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Auto driver sells 18 day-old daughter for Rs. 1 lakh in Hyd

Hyderabad: Within 24-hours of an 18 day-old girl child being sold was reported, the Bandlaguda police have solved the case and arrested three persons including her father on Friday.

The child was rescued safely and handed over to her mother. Mohd Asif (43), an auto driver and his wife, Asma Begum (31), residents of Mohammed Nagar in Bandlaguda were blessed with a baby girl in the last week of June. The couple had named her as Hafeeza. However, the police said that Asif, who was having financial problems, decided to sell the child and clear his debt.

Toxic gas leak at Chemical plant in Telangana, six hurt

Nalgonda: Six workers were injured in a mishap at the chemical plant of Jaya laboratories at Malkapur village of Choutuppal mandal in Yadadri Bhongir district.

They fell unconscious and suffered injuries as they were exposed to toxic gas that leaked from the chemical plant of the Laboratories. Though the incident took place in the early hours of Wednesday, the local officials had claimed to have no information about it. According to reports reaching here the workers injured were given first aid before they were shifted to hospital for treatment.

CM Revanth Reddy to Hold Meeting with Collectors and SPs on July 16



GNS News Agency, July 12

The Chief Minister of the Telangana, Revanth Reddy, is scheduled to hold a meeting with Collectors and Superintendents of Police on the 16th of this month. The meeting will take place at the Secretariat and will last from morning to evening. The main focus of the meeting will be on nine key issues, including the completion of the transfer process and the transfer of senior officials.

The meeting will be attended by Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of various government departments. The agenda items for the meeting include discussions on the government, Dharani, agriculture, medical and health, Vana Mahotsavam, women empowerment, education, peace and security, and the elimination of drug abuse. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is expected to address these important issues and work towards finding solutions that will benefit the state and its people. The meeting is crucial in ensuring effective governance and addressing key issues that impact the welfare and development of the state.

Attempt-to-murder case against former Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, 2 IPS officers

Guntur, July 12 Andhra Pradesh Police registered an "attempt to murder" case against former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, two senior IPS officers and two retired officials, following a complaint lodged by a TDP MLA, an official said on Friday. The complaint was lodged by the ruling party's Undi MLA K Raghurama Krishna Raju. Besides Reddy, police booked senior IPS officers PV Sunil Kumar and PSR Sitaramanjaneyulu and retired police officer R Vijay Paul and former Guntur Government General Hospital superintendent G Prabhavati, the official said. Vijay Paul and Prabhavati have superannuated. "Raju sent his police complaint through mail one month ago and after taking legal opinion, I registered a case at 7 pm on Thursday against the former CM and others," the official told PTI. Raju, a former MP, also alleged that he was subjected to "custodial torture," the official added. Police booked the five accused under Sections 120 B, 166, 167, 197, 307, 326, 465 and 506 read with 34 of the IPC as the case is three years old. The case was booked at Nagarampalem police station in Guntur. TDP leader Raju's 2021 arrest case came to the fore in Andhra Pradesh after he lodged a complaint against Reddy and some officials over it on June 10. He accused the former CM and the senior officials of "plotting" a criminal "conspiracy" against him. Raju, 62, alleged in his complaint that senior IPS officers Sunil Kumar and Sitaramanjaneyulu, police officer Vijaya Paul and government doctor Prabhavati were part of that "conspiracy". He was arrested in May 2021 in the middle of the Covid-19 second wave. "A false case was registered against me by the CB-CID of the Andhra Pradesh government. On May 14, 2021, I was arrested without due process, I was bullied, unlawfully physically pulled inside the police vehicle, and forcibly taken to Guntur the same night," Raju alleged in the complaint.

Court extends Arvind Kejriwal's judicial custody in CBI's corruption case till July 25

GNS News Agency, July 12

A court in New Delhi on July 12 extended till July 25 the judicial custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the corruption case linked to the alleged excise policy scam being probed by the CBI. Mr. Kejriwal was produced through video conferencing before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja. He appeared in connection with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) cases on the expiry of his judicial custody. Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court had granted him interim bail in the money laundering case linked to the alleged scam. In May, the ED had filed its seventh supplementary charge sheet in the case, naming Mr. Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as accused. The court had issued a production warrant for Kejriwal and AAP on Tuesday after taking cognisance of the supplementary charge sheet.

Centre to observe June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to commemorate 1975 Emergency

GNS News Agency, July 12

The Government of India has decided to observe the 25th of June every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas.' This day will commemorate the massive contributions of all those who endured the inhuman pains of the 1975 Emergency, Home Minister Amit Shah said on July 12. In a social media post on X, formerly Twitter, Mr. Shah said that "the decision by the government is intended to honor the spirit of millions who struggled to revive democracy despite facing inexplicable persecution at the hands of an



oppressive government."

"The observance of 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will help keep the eternal flame of individual freedom and the defense of our democracy alive in every Indian, thus preventing dic-

tatorial forces like the Congress from repeating those horrors," he added.

A gazette notification issued on Friday by the Union Home Ministry notes that Emergency was declared on June 25, 1975,

following which there was "gross abuse of power by the government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities". The people of India have abiding faith in the Constitution and the power of its resilient democracy, it said. "Therefore, Government of India declares 25th June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to pay tribute to all those who suffered and fought against the gross abuse of power during the period of Emergency and to recommit the people of India to not support in any manner such gross abuse of power, in future," says the notification.

Arvind Kejriwal gets interim bail, Supreme Court says suffered in jail for 90 days

GNS News Agency, July 12

The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam, saying the AAP supremo "suffered incarceration of 90 days". However, Kejriwal will remain in Tihar Jail as he has also been arrested by the Central Bureau Of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the corruption case related to the alleged scam. A Supreme Court bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta referred Arvind Kejriwal's petition challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to a larger bench.

Pronouncing the verdict, the Supreme Court said that mere interrogation does not allow arrest. "Given that the right to life is concerned and since the matter is referred to a larger bench, we direct Arvind Kejriwal to be released on interim bail," Justice Khanna said. The bench, however, clarified that the question of interim bail could be modified by the larger bench. "Arvind Kejriwal has suffered incarceration for more than 90 days. He is an elected leader, and it is up to him whether he wants to continue in the role or not," the court further said.

WHAT IS THE ED CASE AGAINST ARVIND KEJRIWAL?

The Delhi Chief Minister was arrested in a dramatic manner on March 21 by the ED, which alleged that a criminal conspiracy was hatched by AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, to create loopholes in the now-scrapped Delhi liquor policy to favour some liquor businessmen for undue favours. During the hearing, the ED alleged that Kejriwal was the "kingpin" and "key conspirator" in hatching



ing the excise policy in collusion with other AAP leaders. The probe agency claimed it had evidence of money being sent to the AAP through hawala channels. The ED claimed the money raised from the alleged scam was used for AAP's campaign in the Goa Assembly election. However, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Kejriwal's lawyer, said there was no "iota of material" regarding the alleged receipt of money by the AAP through the hawala route. The same Supreme Court bench had in May granted interim bail to Kejriwal for two weeks to enable him to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections. The AAP supremo had returned to Tihar Jail after his bail period was over. On June 20, a trial court in Delhi granted bail to Arvind Kejriwal and ordered his release. Special Judge Niyay Bindu said that the ED had failed to give any direct evidence linking Kejriwal to the proceeds of the crime. The court had also said that the ED was acting with bias against Kejriwal. However, the order was stayed by the Delhi High Court on June 25.

Bandi asks Rahul Gandhi to visit Osmania University



GNS News Agency, July 12

Hyderabad: Accusing Congress party of deceiving the unemployed youths of Telangana, union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay dared Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi to visit Osmania University and talk to unemployed youth. Sanjay, who moved a resolution thanking the people of Telangana for sending eight MPs to the Parliament and helping the BJP to form the government at the centre for the third consecutive term at the State executive meeting on Friday, said the Congress which had been targeting the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre on the issue of unemployment should first fulfil the promises made to the youths of Telangana. "I am challenging Rahul Gandhi, who is talking about unemployment spreading like an epidemic in BJP-ruled States, to visit Osmania University and convince youths, who have been waiting for employment. Do you have the guts to visit Osmania University?" he asked. Coming down heavily on the Congress government, the senior BJP leader alleged that the Revanth Reddy government failed to provide employment to youths in the last seven months. On the other hand Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately after coming to power

released the Kisan Samman Nidhi amount to farmers and increased the minimum support price, he said. Stating that the increase in poll percentage in the State during the Lok Sabha polls was an indication that the people of Telangana were extending support to the BJP, he asked party cadres to work hard to bring the party to power in next elections. "People of Telangana have more trust in Modi than Congress," he said

7 Indians among over 60 missing as landslide sweeps two buses into river

GNS News Agency, July 12

Kathmandu: At least seven Indian nationals are among over 60 passengers who are believed to be missing after two buses were swept away by a landslide and pushed into a swollen river in Nepal early Friday, officials said. The two buses carrying 65 passengers went missing in the Trishuli River in the landslides at Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district, myRepublica news portal reported quoting officials. Chief District Officer of Chitwan, Indradev Yadav, confirmed the incident. According to Yadav, the Kathmandu-bound Angel bus and Ganpati Deluxe, en route to Gaur from the Capital, met with the accident at around 3:30 am. Twenty-four people were onboard the bus travelling to Kathmandu and 41 on the bus travelling to Gaur, police said. Three of the passengers on the Ganpati Deluxe bus managed to escape after jumping out of the vehicle. 'The Kathmandu Post' reported. Details have been received of 21 passengers travelling from Birgunj to Kathmandu on Angel Deluxe.

Telangana Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka meets Odisha CM, seeks cooperation for SCCL Naini project



GNS News Agency, July 12

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka urged Odisha CM Mohan Charan Manjhi to cooperate in the excavation of the coal mine project undertaken by Singareni company at Naini in Odisha. Responding to this request, the Odisha CM assured full cooperation and stated that appropriate measures will be taken to support the mining activities.

Following this discussion, orders were issued to high officials in Odisha to ensure smooth progress of the Naini Block Singareni project. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, accompanied by a team of officials, emphasized the importance of the coal blocks for Singareni and highlighted that the Naini mines were designated for Singareni back in 2017. The CM also mentioned that the issue of transfer of forest and private lands to Singareni is pending, and once resolved, excavations at Naini Block can commence. He further explained that the mining activities will provide employment opportunities for a significant number of Odisha youths and generate tax revenue of up to Rs. 600 crores for the state government. It was reiterated that the immediate resolution of problems related to land transfer, electricity, and roads is necessary to kickstart the mining operations at Naini Block. The collaboration between Telangana and Odisha in this project is expected to benefit both states economically and in terms of employment opportunities.

'Don't be nasty towards Smriti Irani': Rahul Gandhi on attack against BJP leader



GNS News Agency, July 12

Smriti Irani, who unseated Rahul Gandhi from the Congress bastion in the 2019 elections, lost the Amethi constituency to the Congress loyalist Kishori Lal Sharma by a huge margin of over 1.65 lakh votes. The Union Minister said this is a sign of Congress conceding the 79th out of Uttar Pradesh's 80 Lok Sabha seats to BJP. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi (L), and former Union Minister Smriti Irani (R).

A month after the results of the Lok Sabha election were declared, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Friday urged people to "refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty" for ex-Union Minister Smriti Irani and other leaders. Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "Winning and losing happen in life. I urge everyone to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards Smt. Smriti Irani or any other leader for that matter." "Humiliating and insulting people is a sign of weakness, not strength," the Raebareli MP added. I urge everyone to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards Smt. Smriti Irani or any other leader for that matter.

In the Lok Sabha poll results declared on June 4, Smriti Irani, who unseated Rahul Gandhi from the Congress bastion in the 2019 elections, lost the Amethi constituency to the Congress loyalist Kishori Lal Sharma by a huge margin of over 1.65 lakh votes. Addressing the media after the poll defeat, Irani stated, "I express my gratitude to all the BJP party workers and supporters, those who have worked in the service of the constituency and the party with utmost dedication and fidelity... Today, I am grateful to PM Narendra Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath that their governments have completed the pending works of 30 years in just 5 years. I congratulate those who win. I will continue to be in the service of the people of Amethi." Meanwhile, in Raebareli Lok Sabha polls, Rahul Gandhi defeated BJP rival Dinesh Pratap Singh, a minister in the Yogi Adityanath cabinet in Uttar Pradesh, with over 3 lakh votes.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Shambhu barricades

THE Punjab and Haryana High Court's order to remove barricades at the Shambhu border marks a significant moment in the ongoing protests by farmers. For over five months, the blockade, set up by the Haryana Government, has caused severe inconvenience to commuters, disrupted local businesses and ignited widespread public frustration. This court order represents a critical step towards restoring normalcy and addressing the grievances of both the protesting farmers and the affected residents. The ruling underscores the importance of balancing the right to peaceful protest with the need to maintaining public order and accessibility. The blockade, which began as a measure to prevent farmers from advancing towards Delhi, had escalated into a roadblock for ordinary citizens. The HC directive to Punjab and Haryana to coordinate the removal of the barriers highlights a judicial acknowledgment of the hardship imposed on the public. For the protesting farmers, this ruling is a validation of their stance. As one farmer leader pointed out, the order reveals that the barricades were a state-imposed restriction. This distinction is crucial for altering public perception and countering the narrative that farmers were responsible for the blockade. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha's plan to discuss their next move shows a continued commitment to peaceful advocacy of their demands. As the barricades come down and normal traffic resumes, traders in Ambala, who faced losses due to reduced customer flow, hope for a turn towards economic recovery. Even as both state governments must facilitate a smooth transition, the farmers should ensure that their next steps do not lead to any escalation. This episode highlights the delicate balance required in handling public protests and the need for solutions that respect both civil liberties and public welfare.

'Careers, livelihoods of more than 100 individuals vulnerable': Academics write to Education Minister on TISS staff cut



GNS News Agency, July 12

As many as 466 academicians from dozens of Indian and foreign institutes and activists have penned a letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan urging him to intervene in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) staff cut issue. Jayati Ghosh, professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, filmmaker Anand Patwardhan, several current and former professors of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi University, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), foreign universities, and other leading institutions, signed the letter requesting Pradhan to take steps to safeguard the future of the retrenched TISS employees. The letter said though their dismissal has been revoked, the status of these employees continues to be uncertain and precarious. It said the regularisation of these employees will go a long way in securing a healthy and productive future development for TISS as an institution.

On June 28, TISS dismissed as many as 55 teachers and close to 60 non-teaching staff members across its four campuses, without any notice. The staff were informed that the institute was unable to secure the release of grants for their salaries from the Tata Education Trust, even after several attempts. TISS later withdrew the sudden dismissal of its staff after the (TET) assured resources

would be made available to it.

"We, the undersigned, note with grave concern the recent developments at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. More than a 100 faculty members and administrative staff were dismissed with a two-day notice on June 28. A vast majority of them had served the Institute for years, with some having worked for well over a decade. They were all full-time employees, involved in regular course teaching, research supervision, curriculum development, and other administrative duties, as required by UGC norms," the letter stated. "While this summary mass dismissal has now been revoked, the status of these employees continues to be uncertain and precarious. The TISS administration has not provided any indication of the nature of reinstatement including basic terms and conditions, and the duration of employment. This has left the careers and livelihoods of these more than 100 individuals completely vulnerable. This had been the situation in the Advance Centre for Women's Studies for the last few months and has now been generalised to TISS as a whole. And it must be noted that in departments such as the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, even this basic revocation has not taken place," the letter added.

The letter states that TISS has been a prominent and valuable part of the higher education landscape in India since 1936. "Amongst the employees whose careers now hang in the balance are eminent economists, sociologists, political scientists, educationists, policy professionals, technicians, and administrators. They have contributed to the building and maintenance of the edifice of social sciences in India. Since TISS is now completely within the remit of governance of the Union government, we appeal to you to take urgent action to safeguard their future," it said. Regularisation of these more than 100 employees will go a long way in securing a healthy and productive future development for TISS as an institution. It will also contribute to the much-needed strengthening of public education in India. We urge you to take steps to ensure the same," the letter added.

'Have faith that those who created chaos will not be spared': Bhole Baba, days after Hathras stampede killed 121



GNS News Agency, July 12

The event in Phulrai village was addressed by self-styled godman Narayan Sakar Hari, also known as Bhole Baba. The event in Phulrai village was addressed by self-styled godman Narayan Sakar Hari, also known as Bhole Baba. Narayan Sakaar Hari, alias Bhole Baba, the 'godman' at the centre of the Hathras stampede, one of the biggest such in recent times that led to at least 121 deaths, expressed his condolences over the incident on Saturday and said that he had full faith that those who created chaos at the event will not be spared. "I am deeply saddened after the incident on July 2. May God give us the strength to bear this pain. Please have faith in the government and the administration. I have faith that anyone who created the chaos will not be spared," he said. Bhole Baba added that he his lawyer has requested the satsang committee members to lend their support to the bereaved families. On July 2, a satsang by him had turned into a site of tragedy as hundreds of people, mostly women, were killed in a stampede. Consequently, the Uttar Pradesh police arrested seven satsang organisers, including two women. However, 'Bhole Baba' has not been named in the FIR. On Friday night, the main accused in the case, 'Mukhya Sewadar' Dev Prakash Madhukar, was arrested from Najafgarh in Delhi. Baba is revered by his followers who believe he's a "healer" with "cures", an "exorcist" who "gets rid of evil spirits", and a "godman" with "magical powers" who can grant their wishes. In fact, his alleged claim of "magical powers" even got him arrested in Agra in 2000, when he allegedly took the body of a 16-year-old girl forcibly from her family, claiming he would bring her back to life. The case was later closed. The case so far The Uttar Pradesh Police has now arrested seven satsang organisers, including two women, in connection with the stampede. Aligarh IG Shalabh Mathur said, "They all are members of the organising committee and worked as 'Sevadars'." Meanwhile, Yogi Adityanath has ordered a judicial probe led by retired High Court judge Brijesh Kumar Srivastava and two other retired IAS officers into the incident. Further, the Additional Director General of Police (Agra Zone) Anupam Kulshrestha is leading a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) preparing a detailed report on the stampede. "90 statements recorded so far. A preliminary report has been submitted while work on the detailed report is underway," reported PTI, citing ADG Kulshrestha.

Dalai Lama turns 89, says 'I am nearly 90 now but I don't feel unhealthy'



GNS News Agency, July 12

Tibetan spiritual leader and Nobel Laureate the Dalai Lama turned 89 on Saturday. He underwent knee surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York last month and is currently recovering in a hotel there. In a video message that he released from his hotel room on Saturday, the Dalai Lama told the world that he was perfectly fit and healthy. He added that the health issues that he is facing are only age-related. "Today, the Tibetans inside and outside of Tibet are celebrating my birthday with much joy and festivity. All Tibetans and people in the Himalayan regions also pray for me as well. I wish to say 'Thank you, everyone'. I am nearly 90 now but I don't feel unhealthy, except for the slight discomfort in my legs. I am basically healthy. I would like to thank all my fellow Tibetans in and outside Tibet for your prayers on my birthday. I was born in the land of Dhomay (Amdo) and I bear the title of the Dalai Lama. I did my best while I was in Tibet and after coming into exile, I have served to the best of my ability. Accordingly, it seems I have been beneficial to a good measure. There is a growing interest in the Tibetan cause in the world, and I feel I have made a small contribution towards it. I wish to ask everyone, especially, the fellow Tibetans inside Tibet, to feel at ease and be relaxed," the Dalai Lama said. Talking about speculations on his health, the Dalai Lama said, "I feel a little physical discomfort but that is inevitable, isn't it due to the ageing process? I am doing very well. So, please relax and be at ease. And, today, I have something special to tell you. Recently I had surgery on my knee, which has given me some problems. However, I am recovering and have no problem at all now. So, please be happy and feel at ease." Asking people to be careful of the rumours concerning his health, the Dalai Lama added, "There may be people trying to confuse you about my health saying that the Dalai Lama has gone to a hospital and is undergoing treatments, and so on, making my condition sound grave. You don't need to trust such misinformation. As far as I myself am concerned, of course, I had some little problem with my knees. The hospital did medical test and examinations on my knee and the entire team has treated me with so much love and dedication in their service to help me. So, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of them. And to the general public, despite the surgery I feel physically fit. So, I wish to ask you to be happy and relaxed." "Until now, with the title of the Dalai Lama, I have made contribution to a certain extent to people in and outside of Tibet and many parts in the world, and most importantly, with regard to the Buddha's teaching. Still, I am determined to continue my service to the teaching; I am resolved to do so with all my heart. I wish to urge all Tibetans, wherever you are, to please keep making your prayers for me on my Birthday Celebration. Please do your best. That's all. Thank you", the Dalai Lama said in his video message of about five minutes. The Dalai Lama had left for the United States of America last month for his knee surgery. The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile also released a long statement wishing the Dalai Lama on his birthday and concluded it by saying, "We wish to express our prayers with an ardently single-minded devotion that His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the master of the entire corpus of the teachings of the Buddha, the omniscient one who is generous in granting wishes and favours, may live for a hundred aeons without even a semblance of a hint of harm to his body, speech and mind faculties, as the protector of the sentient beings of this world in general and especially as the refuge for this and future lives of the sentient beings of the Snowland of Tibet, that all his wishes may be seen fulfilled with spontaneity so that just cause of Tibet may definitely prevail."

3 more pregnant women test positive for Zika virus, Pune tally now at 9

GNS News Agency, July 12

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) on Saturday identified three more pregnant women with the Zika virus infection. This takes the count of infected pregnant women to five, while the total number of cases in the city is 9. "We have stepped up our surveillance activities. Samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology as part of screening pregnant women from areas where Zika cases were detected. Over all, 68 samples from pregnant women have been sent to the apex laboratory," Dr Rajesh Dighe, assistant chief medical officer, PMC, said

The civic health department has levied a fine of Rs 10,000 on the builder of a society in Mundhwa after a mosquito breeding site was located in a duct. "A 33-year-old woman who is 8 weeks pregnant stays in this society and while she is asymptomatic, our team has visited the family and counselled them," Dr Dighe said. "We have advised the woman to get a nuchal translucency (NT) scan, which is an ultrasound that measures the amount of fluid behind the baby's neck in the first trimester of pregnancy. She has been asked to consult her doctor, take folic acid tablets as directed and undergo the NT screening test to check whether the baby is at risk of any congenital conditions and if further tests are required," Dr Dighe told. A 27-year-old woman from Ambegaon Bk, Sinhadga road, who is in her 12th week of pregnancy, and a 28 year old woman from Pashan/Aundh were detected to have Zika virus infections. The 28-year-old



woman, who had a fever and rash, was admitted to a private hospital while the woman from Ambegaon had symptoms like headache. All nine patients who were detected with Zika virus infection are stable, health officials said. Since Zika is associated with microcephaly and neurological consequences in the foetus of the affected pregnant woman, doctors have been urged to ensure close monitoring. Health officials have yet again appealed to citizens to empty water containers, air coolers and ensure that there are mosquito breeding sites within their homes. The civic health department has collected fines to the tune of Rs 84,800 from societies and under construction sites where mosquito breeding sites have been identified. As many as 92 notices have been issued against the defaulters.

Building which housed textile workers, families collapses in Surat, rescue ops underway



GNS News Agency, July 12

A six-floor building in Surat where several textile workers and their families stayed on rent collapsed on Saturday afternoon. Fire officials rushed to the spot and started working to remove debris and rescue those trapped. Officials said a woman has been rescued, but it is unclear how many are still trapped.

Police sources said the incident took place around 3 pm at DN Nagar society in Paligam. The building, officials

said, was in a dilapidated state. Choryasi MLA Sandeep Desai, Surat police commissioner Anupam Singh Gahlaut, district collector Dr Sourabh Pardhi and municipal corporation staffers were at the spot. Fire department officials headed by chief fire officer Basant Pareek oversaw the operation. JCB machines were put to work to remove the rubble, while large slabs were broken using drilling machines. In the evening, authorities started fixing floodlights due to poor visibility. Gujarat building collapse JCB machines were put to work to remove the rubble, while large slabs were broken using drilling machines. Fire officials said a woman was found below the debris and taken to a hospital for treatment. Rekha Vijay Mahoto (32), resident of the building who hails from Bihar, was on duty at a nearby textile factory at the time. "I came to Surat 15 days ago. My husband was sleeping at home since he had done the night shift at the factory. Neighbours alerted me about the incident. I rushed here but am yet to find my husband," she said. Surat district collector Dr Sourabh Pardhi said, "The building was in a dilapidated state... The NDRF and SDRF teams are on their way to Surat. It is difficult to say anything about how many people are trapped."

DU doubles fee for correction in marksheet, degree certificate

GNS News Agency, July 12

Delhi University fee hike, correction charges marksheet, degree certificate correction fee, DU official order fee increase, Yogesh Singh committee recommendations, fee hike details DU, correction fee within six years, correction fee more than six years, duplicate marksheet fee DU, duplicate degree certificate fee, DU fee revision, senior DU official statement, DU fee update July 2024. The charges for issuing of duplicate marksheet and degree certificate, if lost or destroyed, remains the same at Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 respectively. (Express Archives) The Delhi University (DU) has doubled the charges for those seeking any correction in their degree certificate or marksheet, according to an official order. The

cost was increased following the recommendations made by a committee formed by university Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh, it stated. The DU has increased from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 the fee for those seeking correction in marksheet within six years from the day of graduation and Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 for a period more than six years, according to the order. For those seeking correction in their degree certificate within six years, the fee has been increased from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000. For a period of more than six years, the fee has been hiked from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000. The recommendations of the committee was accorded approval by the authorities concerned on June 4, the order said. Asked about the development, a senior DU official told PTI that the fee was hiked as it had not been revised for a long time.

Man held for drunken driving in Pune tries to set 2 cops on fire, arrested



GNS News Agency, July 12

As per the FIR, the incident took place around 6.30 pm on Friday at the Faraskhana Traffic Division office in Budhwar Peth. As per the FIR, the incident took place around 6.30 pm on Friday at the Faraskhana Traffic Division office in Budhwar Peth. A man suspected of riding a two-wheeler in an intoxicated state allegedly tried to set two police personnel including a woman officer on fire in Pune recently.

The police have arrested the accused identified as Sanjay Fakirba Salve, 32, a resident of Pimpri Chinchwad and a native of Jalna district. Police havaldar Samir Prakash Sawant, 38, of Faraskhana Traffic Division lodged the FIR in this case at the Vishrambag police station on Friday. The police have booked the accused Salve under Sections 109 (attempt to murder), and 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Sections 184, and 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

As per the FIR, the incident took place around 6.30 pm on Friday at the Faraskhana Traffic Division office in Budhwar Peth. Rohidas Pawar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said that during a regular action against traffic violation, the accused Salve was arrested by traffic cops as he was found riding his vehicle in a drunken state. He was brought to the Faraskhana Traffic Division office after he failed a breath analyser test. However, to stop the cops from taking legal action against him, the accused Salve allegedly manhandled the complainant Samir Sawant and snatched the e-challan machine. He allegedly hurled fuel from a bottle at Sawant and assistant police inspector Shailaja Jankar and tried to set them on fire by igniting a lighter. Police personnel at the spot nabbed him before he could set the two on fire.

The investigation officer in this case Deepali Bhujbal said Salve works as a driver of a tanker. Salve was produced before a court in Pune. "The court has remanded him to police custody for one day for further investigation," said Bhujbal. The police officer said that a probe is on to identify the fuel with which he was trying to burn the cops and from where he procured it.

‘Not one village should lack’ primary agricultural credit societies: Amit Shah



GNS News Agency, July 12

Amit Shah cooperative societies, primary agricultural credit societies, PACS in villages, 2 lakh gram panchayats, district cooperative banks, milk unions support PACS, cooperative sector strengthening, Gandhinagar International Day of Cooperatives, NABARD cooperative banks, local dairies cooperative, establishment of PACS, cooperative movement India, Amit Shah PACS initiative, dairy cooperatives India, rural development cooperatives, cooperative societies database, cooperation among cooperatives, Amit Shah Gandhinagar speech, district registrars cooperative societies. The minister said that the cooperation ministry has undertaken a drive to “establish 2 lakh dairies and PACS” for the 2 lakh gram panchayats which he says lack such facilities. He added that this move is in addition to an established database which identifies cooperative societies across the country. “I want to appeal to all district registrars, heads of district cooperative banks and heads of milk unions that you make use of the database and start establishing new cooperative societies wherever there is space and only then our work will move forward,” Shah said. He emphasised that there “should not be a state or a district in the country where viable district cooperative banks and district milk producers’ unions are not there.” “We have kept an aim that in the next 5 years, in these 2 lakh panchayats, we will establish multipurpose PACS... Don’t consider whether you will be elected if PACS are established... If it is not fated, you will still lose... If you strengthen the cooperative movement then the farmers associated with it will elect you repeatedly and give you an opportunity to serve them,” he said to the district registrars and leaders. Shah also appealed to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and other state-level district cooperative banks along with milk producers’ unions across the country “to ensure that all dairies, all PACS and all cooperatives of districts open their bank accounts with district or state cooperative banks.” He said, “This will strengthen the cooperative sector, increase our wealth, and our energy and self-reliance will also increase. I have hope that the concept of cooperation among cooperatives will be accepted by our country.”

Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah urged stakeholders in cooperative societies — district registrars, heads of district cooperative banks and heads of milk unions — to support the establishment of primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) in all villages and blocks of the country, which, he said, has 2 lakh gram panchayats lacking such societies. Addressing a

programme at Gandhinagar marking the 102nd International Day of Cooperatives in Gandhinagar, Shah further appealed to all cooperative societies to open bank accounts with local district and state cooperative banks, as well as buy from local dairies, to strengthen the cooperative sector.

The minister said that the cooperation ministry has undertaken a drive to “establish 2 lakh dairies and PACS” for the 2 lakh gram panchayats which he says lack such facilities. He added that this move is in addition to an established database which identifies cooperative societies across the country. “I want to appeal to all district registrars, heads of district cooperative banks and heads of milk unions that you make use of the database and start establishing new cooperative societies wherever there is space and only then our work will move forward,” Shah said. He emphasised that there “should not be a state or a district in the country where viable district cooperative banks and district milk producers’ unions are not there.” “We have kept an aim that in the next 5 years, in these 2 lakh panchayats, we will establish multipurpose PACS... Don’t consider whether you will be elected if PACS are established... If it is not fated, you will still lose... If you strengthen the cooperative movement then the farmers associated with it will elect you repeatedly and give you an opportunity to serve them,” he said to the district registrars and leaders. Shah also appealed to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and other state-level district cooperative banks along with milk producers’ unions across the country “to ensure that all dairies, all PACS and all cooperatives of districts open their bank accounts with district or state cooperative banks.” He said, “This will strengthen the cooperative sector, increase our wealth, and our energy and self-reliance will also increase. I have hope that the concept of cooperation among cooperatives will be accepted by our country.”

Sunita Kejriwal appeals to people to support Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, says he’s target of political conspiracy

GNS News Agency, July 12

Sunita Kejriwal on Saturday urged people to support Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is currently in jail in connection with a money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. Appealing to supporters on the Aam Aadmi Party’s official X page, she said that Arvind Kejriwal has been the target of a deep political conspiracy. “He is an educated, everyday man, a patriot and a deeply loyal person. If you don’t stand next to him today then this country will probably never see well-educated and loyal people in politics,” she said.

She said TDP MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy’s (MSR) testimony to the Enforcement Directorate was the basis for CM Arvind Kejriwal’s arrest. Sunita Kejriwal detailed how MSR gave a testimony to the ED about meeting Arvind Kejriwal in his office at the Delhi Secretariat to talk about acquiring land for a family charitable trust that he wanted to open. “Kejriwal ji said that land comes under the LG and asked to put in an application,” said Sunita Kejriwal before adding, “The ED did not like MSR’s answers. A few days later, Magunta’s son Raghava Reddy was arrested by the ED. More testimonies were taken from MSR but he kept repeating his initial testimony because that was the truth and his son’s bail kept getting rejected.”

She also alleged that the mounting pressure on MSR’s family led to MSR’s elderly mother falling ill and caused Raghava Reddy’s wife to attempt to take her own life. “MSR broke down because of these circumstances



and on July 17, 2023, MSR changed his testimony to the ED,” said Sunita Kejriwal. According to Sunita Kejriwal, the new testimony stated that MSR met Kejriwal for four to five minutes in his office, with roughly a dozen people present. There, Kejriwal allegedly asked MSR to open a liquor business instead and pay the AAP Rs 100 crore in exchange. “Why would he ask for money from a stranger on their first meeting in front of 10-12 other people? It’s obvious that MSR and his family were tormented for five months, which is why he gave false testimony to save his son,” said Sunita Kejriwal. CM Arvind Kejriwal was arrested on March 21, after receiving nine summons from the ED for the investigation of the liquor policy scam. The ED alleged that the AAP would sell liquor licenses to vendors and receive hefty kick-backs from them. They also accused the Delhi CM of money laundering after receiving huge sums of money from a liquor group.

Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India holds first-ever conference in Surat



GNS News Agency, July 12

The experts in the medical fields imparted valuable updated information and scientific methods used in women’s disease through workshops, panel discussions, seminars, on different latest topics. The experts in the medical fields imparted valuable updated information and scientific methods used in women’s disease through workshops, panel discussions, seminars, on different latest topics. The three-day national conference of the Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India (FOGSI) was hosted for the first time in Surat between July 5 and 7 at a hotel in the city. Over 500 gynaecologists from different states participated in the event. The experts in the medical fields imparted valuable updated information and scientific methods used in women’s disease through workshops, panel discussions, seminars, on different latest topics.

Giving more information about the conference, Dr Praful Doshi, president of the Surat chapter of the FOGSI, said, “In the field of medical science, new developments and experiments are taking place every day so that the patients can be treated quickly and without defects. The main objective of a national conference to be held in Surat is to provide in-depth information about the modern technology-based scientific methods useful in the treatment of gynaecological diseases.” He added, “The attendees were shown live streaming of high-definition life Laparoscopic surgery directly from the Universal Hospital. Training and knowledge were given as a model case on methods to prevent/control postpartum haemorrhage (PPH). The training was given on ultrasound, sonography, how to differentiate uterine diseases with audio-video presentations by doctors from

Hyderabad and Chennai. Along with this, information was given about endoscopy treatment and imaging technology through modern binoculars. World class surgery with the use of advanced equipment of Universal Hospital was also shown here.” He further said, “A few years ago the number of deaths during childbirth in the country was around 800/900 per 1 lakh patients. However, with the advancement in medical science and the availability of treatment with modern technology, this number has been brought down to 300/400 per 1 lakh patients. The workshop was very useful and instructive for Gynecology Doctor and UG-PG students. Notably, the FOGSI is the largest organisation in the world, with over 44,000 doctors as members. The conference was attended by the national level FOGSI India President Dr Jaideep Tank, Secretary Dr Madhuri Patel, South Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology President Dr Shyamal Desai among others.

Laxman urges Telugu States’ CMs to resolve bifurcation issues amicably

GNS News Agency, July 12

Hyderabad: BJP Rajya Sabha member K Laxman has urged Chief Ministers of both the Telugu States to resolve the pending issues between the two States amicably. Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Laxman said Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu should resolve all the pending issues with regard to bifurcation of the State at the earliest and in a positive atmosphere. “I hope that the meeting between the two CMs will help in resolving several issues that have been pending since the last 10 years. It’s high time that both the States resolve the issues between the two so that both can march forward on the path of development,” he said. Stating that the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre was committed towards the development of the two Telugu States, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was for the development of all the States in the country and that the two Telugu States would be provided all the support from the Centre.

‘Assault’ on BJP minority morcha worker: Bengal LoP Suwendu Adhikari says police is ‘protecting the perpetrators’



GNS News Agency, July 12

Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday alleged that the police is “victimising the victim” in their investigation into the alleged assault on a female minority morcha worker, saying the officers are “protecting the perpetrators”. He once again demanded a CBI inquiry into the matter. In a post on X, Adhikari wrote that the investigating officer and the officer-in-charge of the Ghoksadanga Police Station should be suspended for their “skewed and biased attitude, and the humiliation they have tried to inflict upon the victim.” whose alleged torture the BJP blamed on goons from the ruling party Trinamool Congress (TMC).

“Just imagine the audacity of Mamata Police. They are asking the lady BJP minority morcha leader, who was completely disrobed, molested & brutally beaten up by TMC goons in Cooch Behar district, to submit the torn clothes which were forcefully stripped off her,” he wrote, adding that the victim’s family members had found her

“lying unconscious...and almost...stark naked”.

On June 25, the BJP had alleged that the party’s minority morcha woman leader was beaten up, stripped and dragged by her hair by TMC miscreants in Cooch Behar district on June 25. The police had arrested seven persons in connection with the incident, while the BJP has been insisting on a CBI probe. While the party has accused TMC workers of attacking the women, the ruling party said that so far, investigations have found the incident was the result of a family feud. The National Commission for Women (NCW) had taken cognizance of the matter and sent its representative to meet the victim after Adhikari wrote a letter to the organisation on June 28. The Trinamool Congress slammed the opposition leader for Adhikari’s comments. Speaking to The Indian Express, TMC state vice-president Jay Prakash Majumdar said that Adhikari has adopted “a preposterous, publicity-mongering attitude”. “Suwendu Adhikari has no other issues to address after his party’s decisive defeat in the Lok Sabha polls in Bengal. Now, he is saying this to seek attention and stay alive in the media,” he said.

Majumdar added, “Police are working as per the rulebook for any complaint of assault on a woman. All the evidence lying with the victim will be seized or sought by the police. That’s the normal procedure, be it in West Bengal or in Uttar Pradesh. Accordingly, the police have acted promptly and decisively.” Cooch Behar Police had earlier said in a statement that “it is being falsely reported that the woman was stripped and beaten for supporting a political party. This misinformation is being used to give communal and political support. The incident was the result of a family dispute”.

Medical termination of pregnancy: Doctors must offer expert opinion in sensitive cases without fearing legal setbacks, says Delhi HC

GNS News Agency, July 12

While allowing a woman to undergo MTP, a single-judge bench of Justice Sanjeev Narula observed in its July 5 order that the Medical Board at Lok Nayak Hospital, which was earlier directed by the court to submit an “opinion” on the woman’s request, did not meet its expectations. The HC’s observations came in a 31-year-old married woman’s plea seeking MTP of 30-week pregnancy as the MRI of the foetus suggested that it was suffering from Joubert Syndrome, “a multisystem disorder with poor neuro-developmental outcome”. Commenting that the case raised a concerning issue, the HC emphasised that a medical board’s opinion in MTP cases is important in assisting Courts in arriving at a “just order”.

The HC said, “Medical professionals must offer their expert opinions without fear of legal repercussions, and focus on providing the best possible medical guidance in such sensitive matters.... In the present case, the Medical Board at Lok Nayak Hospital did not meet the Court’s expectations. Despite the serious nature of the matter, the Board failed to conduct necessary tests and did not approach the issue with the required level of seriousness. When the Court directed them to form a Board, the subsequent report remained inadequate and lacked thorough testing and evaluation”.

It said Lok Nayak Hospital “failed to provide a definitive diagnosis or fully assess” the woman’s current condition as it had given a negative recommendation against MTP essentially due to inconclusive diagnosis while relying on her old medical reports and scans “without conducting further detailed tests”. The HC said that delay and inadequate counselling of the woman had resulted in an “advanced stage of pregnancy” underscoring the need for the board to act with “greater diligence and urgency in future cases”. After that, the HC advised the Medical Board of Lok Nayak Hospital on the “importance of their role and the critical impact their opinions have on the lives” of such petitioners and their families. The woman, who has had a 9-year-old son with mental disability since birth, was counselled by the doctors examining her on April 29 about the possibility of chromosomal abnormalities in the ongoing pregnancy that can be part of Dandy-Walker Continuum and advised her to get a fetal MRI. On May 29, a doctor at Lok Nayak Hospital, after considering the fetal MRI report, confirmed the abnormality of Dandy-Walker Continuum—a neurological malformation of the cranium (skull), suggesting that there might be abnormal neurological developmental outcomes in 11 to 20% of cases such as the ongoing pregnancy of the woman. On the same day, she wrote to Lok Nayak hospital seeking MTP, which was denied on June 13. Pursuant to this rejection, the woman approached the HC, which on June 24 directed the constitution of a medical board at Lok Nayak hospital to give their opinion on the MTP after examining the woman. On June 28, the hospital said that the procedure was not possible. After examining the board’s opinion and the woman’s medical reports, which were found to be “inconclusive”, the HC subsequently directed the constitution of a medical board at AIIMS.

After a “thorough examination” of the woman and



the “antenatal MRI scan”, the AIIMS medical board recommended MTP, stating that its findings suggest Joubert Syndrome. Noting the different opinions given by the two boards the HC also said that although Lok Nayak Hospital reported the woman’s pregnancy being over 32 weeks, the AIIMS Medical Board—“through a more recent ultrasound scan”—determined the pregnancy to be 30 weeks and four days.

The HC said that the AIIMS medical board’s report was “unequivocal in its findings”, clearly stating that the “fetus exhibits features suggestive of Joubert Syndrome, a multisystem disorder associated with poor neurodevelopmental outcomes”, and the child, if born, would likely face severe neurological impairments and extensive health challenges. The HC then said, “Given these considerations and the conclusive nature of the AIIMS Medical Board’s findings, the Court finds the AIIMS report to be more reliable and definitive. Therefore, the Court is inclined to accept the report of the AIIMS Medical Board, which supports the termination of the pregnancy due to identified substantial fetal abnormalities and the significant health risks they pose to the unborn child.” The court also said that the AIIMS board’s opinion was in line with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s 2017 ‘Guidance Note for Medical Boards for Termination of Pregnancy Beyond 20 weeks of Gestation’ and provides a solid basis for recommending termination of pregnancy. Examining the provisions of the MTP Act, the HC said that the provisions read in “harmony with the principles of personal liberty enshrined in the Constitution” affirm a pregnant woman’s right to seek a termination of pregnancy under medically justified circumstances. This, the HC said, ensures that women are “not compelled to carry pregnancies to term” in situations where it would compromise their health or result in the birth of a child with severe abnormalities. The HC further observed that while the court does not intend to demoralise medical professionals who play a crucial role in society, it is imperative to highlight the significance of their responsibility in such sensitive matters. Before parting, the HC appreciated the AIIMS medical board’s assistance, stating that their opinion was provided with “commendable promptitude and clarity,” helping the court make an informed decision. The HC, however, clarified that “doctors who have contributed their opinions as part of the Medical Board shall have immunity” in the event of any litigation arising out of the present matter.

In West Bengal, for the first time, an Adivasi scholar’s digital archive is documenting rare Santali manuscripts

GNS News Agency, July 12

For close to two decades, Dr Dablu Soren has struggled with getting access to manuscripts and documents that help tell the story of the Santal community in the Indian subcontinent. Since 2006, Soren, an independent scholar based in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district, has been conducting research on Santali drama, history and culture, but it has been an uphill task. “The biggest challenge has been economic. If I want access to a document, I have to travel to far-off villages. I don’t get paid for this and it becomes difficult to keep travelling using my own funds,” says Dr Dablu Soren. So, when sometime in 2021 Dr Rahi Soren reached out to him with a request to share his archival collection on Santali heritage for adding it to a digital archive — the first of its kind —

he willingly shared whatever she needed. This week, to commemorate 170 years of the Santal Hul, Dr Rahi Soren, an assistant professor at the School of Oceanographic Studies at Jadavpur University, in coordination with the university’s School of Cultural Texts and Records, curated an exhibit in Kolkata displaying copies of rare and endangered texts documenting Santali history and the Hul. The Santal Hul of 1855 was an uprising against exploitative zamindars (landlords), mahajans (moneylenders), traders and administrative officials appointed by the British Raj, as well as security forces that bore allegiance to the East India Company. Many historians consider the Indian Rebellion or the Uprising of 1857, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, to be the first war of Independence against colonial rule in the Indian subcontinent.

About 99 lakh paid to Agniveer Kumar's family in three tranches: Army sources

Army sources said the first tranche of insurance of ₹50 lakh was credited on February 13. Another insurance amount of ₹48 lakh, through the non-contributory scheme paid by the government, was credited on June 10. An amount of ₹1 lakh as well as an additional sum of ₹39,000 were credited on July 3, they said. The ₹50 lakh is an insurance by banks as part a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Army with banks, the source stated. The Punjab government has also given ₹1 crore to the family. In a late post on Wednesday, the Army said Agniveer Ajay Kumar's family will get a total amount of approximately ₹1.65 crore. The remaining amount of ₹67 lakh will be paid on final settlement shortly post police verification. Giving a break-up of the balance ₹67.3 lakh, officials said it comprises ex gratia of ₹44 lakh, Army welfare fund of ₹8 lakh, balance of pay till completion of his tenure amounting to approximately ₹13 lakh and Seva Nidhi fund of ₹2.3 lakh. After the video clip was posted by Mr. Gandhi, several videos of the family came out and in the latest, his father is shown acknowledging receipt of compensation.

So far, nearly 18 Agniveers have lost their lives, though the exact number has not been released officially. The Air Force lost its first Agniveer Vayu earlier this week. Srikant Kumar Chaudhary, 22, posted in Uttar Pradesh, committed suicide on Tuesday and investigation is under way. Amid the political controversy over the Agnipath scheme, several veterans expressed concern over the impact of the scheme. Former Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh, who served as chief from June 2019 to November 2021, said on social media platform X: "The only motivation driving the Agnipath is reducing the pension bill. The fact that this scheme will degrade combat effectiveness is known to all who understand national security. Another former Navy Chief Admiral Arun Prakash said: "Economics (must) take a back seat to national security. The sole litmus test for any change or reform in the military must be: 'Does it enhance or degrade combat potential?'" Under the Agnipath scheme, soldiers, sailors and airmen are recruited into the three services for four years after which 25% would be selected into the regular ranks on permanent basis. Currently, the Army is inducting 40,000 Agniveers per year. The Navy and Air Force are recruiting around 3,000 Agniveers each.

GNS News Agency, July 12

About ₹99 lakh has been credited to the family of Agniveer Ajay Kumar in three tranches beginning February 13, Army sources in the know said. The remaining amount of about ₹67 lakh will be paid soon, they said. The 23-year-old Agniveer was killed in a landmine blast in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir near the Line of Control on January 18. On Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi put out a video clip of the Agniveer's father, in which the latter claimed that the family didn't receive any compensation after his son's death. Amid the political tussle over the Agnipath issue, officers and veterans said that while the debate is on reducing the pension bill, the scheme will "degrade" combat effectiveness.

Assam flood situation critical, 24.50 lakh affected in 30 districts

GNS News Agency, July 12

Assam's flood situation remained critical on July 6 with over 24.50 lakh people reeling under the deluge in 30 districts and major rivers flowing above the danger mark at several places, an official bulletin said. The toll in this year's flood was 52 and 12 others lost their lives due to landslides and storms. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held a meeting with officials late on July 5 after returning from the severely affected Dibrugarh district and reviewed the flood situation in the State. "After visiting flood-affected areas of Dibrugarh, we reviewed several matters, including Assam Arogya Nidhi-a health financial assistance scheme," the Chief Minister said. Mr. Sarma also said he has specifically asked the officials to "prioritise rarest of rare cases and applications from those who are not covered under any existing scheme". The Chief Minister said after interacting with the flood-hit people, he had sent messages to officials to address their problems. "For us, proactive governance is the key to effective public service," he said.

On the supply of clean drinking water, he said while the flood has caused considerable damage across the state, the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' scheme has come out as a "silver lining in these tough times". "The transformative water supply project is supplying clean drinking water in these tough times", he said. Cachar, Kamrup, Hailakandi, Hojai, Dhubri, Nagaon, Morigaon, Goalpara, Barpeta, Dibrugarh, Nalbari, Dhemaji, Bongaigaon, Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Sonitpur, Kokrajhar, Karimganj, South Salmara, Darrang and Tinsukia are among the districts affected by the flood. The toll in this year's flood, landslides and storms was 64, according to the bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). Dhubri with a population of 7,75,721, Darrang with 1,86,108, Cachar with 1,75,231, Barpeta with 1,39,399 and Morigaon with 1,46,045 are among the worst-hit districts, it said. Midwife Diluara Begum holds a newborn baby girl after helping



in her delivery on a boat over the River Brahmaputra, in the northeastern Indian state of Assam on July 3, 2024. Altogether 47,103 affected people have taken shelter in 612 camps, while 4,18,614 inmates in non-relief camps have been provided with relief materials. "We are working tirelessly to hear people's grievances and solve their issues," the chief minister said. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visits a flood-affected area of Tengakhat, in Dibrugarh district. Videograb: X/@himantabiswa via PTI. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visits a flood-affected area of Tengakhat, in Dibrugarh district. Videograb: X/@himantabiswa via PTI. The Brahmaputra river is flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat, Guwahati, Goalpara and Dhubri. Its tributaries Burhi Dihing at Chenimari, Dikhou at Sivasagar, Disang at Nanglamuraghat, Dhansiri at Numaligarh, Jia Bharali at NT Road crossing, and Kopili at Kamrup and Dharamtul are also flowing above the danger levels.

The Barak river is flowing above the danger mark at AP Ghat, BP Ghat, Chota Bakra and Fuletral, and its tributaries Dhaleswari at Gharmura, Katakhal at Matizuri and Kushiara at Karimganj town.

Captain Anshuman Singh awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously; his widow recalls their last conversation

GNS News Agency, July 12

President Droupadi Murmu on July 5 conferred 10 Kirti Chakras, including seven posthumously, to personnel of the Army and paramilitary forces for displaying indomitable courage and extraordinary valour in the line of duty. President Murmu, who is the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, also presented 26 Shaurya Chakras, including seven posthumously, to the personnel of the armed forces, Central Armed Police Forces and state/Union Territory police during a defence investiture ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Sepoy Pawan Kumar of The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, the Rashtriya Rifles; Captain Anshuman Singh of the Army Medical Corps, 26th Battalion, the Punjab Regiment; and Havildar Abdul Majid, 9th Battalion, the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) from the Indian Army have been conferred the Kirti Chakra posthumously, according to the list of awardees shared in the statement. Inspector Dilip Kumar Das, Head Constable Raj Kumar Yadava, Constable Bablu Rabha and Constable Sambhu Roy of 210 CoBRA Battalion, CRPF have been also conferred the Kirti Chakra posthumously. Three personnel, including two of major-rank and one naib subedar, have been conferred the Kirti Chakra, the Ministry said.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan later also shared pictures from the ceremony on its official X handle. "President Droupadi Murmu conferred Kirti Chakra upon Captain Anshuman Singh, The Army Medical Corps, 26th Battalion The Punjab Regiment, posthumously. Disregarding his own safety, he exhibited exceptional bravery and resolve to rescue many people in a major fire incident," it said.

The award was received by his mother Manju Singh and his wife Smriti from President Droupadi Murmu. Ms. Smriti, after receiving the award, recalled the story of how she met Captain Anshuman Singh. "We met on the first day of college and it was love at first sight," she said. "Unfortunately, within two months of marriage, he was posted in Siachen. On July 18 (2023), we had a long conversation about the next 50 years of our life. On July 19, I got a call that he's no more..." Ms. Smriti added.

In another post, it wrote, "President Droupadi Murmu confers Kirti Chakra on Major Digvijay Singh Rawat, 21st Battalion The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces). In Manipur, he established an intelligence network, which enabled him to map all Valley-based Insurgent Groups (VIBGs) accurately. In one of the operations, he apprehended three insurgents by physically overpowering them," the Rashtrapati Bhavan posted. The gallantry awards were given for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty, the ministry said. "Attended the Defence Investiture Ceremony-2024 (Phase-1) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where Rashtrapati Ji presented the Gallantry Awards.

Our nation is proud of the valour and dedication of our brave soldiers. They exemplify the highest ideals of service and sacrifice. Their courage will always inspire our people," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X and also shared photos. A constable of J&K Police was also bestowed a Shaurya Chakra posthumously, besides six other personnel from the Army. A group of personnel from the Army, the Air Force, Navy and those rendering services under the Ministry of Home Affairs have also been conferred the Shaurya Chakra, according to the list. The Shaurya Chakra is India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award after the Ashok Chakra and Kirti Chakra.

Govt asks automobile companies to onboard on right to repair portal



The Centre asked the automobile companies to join the unified Right to Repair Portal India which has been launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs to provide consumers with an easy access to information for repairing their products and enabling them to reuse it. The meeting, chaired by Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare, was attended by various representatives of Automobile Associations like ACMA, SIAM, ATMA, EPIC Foundation and companies including TATA Motors, Mahindra, TVS, Royal Enfield, Renaults and Bosch, Yamaha Motors India, and Honda Car India.

"Companies were urged to on board the portal which facilitates and works as a catalyst to provide relevant repair associated information between the consumers and companies," the official said. During the meeting, it was emphasised that products that cannot be repaired or subject to planned obsolescence compel consumers to buy new products due to lack of repair options or if it is expensive and contribute to e-waste, the official said.

"The goal is to eliminate obstacles such as restricted access to tools or repair information, ensuring that consumers have complete ownership of products they purchase," the official said. "Over time, it has been noted that repair services are increasingly constrained due to significant delays in service and absence of repair documentation for vehicles," the official said, adding that a major constraint is the availability of genuine spare parts at affordable prices, which forces consumers to purchase counterfeit parts. "Discussions were also held on aligning standardisation of parts along with standardisation of skilled workmanship, companies developing catalogues that should benefit consumers for post-purchase service and longevity of products life, and steps to curb deceptive practices in repair workshops in the name of motor insurance that contribute to plastic waste," the official said.

ED files charge sheet, attaches assets of ex-Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam, linked persons

GNS News Agency, July 12

Alamgir Alam, a Congress politician and former rural development minister, apart from Lal and Jahangir Alam were arrested by the ED in this case. Alamgir Alam, a Congress politician and former rural development minister, apart from Lal and Jahangir Alam were arrested by the ED in this case.

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a charge sheet and also attached assets worth more than Rs 4 crore of former Jharkhand rural development minister Alamgir Alam, his ex-personal secretary, and the aide's domestic help as part of a money laundering investigation. In a statement on Saturday, the federal agency said it has issued a provisional attachment order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on July 4 against Alamgir Alam, his former PS Sanjeev Kumar Lal, Lal's wife Reeta Lal, and his domestic help Jahangir Alam. The cumulative value of all these assets recorded under the attachment is Rs 4.42 crore, it said. A charge sheet against these accused, except Reeta Lal, was also filed before a special PMLA court in Ranchi on Thursday, the agency said. Alamgir Alam, a Congress politician and former rural development minister, apart from Lal and Jahangir Alam were arrested by the ED in this case. The ED had raided Sanjeev Kumar Lal and Jahangir Alam on May 6 and recovered a total Rs 32.2



crore from a flat in the name of the latter. The total cash seizure of cash, in this case, is Rs 37.55 crore apart from a four-wheeler and two-wheeler vehicle each, jewelry and digital devices. The agency had said the probe pertains to alleged irregularities in the state rural development department that was once headed by Alamgir Alam. Probe found, the ED claimed, that a "commission of 3.2 per cent of the total tender value is taken from the contractors for tender allocation which is distributed in a mechanised manner from top to bottom in the rural works department, the government of Jharkhand which also includes the commission of around 1.5 per cent for the minister (former) Alamgir Alam."

'Derogatory, defamatory and highly insulting': Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on P Chidambaram's remarks on new criminal laws

GNS News Agency, July 12

Jagdeep Dhankhar P Chidambaram India new criminal laws while addressing the 12th convocation of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) in Thiruvananthapuram, Dhankhar hit out at Chidambaram, without naming him, for not participating in the debate on the three Bills, which were passed by Parliament in December 2023. (X/VPIndia) Hitting out at former finance minister P Chidambaram, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said the Rajya Sabha MP's comments that the three new criminal laws were drafted by "part-timers" was an insult to Parliament's wisdom. In an interview with The Indian Express, Chidambaram said the new laws, which came into effect on July 1, had been drafted by "non-professional people" who were "part-time members of a committee". While addressing the 12th convocation of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) in Thiruvananthapuram, Dhankhar hit out at Chidambaram, without naming him, for not participating in the debate on the three Bills, which were passed by Parliament in December 2023. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023, have replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1972, respectively. "This morning when I read a paper, an informed mind who had been Finance Minister of this country, a Parliamentarian for long and a member of Rajya Sabha currently, he stunned me. I took great pride that this Parliament has done a great thing. It had unshackled us from colonial legacy by giving three laws that are of epochal dimension... Every member of Parliament had an opportunity to contribute on the floor of the House. This honourable gentleman... said 'new laws were drafted by part-timers'. Are we part-timers in Parliament? Inexcusable insult to the wisdom of Parliament," Dhankhar said.

He added that not only Chidambaram, but other senior advocates who are members of Parliament did not



speak during the debate on the bills when they had an opportunity to make their points. "It was failure on his part to perform his constitutional duty and obligation. And, how can we countenance such a man speaking in high decibel, trying to seek resonance of the people only to unsettle a mechanism? I'm shocked beyond words and therefore, please beware of the minds who deliberately, as a strategy, by way of a narrative try to run down our nation, demean our institutions, taint our progress, don't see the writing on the wall. They engage in criticism for the sake of criticism. I do not have words strong enough to condemn such kind of narrative being set afloat," Dhankhar said. Referring to Chidambaram, he said the MP must hold himself accountable. "I appeal to him from this platform, please withdraw these derogatory, defamatory and highly insulting observations to MPs," Dhankhar added. Speaking to the students and faculty of IIST about the importance of investing in research and development, Dhankhar said it was a problem that "young minds" were working in "silos". "They think their opportunity lies only in respect of certain competitive examination results. Not any longer. They need to be informed that the best is outside these silos," he added. Dhankhar's comments come at a time when several competitive exams, including NEET, have been hit by paper leaks and cancellations.

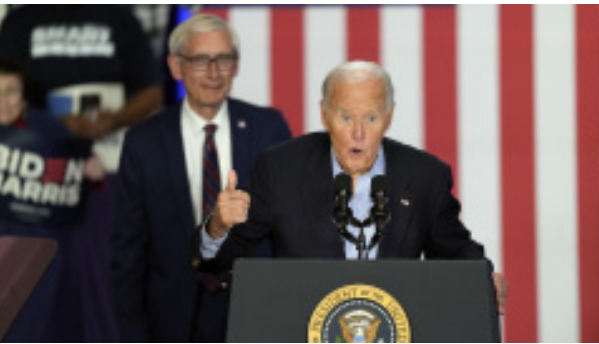
Fourth case of rare brain-eating amoeba infection reported in Kerala

GNS News Agency, July 12

Medical experts said the infection occurs when free-living, non-parasitic amoebae bacteria enter the body through the nose from contaminated water. Medical experts said the infection occurs when free-living, non-parasitic amoebae bacteria enter the body through the nose from contaminated water. Another case of amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare brain infection caused by a free-living amoeba found in contaminated waters, has been reported from Kerala. A 14-year-old boy, a resident of Payyoli in this north Kerala district, is afflicted with the disease, according to sources in the private hospital where he is being treated. This is the fourth case of the

rare brain infection reported in the state since May and all the patients are children, three of whom have already died. In the latest case, one of the doctors treating the boy said that he was admitted to the hospital on July 1, and his condition is improving. The doctor said, on Saturday, that the infection was identified quickly at the hospital and treatment, including medicines from abroad, was given immediately. Prior to that, two others — a five-year-old girl from Malappuram and a 13-year-old girl from Kannur — died on May 21 and June 25, respectively, due to the rare brain infection. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday held a meeting in which several suggestions, including not to bathe in unclear waterbodies, were given to prevent further infections.

U.S. President Joe Biden says he was sick during debate, asserts only 'Lord Almighty' can drive him out of presidential race



GNS News Agency, July 12

U.S. President Joe Biden has dismissed concerns about his health and doubts about his re-election bid in November, brushing off a poor performance in the presidential debate as a "bad episode" and insisting that only "the Lord almighty" could persuade him to exit the race. Mr. Biden, 81, said this on July 5 in a television interview, a week after his disastrous debate performance in Atlanta against his Republican rival Donald Trump, following which some of his own Democratic Party leaders started urging him to step down and his approval rating plummeted. In the 22-minute high-stakes interview on ABC News aimed at quelling a burgeoning rebellion in the Democratic party, Mr. Biden, who is seeking a second term, said he had "a bad night" and he was "exhausted" and "sick" during his first presidential debate with Mr. Trump. Asked whether he would be willing to have an independent cognitive evaluation and release the results to the American people, Mr. Biden said: "Look, I have a cognitive test every single day. Every day I've had tests. Everything I do. You know, not only am I campaigning, I'm running the world."

The President said in the interview that he was "sick" before the debate. Asked whether it was a bad episode or a sign of a more serious condition, Mr. Biden dismissed those concerns. "It was a bad episode. No indication of any serious condition. I was exhausted. I didn't listen to my instincts in terms of preparing and — and a bad night," Mr. Biden said during his first interview after the debate, adding that his top party leadership are asking him to stay in the race.

"Because I was sick. I was feeling terrible. Matter of fact the docs (doctors are) with me. I asked if they did a COVID test because they were trying to figure out what was wrong. They did a test to see whether or not I had some infection, a virus. I didn't. I just had a really bad cold," he said and reiterated multiple times that he was running for the presidency. Blaming himself for the bad debate night in Atlanta, Mr. Biden said, "Yeah, look. The

whole way I prepared, nobody's fault but mine. I prepared what I usually would do sitting down as I did come back with foreign leaders or the National Security Council for explicit detail," adding that Mr. Trump "lied 28 times" during the debate. Mr. Biden said none of the major Democratic party leaders have asked him to drop out and asserted that he would withdraw only if the "Lord Almighty" asked him to. "If the Lord Almighty came down and said 'Joe, get out of the race,' I'd get out of the race. The Lord Almighty's not coming down," he added. The President tried to avoid questions on both his mental fitness and cognitive tests. "Do you dispute that there have been more lapses, especially in the last seven months?" Mr. Biden was asked. "Can I run the 100 in 10 flat? No. But I'm still in good shape," he responded. "Are you more frail?" he was asked. "No. Come keep my schedule," he said. Mr. Biden alleged that Mr. Trump is a pathological liar. Asked by the interviewer whether he was being honest with himself about his ability to beat Mr. Trump, Mr. Biden said, "Yes. Yes, yes, yes." He pointed to previous polls that showed he couldn't win in 2020 as proof and subsequent down-ballot elections, denying extensive polling that reflects a race where he is trailing. In a reaction to Biden's interview, Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna, according to The New York Times, said he expected "complete transparency" from the White House and a willingness to answer "many legitimate questions" from the news media and voters about the president's abilities. "He has to earn that trust, and that requires more than one interview," Khanna was quoted as saying by the daily. ABC News said it offered a similar one-on-one interview to Trump, 78, but the former president declined. Earlier during a rally in the battleground state of Wisconsin, Biden asserted that he is in the race and will win the election again. "We had a little debate last week. Can't say it was my best performance. But ever since then, there's been a lot of speculation. What's Joe going to do? Is he going to stay in the race? Is he going to drop out? What's he going to do? Well, here's my answer. I am running and going to win again," Mr. Biden told his cheering supporters. "...Some folks don't seem to care who you voted for, well, guess what? They're trying to push me out of the race. Well, let me say this as clearly as I can. I'm staying in the race. I'll beat Donald Trump. I beat him in 2020. And by the way, we're going to do it again in 2024." Biden also took this opportunity to address the issue of his advancing age. "You probably also noticed a lot of discussion about my age. I keep seeing all those stories about I'm being too old. Let me say something. I wasn't too old to create over 15 million new jobs to make sure 21 million Americans are insured under the Affordable Care Act; to beat Big Pharma, the first firm to ever do that, and lower the cost of it to \$35 a season," he said.

In his longest foreign trip, Pope to chair an interfaith meeting in Jakarta mosque

GNS News Agency, July 12

Pope Francis will preside over an interfaith meeting in a mosque in the world's largest predominantly Muslim country during a four-nation Asian visit in September that will be the longest and most complicated foreign trip of his pontificate. The Vatican on Friday released the itinerary for the Pope's September 2-13 trip to Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and Singapore. The packed schedule makes clear that the 87-year-old pontiff, who has battled health problems and is increasingly reliant on a wheelchair, has no plans to slow down.

After a day of rest upon arrival in Jakarta on September 3, the Pope will launch into a typically rigorous round of protocol visits to the four countries' heads of state and government, and speeches to diplomats and meetings with clergy and public Masses in each location. In Jakarta, he will preside over an interfaith meeting at the capital's Istiqal Mosque.

Sprinkled in the mix are encounters with young people, poor and disabled people, elderly people and the Pope's regular meetings with Jesuit confreres. The trip was originally planned for 2020 but was called off because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At 11 full days, it's the longest of the Pope's 11-year papacy, outpacing by a



few days some of his long trips to the Americas and recalling some of the strenuous, globe-hopping trips of St. John Paul II. It will bring the Argentine Jesuit to the world's most populous predominantly Muslim nation, Indonesia, as well as the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, where the Catholic Church wields enormous influence. In East Timor, however, the Pope may also have to reckon with the legacy of independence hero Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo. After he returns to Rome in mid-September, he has a four-day visit to Belgium before the end of the month, the only other foreign trip that has been confirmed for the year.

In Mongolia, young leaders seek to usher in new dawn of democracy



GNS News Agency, July 12

Tsenguun Saruulsaikhan, a young and newly minted member of Mongolia's parliament, is unhappy with below-cost electricity rates that she says show her country has yet to fully shake off its socialist past. Most of Mongolia's power plants date from the Soviet era and outages are common in some areas. Heavy smog envelops the capital Ulaanbaatar in the winter because many people still burn coal to heat their homes. "It's stuck in how it was like 40, 50 years ago," said Ms. Tsenguun, part of a rising generation of leaders who are puzzling out their country's future after three decades of democracy. "And that's the reason why we need to change it."

Mongolia became a democracy in the early 1990s after six decades of one-party communist rule. Many Mongolians welcomed the end of repression and resulting freedoms but have since soured on the parliament and established political parties. Lawmakers are widely seen as enriching themselves and their big business supporters from the nation's mineral wealth rather than using it to

develop a country where poverty is widespread. Voters delivered an election setback to the ruling Mongolian People's Party last week, leaving it still in charge but with a slim majority of 68 out of the 126 seats in parliament. Ms. Tsenguun was one of 42 winning candidates from the main Opposition Democratic Party, which made a major comeback after being reduced to a handful of seats in the 2016 and 2020 elections. She articulates a vision for Mongolia that dovetails with small government Republicans in the United States. In her view, too many people think the government will take care of them, and the large budget just feeds corruption. Government should be as invisible as possible, she said, and give people the freedom and responsibility to build their own lives. The detention of a couple of journalists in the past several months has fueled worries that the government may be edging backward, eroding the freedoms that democracy brought. Ms. Tsenguun said her age group, who only know the post-communist era, needs to push back. The ruling party, which also ran the country during the communist period, is well-entrenched and enjoys the support of many older voters. Retired community leaders showed up before polls opened at 7 a.m. in an Ulaanbaatar neighborhood. Elders are pioneers, one said, coming first to encourage others to vote. Younger voters historically have not voted in large numbers, but anecdotal reports suggest their turnout may have risen in Ulaanbaatar in last week's election. Nearly half the country's population of 3.4 million people live in the capital. The People's Party has tried to reposition itself in response to public discontent. It appointed Oyun-Erdene Luvsanamsrai, a relatively young prime minister with a master's degree from Harvard University, in 2021. It's unclear, however, how much the government will change and whether democracy in Mongolia is really on the cusp of a new era.

Iran election 2024: Reformist Pezeshkian wins presidential runoff election, defeating Jalili



GNS News Agency, July 12

Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian won Iran's runoff presidential election Saturday, besting hard-liner Saeed Jalili by promising to reach out to the West and ease enforcement of the country's mandatory headscarf law after years of sanctions and protests squeezing the Islamic Republic. Mr. Pezeshkian promised no radical changes to Iran's Shiite theocracy in his campaign and long has held Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as the final arbiter of all matters of state in the country. But even Mr. Pezeshkian's modest aims will be challenged by an Iranian government still largely held by hard-liners, the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, and Western fears over Tehran enriching uranium to near-weapons-grade levels.

A vote count offered by authorities put Mr. Pezeshkian as the winner with 16.3 million votes to Jalili's 13.5 million in Friday's election. Overall, Iran's Interior Ministry said 30 million people voted in an election held without internationally recognized monitors. Supporters of Mr. Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon and longtime lawmaker, entered the streets of Tehran and other cities before dawn to celebrate as his lead grew over Jalili, a hard-line former nuclear negotiator.

But Mr. Pezeshkian's win still sees Iran at a delicate moment, with tensions high in the Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war, Iran's advancing nuclear program, and a looming election in the United States that could put any chance of a detente between Tehran and Washington at risk. Mr. Pezeshkian's victory also wasn't a rout of Jalili, meaning he'll have to carefully navigate Iran's internal politics as the doctor has never held a sensitive, high-level security post. The first round of voting June 28 saw the lowest turnout in the history of the Islamic Republic since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iranian officials have long pointed to turnout as a sign of support for the country's Shiite theocracy, which has been under strain after years of sanctions crushing Iran's economy, mass demonstrations and intense crackdowns on all dissent. Government

officials up to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei predicted a higher participation rate as voting got underway, with state television airing images of modest lines at some polling centers across the country. However, online videos purported to show some polls empty while a survey of several dozen sites in the capital, Tehran, saw light traffic amid a heavy security presence on the streets. Authorities put the turnout in Friday's election at 49.6%, still historically low for an Iranian presidential election. They counted 607,575 voided votes in the contest — which often are a sign of protest by those who feel obligated to cast a ballot but reject both candidates.

The election came amid heightened regional tensions. In April, Iran launched its first-ever direct attack on Israel over the war in Gaza, while militia groups that Tehran arms in the region — such as the Lebanese Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi rebels — are engaged in the fighting and have escalated their attacks. Iran is also enriching uranium at near weapons-grade levels and maintains a stockpile large enough to build several nuclear weapons, should it choose to do so. And while Khamenei remains the final decision-maker on matters of state, whichever man ends up winning the presidency could bend the country's foreign policy toward either confrontation or collaboration with the West.

The campaign also repeatedly touched on what would happen if former President Donald Trump, who unilaterally withdrew America from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018, won the November election. Iran has held indirect talks with President Joe Biden's administration, though there's been no clear movement back toward constraining Tehran's nuclear program for the lifting of economic sanctions. Though identifying with reformists and relative moderates within Iran's theocracy during the campaign, Pezeshkian at the same time honored Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, on one occasion wearing its uniform to parliament. He repeatedly criticized the United States and praised the Guard for shooting down an American drone in 2019, saying it "delivered a strong punch in the mouth of the Americans and proved to them that our country will not surrender." More than 61 million Iranians over the age of 18 were eligible to vote, with about 18 million of them between 18 and 30. Voting was to end at 6 p.m. but was extended until midnight to boost participation. The late President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a May helicopter crash, was seen as a protégé of Khamenei and a potential successor as supreme leader. Still, many knew him for his involvement in the mass executions that Iran conducted in 1988, and for his role in the bloody crackdowns on dissent that followed protests over the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman detained by police over allegedly improperly wearing the mandatory headscarf, or hijab.

Junta under pressure as fierce fighting breaks out in northeastern Myanmar

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New fighting has broken out in northeastern Myanmar, bringing an end to a Chinese-brokered ceasefire and putting pressure on the military regime as it faces attacks from resistance forces on multiple fronts in the country's civil war. The Ta'ang National Liberation Army, one of three powerful militias that launched a surprise joint offensive last October, renewed its attacks on regime positions last week in the northeastern Shan State, which borders China, Laos, and Thailand, and the neighbouring Mandalay region with the support of local forces there. Since then, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army has joined in, and by Friday, combined forces from the two allied militias had reportedly encircled the strategically important city of Lashio, the headquarters of the regime's northeastern military command.

This is the next phase of October's "1027" offensive, said Lway Yay Oo, spokesperson for the TNLA, which last week said the military provoked retaliation with artillery and airstrikes despite the cease-fire. "In phase two, our number one aim is the eradication of the military dictatorship, and number two is the protection and safety of local people," she said. The Swe, a spokesperson for the military regime, which seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, accused the militias of putting civilians in jeopardy by restarting the fighting. "As the TNLA are starting to violate the ceasefire, the Tatmadaw is protecting the lives and the property of the ethnic people," he said in an email, referring to the military by its Burmese name. There was no indication that the third ethnic armed organisation that makes up the Three Brotherhood Alliance, the powerful Arakan Army, has joined in the renewed fight-



The latest battle brings an end to the Chinese-brokered ceasefire, putting pressure on the military regime as it faces attacks from resistance forces on multiple fronts in the country's civil war; there is no indication whether ethnic armed organisation, Arakan Army, has joined the fight in Shan State

ing in Shan state.

The TNLA claims to have already captured more than 30 army outposts, and to now control the western part of Mogoke, whose ruby mines make it a lucrative target. There is also fighting for the town of Kyaukse, which sits at a highway crossroads, and Nawngkhio to the southwest, which leads toward the major military garrison town of Pyin Oo Lwin along the same highway. "That's where you need to cut it off to prevent the military from sending reinforcements," said Morgan Michaels, a Singapore-based analyst with the International Institute of Strategic Studies who runs its Myanmar Conflict Map project. In Mandalay, the region west of Shan, a local People's Defence Force — one of many armed resistance groups that have sprung up in support of the underground National Unity Government, which views itself as Myanmar's legitimate administration — joined the TNLA's offensive. Osmond, a spokesperson for the Mandalay People's Defence Force who would only give his nom de guerre because of safety concerns, said his and other local resistance groups have seized nearly 20 military outposts.

The October offensive by the Three Brotherhood Alliance made rapid advances as the militias took large expanses of territory in the north and northeast, including multiple important border crossings with the China and several major military bases. The alliance militias have close ties to China, and it's widely believed that the offensive had Beijing's tacit approval because of its growing dissatisfaction with the military regime's seeming indifference to the burgeoning drug trade along its border and the proliferation of centres in Myanmar at which cyberscams are run, with workers trafficked from China. China then helped broker the ceasefire in January, bringing the major fighting in the northeast to an end.

With the renewed violence in the northeast, China's Foreign Ministry said it stood ready to again provide support for peace talks, but would not say whether it had been in direct contact with the Three Brotherhood Alliance or the military State Administration Council. "China urges all parties in Myanmar to earnestly abide by the ceasefire agreement, exercise maximum restraint, disengage on the ground as soon as

possible, and take practical and effective measures to ensure the tranquillity of the China-Myanmar border and the safety of Chinese personnel and projects," the Ministry said in a faxed reply to questions. The Myanmar army doesn't appear to have been surprised by the TNLA attacks, with evidence that it mobilised forces and prepared defences as well as security checkpoints and patrols ahead of the renewed offensive, Mr. Michaels said. "They didn't get caught completely off guard, although they've not been able to respond yet, there's been no counter-offensive," he said. Objectives unclear It is not yet clear what the TNLA's objectives are, and it could be that the group is just looking to expand gains and consolidate positions now while the military is stretched thin by fighting on several fronts, and before new batches of conscripts are trained for service. Likewise, with the MNDAA, it is not clear whether it is planning to join the broader offensive or whether it intends to take encircled Lashio by force, lay siege to it, or simply tie up the troops now trapped there. The group did not respond to requests for comment.

PM Kisan installment amount could rise to Rs 8,000



to Rs 8,000 annually. They also seek all subsidies to be directly transferred to farmers through DBT, along with additional funds for agricultural research in Budget 2024.

Introduced on February 24, 2019, the PM-KISAN scheme aims to assist land-holding farmers financially, provided they meet specific income-based criteria. Under the PM Kisan scheme, eligible farmer families across India receive Rs 6,000 annually in three instalments every four months via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). As of now, over 11 crore farmers have received payouts totalling more than Rs 3.04 lakh crore. With the upcoming disbursements, the total payout since the scheme's inception will exceed Rs 3.24 lakh crore. Recently, upon his third term's start, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initial decision was to release the 17th instalment, benefitting 9.3 crore farmers and involving an approximately Rs 20,000 crore distribution. The PM-KISAN scheme, a central sector initiative, provides income support to all land-holding farmers' families nationwide. This financial aid aims to assist in purchasing agricultural inputs and meeting household expenses. Documents from the Interim Budget reveal a Rs 1.27 lakh crore allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture in the 2024-25 fiscal year, slightly up from the current fiscal year.

PM-KISAN scheme aims to assist land-holding farmers financially, provided they meet specific income-based criteria. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met agricultural experts for discussions ahead of the upcoming budget. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met with various experts as part of her pre-budget meeting. The Union Minister also met agricultural experts for discussions ahead of the upcoming budget.

Various media reports suggest they have urged for an increase in the PM-KISAN installment from Rs 6,000

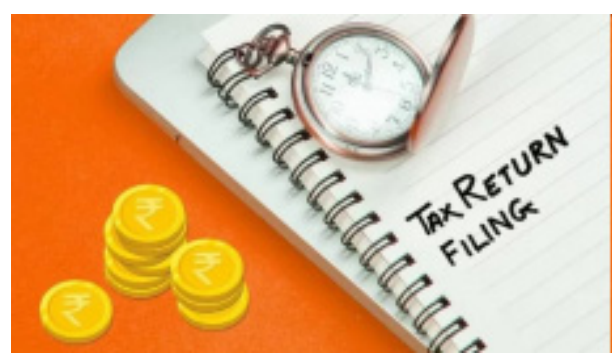
These individuals are exempt from paying tax

Filing the income tax return (ITR) is an essential duty of an Indian citizen and failure to do so can attract legal repercussions such as penalties, increased tax scrutiny, etc. It is important to note that every individual in the country needs to file their income tax returns, even if their income is not taxable or they are not paying any income tax. Filing the ITR by July 31 of a financial year helps avoid penalties.

Under the Income Tax Act in India, specific groups residing in certain regions of select states are eligible for exemptions from paying income tax. These exemptions are given based on predefined criteria such as income thresholds, socio-economic standing, and occupations of individuals within these communities. These targeted tax relief measures aim to reduce the financial burden on marginalised populations in these areas, promoting fair opportunities for all. Exemptions for residents of North-eastern States and UTs

"Under Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act in India, members of Scheduled Tribes residing in Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Ladakh region of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are exempt from paying income tax," said Rohit Jain, Managing Partner, Singhania & Co. Exemptions for individuals in certain areas outlined in Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act, a specific category of income is exempt from income tax obligations. This exemption pertains to income generated within specified areas or states, in the form of dividends or interest on securities. More specifically, this exemption applies to members of a Scheduled Tribe who reside in regions designated within the Constitution.

"This exemption also applies to those living in specific areas within these regions, including the North Cachar Hills District, Karbi Anglong District, Bodoland Territorial Areas District, Khasi Hills District, Jaintia Hills District, and Garo Hills District in Meghalaya. The exemption covers income generated within these specified areas, including income from dividends or interest on securities. However, income from renting property or conducting business outside these regions is not eligible for the exemption," said Rohit Jain, Managing Partner, Singhania & Co. Additionally, the states of Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and the



Ladakh region are also covered under this exemption. Claiming tax exemption

One can claim tax exemption under Section 10(26) by filing an income tax return (ITR). Since their incomes qualify for tax exemptions based on the nature of that income, these individuals need to disclose the income generated and the exemption. Individuals belonging to Scheduled Tribes residing in several northeastern states and the Ladakh region of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are required to submit Income Tax Returns (ITRs) if their earnings exceed the limit set by the Income Tax Department. It is essential for them to declare their total income and avail the exemptions provided under Sections 10(26) and 10(26AAA) of the Income Tax Act. ITR exemption for certain senior citizens

An individual resident aged 60-79 is considered a Senior Citizen for Income Tax purposes, while a Super Senior Citizen is someone aged 80 years or older. These classifications impact tax benefits and exemptions, and compliance with regulations for each category is crucial for accurate tax filing and financial planning. Under Section 194P of the Income Tax Act, individuals who are 75 years old or above and receive pension income along with interest income from a specified bank account are eligible to opt out of filing their Income Tax Return (ITR). To proceed with this option, qualifying seniors need to complete a declaration in Form 12BBA. The form must be submitted to the designated bank where the pension and interest income is received. The bank will then assess and deduct the applicable income tax based on the information provided in the form.

SMEs on IPO spree in April, May as corporates mobilise nearly Rs 85,000 crore from equity offerings

In just the first two months of financial year 2024-25 (FY25), Indian corporates have mobilised Rs 84,866 crore through equity issuances, including initial public offerings (IPO), follow-on public issues and preferential allotment. In the twelve months of FY24, corporates had raised Rs 67,956 crore from the IPO market and are expected to mobilise over Rs 1 lakh crore through primary issuances in the current fiscal. Leading the equity issuance surge during the first two months were IPOs from the small and mid-cap (SME) segment, with 44 of these companies getting listed in the first two months of the current fiscal (FY25). This comes amid the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch raising concerns over manipulation in the listing of SMEs a few months back.

While 44 companies got listed on SME platforms of the BSE and the NSE in April and May, there were a total of 52 listings (main board IPOs plus SME IPOs) during the two month period. In fiscal 2023-24, the total number of SME companies that were listed was 196. A total of 21 SMEs got listed in April, raising Rs 527 crore, while there were 23 SME IPOs which mobilised Rs 673 crore in May, according to the data from Sebi data.

In March this year, the Sebi Chairperson had said that there were signs of price manipulation in SME IPOs and trading of such shares in the secondary market. "The reality is that SMEs are relatively small entities, the market is small, the free float is small, it is relatively easy to manipulate both at the IPO level and the trading level," Buch had said. Some of the SMEs that raised capital through IPO route in April and May 2024 included ABS Marine Services (Rs 96.29 crore), Trust Fintech Ltd (Rs 63.45 crore), Creative Graphics Solutions India (Rs 54.4 crore), Quest Laboratories (Rs 43.16 crore) and Indian Emulsifiers (Rs 42.39 crore). All SME IPOs witnessed higher participation from retail investors and also were listed at a premium. In order to check volatility in the listing of SMEs, NSE, on Thursday, introduced an overall capping of 90 per cent on the opening price discovered during a special pre-open session for IPOs on its SME platform. This means the listing day price of any SME cannot go above 90 per cent of the issue price. On an overall basis, Indian corporates mobilised Rs 84,866 crore through equity issuances, including initial public offering (IPO), both mainboard and SME platform, follow-on public offering and preferential allotment in the first two months of fiscal 2024-24, the SEBI data showed.

India Inc raised Rs 14,661 crore through eight main



Leading the equity issuance surge during the first two months were IPOs from the small and mid-cap (SME) segment, with 44 of these companies getting listed in the first two months of the current fiscal (FY25).

board IPOs in April and May, the data showed. Some of the main board IPOs included Aadhaar Housing Finance (Rs 3000 crore), Go Digit General Insurance Rs 2,614 crore and Awfis Space Solutions Ltd (Rs 599 crore).

Indian corporates raised Rs 67,956 crore from the IPO market in FY24 and they are expected to mobilise over Rs 1 lakh crore through primary issuances in the current fiscal. The rise in the number of companies raising money through IPOs can be attributed to the strong macroeconomic growth of the country, stable government and interest rates, and ease in inflation. According to Sebi data, corporates did not raise money through the follow-on public offer route in May this year. However, in April, Rs 18,000 crore was raised through a single FPO of Vodafone Idea, which was the largest issue in the country. Funds amounting to Rs 3,798 crore were raised through 20 rights issues in April and May. Funds raised through preferential allotment during the two months stood at Rs 32,695 crore. The amount raised through QIP (Qualified Institutional Placement) stood at Rs 14,512 crore in the period. In May 2024, Rs 1,207 crore was mobilised through the public issue of debt, compared to the Rs 687 crore raised during April. Private placement of debt raised Rs 61,227 crore in May, compared to Rs 30,508 crore in April.

What's your pick: Ready to cook or ready to eat?



Managing work, family and personal commitments often leaves us with limited time to cook. Pre-packaged food alternatives like ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat meals become increasingly attractive in these situations. While both offer undeniable convenience, the question still persists: are these convenient meals as healthy as cooking from scratch? Garima Dev Verman, a Certified Nutritionist and Medical Content Analyst with The Healthy Indian Project (THIP), breaks down the key differences and sheds light on their nutritional value. Garima clarifies the distinction between these two categories:

"Ready-to-cook meals are already prepared to some extent, but might require further cooking steps like microwaving. Think of Haldiram's retort pouches. Ready-to-eat options, on the other hand, are good to go straight from the package, like popcorn, namkeen (savoury snacks), or khakras (flatbreads)." Convenience Comes at a Cost While convenience is a major benefit, Garima cautioned against the potential downsides. "Ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat meals often lack the robust nutritional value of fresh ingredients," she explained. "They tend to be higher in sodium to enhance shelf life." This raises a

red flag, as excessive sodium intake can contribute to health problems like high blood pressure.

"Similar to how pickles use salt and mustard oil for preservation, pre-packaged meals rely heavily on sodium and sometimes sugar to extend shelf life. While these preservatives benefit the companies, they're not exactly health-friendly." Hidden sugars can also lurk in sauces and dressings. Nutritionists emphasise the importance of reading labels. "Consumers need to become label detectives. Companies create mass-produced products, and preservation is a necessity. This is why they use sugar and other additives. It's crucial to be aware of these hidden ingredients."

Garima acknowledged the ideal scenario: "If time allows, cooking a fresh meal with whole ingredients is always the best option for optimal nutrition." However, she recognises the realities of busy lifestyles. "For those short on time, ready-to-cook or ready-to-eat options can be an occasional solution. But remember, anything packaged, whether it's namkeen or biryani, isn't the healthiest choice." She recommended making informed choices: "Read the ingredient lists and nutrition labels carefully. When possible, prioritise fresh ingredients. Remember, India has a rich culinary tradition, and cooking delicious meals doesn't have to be complicated. It's a skill worth investing in for your health." While ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat meals offer convenience, they shouldn't become the norm. By understanding their nutritional limitations and developing label-reading skills, you can make informed choices and maintain a healthy balance in your diet. If a person is not able to cook a meal every day, what you can do is make dal, deep freeze it, suggested Garima, adding that resist the urge to rely on pre-made snacks as your primary source of nutrition.

Isha Ambani stuns in first modern day Schiaparelli sari; check out her other looks from Radhika-Anant Sangeet

Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding festivities are afoot, and for their sangeet ceremony, close friends, family, and all of Bollywood brought their best fashionable foot forward! Anant's sister Isha Ambani Piramal looked resplendent in three custom couture looks, the best of which was a silver blue Schiaparelli couture sari, a first-of-its-kind by the luxury maison.

Designed by Daniel Roseberry, the electric blue sari was paired with a structured silver blouse and a heavy brooch at the waist. The very first Schiaparelli sari was said to be inspired by Rani Sita Devi of Kapurthala back in 1935, who was popularly known as Princess Karam in the West. Anaita Shroff Adajania styled the look with a heavy double-layered diamond neckpiece, ear studs, and a square-cut diamond maang tika. Isha kept it clean and chic with a neat side-parted bun, smokey eyes, well-defined brows, and berry lips. Isha also looked regal in two other looks by Indian designers Falguni Shane Peacock and Manish Malhotra for the event.

Taking to Instagram, Falguni wrote in the caption, "The ensemble features a stunning tulle Lehenga paired with a matching blouse, both adorned with a myriad of Swarovski stones, about 160,000 silver crystals, and a variety of multicoloured gemstones, with a special emphasis on emerald-hued stones." The lehenga boasted



heavy tassels and intricate embroidery work, along with pearls and multi coloured gemstone embellishments. A complementing coral chiffon dupatta was draped across to break the monotony and add a pop of colour to the gorgeous ensemble. Styled by Anaita Shroff Adajania, Isha donned a custom Manish Malhotra lehenga in the shade of silver, paired with an asymmetrical one-shoulder blouse decked with emerald green Swarovski crystals.

Can adding a dollop of ghee in your chai improve your gut health? Here's what an expert says

Adding a shot of ghee to your morning coffee was a hack well loved by celebrities and fitness enthusiasts alike. Social media is trending with nutritionists and content creators singing praises about adding ghee to their chai, promising health benefits and an exceptional taste. Indianexpress.com spoke with Dr Preeti Nagar, dietician at Noida International Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital (NIIMS), to delve into the advantages of this unique combination. "Ghee is rich in antioxidants and healthy fats that aid in detoxifying the body. This powerhouse superfood enhances nutrient absorption and helps balance stomach pH," she said. Tea, particularly when consumed on an empty stomach, can sometimes cause acidity. Nagar pointed out that ghee counters the acidic properties of milk, reducing the risk of inflammation and indigestion. "Ghee also helps improve gut health, and when combined with turmeric, it helps fight free radical damage," she said. For those prone to acidity, Nagar recommended mixing ghee with lukewarm water as an excellent alternative. "It has natural laxative properties that promote bowel movements and is godsent for those with irritable bowel syndrome. Milk and ghee as a combination fights constipation," said Nagar. Other than lowering



uric acid levels, the combination of ghee and milk also help in flushing out stubborn fat. Therefore, drinking ghee with tea is full of health benefits. However, Nagar warned people who are overweight and obese to be careful of consuming ghee as it may increase their cholesterol levels. Those suffering from fatty liver should also be careful.

Can the viral purple toothpaste lead to brighter, whiter smiles? Dentists weigh in



If you're familiar with the concept of purple shampoo, this won't come as a shocker! The internet has been abuzz with purple toothpaste, claiming to whiten yellow teeth and spread happy smiles all around. What's got us curious, is to find out how these toothpastes work and whether they are safe to use in the long run. Dr Aditya Sharma, dentist, said, "It doesn't whiten the teeth as such,

but just uses the colour theory, which ends up hiding the yellow hue and gives the appearance of much whiter teeth. While it removes stains to a lesser extent, purple toothpaste work better as colour correctors compared to teeth whitening agents."

"Unlike traditional ones, purple toothpaste contains V34 colour corrector serum which is the main differentiator. Much like what is used in purple hair toners," said Dr Kamlesh Kothari, cosmetic dentist and maxillofacial surgeon, Kolkata. According to him, the toothpaste releases purple micro-particles (Red 33 and Blue 1 dyes) onto your teeth, which when mixed with yellow stains produces a white colour. While it does not change the internal colour of teeth, it does remove surface stains and enhance your smile for a few hours. This colour correction is akin to makeup for your teeth, not a substitute for your daily oral hygiene routine. Kothari further explained. Dr Niyati Arora BDS, MDS (prosthodontist) at Crown Hub Dental Clinic, Pitampura, said that oral care solutions containing purple dyes can frequently be used regularly, but it's crucial to adhere to the unique directions that come with each product.

Manisha Koirala reveals she was asked to lie about drinking alcohol, was seen as 'easy girl' for dating men: 'We had a warped value system'



little things."

Manisha said that she did not like the idea of keeping secrets, so if she was dating somebody, she would admit it. "If I was dating somebody, I am dating somebody. You want to judge me? Go ahead and judge me but that's me, this is me and I lead my life on my own terms," she said. Manisha spoke about the sexism that was prevalent in the movie industry in those days, where male actors would be seen as "macho" for having many girlfriends but female actors would be seen as "easy" if they were dating someone.

"I faced some flak for it because in those days, the heroes could have many girlfriends, and they were called macho men, but the actress was supposed to be this, 'no no no, nobody is touching me' and 'we are very untouched'," she said and added, "It was also misunderstood that (she is) very easy or easy girl to you know... But I took it on my stride." Manisha then said that it was a misconception in those days that women who had a personal life were somehow unprofessional. "Just because I have a personal life or I have a boyfriend doesn't mean I am going to be unprofessional in my life. I love my work. We had some very warped value system for actresses, which didn't go well with me," she said.

Manisha has previously opened up about her alcoholism in her memoir *Healed*. "To take my mind off shoots, to numb myself, I started drinking. If I was on a diet, it would be vodka," she wrote.

Manisha Koirala, who was one of the most popular Hindi movie stars of the 1990s, recently opened up about the time when she was asked to not reveal that she drank alcohol and had a boyfriend. Manisha shared that during the making of *Saudagar*, which was her debut in Hindi films, she was asked to hide the fact that she was having vodka at a party because "actresses are not meant to be drinking alcohol." She shared with *Filmfare*, "At the time of *Saudagar*, there was a coke mixed with vodka, and I was told by people around me not to tell people that I am drinking vodka because actresses are not meant to be drinking alcohol. I was told to say that 'I'm drinking coke. I learnt that new thing. I told my mom, 'I am drinking coke', and she knew I put vodka in it and she said, 'Listen, if you are drinking vodka, say you are drinking vodka, don't say you are drinking coke, don't lie for such small

Juhi Chawla says she had a secret wedding with Jay Mehta because she was afraid of 'losing' her career: 'This seemed the midway'



Actor Juhi Chawla got married to businessman Jay Mehta when she was at the peak of her career in the 1990s, but they tied the knot secretly without letting the world know about it. In an earlier interview, Juhi shared that at the time, many actors did the same thing and she could get away with it in the 1990s because there were no cameras on mobile phones, so there was no possibility of the news getting out. Explaining why she married Jay secretly, Juhi said that she did so because she was afraid of losing her career. Juhi and Jay got married in 1995. They are parents to Jhanvi and Arjun.

Talking to former journalist Rajeev Masand on his YouTube channel some years ago, Juhi shared, "I was just about established and just starting to do well. That's the time Jay was serenading me, and I was afraid of losing my career just when I kind of got there. So, I wanted to carry on and this seemed the midway, that let's keep it

quiet and it's okay, you carry on working."

Juhi said that she was going through a difficult time then, as her mother had just passed away and she felt like she was losing everything. "That year my mother passed away as well so I had another tragedy and that was a very difficult time for me as well because I felt I was going to lose everything I had, everything I loved, my work, my mum," she said. In a recent chat at an event hosted by Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Juhi had opened up about how her mother-in-law cancelled her grand wedding plans because Juhi was getting overwhelmed. Juhi said that her mother-in-law recalled almost 2000 invitations that had gone out to guests all over the world. "She convinced the family to not have the big wedding and I got married at home with just the family and closest friends in attendance. So with just 80-90 people present. Imagine your mother-in-law cancelling the invites that had already been sent out," she shared.

'Actors asking for Rs 35 crore are getting box office opening of Rs 3.5 crore,' Karan Johar opens up on Bollywood's ongoing crisis

If Bollywood could speak, the one dialogue it's certain to iterate at the moment is, 'Yeh dukh kaahe khatam nahi hota be' (why is this grief not ending), considering the rough patch it has been going through since the beginning of this year. While the highest-grossing film of 2023, *Jawan*, recorded Rs 1,160 crore in total, this year's top-grosser, *Fighter*, ended its theatrical run at Rs 358 crore, according to industry tracker *Sacnilk*.

Amid ongoing discussions about this bleak situation, Karan Johar, one of India's most accomplished filmmakers, weighed in on the subject, asserting that a revamp and a change in the definition of theatrical success is the need of the hour. "Firstly, the audiences' tastes have become very definitive. They want a certain kind of cinema. And if you (as a maker) want to do a certain number, then your film has to perform at A, B, and C centres. Multiplexes alone will not suffice," he said during a chat with journalist Faye D'Souza on her YouTube channel.

"Simultaneously, the cost of filmmaking has increased. There has been inflation. There are about 10 viable actors in Hindi cinema, and they are all asking for the sun, moon, and earth. So, you pay them; then you pay for the film, and then the marketing expenditure comes. And then your film doesn't do the numbers. Those movie stars asking for Rs 35 crore are opening to Rs 3.5 crore. How's that math working? How do you manage all these? Yet, you have to keep making movies and creating content because you also have to feed your organization. So there's a lot of drama, and the syntax of our cinema has not found its feet," he added. "In the case of Hindi cinema, there has been a certain kind of syntax in each decade. Right now, we are like, 'If *Jawan* and *Pathaan* worked,



"Firstly, the audiences' tastes have become very definitive. They want a certain kind of cinema. And if you (as a maker) want to do a certain number, then your film has to perform at A, B, and C centres. Multiplexes alone will not suffice," he said during a chat with journalist Faye D'Souza on her YouTube channel.

should we do only action?' Then everybody's running that way. Then suddenly a love story would work. I feel like we are running around like headless chickens. Conviction has taken a complete beating, and it's all about herd mentality. We haven't realized that there is a certain audience now that wants rooted Indian cinema and, without the pressure of what the critics have to say, pure joy," he noted. "They also don't want alienating cinema. When you talk about urban syntax and alienate Tier 2 cities and the plexes in smaller towns, then you don't do that massive business. You can make such urban cinema, but at a certain price," Karan added.

Shah Rukh Khan gave a 'game-changing, goosebumps-inducing' speech in KKR dressing room, addressed flying kiss controversy: Ramandeep Singh



This year, Shah Rukh Khan's IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders won the championship for the first time. And while Shah Rukh is known to never interfere in team matters, especially as far as performance is concerned, he stepped up to deliver an impassioned speech to motivate the players. In a recent podcast with Manjot Kalra, KKR cricketer Ramandeep Singh shared how Shah Rukh Khan created a real-life Chak De India moment in the dressing room with the team.

He shared that when KKR lost against the Punjab Kings, SRK came to the dressing room and gave them a pep talk. "Our entire core group had a meeting. Shah Rukh sir was also there, and that was a game-changing moment for our team. Shah Rukh sir gave a speech there. He usually doesn't speak much, and is not that involved, but his speech that day gave all of us goosebumps. He told us what he expected from us, and what we should do. He reminded us of where we had come from, and where we want to go. He relates a lot to a middle-class family, because he also hails from one, so he feels our journey is very relatable to him," Ramandeep said. About their victory, he added, "Shah Rukh sir was very happy,

we were all manifesting this, everyone believed that the core group that came together for domestic or international cricket, was the best. They all believed that we would yield results."

Ramandeep also recalled how Shah Rukh Khan motivated the team following Harshit Rana's ban for the flying kiss controversy. He narrated, "When Harshit got a ban for the flying kiss controversy, Shah Rukh sir said that now the team will win the championship and the whole team will send a flying kiss. And we did that. When he was banned, everyone's mood was spoilt, that time sir said that we would win and have a celebration, so don't lose hope." This year at IPL, Shah Rukh Khan was seen cheering for his team time and again, in fact, even after a health scare and hospitalization in Ahmedabad, the actor went on to support his team as soon as he got discharged. In an appearance on cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin's YouTube channel, Gautam Gambhir said that SRK is the "best owner" that he has ever worked with. "In the seven years of me captaining, we had not spoken 70 seconds about cricket. He had never asked me a single question on cricket in those seven years. Can you imagine?" he said.

Karan Johar refuses to 'apologise' for his wealth, says his mother sold her jewellery after Dharma's early films failed, dad sold property

Karan Johar's Dharma Productions has long been a significant and successful force in Indian cinema. Founded by Karan's father, Yash Johar, in 1979, Dharma's debut film, director Raj Khosla's *Dostana* (1980), featuring Amitabh Bachchan, Shatrughan Sinha, and Zeenat Aman in the lead roles, was a major hit. However, Dharma struggled to replicate this success with their subsequent films. Recently, Karan took a trip down memory lane and opened up about his relationship with wealth and money and how Dharma's setbacks influenced it.

"Right after *Dostana*, Papa saw a series of about five failures. He had a small export division, which he wanted me to take over eventually. During those days, we used to get movies financed. Financers would give us money and we would pay them back with interest. When one of the films failed, my mum (Hiroo Johar) sold my nani's flat, and when another failed the same fate, she sold some of her jewellery. My father had to sell a little property he had in Delhi. These are the stories I have heard," he said during a chat with journalist Faye D'Souza.

"We were not 'wealthy.' We were what you call middle class to upper middle class. We always had food on the table, I went to a really good school, and my dad drove a reasonably good car. We never travelled out of the country because we couldn't afford it. I grew up in a wealthy neighbourhood. Because I was the apple of my father's eye, he always made me feel like a prince. If pocket money was Rs 25, he gave me Rs 50. I always punched above my weight and lived beyond my means because of my father," he added.

"Fortunately, though coincidentally, my first, second, and third films did really well. My father passed away after that. Then I took over Dharma. A lot of the money



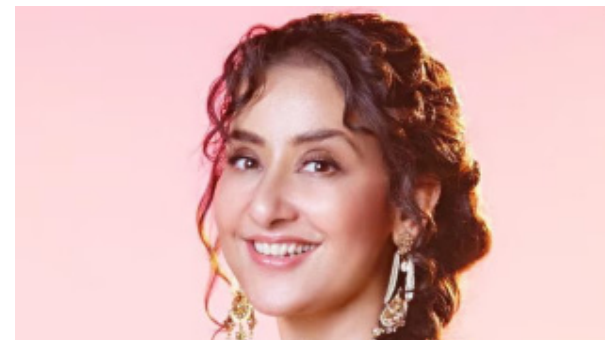
that we have made at Dharma has been made since I started directing. I feel very proud that I could live my father's dream. I worked very hard. There have been times when I worked for 18 hours a day. I work through weekends and national holidays. I work every day. I work for about 16 to 20 hours every day. I sleep for only five hours. I work very hard for the money I have made. I am never going to apologise for that," Karan asserted. "I believe joy is very critical. I don't want to apologise for spending money on things that give me joy. I love shopping; it's therapeutic for me. Why should I apologise for the wealth I earned through hard work?" he asked. The director-producer also mentioned that his father deserved more recognition for his efforts. "He never really saw the success he deserved, considering the work he put in. A producer back then was a low-hanging fruit. Today, I am a creative producer. There was no such thing at that time. A producer just brought in the money and put the project together. He would have been very proud of Dharma's success if he were alive today," Karan said, smiling.

Manisha Koirala reveals she has been exploited in romantic relationships: 'I have only fallen for wrong men'

Actor Manisha Koirala has been basking in the success of *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*. In the Netflix series, created and directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Manisha plays the ruthless Malikajaan, who brings toxicity to every relationship. In real life, however, Manisha has been at the receiving end in toxic relationships. Recently, in an interview with *Filmfare*, the actor shared how she has always dated the 'wrong men' and reflected on why she'd ignore red flags in past relationships.

Dissecting her past romances, Manisha shared, "I have scrutinised why I have only fallen for wrong men. I used to wonder why am I doing this again and again, or if there's something wrong with me to be getting attracted to the most troubled person in the room. I figured that first, I need to work on what is bothering me. I have been single for five to six years now, and I am not in the mood to mingle because I still feel like there is a lot of work I need to do on myself."

When asked what kind of a partner she'd like to have, the actor added, "Having said all that, at some point, I would love to have a good connection where I feel we both accept and are honest about where we are at. It is very important to understand what are the lessons we



need to learn to grow, and if we can support each other on our journey. I wish to be with somebody who has dreams and ambitions, and some sort of passion, because I am a very passionate person."

Manisha also spoke about being very forgiving in her relationships. "I was an outsider, I came from Nepal and didn't know anybody, I was just out of school, and didn't know right or wrong, I felt that loneliness a boyfriend or partner would fill, but that never happened.

Mitchell Starc opens up on Rohit Sharma's brutal assault vs Australia in T20 World Cup: 'I bowled five bad balls, he hit them all for six'



GNS News Agency, July 12

IND vs AUS: Rohit Sharma scores 92 in Super 8, T20 World Cup 2024 India's captain Rohit Sharma plays a shot for six runs against Australia during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, Monday, June 24, 2024. Among the crucial performances for India on their road to the T20 World Cup win was captain Rohit Sharma's blistering knock of 92 against Australia in the Super-8.

An innings that saw Rohit take Mitchell Starc to the cleaners for 29 runs in one over. Opening up on the match

for the first time, Starc has shared what he made of the Indian skipper. "I've played a lot against him. He had a good tournament, especially in our game. I think he targeted that wind in St. Lucia as well. If you look at the runs from each end, one end went for a lot more than the other. I bowled five bad balls and he hit them all for six," the Aussie pacer said on the Willow Talk Cricket podcast. Starc on the day ended up conceding 45 runs from his four overs quota. Even though he managed to remove Rohit later in the innings, the dismissal came too late for Australia.

The 92 from Rohit, which was the third highest individual score of the tournament, helped India put together 205 runs, a total Australia fell short of by 24 runs – a defeat that ended their hopes of making to the semifinals of the tournament. "We thought it was a little bit over par, but it was the best wicket in the World Cup which we played on in terms of runs scored. It wasn't probably the quickest wicket in the West Indies but definitely the best wicket which we played on. Certainly chaseable. We were on target for a while but a couple of hiccups and some good bowling from them set us back," Starc added. Rohit eventually finished as India's top scorer at the tournament – 257 runs from eight innings. The Indian captain also stood tall in the very next game, semifinal against England.

The 35-minutes that revived England's Euro Championship campaign



GNS News Agency, July 12

Sometimes, a pause helps. Three minutes after Xavi Simons's solo-run goal slipped England into pandemonium, Jude Bellingham suffered a blow on his head, colliding with Jerdy Schouten. But when the support staff attended to Bellingham, England's Kieran Trippier, a warrior according to his coach, snarled at his teammates, exhorting them to pick the shattered pieces of their self-belief. He rushed to Declan Rice, from whom Simons had snatched the ball, and offered a warm embrace. He wrapped an arm of comfort around Phil Foden, whose struggles had embodied England's passivity.

Something suddenly stirred. The England that resumed after the break was a different animal, a beast that relentlessly tossed and ripped the Dutch stranglehold apart. England buzzed and fizzed into life, for 35 minutes of sustained and sweeping magnificence. The repelling parts finally fused and burned to produce carnage. Two minutes on, Phil Foden composed a clever free-kick that Rice could have flicked towards the goal rather than passing back; Harry Kane would trap a ball on the turn and cracked a shot from 30 yards. Bukayo Saka, England's most penetrative forward in the entire tournament, warped through the tight alleys into expansive spaces. He schemed the contentious Harry Kane penalty. He swanned into the box and took his shot, but the blocked attempt bounced to Kane. The VAR check, drama, the penalty and equaliser threw the game into the melodrama zone. It was even a kind of distraction, a disruption of England's fluttering forwards. Kane regained his mobility, his pace and positioning instinct; Saka was a little globe of fire, swerving past the Dutch backline like a gust of breeze, cutting into his preferred inside right channels that lingering on the far right zones. It freed up space behind him, where Foden would slash in. The Manchester City forward has been the critics' lightning rod for criticism, the finest example of Gareth

But Foden bristled with a fuming energy, his off-the-movements a treatise for fledgling footballers to read. He ran with purpose, passing with the clarity of the summer sun. He nearly snatched the lead, prodding the ball past his club-mate Nathan Ake and goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen, only for Denzel Dumfries's clearance off the line denying him. Euro 2024: England semifinal celebrations Soccer Football – Euro 2024 – Semi Final – Netherlands v England – Dortmund BVB Stadium, Dortmund, Germany – July 10, 2024 England's Harry Kane celebrates scoring their first goal with Phil Foden. Foden's link-up with another colleague from Manchester City, Kyle Walker, oozed reassurance too. Walker served Saka and Foden with a stream of overlapping runs, cutting open the Dutch backline. Foden relished the free role, where he could shuttle in and out of the flanks with Jude Bellingham filling into the pockets of real estate he left behind.

He was woefully unfortunate not to enter the scoresheet. He channeled his inner Lamine Yamal and packed a curler into the far corner from 25 yards. Had the

shot not cannoned off the woodwork (Yamal's too hit the post, but deflected into the net), this would have been as spectacular a goal as the Spaniard's, because he had struck the shot on half-run. Nonetheless, Southgate would be pleased at Foden's vibes, the swagger and intensity had returned. He is his most important forward – EPL's player of the season last year no less – with his vision, passing range, finishing skills, and someone who could perform roles within roles. Even the Kane-Bellingham understanding improved, furnishing intermittent glimpses of the combined havoc, their smooth interchanging of roles and understanding of each other's movements. In those 35 minutes in Dortmund every note and syllable fell into place. Cagey, compressed, and unimaginative for most of their campaign, England breathed freedom, life and imagination. Kobbie Mainoo owes a chunk of credit too. He kept sliding in passes others didn't see. He twice released Foden for goals (the Dumfries one and another the forward bunted to the goalkeeper). He won several balls in the final third, despite his relatively deeper starting positions, and had a couple of attempts himself. He rarely clings onto the ball for too long, barely attempts the outrageous, but unlocks defences with eye-of-the-needle passing.

In this irresistible passage, Rice too displayed the virtues that made him his club Arsenal's lead act in the season past. For much of the season, he has looked clumsy in possession, often seeking the route of safety rather than aggression. He would close his body at the ball and pass sideways. He was largely confined to his territory, which is not a bad thing, but only if making progressive passes. But against the Netherlands, he frequently pinged the ball forward and produced precise diagonal balls. He was doubtlessly a few notches below his peak, but threw assuring signs of revival. The upturn was that England looked increasingly creative and purposeful, more than they had looked in any other game in this tournament. The downswing was that it lasted only 35 minutes and dissipated after the Dutch shored up their midfield, switching an injured Memphis Depay for Joey Veerman. Old habits sneaked back. Without space, they resumed the sideways passing routine. The spark fizzled out, the match meandered on, and they just kept waiting endless for a twist of fate. Southgate has, at times, been slow to make in-game changes, ponderous to the tactics of the opponent. Good teams could ruthlessly punish them. His resistance to tweak the dysfunctional left-flank could pile on eternal agony if Yamal clicks into his gears on Sunday. He did displace Trippier with Luke Shaw in the second half, which immediately enhanced their thrust and threat. In the end, the substitutions too were brave, and rewarding. There was relief and joy when the whistle blew, after Ollie Watkins fired a stoppage time winner. Southgate, having long swapped his waistcoat for a white polo t-shirt, punched the air in frenzy. Though imperfections still gleam, England is a far better side now than they were at the start of the knockouts. And those 35 minutes of buzz and life offer them hope of Euro redemption.

Geoffrey Boycott says IPL has helped England's 'moderate to average' Test players to get rich



GNS News Agency, July 12

Former cricketer Geoffrey Boycott has been critical of the England team for their performance at the recently concluded T20 World Cup co-hosted by the United States and the West Indies. In addition to the poor campaign in the Caribbean, the 83-year-old also said "moderate to average" England Test players were getting rich due to the Indian Premier League. "All we have had over the last few months is the Twenty20 World Cup in the Caribbean, where England performed poorly, the Indian Premier League, which helped a few of our moderate to average Test players get rich," Boycott wrote in his column for The Telegraph

"Before that, a miserable 4-1 Test series loss in India where England started well, but in the end were hammered," Boycott recalled. After winning the opening Test in Hyderabad Ben Stokes led-side lost the remainder of the four Test matches convincingly.

"In India last winter, ego and hubris got the better of some of our players. They came out with comments about being entertainers and how it was important to score quickly and thrill the crowds. All that is laudable but they should never lose sight that there is a winner and a loser

and losing isn't much fun," Boycott added about the series. Boycott would go a step further and say if the players think results don't matter they might well join a circus. "Test match cricket is not an exhibition. If our players start to think that results don't matter then they might as well join a circus or go around the world like the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team doing tricks, laughing and joking, and not bothering who wins so long as everyone has a fun time." England last won a Test series in the December of 2022 against Pakistan away from home. Post that they drew series against hosting country New Zealand 1-1, drew to Australia 2-2 at home and were unable to regain the Ashes which was followed by thrashing at the hands of India earlier in 2024.

Team India coach Gambhir wants to rope in former Dutch cricketer

New Delhi: The newly appointed India head coach Gautam Gambhir is reportedly pushing for the inclusion of former Dutch cricketer Ryan ten Doeschate into the team's coaching staff.

Ryan ten Doeschate recently collaborated with Gambhir at the Kolkata Knight Riders, where he contributed as the team's fielding coach during their victorious 2024 campaign.

Beyond his role with KKR, Ten Doeschate holds multiple positions within the franchise's subsidiaries, including in the Caribbean Premier League, Major League Cricket, and ILT20.

Lorenzo Musetti, an aesthete's delight, has the tools to push Novak Djokovic – here's why

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At the 2021 French Open, Lorenzo Musetti was on the cusp of one of the biggest upsets of the tournament's recent history. In their feisty fourth-round encounter, he had Novak Djokovic on the ropes, fashioning a two-set lead before getting tentative with the finish line in sight, eventually retiring with injury as Djokovic recovered. The then 19-year-old Italian, for long hyped as one to watch, went away from that match never to get past that stage at a Major again; later that week, Djokovic left Paris with the trophy. At some point in the three years since, Musetti got the Italian phrase 'il meglio deve ancora venire' tattooed around his ribcage. It roughly translates to 'the best is yet to come.' On Friday, in his first Major semifinal, he will have the chance to roll out his best against Djokovic.

Peek into the semifinal lineup and the 25th-seeded Musetti seems like a typical journeyman who has coasted his way into a lucky meeting with a great on the heels of a favourable draw. His physicality and temperament may be taking more time to catch up with his talent; some of his contemporaries, namely Carlos Alcaraz (who will face Daniil Medvedev in the other semifinal on Friday) and Jannik Sinner, may have become household names as he has stayed relatively obscure. Yet Musetti has all the tools to do more than just make up the numbers. And Djokovic has seen it in the past. His head-to-head with the men's tennis GOAT stands at 5-1, but there's plenty to unpack in those six encounters. He got his first high-profile win over Djokovic on the clay of Monte Carlo last year, and just last month, he took the Serb to the wire in their Roland Garros third round, the five sets of which lasted over four hours to become the latest finish in the tournament's history. Musetti is an aesthete's delight. Part of what had created the hype around him as a precocious teenager was that he was not cut from the same cloth as most of the top players of today's game. He relies more on touch, feel, and craftiness as opposed to the surface-agnostic, big ball-striking baseline bashers currently occupying the latter stages of Grand Slams. That's a strength that is accentuated on grass.

Those around him may have fine-tuned massive serves or big forehands, but Musetti's greatest tool is his backhand slice. He has plenty of variety in his groundstrokes, likes to play it short and throw in drop shots, and disrupt opponents with rhythm shifts. It proves to be an antidote to the power hitters. Lorenzo Musetti Tennis – Wimbledon – All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London, Britain – July 10, 2024 Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in action during his quarter final match against Taylor Fritz of the U.S. sabel Infantes



Both his last two opponents, Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard and Taylor Fritz, were big servers and hard strikers of the ball. Musetti neutralised both by his ability to change the pace of the baseline exchanges thanks to his variety. In their last few encounters, he has made Djokovic sweat. The Serb prefers to control patterns of play and dismantle the opponent's game once he has got a read on them. Musetti, with his constant momentum shifts, does not always make that easy. Backhand that tests the knee

Part of why this has been a tricky matchup for Djokovic in the past is that he does not always come out on top in the backhand exchanges. Musetti's singlehanded, an oddity in modern tennis, is very versatile but it is the slice that is most challenging on grass. His backhand slice often skimps over with the slightest net clearance and can stay very low. It's a most useful rally tool, it takes the sting out of the power coming from the other side of the net and resets the pattern of play. For Djokovic, it will make him hit outside of his comfort zone too, in repeated exchanges the Serb will have to bend very low and test the right knee on which he had surgery just last month. Gritty as his quarterfinal triumph was on Wednesday, Musetti's detractors will say his craftsmanship is deceptive, that the eye test pales in comparison to the real test, and that he is all style and little substance. That is why Friday's match is a new challenge for the 22-year-old from the small Italian town of Carrara. Excellent players can play scintillating tennis and still be dismantled by Djokovic, especially on a stage as big as Wimbledon's Centre Court. The Serb may not be at his best, but if his tussles with a seemingly imaginary hostile crowd earlier this week are anything to go by, he has begun rediscovering his winning edge. The crowd will get behind Musetti, Djokovic will be distracted and ultimately use that to fuel his fire. If the Italian can be composed and not overwrought by the occasion, he has the ability to make a match of this. He need only look to his ribcage for motivation.

James Anderson on Sachin Tendulkar: 'Best batter I faced...when he came, I would think I cannot bowl a bad ball'

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As James Anderson draws curtains on an illustrious career, the England pacer has named the toughest batter he bowled to. "The best batter I would have to say is Sachin Tendulkar," Anderson told Sky Sports, before elaborating on what made the former India captain daunting. "I don't remember having a specific game plan against Sachin Tendulkar. Once he came on, I would just think that I cannot bowl a bad ball here, he was that kind of player. He was a key for India as well. If you get him out in India, the whole atmosphere, in the ground changes. He was such a big wicket," Anderson said. "You just try on bowling your best ball, top of off-stump, the whole time and



hope he miss a straight one. In England, he might nick the odd one, but generally, I'd try and get him out LBW early. I had some success against him, but he had success against me as well. He got runs against us quite a lot," he



added. Having played 39 Tests against India, off Anderson's 701 wickets in the format, 149 have come against India. The 41-year-old dismissed Tendulkar nine times during his Test career. The all-time leading wicket-taker for England in

Tests and ODIs also revealed that his 81-run knock against India at the Trent Bridge is the career achievement he is most proud of. "Career achievement I am most proud of his getting 81 at Trent Bridge against India.