land to the Petitioner (AAP) cannot be a reason to deprive the Petitioner from its entitlement to be given a housing unit to be used as a temporary office in accordance with the Consolidated Instructions for allotment of Government Accommodation from General Pool to National and State level Political Parties," the High Court said. It further noted that after it was recognised as a national party in 2023, the AAP had requested the Directorate of Estates (DoE under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) for allotment of a housing unit from the GPRA to use it as an office until land was allotted to it for construction of its office premises. "There is no material on record to show that the said request of the Petitioner has been rejected. This Court can take judicial notice of the fact that there has always been pressure on the Pool of house available for allotment to the officers but that pressure has not de-

tered allotment of houses to other political parties for office purposes in accordance with the Consolidated Instructions for allotment of Government Accommodation from General Pool to National and State level Political Parties. The fact that there is a huge pressure cannot be the only reason for the Respondents to deny the Petitioner its right to be allotted accommodation from the GPRA for setting up its party office," the High Court underscored. The High Court thereafter directed the Centre to consider the party's request and take a decision within six weeks by passing a "detailed order as to why even one housing unit from the GPRA cannot be allotted to the Petitioner when all other political parties have been allotted similar accommodation". The High Court also directed that the order deciding AAP's request be provided to the party so that it can take "other remedial steps" available to it under law in case the request is "not considered adequately".

The Delhi High Court, however, agreed with Centre's contention that the party is "not the GNCTD and Plots No.23 & 24, DDU Marg, were given to the GNCTD" and not to the party and, hence the party "does not have right to claim" these two plots. The High Court noted that the Land and Development Office had in September 2020 directed that the possession of Plot No 23 and 24 on DDU Marg is to be handed over by the Delhi government to the Land and Development Office. "Material on record also discloses that the GNCTD is ready to hand over the two plots back to the L&DO. In view of the above, this Court is not prepared to accept the prayer of the Petitioner (AAP) to issue a Writ of Mandamus to the L&DO to permit the Petitioner to establish its office at Plots No.23 & 24, DDU Marg, a portion of which is currently in possession of a Minister of the Petitioner," the High Court said. President had sanctioned plots for allotment to Delhi government. The High Court noted that the President of India had sanctioned the allotment of plot nos 23 and 24, DDU Marg, to the Delhi government for setting up family courts in Delhi. The possession of the plots was taken by the Delhi government from the Land and Development Office on August 3, 2006. On September 18, 2020, the allotment of these two plots on DDU Marg was "cancelled" in lieu of which a plot measuring 3.036 acre "contiguous and adjacent" to Rouse Avenue was allotted to the Delhi government "for the same purpose, i.e. for setting up of Family Courts". In the meantime, Bungalow number 206 on Rouse Avenue, which was in possession of the Delhi administration, was allotted to the AAP which was a regional party at the time, for running its party office on a temporary basis. The High Court noted that this house comes within the plot measuring 3.036 acre, which has been allotted to the Delhi government for setting up of family courts. On March 4 this year, the Supreme Court directed the party to vacate the bungalow by June 15 so that the land which has been allotted for the purpose of expanding the district judiciary can be utilised for that purpose.

Central Information Commission can't comment on utilisation of MPLADS funds by legislators: Delhi HC

GNS News Agency, June 8

The Delhi High Court recently observed that the Central Information Commission (CIC) has no jurisdiction to comment on the utilisation of funds by the members of Parliament under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. A single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad said in its May 15 order, "The Ld. CIC has no jurisdiction to comment upon the utilization of funds by the Members of Parliament under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The scope of the RTI Act is only to ensure that information sought for under the RTI Act is dissipated in order to secure access to information under the control of public authorities."

The high court made the observations while hearing a plea filed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation challenging an order of the CIC passed in relation to an RTI application. One Ram Gopa Dixit had filed an RTI application with the Lok Sabha's central public information officer seeking information on the "work initiated, pending and completed" by Rajesh Diwaker when he was the Hathras MP. Dixit had also sought information on the name of the agencies involved in the construction/initiation/completion of various public welfare projects in the Hathras constituency along with "details of MPLADS fund utilization and status of works recommended and executed in North Eastern Railway such as Road/Railway Station, etc". As he was dissatisfied with the reply he had received, Dixit appealed against it and subsequently filed a second appeal before the CIC.

The CIC in its October 16, 2018, order said, "The Commission noticed that some MPs are not spending their MPLADS amounts in the earlier years of their term, but deliberately accumulating the funds for last year, preferably before general elections to gain advantage improperly. The representatives could not say anything on this issue. The MPLADS is criticized for creating this kind of undue advantage to MPs vis-a-vis the contestants in



the next election. If this is perpetuated there is a possibility of questioning it as unconstitutional. The Commission recommends the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation to prevent this kind of 'abuse' of MPLADS funds, and implement their guidelines to distribute the money equally in each year..." The high court said that as per section 18 of the RTI Act, the CIC can "only deal with issues relating to the information sought for under the RTI Act or any other issue which leads to dissipation of information as sought for by the applicant".

The court said the CIC has "no jurisdiction to comment adversely" on the "functioning" of any public authority. It further said the CIC had commented on the utilisation of MPLADS funds receivable by various members of Parliament. The court also said the observations in the CIC order on how the MPs are utilising the MPLADS funds "have to be expunged". It went on to expunge two paragraphs where the CIC made observations regarding "utilization of MPLADS funds and the abuse of MPLADS funds". "However, the portion whereby the Ld. CIC has directed the public authority under Section 19(8)(a)(iii) of RTI Act to publish MP-wise, constituency-wise and work-wise details of the funds is retained," the high court said while disposing of the plea.

Karnataka High Court grants 30-day parole to murder convict after wife's appeal to conceive a child

GNS News Agency, June 8

The Karnataka High Court has granted 30-day parole to a 28-year-old murder convict after his wife filed a petition saying she wants to have children with her husband. While hearing the 31-year-old woman's petition on June 3, Karnataka High Court Judge S R Krishna Kumar granted parole to the convict and asked him to appear before the jurisdictional police once weekly. Judge Kumar also allowed his wife to seek an extension of parole, which would be considered looking at the conduct of the convict while he is out on parole.

Anand, a resident of Kolar, was arrested in a murder case, and in 2019, the Kolar district sessions court awarded lifetime imprisonment to Anand. He later approached the Karnataka High Court challenging the judgement. In 2023, the court reduced the sentence to 10 years. By then, Anand had spent five years in jail. Before the murder, Anand was in a relationship with a woman which they continued after he went to prison. Later, the woman approached the Karnataka High Court seeking



to provide parole to get Anand married. The court accepted the petition and directed Anand's release on parole from March 31 to April 20, 2023, under certain conditions. On April 11, Anand and the woman tied the knot and also registered their marriage. They also submitted the marriage certificate to the court. Later, the woman approached the court seeking to spend time with her husband and the court extended it to 60 days.

CBI court dismisses former Himachal IG plea seeking permission to travel to Spain



GNS News Agency, June 8

CBI court Zaidi submitted that he wants to complete the formalities of his son's admission and to arrange for his lodging in Madrid. And for this purpose, he has to travel along with his son to Madrid from August 20, 2024, to September 15, 2024.

The special CBI court of Chandigarh has dismissed the plea of the then Inspector General (IG) of Himachal Pradesh, Zahur Haider Zaidi (now claiming his name as Syed Zahur Haider Zaidi), seeking permission to travel to Madrid (Spain) from August 20, 2024, to September 15, 2024, besides a request for a direction to Regional Passport Officer (Shimla) for renewal/issuance of his passport. Zaidi is accused in the custodial death of one Suraj Singh at Kotkhai police station in Himachal Pradesh on July 18, 2017.

At the CBI court, Zaidi submitted through his counsel that his son, who is 23, has got admission to IE University, Madrid, for a 15-month Master in Management (English) programme starting September 2024. Zaidi submitted that he wants to complete the formalities of his son's admission and to arrange for his lodging in Madrid. And for this purpose, he has to travel along with his son to Madrid from August 20, 2024, to September 15, 2024. Zaidi also submitted that "his passport had expired on September 21, 2017, and it needs to be renewed for this purpose (travel to Spain). He has been attending the hearing of this case regularly and has never absented himself. At present, he is holding a responsible position in Himachal Pradesh Police. His wife and daughter are currently living in India and there is no possibility of him evading the jurisdiction of this court".

However, Zaidi's application was resisted by the CBI inter alia with the averments that it (the application) is not maintainable as a similar application filed by the applicant (Zaidi) for visiting abroad and for renewal of passport had been dismissed vide order dated December 9, 2019. "The applicant is making the same prayer again, which amounts to review of the earlier order passed by this court which is not permissible under law. Also, the case is at a mature stage of prosecution evidence and investigating officers are being examined. The instant case would be at an advanced stage when the applicant plans to make his foreign visit, and it is apprehended that the accused may try to delay the proceedings, or he may even abscond to avoid the conclusion of the trial, as there is a strong case based on evidence against him," the CBI counsel contended.

The CBI counsel also submitted that "earlier bail of the applicant was cancelled by the predecessor of this court and he was granted bail by high court after about four years when the accused made a statement that he is ready to give an undertaking that he will not enter the territory of Himachal Pradesh till the conclusion of trial or examination of witness, and being a native of Lucknow he would stay in Lucknow only. Now, this (present) request of the applicant amounts to violation of his express undertaking". The Court of Alka Malik, Special Judge, CBI Court, on hearing the contentions, said, "The instant case is at a crucial stage of trial as investigating officers are being examined. The trial of the case needs to be expedited, the case being old and of serious nature. The period for which the applicant is seeking permission to visit abroad is very relevant period for conclusion of the trial, where presence of applicant/accused is needed." While dismissing the plea of Zaidi, the CBI court said, "The application is not maintainable since it violates the very undertaking given by the applicant/accused before the Punjab and Haryana High Court at the time of grant of bail to him that he shall reside in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh). He had even undertaken not to enter the territorial limits of Himachal Pradesh. Suffice here to say that the prosecution has not concluded its evidence yet."

IIT Bombay ranks 118th in QS World University Rankings 2025

GNS News Agency, June 8

New Delhi: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) Bombay (118) — and Delhi (150) have been ranked among the top 150 universities in the world, revealed the QS World University Rankings 2025.

IIT Bombay has been ranked 118th globally, rising 31 places from 149th last year. The varsity got an overall score of 56.3 out of 100. Of a maximum of 100 points, the Institute scored the most in employer reputation (86.0), citation per faculty (79.1), academic reputation (58.5), employment outcome (64.5), and sustainability (52.5). It also scored in faculty-student ratio (14.4), international faculty (4.3), international research network (52.3) and international students (1.3). "It is for the first time ever since its participation that IIT Bombay has been ranked within the top 150 in QS rankings," said the institute. Meanwhile, IIT Delhi ranked 150 by improving its position by 47 places from 197th rank last year. "This is IIT Delhi's highest-ever QS World University Rank," the institute said. The Institute ranked among the top 100 world universities in terms of employer reputation and featured among the top 150 universities in parameters like Citations per Faculty and academic reputation.

It also featured in the top 5 Indian institutions under parameters such as academic reputation, employer reputation, employment outcomes, and international research network. IIT Delhi has surpassed 90 per cent of institutions in terms of rankings this year from a list of over 5,000 institutes evaluated by the QS. The premier research institute also scored among the top 50 institutions in the world in the broader subject area of engineering and technology with a rank of 45, as per the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024.

TMC 'unleashed terror', 10,000 BJP workers and families living in fear at party offices, safehouses in Bengal, claims BJP's Suwendu Adhikari



GNS News Agency, June 8

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal assembly and BJP MLA Suwendu Adhikari Thursday wrote to Governor C V Ananda Bose, alleging that 10,000 BJP workers and their families are taking refuge in BJP party offices and safehouses after post-poll violence allegedly unleashed by the Trinamool Congress on June 4. He requested Bose to visit different places in Bengal, including 10 districts where BJP workers have allegedly been targeted in 20 incidents. "As has become synonymous now with the state of West Bengal, the goons of the ruling dispensation have gone berserk upon the workers of BJP

after the declaration of results of the Parliamentary General Elections. This seems to be a repeat of the incidents which had transpired after the 2021 assembly election results in Bengal, which had resulted in the death of several BJP karyakartas (workers)..." the letter sent on June 6 states. "Though Central Armed Paramilitary Forces have been stationed post polls as well, such forces are not being utilised to control the deteriorating situation whereby workers of the BJP are being targeted by the goons affiliated to the ruling dispensation in the State," the letter read. It also highlighted alleged incidents of attacks against BJP workers and their families in different parts of Bengal.

"It has just been 24-odd hours since the completion of the counting process and more than 20 incidents all across the State, more specifically from Asansol, Durgapur, Medinipur, Jhargram, Bankura, Cooch Behar, Hooghly, Barrackpore, Barasat, North 24 Parganas, have already been reported," the letter read. "Around 10,000 people are homeless already owing to such state-sponsored reign of terror and living out of fear in the various safe houses arranged by the BJP. Details of such safe houses can be readily provided, in case Your Excellency so desires," it read. He also requested Bose to "visit the areas from where post-poll violence are being reported and ensure that innocent lives are not lost".

'No NCP MLA from Ajit Pawar side switching to Sharad Pawar faction': Party chief Sunil Tatkare

GNS News Agency, June 8

Maharashtra's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sunil Tatkare claimed on Thursday that no MLA from his side is planning to switch to Sharad Pawar side. The statement comes amid speculations about the possible shift of MLAs from the ruling Ajit Pawar-led NCP towards Sharad Pawar's faction following the latter's impressive performance in the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra. "Today we have called all of the MLAs to discuss LS polls and reasons for winning more seats. No MLA from our side is going anywhere. Instead some MLAs from Sharad Pawar group are in touch with Congress," Tatkare said. Sources from the ruling NCP have said that the party will be pressing for state Cabinet expansion in Maharashtra. Tatkare, however, claimed that the decision will be taken by the CM and two Deputy CMs. Meanwhile, Sharad Pawar is meeting the newly elected Lok Sabha MPs from Maharashtra in Mumbai. When asked about the possible shift of MLAs to his side, NCP-SP state president Jayant Patil said that he does



not want to comment on the issue. After the results came out on Tuesday, MLA Rohit Pawar of NCP faction under Sharad Pawar had claimed that around 12-13 NCP MLAs from the ruling Mahayuti alliance are in touch with his team and they may switch sides. However, sources within the NCP-SP have said that 19 MLAs are in touch with Sharad Pawar's side.

Karnataka Minister Nagendra to resign, says Deputy CM Shivakumar

GNS News Agency, June 8

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said Minister B Nagendra has offered to resign, following allegations against him in connection with an illegal money transfer case, and indicated that he may quit the Siddaramaiah Cabinet later in the day. Seeking to mount pressure on the Congress government, the opposition BJP staged a protest march from 'Vidhana Soudha' to Raj Bhavan and petitioned Governor Thaaarachand Gehlot demanding the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister's resignation over what it called a "big corruption scam".

Shivakumar said: "There is no need for anyone demanding (resignation), we — myself, Chief Minister and Home Minister — have discussed with the Minister (Nagendra). The Minister has assured that he is not involved in anything, but in the interest of the party and the government, he doesn't want to embarrass the party, he himself has offered to resign from the Ministership. I think today he will do that job (resign)." "The Chief Minister after discussing with the Congress high command, will take a call," he said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah earlier today said he will take a decision on seeking resignation of Nagendra, after talking to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe the multi-crore scam, and discussing with senior Cabinet colleagues. The illegal money transfer issue, involving Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd, came to light, after its accounts superintendent, Chandrashekar P, died by suicide on May 26, leaving behind a death note.

The note revealed the unauthorised transfer of Rs 187 crore belonging to the state-run Corporation — which comes under the administrative control of Nagendra's department — from its bank account, and from that, Rs 88.62 crore was illegally moved to various accounts allegedly belonging to "well-known" IT companies and a Hyderabad-based cooperative bank.

Chandrashekar has named the Corporation's now-suspended Managing Director J G Padmanabh, accounts officer Parashuram G Durugannavar, and Union Bank of India Chief Manager Suchismita Rawal in the note, while also stating that the "Minister" had issued oral orders for transferring the funds. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress President, are said to have held a meeting after news broke about the CBI filing an FIR based on a complaint filed by the Union Bank of India, sources said. They reportedly summoned Nagendra and explained the circumstances and asked him to step down, and also assured him that he would be reinstated if his name was cleared from the charges. Mumbai-headquartered Union Bank of India last week filed a formal complaint with the CBI in connection with embezzlement of money belonging to the Corporation involving its MG Road branch. It had also suspended three officials. The Corporation had filed an FIR against top Union Bank of India officials with the police, over embezzlement of Rs 88 crore. The CBI has taken up a probe into the case, Home Minister G Parameashwara said on Wednesday, while adding that the Cabinet will take a call on handing over to the CBI investigation covering the state government departments linked to the case, once it gets a formal request from the central agency.

The state government last week constituted an SIT headed by Manish Kharbikar, Additional Director General of Police, Economic Offences, at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) here, to conduct the probe. A delegation of BJP leaders led by its state President B Y



Vijayendra and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, R Ashoka that petitioned the Governor, urged him to seek the Chief Minister's and Nagendra's resignation. "A big corruption scam has happened in the state, where the money kept for the development of ST community has been illegally transferred to more than eighteen fake bank accounts in Hyderabad, this cannot happen without the approval of the Finance department," Vijayendra said. "The Chief Minister also holds the charge of the Finance Department, and such a big scam would not have happened without it coming to his notice, just the Minister's resignation will not do justice, the Chief Minister is also responsible, and his resignation should also be sought," he said.

9, including 2 children, injured in LPG cylinder blast at Mumbai's Chembur



GNS News Agency, June 8

LPG cylinder blast according to the Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) officials, the blaze that was reported around 7.30 am near CG Gidwani Road was extinguished around 8 am. Nine people, including two minors, were injured in a fire incident reported in a two-storey residential structure in Mumbai's Chembur following a liquid petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder blast on Thursday, officials said. Eight of the injured belong to the same family and are being treated at Shatabdi Hospital in Govandi. Four of them sustained deep burn injuries, they said. According to the Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) officials, the blaze that was reported around 7.30 am near CG Gidwani Road was extinguished around 8 am. "The presence of combustible items like wooden furniture and electric appliances intensified the blaze initially, however we could bring it under control soon," said an official.

Medical panel examines Prajwal Revanna as police explore new method to strengthen evidence in rape cases



GNS News Agency, June 8

The Karnataka Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) which is investigating cases of sexual assault against former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna has sought the opinion of a panel of doctors at the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Centre in Bengaluru on his physical and psychological functioning. Revanna's police custody remand of six days in the first of three sexual assault cases filed against him ends on Thursday. On Wednesday, he was taken to the A B Vajpayee Medical College Hospital (Bowring Hospital) in central Bengaluru and examined by a panel of six doctors for over four hours. Police sources said that the examination was not a potency test but an effort to obtain the physical, psychological and sexual profile of the accused which can be used as evidence in the rape trials against Revanna. "The potency test is not required in rape cases. This is a new analysis that can help the investigation," a source said.

The medical panel included experts from the forensic, surgery, urology, psychiatry, obstetrics and gynaecology and medicine departments, sources familiar with the medical investigation process said. The opinion sought from a panel of medical experts is the first of its kind in a sexual crime case in Karnataka and required a court order, sources said. The SIT had obtained an order from a special court under Section 53 A of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for the medical panel. Section 53 A of the CrPC says that "when a person is arrested on a charge of committing an offence of rape or an attempt to commit rape and there are reasonable grounds for believing that an examination of his person will afford evidence as to the commission of such offence, it shall be

lawful for a registered medical practitioner employed in a hospital run by the Government or by a local authority...." to conduct a medical test.

According to Section 53 A of the CrPC, medical practitioners "acting at the request of a police officer not below the rank of a sub-inspector" can "make such an examination of the arrested person and to use such force as is reasonably necessary for that purpose". "This examination is different from a normal potency test. The crimes have occurred long ago and there are videos and photos," a police source said. The medical opinions, especially physical dimensions of external organs and body parts that have been sought, are likely to be corroborated with images of the alleged incidents of sexual assault involving the accused. Sources said that evidence provided by a panel of experts on aspects of an accused's physical and psychological functioning in similar sexual crime cases — where there is visual evidence but without the face of the suspect — had been used abroad and is documented in medical literature as being effective for a police investigation.

In a normal potency test, only the forensic department will carry out a physical examination and certify whether the suspect is capable of sexual functioning, but this is an effort to assist the investigation of the case and involves a panel of doctors, medical sources said. The SIT has asked specific questions regarding the physical and mental aspects of Prajwal Revanna's sexual functioning from the doctors and a report will be provided, sources said. "If there is any abnormality then that will be crucial evidence," a source said. Suspended Janata Dal (Secular) leader Prajwal Revanna, who was the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Hassan, is accused in three cases of sexual assault of women workers employed by his family, and a party worker. He left the country on April 27 shortly after the second phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and after videos of the alleged sexual assaults emerged in public. While the primary evidence in the three FIRs of rape is the statements given by the three alleged victims of sexual assault, the SIT has built up secondary evidence from circumstantial clues like the videos recorded of the attacks and the location of the attacks. After being arrested on his return from Europe on May 31, Prajwal Revanna was subjected to a regular physical test for health conditions before being produced in court.

After mark inflation in NEET UG 2024 result, medical aspirants flag irregularities, demand re-exams

GNS News Agency, June 8

According to many, the mark inflation in NEET UG 2024 result is expected to make securing a spot in medical school this year more difficult. Some aspiring students have turned to online forums to demand the cancellation of the results and a re-examination. According to many, the mark inflation in NEET UG 2024 result is expected to make securing a spot in medical school this year more difficult. Some aspiring students have turned to online forums to demand the cancellation of the results and a re-examination. A day after the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) result was out declaring that as many as 67 students obtained a perfect score of 720/720 marks to share the All-India Rank (AIR) 1, a large section of medical aspirants and their parents on Wednesday raised multiple objections over glitches, potential malpractices, unclear implementation of grace marks and alleged paper leak.

According to many, the mark inflation in NEET UG 2024 result is expected to make securing a spot in medical school this year more difficult. Some aspiring students have turned to online forums to demand the cancellation of the results and a re-examination. had reported that of the 67 candidates who got a perfect score (720/720), as many as 44 made it to the top because they got an answer to a basic physics question wrong — and received "grace marks" for that. Soon after the National Testing Agency (NTA) declared the NEET-UG 2024 result on Tuesday late evening, many aspirants posted comments, photos, and videos on the internet pointing out unlikely scores obtained by some of the toppers in the merit list. One such video claimed, "Considering the marking system used for NEET; it is impossible to score 718/720 or 719/720 in NEET. Yet the list features few toppers with this score which raises doubts."

But the NTA reasoned it with grace marks by issuing a statement. "NTA received few representations and court cases from candidates of NEET (UG) 2024 raising concerns of loss of time during the conduct of the examination on 05.05.2024," read the statement. It added that considering such cases, a normalisation formula devised by the apex court was implemented, and candidates with loss of time in the examination were compensated with grace marks. However, according to medical aspirants



and their parents, no normalisation formula was defined in the information brochure for NEET 2024. "Grace marks policy has to be clearly defined in advance. Furthermore, all those who complained of loss of time are not compensated with grace marks," said Sudha Shenoy, a parent and a guide for medical aspirants, adding that she is currently addressing multiple questions from candidates and parents who are in panic. Shenoy said the inflation in marks has led to fear among medical aspirants and their parents about admissions. "Last year, a candidate with a score of 583/720 was able to bag a seat in government medical college which is considered tougher. But the anticipated cut-off this year is very high, which means, with the same score, a candidate may not even get into a private medical college," she said. Many states highlighted irregularities, including alleged paper leaks, in NEET, however, the NTA had not paid heed to these concerns, she added. Another parent Brijesh Sutaria, who is also a guide for medical admissions, pointed out, "In 2023, only two students had scored 720/720. Whereas a year before that in 2022, nobody had a perfect score. In fact, the highest score was 715/720 in 2022. And this year, there are so many students with perfect scores." Sutaria also highlighted the inflation in marks and the increase in the number of candidates who appeared for NEET this year. "Students with 137 marks and above were eligible for medical admission in 2023. But this year, only those above 164 marks will be eligible for admissions." Some aspirants in online forums have also pointed out that the same sequence of roll numbers of some of the high-scoring candidates from the NTA declared merit list indicates that they all appeared for the test from the same exam centre.

Making hip hop, house music in Marathi, 2 youths try to go international with rooted music

GNS News Agency, June 8

"Taambdi Chaamdi chamakte unhata" ("brown skin shines in the sun") is the hook of the current track 22 on Local Pulse on Spotify. It is a single by Shreyas Sagvekar (27) and DJ Kratex (29), are the faces of new genres in Marathi indie music, where Kratex's house music meets Sagvekar's rap music. Sagvekar had to run a lot of errands in the scorching heat of this summer. "I used to step out of the house and sun rays would pierce through skin and make me all sweaty by the time I reached the studio. I saw how the sun rays would make my brown skin shine, that's where Taambdi Chaamdi gets its hook from," he said. About the rap, Sagvekar says, "It is about a middle-class Marathi boy going about his day, stopping in the middle of the commute to splash water on his face to feel better. But it is also about what me and Kratex, as Marathi individuals, are trying to achieve in the music industry. It is about admiring that struggle and the dream of taking it forward internationally."

About his track "Bharlela Taat" ("A plate full"), he says, "The genres in which I write, most of the songs tell stories about people for whom it is difficult to put food on their table. But that was not the case with me. I am grateful my parents could provide me with a roof over my head and food everyday. So I write about other challenges of a

middle class Marathi boy". His recent songs Paristhithi, Bharlela Taat, Kapasacha Kaali collectively garnered more than one million streams overall. "It was around 2007-2008, like everybody else, I was introduced to Hip Hop through Eminem. My starting 2-3 years were trying to learn from these western influences. But once I started writing and figured out what I want, I never let those influences become my identity," he said.

On the other hand, Kratex (29) has made a name for himself in Maharashtra's club scene, where venues once refused to play Marathi music. "When I started a lot of people, including DJs said people don't listen to Marathi. But I liked doing this. So I did it for myself and then I started getting messages from non-Maharashtrians too that they are liking it," he said. Sagvekar and Kratex both say that a lot of non-Marathi speakers appreciate their music. "Sometimes it is about the genre of music that people are drawn to. People who like house music like listening to my music. But it's a bonus for Marathi people because for them it's more personal and relatable," said Kratex. They also say that they have realised the Marathi diaspora is a huge demographic across the world, so their music listeners are not limited to the boundaries of Maharashtra in any way. Kratex hosted a "Marathi only" on the last new year eve party.

European Union braces for foreign disinformation as voters head to polls



GNS News Agency, June 8

BRUSSELS — Voters in the European Union are set to elect lawmakers starting Thursday for the bloc's parliament, in a major democratic exercise that's also likely to be overshadowed by online disinformation. Experts have warned that artificial intelligence could supercharge the spread of fake news that could disrupt the election in the EU and many other countries this year. But the stakes are especially high in Europe, which has been confronting Russian propaganda efforts as Moscow's war with Ukraine drags on. Some 360 million people in 27 nations — from Portugal to Finland, Ireland to Cyprus — will choose 720 European Parliament lawmakers in an election that runs Thursday to Sunday. In the months leading up to the vote, experts have observed a surge in the quantity and quality of fake news and anti-EU disinformation being peddled in member countries.

A big fear is that deceiving voters will be easier than ever, enabled by new AI tools that make it easy to create misleading or false content. Some of the malicious activity is domestic, some international. Russia is most widely blamed, and sometimes China, even though hard evidence directly attributing such attacks is difficult to pin down. "Russian state-sponsored campaigns to flood the EU information space with deceptive content is a threat to the way we have been used to conducting our democratic debates, especially in election times," Joseph Borrell, the EU's foreign policy chief, warned on Monday. He said Russia's "information manipulation" efforts are taking advantage of increasing use of social media penetration "and cheap AI-assisted operations." Bots are being used to push smear campaigns against European political leaders who are critical of Russian President Vladimir Putin, he said. HAS ANY DISINFORMATION YET? There have been plenty of examples of election-related disinformation.

Two days before national elections in Spain last July, a fake website was registered that mirrored one run by authorities in the capital Madrid. It posted an article falsely warning of a possible attack on polling stations by the disbanded Basque militant separatist group ETA. In Poland, two days before the October parliamentary election, police descended on a polling station in response to a bogus bomb threat. Social media accounts linked to what authorities call the Russian interference "infosphere" claimed a device had exploded. Just days before Slovakia's parliamentary election in November, AI-generated audio recordings impersonated a candidate discussing plans to rig the election, leaving fact-checkers scrambling to debunk them as false as they spread across social media.

Just last week, Poland's national news agency carried a fake report saying that Prime Minister Donald Tusk was mobilizing 200,000 men starting on July 1, in an apparent hack that authorities blamed on Russia. The Polish News Agency "killed," or removed, the report minutes later and issued a statement saying that it wasn't the source. It's "really worrying, and a bit different than other efforts to create disinformation from alternative sources," said Alexandre Alaphilippe, executive director of EU DisinfoLab, a nonprofit group that researches disinformation. "It raises notably the question of cybersecurity of the news production, which should be considered as critical infrastructure." WHAT'S THE GOAL OF DISINFORMATION?

Experts and authorities said Russian disinformation is aimed at disrupting democracy, by deterring voters

across the EU from heading to the ballot boxes. "Our democracy cannot be taken for granted, and the Kremlin will continue using disinformation, malign interference, corruption and any other dirty tricks from the authoritarian playbook to divide Europe," European Commission Vice-President Vera Jourova warned the parliament in April. Tusk, meanwhile, called out Russia's "destabilization strategy on the eve of the European elections." On a broader level, the goal of "disinformation campaigns is often not to disrupt elections," said Sophie Murphy Byrne, senior government affairs manager at Logically, an AI intelligence company. "It tends to be ongoing activity designed to appeal to conspiracy mindsets and erode societal trust," she told an online briefing last week. Narratives are also fabricated to fuel public discontent with Europe's political elites, attempt to divide communities over issues like family values, gender or sexuality, sow doubts about climate change and chip away at Western support for Ukraine, EU experts and analysts say. WHAT HAS CHANGED? Five years ago, when the last European Union election was held, most online disinformation was laboriously churned out by "troll farms" employing people working in shifts writing manipulative posts in sometimes clumsy English or repurposing old video footage. Fakes were easier to spot. Now, experts have been sounding that alarm about the rise of generative AI that they say threatens to supercharge the spread of election disinformation worldwide. Malicious actors can use the same technology that underpins easy-to-use platforms, like OpenAI's ChatGPT, to create authentic-looking deepfake images, videos and audio. Anyone with a smartphone and a devious mind can potentially create false, but convincing, content aimed at fooling voters. "What is changing now is the scale that you can achieve as a propaganda actor," said Salvatore Romano, head of research at AI Forensics, a nonprofit research group. Generative AI systems can now be used to automatically pump out realistic images and videos and push them out to social media users, he said.

AI Forensics recently uncovered a network of pro-Russian pages that it said took advantage of Meta's failure to moderate political advertising in the European Union. Fabricated content is now "indistinguishable" from the real thing, and takes disinformation watchers experts a lot longer to debunk, said Romano. WHAT ARE AUTHORITIES DOING ABOUT IT?

The EU is using a new law, the Digital Services Act, to fight back. The sweeping law requires platforms to curb the risk of spreading disinformation and can be used to hold them accountable under the threat of hefty fines. The bloc is using the law to demand information from Microsoft about risks posed by its Bing Copilot AI chatbot, including concerns about "automated manipulation of services that can mislead voters." The DSA has also been used to investigate Facebook and Instagram owner Meta Platforms for not doing enough to protect users from disinformation campaigns. The EU has passed a wide-ranging artificial intelligence law, which includes a requirement for deepfakes to be labelled, but it won't arrive in time for the vote and will take effect over the next two years. HOW ARE SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES RESPONDING? Most tech companies have touted the measures they're taking to protect the European Union's "election integrity."

Meta Platforms — owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp — has said it will set up an election operations center to identify potential online threats. It also has thousands of content reviewers working in the EU's 24 official languages and is tightening up policies on AI-generated content, including labeling and "downranking" AI-generated content that violates its standards. Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global affairs, has said there's no sign that generative AI tools are being used on a systemic basis to disrupt elections. TikTok said it will set up fact-checking hubs in the video-sharing platform's app. YouTube owner Google said it's working with fact-checking groups and will use AI to "fight abuse at scale." Elon Musk went the opposite way with his social media platform X, previously known as Twitter. "Oh you mean the 'Election Integrity' Team that was undermining election integrity? Yeah, they're gone," he said in a post in September.

Four hostages, including 3 elderly, died in Gaza, declares Israel

GNS News Agency, June 8

Jerusalem: Four more hostages kidnapped on October 7 were declared dead by the Israeli military — including three older men seen in a Hamas video begging to be released. Monday's announcement heightens pressure on the Israeli government to agree to a US ceasefire proposal that could secure the return of the hostages still held in Gaza and end the eight-month war. About 80 hostages in Gaza are believed to be alive, alongside the remains of 43 others. In the days since President Joe Biden announced the ceasefire proposal Friday, Israel has seen some of its largest protests calling on the government to bring them home. Although Biden said the proposal was Israeli, the Israeli leadership has appeared to distance itself from the plan, vowing to keep conducting military operations against Hamas until the militant group is destroyed. All four of the men declared dead Monday night — Nadav Popplewell, Amiram Cooper, Yoram Metzger and Haim Peri — were kidnapped and taken into Gaza still alive, according to the Hostages Forum, a grassroots group representing the families of the hostages. "It is time to end this cycle of sacrifice and neglect," the group said following the announcement. "Their murder in captivity is a mark of disgrace and a sad reflection on the significance of delaying previous deals." The group called on the government to immediately approve the new ceasefire plan. Hundreds of people, including relatives of the captives, gathered outside Israel's Defence Ministry and military headquarters in central Tel Aviv late Monday, calling for a deal. Smaller protests took place across the country. About 100 captives were released during a weeklong exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners in November. Three of the men declared dead Monday had female relatives who were released during the exchange. Israel's military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the four hostages were killed while they were together, during the army's operation in Khan Younis in southern Gaza. He said the four were killed months ago, but that recent operations allowed the military to gather enough intelligence to confirm the deaths. Their bodies are still being held by Hamas, and the cause of death was not immediately known. Hamas claimed in May that the other hostage pronounced deceased, Nadav



Popplewell, died after being wounded in an Israeli airstrike, but provided no evidence. Popplewell was over 50. "We are checking all of the options. There are a lot of questions," Hagari said. Cooper, Metzger and Peri were all age 80 or older. They appeared in a video in December released by Hamas under the title, "Don't let us grow old here." In the video, the three men appear gaunt, wearing thin white T-shirts. "We are the generation who built the foundation for the state of Israel," Peri said, noting that all the men had chronic illnesses. "We do not understand why we have been abandoned here." Cooper was an economist and one of the founders of Kibbutz Nir Oz, according to the hostages forum. Metzger helped to found the kibbutz winery and Peri built the community's art gallery and sculpture garden. Nir Oz was among the hardest-hit towns near the border with Gaza during the Hamas attack October 7, when Palestinian militants stormed Israel, killing some 1,200 people and hauling around 250 hostages back to Gaza. The news late Monday came after an announcement earlier in the day that the body of a presumed hostage, Dolev Yehud, 35, was found in a community near the Gaza border that Hamas militants had attacked on October 7. Yehud was thought to be among scores of hostages held in Gaza until Monday, when the military announced the discovery of his body and said he had been killed in the initial attack. Israeli bombardments and ground operations in Gaza have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

Mayawati pins blame on Muslims for rout in LS polls: 'Community has not understood the BSP'



GNS News Agency, June 8

A day after the BSP registered its poorest performance in the Lok Sabha elections, party president Mayawati said on Wednesday Muslims failed to understand her party despite being given adequate representation and, hence, her party would give them an opportunity only after considerable thought. The Bahujan Samaj Party, which contested 424 seats across the country and 79 in Uttar Pradesh in the Lok Sabha elections 2024, could not win a single seat, just like in the 2014 polls when the party did not win any seat. In the Lok Sabha elections 2024, the BSP's vote share dipped to 2.04 per cent nationally and 9.39 per cent in UP — in an indication that the party got the votes of only Jatav and Dalits in the

state where the SP-Congress alliance won the majority of the seats.

Calling Muslims an important part of the BSP, Mayawati said in a statement in Hindi, "Muslim community has not been able to understand the BSP despite that party giving them adequate representation in the past several elections. In this situation, the party will give an opportunity to them in future elections thoughtfully (kaafi sonch samajhkar) so that the party does not suffer a terrible loss like this election in future." In the Lok Sabha elections 2024, the BSP fielded the maximum number of Muslim candidates across the country — 35 — in a bid to broaden her support base with a combination of Dalits and Muslim votes. Muslims constitute about 20 per cent of the population in UP and Dalits form 21 per cent of the population. In UP, the BSP had fielded 17 Muslim candidates and none of them could even reach the runners-up position. Mayawati claimed that the majority of Dalits — especially her community (Jatav) — polled their votes in favour of the BSP, and she expressed gratitude to them for their support. She said the party will take the Lok Sabha results in UP seriously, analyse it at every level, and take every possible step in the interest of the party and movement. Mayawati added the Lok Sabha elections were not supposed to be stretched to seven phases and it should have been completed in a maximum of four phases. She also said the election was affected by the scorching sun and hot weather conditions which resulted in a decline in voter turnout.

'We took up people's issues, got rewarded': Sachin Pilot after Lok Sabha election results

GNS News Agency, June 8

Sachin Pilot speaks to Manoj CG about what worked for his Congress party and what did not for the BJP which kept talking about mandir, masjid and mangalsutra and how opinion polls did not reflect the reality on the ground. Excerpts:

The BJP has not been able to cross the half-way mark and the Congress seems to be on the revival path winning 99 seats. How do you see the election results?

This is a clear mandate certainly against the incumbent. This election was fought by the people. We took up people's issues and the exit polls, opinion polls obviously did not have a reflection of the reality on the ground. The Congress party, our allies fought on people's issues and I think we were rewarded because we took up people's issues as opposed to the things that were talked about by the BJP...like mandir, masjid and mangalsutra.

Some of your allies too have done well. For instance, the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh. Mamata Banerjee's TMC improved its tally. What is the message in this mandate?

The people have rejected the kind of government that they had for the last ten years.

The sense of arrogance that had seeped so deep into the government...they saw nothing in terms of the opposition or Constitutional bodies...In state, where there was a head to head contest between the BJP and the Congress, we have done much better than last time and that's the reason why states like Haryana and Rajasthan stood out in terms of pushing back the BJP numbers. The BJP numbers came down largely because of that. UP and Bengal have also contributed. But the INDIA bloc could not cross the halfway mark. The NDA still managed to cross the magic figure of 272. Let's all wait for the last vote to be counted and then come to some kind of conclusion. But it is very clear that this is a vote against the government. The perception, the wind, the mood, the atmosphere are all certainly against the ruling dispensation.

There seems to be a message in the mandate for the BJP. But the people still chose the NDA perhaps because of a lack of credible alternative. Do you agree?

First you have to give credit to the enhanced numbers that the Congress and its allies have got. The complacency and the kind of functioning of the government...it



was a vote against that. They were seeking a vote on the basis of two terms of performance. Their numbers have come down, the numbers of their allies have come down. The tall claims that they had made...370 and 400 paar...they are nowhere near that. In terms of alternative...in politics everything is possible.

The Congress was routed in Rajasthan some months ago. The party has won eight seats and its allies have won three. And most of the gains have come in eastern Rajasthan. What has changed?

Our candidates were better, our campaign was better and clearly the government of the day, the current BJP government has not been able to leave any impact amongst the people even in their so-called honeymoon period...they were not able to retain their vote. In Dausa seat, we won by more than two lakh votes. So, I think our candidate selection, our strategy, our campaign itself was far more rigorous and better received than the BJP. The new government really has left no impression, no mark on the people. It is also clearly a reflection of the state government. This is a response of the people to the Central government and to the double-engine of the state government.

As AICC general secretary, you are in charge of Chhattisgarh. The party had two seats in the state but could win only one this time. We were hopeful of increasing the tally. That is something we have to work on. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh we need to work where we lost the one seat we had. So, these are the states where we have to improve organisationally, our electoral performance has to get better. The results in these states mean there is much more scope to do much better.

We read UP wrong: Pollsters on their exit poll projections

GNS News Agency, June 8

Even as most exit polls had predicted a resounding win for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Saturday, the actual results on Tuesday came as a shocker. Most pollsters admitted to having got the state of Uttar Pradesh wrong, where Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party bagged 37 seats, and almost an equal number went to the BJP, even as it remained way below the exit poll projections of 60 seats for the saffron party.

India Today-Axis My India had predicted between 361 and 401 seats to NDA, and 131-166 seats for the INDIA bloc. Talking to The Indian Express, Pradeep Gupta, Chairman & MD, Axis My India, said, "The NDA alliance seems to be getting close to 295 seats, 60 less than our projected range, largely because we could not get three big states — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal — right," he said, adding, "we could not fathom which direction the Dalit votes were going. Even in the case of West Bengal and Maharashtra, we missed the mark by 14 and 10 seats, respectively. Bhawesh Jha, Director of CNX, whose India TV-CNX poll had predicted 371 to 401 for the NDA, says they were yet to ascertain why they got UP wrong, even as all other states were close to the mark. While Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had dismissed exit polls as "Modi fantasy polls", on Tuesday, as the results came out, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury alleged that exit polls were done to influence the stock market and help those who wanted to make money. "Exit poll was done to influence the share market and those who wanted to make money in the share market yesterday made money. Now, the reality is coming in front of you. Now let the full results come, after that, we will tell you...INDIA alliance is doing well," he said.

However, pollsters and psephologists continued to defend themselves, saying they got UP wrong and failed to read the quiet swing in the crucial state. Yashwant Deshmukh of C Voter said, "In terms of state-wise projection, it was only UP that we got wrong. We had already projected that West Bengal and Maharashtra will go down the drain, but somehow in the case of UP, the projection



Exit polls were done to influence stock market, says Sitaram Yechury

and results were very different."

Deshmukh added that their methodology has been the same over the years — it gives you the vote share and then you extrapolate the seatshare. "Maybe, a lot of polarisation happened after the last Assembly election. Also, the baseline for our calculation was the 2019 numbers when SP and BSP contested together. So maybe this time, we didn't have the correct baseline for around 40 seats, and that could have been the reason mathematically, it didn't come together. However, we got the vote share for UP more or less right," he added. Pradeep Bhandari of Jan Ki Baat, which gave 362-392 to the ruling alliance, as opposed to 141-161 for the Opposition alliance, said, "As far as I understand, projections have been off the mark this time because in UP, we failed to understand the anti-incumbency and also the caste factor... it was a Black Swan event. After all, it is based on scientific analysis of data, and the impact of caste factor in UP could not be ascertained to this extent."

Family robbed by Nazis donates two 17th century paintings back to Louvre



GNS News Agency, June 8

Several of the 48 descendants of the Javal family gathered at the Louvre on Tuesday to see "Still-Life with Ham" by Floris van Schooten and "Food, Fruit and Glass on a Table" by Peter Binoit rehing alongside items detailing the family's experience under the Nazis.

Two 17th century paintings looted by the Nazis and kept at the Louvre in Paris after the war have finally been returned to their Jewish owners, who then donated them back to the museum. Several of the 48 descendants of the Javal family gathered at the Louvre on Tuesday to see "Still-Life with Ham" by Floris van Schooten and "Food, Fruit and Glass on a Table" by Peter Binoit rehing alongside items detailing the family's experience under the Nazis. It is a "duty of memory towards my family, looted from and persecuted, whose history speaks to current

generations", said one of them, Marion, who did not want to give her full name. Five members of the family were deported from France during the war and murdered at Auschwitz, while others fought in the Resistance or went into hiding. The paintings were for decades part of the Louvre's Nordic painting collection, held under the "National Museum Recuperation" programme for stolen works whose owners are unknown.

The government called on genealogy experts way back in 2015 to look into a small number of items in these collections -- part of a broader movement in French museums to hunt down rightful owners. The experts traced the paintings back to a mansion in central Paris owned by Mathilde Javal that was seized and emptied by the Nazis in 1944. She had put in a restitution request after the war, but some simple errors in the spelling of her name and address undermined the process, according to the Louvre. The museum's director Laurence Des Cars told AFP the case was "a commitment to transmitting memory and a constant reminder to action". Around 100,000 cultural items were looted or sold under duress in France during the Nazi occupation of 1940-45, mainly from Jewish families -- with many transferred to Germany. Around 60,000 works came back to France after the war, of which 45,000 were returned to their owners by a special commission that operated until 1949. Of the remaining 15,000, around 13,000 were sold by the state and 2,200 entrusted to museums. The Louvre remains responsible for 1,610 of these artworks, including 791 paintings.

Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer spar in first 'ill-tempered' TV debate, clash over tax

GNS News Agency, June 8

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer sparred over several issues, including tax and immigration, during their first TV debate ahead of the July 4 general elections. As a result of the "ill-tempered" exchanges between the two leaders, the host of the debate asked them to "lower your voices".

While Sunak tried to present Starmer as an "unreliable politician who was pursuing power for power's sake", the Labour leader accused his debate challenger of being the "most liberal Prime Minister we've ever had on immigration". The Prime Minister claimed that the Labour Party would increase taxes by 2,000 British pounds for "every working family in our country" if voted to power. The accusation was, however, dismissed by Starmer as "absolute garbage". "Labour will raise your taxes, it's in their DNA. Your work, your car, your pension, Labour will tax it," the BBC quoted Sunak as saying.

In response, the Labour leader said Britain's ruling Conservative Party "put pretend Labour policies into the Treasury to produce a fantasy figure", reports the Guardian. Questioning the timing of Sunak's decision to call for the general elections, Starmer said, "If he thinks things are going to get better towards the second half of this year, why has he called it now? He's called it now because he knows, and I'll ask him this, he knows inflation is going to go back up, he knows energy prices are going to go back up in the autumn. That's what he's not telling you."

One of the main focus areas of the debate was Sunak appearing to suggest that he would be willing to pull the country from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) if his controversial Rwanda policy did not work. Rwanda policy refers to the Prime Minister's controversial plan to send asylum seekers who cross the English Channel to the East African nation. "I'm crystal clear, I believe all our plans are compliant with our international obligations, but if I am forced to choose between securing our borders and our country's security, or a foreign court, I'm going to choose our country's security every single time," he said.

Slamming Sunak over the remarks, Starmer, a



former human rights lawyer, said, "We will not pull out of international agreements and international law which is respected the world over. Because I want the UK to be a respected player on the global stage, not a pariah who doesn't agree with international law." The Labour leader also clarified his stance on immigration, saying that "we need to smash the gangs that are running this vile trade, making a huge amount of money putting some of the most vulnerable people in boats across the Channel". Another topic that the two leaders clashed on was the National Health Services (NHS). While Sunak said he would use private healthcare if a "loved one was on a long waiting list for an operation", Starmer replied that he would not and would rely on the NHS alone. Meanwhile, the points on which the two seem to agree on were not to raise income tax, national insurance or VAT, as well as working with former US President Donald Trump if he returned to the White House following the November 5 presidential election. The debate came a week after the British Parliament was dissolved, paving the way for the general elections on July 4. Sunak set the election for July 4, instead of later in the year as had been widely expected, in what observers said was an attempt to regain momentum as his party slides in opinion polls. After 14 years in opposition, the Labour Party now has the chance to win back power with Starmer at the helm. Polls have placed Labour on average at 45 per cent of voting intentions, against 23 per cent for the ruling Conservative Party, suggesting that, given the simple-majority voting system, the opposition will enjoy a very large win.

'Pretty cool': US kids discover remains of adolescent Tyrannosaurus 'Teen Rex'

GNS News Agency, June 8

Scientists and filmmakers announced Tuesday that brothers Liam and Jessin Fisher, age seven and 10 at the time of the find, and their nine-year-old cousin Kaiden Madsen, were walking in the Hell Creek formation of the Badlands in July 2022 when they found a large fossilized leg bone. Paleontologist Tyler Lyson and the three young fossil finders Liam Fisher, Jessin Fisher and Kaiden Madsen who came across the remains of a juvenile T rex. Paleontologist Tyler Lyson and the three young fossil finders Liam Fisher, Jessin Fisher and Kaiden Madsen who came across the remains of a juvenile T rex. What did you do for summer vacation? Three pre-teen dinosaur aficionados have the answer of a lifetime: they discovered the remains of a rare juvenile Tyrannosaurus rex in the North Dakota dirt.

Scientists and filmmakers announced Tuesday that brothers Liam and Jessin Fisher, age seven and 10 at the time of the find, and their nine-year-old cousin Kaiden Madsen, were walking in the Hell



Creek formation of the Badlands in July 2022 when they found a large fossilized leg bone. "Dad asked 'What is this?' and Jessin said, 'That's a dinosaur!'" exclaimed young Liam on a video call with his brother, cousin, father Sam Fisher, dinosaur experts and reporters. They snapped a pic and sent it to a family friend, vertebrate paleontologist Tyler Lyson of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, according to a statement. When Lyson eventually arrived at the site, he brushed off a tooth and quickly realized the enormity of what the fossil hunters uncovered: an "extremely rare" juvenile T-

rex specimen that lived 67 million years ago -- and could offer critical clues about how the king of dinosaurs grew up. The fossilized bones were excavated, placed in giant plaster jackets and lifted by Black Hawk helicopter onto a truck. They were taken to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, where the public can soon follow progress on the fossil's preparation in a new discovery lab.

Rather remarkably, the saga is only emerging now, after a documentary crew and renowned scientists coordinated in secret over nearly two years with top natural history museums to present the kids' discovery. Paleontologists estimate the "Teen Rex" weighed about 3,500 pounds (1,630 kilograms), measured 25 feet (7.6 meters) from nose to tail, and stood about 10 feet tall -- some two-thirds the size of a full grown adult. It was believed to be 13-15 years old when it died. "It's remarkable to consider how T. rex might have grown from a kitten-sized hatchling into the 40-foot, 8,000-pound adult predator we are familiar with," Thomas Holtz, a vertebrate paleontologist from the University of Maryland and a renowned T-Rex authority, said in the statement.

What are the texts that were discovered in Hunter Biden's laptop? "F---k my stepmother for always being as much of a selfish silly entitled ct as you," Hunter told Hallie

Columbia University settles lawsuit with a Jewish student over campus safety



GNS News Agency, June 8

The law firm representing the Jewish student in the lawsuit, filed as a class action complaint, called the settlement a "first-of-its-kind agreement to protect Jewish students from extreme on-campus Gaza war protesters." Columbia University has agreed to take additional steps to make its students feel secure on campus under a settlement reached Tuesday with a Jewish student who had sought a court order requiring the Ivy League school provide safe access to the campus amid protests over the Israel-Hamas war. The law firm representing the plaintiff in the lawsuit, filed as a class action complaint, called the settlement a "first-of-its-kind agreement to protect Jewish students from extreme on-campus Gaza war protesters." Under the agreement, Columbia must create a new point of contact -- a Safe Passage Liaison -- for students worried for their safety. The liaison will handle student safety concerns and coordinate any student requests for escorts through an existing escort program, which must remain available 24/7 through at least Dec. 31, according to the agreement.

The settlement also makes academic accommodations for students who couldn't access campus to complete assignments or exams, among other provisions. "We are pleased we've been able to come to a resolution and remain committed to our number one priority: the safety of our campus so that all of our students can successfully pursue their education and meet their academic goals," a university spokesperson said in a written statement.

The settlement noted the various steps Columbia has already taken to ensure student safety on campus, including some controversial ones, such as authorizing the New York Police Department to clear the university's administrative building and arrest more than 100 people. Protests at Columbia, including an encampment, inspired similar demonstrations at colleges and universities around the country, with students demanding their schools separate themselves from companies advancing Israel's military efforts in Gaza and in some cases from Israel itself. A legal group representing pro-Palestinian students has urged the U.S. Department of Education's civil rights office to investigate Columbia's compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for how they have been treated. Jay Edelson, an attorney for the Jewish student plaintiff, said the negotiated settlement represents "a return to basic, shared principles of safety on campus for all Columbia students" after "extreme protesters" chose to "push their Jewish peers off campus with threats and intimidation." The agreement also states that Columbia will "continue to work to facilitate opportunities for students and faculty to engage in safe, courteous, and constructive dialogue on the important issues that have been raised in recent months" and will not interfere with student efforts to hold public debates on campus.

Donald Trump's lawyers ask judge to lift New York gag order in hush money case

GNS News Agency, June 8

In a letter Tuesday, Trump lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove asked Judge Juan M. Merchan to end the gag order, arguing there is nothing to justify "continued restrictions on the First Amendment rights of President Trump" now that the trial is over. Donald Trump's lawyers are asking a New York judge to lift the gag order that barred the former president from commenting about witnesses, jurors and others tied to the criminal case that led to his conviction for falsifying records to cover up a potential sex scandal. In a letter Tuesday, Trump lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove asked Judge Juan M. Merchan to end the gag order, arguing there is nothing to justify "continued restrictions on the First Amendment rights of President Trump" now that the trial is over.

Among other reasons, the lawyers said Trump is entitled to "unrestrained campaign advocacy" in light of President Joe Biden's public comments about the verdict last Friday, and continued public criticism of him by his ex-lawyer Michael Cohen and porn actor Stormy Daniels, both key prosecution witnesses. Trump's lawyers also contend the gag order must go away so he's free to fully address the case and his conviction with the first presidential debate scheduled for June 27. Merchan issued Trump's gag order on March 26, a few weeks before the start of the trial, after prosecutors raised concerns about the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's propensity to attack people involved in his cases. Merchan later expanded it to prohibit comments about his own family after Trump made social media posts attacking the judge's daughter, a Democratic political consultant. Comments about Merchan and District Attorney Alvin Bragg are allowed, but the gag order bars statements about court staff and members of Bragg's prosecution team.

Trump was convicted Thursday of 34 counts of falsifying business records arising from what prosecutors said was an attempt to cover up a hush money payment to Daniels just before the 2016 election. She claims she had a sexual encounter with Trump a decade earlier, which he denies. He is scheduled to be sentenced July 11. Prosecutors had said they wanted the gag order to "protect the integrity of this criminal proceeding and avoid prejudice to the jury." In the order, Merchan noted pros-



ecutors had sought the restrictions "for the duration of the trial." He did not specify when they would be lifted. Blanche told the Associated Press last Friday that it was his understanding the gag order would expire when the trial ended and that he would seek clarity from Merchan, which he did on Tuesday. "It's a little bit of the theater of the absurd at this point, right? Michael Cohen is no longer a witness in this trial," Blanche told the AP. "The trial is over. The same thing with all the other witnesses. So, we'll see. I don't mean that in any way as being disrespectful of the judge and the process. I just want to be careful and understand when it no longer applies." Trump has continued to operate under the belief that he's still muzzled, telling reporters Friday at Trump Tower: "I'm under a gag order, nasty gag order." Referring to Cohen, Trump said, "I'm not allowed to use his name because of the gag order" before slamming his former lawyer-turned-courtroom foe as "a sleazebag." During the trial, Merchan held Trump in contempt of court, fined him \$10,000 for violating the gag order and threatened to put him in jail if he did it again. Trump's use of the term "sleazebag" to describe Cohen just before the trial ranked prosecutors, but was not considered a gag order violation by the judge. Merchan declined to sanction Trump for an April 10 social media post, which referred to Cohen and Daniels, another key prosecution witness, by that insult. The judge said at the time that Trump's contention that he was responding to previous posts by Cohen that were critical of him "is sufficient to give" him pause on whether prosecutors met their burden in demonstrating that the post was out of bounds.

Hunter Biden called stepmom Jill Biden 'vindictive moron' in explosive 2018 texts

GNS News Agency, June 8

Explosive 2018 texts revealed that Hunter Biden called his stepmother Jill Biden a "vindictive moron." Joe Biden's son is now under trial for three felonies stemming from a 2018 firearm purchase. At the time, he was reportedly addicted to crack cocaine.

In the texts that have now been revealed, Hunter unleashed a rant against Jill after she asked him to go for treatment for his addiction. Hunter made some of the remarks during a text exchange with his late brother Beau Biden's wife, Hallie Biden. Hunter and Hallie once had a short romantic relationship. Witness the final chapter of the Lok Sabha Elections unfold on HT with live vote count and results. Explore now! Explore now!

What are the texts that were discovered in Hunter Biden's laptop? "F---k my stepmother for always being as much of a selfish silly entitled ct as you," Hunter told Hallie

Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu accepts invitation to address US Congress

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that he accepted the invitation to address a joint meeting of the US Congress in Washington. In a statement, the Israeli Prime Minister said on Saturday that he plans to speak to both Houses of Congress and "present the truth" about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Netanyahu was invited on Friday in a letter signed by the leaders of the US Senate and House of Representatives, Xinhua news agency reported. Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that Netanyahu's speech in Washington is expected to take place within the next eight weeks.



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Amid markets bloodbath, FMCG stocks log gains on consumption boost hopes



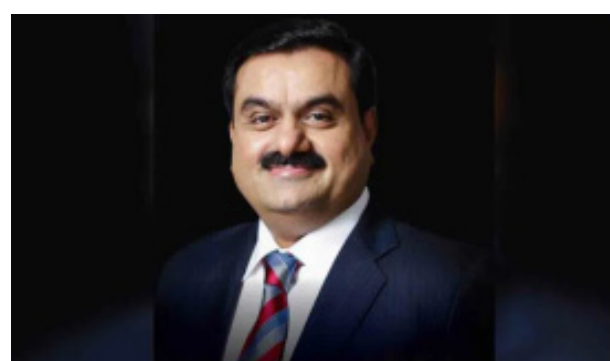
current scenario, Bernstein expects a shift in focus to "freebies and possibly tax breaks". It also expects private consumption growth to accelerate in the near term.

In recent quarters, rising inflation has affected consumption, especially in rural areas, and the margins of FMCG majors. "The focus shift to freebies or tax breaks will not have a major bearing on inflation, as the government is likely to be prudent in its policies. Any surging food inflation will continue being clamped down by export bans, opening of buffer stocks, etc," the report added. "Now with election results not being one-sided, we are witnessing profit booking. We believe this profit booking may continue for some more time. Spaces like FMCG and IT may see less damage as defensive buying along with valuation comfort may keep them immune to this correction," said Siddharth Bhamre, head of research at Asit C Mehta Investment Intermediates.

A shift in focus to boosting consumption can bring respite to FMCG majors, which have recently complained of sluggish consumption growth. Rohit Jawa, MD and CEO of Hindustan Unilever, said that while GDP growth has been driven largely by government capex, it has not yet led to a recovery in consumer demand in rural areas. "The GDP growth is driven a lot by government capex, but also — and that trickle down effect will take time. But if we — if all of those jobs and livelihoods that get created, there is — I mean that money should end up going back to the households more in the mass end, and that should democratise consumption. And we should, in my view, start to see that. And how long it takes? I do not have the ability to forecast, but I think we do see gradual recovery in rural," Jawa told analysts in the Q4FY24 earnings call on April 24. During the call, Jawa also clarified that the consumer goods major is "not waiting for the macro to shift one way or the other... we are focusing on transforming our business to go where the growth is, to go where the people are, go where the money is". For Hindustan Unilever then, the focus will be on "urban consumption (which) has been more resilient especially at the premium end" until the macro picture improves. For Varun Berry, MD of Britannia Industries Ltd, the impact of GDP growth on consumer demand will be visible in FY25. "India is doing much better than all the other countries from a GDP growth standpoint. However, the only point to be made is that private consumption is down. The GDP numbers are looking good because of the gross fixed capital formation that's happening in the country. However, we are confident that as we go through this year, things will change on the private consumption side as well," Berry told analysts on May 6.

Amid mixed results for BJP, shares of all Adani Group firms tumble

New Delhi: Shares of all Adani Group companies tumbled on Tuesday as the initial trend showed BJP winning a lesser number of seats than predicted in exit polls. The stock of Adani Ports plummeted 20 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions plunged 19.80 per cent, Adani Power slumped 19.76 per cent, Ambuja Cements tumbled 19.20 per cent and the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises tanked 19.13 per cent on the BSE.



Adani Total Gas declined 18.55 per cent, Adani Green Energy dived 18.31 per cent, NDTV went lower by 15.65 per cent, ACC plunged 14.49 per cent and Adani Wilmar dropped 9.81 per cent. Erasing the record-rally of the previous trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 4,131.44 points or 5.40 per cent to 72,337.34, and the Nifty slumped 1,263.3 points or 5.43 per cent to 22,000.60.

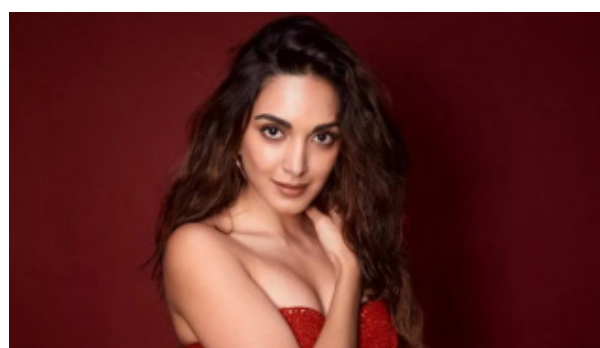
Shares of all Adani Group companies rallied sharply on Monday, with Adani Power surging nearly 16 per cent in line with a massive surge in the equity market, taking the combined market valuation of the ten listed firms to Rs 19,422 lakh crore. The stock of the majority of the group firms, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, Adani Power and Adani Green, also bounced back to their pre-Hindenburg Research report levels on Monday.

The BJP-led NDA was ahead with leads in 296 seats and the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc not far behind in 227 seats as votes were counted for the Lok Sabha elections on Tuesday, setting the course for a third consecutive term as prime minister for Narendra Modi but with a strong

ger opposition. While the BJP was ahead in 236 of 542 seats, the Congress had leads in 97, signalling a dip for the ruling party from the 303 score in 2019 and a spike for the opposition party's 52 from the last election. An election marked by acridity and acrimony could end with the treasury benches in reduced numbers and an opposition with more teeth.

In trends available till 11.45 am, the NDA was close to the 300 mark, comfortably over the magic figure of 272 with the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc making significant gains. Shares of all group companies surged on Friday by up to 14 per cent after US brokerage Jefferies put a bullish view on the group that is back to an expansion spree with a planned \$90 billion capital expenditure over the next decade.

Kiara Advani does not believe in fad diets, she instead looks forward 'to my bhindi, salmon, and pumpkin'



Kiara Advani doesn't believe in fad diets. Instead, the Satyaprem Ki Katha actor likes to have ghar ka khana, as shared by her in a conversation with Kareena Kapoor Khan. "I am not somebody who can do fad diets or intermittent (fasting). For me, it is ghar ka khaana — boiled and without too much masala. It is usually the same food that I genuinely enjoy eating. I look forward to my bhindi, my salmon, and my pumpkin. Those are things which I love," Advani said on the What Women Want show.

On her fitness routine, Advani who is married to actor Sidharth Malhotra, shared she has never been on the heavier side. "I do put on weight and lose it equally fast. Growing up, I loved dancing and swimming, and I would constantly be doing some kind of physical activity after school. But when I got into films, I consciously made an effort to make it a part of my routine. Since you have experienced that, it is just about getting yourself to the gym or the dance class." Taking a cue from Advani's admission of "genuinely" enjoying ghar ka khaana, we decipher why simple "boiled, no masala food" is good for you.

For one, it is easier for the body to digest. "When you boil food, the complex compounds found in the food break down into a simpler compound, making it easier to digest," Sonia Bakshi, nutritionist and founder, DtF told indianexpress.com. By minimising the use of excessive spices and oil, homemade meals retain their natural flavours, allowing the inherent taste of ingredients to shine through. This not only enhances the dining experience but also promotes better digestion and nutrient absorption.

The so-called 'best remedy' to remove suntan at home gets a thumbs down from experts

Tanning is the body's natural defense mechanism to sun damage. As such, the tanning of various body parts like the face, feet, hands, neck, and knees is extremely common during the summer months. While tanning fades over time, many people resort to trying various quick fixes to get rid of it instantly. Among the many available solutions is using a mix of shampoo or body wash, ENO or baking soda, coffee powder, gram flour, and lemon juice — being touted as the "best remedy" in a viral Instagram video by a content creator suggests. But what do dermatologists say?

"When exposed to the sun, your skin increases the release of melanin to absorb the UV rays and shield from sun damage. The more you are exposed to the sun, the more melanin is released, which leads to more sun-tanned skin by the minute," said Dr Kiran Sandeep Singh, ayurvedic consultant and cosmetologist, Beeshakha Health Centre, Andheri East, Mumbai. "Your face, neck, arms, and legs are the most prone to tanning when exposed to the sun. According to Dr Niti Gaur, cosmetic dermatology, founder, Citrine Clinic, Gurgaon, deeper skin tones have more melanin, which is responsible for skin colour and protection from UV damage, "and is also the reason why people with brown skin tend to get more tanned than have sunburn". A tan, realistically, takes anywhere between two to three months to improve, but it may last longer, even up to six months, added Dr Gaur.

One has to be cautious while trying home remedies as not everyone can benefit from them, cautioned Dr Rinky Kapoor, consultant dermatologist, cosmetic dermatologist and dermatologist, The Esthetic Clinics. "Baking soda is known to have a pH of 9 which is high and can cause problems such as dryness, irritation, and burning

tion, said nutrition consultant Neha Sahaya, The Pantry.

Bakshi also said that such food helps prevent kidney stones. "When food is boiled, about 87 per cent of oxalates are eliminated. Oxalate is one of the main reasons for the formation of kidney stones. Therefore, including more boiled foods in your diet can help prevent kidney stones," said Bakshi.

Additionally, it is very effective for weight loss and weight management. "Diet is low in calories and high in nutrients. There is more roughage that can keep you full for longer," she said, adding that boiled food can also help improve skin texture. "Eating boiled and less masala food is very good for the skin, because when you add boiled foods such as carrots, peas, sweet potatoes etc, it provides water and nourishes healthy skin," said Bakshi. It also helps prevent acidity, said the expert as it leads to less acid build up in the stomach. "Since such food is also easy to digest, it stays in your stomach for a short time, helping reduce acid secretion," said Bakshi. According to Bakshi, it helps promote hair growth. "A high-fibre diet is also good for your hair. When you use a lot of boiled food, your hair will grow faster and also become shinier," said Bakshi. Such food helps create a feeling of well-being. "When you eat a meal high in fat, you may find yourself feeling groggy and fatigued, as your organs need to work more often to digest that food. However, when you eat a meal that is light and easy for your body to digest, you will feel more energetic and this creates a feeling of well-being, as per her.

Moreover, the practice of consuming the same foods on most days instills a sense of dietary consistency. "While some may perceive monotony in this approach, there is beauty in its simplicity. Eating familiar meals regularly establishes a rhythm that the body can adapt to, promoting stability in blood sugar levels and metabolic processes," shared Sahaya. Eating Ghar ka khana and the same thing on most days helps to regulate your thoughts and emotions, added Nakshi S, founder, Inha Wellness. "With Ghar ka khana you have complete control over your kitchen, use of produce, the way you prefer your preparation and most importantly our home kitchens are usually filled with not only hygiene but lots of love," said Nakshi.

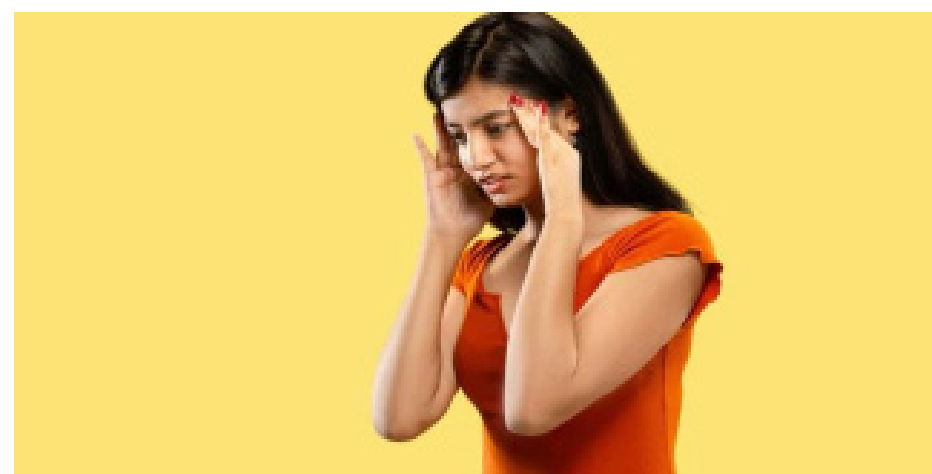


of the skin. Moreover, there is no evidence available regarding the benefits of baking soda or ENO on the skin," noted Dr Kapoor. Those having sensitive skin should be cautious as using lemon juice can create havoc. "It can cause burning, irritation, inflammation, and skin dryness owing to its high acidic properties," said Dr Kapoor. According to her, while coffee powder can exfoliate the skin, "there is no study to validate this claim". "It is better to take the opinion of an expert before adding these ingredients to your skincare routine," said Dr Kapoor. Many social media accounts offer advice on home care remedies for de-tanning, but not all of the advice is good, experts stress. "The skin is a delicate organ, so it is important not to apply products that are not intended for it. While home-based remedies are a cheaper and more convenient option, they are less effective compared to in-clinic procedures," said Dr Gaur.

Not just spinach, these 5 foods can also boost iron levels in body

Feeling fatigued, breathless, or experiencing pale skin? These could be signs of iron deficiency or anaemia, a common condition affecting many women. This condition arises when the body lacks sufficient healthy red blood cells, responsible for transporting oxygen throughout the body, which is done by iron molecules. During their menstrual years, women lose iron through blood loss, making it crucial to maintain a diet rich in this essential mineral.

While spinach often takes centre stage as an iron source, there are many other options, which are just as good, if not better. Iron loss and dietary needs Dr Gandhali Deorukhkar, Consultant OBGYN and Head Coordinator of the Maternity and Child Care Department at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, emphasises the importance of iron-rich diets for women from a young age. Women are particularly susceptible to iron deficiency due to menstruation. Each menstrual cycle leads to a blood loss of



around 80-100 ml, highlighting the need for a diet rich in iron. The recommended daily iron intake, according to Dr Deorukhkar, varies by age and gender:

spinach While spinach often takes centre stage as an iron source, there are many other options, which are just as good, if not better. Leafy Green Delights: Don't limit yourself to spinach! Explore other iron-rich greens like methi (fenugreek leaves), a staple in Indian cuisine. Natural Sweeteners: Jaggery, an unrefined sugar, offers a good amount of iron along with its natural

sweetness. **Powerhouse Fruits:** Dates are a delightful source of iron and other essential nutrients. Enjoy them as a snack or incorporate them into desserts. **Protein-Packed Options:** Red meat is a good source of iron. Lean cuts like beef and lamb can be incorporated into a balanced diet. **Fibre-Rich Friends:** Beans and lentils are not only high in fibre but also provide a good dose of iron. **Nutty Offerings:** Peanut chikki, a popular Indian snack made with peanuts and jaggery, offers a delicious way to boost iron intake. Here's a key tip to maximise iron absorption:

consume vitamin C-rich foods alongside iron-rich meals. Dr Deorukhkar recommends including citrus fruits like oranges or lemons, or incorporating amla (Indian gooseberry) into your diet. Vitamin C significantly enhances the body's ability to absorb iron from food sources. By incorporating these diverse iron-rich options and maximising absorption, women can create a dietary plan that combats iron deficiency and promotes overall health. Remember, consulting a healthcare professional for personalised guidance is essential, especially if you experience symptoms of anaemia.

Anurag Kashyap details two years of 'extreme sickness', from depression to steroids that wouldn't let him sleep:



Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has opened up about his health battles and said he has gone through "extreme sickness" in recent times, but people seeking guidance from him have not been understanding of his time and energy. In March, Kashyap had declared on social media that he was tired of wasting his time mentoring untalented people and had decided to charge people a consultancy fee. In an interview with Humans of Cinema, the filmmaker was asked about the reason behind his viral post, which was widely shared, discussed and even dished by a section. Kashyap, however, clarified that the post was "not for filmmakers, woh faltu logo ko bhagane ke liye tha."

The filmmaker then detailed how there was a time when he had the "time and energy" and supported "all kinds of independent films." With time, Kashyap said, people assumed that the filmmaker is obligated to help everyone, with no regard to check if he was even capable to do it.

"What people are not aware and they don't ask, is what zone are you in. I have gone through two and a half years of extreme sickness, dependency on medicines, I have gone through my whole phase of depression. In a phase like that, you have to prioritise yourself first. So, if I am not physically, mentally, emotionally healed.... If you see my interviews of last years, you will see it is on my face how unwell I was. Even then people come and ask you to read their script." I was like, I am on so many ste-

roids that I am unable to sleep and on top of that I sometimes drink whiskey too to numb it. I can't watch good films. I am watching same old films of mine, I play those because I am familiar with them, the sound of it makes me feel like I am watching a film. Those films which don't require you to use your mind. I just don't have the mind space to watch a serious film, so I am watching those action films. I am in that stage and frame of mind and in the middle of that people come to me. I told them that time has past now. There was a time when I was doing these things, because nobody else was. Now there are enough people," he said.

Anurag Kashyap revealed how a lot of times people started "showing up" at his house unannounced. The filmmaker recalled how a man, who Kashyap didn't know, once rang his doorbell and said, "I want to show you my film." "I didn't even know him, I told him I might watch it if I feel like, if I have the time but he said, 'No sir you don't understand, my father passed away.' Par mujhe dukh nahi laga. I said I am sorry your father passed away, but does it mean that I have to watch your film right now? Because I am dealing with a lot of my own sh*t. You have not come here after asking for my time, you just randomly ended up at my door. People would often call me from random numbers or make a powerful person call me, so that I watch their work, cast them or guide them." "I reached a point where I thought if I keep doing this, when will I write my scripts, find my peace and work? I will give my time on something I fully trust, where I see the other person has always worked hard for it. If I have enabled four films, I have also survived 400 terrible films. When I had the capacity, I would do it, but not anymore. My first priority is I, me myself.

I need to fully fix myself, I am in a much better, healthier place. Just let me be for two years, get my energy level and then I will support again. My cup is half empty, what will I make you drink? I myself am thirsty now," he added. On the work front, the filmmaker is awaiting the theatrical release of his next film Kennedy, starring Rahul Bhat and Sunny Leone. The film is likely to release this year.

'Ranbir Kapoor would've become a star even if he was an outsider': Jaideep Ahlawat says acting aspirants should quit complaining about nepotism

Actor Jaideep Ahlawat said that although he is well aware of nepotism in the film industry, he doesn't believe that it impacts him because he isn't up for the same roles as somebody like Ranbir Kapoor. He said that it is important for newcomers to avoid emulating established stars and wasting time complaining about nepotism; they should carve their own identity in the industry and focus on bettering themselves. In an interview with Miss Malini, the actor was asked if he has ever personally been affected by nepotism, and he said no. "Ranbir Kapoor isn't after my roles, nor is Varun Dhawan. And if anybody is living in the misconception that he's successful only because he comes from a film family, they need a reality check. Ranbir Kapoor would've been a star even if he was an outsider. And it's not like I came here to become Ranbir Kapoor. If a girl is coming here to become Alia Bhatt, it's not right. I'm not the second Ranbir Kapoor, I'm the first Jaideep Ahlawat."

He said that if every outsider with dreams of becoming an actor thought like this, there wouldn't be room for people like Manoj Bajpayee, or Irrfan Khan, both of whom established themselves as stars in their own right. "You have to accept that Ranbir Kapoor belongs to the first family of Bollywood. When we were probably playing with marbles, he was entrenched in conversations about cinema and the industry... I can choose to continue complaining about 'unfairness', or I can focus on myself and do my thing," he said. Jaideep also declared that if he



were to back his own family in the future and provide them with opportunities in the film industry, he'd be well within his rights to do so. "If I've worked 20 years here, and my family wants help, I'll give it to them. There's no way I'm going to distribute my wealth to strangers if I feel my son isn't up to the mark. Destroy it, burn it, do whatever you want with that money, but it's going only to you."

Jaideep is regarded as one of the finest male actors of his generation. He broke out with a supporting role in Gangs of Wasseypur, but experienced his first brush with stardom after Paatal Lok. He also gained plaudits for his performances in the films Raazi and An Action Hero, and most recently, in Jaane Jaan. Ranbir, on the other hand, recently delivered the biggest hit of his career, the controversial revenge epic Animal.

Kanye West's former assistant Lauren Pisciotto sues him for sexual harassment, wrongful termination



Rapper Kanye West, who is known as Ye, has been sued by former assistant Lauren Pisciotto, who filed a lawsuit accusing him of sexual harassment, breach of contract and wrongful termination. According to news reports by TMZ, and Rolling Stone, Pisciotto is also suing Yeezy, a company owned by Ye for fraud, and unpaid wages, accusing him of emotional distress, said Rolling Stone, citing the court

Pisciotto worked with West on his Yeezy women's clothing line and his album Donda, released in 2021. Reports say Pisciotto was employed as Kanye's assistant in 2021, with a million-dollar annual salary and should be available to him '24/7.' According to the lawsuit, Kanye had no objection to Pisciotto making money from OnlyFans and through social media, however, he later demanded that he be treated 'God-like' and urged her to asked her to delete her account, in exchange for an extra \$1 million, the suit states. Despite Pisciotto agreeing to his demands, she claims the rapper began to sexually harass her.

"See my problem is I am wanting to fu*k but then after I fu*k I want a girl to tell me how hard they have been fucked while I'm fucking them. Then I want her to cheat on me," read one of the texts from Kanye to Pisciotto, mentioned in the suit. As per the suit, in another text, the "Runaway" singer texted Pisciotto, "Is my di*k racist? I'm going to stare at pictures of white women with black asses and beat the shit out of my racist dick." Pisciotto said the rapper was obsessed with the "pen's size" of her partners and that he would mas**bate on the conversations

with her, said Rolling Stone. She also went on to narrate a horrific incident (in her lawsuit) where during their journey on a flight to Paris, Kanye "trapped" her in his room on the plane after he closed the door, which could not be opened from the inside. Rolling Stone reports that while Pisciotto sat on a chair across from West, who was lying down on his bed, he began to mas**bate under the covers, ultimately falling asleep.

In the lawsuit, she also stated that she was promoted to chief of staff for Kanye's various companies in September 2022 and was told she was getting a \$3 million bonus following which she was fired from her job with the offer of a \$3 million severance package. Pisciotto claimed she never received the severance package. Responding to Pisciotto's lawsuit, Kanye's legal representative issued a statement saying that the rapper would be filing a suit against Pisciotto, who "actively pursued him sexually to coerce employment and other material benefits, then engaged in blackmail and extortion when her advances were rejected." It further added that Pisciotto "stole" the rapper's cell phone "in an attempt to destroy phone records that would contradict her claims, all of which have been preserved."

Varun Dhawan announces birth of daughter

Mumbai: Bollywood star Varun Dhawan on Tuesday morning announced the arrival of his first child with wife Natasha Dalal, stating that "our girl is here."

Varun took to Instagram and shared the news, posting an e-card featuring a picture of his beagle Joey holding a placard that read: "Welcome Lil' Sis... June 3, 2024." The actor captioned the post: "Our girl is here. Thank u for all the good wishes for the mama and the baby. Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare, Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare." Natasha gave birth to their first child on June 3. Varun's father, filmmaker David Dhawan, confirmed the news to the media while leaving P. D. Hinduja Hospital in the Khar area of Mumbai.

Meenakshi Seshadri 'didn't believe' in making friends with Bollywood co-stars, wants to change that in second innings: 'Reached out to Jackie Shroff, want to meet Sangeeta Bijlani'



Actor Meenakshi Seshadri is back, and she wants to do things differently. Meenakshi, who was a sensation in the '80s and '90s, had moved to the United States after her marriage in 1995. The actor said that in her new phase in Mumbai, she wants to reach out and reconnect with old friends from the film industry, including Sangeeta Bijlani.

In an interview with Zoom, the 60-year-old actor said that when she returned to India, her Hero co-star Jackie Shroff was the first person she reached out to. Not surprisingly, she said, Jackie made her feel welcomed in

Mumbai and took her along to film events he was invited to. "He is one person I reached out to after coming back. He has been very sweet inviting me several times for events in Mumbai. Maybe he wants me to feel included and welcomed. That's his unique quality. In my first innings, I didn't really believe in making friends and hanging out with them but this time around I do. Another friend I want to meet is Sangeeta Bijlani," she said.

The actor then also spoke about Hero, the 1983 Subhash Ghai directorial which made her an overnight star along with Jackie Shroff. Though they were immensely loved as an on-screen pair, she feels some regret over not being able to replicate the same chemistry with Jackie in another project. "The success of Hero could not be repeated, because the few films Jackie and I did after that, the audience didn't get what they wanted. They didn't get that romance, the story of Jackie and Meenakshi. I feel bad about that, because with the right kind of films, him and I could have done some really nice movies together," she added. Meenakshi Seshadri was among the top-most female stars of her time, featuring in popular films like Hero, Meri Jung Shahenshah, Ghayal, Damini and Ghatak. It was after Ghatak that Meenakshi quit the film industry and married investment banker Harish Mysore, with whom she has two kids.

Deepika Padukone-Ranveer Singh head out for dinner date; their sweet gesture for restaurant staff wins over the internet.



Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone will welcome their first child in September. These days, the couple is often spotted around Mumbai, out on dates with each other and their families. Soon after Ranveer returned from Italy after attending the Ambanis' second pre-wedding bash, he stepped out with Deepika for a dinner date at a cafe in Bandra. The actors also posed for a photograph with the restaurant's staff, which their fans appreciated online.

Reacting to this photo, a fan wrote, "You deserve every bit of accolades you receive," and another fan commented, "Just the picture I was waiting to see!" Several fans also dropped heart emojis in the comments

section. Before this dinner date, Deepika was spotted making several outings with her mother and family while Ranveer was away. The couple also stepped out to cast their votes in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 together. On the work front, Deepika Padukone will be starring in Kalki 2898 AD next. She also has Singham Again releasing this year. As for Ranveer, he has Don 3 in the pipeline, although no significant progress has been made on the film after its announcement. Ranveer was also set to collaborate with director Prashanth Varma on a film titled Rakshas, but the two recently parted ways citing creative differences. This year, he will be seen in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again, alongside Deepika.

Anupam Kher calls Kangana Ranaut 'rockstar' after Mandi win; Mammootty and Mohanlal congratulate Suresh Gopi following victory in Thrissur constituency

Anupam Kher congratulated actress and BJP candidate from Mandi, Kangana Ranaut; Malayalam actors Mammootty and Mohanlal extended their wishes to Suresh Gopi (Photos: Instagram/kanganaranaut/anupamkher/X/mammukka) Anupam Kher congratulated actress and BJP candidate from Mandi, Kangana Ranaut; Malayalam actors Mammootty and Mohanlal extended their wishes to Suresh Gopi



The 2024 Lok Sabha Elections saw several candidates from the world of films notch victories. Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut, representing the BJP, secured the Lok Sabha seat from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. Meanwhile, South actor Suresh Gopi made history as the BJP's first Lok Sabha MP from Kerala, winning the Thrissur constituency. Telugu actor and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan won the Pithapuram Assembly constituency with a margin of

over 70,000 votes. Bollywood actor Anupam Kher congratulated Kangana for her victory in Mandi. He shared a video featuring the actress with her mother, and called her a "rockstar". He wrote: "My dearest #Kangana! Your journey is so so inspirational! So happy for you and the people of #Mandi and #HimachalPradesh. You have proved time and again that if one is focused and works hard to kuch bhi hosakta hai. Jai Ho!

#MemberParliament #KanganaRanaut #Winner". This was Kangana's first time contesting elections, and she won the seat by a significant margin.

Actor-politician Suresh Gopi celebrated his win in Kerala's Thrissur Lok Sabha constituency on June 4. Prominent Malayalam actors Mammootty and Mohanlal extended their congratulations to their fellow actor. With this victory, the BJP fi-

nally secured its first seat in Kerala. Suresh Gopi received congratulations from numerous celebrities and fans. Mammootty posted, "Hearty congrats dear Suresh on your victory," alongside a picture. Suresh Gopi, an accomplished actor, politician, playback singer, and television presenter, has predominantly worked in Malayalam cinema but has also appeared in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi films.

'Pragg defended well': Magnus Carlsen after needing Armageddon to defeat Praggnanandhaa



GNS News Agency, June 8

After fireworks in their previous game at Norway Chess, the second clash between Praggnanandhaa and Magnus Carlsen idled into a draw on Tuesday with the Norwegian grandmaster winning the Armageddon clash to claim the additional half point. Five-time world champion Carlsen will go into the second rest day of the tournament with a full point lead over Hikaru Nakamura, who squandered a winning position against Alireza Firouzja in the classical game before resigning in their Armageddon battle.

Firouzja was staring down the barrel at one stage but as GM David Howell pointed out on Chess dot com's live broadcast, he found 20 consecutive top moves (moves that the engine suggests are the best moves), including a few "only" moves, just after crossing the time control where his time had withered down to just a minute with 10 seconds being added with each move. Thanks to his resolute defending in the classical game, Firouzja held on for a draw. At some point, Carlsen on the adjoining board seemed under pressure to push Pragg for a result in the classical game as it seemed apparent that Nakamura, who has been on the five-time world champion's heels in the standings would win. "I didn't get

anything out of the classical game. I think I was slightly better. Pragg defended well. I was hoping to get at least a sniff of something but there it was not to be. The Armageddon game was pretty mediocre but I managed to grind it out and that half point could be absolutely important," Carlsen admitted after winning his Armageddon clash. "I was always up on time and even though the position was fairly even I was always optimistic. I have two difficult games to go, but I'm in the lead regardless. So it's not looking too bad. The two other games today were extremely interesting. Would have loved for Ding to get a win but I think now for him every draw is something."

While Nakamura, who visited the confessional booth as many as five times during his game against Firouzja, collapsed he praised Carlsen for his tenacity. "As I have said before, great champions in sport, not necessarily in chess, have a way of getting it done in the critical moments! I think back to Carlsen playing against Fabiano Caruana in the World Championship, being one loss away from no longer being the world champion or his game against Fabi here at Norway Chess which sparked his rally. He just has a way of getting it done." Praggnanandhaa now has 12 points after eight rounds, with clashes coming up against Caruana on Friday and Nakamura in the final round on Saturday. Over in the women's Norway Chess, world champion Ju Wenjun is in the lead of the standings after defeating the 61-year-old veteran Pia Cramling of Sweden. Wenjun's compatriot, Lei Tingjie also had an outright win in the classical round on Tuesday. Vaishali — who made her first appearance in the confessional booth at coaxing from her brother — is third in the standings three whole points behind Wenjun. But since outright wins in the classical format give you three points, the 22-year-old Indian could still overhaul that target in the last two games. She was leading the standings at one point of the tournament but ended up suffering two classical losses in a row.

'Magnus Carlsen and Vishy Anand have (political) opinions. But they don't want to share like Garry Kasparov' – Carlsen's trainer Peter Heine Nielsen's interview



GNS News Agency, June 8

In a freewheeling interview with The Indian Express, Magnus Carlsen's trainer Peter Heine Nielsen discussed the difference between being Carlsen's trainer versus working for Viswanathan Anand, why both players are not politically outspoken, why Carlsen likes playing against the younger generation and whether Gukesh playing in the World Championship will coax him to re-consider competing for the crown. Gukesh is in the World Championship and there's every possibility that someone like Praggnanandhaa or Arjun Erigaisi could also be there soon. Do you believe that those things might just convince Magnus to play once again?

I doubt it. But I haven't spoken one word with him about it. I don't know. They (the youngsters) generally try to play chess with him, and that's interesting. Nakamura did the same recently, so I should say so does the older generation. But not always. They're more scarred and nervous (trying to play chess against Magnus). He finds it interesting to play against the youngsters because they're trying to beat him. Generally, it goes quite badly (for them). But what we saw with Praggnanandhaa here, he managed to beat Magnus by playing better. I didn't like that Pragg beat him

Magnus should answer this for himself. Maybe he won't mind playing a World Championship match with them, but what's problematic is that he would have to actually qualify. That would be quite a (long) route and would feel a bit weird. What you would really like to have is a generational clash where both players still have all of their powers. So a Magnus who hasn't declined against a Gukesh/Pragg/Arjun. A match against Firouzja would be interesting as well. But it's a little difficult, like a train which has gone in a completely different way. I'm generally not good at predicting what Magnus is doing. The simplest thing would be to ask him. He usually gives very honest answers. It's a bit of a joke in our team, I sometimes say I have to go listen to Magnus's press conferences to listen to what he thinks about the game. People say I could just ask him, but that's not how we do things.

In all your years that you have worked with Magnus, what has been the most impressive thing you have seen him do?

The World Championship against Fabiano Caruana... when he played a draw in game 12, everyone was saying he was having a mental breakdown. But he didn't. He knew what he was doing and he didn't care what anyone thought. But in his shoes, I would have been extremely nervous because if you lose the playoff, Caruana is the world champion. I remember when we met on the stairs to go to the lounge, I was very curious which person was going to show up. He was in an excellent mood. He was clear he was looking forward to playing chess. He was like 'It's going to be a fun day'. That was very impressive. It would be reasonable to break down at that stage. As a sports person you see people crumble under nervousness when your identity is at stake.

Does he relish those situations? When he's under the gun and needs to win on demand?

I don't know if he relishes it. But he tries. He's failed some times. When he won the FIDE World Cup he was very happy. It will sound strange, but winning the world championship when you're the overwhelming favourite against just one opponent... he's done it many times. He had never won the World Cup where you play 128 play-

ers. You have to win a lot of knockout matches. This also explains why the World Championship is something he quit playing. But the joy I felt from him after he won the World Cup or from winning the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship in 2022 was extraordinary and something I didn't expect. Winning World Championship matches with Vishy (Anand) felt great, because we never took it for granted. With Magnus at some point we took it for granted. Nielsen says age and experience were the key differences between coaching Carlsen and Anand over the years. Nielsen says age and experience were the key differences between coaching Carlsen and Anand over the years.

What is it like working with Magnus Carlsen as compared to working with Viswanathan Anand?

They're both natural talents, intuitive geniuses rather than very concrete players. The huge difference was age; when I started working with Vishy, he was older than me. He was at the top of his career wanting to maximise his chances of becoming the World Champion and then defending it. He was a very mature player with much more experience than myself. With Magnus, I have known him basically from the pre-teenage age, we played table tennis and computer games together. I did have fun with Vishy and considered him as almost family at some point. But it was a relationship built on sporting ambition in a way. As personalities and playing styles, they're maybe not too different. Perhaps the big difference was not so much them, but me. With Vishy, I was a young player with no coaching experience when he took me in. I wanted to work incredibly hard to sort of pay back his trust. I was completely obsessed with the work I was doing for Vishy. But when I started working full-time with Magnus, I had won four titles with Vishy. I had a bunch of experience. But perhaps less ambition. That fitted perhaps well with Magnus in a way.

You're someone who's very outspoken about political issues. But we don't usually hear that with Magnus. When we look at someone like Garry Kasparov, who became an icon for his political stance away from the board. Does Magnus ever speak about wanting to be bigger than one of the best players in the world in history?

It doesn't seem like that. Magnus does it with his chess. It's not like he was not opinionated. But on this topic of politics, when he was on a podcast with Lex Fridman, he did speak about it. Vishy and Magnus are somewhat similar in character. Kasparov is very different. He's so full of energy, dominance and opinions in a way. Don't get me wrong, Magnus and Vishy have opinions. But they don't want to share them like that. I guess Magnus sees himself more of an ambassador for chess. He's been doing things like his Offerspill project. I really love what Kasparov is doing, but he's the exception rather than the rule. Magnus and Vishy are typical sportstars. I don't think they have the wish or obligation to change the world. That's their choice. Like Kasparov's choice is legitimate, Magnus and Vishy's choices are legitimate. Also, Kasparov's (activism) happened almost after his career ended. But I would be surprised if Magnus goes in this direction. I don't know.

What was Magnus like growing up, as a child prodigy?

Yes, he was a child prodigy, but we should not forget that when he was 15, it was not clear that he was the no 1 in his age group. Sergey Karjakin was probably higher rated, in World Youth events, he would end up after Ian Nepomniachtchi. At 17, it was clear (he was the best). It was not instantly a given (in his younger days that Magnus was going to be world champion). I thought I was hanging out with a talented Norwegian guy from a neighbouring country and we had fun. I had absolutely zero belief that this guy would become world champion. That he became a world champion is almost the understatement of his career. I don't think he's surpassed Kasparov yet. But just the fact that there's debate (on who's the best ever) is good! It's a legitimate debate. Kasparov was absurdly good.

Rohit Sharma says he tried to convince head coach Rahul Dravid to stay beyond T20 World Cup: 'It's been very fruitful'

GNS News Agency, June 8

ICC mens CWC 2023, world cup FINAL, India Vs Australia Final, Ind vs Aus WC Final, WC 2023 Final, Narendra Modi stadium, Virat kohli, travis head, pat cummins, Rohit sharma, Mohammed Shami, Adam zampa, Naredra Modi, WC 2023 winner, WC 2023 top performers, indian express news Team India head coach Rahul Dravid with captain Rohit Sharma after the 2023 ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad. (Reuters)

A day after India head coach Rahul Dravid confirmed that the ongoing T20 World Cup will be his last assignment with the national team, skipper Rohit Sharma conceded that he had attempted to convince Dravid to stay. "I tried convincing him to stay, but obviously there are a lot of things that he needs to look after as well. But yeah, I personally enjoyed my time with him," Rohit told reporters in New York on Tuesday. Looking back at his tenure as captain alongside Dravid as head coach, Rohit shared that the experience of learning subtle leadership traits from his 'role model' — also his first India captain, coincidentally in a game vs Ireland — was 'very fruitful'.

"He was my first international captain when I made my debut in Ireland. Then I've seen him play while I was just coming into the team (for) Test matches when he was captain. And such a big role model for all of us," Rohit said. "Growing up, we watched him play and we know what he has achieved, personally as a player and also what he's done for the team over the years. Battling out the team from difficult situations and that is what he's known for," he added.

Festive offer Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni: Fake India coach applicants use famous names Dravid has conceded that he won't be re-applying for the head coach role. Dravid's arrival as the India head coach in November 2021 had coincided with



Rohit being named the white-ball captain — and later the all-format skipper. With the two part of leadership group, India made it to a World Test Championship as well as ODI World Cup final and a T20 World Cup semifinal.

"He's shown a lot of great determination throughout his career and that is something that when he came here as a coach, I wanted to learn from him. It's been very fruitful. Other than the big silver (trophy), we won all the major tournaments and series. I've enjoyed every bit of it, working with him," Rohit said. "And for him to buy into that thought, obviously makes a huge difference. And he was the first one who came and said, 'this is what we need to do as a team'. No matter what happens, but at least we'll give it a good shot at it when he arrived." When asked if the team had any special farewell plans for their head coach, Rohit kept a tight lid. "I'm sure the rest of the guys will say the same. It's been great working with him. And I'm not going to say anything actually. I'm not going to say anything." Dravid's initial contract with the national side had come to an end after the 2023 ODI World Cup, and was extended to June 2024 after the team managed to produce a near-perfect campaign until the loss to Australia in the final.

R Ashwin returns to Chennai Super Kings fold, joins India Cements

GNS News Agency, June 8

In a high-profile transfer move, R Ashwin has re-joined the India Cements, paving way for his return to the Chennai Super Kings fold. As part of the deal, Ashwin is all set to take charge of the Chennai Super Kings High Performance Centre, which is coming up in the outskirts of the city and is expected to be fully functional before the start of the next IPL season.

The transfer move means there is a strong possibility that Ashwin could reunite with CSK at the big player auctions scheduled for the end of this year. With this being a big player auction, a trade off between CSK and Rajasthan Royals is ruled out as they won't be able to retain him. In case, CSK are not able to acquire Ashwin at the auctions, the only other possibility is they make a trade post the player auctions. "That totally depends on the auction dynamics because we can't have control over it. We have to wait and see if the opportunity presents itself," CSK CEO Kari Viswanthan said. "First up, he will be taking charge of our High Performance centre, and will handle the cricketing side of it including the programmes and everything. We have signed him back. He is now part of the CSK venture and will also play for the India Cements teams in the TNCA First-Division," he added.

R. Ashwin of Rajasthan Royals during match 44 of the Indian Premier League season 17 (IPL 2024) between Lucknow Super Giants and Rajasthan Royals held at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow (Faheem Hussain/ Sportzpics) R. Ashwin of Rajasthan Royals during match 44 of the Indian Premier League season 17 (IPL 2024) between Lucknow Super Giants and Rajasthan Royals held at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow Ashwin's move to India Cements has been in the pipeline for the last couple of years. Just ahead of the IPL, in an event to felicitate Ashwin's land-



mark 100th Test 500 Test wickets, N Srinivasan who owns the India Cements was in lavish praise of the India cricketer. "You have a big role to play going forward," Srinivasan had said at the event. And with the HPC coming up, CSK believe Ashwin's will have a huge role to play in taking it forward. With the franchise already having academies in different parts of the world, the HPC will be their one-stop place for their players from Chennai, Johannesburg and Texas to train round the year.

"Growing the game and contributing to the cricketing fraternity is my primary focus," Ashwin said of his new role. The all-rounder is set to complete the formalities in the coming weeks when he comes back from a short break. After beginning his domestic career on a promising note, Ashwin came to national prominence with CSK in the 2009 and 2010 seasons. His performances ultimately opened the national doors and had been an integral part of the franchise between 2008-2015. This will be Ashwin's second stint with India Cements and CSK. After joining the set-up in his early days of his IPL career, Ashwin had quit India Cements in 2016, joining their rivals Chemplast soon after. Then in 2018, Ashwin shifted base to Take Solutions, which owns Dindigul Dragons, the franchise that he represents in the Tamil Nadu Premier League.

R Ashwin returns to Chennai Super Kings fold, joins India Cements

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In a high-profile transfer move, R Ashwin has re-joined the India Cements, paving way for his return to the Chennai Super Kings fold. As part of the deal, Ashwin is all set to take charge of the Chennai Super Kings High Performance Centre, which is coming up in the outskirts of the city and is expected to be fully functional before the start of the next IPL season.

The transfer move means there is a strong possibility that Ashwin could reunite with CSK at the big player auctions scheduled for the end of this year. With this being a big player auction, a trade off between CSK and Rajasthan Royals is ruled out as they won't be able to retain him. In case, CSK are not able to acquire Ashwin at the auctions, the only other possibility is they make a trade post the player auctions.

"That totally depends on the auction dynamics because we can't have control over it. We have to wait and see if the opportunity presents itself," CSK CEO Kari Viswanthan said. "First up, he will be taking charge of our High Performance centre, and will handle the cricketing side of it including the programmes and everything. We have signed him back. He is now part of the CSK venture and will also play for the India Cements teams in the TNCA First-Division," he added.

R. Ashwin of Rajasthan Royals during match 44 of the Indian Premier League season 17 (IPL 2024) between Lucknow Super Giants and Rajasthan Royals held at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow (Faheem Hussain/ Sportzpics) R. Ashwin of Rajasthan Royals during match 44 of the Indian Premier League season 17 (IPL 2024) between Lucknow Super Giants and Rajasthan Royals held at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow Ashwin's move to India Cements has been in the pipeline for the last couple of years. Just ahead of the IPL, in an event to felicitate Ashwin's land-



mark 100th Test 500 Test wickets, N Srinivasan who owns the India Cements was in lavish praise of the India cricketer. "You have a big role to play going forward," Srinivasan had said at the event. And with the HPC coming up, CSK believe Ashwin's will have a huge role to play in taking it forward. With the franchise already having academies in different parts of the world, the HPC will be their one-stop place for their players from Chennai, Johannesburg and Texas to train round the year. "Growing the game and contributing to the cricketing fraternity is my primary focus," Ashwin said of his new role. The all-rounder is set to complete the formalities in the coming weeks when he comes back from a short break. After beginning his domestic career on a promising note, Ashwin came to national prominence with CSK in the 2009 and 2010 seasons. His performances ultimately opened the national doors and had been an integral part of the franchise between 2008-2015. This will be Ashwin's second stint with India Cements and CSK. After joining the set-up in his early days of his IPL career, Ashwin had quit India Cements in 2016, joining their rivals Chemplast soon after. Then in 2018, Ashwin shifted base to Take Solutions, which owns Dindigul Dragons, the franchise that he represents in the Tamil Nadu Premier League.