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Telangana DGP warns public against fake police calls fraud

Hyderabad: Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) Dr. Jitender on Friday issued a stern warning to the public about a rising trend of fraudsters making fake calls in the name of police personnel. These impostors aim to deceive and extort money from unsuspecting citizens. Taking to the official Telangana DGP handle on 'X' on Friday, the DGP shared a video of a scam where a fraudster falsely claimed that a man's son was jailed for rape, demanding money to resolve the issue. "#CyberFraudAlert #FakePoliceCall Strangers with police DP photos will call and tell you that someone related to you has been caught, or that illegal drug couriers have arrived in their name.

Rythu Bandhu funds diverted for farmer loan waiver, alleges KTR



GNS News Agency, July 19

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao said on Thursday that the Revanth Reddy government was once again cheating Telangana farmers in the name of a loan waiver, stating that the Rs 7,000 crore Rythu Bandhu funds, which are to be given in June, have been diverted for the loan waiver. Rao took to X to target the government on the loan waiver scheme.

He said, "When over 40 lakh farmers had taken loans worth Rs 1 lakh, how had the government selected only 11 lakh farmers? Compared to the KCR government's loan waivers in 2014 and 2018, only a quarter of farmers are eligible. In 2014 itself, the KCR government waived loans up to Rs 16,144 crore, benefiting about 35 lakh farmers. In 2018, for a loan waiver within the same Rs 1 lakh, an amount of Rs 19,198 crore was used; the total number of beneficiaries was about 37 lakh." The BRS leader demanded the government waive all crop loans of Rs 2 lakh immediately, as promised in the Congress Manifesto, and the 'Rythu Bandhu' should be released to all eligible farmers.

Monsoon Session of Parliament: Government lists six new Bills; Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constitutes BAC



GNS News Agency, July 19

Six new Bills, including the one to amend the Disaster Management Law, will be presented during the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning next week. Besides the Finance Bill, the government has also listed the Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024 to replace the Aircraft Act of 1934 to provide enabling provisions for ease of doing business in the civil aviation sector. The list of Bills was published in the Parliament bulletin issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Thursday evening (July 18). The Monsoon Session begins on July 22 and will continue till August 12. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget on July 23. Other Bills listed for introduction and passage during the Session are The Boilers Bill to replace the pre-independence era law, the Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill and the Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also constituted the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), which decides the Parliamentary agenda. The Committee chaired by the Speaker has Sudip Bandyopadhyay (Trinamool Congress), P. P. Chaudhary (BJP), Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (Telugu Desam Party), Nishikant Dubey (BJP), Gaurav Gogoi (Congress), Sanjay Jaiswal (BJP), Dileshwar Kamait (JD-U), Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP), Dayanidhi Maran (DMK), Bajjant Panda (BJP), Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-UBT), Kodikunil Suresh (Congress), Anurag Thakur (BJP) and Lalji Verma (SP) as members.

ISRO Chairman Somnath gets PhD in Engineering from IIT Madras

GNS News Agency, July 19

Hyderabad: ISRO Chairman S Somnath received his PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering during the 61st convocation organized by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras on its campus on Friday.

A total of 444 PhDs were awarded and 2,636 students graduated during the event. As many as 3,016 degrees including joint and dual degrees were awarded to the students on the occasion.

CM Revanth Reddy, Dy. CM Bhatti Vikramarka reviews on Integrated Residential Schools

GNS News Agency, July 19

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday conducted a review of the process of setting up SC, ST and BC minority Gurukuls at one place under the name of "Integrated Residential Campus". The aim of this initiative is to provide education with advanced facilities and foster a sense of equality among students.

The government has



decided to establish these campuses in Kodangal and Madhira constituencies as a pilot project. During the

review meeting with architects and officials, including Burra Venkatesham, Principal Secretary of the

Education Department, the Master Plan of Integrated Campuses and other related issues were discussed. It has been revealed that the government plans to transform the integrated residential into mini education hubs on 20 to 25 acres of premises in each constituency.

This accelerated effort signifies the government's commitment to providing quality education and enhancing opportunities for students in marginalized communities.

Critical mineral roadshow, exploration hackathon to kick off in Hyderabad tomorrow

GNS News Agency, July 19

New Delhi : Ministry of Mines will host the Mineral Exploration Hackathon and Critical Mineral Roadshow at Begumpet in Hyderabad on Saturday (July 20).

The initiative aims to enhance mineral prognostication using globally practised state-of-the-art techniques. Participants will delve into the interpretation and modelling of geophysical data, integration of multiple data sets, and the application of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), the Ministry said on Friday. Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy will launch the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Portal at the event. This would be a centralised platform to gather the information on district mineral foundations across the country. The portal would facilitate access to DMF data and track the developments that are taking place in this sector.

The minister will also announce the names of the preferred bidders for the tranche II & III blocks of the e-auction of critical and strategic minerals that was launched on February 29. The event will be followed by a roadshow on tranche IV of the e-auction of Critical and Strategic Mineral Blocks, launched via NIT dated June 24, 2024. The purpose of this roadshow is to increase industry engagement and to make the potential bidders familiar with the e-auction process being conducted by the Ministry of Mines, the official statement added. Critical minerals such as lithium, chromium, nickel, graphite, cobalt, titanium and rare earth elements are essential raw mate-



rials for sectors like electronics, electric vehicles, renewable energy, defence and high-tech telecommunications. Currently, the extraction of critical minerals is dominated by a few countries such as China which makes the supply chain vulnerable to geopolitical uncertainties. India is viewed as part of the alternative supply chain that needs to be developed to break China's dominance in this crucial segment. The Narendra Modi government has accelerated the exploration of critical minerals in India over the last two years as a result of which, over 100 critical mineral blocks are now in the pipeline and will be put up for auction to mining companies. An international summit was also held in Delhi at the end of April this year to woo foreign investors with details of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives being offered to push growth in the sunrise sector.

Global Microsoft outage hits Indigo, Spicejet, Air India, Akasa operations, airport services; CERT-In issues advisory

GNS News Agency, July 19

Mumbai: Airport and airline operations faced significant disruptions on Friday due to global Microsoft outage, with airlines issuing advisories to passengers. IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India, Air India Express and Akasa saw disruptions in their online check-in and boarding processes across their networks, forcing them to switch to manual mode.

"Our systems are currently impacted by a Microsoft outage, which is also affecting other companies. During this time booking, check-in, access to your boarding pass, and some flights may be impacted," IndiGo said in an update on X. "We are all hands-on decks and are working to restore stability and normalcy. Our digital team is also coordinating closely with Microsoft Azure to resolve these issues swiftly," it stated. Budget carrier Akasa said: "Due to infrastructure issues with our service provider, some of our online services, including booking, check-in and manage booking services will be temporarily unavailable. Currently we are following manual check-in and boarding processes at the airports." The airline requested its passengers with immediate travel plans to reach airport early to check in, as a precautionary measure. SpiceJet also said it is currently experiencing technical challenges with its service provider, affecting online services including booking, check-in, and managing booking functionalities. "As a result, we have activated manual check-in and boarding processes across airports," it stated.

New Delhi airport said it too faced some IT issues and some services were temporarily affected. "Due to the global IT issue, some of the services at the Delhi Airport were temporarily impacted. We are closely working with all our stakeholders to minimise the inconvenience to our flyers," the New Delhi airport said on X. Due to the global IT issue, some of the services at the Delhi Airport were temporarily impacted.

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad, run by GMR group, put out an advisory saying that due to the global IT outage, the services of some airlines have been impacted. Airport sources said that as many as 23 flights -- 12 departures and 11 arrivals -- including IndiGo's flights to Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru have been cancelled. "We are closely working with all our stakeholders to minimise the inconvenience



to our flyers. You may please get in touch with the airline concerned for updates on your flight information. We thank you for your support and understanding," the airport said in a post on social media platform X. NIC network not affected: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the IT ministry is in touch with Microsoft regarding global outage and that NIC network is not affected. In a post on X, the IT minister said the reason for this outage has been identified and updates have been released to resolve the issue.

Meanwhile, CERT-In in an advisory said the Microsoft outage was caused by CrowdStrike update, and rated its severity as "critical".

The advisory comes amid a massive outage faced by Microsoft users globally, and widespread reports of disruptions in international airlines, banks and media outlets. "It has been reported that Windows hosts related to CrowdStrike agent 'Falcon Sensor' are facing outages and getting crashed due to recent update received in the product. The concerned windows hosts are experiencing a 'Blue Screen of Death (BSOD)' related to Falcon Sensor," the CERT-In advisory said. Meanwhile, several major oil and gas trading desks in London and Singapore were struggling to execute trades due to a cyber outage, industry sources said. LSEG Group's Workspace news and data platform also suffered an outage, affecting user access worldwide. Widespread outages affecting banks, telecom networks and media were reported in Australia, possibly linked to an issue at global cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike. Major US airlines also issued ground stops citing communications issues.

Dr. Reddy's announces licensing agreement with Takeda Pharmaceutical to commercialise Vonoprazan tablets in India

Hyderabad: Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd has announced that it has entered into a non-exclusive patent licensing agreement with Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited to commercialise Vonoprazan tablets in India. Vonoprazan is a novel, orally active potassium competitive acid blocker (PCAB), used to treat reflux esophagitis and other acid peptic disorders. Dr. Reddy's will market Vonoprazan tablets under its own trademark VONO to be available in two strengths, 10mg and 20mg. Acid Peptic Disorders (APD), which include Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) and Peptic Ulcer Disease (PUD), are very common in India.

Telangana govt. Postpones TGpsc Group-2 Exam to December



GNS News Agency, July 19

In a significant decision, Telangana government has announced the postponement of the Group-2 exam to the month of December. The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGpsc) has rescheduled the exam, originally scheduled for August 7 and 8, following requests from candidates to postpone it due to the ongoing District Selection Committee (DSC) exams.

The decision to postpone the Group-2 exam was taken after discussions with candidates who had been urging the government to reschedule both the DSC and Group-2 exams due to their proximity. With 783 posts available in Group-2, a total of 5.51 lakh candidates have applied for the exam. The new dates for the Group-2 exam will be announced soon by the TGpsc. Last year, TGpsc had issued a job advertisement for Group-2 with 783 posts spread across 18 departments. The application process took place from January 18 to February 16, 2023, attracting a large number of applicants from across the state. This marks the fourth time that the Group-2 exam has been postponed due to various reasons. The government's decision to postpone the Group-2 exam to December comes as a relief to candidates who have been juggling preparations for both the DSC and Group-2 exams. This move is seen as a positive step to accommodate the requests of the candidates and ensure a smooth conduct of the examination process.

Farm loan waiver only for 11 lakh out of 39 lakh farmers: MoS Bandi Sanjay

GNS News Agency, July 19

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar criticised the Congress party for breaking its promise to waive Rs 2 lakh farm loan. On Thursday, he said that while 39 lakh farmers are waiting for the farm loan waiver, the State government has decided to waive off the loans of only 11 lakh farmers. The Congress-led state government should prove its sincerity by sanctioning new loans to farmers as per the election promise, he said. He said that the loan waiver is not applied to 70 per cent of the farmers. According to the calculations of the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), the amount of loans taken by farmers in the state is more than Rs 64,000 crore. "It is ridiculous to pay only 10 per cent of it and make big out of it and go for celebrations," he added. "Farmers became defaulters because of the attitude of the previous government. Farmers would not have become defaulters if the loans had been waived on time, and now the farmers have to pay the price for the government's mistake," he pointed out. He recalled that Congress assured that the State government would take responsibility for paying the principal amount along with interest for all the loans taken by the farmers up to Rs 2 lakh. "I urge the state government to pay off the loan amount taken from the banks so that their names from the list of 'defaulters' will be removed. That makes them eligible for the grant of new loans," he said. For this, he asked the Congress party to stick to its promise to waive off the farmer loans without imposing any restrictions and regulations.

UPSC lodges criminal case against IAS trainee Puja Khedkar, issues show-cause notice

GNS News Agency, July 19

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said on July 19 that it has registered a criminal case against Puja Khedkar, a probationer Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and issued a show cause notice to cancel her candidature from Civil Services Examination-2022. The Commission stated that it conducted "a detailed and thorough investigation in the misdemeanour of Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar, a provisionally recommended candidate of CSE-2022." From this investigation, it has been revealed that she fraudulently availed attempts beyond the permissible limit under the Examination Rules by faking her identity by way of changing her name, her father's & mother's name, her photograph/ signature, her email ID, mobile number and address," UPSC said in a statement. It said that a series of actions have been initiated against her which include criminal prosecution by filing a First Information Report (FIR) with the Police Authorities and a Show Cause Notice (SCN) for cancellation of her candidature of CSE-2022, debarment from future examinations and selections, in accordance with the Rules of CSE-2022.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Karnataka quota Bill

SCATHING criticism from business and industry leaders has forced the Karnataka Government to put the contentious reservation Bill for Kannadigas in private firms on hold. The Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, was cleared by the state cabinet on Monday; however, the ensuing uproar made CM Siddaramaiah claim that the final decision would be taken after comprehensive discussions. As per the Bill, 'any industry, factory or other establishments shall appoint 50 per cent of local candidates in management categories and 70 per cent in non-management categories'. The CM had even tweeted about 100 per cent reservation for Kannadigas in C and D grade posts in private institutions of the state, but he was quick to delete the post.

It's baffling that Karnataka, India's tech hub and one of the best-performing states in terms of ease of doing business, has come up with this regressive Bill. NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) has cautioned the Congress government that the 'restrictions could force companies to relocate as local skilled talent becomes scarce'. The southern state has failed to learn a lesson from the Haryana fiasco. The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020, which mandated 75 per cent reservation in private sector jobs for residents of the state, was struck down by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in November 2023. Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand have also got their fingers burnt with similar legislation.

The 'vocal for local' slogan might have gained currency in recent years, but any compromise on merit, talent and skills for the sake of political gains is enough to put off investors.

A highway rescue act, a turtle with patched-up shell — and now a wait

GNS News Agency, July 19

"Look, she's burrowing deeper into the mud... she's preparing to lay eggs soon. Turtles bury their eggs deep in the mud," says Vikendra Sharma in a high-pitched whisper, barely able to conceal his excitement. For the last few days, the turtle, lying in a large green tub in Sharma's foyer, has been recuperating from a recent accident that left it shattered. As Sharma gently moves the foliage, letting in a stream of light, the turtle pulls back into its shell.

Around 12:30 pm on July 8, Sharma, a former physics teacher, was on his way home to Budaun from a gau raksha sammelan in Moradabad when he got a call about a turtle in distress on the highway between Budaun and Bareilly. The caller had found an Indian Flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*), a species that's categorised as 'vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of wildlife species. The turtle's shell had cracked open, leaving a gaping wound in the area right around its neck — it didn't look like it would make it alive. What followed were a harrowing few hours at a clinic of the Centre for Wildlife Conservation, Management and Disease Surveillance of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly, where the turtle went through an emergency procedure to put the shell back in place. "She must have come under a car while she was trying to cross the road to get to a pond on the other side," says Sharma, an animal lover who spends his days tending to rescue calls and treating animals at his rescue centre, 15 kilometres from his house.

Festive offer A highway rescue act, a turtle with patched-up shell — and now a wait Pre surgery (Left), post-surgery (Right) X-ray of the turtle that shows its eggs.

Several pieces of the turtle's shell had fallen off and the wound on the neck was surrounded by multiple cracks, which the IVRI doctors said were "multiple displaced fractures" or "compound fractures". "I thought she was dead. I picked her up to move it to the side of the road before some vehicle would have crushed her further. Just then, she moved her limb and stuck out her neck. I couldn't believe she was alive!" says Sharma. He immediately called Dr Abhijit Pawde, Principal Scientist of the Department of Surgery and the Centre for Wildlife Conservation, Management and Disease Surveillance at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly, someone Sharma has often reached out to after his various rescue acts — of cows, bulls and dogs. He once even sent a peacock and a rat to the institute for post-mortem procedures.

But never a turtle. So Dr Pawde, a stickler for rules, asked Sharma to seek the permission of the Budaun District Forest Officer (DFO) and the police before the endangered reptile could be transferred to the clinic. As he waited for the permissions to come through, Sharma applied a generous layer of Betadine to the turtle's wounds and held the shell in place with tape. When the nod finally came around 2 pm, Sharma took the turtle to IVRI in a basket. By the time he reached the clinic in Bareilly, it was 4.30 pm, half an hour left for the clinic's closing time. There were other issues too. The clinic had run out of orthopaedic glue and the doctors were unsure about how to proceed with reattaching the shell. "At first glance, it was obvious that it was a critical case. In fact, when we saw it for the first time, we thought it was highly unlikely that the turtle would survive," says Dr Kamalesh Kumar K S, a PhD scholar who assisted Dr Pawde in the surgery. "There was a lot of bleeding and there were multiple fractures on the carapace (the hard, upper part of the shell) and we had to ensure that there was no internal damage," says Dr Kumar, explaining that the carapace's shape and strength are critical for the turtle's survival. Explaining that the shell is the only protection turtles have, Dr Kumar says, "The shell is attached to the soft tissue below, making it difficult to treat internal injuries. If the fractures are not treated quickly, they can quickly become infected." While it did seem like a complicated procedure, doctors were optimistic because there were no missing parts to the shell and the jigsaw fell into place neatly. "Any small gap or hole left behind by a missing shard of the shell would have led to an infection," adds Dr Kumar, who is currently pursuing his PhD from IVRI.

Delhi High Court permits married woman to terminate 32-week pregnancy noting 'foetal abnormalities'



GNS News Agency, July 19

The Delhi High Court on Saturday permitted a 31-year-old married woman to undergo medical termination of her 32-week pregnancy after noting the court-appointed medical board's report suggesting "substantial foetal abnormalities" with a substantial risk of physical and mental handicap. A single-judge bench of Justice Sanjeev Narula, in its July 13 order, observed, "The medical report provided by the AIIMS Medical Board is unequivocal and comprehensive. This Board, composed of multidisciplinary medical experts, has conducted an exhaustive review of the petitioner's case, including performing an additional ultrasound scan. Their findings reveal substantial foetal abnormalities of 'Corpus callosum agenesis with bilateral severe ventriculomegaly with mild FGR'."

Ventriculomegaly is a condition in which the fetus' ventricles (the fluid-filled space in the brain) are larger than usual. FGR stands for fetal growth restriction, in which the foetus is smaller than expected in relation to the gestational age (the number of weeks of pregnancy). During the hearing last Saturday, the doctors comprising the medical board highlighted that the foetus "exhibits bilateral severe ventriculomegaly, characterized by an excessive accumulation of fluid in the brain cavities". They said that the extent of fluid buildup is "classified as severe" in the present case. The HC order notes that the AIIMS doctors had also observed that another "critical part of the brain has not developed normally" and elaborated on the "likely prognosis" indicating that if the child is born, "they would face significant challenges, with both locomotive and intellectual capacities being severely impaired".

Justice Narula thereafter said, "Thus, in the opinion of the Court, the diagnosis in the present case clearly qualifies as substantial foetal abnormality with substantial risk of physical and mental handicap... In light of the above, this Court accepts the AIIMS Medical Board's recommendation. The continuation of the pregnancy poses a significant risk to the Petitioner's (woman) physical and mental health and is likely to result in the birth of a child with severe health issues. Consequently, the Court finds it appropriate to permit the termination of the pregnancy."

Akal Takht Jathedar summons SAD chief Sukhbir Badal to give explanation on rebels' allegations

GNS News Agency, July 19

Akal Takht summons Sukhbir Badal After the party's humiliating defeat in the Parliament elections, several rebel SAD leaders appeared before the Akal Takht in Amritsar, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, on July 1 and made serious allegations against Badal. Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh has asked the Shiromani Akali Dal's president, Sukhbir Singh Badal, to give an explanation within 15 days on allegations, levelled by some senior SAD leaders, that he "has not represented the sentiments of the Panth".

A statement issued by the Akal Takht on Monday, however, did not mention the SAD president's name. Nor did it name the leaders who made the allegations against him.

"According to a complaint received by Sri Akal Takht Sahib from some senior leaders of the Shiromani Akali Dal, the President of the Shiromani Akali Dal has not represented the sentiments of the Panth. Therefore, the President of the Shiromani Akali Dal has been asked to personally appear at Sri Akal Takht Sahib and provide a written explanation of the charges within fifteen days. Additionally, clarification has been sought from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee regarding allegations made by some Akali leaders about spending 9 million on advertisements," read the statement. After the party's humiliating defeat in the Parliament elections,

After weeks of languishing at a 4-year low, lake levels in Mumbai surpass 2023 levels



GNS News Agency, July 19

However, even with the lake levels replenishing, civic officials have maintained that the 10 per cent water supply cut, which the city is currently experiencing, will stay. However, even with the lake levels replenishing, civic officials have maintained that the 10 per cent water supply cut, which the city is currently experiencing, will stay. After reeling under a four-year low over the past month, the stock in the seven lakes supplying water to Mumbai finally surpassed last year's levels, with the lake levels soaring to 35.11 per cent — 5.08 lakh million litres — on Monday morning. Making it the highest one-day jump recorded in the season so far, the lake levels have witnessed a spike of nearly 6 per cent since Sunday, when the stock remained at 29.72 per cent.

While the levels rose to 35 per cent on Monday, last year, on the same day, the lake levels stood at 31.16 per cent of the total capacity. While in 2022, the water stock

in the best interest of both the Petitioner and the unborn foetus. For the reasons recorded above, the writ petition is allowed." The woman approached the HC after her fifth ultrasound scan conducted on July 4, which detected an abnormality of 'Mild Hydrocephalus' (buildup of fluid in cavities in the brain) in the foetus.

The examining doctor referred her to another Diagnostic Centre to verify the findings. On the same day, she went for a sixth ultrasound scan at a different diagnostic centre, wherein it was found that there was a single intrauterine pregnancy of 32 weeks 2 days with "Mild IUGR (Intrauterine growth restriction)", and the foetal head showed "dilatation of bilateral lateral ventricles". A seventh ultrasound was conducted on July 5 wherein 'Non-Communicating Mild Hydrocephalus' was seen in the foetus. On July 8, her gynaecologist advised her to seek legal remedies for termination of pregnancy. She subsequently approached the HC seeking medical termination of pregnancy after different diagnostic centre reports had indicated the "abnormality of Ventriculomegaly".

On July 11, Justice Narula directed the medical board of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to examine the petitioner and submit their medical opinion on her request for termination of pregnancy. AIIMS medical board in its report of July 12 stated its findings and thereafter said, "In view of the ultrasound findings there is a risk of neurological and intellectual disability in the newborn."

The HC also took note of the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 2017 guidelines for late-term termination of pregnancy referred to by a court of law. The HC then said, "Thus, having regard to the aforementioned provisions and the clear and explicit medical report which suggests substantial foetal abnormalities, the Court is inclined to accept Petitioner's request. Moreover, given the scheme of the MTP Act, particularly of Section 3(3), in arriving at the ultimate decision in such cases, the Court must also recognise and give due weightage to the choice of the mother and her foreseeable environment, as well as the possibility of a dignified life for the unborn child." The doctors from AIIMS medical board also stated that they had counselled the woman and her husband and explained to them the procedure and the risks involved in such late-term termination. The HC has also interacted with the petitioner and she "confirmed that this is her own personal decision and after receiving a medical opinion from AIIMS, she is inclined to terminate her pregnancy". The court said after that that the petitioner is permitted to undergo medical termination of pregnancy at a medical facility of her choice, and that the possible complications of termination at this stage have been explained to her. "She has to take the final decision to undergo the procedure of medical termination of pregnancy, which would be at her own risk and consequences," the order adds.



several rebel SAD leaders appeared before the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, in Amritsar on July 1 and made serious allegations against Badal.

The rebel group sought forgiveness for several incidents that led to "people's disillusionment with the party when it was in power in Punjab from 2007 to 2017". The rebel group also submitted a letter to Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh blaming the SAD president for decisions that had allegedly harmed the party. Among the issues mentioned by the rebels are the pardoning of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim for wearing attire similar to that worn by Guru Gobind Singh, the 2015 Sri Guru Granth Sahib sacrilege issue, the 2015 Behbal Kalan firing, and the appointments of police officers.

SC to consider setting up bench to hear pleas against passage of laws as money bills



GNS News Agency, July 19

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider a submission for setting up a constitution bench to hear pleas challenging the validity of passage of laws like the Aadhaar Act as money bills allegedly to bypass the Rajya Sabha. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was urged by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who also heads the Supreme Court Bar Association, that the pleadings are complete and the petitions needed to be listed for hearing. "I will take the call when I form the constitution benches," the CJI said.

Earlier, the top court had said it would constitute a seven-judge bench to consider the issue of validity of passage of laws like the Aadhaar Act as a money bill. The decision was aimed at addressing the controversy around money bills after the government introduced legislations like the Aadhaar Act and even amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as money bills, apparently to circumvent the Rajya Sabha where it did not have a majority then. A money bill is a piece of legislation which can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject it. The Upper House can only make recommendations which may or may not be accepted by the Lower House.

Senior citizen killed at home in Goa, camera records screams; kin say 'mised' by murderer



GNS News Agency, July 19

Senior citizen killed, Goa senior citizen killing, North Goa, Candolim, Goa police, Canadian passport, Orda Waddo, Indian express news The police recovered an audio recording from a camera in the vicinity of house in which the "victim's screams" could allegedly be heard for over 3 minutes A 68-year-old man was found murdered at his house in North Goa's Candolim early Sunday morning. The police identified the victim as Arnaldo Joseph Soares, a native of Goa who held a Canadian passport and had been living in the state for the last eight years at Orda Waddo. According to the police, an unidentified man trespassed into Soares's house from the roof and murdered him after an alleged confrontation around 2.30 am. The motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained, said the police, adding that they are probing the crime from all angles, including a property-related dispute. Three relatives of the victim were in another section of the house at the time of the incident, said the police. The relatives — two women and a man — told the police that they heard some commotion in Soares's room and knocked on his door to check, but he "reassured them that everything was fine". "According to the relatives, they assumed that a friend was visiting Soares and there was no reason for alarm. They claim someone from inside the room said 'everything is fine'," said a police officer. The police recovered an audio recording from a camera in the vicinity of house in which the "victim's screams" could allegedly be heard for over 3 minutes. Some tiles on the roof of house were found removed, suggesting that the accused entered from the roof and came down using a rope, the police said. The victim had injuries on his head and face, inflicted with a sharp object, police said. "Blood marks have been found on a glass. The accused escaped in the victim's car, which was found abandoned near a helipad some kilometres away," said a police officer. Around noon on Sunday, when there was no response from the victim's room, a relative called his niece to check. She found his body, said the police, adding that the murder was reported at 1.58 pm. The police said a case of murder has been registered at Calangute police station. "There was an ongoing dispute in the family over property. The victim was unmarried," the police officer said. In a statement, SP, North Goa, Akshat Kaushal said, "A case under sections 332 (b), 309 (6), 103 of BNS, 2023 has been registered."

FABA innovation summit between August 3 and 18

GNS News Agency, July 19

Hyderabad: The Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) along with Science Gurus and University of Hyderabad (UoH) are organizing Innovation Summit 2024, dedicated to spotlighting pioneering advancements in life sciences and biotechnology between August 3 and 18, 2024. The centerpiece of the FAMA event will be the distinguished Dr. Yellapragada Subbarao Awards, instituted to honour remarkable achievements in various fields. The summit features a two-week virtual intensive workshop on "Drug Discovery & Development" between August 3 and 16.

Adani-Hindenburg row: SC dismisses plea seeking review of its Jan 3 verdict



GNS News Agency, July 19

adani hindenburgA bench comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra dismissed the review plea filed by one of the PIL petitioners, Anamika Jaiswal, against the January 3 verdict. The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea seeking review of its January 3 verdict by which it ordered to transfer the probe into allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani Group to a special investigation team or the CBI. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra dismissed the review plea filed by one of the PIL petitioners, Anamika Jaiswal, against the January 3 verdict. "Having perused the review petition, there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013. The review petition is, therefore, dismissed," the bench said in its order of May 5. The review petition was considered by the judges in chamber.

In a significant win for the Adani Group, the top court, on January 3, declined to order a CBI or SIT probe. In its judgment, the apex court had said market regulator SEBI was conducting a "comprehensive investigation" into the allegations and its conduct "inspires confidence".

The review petition had claimed there were "mistakes and errors" in the judgment, and in light of certain new material that had been received by the counsel for the petitioner, there were sufficient reasons for a review of the verdict. The plea had said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had in its report only updated the court about the status of the 24 investigations it undertook following the allegations, whether they were complete or incomplete, but did not disclose any findings or details of action taken. In its verdict, the apex court noted that SEBI has completed its investigation in 22 out of the 24 matters where allegations had been levelled against the Adani Group. "There are apparent errors on the face of the impugned order dated January 3, 2024, wherein this court rejected the petitioner's prayer to constitute a court-monitored SIT into the massive fraud involving market manipulation through offshore entities owned by promoters of Adani Group. Hence, the impugned judgment is liable to be reviewed," the plea had said. Earlier, the apex court's verdict had come on a batch of petitions on the Adani-Hindenburg Research row over allegations of stock price manipulation by the Indian business conglomerate. The Adani Group stocks suffered a bloodbath on the bourses after Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including those about fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, against it. The Adani Group had dismissed the charges as lies, asserting it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

Vikram Misri takes charge as new foreign secretary

GNS News Agency, July 19

Seasoned diplomat Vikram Misri, regarded as an expert on China, assumed charge as India's new foreign secretary on Monday. A 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Misri succeeded Vinay Kwatra. Misri assumed charge of the key position at a time India is looking to navigate various foreign policy challenges, including its frosty ties with China following the lingering eastern Ladakh border row.

"Shri Vikram Misri assumed charge as Foreign Secretary today. #TeamMEA extends a warm welcome to Foreign Secretary Misri and wishes him a successful tenure ahead," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X. Misri was serving as the deputy national security advisor in his previous assignment. He has the rare distinction of serving as private secretary to three prime ministers — Inder Kumar Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi. Before he was appointed as the deputy NSA, Misri served as India's ambassador to China from 2019-2021. Misri is believed to have played a key role in talks between India and China after tensions flared significantly following the Galwan Valley clashes



in June 2020. The ties between the two countries nosedived following a fierce clash in the Galwan Valley that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. In his illustrious career, Misri also served as India's ambassador to Spain (2014-2016) and Myanmar (2016-2018) besides having stints in many Indian missions, including Pakistan, the US, Germany, Belgium and Sri Lanka.

A gaming app loss, a WhatsApp message from Pakistan, and heartbreak for J&K family who lost son



GNS News Agency, July 19

When 50-year-old Subash Sharma on Friday activated a duplicate of his missing son's SIM card, he got a heartbreaking message from an unexpected location. Harsh Nagotra, in his early 20s, had gone missing on June 11 from his hometown of Jaurian in Jammu. On Friday, his father Subash saw several WhatsApp messages that had been sent continuously for four days on Harsh's number from an unknown sender in Pakistan. The messages said Harsh's body had been found in a canal across the border, and that it had been buried there. Police suspect that he died after jumping into the river Chenab. Subash now seeks the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring his son's remains back home.

"We appeal to our PM to help us in getting back the body of our son for last rites as per our religion," said Subash, who works as a daily wage in the Public Works Department. Subash now seeks the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring his son's remains back home. Subash now seeks the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring his son's remains back home. Harsh had been working with a telecom firm in the nearby Khour area since last December after completing his BSc.

Police investigating his disappearance suspect that he died by suicide by jumping into the Chenab after suffering losses of Rs 80,000 in an online gaming application, sources said.

Subash said the family had already written to the Ministry of External Affairs, the Home Minister and the Prime Minister's Office regarding the matter. BJP MP Jugal Kishore Sharma will take the matter up at senior level at the Centre on Monday, Subash said. The family has also appealed to authorities in Pakistan to make arrangements to send Harsh's body back home. Harsh is the eldest of Subash's two sons. On June 11 morning, he left for office and did not return, Subash recalled. "At around 7.45 pm, I rang his mobile phone, but it was switched off," the grieving father said. "When he did not return home by 9 pm, we started contacting his colleagues, only to be told that he had left office after marking his attendance in the morning itself," he said.

The family searched for him throughout the night, and found his motorcycle abandoned at Gurah Manhasa area. On the morning of June 12, they lodged a missing person's report at the Khour police station. After weeks of finding no clue regarding his son's disappearance, Subash decided to get a duplicate of Harsh's SIM card issued. It was when the SIM got activated on Friday that the family discovered it had been getting constant messages and calls from a number in Pakistan. The messages informing of Harsh's death also included photos of the ID card found on his body. Subash said he called the number and the man at the other end identified himself as an official of the "post-mortem department" in Pakistan. "He told us that Harsh's body was recovered on that side of the border on June 13. He had been making frequent calls and sending WhatsApp messages on the number mentioned in Harsh's ID card to inform us about his death. But the number was not working at that time," Subash said.

SC issues notice on NTA's fresh batch of transfer pleas on NEET-UG

GNS News Agency, July 19

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice on a fresh batch of petitions filed by the National Testing Agency (NTA), seeking the transfer of pleas pending before the Rajasthan High Court related to the alleged NEET-UG paper leak, to the apex court. A Bench presided over by CJI DY Chandrachud ordered tagging of NTA's transfer plea with the main batch of petitions, including pleas seeking cancellation of the NEET-UG exam, coming up for hearing on July 18. The Bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, refused to pass a formal order staying the proceedings pending before the Rajasthan HC. "High Court generally does not proceed once we issue notice," it told the counsel representing NTA, who pressed for a stay order on proceedings pending before the high court. Earlier on

June 20, the top court had stayed the proceedings pending before various high courts of the country pertaining to the alleged NEET-UG paper leak and had allowed the withdrawal of other transfer petitions filed by NTA seeking transfer of writ petitions pending before various high courts pertaining to the award of compensatory marks in view of its earlier order. In an order passed on June 13, the Supreme Court decided to close the issue relating to the grant of grace marks in the NEET (UG) exam after NTA submitted that scorecards of 1,563 candidates, who were awarded compensatory marks on account of the loss of time, had been withdrawn and cancelled. These candidates were given an option to appear in a re-test to be held on June 23 or to appear in counselling on the basis of actual marks obtained in the exam without normalisation.

Bihar govt seeks MSP for makhana, flags 'bad shape' of research centre



GNS News Agency, July 19

The Bihar government has urged the Centre to declare the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for makhana, an aquatic crop cultivated across 10 districts in the state. The Indian Express has learnt. The state has also flagged "lack" of manpower at the Darbhanga-based Indian Council of Agricultural Research — National Research Centre (ICAR-NRC) for Makhana and told the Centre it was in "bad shape".

Chouhan is learnt to have assured Pandey that he would "look into" the MSP demand. He also directed officials to ensure the Makhana Centre in Darbhanga is made "fully functional" and the shifting of its administrative headquarters from Ludhiana to Patna be "explored urgently."

About 85 per cent of the country's makhana production comes from Bihar, where about 10 lakh people are directly or indirectly involved in its cultivation and production process. Most of the farmers who cultivate the GI-tagged makhana — in Darbhanga, Saharsa, Madhepura, Supaul, Purnia, Katihar, Araria, Kishanganj, Madhubani and Sitamarhi districts of the state — come from poor backgrounds. Bihar's MSP demand is significant as it

comes as state Assembly polls are due next year. In the recent Lok Sabha elections in Bihar, the NDA, of which Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JDU is a part, won 31 of the 40 seats but its vote share dipped significantly.

With 12 MPs, the JDU's significance in the NDA has grown after the BJP fell short of a majority of its own in the recent Lok Sabha polls. On the ICAR-NRC for Makhana in Darbhanga, Pandey is learnt to have told the Union Agriculture Minister that it needed to be "upgraded" and its "administrative headquarters" changed to Patna. He particularly raised the issue of lack of manpower. According to sources, the Darbhanga-based ICAR-NRC for Makhana has only 10 employees against a sanctioned strength of 42. There's no administrative staff and a full-time director was never appointed, they added.

According to the Agriculture Ministry, the ICAR-NRC for Makhana, Darbhanga, was sanctioned by the Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Government of India, as a new scheme during the IX Five Year Plan period (1997-2002) for Conservation, Research & Development of the makhana crop. It started functioning from February 2002. However, in 2005, the NRC for Makhana was merged and brought under the administrative control of ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region (RCER), Patna. With this move, the "national" tag of the NRC for Makhana was revoked. In May 2023, the Central government restored the status of Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga to "National Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga" and added other aquatic crops including fish in its mandate. However, the NRC for Makhana was transferred under the administrative control of the ICAR's Agricultural Engineering Division and attached to the Ludhiana-based ICAR-Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology.

Muslim board to explore ways to overturn Supreme Court's alimony verdict

GNS News Agency, July 19

Muslim board to explore ways to overturn SC alimony verdict. Passes resolution for implementation of Places of Worship Act, Palestine issue. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) on Sunday adopted a resolution stating that the recent Supreme Court judgment on maintenance of Muslim divorcee women was "against the Islamic law (Shariah)". The board also authorised its president to initiate all possible measures to ensure that this decision is "rolled back".

Earlier on Wednesday, the top court had ruled that a Muslim woman, illegally divorced by pronouncement of "triple talaq", can seek maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC and said the "religion neutral" provision is applicable to all married women "irrespective of her personal law". Discussing the issue during a meeting in Delhi on Sunday, the AIMPLB working committee emphasised that the "Holy Prophet had mentioned that amongst all possible deeds the most abhorred is divorce in the sight of Allah, hence it is desirable to continue the marriage by applying all permissible measures to safeguard it...".

"However, if married life becomes difficult to maintain, then divorce was prescribed as a solution to mankind," said the board in a statement, adding "This judgment will create further problems to these women who have successfully come out of their painful relationship." The board asserted that it doesn't augur well "with human reasoning that the man is held responsible to maintain his ex-wives when the marriage itself is non-existent".

The board authorised its president Hazrat Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani "to initiate all possible measures (legal, constitutional and democratic) to ensure that this decision by the Supreme Court is rolled back". The board has also decided to speak to the central government and the Opposition on this matter, AIMPLB spokesperson Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas told.

Apart from the alimony issue, the AIMPLB adopted five more resolutions, including one against the UCC. On UCC, Ilyas said, "The (AIMPLB) legal team has drafted a petition and it will be filed in Uttarakhand HC later this



month." According to the board statement, the results of the recent Lok Sabha elections were an "indication" that people have expressed their "deep resentment towards the agenda based on hatred and malice". Discussing the issue, the board said: "The government continues to fail in its obligations to provide security to the deprived and the marginalised Muslims and lower castes citizens of India... if the rule of law continues to be toyed with... the country will face anarchy." Ilyas said there is a concern also because no one from the Opposition has raised the issue or met the family of the victims.

In another resolution, the board stressed on the implementation of the Places of Worship Act. The statement said: "It is a matter of great concern as to how the lower courts are entertaining the new disputes related to Gyanvapi Masjid and Shahi Eidgah of Mathura." The board observed that the "Supreme Court while pronouncing its Babri judgment had clearly stated that the Places of Worship Act, 1991 has now closed all such doors". "Unfortunately it... is now not allowing Muslim side to even appeal in Mathura and Kashi cases. The board expects that the Supreme Court will put an end to all new disputes," it said. In a resolution on the Palestine issue, the board reminded that "India has always had a principle stand and stood by Palestinians right" and demanded the government "cease all military aid to Israel and joint military exercise". The board also demanded the Centre and state government vacate "illegally encroached" Waqf properties.

E-notice from govt office? MHA cyber wing says check Internet, call department

GNS News Agency, July 19

MHA The MHA and I4C ad issued on Sunday said such suspicious emails and other types of cyber frauds should be reported immediately to www.cybercrime.gov.in or call the cyber crime helpline no 1930. On receiving a suspicious e-notice from a government office on the email, people should check the Internet to authenticate the name of the official named in it and call the mentioned department, the Union home ministry's cyber crime unit said on Sunday. Users should be aware of "fake emails" sent in the garb of a government e-notice, said the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) in a public advertisement.

This could be a con that can make people "a victim of cyber fraud", the ad cautioned. The I4C suggested counter-measures before clicking or responding to such emails: check if the email has originated from an authentic government website that ends with "gov.in"; check the internet for information regarding officials named in the email; and call the mentioned department to verify the email received.

Early this month, the Union finance ministry had issued a public advisory alerting email users about fraudulent e-mails bearing names, signatures, stamps and logos of Delhi Police Cyber Crime and Economic Offence, Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), the Intelligence Bureau and Cyber Cell of Delhi.

A letter attached to these emails, as per the advisory issued on July 4, made allegations of child pornography, pedophilia, cyber pornography, sexually explicit exhibit etc. against the receivers of the said e-mails. The fraudsters, it said, use different e-mail addresses for sending such fake e-mails with attachment. "Receiver of any such email should be aware about this fraudulent attempt. It is informed to the general public that any such e-mails with the attachment should not be responded to and such cases may be reported to the nearest police station/cyber police station," it said.



Users should be aware of "fake emails" sent in the garb of a government e-notice, said the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) in a public advertisement.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), an organisation under the ministry of home affairs (MHA) to deal with cyber crimes in a comprehensive manner, had issued a similar advisory in August last year cautioning users against such counterfeit emails impersonating the name of its CEO bearing subject titles like 'urgent notification' and 'court notification'. "These misleading emails are targeted to various government offices, individuals and falsely accuse them of cyber crimes, urging them to respond," it said.

The logos of I4C, IB and Delhi Police used in these emails are "intentionally fake, deceptive and created with malicious motives," it said.

Several officers in the national capital's Central Secretariat received such suspicious emails last week which were falsely stated to have been issued by a person working at "MEA Messaging Team NIC High Commission of India." The MHA and I4C ad issued on Sunday said such suspicious emails and other types of cyber frauds should be reported immediately to http://www.cybercrime.gov.in or call the cyber crime helpline no 1930.

Free breakfast scheme extended to government-aided schools in Tamil Nadu



GNS News Agency, July 19

Considering the scheme's popularity, Chief Minister MK Stalin decided to extend it to government primary schools across Tamil Nadu and now to government-aided schools as well. After the announcement, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) supremo Stalin shared a meal with students at St. Anne's School. While speaking at the event, Stalin took a dig at the Centre over NEET paper leak and the National Education Policy (NEP).

"The Dravidian Model Government and I personally want to remove all hurdles that are in the way of Tamil Nadu students' education, be it hunger, NEET, or the Union Government's New Education Policy. Our primary goal is to remove such hurdles," Stalin said. "I was questioned when I opposed NEET. But now even the Supreme Court is asking questions considering the way the NEET exam is being conducted. Students are protesting, and several chief ministers and national leaders don't want NEET. The whole of India is opposing NEET, following in the footsteps of Tamil Nadu," he added. "The Center is speaking about the emergency in Parliament for political reasons. But what we are asking them is, Are they ready to move back education from the concurrent list, which was done during the emergency, back to the state list?" the Tamil Nadu chief minister questioned. MK Stalin also asked students to concentrate on their studies, saying that was the only wealth that couldn't be stolen. The DMK chief further vowed that political and legal protests against NEET and NEP would continue.

Over 2 lakh students from 3,995 government-aided primary schools in the state will benefit after the announcement of the breakfast scheme. Children studying at government-aided schools in Tamil Nadu will now be getting the benefits of the state's Morning Breakfast Scheme.

On the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister K Kamaraj on July 15, incumbent MK Stalin on Monday announced the extension of the Morning Breakfast Scheme to government-aided schools in the state. The scheme will provide breakfast for students for free. A total of 2,33,536 students from 3,995 government-aided primary schools in the state will benefit after the announcement. The scheme for government primary school students was launched on September 15, 2022, benefiting some 1.14 lakh students from 1,545 schools, as per official data.

Uddhav Thackeray 'betrayed', want to see him as Chief Minister: Jyotirmath Seer

GNS News Agency, July 19

Swami Avimukteshwarananda, the 46th Shankaracharya of Jyotirmath, said his "pain won't be relieved" until Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray becomes the chief minister of Maharashtra again. Talking to the media after visiting Uddhav Thackeray's residence 'Matoshree' in Mumbai on Monday, he said, "We are followers of the Hindu religion and believe in paap (sin) and punya (holy deeds). The biggest sin is betrayal. Uddhav Thackeray has been deceived."

"I told him (Uddhav Thackeray) that all of us were pained by the betrayal he had to face. Our pain will not be relieved until he becomes the chief minister of Maharashtra again," the Shankaracharya said. "A person who commits deceit cannot be a Hindu... The people of Maharashtra are pained by the betrayal, and it was also evident after the election results," he said. "This is also a disrespect to the people who choose their leader. It is wrong to break a government in between its tenure and insult the public mandate," the Shankaracharya added.

Notably, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, along with over 40 Shiv Sena MLAs, had rebelled against their chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and brought down the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, which included the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress as well. Shinde joined hands with the BJP and



became the new Chief Minister. The Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena also got the Bow and Arrow symbol from the Election Commission. On being asked about his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the wedding of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant, the Shankaracharya said, "He came to me and did a pranaam. It is a rule that we have to bless whoever comes to us, and so I blessed him. Narendra Modi is not our enemy. We are his well-wishers and always speak for his welfare. If he makes a mistake, then we also point that out to him." Notably, Swami Avimukteshwarananda attended the wedding of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant in Mumbai on July 12 along with Shankaracharya of Dwarka Peeth Swami Sadananda Saraswati.

Actor Rakul Preet Singh's brother Aman arrested by Hyderabad Police in drugs case

GNS News Agency, July 19

Rakul Preet Singh's brother Aman, along with 4 others were arrested after Hyderabad Police busted a drug racket and found their names on the customer's list. Bollywood actor Rakul Preet Singh's brother Aman Preet Singh and 4 others were arrested by Hyderabad Police on Monday in connection with an alleged drugs case, officials said.

Aman along with the other accused were arrested earlier in the day after Telangana Anti-Narcotics Department found that 2.6 kgs of cocaine was being brought to Hyderabad for sale. The police team busted the drug racket and identified 30 customers of the contraband, which included Aman Preet Singh. All five accused, identified as Aman Preet Singh, Aniket Reddy, Prasad, Madhusudhan and Nikhil Daman, are currently in police custody and will be produced in court after medical examination.

"As consumers, we picked up five people and brought them to the police station. In the urine test kit, all of them were found positive. They have been taken into custody. We are now sending them for detailed medical examination," Srinivas, DCP, Cyberabad Police, Rajendra Nagar Zone said. Notably, even Rakul Preet Singh has been summoned by the Enforcement Direc-



torate in connection with a drug trafficking and consumption case in 2022 and 2021. Her statement was recorded by the probe agency in this connection last year too. Apart from Rakul, Rana Daggubati, Charmme Kaur, Navdeep, Ravi Teja and Puri Jagannadh were also called for questioning in the drug case.

The ED has been investigating a drug trafficking and consumption case for the past four years. This probe began following the 2017 bust of a high-end drug cartel by Telangana's Prohibition and Excise Department. The cartel was supplying LSD, MDMA, and other narcotics.

BJP leader schools Trudeau over 'Punjabi singer' reference for Diljit Dosanjh



Sirsa corrected Trudeau, and said, "Let me correct this, Mr. Prime Minister- where one guy from INDIA can make history and sell out stadiums."

GNS News Agency, July 19

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau referred to Diljit Dosanjh as a 'Punjabi singer' instead of an 'Indian singer' in a social media post. It invited criticism from many. BJP National Secretary Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday slammed Canadian Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau, who referred to Diljit Dosanjh as a 'Punjabi singer' instead of an 'Indian singer' in a social media post. He called it 'deliberate mischief through wordplay'. Trudeau made a surprise appearance at Diljit's concert venue in Toronto. Sharing a photo of Trudeau and Diljit, the Canadian PM wrote on X, "Stopped by the Rogers Centre to wish Diljit Dosanjh good luck before his show. Canada is a great country — one where a guy from Punjab can make history and sell out stadiums. Diversity isn't just our strength. It's a superpower. (sic) Sirsa corrected Trudeau, and said, "Let me correct this, Mr. Prime Minister- where one guy from INDIA can make history and sell out stadiums."

He added, "your gesture of lauding a fantastic artist like Diljit has been totally overshadowed by your deliberate mischief through wordplay." Diljit, in a post on X, too said, "Diversity is Canada's strength".

"Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came to check out history in the making: we sold out the Rogers Centre!" he wrote, also sharing a video of their meeting. The relations between India and Canada have been strained after Trudeau's allegation of India's involvement in the murder of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, followed by subsequent accusations by New Delhi of the North American country providing a safe haven for Khalistani terrorists.

IAS officer-turned-actor on 'faking' disability: Facing flak for backing reservation



GNS News Agency, July 19

Abhishek Singh, a bureaucrat-turned-actor, responded to allegations against him for forging a disability certificate for selection into the Union Public Service Commission. The ongoing probe against IAS probationary Puja Khedkar for allegedly forging disability certificates has cast a shadow on the selection process for civil services. On social media, some bureaucrats are being called out for wrongly using disability certificates to secure a position in the service.

Abhishek Singh, a bureaucrat-turned-actor, responded to allegations against him for using a disability certificate for selection into the Union Public Service Commission.

Singh, a 2011-batch IAS officer, resigned last year to become an actor. His videos on social media, where he is seen dancing and exercising, became a topic of contention as he claimed to have a locomotor disability to allegedly avail concessions in the UPSC selection process. In a long social media post, Abhishek Singh said, "Ever since I started raising my voice in favour of reservation, the entire army of anti-reservationists has left everything and opened a front against me. They are not able to

digest the fact how that can a boy from the general category speak in favour of reservation."

Abhishek Singh said he will soon begin a movement to demand reservation in accordance with the population by removing the 50 per cent ceiling on reservation. "Those who oppose reservation, who are troubled by this, and are proud of their talent, I will say that if you have so much talent, then stop making inroads into government jobs and come to the open field and do business, become an industrialist, become a player, become an actor. No one is asking for your seat there. There is no reservation there," he added. Abhishek Singh also rejected claims that he was helped during selection as his father was an IPS officer.

"My father comes from a very poor background. He became a PPS officer and was then promoted to IPS. My younger sister and brother also prepared for UPSC but could not get selected. Apart from this, seven of my cousins also tried for (UPSC) and are still trying, but so far no one has been selected. I am the only one in my entire family who got selected in the IAS," he said. Abhishek Singh, who quit the civil services last year, has featured in some music videos alongside actors such as Sunny Leone and Adah Sharma. His social media profile features several pictures of him with celebrities and politicians. Even before he quit civil services, Singh used to feature in music videos.

In February 2023, the Uttar Pradesh government suspended Abhishek Singh, who was then attached with the revenue department, for having gone on leave without any official sanction. In November 2022, Abhishek Singh was "relieved" from his post of General Observer during the Gujarat Assembly election. This came after the Election Commission took objection to him posing with his official vehicle and posting the pictures on social media.

Archaeological panel's report on Bhojshala complex hints at its temple origins

GNS News Agency, July 19

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Monday submitted before the Madhya Pradesh High Court its scientific survey report on the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula mosque complex. The report, accessed by India Today TV, shows the discovery of several historical artefacts which hint at the disputed complex's temple status.

The report states that during the survey, a total of 31 coins made of silver, copper, aluminum, and steel were found, dating back to various periods. These coins belong to the Indo-Sassanian (10th-11th century), Delhi Sultanate (13th-14th century), Malwa Sultanate (15th-16th century), Mughal (16th-18th century), Dhar State (19th century), and British (19th-20th century). The survey also uncovered a total of 94 sculptures, fragments of sculptures, and architectural elements. These sculptures are made of basalt, marble, schist, soft stone, sandstone, and limestone. They depict figures of deities such as Ganesh, Brahma, Narasimha, Bhairava, other gods and goddesses, humans, and animals. The animal figures include lions, elephants, horses, dogs, monkeys, snakes, turtles, swans, and birds. Mythical figures include various forms of kirtimukha (glorious faces) and vyalas (composite creatures). Many images of humans and animals have been defaced or carved away, especially in areas where mosques now stand, the report states.

Several pieces found in the current structure feature Sanskrit and Prakrit inscriptions, indicating literary and educational activities. One inscription mentions King Naravarman (who ruled between 1094-1133 AD) of the Paramara dynasty. Other inscriptions refer to Khalji ruler Mahmud Shah, who converted a temple into a



mosque. The ASI report suggests that Bhojshala was once a significant educational center, established by King Bhoj. The recovered artifacts indicate that the current structure was built using parts of earlier temples. THE BHOJSHALA COMPLEX DISPUTE The Hindu community considers Bhojshala, a 11th-century monument, as a temple of Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati), while the Muslim side calls it Kamal Maula mosque. For the last 21 years, Hindus are allowed to worship in the Bhojshala on Tuesdays, while Muslims are allowed to offer namaz at the place on Fridays. The Hindu Front for Justice, the petitioner in the case, challenged this arrangement before the High Court. On March 11, the High Court ordered the ASI to conduct a scientific survey of the complex on an application by 'Hindu Front for Justice'. The ASI was given six weeks to complete the survey. The ASI began surveying the disputed complex on March 22 which ended recently. On July 4, the High Court ordered the ASI to present by July 15 the complete report of the nearly three-month-long survey on the premises of the disputed monument.

Don't refer cases of Hindus, Sikhs, Christians to Foreigner Tribunals, urge them to apply under CAA: Assam govt to border police

GNS News Agency, July 19

The Assam government has instructed the state's border police not to directly refer citizenship cases of "Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian" people, who entered India before the end of 2014, to Foreigners Tribunals. Instead, the border police have been told to encourage them to apply for citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). The CAA, which had incited protests in several parts of the country including Assam's Brahmaputra Valley, but was welcomed in the state's primarily Bengali-speaking Barak Valley, was finally set in motion with the notification of rules for its implementation in March this year.

The CAA enables the fast-tracking of the citizenship process for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who entered India before December 31, 2014. However, Assam, which shares a long border with Bangladesh and where the question of "illegal immigration" from the neighbouring country has long been a contentious issue, has different processes for declaring people who entered the state after March 24, 1971 — the cut-off date for citizenship as determined by the Assam Accord — as "foreigners" and "illegal immigrants". Among these are trials by Foreigners Tribunals to determine whether suspected "illegal immigrants" referred to them by the border police are Indian nationals or foreigners.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Monday that only eight people from the state have applied for citizenship under the CAA's special provisions in the four months since the rules were notified. He went on to say that of these eight, only two have appeared for interviews as part of the process. On July 5, the Home and Political Department of the Assam government wrote to the Special Director General of Police (Border) of the Assam police, stating that people eligible to apply for citizenship under the provisions of the CAA not be referred to Foreigners Tribunals and that a special registry of such people be maintained.

"...the border police may not forward cases of persons belonging to Hindu, Sikhs, Buddhist, Parsi, Jain and Christian communities who entered India prior to 31st December 2014 directly to Foreigners Tribunals. Such



persons may be advised to apply to the prescribed form on the [CAA] portal... for citizenship, which will be decided by the Government of India based on facts and circumstances of the case. A separate register may be maintained for this category of persons," states the communication by Partha Pratim Majumdar, Secretary to the Home and Political Department. The letter states that this "differential treatment" will not apply to people who entered Assam after December 31 2014, "irrespective of their religion". "Once detected, they should be straight away forwarded to the jurisdictional Foreigners Tribunal for further action," it said.

About the aim of the instruction, a government source said, "The new law is very clear that people of the specified communities, who entered before December 31, 2014, are eligible to apply and are not to be prosecuted. But many people will not even be aware of the provision and this direction basically allows for that sensitization."

The Foreigners Tribunals of Assam are quasi-judicial bodies which determine whether a person presented before them is a "foreigner" or an Indian citizen. The tribunals receive two kinds of cases — those referred to them by the border police when they suspect someone of being a foreigner, and those related to people listed as "Doubtful (D)" voters in electoral rolls. Speaking to the media on Monday, CM Sarma said, "Anybody who has come into India before 2015, they have the first right to apply for citizenship. If they do not apply, then we lodge a case against them. This is a statutory instruction."

Donald Trump rally shooter was rejected by rifle team at school, was a 'bad shot'



GNS News Agency, July 19

Donald Trump shooter, as per his school friend Jameson Myers, was a poor marksman at school. Speaking with ABC News, Myers stated that Thomas Crook tried to join the high school's rifle team but was rejected and asked not to come back after a "pre-season" session. 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks

A bullet echoed at an election rally as it grazed into former United States President Donald Trump's ear, bring-

ing the loud and cheering voices to a moment's silence. It was shot by 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks. Crooks, as per his school friend Jameson Myers, was a poor marksman at school. Speaking with ABC News, Myers stated that Crooks tried to join the high school's rifle team but was rejected and asked not to come back after a "pre-season" session. "He didn't just not make the team; he was asked not to come back because of how bad of a shot he was; it was considered dangerous," Myers said. While seeking anonymity, a member of the team told ABC News that there was a view that Crooks "wasn't really fit for the rifle team." However, the school district said that there was no record of Crooks being on the rifle team. The school district said Crooks "never appeared on a roster", reported ABC news. Notably, Crooks was part of a local shooting club called Clairton Sportsmen's Club.

"He also shot terrible," the team member was quoted as saying by ABC News in its report. Described as "quiet" and "very smart," Crooks was a loner. Myers, while describing Crooks, said that he was "more socially reserved" and someone who "didn't have a ton of friends." Estranged from "politics," Crooks was a fan of "Star Wars". Remembering Crooks as a friend, Myers stated, "He was a very nice, even sweet guy from what I knew." Crooks, armed with an AR-style rifle, fired from the rooftop of a building, about 140 meters from the stage where Donald Trump was speaking. He was able to graze the 79-year-old leader and was shot dead by Secret Service agents.

Ex-model linked to DiCaprio jailed over sex slaves, human trafficking

GNS News Agency, July 19

Former Brazilian model Kat Torres, who claimed to have dated actor Leonardo DiCaprio, has been sentenced to eight years in prison for human trafficking and keeping sex slaves. Torres, who acted as a wellness influencer, lured women, and exploited them as slaves. Former Brazilian model and wellness influencer Kat Torres, known for her glamorous lifestyle and association with celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio, has been sentenced to eight years in prison for human trafficking and sex-enslavement of multiple women. Two young Brazilian women had gone missing in 2022, who Torres had enslaved, prompting the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to launch a hunt. Kat Torres, who built a large following on social media in the US, used her online presence to lure victims into her web of exploitation, sexual, financial and mental, according to a BBC report. The former model, using her influence, also ran a cult-like society of vulnerable women in the US. Speaking to the BBC, Ana, one of the victims, said she was drawn to Torres because of her journey of overcoming adversity. "She [Torres] kind of resembled hope for me," said Ana, whose journey of hope turned into one of despair.

Ana was not among the two women who had gone missing, but proved instrumental in Torres' arrest in November 2023. She revealed how she was lured by Torres' rise to fame marked by her rags-to-riches story. "She was on the cover of magazines. She was seen with famous people such as Leonardo DiCaprio. Everything I saw seemed credible," Anan told the BBC. Ana, who had a violent childhood and an abusive relationship, made her join Torres as her live-in assistant in New York. Unknown of Torres' dark deeds, Ana soon found herself trapped in a situation where she was exploited and treated as a servant, deprived of basic comforts and freedoms. "Now, I see that she was using me as a slave," she had satisfaction in it," Ana revealed. Torres took to her social media channels to introduce her followers to her "witch clan".

"The wellness guru and self-proclaimed "witch" is accused of using manipulation and hypnosis to traffic young women," said a VICE report in November 2023. Similar accounts emerged from other victims who were coerced into working for Torres under false pretences, leading to a web of exploitation and abuse. Desirre, another victim who Torres had paid to fly into the US, was pressured into working at a local strip club, and eventually turned to commercial sex work. If she didn't meet the earning quotas set by Torres, she was not allowed to return to the house that night. "I ended up sleeping on the street several times because I couldn't reach that," Desirre told the BBC. The women were subjected to strict rules, financial exploitation, and psychological coercion, with some forced into illegal activities to meet Torres' demands. Torres' former New York roommate, Luzer



Twersky, revealed to the BBC that her Hollywood friends had introduced her to the hallucinogenic drug ayahuasca, which dramatically changed her. It was after she allegedly took the drug that she dived deep into spirituality. "That's when she kind of started going off the deep end," he said.

Twersky also suspected that she was involved in a sugar-baby arrangement, where she was financially supported by affluent and influential men who were also covering the rent for their shared apartment. "After discovering ayahuasca and sharing her healing journey online, she reinvented herself as a life coach and hypnotist, while reportedly spending time in a LA community that uses the hallucinogenic Amazonian tea as a sacrament," reported the VICE in 2023. Torres' scheme extended beyond Ana and Desirre, targeting more young women who were promised help in achieving their dreams but instead found themselves in a nightmare of manipulation and control. Over 20 women came forward with stories of being scammed or exploited by Torres, and they are still undergoing psychiatric therapy to recover from their experiences, reported the BBC. In a rare interview from a Brazilian prison in April, Torres vehemently denied the allegations against her, painting herself as a victim of falsehoods. Despite her protests, a Brazilian court sentenced her to prison for her crimes against Desirre, one of many victims who have come forward to share their harrowing experiences. Torres' association with film star Leonardo DiCaprio has been widely reported, although the extent of their relationship remains unclear.

In 2013, Torres mentioned that she had a pact with DiCaprio not to speak of their relationship, suggesting a secret pact. Then 24-year-old, Torres confirmed that she and DiCaprio had shared a house during his stay in France for the Cannes Film Festival in May 2013, Leeds-based online magazine Contactmusic reported. "I worry about what he will think about me talking to you. We have a pact that nothing can ever be said about our relationship. In Europe, it is different. People see us together in many places, so they do not need to ask us about anything. He doesn't like being photographed and barely goes out walking once people have realised it's him," Kat Torres earlier told AceShowbiz magazine.

Donald Trump on surviving assassination attempt: 'I'm supposed to be dead'

GNS News Agency, July 19

Calling it a "surreal experience," the 78-year-old Donald Trump told the New York Post that he felt that he had been saved "by luck or by God." US Republican candidate Donald Trump is seen with blood on his face surrounded by secret service agents as he is taken off the stage at a campaign event at Butler Farm Show Inc. in Butler, Pennsylvania.

US Republican candidate Donald Trump is seen with blood on his face surrounded by secret service agents as he is taken off the stage at a campaign event at Butler Farm Show Inc. in Butler, Pennsylvania, a day after the assassination attempt on him, former United States President Donald Trump, reflecting back on the incident, said that he was "supposed to be dead." Calling it a "surreal experience," the 78-year-old leader told the New York Post that he felt that he had been saved "by luck or by God." While on his way to deliver an address at Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention, Trump said, "I'm not supposed to be here; I'm supposed to be dead." "The most incredible thing was that I happened to not only turn [my head] but to turn at the exact right time and in just the right amount," he stated, adding that the bullet could have easily killed him. A spectator who attended the rally was killed, while two others were critically wounded.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has identified 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Pennsylvania as the "subject involved" in what it termed an attempted assassination. He was gunned down by Secret Service agents soon after he opened fire from the roof of a building about 140 meters from the stage. With a white



Calling it a "surreal experience," the 78-year-old Donald Trump told the New York Post that he felt that he had been saved "by luck or by God."

bandage covering his right ear, Trump stated that the doctors in the hospital called it a "miracle." The gunshot seems to not have deterred the Republican leader in the slightest, as soon after the incident, Trump raised his fist in the air and said, "Fight." "A lot of people say it's the most iconic photo they've ever seen," Trump said.

They're right, and I didn't die. Usually, you have to die to have an iconic picture," he added. Trump told the Post that he wanted to continue speaking following the shooting; however, Secret Service agents insisted on taking him to the hospital. "I just wanted to keep speaking, but I just got shot," he said. According to the New York Post, his aides did not allow any photographs of the former US President to be taken.

Indian-American Congressman introduces bill to help STEM graduates stay in US



GNS News Agency, July 19

Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar has introduced the 'Keep STEM Graduates in America Act' to allow foreign students to stay on in the US after graduation. The bill aims to simplify the H-1B visa process and increase available visas. This move will benefit millions of foreign students, particularly Indian students. Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar speaking to reporters in Washington. (Photo: Screenshot/ANI)

Shri Thanedar, an Indian-American Congressman, addressed the challenges faced by graduates in acquiring H-1B visas after graduation in the US. Shri Thanedar, an Indian-American Congressman from Michigan, has introduced a bill aimed at allowing foreign students to remain in the US after completing their studies. The bill - HR 9023, the Keep STEM Graduates in America Act - proposes changes to the H-1B visa process and increases the number of available visas each year, making it easier for graduates to stay on in the US. This will benefit lakhs of Indians and millions of foreign students. HR 9023 is a bill that encourages the growth of America's STEM pool.

The proposed act focuses on retaining STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) graduates by expanding the availability of H-1B visas and simplifying the application process. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump also pledged to give automatic Green Cards to foreign students who graduate from US colleges. In an 'All-In' podcast, Trump said the move was needed to prevent bright students from returning to their home countries like India and China, where they become multibillionaires.

Thanedar emphasised the significant contributions of foreign students in technology and science to overall

innovation and growth. He used his personal experience as an immigrant to highlight the importance of this legislation. "As an immigrant whose educational opportunities in the US shaped all the subsequent opportunities I received, I understand the importance of keeping our most gifted students in the country," he said, reported news agency ANI. The proposed act aims to keep STEM graduates in the US by increasing the number of H-1B visas and making the application process easier. "By expanding the availability of H-1B visas and making the process to obtain one more simple, we take an important and tangible step towards a future where those students with the most potential to innovate will innovate in the US," Thanedar added. Thanedar also addressed the challenges faced by graduates in acquiring H-1B visas after graduation. "Deadlines dictating a student's stay in the country are troublesome. That is precisely why I'm proposing a revision with respect to extensions," he said.

In recent years, Indian tech professionals have dominated the H-1B cap-subject visas, securing about 70% of the 85,000 visas available, including the 20,000 master's cap for advanced US degree holders. In 2022, Indians secured 77% of the 320,000 approved H-1B visas. This year, the USCIS anticipates around 350,000 applicants, a decrease attributed to new measures against fraud. In 2023, the US issued a record over 140,000 visas to Indian students. The rush is expected to be even more significant this year. "We appreciate @RepShriThanedar for introducing 'THE KEEP STEM GRADUATES IN AMERICA ACT' to keep #STEM educated #foreign #Indian #graduates in America #greencardbacklog #h1b #FIIDSUSA," FIIDS posted on X. "We applaud Congressman Thanedar for submitting this much-needed bill to retain foreign STEM graduates in the US by providing them an extension in Optional Practical Training. This will benefit lakhs of Indians and millions of foreign students. With this bill, they will have more time to find a job and more time before they get H-1B so that they can find appropriate opportunities to contribute to US technology and the economy," said Khanderao Kand, Chief of Policy and Strategy at FIIDS, reported ANI. Thanedar believes that every student deserves ample time to find employment and determine the best workspace for their talents. "This bill is just one of many that I support because they bring us closer to a more equitable world while creating a more robust economy to the benefit of Americans and Michiganders," he concluded.

Two Indian gangmasters arrested in Italy for enslaving Indians in farms

GNS News Agency, July 19

Two Indian gangmasters have been arrested on the charge of enslaving 33 farm labourers from India in Italy's Verona province. This comes weeks after Satnam Singh from Punjab was killed after he was dumped on the road by his employers as his arm got chopped off in an accident at a farm in Italy. Two Indian nationals have been arrested on the charge of enslaving 33 farm labourers from India in Italy's Verona province. This comes weeks after an Indian farmer, Satnam Singh, died after his arm got chopped off by a strawberry wrapping machine on the farm. Singh, who was working illegally on the farm, was dumped on the road by his employers. The Finance police have seized assets worth 475,000 euros of these two Indians, who own two agricultural sector companies with no workers on the books. They have allegedly been avoiding taxes as well, according to a report by news agency ANSA.

The two were arrested on July 13 and are being investigated for enslavement and labour exploitation, the agency report said. These modern forms of slavery were condemned when the farmer's employer "dumped" him like a "bag of rubbish near his home" along with his severed hand. Medical help had come late for Satnam Singh, who was bleeding profusely, and he died. Satnam Singh was just one of the thousands of Indians working illegally on farms in Italy, especially in the Pontine Marshes area. It was found that these workers are underpaid and exploited.

This incident led to protests in Italy on June 25 which asked for an end to slavery after Singh's death, AFP reported. Singh's death highlighted the brutal exploitation of undocumented migrants in Italy. According to Ministry of External Affairs data, in May 2024, there are over 2 lakh overseas Indians in Italy. The number of docu-



mented Indians in Italy is the highest in continental Europe, just after Germany. "He was thrown out like a dog. There is exploitation every day, we suffer it every day, it must end now," Gurmukh Singh, head of the Indian community in the Lazio region of central Italy, was quoted by AFP as saying. "We come here to work, not to die," he added.

Latina, where Singh was working, is infamous for exploiting migrant workers. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni condemned Singh's death as inhumane and barbaric. "These are inhumane acts that do not belong to the Italian people, and I hope that this barbarism will be harshly punished," Meloni said. Children held up colourful posters, reading "Justice for Satnam Singh" as the procession of Indian workers snaked through Latina, reports AFP. The lack of labour contracts deters employers from getting medical help for undocumented migrant workers, because they could get into legal troubles. "My boss said he couldn't take me to hospital because I didn't have a contract," Parambar Singh, whose eye was injured at work, told AFP. "Satnam died one day, I die every day. Because I too am a labour victim," said the 33-year-old Indian. He has been struggling to work since the accident 10 months ago.

Two Indian-origin MPs won in UK on pro-Gaza platform

GNS News Agency, July 19

Two Indian-origin candidates were among the five Independent MPs who got elected to the UK's House of Commons with the help of pro-Gaza outfits. Iqbal Mohamed and Shockat Adam were endorsed by Muslim Vote, an umbrella group of 24 Muslim outfits vocal about the Gaza war. Two Indian-origin MPs, Iqbal Mohamed and Shockat Adam, are among five Independent MPs who have won in the July 4 UK election. The Independent candidates gained the support of Muslim Vote, an alliance of 24 Muslim activist groups that has been vocal about the war in Gaza. The umbrella organisation drove Muslim votes away from the Labour Party and the Conservative Party to the pro-Gaza Independent candidates. This has led to the fear of rise in sectarian politics in Britain.

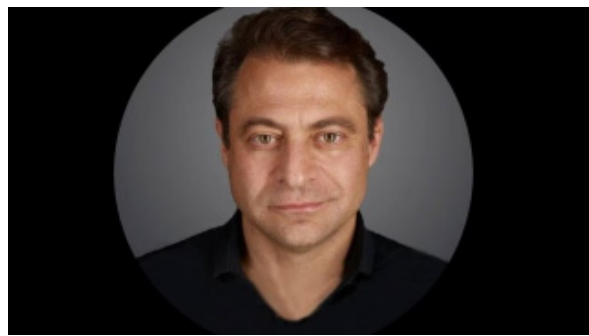
The election of five Independents is eye-catching because only eight Independent MPs have been elected to the House of Commons since 1950. Muslim Vote, the alliance of activists, has been critical of Labour's early stance on Gaza, as they did not back a ceasefire vote in the House of Commons in November 2023. Iqbal Mohamed, whose parents came to the UK from India in the 1960s, won the Dewsbury and Batley seat in Yorkshire in the UK. He won against the British-Pakistani Heather Iqbal. He had earlier decided to contest elections as a Labour candidate but decided against it when the party did not call for a ceasefire in Gaza. Shockat Adam won the Leicester South in a big setback for the Labour Party, that otherwise, won a historic mandate. Adam defeated Labour's shadow paymaster Jonathan Ashworth in a seat which had been won by Labour since 1987. He

was seen wearing a keffiyeh scarf and said it was for the people of Gaza as the election results came out. The other independently elected MPs are British-Pakistani Ayoub Khan and Adnan Hussain, and Jeremy Corbyn. Corbyn was the leader of the Labour Party before he was ousted from the party ahead of the polls in 2024.

A YouGov poll conducted before the election revealed how the Bangladeshi and Pakistani Britons said that the situation in Gaza was a top priority for them in deciding who they should vote for, as opposed to 5% of the whole population. Many in the Labour Party believed after the election results that the 'Gaza problem' would haunt it for years, reported The Times, UK.

Thangam Debbonaire, who lost her Bristol Central Seat, said that lack of a strong stance on Gaza would have consequences for the Labour Party. "For years, it has indulged in Muslim religious identity politics based on both domestic and foreign-policy grievances based on Palestine and Kashmir. They have shown pro-Gaza independents the way to go about electoral business in parts of cities such as London, Birmingham, and Leicester, as well as a string of northern industrial towns - from Blackburn in Lancashire to Dewsbury in Yorkshire. Now, they are getting a little taste of their own identitarian medicine," wrote Rakib Ehsan in the Daily Telegraph of the UK. In constituencies with more than 40% Muslims, the Labour vote suffered a setback of 33.9%. While some Labour MPs targeted by the Muslims lost their seats, others were able to barely win it. "The most significant result from Thursday may not have been the wipe-out of the Conservative Party.

'AI will become mechanism to dematerialise, demonetise & democratise health, education'



You have said India is better positioned than China. Can you elaborate on it?

I say this because China has an ageing population. It does not have a youthful and tech-led population. I think India has the potential to do this. China has got the complete infrastructure and it has got a very aggressive, permissive regulatory structure which is an advantage. I think of China as a single corporation and the companies are apps on this corporation, and they want them to succeed. India's government needs to have its own summit with entrepreneurs to hear loudly what they need to succeed because there is an incredible future for the nation if you can do that.

How do you see AI disrupting job scenarios?

We are going to see job disruptions and reinventions from two forces. One is AI, which is proving to be an extraordinary tool. Today it is good but when GPT-5 or Claude 4 comes out, these will be PhD level agents that you can have conversations with as you would have with your colleague. If this agent enters into your systems, it can read every email, and message and know everything about you, every conversation you had, every strategic decision that you want to make and become a really useful member in the conversation. That will happen fairly rapidly. Then you have humanoid robots coming in. These robots are developing at a speed that has been shocking to me. These robots are being enabled by multi-model AI so they can effectively see, think and understand. You can drop a robot into a situation and say please clean up this room or go downstairs and grab something for you, but that's the earliest. These robots can become the best surgeons in the world because they have all medical knowledge and they share experiences over millions of surgeries. You can imagine all surgical robots in India sharing their knowledge and experiences. Now this surgical robot can be in the middle of a small village, delivering healthcare. So we have these two forces at play — increasing abundant force where access to education and health, access to food, water and energy are increasing but the jobs of the past are being disrupted, reinvented and many of them are going away. I think what we are going to see is a phase in which it is going to be you partnering with AI, i.e., AI-human collaboration. Then the question becomes is there a phase in which humans are transitioning to something else. What could that be? Most jobs for humanity are not the jobs we do out as passion or out of aspiring to do those jobs.

These are jobs we do because we need to put food on the table. So the question is will we split the situation and where technology takes care of us and meets our basic needs and so we are not working for money anymore. But if you didn't have to work for money, maybe it is universal basic income, or maybe it is technological socialism, where it is not the government taking care of you, it is the technology taking care of you, keeping you healthy, feeding you and giving you energy. The question then is what would you do with your life if you didn't have to do this, you didn't have to work for money and if you did things because it gave you joy.

What does India need to keep its unicorns in the country?

I have been asking that question all week, over the course of a dozen keynotes and CEO sessions. The feeling I get from everybody is that this is happening. There is tremendous wealth. It can be accelerated by reducing just the fundamental bureaucracy of the nation. It just feels hard to do business in India. When you are working so hard to survive and then you go to the US where it is easier to do things, you stay. So culturally, how do you become a more capitalist society and easier (to do business)? If that happens, India will just be skyrocketing and it will become the number one economy on the planet.

What can India do differently?

I keep on asking what would be needed to unleash India, and what I hear (from entrepreneurs) is less bureaucracy and more rapid approvals. There is a large government sector which finds meaning in regulating...how do you create fast processes so that entrepreneurs, who have an idea and have a business, don't have to wait for a year for a license and they can do it in a minute? I think this is one of India's challenges that if successfully overcome would unleash the birth of businesses here.

China's economy slows as housing troubles squeeze spending

China's economy slowed markedly through the spring after a strong start this year, according to official data released Monday, as a real estate crash caused consumers and companies to spend more cautiously. The latest growth statistics for the world's second-largest economy, covering April through June, put further pressure on the Communist Party as its leaders gathered Monday in Beijing for a four-day conclave to set a course for the country's economic future. In a country known for strict controls on the flow of information, the Chinese government is maintaining a particularly tight grip ahead of the party gathering, known as the Third Plenum, which typically takes place every five years. China's statistical bureau canceled its usual news conference that accompanies the release of economic data and Chinese companies are mostly avoiding the release of earnings reports this week. China's National Bureau of Statistics said that the economy grew 0.7% in the second quarter over the previous three months, a little below the expectations of most economists in the West. When projected out for the entire year, the data indicates that China's economy grew during the spring at an annual rate of about 2.8% — less than half its growth rate in the first three months of this year. The statistical bureau also revised down its estimate of growth in the first quarter. That growth rate, projected out for the full year, was about 6.1%, not the 6.6% rate that was disclosed in April. Xi Jinping, China's top leader, is trying to win confidence in his policies at home and abroad as growth falters and the property market suffers. China has tried to offset the real estate downturn by building more factories and stepping up exports. But rapid expansion of manufacturing has led to a glut of goods, from chemicals to cars, and a lot of unused industrial capacity. Companies have sharply reduced prices to compete for consumers, who nonetheless remain reluctant to spend, long a problem for the investment-led economy. At the same time, China's record-setting export surge is provoking a global backlash of higher tariffs, as countries fear the flood of Chinese goods will overwhelm local industries. Yet, in China, the extra export revenue has not been enough to fully offset weak consumer spending at home, resulting in a slowdown that poses a problem for China's leadership as ordinary citizens are

squeezed and foreign investors become disenchanted. The statistical bureau summarized the state of the economy with a cautious statement. Progress had been made in upgrading Chinese industries, the bureau said, while adding that "the external environment is intertwined and complex, the domestic effective demand remains insufficient and the foundation for sound economic recovery and growth still needs to be strengthened." The slowdown in growth was less apparent in the Chinese government's preferred statistic: how much larger the Chinese economy was in the second quarter of this year versus the same period last year. This measure showed the economy had grown 4.7% over the past 12 months, down from a 5.3% year-over-year economic expansion in the previous quarter. China's government has set a target for growth this year of "around 5%." The government is trying to revitalize consumer spending. Economists inside and outside of China have contended that the country should sharply increase state pensions, government-provided health insurance and welfare payments. Such measures could be funded by trimming China's extensive military buildup or by transferring dividends and shares from state-owned enterprises to the national pension fund. But the government has been reluctant to redirect large sums of money from government agencies or state-owned enterprises. Few expect drastic moves at the Communist Party conclave. The country continues to pursue an investment-led strategy that focuses on erecting more buildings instead of putting money into consumers' pockets. That trend was visible on a recent evening in Nanchang, a city in south-central China. The Wanshou Palace neighborhood has been extensively renovated with stone walkways, free music shows, and many shops and restaurants. Throngs of tourists milled in the streets taking photos, but almost no one entered the stores or eateries to spend money. Recent actions by local governments have taken money from households, further eroding their ability to spend. Faced with falling revenue because of the country's real estate crisis, local governments have stepped up tax collection and audits, and have begun raising fees for services such as natural gas, water and sometimes rail travel.

Nita Ambani wears jewelled blouse embroidered with her children and grandchildren's name



The Ambani wedding has finally come to a close, and what a style ride it has been! From bespoke designer ensembles to jaw-dropping jewellery moments, celebrities — from India and abroad — have shown up at their finest these last few days. But the one person who stood out, apart from the bride, was Nita Ambani, the groom's mother — who hit it out of the park with each of her looks.

For one of the events, the Ambani matriarch opted for an intricately embroidered custom pink, gold, and red ghagra set by Indian designer duo Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla. Taken to Instagram, the designers shared that this hand-embroidered zardozi ghagra expresses their love for the eternal divinity of temple architecture. "The garment features decadent hand-embroidery inspired by

the architecture and temples of Kashi," they informed. Nita Nita paired the outfit with diamonds and emeralds from Viren Bhagat from her own personal collection. However, what stood out was the seemingly backless jewelled blouse, which featured hand-embroidered jhumkaas and auspicious elephant motifs at the back.

"Displaying hand-embroidered Hindi text on its borders, the garment also has Nita's children and grandchildren's name adorning over its delicate net base," shared Abu Sandeep. Nita paired the traditional 'fit with diamonds and emeralds by Viren Bhagat from her own personal collection. She opted for a heavy neckpiece, matching earrings, a maang teeka and bazuband to complete her look. An elegant bun, pale pink lips and a hint of colour on her eyelids added charm to her look. Nita Ambani also wore a real tissue gold ghagra by Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla paired with a real gold tissue blouse hand-embroidered in zardozi for another event during the wedding ceremony. A red tissue dupatta adorned with naqshi and zardozi work decorated with Swarovski crystals beautifully complemented her classic Banarasi zari outfit, which also had a classic surti border. According to the designer's Instagram, the ensemble was "delicately handwoven by 'Swadesh' artisans." Nita Ambani went for classic diamond jewels, an ornate neckpiece paired with matching earrings, a maang teeka, nath, and stacked bracelets completed her look.

Can fasting reduce your risk for cancer? New study says yes

Cancer remains a formidable foe, but recent research is shedding light on potential strategies to combat it, and one avenue gaining traction is fasting. A groundbreaking study by researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center found how fasting could affect cancer cells. Their research in mice indicates that fasting empowers the body's natural defence system against cancer. Fasting appears to enhance the function of natural killer (NK) cells, a crucial component of the immune system tasked with attacking cancerous cells.

The study suggests that fasting reprograms NK cells to rely on fat for energy instead of sugar. This metabolic shift allows them to function more effectively in targeting and eliminating cancer cells. By enabling NK cells to thrive in the harsh tumour environment, fasting potentially improves their cancer-fighting abilities.

Dr Rajesh Shinde, Consultant HPB & Gastrointestinal Oncology & Robotic Surgery Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai, explained that prior to this new study, research has hinted at fasting's potential for cancer prevention. A 2012 study on mice revealed that short-term fasting might shield healthy cells from the detrimental side effects of chemotherapy drugs. Similarly, a 2016 study in mice suggested that short-term fasting before chemotherapy administration could minimise toxicity. Another study by the German Cancer Research Center explored the effects of intermittent fasting on liver health and cancer risk, he added. Their findings in mice suggest that intermittent fasting schedules (five days of regular eating followed by two days of restricted calorie intake) may reduce the risk of fatty liver disease, liver inflammation, and even liver cancer. Festive offer TGH-Onco Life Cancer Centre, lung cancer, prostate cancer, artificial intelligence, Pune news, Pune news, Maharashtra news, Indian express news. The study suggests that this fasting regimen triggers metabolic changes that minimise liver fat and inflammation, both key contributors to liver cancer development.

Does this translate in human bodies?

Know all about Magji Ladoo, one of the 'chappan bhog' prasad at Puri's Jagannath Temple, recently awarded a GI tag

Though Odisha boasts a rich cultural heritage with an equally vibrant culinary scene, most of it is missing from the mainstream. This is now being changed as many Odia foods and products get recognition from the government, like chhena poda or the simlipal kai chutney, better known as the red ant chutney. Recently its panta bhat has also been in the news after food guide Taste Atlas named it one of the worst-rated Indian foods.

Among Odia's delectable offerings, the Magji Ladoo also holds a special place. This traditional sweet, recently awarded the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, is not just a treat for the taste buds, but also a symbol of the state's culinary legacy, said food historian and chef Sadaf Hussain. Tracing the Origins of Magji Ladoo

The Magji Ladoo is believed to have originated in the Kalahandi district, where the tribal community of Majhis, known for their culinary skills, is said to have created it. Local legend imbues this delicious treat with a fascinating backstory, weaving a connection between a revered saint, a renowned spiritual leader, and the state's most iconic deity, Lord Jagannath.

According to Chef



Hussain, tales passed down through generations place the origin of the Magji Ladoo between 1300 and 1400 AD. Sridhar Swami, a saint residing at the 8th-century Kapilas shrine, is said to have received a visit from Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, a highly influential spiritual leader. During this encounter, Sridhar Swami offered Chaitanya Mahaprabhu a sweet treat crafted from buffalo milk cheese. These sweets, eventually known as Magji Ladoo, captured the hearts (and taste buds) of all who savoured them. Local confectioners, inspired by this sweet exchange, continued the tradition of making these delectable treats. Magji Ladoo is more than just a sweet; it's woven into the fabric of

Odia culture. It finds its place on festive occasions like Diwali, Durga Puja, and Sankranti, adding a touch of sweetness to celebrations. It's also a symbol of prosperity, often gifted during weddings.

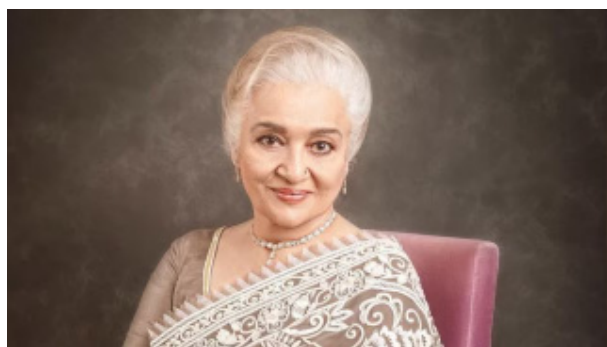
Perhaps its most significant association is with the Puri Jagannath Temple, where it's included in the "chappan bhog," the 56 food offerings presented to the deity. This sacred association further underscores the cultural importance of Magji Ladoo in Odisha.

How to make Magji Ladoo?

The magic of Magji Ladoo lies in its simple yet flavourful ingredients. Traditionally made with buffalo milk cheese, sugar, and

cardamom, Hussain says it embodies the essence of Odia cuisine. The buffalo milk, considered sacred in Odia culture, adds a unique richness to the sweet. The process involves boiling the cheese and sugar to create a thick syrup, then adding crushed cardamom and shaping the mixture into small balls. The recent award of the GI tag to Magji Ladoo is a significant recognition of its unique heritage and production process. It not only protects the authenticity of this sweet but also paves the way for its wider recognition. As Odisha's culinary scene continues to gain prominence, the Magji Ladoo stands as a delicious ambassador, carrying forward the legacy of Odia flavours and traditions.

Asha Parekh accepts Shammi Kapoor spread rumours they were married, says Shatrughan Sinha made derogatory comments



The teaser of the upcoming episode of The Invincibles Series Season 2, hosted by Arbaaz Khan, dropped on social media which features veteran actress Asha Parekh. In the video, Asha is seen reflecting on her journey in Bollywood and being a woman in the business. The newly released teaser gives one a glimpse of her life and experiences in the film industry. During her conversation with actor Arbaaz, she humorously addressed the rumours about her supposed marriage to co-star Shammi Kapoor, jokingly stating, "Yes, we were married." She also recalled the moment when legendary Guru Dutt called her mother and told her that "he doesn't think she can be a heroine".

The actress also shared her experiences as a woman in the industry, recalling a funny incident when

she arrived on set with "red eyes" after a night out. "I refused to shoot the next day," she revealed. The Kati Patang actor also touched on her strained relationship with actor Shatrughan Sinha, mentioning that negative comments from him had impacted their professional connection. She shared, "It was like let's do just like the way I want. And then he gave some statements in the press, which were very derogatory to him, not to me (sic)." After Kaalia, Asha significantly reduced her film projects and eventually stopped acting. She transitioned to television, directing the Gujarati serial Jyoti. Through her production company, Akruiti, Asha produced several popular serials, including Palash ke Phool, Baaje Payal, Kora Kagaz, and Dal Mein Kaala. In 2008, she served as a judge on the reality show Tyohaar Dhamaaka. In the teaser, she also revealed that returning to acting was an uphill task. "It (the long hiatus) did impact me," when discussing her return to the screen. In an earlier interview with Indianexpress.com, she opened up about her relationship with Shammi, stating that she worked in some "great" films with him. "I did my first film with Shammi Kapoor ji, he is my favourite. I was very shy to face the camera," recalled Asha, adding, "In my first few shots with Shammi chacha, I was very nervous. He was very patient with me and guided me in every shot. He especially taught me how to lip sync and emote in the songs. It wasn't difficult for us to act, I used to call him chacha outside the film and when we were shooting, we were professional actors. So nothing bothered us."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu opens up about life after divorce from Naga Chaitanya, myositis diagnosis: 'I went through fire to get here'

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu, however, emphasised that she wouldn't change any of her experiences, as they have all shaped who she is today. Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu, after a year-long hiatus owing to her myositis treatment, is reportedly gearing up to go back to work. Days after finding herself embroiled in a controversy over promoting alternative therapy, actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu has opened up about her life over the past three years, particularly following her divorce from Naga Chaitanya and her myositis diagnosis. She also stated that she "went through fire" to reach where she is now.

Despite everything, Samantha emphasised that she wouldn't change any of her experiences, as they have all shaped who she is today. "We all wish we could change certain things about our lives, and I sometimes wonder if I needed to have gone through the things I have. But looking back, I wouldn't have it any other way," she said during a conversation with Elle India. "I was discussing this with my friend a while back, and I always thought I didn't want the last three years to have happened, but now I feel that you have to deal with whatever life throws at you. And as long as you come out of it, you have won. I feel stronger and more rooted than ever. That's because I went through fire to get here. Call it a spiritual awakening," she said, adding, "In today's world, you need spirituality more than ever because there's so much pain and sickness. I believe that spirituality can be your best friend and an endless source of strength."

Samantha, after a year-long hiatus owing to her myositis treatment, is now gearing up to go back to work and will start shooting in August. "I am excited to give it my all. I am also currently training for my new role; most



projects I take up push me to learn a new skill, and I love that," she said. "I am proud of the women in the industry who are demanding their space, and I am glad to be a part of this change. We are now asking for better roles and full-fledged characters," Samantha asserted. A few days ago, a controversy had erupted over the actor's support of alternative therapy. Samantha endorsed on her podcast, Take 20, nebulising hydrogen peroxide and distilled water as an alternative treatment for viral infections. Calling her "health and science illiterate," hepatologist-medical influencer Cyriac Abby Philips, also known as The Liver Doc on social media, noted on X (formerly Twitter) that she could've been jailed for making such claims in a "rational and progressive society." The actor responded to The Liver Doc's tweet later and said that she landed on treatments that "worked wonderfully" for her after lots of "trial and error". Samantha, however, said that she will be "more careful" about the medical advice that she shares henceforth.

Renuka Shahane shares she got her periods at 10, reveals its impact on her life: 'I am very conservative about the way I look'



Renuka Shahane, the actress who played the role of Madhuri Dixit's elder sister in the classic Hum Apke Hain Kaun, and is a popular face in Marathi films, recently revealed she got her periods at the age of 10. In a recent podcast on various stigma around periods, the actress revealed how getting early periods and bodily changes impacts one's life later. She shared she still carries the feeling of keeping her body hidden due to the experiences she went through in her childhood.

In the podcast We Are Yuvaa, the veteran actress shared, "I got my periods when I was 10. Imagine, I am 58 today and I have lived most of my life with periods. I have enjoyed my

childhood physiologically for a very little time. At such age, you have not developed that much in terms of brain to understand what is happening to your body. I was lucky because in my case, my mom drew a diagram to explain how this works. I was lucky because at my home, they used to discuss all this very openly. But, I couldn't really understand what was happening and why. All I knew is this is not something bad or I am not suffering. I was assured of these things."

She added, "Nobody in my school had periods, at least in my class. None of my friends had. So, I had to wait until they got their periods to share things. For them, it was three years later. For that period of time,

I was feeling very lonely. You feel like you cannot speak about this to anyone. Luckily, I could speak about it to my mom. But, it does have some kind of impact on you psychologically also that you are also becoming bigger in ways that nobody is aware of. Nobody is talking about it in the school." Renuka then recalled how lack of conversation around periods impacted her adulthood.

"Because I could not have a conversation with any girl my age, the perception my body was growing was a matter of something that I had to hide and I think that is something carried forward with me. I have never been get over that feeling that my body has to be hidden. I am very

conservative about the way I look at my body or the way I dress.

This is something nobody thinks of but our childhood is the root for a lot of things that we carry on in our later life," added the actress. Inspired by her real life struggles around periods, the actress was the first celebrity to feature in an ad by a sanitary brand, where she promoted sanitary napkin going against the will of a lot of her near and dear ones. In the same podcast, she revealed that she was grateful for taking up that project as it initiated various conversations around menstruation, educating people and creating awareness. Talking about lack of awareness and conversation around the topic, the actress recalled an incident from her school time and said, "I remember once going on a school trip and a guy needed a band-aid. He randomly picked a sanitary pad and asked why is this band-aid so big? I felt embarrassed and guilty as if I was at fault or someone." Renuka was last seen in the 2022 film Govinda Naam Mera starring Vicky Kaushal, Bhumi Pednekar, and Kiara Advani. She is yet to announce her upcoming projects.

Hina Khan gets ready for first shoot after undergoing chemotherapy, says 'accept, embrace and normalise': 'I want to keep working'



Hina Khan recently shocked her fans with her announcement of being diagnosed with stage three breast cancer. In several posts after the announcement, the actress shared having her hair cut and going through chemotherapy. She also showed the marks around her body, which are symptoms of cancer. However, none of these things stopped her from living her life with positivity. In her latest Instagram post, the actress shared that she is set to shoot her first project post her first chemotherapy session.

On Monday, the actress shared a video of herself, where she could be seen getting ready for her shoot. The actress wore a white dress and used a pretty wig to hide her hair cut for the shoot. While getting her makeup done, the actress said she was nervous but nothing should stop one from being happy. Along with the video, the actress shared a long note, which read: "My first work assignment after my diagnosis.."

Walking the talk is challenging, especially when facing life's biggest challenges. So, give yourself a break on bad days; it's okay... you deserve it. However, don't forget to live your life on the good days, no matter how few

they are. These days still hold importance. Accept the change, embrace the difference, and NORMALISE it."

The actress, who is looking forward to the good days, said she needs to do what she loves. "I love my work. I live my dreams when I'm working, and that is my greatest motivation. I want to keep working. Many people work regular jobs during their treatment without issues, and I am no different. I met a few in these months and trust me it changed my perspective." She stressed on normalising working during the treatment throughout her post. She shared a strong message for people who are also going through the same situation and said, "It's your story, your life, you decide what to make of it." "Accept, embrace, and normalise it", Hina concluded her post. On June 28, the actress took to her Instagram handle to break the news to her fans and followers. Sharing a long note, the actress revealed, "To address the recent rumour, I want to share some important news with all the Hinaholics and everyone who loves and cares for me. I have been diagnosed with Stage Three Breast Cancer." The actress, who rose to fame after starring in the television series Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, has been actively sharing posts about and around her diagnosis.

Sonakshi Sinha reaches Philippines for second honeymoon without Zaheer Iqbal: 'Just waiting for him to get here'

Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal, who tied the knot on June 23, have jetted off to the Philippines to celebrate their second honeymoon. Earlier, the couple shared photos from their first romantic getaway in Singapore. This time, they have decided to relax on the beautiful beaches of the Philippines.

However, there was a small glitch in Sonakshi and Zaheer's vacation plan as the two had to take separate flights. Sonakshi shared a beautiful photo of the picturesque property, showcasing the stunning view and a pool, and revealed that she is at the resort but waiting for hubby Zaheer to join her. She wrote, "Honeymoon round 2. Now just waiting for @iamzahero to get here because we had to take separate flights." Sonakshi Sinha shared a photo from the Philippines. Sonakshi Sinha shared a photo from the Philippines.

Before jetting off to the Philippines, Sonakshi was busy with the promotions of her latest film, Kakuda. During an earlier interaction with indianexpress.com, when Sonakshi was asked why she returned to work so soon after tying the knot with Zaheer, she said, "I just got married, guys. Pata nahi aisa bhi kya kar diya maine." When asked whether she's not planning to take off for her hon-



eymoon with Zaheer, she said, "Maine woh bhi kar diya. And now I am back to work, and I am loving it." Before Kakuda, Sonakshi was seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's web show Heeramandi. She garnered huge praise for her role as Fareedan. Sonakshi's last theatrical release, Double XL with Huma Qureshi, was panned by critics and also failed at the box office. Her latest film, Kakuda, has also received a lukewarm response from critics and is streaming on Zee5.

Janhvi Kapoor's hilarious reaction to her wedding rumours with Shikhar Pahariya leaves internet in splits: 'Are you mad?'



Janhvi Kapoor never shies away from making a public appearance with her boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya. Whether it's turning heads at red carpet events, attending Bollywood parties together, visiting Tirupati temple, or Janhvi flaunting a pendant bearing the name 'Shiku,' the couple doesn't miss a chance to shower love on each other. However, each time the topic of their marriage is brought up before Janhvi, who is currently promoting her film Ulajh, she has a hilarious comeback. A recent video from her film's promotion mentioning her wedding has gone viral on social media. In the video, a reporter is heard asking Janhvi, "Is it some wedding news (sic)?" to which the actor quickly reacted, "Are you mad?", rubbing her

wedding rumours with Shikhar. Her hilarious reaction made everyone burst into laughter. The couple was recently spotted attending Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's extravagant wedding, where Janhvi stole the show with her bejeweled gold lehenga. Shikhar, hooting for her as she posed for the cameras, made the Dhadak actor blush. Recently, in an Instagram post shared by a paparazzo account, it was stated that Janhvi Kapoor would be tying the knot with Shikhar Pahariya in Tirupati temple. However, the Gunjan Saxena actor rubbished the speculations with a witty reply.

Shutting down the rumours, the 27-year-old commented, "Kuch bhi (Whatever)."

Argentina fire sports undersecretary Julio Garro for demanding Lionel Messi's apology in racism chants row



GNS News Agency, July 19

Julio Garro was fired from his position as Undersecretary of Sports by the Argentina President's office on Thursday for demanding an apology from Lionel Messi. (X/AP) Julio Garro was fired from his position as Undersecretary of Sports by the Argentina President's office on Thursday for demanding an apology from Lionel Messi. (X/AP)

The Argentina government on Thursday sacked its Undersecretary of Sports, Julio Garro, after he demanded an apology from national football team captain Lionel Messi for the racism chants controversy during the Copa America victory celebrations. A video shared by Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez on his Instagram account came under widespread scrutiny after the 23-year-old and his Argentine teammates were heard singing racist and discriminatory chants, directed at players of African descent in the France team. A derogatory verse in the song was: "They play for France, but their parents are from Angola. Their mother is from Cameroon, while their father is from Nigeria. But their passport says French."

The song also had derogatory references about France and Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe's connection with transgender model Ines Rau. While it was unclear whether Messi was part of the controversial footage, Garro who was appointed in his role as Sports Undersecretary in March this year, demanded an apology from the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and AFA president Tapia. "The national team captain must also come

out to apologize for this case. The same AFA (Argentina Football Association) president. I think it is appropriate. It leaves us as a country in a bad position, with so much glory," Garro had said in radio statements.

Shortly after Garro's statements were aired, Argentina President Javier Milei's Office stated on X that: "No government can tell what to comment, what to think or what to do to the Argentine National Team, World Champion and Two-time American Champion, or to any other citizen. For this reason, Julio Garro ceases to be Undersecretary of Sports of the Nation." Garro soon apologized for his statement, saying that "offending anyone was never my intention, and that is why I have offered my resignation, although I will always be on the other side of discrimination in all its forms." La Oficina del Presidente informa que ningún gobierno puede decirle qué comentar, qué pensar o qué hacer a la Selección Argentina Campeona del Mundo y Bicampeona de América, ni a ningún otro ciudadano. Por esta razón, Julio Garro deja de ser Subsecretario de Deportes de la... pic.twitter.com/o4JRC7gGB1

In response to the controversial footage, the France Football Association (FFF) also issued its statement with president Philippe Diallo challenging FIFA president Gianni Infantino and Argentina Football Association president, Claudio Fabian Tapia, to respond to the remarks in the footage. FFF also confirmed that it will file an official complaint over the video. Fernandez, who made a record-breaking move to Chelsea from Benfica last year, was also criticised by his club teammate and France defender, Wesley Fofana, who labelled the video "uninhibited racism". "We are proud to be a diverse, inclusive club where people from all cultures, communities and identities feel welcome. We acknowledge and appreciate our player's public apology and will use this as an opportunity to educate. The Club has instigated an internal disciplinary procedure." Chelsea stated on Wednesday. The under-fire Fernandez soon issued an apology on his social media account, saying: "I stand against discrimination in all forms and apologise for getting caught up in the euphoria of our Copa America celebrations. That video, that moment, those words, do not reflect my beliefs or my character. I am truly sorry."

Why lavender track can lead to more records and benefit Neeraj Chopra

GNS News Agency, July 19

The lavender-hued tracks of Stade de France, the athletics venue for the Paris Olympics, is surely a treat to the eye. A refreshing change from the usual red-orange or blue tracks seen at almost every athletics venue. The change in colour is just a part of the intrigue. The technology used can lead to more records at the Paris Games and the nature of the track can also be helpful to Neeraj Chopra, given his style of throwing.

Why purple?

The answer is simple. It matched the blue, green and purple theme that the local organisers chose for the Games. These colours will be prominent across all venues at the Games. At the tracks different shades of purple will be visible: a lighter tone for the track, darker for the service areas, and grey for the turns at the end of the bend. "We have never done this colour before. It's a light mauve and darker violet. It recalls the landscape of France," the organisers told AP.

Who designed the Paris tracks?

At the Tokyo Games, three world records and 12 Olympic marks were re-written. And without taking away any credit from the athletes, there was a common factor – the Mondo track. The Italy-based Mondo group has been the track provider for the Olympics since 1976 in Montreal.

Designed in consultation with top track and field athletes, Mondo tracks are considered the fastest in the world. (AP Photo) Designed in consultation with top track and field athletes, Mondo tracks are considered the fastest in the world.

What is a Mondo track?

At first appearance, a Mondo track looks like a hard carpet but there is more to it than meets the eye. The Mondo track has two layers. The surface is made of vulcanised rubber, offering better grip and elasticity. Below the outer surface lies a layer of air-filled cavities that act as shock absorbers and also, in simple terms, give the right bounce. Designed in consultation with top track and field athletes, Mondo tracks are considered the fastest in the world.

Do we have a Mondo track in India?

India's first and only indoor track and field facility at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, which was inaugurated earlier this year, features a Mondo track. India still doesn't have an outdoor Mondo track facility yet and Neeraj Chopra has on several occasions raised the issue. JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports has a Mondo track at the jumps section where Jeswin Aldrin set the long jump national record of 8.42m last year.



Can we expect more records in Paris?

As per Mondo manufacturers, it's a big yes. Mondo has been taking feedback from top global track and field stars and has developed granules that are more elastic and cohesive for the outer layer at Paris. Minute details such as the shape of air cells and dimensions in the air pickles inside the track have been optimised. All this in simple terms means the Paris track on paper is the fastest track ever at the Games.

The purple track ??

No more red-brick clay color, our Olympic & Paralympic track is going purple for the first time ever in the Stade de France. This new one is supplied by Mondo, Official Supporteur of #Paris2024. Records are made to be broken. Hope this track will help ? pic.twitter.com/0Pr1EGHo7a

Will Paralympians also benefit?

The rubber granules on the surface are likely to provide more grip and resistance to wheel-chair athletes. Athletes with prosthetic extensions will benefit from the grip and sturdiness of the track. "Mondo track surfaces are ideal for wheelchair racers because they have a high level of energy return into the push equating to less wasted energy and sinking into the track, thus minimising the fight against drag," the Athletics Canada 2008 Paralympic Games head coach explained.

Will Neeraj Chopra gain from the Mondo surface?

Neeraj Chopra trains and competes on the European circuit extensively and has often pushed for a Mondo track to be built in India. Neeraj is not a power thrower, meaning he doesn't solely rely on big muscles on the top half of his body. He employs what is called a rotational technique where he generates pace off the track and unwinds his body in a way to create maximum impact. A fast track like Mondo is ideal for his technique. The grip that Mondo provides will also be a positive factor.

Online racial abuser given 8-month prison sentence for insulting Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior and Antonio Rudiger

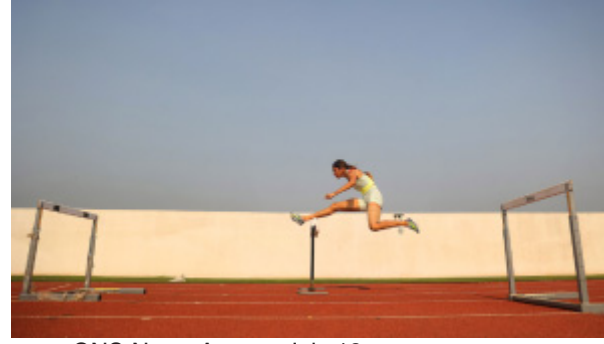
GNS News Agency, July 19

Vinicius and Rudiger racism A Spanish court has given a suspended eight-month prison sentence to a person who racially abused Vinicius Junior and Antonio Rudiger in the comments section of Marca.

Real Madrid said Wednesday that a Spanish court has given a suspended eight-month prison sentence to a person who racially abused Vinicius Junior and Antonio Rudiger in the comments section of Marca, a Spanish sports news website. The club said that the offender was found guilty of harming the moral integrity of the players, both of whom are Black. The person also reportedly used hateful language to denigrate Rudiger's Islamic faith. "The accused was found guilty of two offences against moral integrity committed against Vinicius Junior and Antonio Rudiger, both aggravated by the fact that they acted with racist motives and, in the case of Antonio Rudiger, also in contempt of his religion," Real said in a press release.

The offender avoided prison after agreeing to participate in an anti-discrimination awareness program, the club said. "It's something very sad what I have been going through here. It's tough. I've been fighting against this for a long time. It's exhausting because you feel like you are alone. I've made so many official complaints but no one is ever punished. "More and more I'm losing my desire to play. But I'll keep fighting," Vinicius had said back in April on the eve of Brazil vs Spain's "One Skin" friendly match. The racist abuse before the One Skin friendly wasn't the first time the Brazil forward has been subject to these kinds of incidents throughout his career in the Spanish capital. In May 2023, Real Madrid had launched a complaint against some Valencia fans who had aimed racist chants towards Vinicius at Estadio de Mestalla. Even before that, chants of "die Vinicius" were heard in Barcelona's 2022-23 league title winning celebrations which led to the filing of 8 complaints of racial abuse to the La Liga.

Inside the gruelling, lonely grind of trailblazing hurdler Jyothi Yarraji



GNS News Agency, July 19

Its ticking – on an excruciatingly hot April morning in a quiet corner of Navi Mumbai – is the only constant soundtrack that plays on loop. There are no competitors here – just Jyothi versus the clock. The first Indian hurdler to qualify for the Olympics in 100m hurdles and her coach James Hillier are driven by a solitary pursuit: shredding microseconds. Or, 0.28 seconds, to be precise. "Her personal best is 12.78 seconds. I want to get her to 12.5," Hillier says. "If she runs that in the semifinal, she has a very good chance of making the (Paris Olympics) final." Less than three-tenths of a second stand between Jyothi merely being India's fastest hurdler and getting among the world's top 8. It took Hillier three years to cut one second off Jyothi's personal best time. Cutting milliseconds, he says, could be harder. He deconstructs a 12.5-second race – staying lower over the hurdles, minimal foot contact with the ground, clocking under 1 second between hurdles and close to 2 seconds from the starting block to the first hurdle. Jyothi's quest, however, begins with what on the surface looks like the most subtle of changes. One which, if she nails, could have a profound impact. "From the starting blocks to the first hurdle, we reduced the number of steps I take from 8 to 7," she says. "Microseconds I can improve." Setting up the second hurdle

Since the sprint hurdlers are usually 'short', Hillier says, they are quick off the blocks and 'normally do eight strides into the first hurdle'. That's how Jyothi ran, too. "(But) I am looking at her and thinking, she's looking uncomfortable with eight strides," he says. Making her take one stride fewer isn't directly meant to bring down the timing. The purpose, Hillier says, is to make Jyothi set up for the second hurdle better. "Because she has long legs, when she does eight steps, she's having to brake a little bit coming into the first hurdle. (Imagine) An airplane taking off. It'll take off like this (makes an upward gesture with his hand), then go like this (gestures downwards, as if braking) and then back up again. So it's not smooth acceleration." Rewiring the brain

Reducing the number of steps doesn't happen just like that. Earlier, when Jyothi had eight steps running off the blocks, her right leg used to be forward when she was on the blocks as she took off with the left. Now, it's reversed. "I had been competing and training like this for 10 years. Imagine, you are doing everything with your right hand and suddenly you shift to the left. You can't because our body and mind are coordinated like that," Jyothi, backed by Reliance Foundation, says. When The Indian Express spent a day with Jyothi at training on April 19, it was only her second week trying this style. A few days earlier, there were doubts. "I told coach it's not working, I'll give it up," Jyothi says. "He said, 'You are going

good, the second hurdle is very fast, so let's continue'. I also feel the difference now."

Hillier adds: "It's a huge change. In the gym now, every time we do a single-leg exercise, she starts on the right leg first. Rewire the brain so that the right leg is the dominant one, not the left." In essence, Jyothi has lost a step. That, in turn, propels her to push harder to accelerate through the first hurdle. Earlier, when she ran with eight steps, she had to apply brakes due to her long strides as she got closer to the hurdle. "Now, she has to accelerate and that ensures she's got more momentum off the first hurdle. Then the second is significantly faster. She feels it. And I see it," Hillier says. "It's definitely helping. Whether that translates into a faster time, we don't know." Back in April, it had been only a few weeks since Jyothi had recovered from a hamstring injury. But she's going all-out to make up for lost time. On that day, Jyothi had four runs with 12 hurdles in a race – two more than usual to make practice conditions tougher. Her timings in the first three were the same – 13.8 seconds. But the coach notices her breathing heavily by the time the third run is over. He walks up to her for a brief chat. "I want you to focus on technique, technique, technique..." he tells Jyothi. "...and one more thing..."

Hillier explains: "When she goes to competitions, it is a whole ordeal mentally and physically. You're probably not sleeping well at night... so invariably when you get to the final, you are tired physically and mentally. So those conditioning must be taught in training. Run technically when tired." When she is the most fatigued, Jyothi runs her fastest: 13.6 seconds, two-tenths faster than her first run, when she was fresh. On June 30, at the Interstate Championships, her timing dropped further, as she finished first clocking 13.06 seconds. Hillier, however, isn't obsessed by the big number. He breaks down a race into smaller parts. He wants her to clock close to two seconds from the block to the first hurdle. "But it's not just about the time, it's about how you're setting it up as well," Hillier says. "You could run a fast time to the first hurdle, but if you are using too much energy doing it, it might affect you at the end of the race. At the start, it's not necessarily about getting quicker, it's about setting the second hurdle better and then maybe it's about getting quicker." Once Jyothi sets up the second hurdle, Hillier's focus shifts to the rhythmic units – the time between two hurdles. "If she's going from hurdle 2 to 3 (and so on) under 1 second, we know she's in 12.5 shape. Now, she might be running at 1.03, something like that. So we need to create an environment where her rhythmic unit is under 1 second." Use of foam pads, lower hurdles. So, the hurdles used are a little lower and on top of them rest foam pads. As Jyothi runs, one can hear her clip the pads with her leading leg. "That's because I want her to be low over the hurdle so we get the time. If I asked her to start hitting the hurdle (without pads), she's going to have a problem because if she hits it hard, there's going to be an issue," Hillier says. The cushion allows Jyothi to attack the hurdles aggressively, stay low and get used to running a rhythm that's under 1 second between hurdles, conditioning her body to faster runs. "It's like millions and millions of minute steps all the time. Then you put it all together and hope she's good enough physically, mentally; hopefully, I am good enough as a coach to prepare her to peak at the right time when she goes into the Olympics," Hillier says. "I can't promise you she'll do it. But she's capable of it."

In some years, Indian players may be playing each other for world title: Viswanathan Anand

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THE RAPID strides made by Indian prodigies on the battlefield of the 64 squares makes five-time world champion believe that there may soon be a situation where two Indians are playing against each other for the world champion's crown. "They could easily be each other's rivals (at the World Chess Championship) in some years," Anand predicted at the Express Adda in Chennai on Tuesday, where he was the guest of honour with wife, Aruna, and India's top-ranked chess player, Arjun Erigaisi. The trio was in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and Amit Kamath, Assistant Editor, The Indian Express.

"This current Indian generation of chess players is so close to the top that they're sniffing most things. Obviously, playing with the highest stakes (at the world championship) is an experience you have to encounter in a very raw fashion to figure (out what the pressure there is like)," he said. Anand, the country's first grandmaster, spearheaded a chess revolution in the country that has seen three Indians — Arjun Erigaisi (World No 4), D Gukesh (World No 7) and R Praggnanandhaa (World No 8) — find a spot in the current top 10 ranks. Gukesh will challenge Ding Liren for the world champion's crown later this year. If he manages to wrest the title from the Chinese grandmaster, he will become the youngest world champion. India's imprint in chess is also growing, with an India-powered Global Chess League providing a team-based twist to what was an individualistic sport.

"Indians are enjoying lots of sports now. But we like imposing our own business model on it. We want something new. That's why we had the Global Chess League last year, which was this new Indian way of organising sport," Anand said. "Overall, I would say that it's much easier to be a sportsperson in India today than it was 20 years ago. Now you get so much support, for training, for equipment and from the audience." Asked if he sees a reflection of himself and his "nice guy" image reflected in the next generation of Indian players, Anand replied: "They have seen me growing up and maybe that played a part. But to be honest, they came pre-heated like that. The age difference is so much that they would call me 'sir' all the time. Sometimes, it's seven times in the same sentence. It feels awkward. I tried to get them to stop once, and they asked, 'would you like to be called uncle?' They're just very well brought up." "I have not played them a lot recently. I played Pragg in a match six years ago. I played Gukesh last year. It's occasional. Even at events, they're very polite, but not on the board. They're very competitive on the board. I like that they can separate the aggression there. They come to the board wanting to really beat you, whoever you are. After the game, they go back to being incredibly polite," Anand said.

Aruna, who has been Anand's manager for decades, also spoke about the change in mindset that is now ap-



parent in the sport. As Anand's manager, she would find herself constantly in a battle of wits with FIDE, the global governing body of chess, and the entourage of other top grandmasters. "The world is now more accepting of a woman taking on a role. When I started, I would constantly be questioned: 'as a woman, do you know this?' or 'you're just the wife'. But now, nobody really questions your gender anymore. But in 2010 and 2011, most of the times, I would be the only woman in the room with 50 men. Anand used to make fun of me and say, 'Have you seen these big Hollywood type guys? They'll have huge bodyguards and then a little looking man. And you have to be scared of the little man, because that man bites! That's why I married you! You're that little man!'"

Asked about the secret to working with one's spouse in a professional setting, Aruna said: "It's based on trust really. Anand travels a lot, so I have to do a lot of heavy hand-holding at home. Our son is just entering his teenage years. So Anand knows that when he gets back home, he has to step up because, more than me, our son Akhil has missed him. Being aware of these things is very important. And mostly, it works on trust. It doesn't work on gender-specific roles. It's just that when we take a decision, we understand that it's a common decision that works for both of us. Truth be told, in our relationship, I'm the only one who loses her temper. Anand loses his temper but it disappears in a second. I lose my temper and it's a three-day thing. He has to work very hard after that."

Arjun, meanwhile, spoke about the healthy rivalry in the Indian chess circuit between him, Gukesh, Pragg and others like Vidit Gujrathi. "There is some rivalry between us, but it's very healthy. It only motivates the others to work harder and do better. It's not about feeling jealous (of the other's achievements). What we have right now is very good and it's best for everyone if it remains the same because it helps everyone," he said. Talking about how the mindset of top players has changed while facing the Indian prodigies, Arjun said: "Back in 2020, we didn't get too many chances to play against the likes of Magnus Carlsen or others. But if we had played them, they would have probably taken more risks against us. But they would not take the same risks playing us now, because they know we are capable of punishing them. So there is a certain element of respect we get now."