

INDIAN CHRONICLE

First criminal case under new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita law registered

Hyderabad: The first case criminal case under the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, (BNS) which replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered by the Charminar police under Hyderabad Police Commissionerate on Monday. DGP Ravi Gupta announcing it on 'x' said the FIR in the city was issued at Charminar police station against two bikers for driving without number plates. The case was registered under 281 BNS and the Motor Vehicle Act, and the vehicles were also seized. According to the police, during a vehicle check near Gulzar House, two scooters were found being driven without number plates and in a suspicious manner.

Trade unions stage protest against auction of SCCL coal mines

Peddapalli: Singareni trade unions on Monday staged demonstrations at all coal mines across the company protesting against the auction of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) coal blocks by the union government. As part of the agitation, left wing trade unions under Singareni Trade Unions Joint Forum (STUJF) organized a gate meeting at 11A incline coal mine in Godavari Khani. In order to allocate SCCL coal blocks to multinational companies, the Centre made arrangements for the auction of Singareni coal mines instead of allocating mines to SCCL, they alleged. HMS state general secretary Riaz Ahmed, IFTU state president I Krishna, AIFTU leader G Ramulu, TNTUC leader Peddapalli Satyanarayana and other leaders participated in the meeting.

CM Revanth to meet Governor CP Radhakrishnan K Chandrashekar



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is about to meet Telangana Governor CP Radhakrishnan on Monday. The chief minister would be discussing the... Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is about to meet Telangana Governor CP Radhakrishnan on Monday. The chief minister would be discussing the ensuing budget sessions of the Telangana Legislature. The Assembly sessions are likely to start from July 21 onwards. The Governor had prorogued the Assembly and Council and a notification was issued on July 27. This time the Assembly and Council sessions are likely to be held in the same premises as the authorities have renovated the old Assembly building so as to enable the sessions there.

Indian PM, EAM condole demise of Sri Lanka's top Tamil lawmaker

GNS News Agency, July 1

Colombo: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday condoled the death of R. Sampanthan, one of the seniormost Tamil politicians in Sri Lanka, and also the leader of Tamil National Alliance. "My deepest condolences to the family and friends of veteran TNA leader R. Sampanthan. Will always cherish fond memories of meetings with him," the Indian PM wrote in a message posted on X.



My deepest condolences to the family and friends of veteran TNA leader R. Sampanthan. Will always cherish fond memories of meetings with him. He relentlessly pursued a life of peace, security, equality, justice and dignity for the Tamil nationals of Sri Lanka. He relentlessly pursued a life of peace, security, equality, justice and dignity for the Tamil nationals of Sri Lanka. He will be deeply missed by his friends and followers in Sri Lanka and India," added PM

Modi. External Affairs Minister of India, S. Jaishankar too sent his condolences on the demise of Sampanthan, who maintained close contacts with India and Indian leaders. "Deeply saddened to hear about the passing away of Sri Lankan Tamil leader R. Sampanthan," said Jaishankar. "Recall my

many meetings and conversations with him over several decades. He dedicated his entire life fighting for the equality, dignity and justice for Tamils in Sri Lanka," the EAM mentioned. Sampanthan, 91, passed away on Sunday night while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Colombo. One of the longest-serving lawmakers in Sri Lanka, Sampanthan was elected to the parliament from the Eastern district of Trincomalee in 1977. With the TNA having the second-highest number of MPs, Sampanthan was the Opposition leader of the country's Parliament from 2015 to December 2018. He remained an MP for 23 straight years since entering the Parliament in 2001.

Delhi HC dismisses BRS leader K Kavitha's bail pleas in corruption, money-laundering cases



New Delhi, July 1

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed BRS leader K Kavitha's bail pleas in two cases of corruption and money-laundering linked to the alleged excise policy scam Justice Swaraj Kanta Sharma, who had reserved the order on the two bail pleas of Kavitha on May 28, rejected the petitions. Kavitha had challenged the trial court's May 6 order by which her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case as well as the ED's money-laundering case were dismissed. Kavitha's lawyer submitted that of the 50 accused in the excise case, she is the lone woman and urged the court to consider granting her bail as law keeps women on a different pedestal. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) opposed Kavitha's bail pleas, saying she is powerful enough to influence witnesses.

The "scam" pertains to alleged corruption and money-laundering in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 that was later scrapped. The ED arrested Kavitha (46) from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15. The CBI arrested her in the Tihar jail. In her bail plea in the ED case, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader, daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, had said she had "nothing to do" with the excise policy and there was a criminal conspiracy against her "orchestrated by the ruling party at the Centre with the active connivance of the ED".

BRS MLA held, stopped from meeting student leader on hunger strike



Hyderabad Police on Monday arrested BRS MLA P. Rajeshwar Reddy and other leaders when they reached Gandhi Hospital to meet a student leader

GNS News Agency, July 1

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police on Monday arrested BRS MLA P. Rajeshwar Reddy and other leaders when they reached Gandhi Hospital to meet a student leader, who is on a hunger strike demanding the state government to fulfil its assurances to the unemployed over job recruitments. Tension prevailed at Gandhi Hospital as BRS leaders and members of various student groups reached there to meet Motilal Naik, the leader of Osmania University Joint Action Committee (JAC) who has been on hunger strike for the last eight days.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA Rajeshwar Reddy, A. Rakesh Reddy and other leaders were arrested by the police. They were shifted to various police stations. Rajeshwar Reddy was talking to media persons when police forcibly took him, Rakesh Reddy and others into custody and whisked them away in police vehicles. The BRS leaders took strong exception to the police action and asked if this was the people's rule of the Congress government. The protestors raised slogans against the government and the police. Meanwhile, a group of student leaders tried to barge into the hospital but were stopped and arrested by the police.

Unemployed youth and job aspirants have been gathering at the hospital for the last couple of days in solidarity with Naik. Leaders of BRS and BJP have also met Naik during the last couple of days to support his demands. BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao had called on Naik on Sunday and appealed to him to end the strike. The BRS leader reminded the Congress party of its promise to provide two lakh jobs in the first year after coming to power and asked why it failed to issue even one notification for recruitment even after seven months. Meanwhile, students also held protests at Osmania University in support of Motilal Naik. They staged a sit-in at Arts College. They alleged that the government betrayed them after making several promises including increasing Group - II and III posts during the Assembly elections. They demanded the Congress government to immediately fulfil its poll promises including selection of candidates for Group - I Main exam in 1:100 ratio and increasing Group - I and II posts.

They want the government to keep the promise of adding 2,000 jobs to Group-2 and 3,000 jobs to Group-3 and ensure a two-month gap between exams.

The unemployed and students are demanding the identification of vacant posts and the release of a job calendar regularly. They also wanted the state government to issue a mega DSC notification to appoint 25,000 teachers.

Centre hits back at Rahul Gandhi over Lok Sabha speech: 'Irresponsible, false'

GNS News Agency, July 1

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw slammed Rahul Gandhi for the remarks made on the Agniveer scheme in Lok Sabha. He accused the Congress leader of trying to create a false narrative. Rahul Gandhi's speech in Lok Sabha on Monday drew a sharp reaction from the ruling government, who accused the Congress MP of making "irresponsible remarks". At a press conference, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "Leader of Opposition is a very responsible post. Rahul ji has for the first time taken responsibility, but today he made irresponsible statements." Rahul Gandhi had targeted the BJP government over the Agniveer scheme for entry into the Armed Forces.

"Agniveer is a use and throw labour. One jawan is getting a pension, while another is not. You are creating a divide between jawans," Rahul Gandhi said. Ashwini Vaishnaw slammed Rahul Gandhi for the remark. "He (Rahul Gandhi) made some objectionable remarks in Parliament today. He said that martyrs won't receive compensation under the Agniveer Scheme. Defence Minister made it clear that Rs 1 crore compensation is given in Agniveer scheme. Congress has raised this issue multiple times and tried to create a false narrative," he said.

Rahul Gandhi's first speech as Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha sparked a heated debate in Lok Sabha. Rahul Gandhi's attack on 'violent Hindus' did not go down well with the BJP. "Today Rahul Gandhi has called the entire Hindu society violent and untruthful. He has insulted Hindu society.. Rahul Gandhi has today lowered the dignity of the post of Leader of the Opposition. The whole country is saddened by this statement of Rahul Gandhi and no amount of condemnation of this statement is enough," Ashwini Vaishnaw said. He added, "Calling Hindus violent, calling Hindus liars, putting up pictures of God during parliamentary debate, adding politics to it, this level of debate does not suit the leader of the opposition in any way." Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that a request has been made to the Speaker to establish a directive for addressing unverified statements made by Members of Parliament. "We have made a request to the Speaker to pass a direction that if we have made an unverified statement then we are ready to take a corrective course," said Rijiju. However, he also insisted that if the Leader of the Opposition is found to have lied in the House, they must face the corresponding rules and regulations.



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Justice within 3 years of registering FIR under new laws; hope for reduction of crime: Amit Shah



New Delhi, GNS News Agency, Sept 21

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that justice will be delivered up to the level of the Supreme Court in all cases registered under the new criminal laws within three years of the registration of an FIR. Addressing a press conference after the new criminal laws were implemented, Shah expressed hope of a reduction of crime in future as 90 per cent conviction was expected under the new laws. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) came into effect on Monday. The new laws replaced the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. "Justice can be received up to the Supreme Court within three years of the registration of the FIR," he said. The Home Minister said with the implementation of the three criminal laws, India would have the most modern criminal justice system in the world. "The new laws brought in a modern justice system, incorporating provisions such as Zero FIR, online registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes," he

said. Shah said first case under the new laws was about motorcycle theft registered in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior at 10 minutes past midnight. He said the new laws would give priority to providing justice, unlike the colonial-era laws that gave primacy to penal action.

SPDCL to use Thermovision cameras for early detection of electrical faults

GNS News Agency, Sept 21

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) has procured 35 State-of-the-art thermovision cameras to identify loose contacts and other hidden faults in live electrical equipment and power lines caused due to weather and high load conditions. According to TGSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Musharraf Ali Faruqui, these thermovision cameras had been designed to detect thermal anomalies, commonly known as "red hots," that indicate loose contacts in overhead lines, lugs, breakers, transformers, clamps. By identifying these issues early, TGSPDCL would be able to schedule and perform necessary maintenance before any significant disruptions occur, he explained. Before the induction of this equipment, the staff could only inspect the lines at night, as it would not be possible to identify such red-hots in daylight without equipment, he said, adding that these cameras would allow for timely intervention and maintenance, effectively reducing the risk of unexpected power outages and enhancing overall reliability of the power distribution network.

India's call for early repatriation of civil Prisoners and fishermen from Pakistan's custody



GNS News Agency, July 1

New Delhi: India on Monday called for an early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners including fishermen along with their boats and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody. Both the countries through diplomatic channels have simultaneously exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that Pakistan has been asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 185 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners who have completed their sentence. India has shared the names of 366 civilian prisoners and 86 fishermen in its custody, who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani. Similarly, Pakistan has shared the names of 43 civilian prisoners and 211 fishermen in its custody, who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian.

Under the provisions of the bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008, such lists are exchanged every year on January 1 and on July 1. "In addition, Pakistan has been asked to provide immediate consular access to the 47 civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody, who are believed-to-be-Indian and have not been provided consular access so far.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public at large that, Sanjeev Rao Vazgikar S/o Siharri R/o H. No. LIG-325, 3rd Zone, New Housing Board Colony, Savargaon (T), Mdl; Mavala, Dist. Adilabad, is intending to advance loan from State Bank of India, Branch Shivaji Chowk, Adilabad, by mortgaging property Open Plot No. 21, in Sy. No. 72/1/2, measuring 239.75 Sq Yards, situated at Village & G.P. Savargaon(T), Mdl; Mavala, Dist. Adilabad within the limits of Adilabad Municipality, to the bank. That, the original link document No. 698/2015 is been lost. If any one has any claim, right, title or interest of any kind in the said property, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days of the publication of this Notice, with all documents of claim and title. If no objection is received within 7 days, then the bank will proceed to complete the other formalities for the mortgage and if any claim and objection arise, it shall be deemed to have been waived. **Bipin Kumar Patel** Advocate, **ADARSH Building,** N.H.No.7, Adilabad Cell: 9440005500 **Dt:30-06-2024**

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

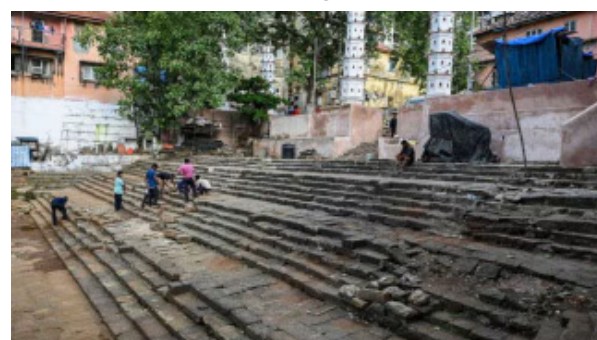
Worthy champions

SPORT is a great leveller. It can be cruel, and magical. The agony of defeat and the joy of victory, the Indian cricket team has experienced it all. After the heartbreak in Ahmedabad comes the redemption in the Caribbean. As Rohit Sharma's men held their nerve to edge past South Africa in a thrilling final and claim the T20 World Cup, the emotions were flowing thick and fast. They had finally got the monkey off their back. The ghosts of the loss to Australia in the 50-over World Cup in November last year lie buried. India won its second T20 World Cup but its first world title in 13 years. The MS Dhoni-led side had won the inaugural T20 event in 2007; he also captained the team to the ODI World Cup victory in 2011. Every win is special, every loss ineradicable. That is sport, rewarding and humbling. The Men in Blue have been exceptional. They have shown true grit and character. Let's savour the moment.

Rohit and Virat Kohli, among India's greatest cricketers of all time, have announced their retirement from T20 International matches, along with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. The timing could not have been better. They leave on a high. As does coach Rahul Dravid. The impressive South African captain Aiden Markram, who has taken his side farther than ever before, termed the loss gut-wrenching. The Indian cricketers know the feeling. The Indian fans, wildly passionate and given to bouts of euphoria and meltdown in equal measure, know it too. There can be only one winner — the game of cricket.

As we enter July, it's time to shift the gaze to the Paris Olympics. A sporting spectacle that celebrates the best the world has to offer. Like Team India just exhibited. Well done!

Centuries-old Banganga Tank gets damaged during desilting works, contractor booked as Opposition puts Maharashtra govt in dock



GNS News Agency, July 1

Located in the upscale Walkeshwar neighbourhood in south Mumbai, Banganga is a stepwell whose origin dates back to the 12th century. This tank, which finds mention in Ramayana, is being recognised and protected as a heritage site by the Maharashtra Archaeological Department. The steps are constructed with black basalt stones, while the 'Deepastambhs' located within the periphery is constructed with lime-plaster and bricks. As a routine practice during the monsoon, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation initiated desilting works inside the tank. However, one of the steps got damaged after the contractor tried to enter the center of the tank, using a JCB. The incident has led to an immense political backlash for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena alliance with Opposition parties taking potshots at the government for damaging the city's heritage structure. Meanwhile, cabinet minister in Maharashtra government and Mumbai's Guardian minister, Mangal Prabhat Lodha on Tuesday said that a First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged against the contractor who damaged a step of Banganga Tank — a heritage structure in Mumbai's Walkeshwar. Varsha Gaikwad, Congress MP in Mumbai, asked how the authorities allowed a JCB on the premises where heavy machinery is not allowed and desilting is done every year with due precaution. "How come this time they let a JCB inside an area? Who will take responsibility for destroying a state protected monument? Losses like these cannot even be compensated. What was the BMC thinking? Did they check the credentials of the contractor well before handing over this work? Was there no one from the BMC overseeing the work of the contractor? This is criminal negligence that has led to destruction of our city's heritage! I demand that an FIR on the charges of criminal negligence be filed against the contractor and the BMC at the earliest. A thorough enquiry must be conducted," he wrote on X. The Mumbai unit of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged that the BJP is an anti-Mumbai party and an anti-Hindu party. "The demolition of the Banganga Steps by the BMC is simply unacceptable. It is also a criminal offence. This speaks volumes of the BJP-Shinde Sena government's low respect for Hindus and our temples," the party said in a statement. Meanwhile, Lodha dismissed the allegations against him as "agenda driven". "The government is working towards restoring the Banganga Tank which is a heritage structure," he said. A civic official from the local D ward office said, "The contractor wanted to take in the JCB since we wanted to reach the centre of the tank. However, they had to stop midway, realising the steps were being damaged. The work was taken up after taking permission from the Heritage Cell efforts are already underway to restore the damaged stones." The civic authorities also said that they will be pressing an FIR against the contractor. Taking to his social media profile at X, Shiv Sena's Milind Deora said that BMC's misgovernance will not be tolerated. "Glad to see the GSB Temple Trust & @ASIGol taking action against those responsible for the #Banganga mishap. They have my full support. @mybmc has been plundered as an ATM for almost 3 decades. Under @mieknathshinde Ji, we will not tolerate BMC's misgovernance," Deora said. Listed as a Grade-I Heritage Site the Banganga is one of the last remaining natural water bodies in Mumbai and the tank is known to store fresh water even though it is in close proximity to the Arabian Sea.

'Simply not for me': After consecutive defeats, football icon Bhaichung Bhutia quits politics



GNS News Agency, July 1

Indian football icon Bhaichung Bhutia on Tuesday announced that he was quitting politics, following his defeat in the recently held assembly elections in Sikkim. Bhaichung, the vice president of the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), lost to SKM's Rikshal Dorjee Bhutia in the Barfung seat, which marked his sixth electoral defeat. He joined politics in 2014 when the ruling TMC in West Bengal named him as its candidate for the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat. In 2018, he took the plunge into the political arena of his state by forming the Hamro Sikkim Party. Last year, he merged his party with the Pawan Chamling-led SDF.

11 arrested in UP village after video of men offering namaaz on government land goes viral

GNS News Agency, July 1

Eleven men, including the head of a village, were arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district last week after a video went viral showing a group of people offering namaaz on government land in Turkaha village on Eid. Among the arrested, nine are Muslims, and two others, including the 46-year-old village pradhan Kedar Yadav, are Hindus. Dhawal Jaiswal, Kushinagar Superintendent of Police, confirmed the incident. Neeraj Rai, the then station house officer of Khadda police station (the jurisdictional police station), Om Prakash Yadav, Sub-Inspector, and Mohan Singh, Constable, were removed on charges of negligence and attached to the Reserved Police Lines, he added.

Yadav's son Shiv Kumar said that a dispute over the government land was ongoing and that the district administration and police had prohibited any activities there. "Without our knowledge, a group of people held a prayer on Eid (June 17). We found out about it when the video of the prayer went viral the next day. The police arrested my father for not stopping them from offering the prayer," he said. Yadav was a first-time pradhan. Over the last few months, tension had been brewing in the Muslim-dominated Turkaha village as two groups attempted to capture the government land. While one group of Muslim villagers wanted to build an Eidgah, the other group of Hindu villagers wanted to construct a marriage hall. Proposals to build both were sent to the district administration but were rejected, said SP Dhawal. A senior official of the revenue department had also recently directed the

"Firstly, I would like to congratulate Mr PS Tamang and the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) for winning the assembly elections. The people of Sikkim have given them a resounding mandate and I hope the SKM govt will work to fulfil their promises and take Sikkim to greater heights across all sectors," he said in a statement. "After the 2024 election results, I have had the realisation that electoral politics is simply not for me. I am therefore quitting all forms of electoral politics with immediate effect," he added. After losing the Darjeeling Lok Sabha constituency to the BJP in 2014, the TMC fielded Bhutia as its candidate for the 2016 West Bengal assembly elections in the Siliguri seat, but he lost to the CPI(M). Following the formation of his party in 2018, he contested the 2019 Sikkim assembly elections from two seats but lost in both. He again unsuccessfully contested the by-election to the Gangtok assembly seat, which was held later that year. Bhutia, the former Indian football captain, said he felt he had great ideas for the development of sports and tourism in Sikkim. "...given a chance, I would have loved to implement and contribute to the growth of the state in a very honest and sincere way," he said. "Unfortunately it was not to be. I am certain there will be more people with better ideas to do so," he said. Bhutia said that his intention in politics was to do good for the people of the state and the country.



local police station to ensure that no one attempted to capture the government land. "Since tension was brewing between the two groups in the village, the police held a meeting with members of both communities in April this year. A written agreement was made that no activities would take place on the government land," said Kumar. Upon learning that a group of people had allegedly offered namaaz on the government land, the local police conducted a preliminary inquiry and lodged a first information report (FIR) against 11 people at Khadda police station. The case against the accused was filed under Section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony) of the Indian Penal Code, said Jitendra Tandon, Station House Officer, Khadda police station.

In Surat, civic body officials demolish classrooms in school run by BJP leader



GNS News Agency, July 1

Officials of the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) Monday sealed 12 classrooms on the 3rd and 4th floors of Dindoli's Arihant Academy school, run by BJP leader and Surat Municipal School Board (SMEB) member Anurag Kothari, who is also one of the school's trustees. A few days ago, Congress leader and former Surat municipal corporator Aslam Cyclewala had complained to the SMC that the two floors had been illegally constructed by the trustees. Arihant Academy is a self-financed English and Hindi medium school covering classes up to 12th

standard.

"We have carried out demolition twice on the top two floors of the school, in February and April," the Limbayat Zone Chief Deputy Municipal Commissioner N H Patel told The Indian Express, adding that the school authorities paid a penalty of Rs 1.5 lakh. On receiving information that the school has constructed the top floors again and the classrooms are being actively used, Patel said that the team conducted the sealing exercise after school authorities "failed to give the necessary plan or construction permission issued by SMC". The school had permission only for the ground and two floor plans, sources said.

Stating that Kothari used his political influence to illegally construct the floors of school, the Congress leader Cyclewala said, "He had put the lives of students studying in Arihant Academy in danger." In a memorandum to the Surat collector, the Congress leaders Tuesday demanded "to disqualify him from the politically appointed post of member of Surat Municipal School Board (SMEB)," said Cyclewala. Saying that he will take expert advice to understand the situation, Kothari said "we will follow the Surat Municipal corporation required procedures" and "work in the direction" to get the classrooms unsealed.

Crackdown at FC Road pub: NCP (SP) demand resignation of Home and Excise ministers

GNS News Agency, July 1

The Opposition led by NCP (SP) on Tuesday staged a protest against the alleged use of drugs at a pub on Fergusson College Road and sought the resignation of state Home minister and Excise minister over the increasing availability of narcotics and surge in crimes in the city. "Narcotics consumption has become rampant in the city. The city is earning the dubious reputation of city of narcotics. Narcotics are openly sold in hotels and bars but the state home department is unaware of that and this raises suspicion," said city NCP (SP) chief Prashant Jagtap.

He said there is no fear of law among the criminals and alleged that the ministers as well as police officers are backing the narcotic mafia. "The Guardian minister and the Home minister should respond to the concerns of crimes taking place in the city. The Home minister and the excise minister should resign," said Jagtap adding that if there are no strict measures are taken to check such incidents, the NCP (SP) would undertake simultaneous protests across the city. The Congress, through the National Students Union of India (NSUI), too protested on the increasing incidents of narcotics use in the city. "There is no action against pubs and hotels, despite illegal activities getting exposed. The sale of narcotics and late night parties are continuing unabated in the city," said city NSUI president Bhushan Ranbhare. The ruling



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BJP too had held a protest urging the state government to move all pubs out of the city. The Patit Pawan Sanghatana pelted stones at the pub on Fergusson College Road while MNS held demonstrations outside it.

Visually impaired girl cracks CAT, joins IIM-Indore



GNS News Agency, July 1

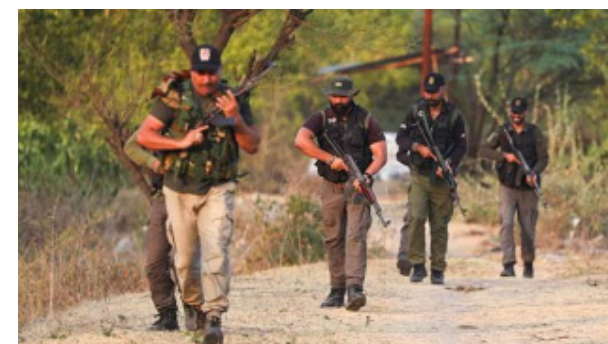
Sangareddy: Overcoming all the obstacles that come with being visually challenged, Kothakapu Shivani Reddy of Zaheerabad cracked the Common Admission Test (CAT) and got the cut-off marks to secure a seat in 16 Indian Institutes of Management out of the 21 IIMs in the country. She has decided to join IIM-Indore, which is among the top management colleges in the country.

Shivani Reddy, a resident of Zaheerabad town, has a brilliant academic record since childhood. Though she was completely blind by birth, her parents Kothakapu Venugopal Reddy and Vijayalakshmi, farmers by profession, supported her in pursuing her studies. Reddy got Shivani admitted to the Devnar School for the Blind in Begumpet in Hyderabad. Shivani was very active in her studies and also extracurricular activities during her childhood. After getting an 8.3 GPA in her 10th class board examinations, she rose in confidence that she could study with regular students and compete with them. She joined Master Minds junior college in Zaheerabad town and secured 921 marks for 1000 and stood as the topper in the batch.

Speaking to Telangana Today over phone from Indore, Shivani said she always wanted to work in an environment where she could meet different sections of people when she decided to join BBA at Satyabhama University in Chennai. Shivani passed the graduation course with flying colours by scoring 90 per cent in graduation. However, she started dreaming of pursuing her Master's while doing graduation. After undergoing online coaching for six months in 2023, Shivani cracked the CAT with 93.3 percentile. She got admission offers from 16 IIMs out of 21, but she decided to join IIM-Indore. Accompanied by her father Venugopal Reddy, she went to Indore on Tuesday to complete the admission process and join the hostel.

Shivani, the second of three daughters of the Reddy couple, said she wanted to join an MNC after completing postgraduation. Interestingly, her younger sister Bhavani, who is also partially visually challenged, had also cracked CAT this year and secured an MBA seat at the University of Hyderabad. Appreciation is pouring in for Shivani and Bhavani, while the couple were on cloud nine after the success of their daughters.

Jammu base camp gets 3-tier security ahead of annual Amarnath Yatra



A three-tier security system has been put in place in and around for the Amarnath base camp in Jammu under the charge of Jammu and Kashmir Police's security wing.

GNS News Agency, July 1

A three-tier security system has been put in place in and around for the Amarnath base camp in Jammu under the charge of Jammu and Kashmir Police's security wing. Forces have carried out search and sanitisation operations to ensure a safe commencement of the annual yatra from June 28 in Jammu.

The 52-day pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, located at a height of 3,880 metres, will commence from the twin tracks — the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-kilometre shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal — on June 29. "Adequate security arrangements have been made for the yatra. Three-tier security measures have been put in place for the base camp in the Bhagwati Nagar area in Jammu," Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dr Vinod Kumar said.

The SSP said that lodgment and registration centres in Jammu City are also under strict security. Police have also secured the highway through which the yatra will pass every day. "Security arrangements and area dominations have been enforced on the highway, and all points from borders have been plugged," the office said. "Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) have been activated, high-rise buildings dominated, and the security machinery is in law and order mode. All measures are in place for an incident-free yatra," he said. Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu serves as the primary base camp for pilgrims nationwide before they proceed to the cave shrine of Amarnath in the Himalayas of south Kashmir. The yatra will be carried out on the 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in the Ganderbal district. As part of the security measures, the security wing has assumed control of the area and barred public access. "Body scanners and CCTV cameras, including large 360-degree cameras, have been installed to monitor the camp and its surroundings round-the-clock," officials said. Several companies of the paramilitary are being deployed for security, they said.

UP cabinet okays TATA Sons' Rs 650-crore proposal for 'museum of temples' in Ayodhya



GNS News Agency, July 1

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with his deputies Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak during a state cabinet meeting, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with his deputies Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak during a state cabinet meeting, in Lucknow. The Uttar Pradesh cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal from the Tata Sons to build a 'museum of temples' in Ayodhya at a cost of Rs 650 crore, officials said.

Sharing details about the decision, Tourism Minister

Jaivir Singh said the tourism department would provide the company land for the international-level museum on a 90-year lease for a token money of Re 1. "Tata Sons had proposed the project through the Central government, offering to build the museum at a cost of Rs 650 crore under its corporate social responsibility fund," Singh said at a press meet here after the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The cabinet also okayed the company's proposal for other development works in the temple town for additional Rs 100 crore, he added. Tata Sons is the principal investment holding company and promoter of Tata companies.

Other proposals approved during the cabinet meeting included the launch of helicopter services in Lucknow, Prayagraj and Kapilvastu under the public-private partnership (PPP) model by building helipads, Singh said. The cabinet also cleared a proposal to develop dormant heritage buildings into tourist spots, the minister said. Three such heritage buildings - Kothi Roshan Dulha in Lucknow, Barsana Jal Mahal in Mathura and Shukla Talab (pond) in Kanpur — were selected for development as tourist spots, he said. He added that researchers would be selected under the Mukhya Mantri tourism fellowship programme for the purpose. Urban Development Minister A K Sharma and Finance Minister Suresh Khanna were also present in the press meet.

'He had been distracted for a few days': Latur school management tries to join dots after teacher's arrest over NEET paper leak

GNS News Agency, July 1

A few months before Zilla Parishad School at Katpur in Maharashtra's Latur district closed for summer vacation, Pandurang Mhaske and other members of the school management committee had asked the headmaster, Jaleel Khan Pathan, to seek a transfer as he seemed to be distracted. "We thought there were some issues at his home that prevented him from paying attention to his classes or duties. But when the news about his arrest came, the entire village could not believe it at first. He was a thorough gentleman," said Mhaske. With Pathan in police custody, the village located barely 10 km from Latur city is concerned about the infamy his arrest has brought to the school where he had been the headmaster since 2017. Pathan was one of the four people arrested in Maharashtra late on Monday for their alleged roles in the NEET-UG paper leak. The police are investigating his alleged links with similar malpractices in the past. Mhaske said Pathan was entrusted with the responsibility of Class 7 but he was ill at ease of late.

"Students of his class said he was not teaching properly and we in the school management committee also discussed this. Informally we had asked him to seek transfer if he was facing some problem in the school," he said. The school has around 120 students studying in classes



up to 8. Mhaske said the midday meal committee called him on Monday evening as the headmaster was not answering calls. "The midday meal committee has to submit reports every day. When I called Pathan, his phone kept on ringing," he said. Towards the evening, some acquaintance of Mhaske sent him a video showing Pathan's arrest. "This arrest has shaken up the teachers and the parents. Katpur was known for academically brilliant students. We hope to put this incident behind us soon and go ahead," Mhaske said. The school has appointed another teacher to don the headmaster's role.

Karnataka Governor gives nod to legislation aimed at ensuring welfare, social security of motor transport workers

GNS News Agency, July 1

Karnataka government Act motor transport workers act. The new Act applies to a wide range of workers, including those employed in motor transport undertakings, garages, workshops, and automobile body-building units. The Karnataka government has enacted a legislation aimed at ensuring the welfare and social security of motor transport and allied workers. The Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers' Social Security and Welfare Act, 2024, received the Governor's assent on Monday, marking a significant step towards improving the livelihoods of thousands of workers in the state. The new Act applies to a wide range of workers, including those employed in motor transport undertakings, garages, workshops, and automobile body-building units.

It extends to employees directly involved with motor vehicles, such as drivers, conductors, cleaners, and administrative staff, as well as those in ancillary services like tyre retreading, puncture repairs, and vehicle washing. The Act mandates the formation of the Karnataka State Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers' Social Security and Welfare Board. This Board will oversee the implementation of various welfare schemes and social security measures. The board will be chaired by the minister of labour, government of Karnataka, additional chief secretary/principal secretary/secretary of the department of labour will be appointed as the vice chairperson and other officio members include principal secretary, transport department, commissioner of transport department, commissioner of commercial taxes. Other members of the



board will include ten members nominated by the government out of whom, five members should represent the workers engaged in motor transport and other allied works and five members representing the employees of Motor Transport undertakings and other similar establishments.

Workers must register through a digital portal to be eligible for benefits under the Act. Registered workers will gain access to social security benefits, including financial assistance for health, education, and pensions.

The Act establishes a dedicated Social Security Fund, financed through a cess on motor transport businesses, government grants, and contributions from beneficiaries. This fund will support various welfare schemes and administrative expenses. Recently, in March, the transport department officials announced the decision of imposing a three per cent additional cess on newly registered transport vehicles (yellow board commercial vehicles) like taxis, buses and auto-rickshaws.

Kallakurichi hooch tragedy: AIADMK chief meets TN Governor, seeks action against DMK govt

GNS News Agency, July 1

AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Tuesday called on Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi and demanded that he take action against the ruling DMK over the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy. The former chief minister, who led a delegation of his party legislators and advocate-wing members, met Ravi at Raj Bhavan here and submitted a memorandum on the alleged failure of the DMK government in containing the brewing and sale of illicit arrack, he said.

Governor Ravi assured him that appropriate action would be taken based on his memorandum. Palaniswami later told reporters. Wondering aloud if there has been intelligence failure on spurious liquor consumption in Kallakurichi which claimed 60 lives, Palaniswami reiterated that DMK president and Chief Minister M K Stalin should take responsibility for the loss of lives in the hooch tragedy and step down. "The investigation should be handed over to the CBI in order to ensure impartiality and

fairness in the probe," he said. "The affected people will not get justice if any investigating agency under the state government probes it. Stalin should own moral responsibility over the deaths and resign immediately," Palaniswami said. Earlier today, AIADMK members led by Palaniswami, the leader of the Opposition in the legislative assembly, were evicted en masse from the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly after they created a ruckus during Question Hour over the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy. Assembly Speaker M Appavu then barred them from attending the day's proceedings today. Later, Raj Bhavan said the delegation led by Palaniswami submitted to the Governor a memorandum concerning the tragic deaths caused by illicit liquor consumption in Kallakurichi and sought a CBI inquiry into it. "They raised serious concern as last year some 22 persons died because of illegal liquor consumption in Chengalpattu and Villupuram, which is a continuing failure of the state government," a post on Raj Bhavan's official handle on social media platform X said.

'Who dies if a body part gets severed?': Family members of Punjab farm worker who died in Italy



GNS News Agency, July 1

A 31-year-old farm labourer from Punjab's Moga district died in Italy on June 19 after his employer abandoned him on a roadside following a farm accident which led to his right hand getting severed from his body. The farm labourer, identified as Satnam Singh, hails from the Chand Nawar village. His family members condemned the treatment he received and said it was worse than how people treat animals. They have also demanded justice and have made an appeal to get Singh's body repatriated to his hometown. According to information, Satnam Singh's hand got severed in an accident at a farm in Italy. However, instead of immediately taking him to the hospital, the farm owner, identified as Renzo Lovato, allegedly transported him to his residence in a minivan and dumped him outside. Reports from Italy indicate that the incident occurred on Monday at a melon greenhouse of the Agro Potino in south of Rome. Satnam Singh, accompanied by his wife who also worked in the same field, pleaded for medical help but was ignored.

Following the incident, Satnam's wife sought assistance from neighbours who called an ambulance. He was airlifted to a hospital but succumbed to his injuries

on Wednesday. Italy Prime Minister Giorgio Meloni expressed shock and denounced the act during a cabinet meeting, emphasising the need for swift justice. Protests in Italy following the death and people have been slamming the "inhumane treatment". The protests have also highlighted the issues faced by several such farm workers who allegedly work in inhumane conditions in Italy. Satnam, reportedly without a legal contract, which exemplifies the exploitation faced by migrant workers in Italy's agriculture sector. Local trade unions labelled the incident as barbaric and condemned the brutal circumstances of Satnam's death. The farm owner expressed regret and claimed he had warned Satnam against approaching the machinery. An investigation has been launched, focusing on the farm owner's son, who allegedly abandoned Satnam outside his home. Charges, including manslaughter and failure to assist a person in danger, may follow, said sources. What his family said

Meanwhile, Satnam Singh's parents received the news of his death last Wednesday, June 19. Gurmukh Singh, 70, Satnam Singh's father, spoke to The Indian Express and said they were never informed about their son's "accident". They learned about the details only after his passing. "Our source of information was the media and when we tried to contact embassy officials to verify the news, we were unable to speak to anyone," he lamented.

Singh expressed disappointment that media reports did not mention their village or family background in Chand Nawar, adding to their anguish. "Satnam had spent the last four years in Italy following a 15-year career in India. He completed his 10+2 education and an ITI course before working in an automobile company in Moga for over a decade," Gurmukh Singh said. "We sent Satnam abroad with great hopes by incurring a lot of debt. But we had never thought that his life would be at risk in a country like Italy," the father added.

'Who dies if a body part gets severed?'

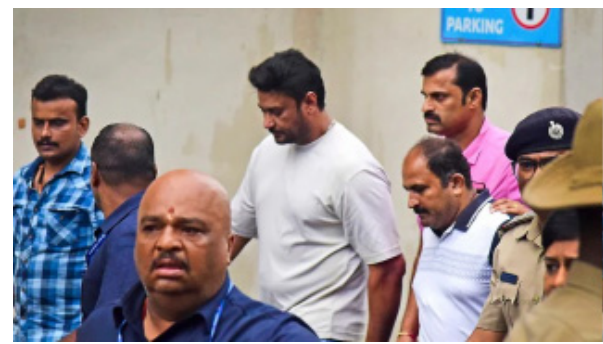
Satnam's sister-in-law Palwinder Kaur said, "Who dies if a body part gets severed? It's only because the employer dumped him on the roadside instead of rushing him to the hospital is why he died." Satnam is survived by his parents, one elder brother, and a younger sister. His mother was inconsolable and fell sick after hearing the news. He was unmarried when he had gone to Italy but got married to a Punjabi woman in the foreign country. His family members said he used to send some money to pay off the debt but that was a meagre amount.

As complaints against actor Darshan Thoogudeepa's fans rise, Bengaluru police act

GNS News Agency, July 1

On June 11, Darshan, his friend Pavithra Gowda and 11 others were arrested in connection with the murder of his fan Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga. (PTI) On June 11, Darshan, his friend Pavithra Gowda and 11 others were arrested in connection with the murder of his fan Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga. After receiving several complaints from people who have allegedly been abused and threatened on social media for speaking against Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa following his arrest in a murder case, the Bengaluru police have now started taking action against the actor's fans. The Basaveshwaranagar police arrested Darshan's fan Chethan after he was purportedly seen abusing Kannada film producer Umapathi Gowda using foul language in a widely shared video. Once friends, Darshan and Gowda severed their ties following a fallout after the 2021 Kannada film Robert. Chethan was arrested in Bengaluru and booked under sections 504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Darshan's friend Pavithra Gowda managed to act in a few movies, such as Preethi Kithabhu and Chatrigalu Sir Chatrigalu, that did not make much noise in the box office.

A senior police officer said that many Darshan fans have been abusing and threatening those who post content against the actor or those who have been arrested in the case. "We have received many complaints. Kannada film actor Pratham who had received death threats has also registered a case. We are now scanning social media to identify those who are issuing death threats. In



some cases, we have found that witnesses in the case were also threatened," the officer said. A video where Chethan is purportedly heard apologising for his remarks has also gone viral. "We want to send a message to those who are virtually issuing threats and abusing on social media platforms. They have gone to the extent to show honest police officers in a bad light on social media. We will book those who go overboard," the officer added. Darshan, who has acted in nearly 50 Kannada movies and is referred to as 'Box Office Sultan' because of his many hits, has a massive fan base in Karnataka. On June 11, Darshan, his friend Pavithra Gowda and 11 others were arrested in connection with the murder of his fan Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga. According to the police, Renukaswamy was allegedly murdered because he had sent abusive messages and photos to Gowda on Instagram. Seventeen people have been arrested in the case so far and all are currently in judicial custody.

No Maratha leader is with me, I am fighting lonely battle for quota: Jarange

GNS News Agency, July 1

Maratha quota agitation leader Manoj Jarange on Tuesday said while the OBC leaders were united over the issue of reservation despite belonging to different parties, those from his own community were not with him and he was fighting a lonely battle for quota. He was talking to reporters on Tuesday before being discharged from a private hospital where he was admitted a few days back.

Jarange, who launched his latest round of protest on June 8 and suspended it six days later, has been demanding implementation of the draft notification that recognises Kunbis as 'sage soyare' (blood relatives) of Maratha community members. Kunbi, an agrarian group, falls under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category, and Jarange has been demanding that Kunbi certifi-



icates be issued to all Marathas, thus making them eligible for quota benefits. However, OBC activist Laxman Hake and his supporters have been opposing Jarange's demand for issuance of Kunbi certificates to the Maratha community, and asserted that the state government must not take any decision that affects OBCs. Hake,

who was on a hunger strike over his demand, withdrew it later.

"Yesterday I said I am alone. This means that OBC leaders are united irrespective of their different political parties. But the leaders belonging to my community are not with me. Many of them have stepped aside. But I will still keep fighting," Jarange said. He also appealed to the gov-

ernment to fulfil the demands of the Maratha community. "The government should meet our 'sage soyare' demand as per our definition and just publish a notification that Marathas and Kunbis are one. Even if the government takes the gazettes of Hyderabad, Satara and the Bombay presidency into consideration, the Marathas will get reservation," the activist added.

Sharad Pawar on taking back MLAs of nephew

Ajit's camp: 'Those who would help...'



GNS News Agency, July 1

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)-SP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday hinted that his party's doors remain open for those MLAs who defected to nephew Ajit Pawar's camp leading to a split in the party. Speaking to the media, the veteran NCP leader said those MLAs who would help to strengthen the organisation or had not hurt the party's image would be taken in. "Those who wanted to weaken the party would not be taken in. But those leaders who would help strengthen the organisation and not hurt the image of the party would be taken in," Pawar said. "However, that too will happen after having a word with the party (NCP-SP) leaders and workers," he added. Sharad Pawar clarified that his nephew, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, would not be welcomed back into the NCP fold. Ajit's faction currently aligns with the ruling Mahayuti coalition, which

includes the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena. The NCP split in July 2023 when Ajit Pawar and several MLAs joined the BJP-Shiv Sena government. In February, the Election Commission of India recognised Ajit Pawar's faction as the real NCP and allotted it the iconic "clock" symbol. Speculation about potential returns to Sharad Pawar's camp has intensified following Ajit Pawar's faction's disappointing performance in the 2024 general elections. Ajit Pawar's NCP secured only one seat out of four contested in Maharashtra, whereas Sharad Pawar's NCP won eight out of ten seats it contested. The ruling Mahayuti coalition collectively won 17 of the 48 seats in the state, with the BJP winning nine and Shinde's Sena faction bagging seven.

Ajit Pawar's camp was reportedly upset over being offered the Minister of State (Mos) berth in the current NDA government. Praful Patel turned down the offer saying it would be a demotion for him as he had served as a Cabinet minister in the Union government earlier. Speculations of MLAs returning to Sharad Pawar's camp are also significant ahead of the state assembly elections in October 2024. The opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA), of which NCP-SP is a part, affirmed their intention to contest the upcoming assembly elections jointly. NCP-SP leader Rohit Pawar claimed that 18 to 19 MLAs from Ajit Pawar's NCP are expected to defect after the forthcoming monsoon session of the state legislature. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray had already ruled out the possibility of accepting leaders who had defected to chief minister Eknath Shinde's faction.

Life term to Rs1 crore fine: Yogi govt to bring new law against paper leaks

GNS News Agency, July 1

The law provides for property attachment for criminal activities and designates all offences as cognizable, non-bailable, and triable by the sessions court. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath-led government is set to introduce the Uttar Pradesh Public Examinations Ordinance 2024 following recent paper leaks in the Constable Recruitment Exam and RO-ARO exam. The state cabinet approved the proposal, which includes provisions for life imprisonment and fines up to ₹1 crore for those found guilty of exam malpractice.

Question papers of UP Police's biggest recruitment exam for 60,244 posts of constables were leaked in February. Later, the UPPSC preliminary recruitment examination for review officers and assistant review officers (ROs/AROs) was also cancelled in March due to reports of paper leaks. The ordinance covers public service recruitment exams, promotion exams, and entrance tests for degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Offences such as distributing fake question papers and creating counterfeit employment websites will be punishable. Violators could face imprisonment ranging from two years to life, along with fines up to ₹1 crore, the government said in a statement. In case of exam disruption, the ordinance allows for recovering financial losses from solver gangs and permanently blacklisting implicated companies and service providers. The law permits property attachment for criminal activities and designates all offences as cognizable, non-bailable, and triable by the sessions court. Strict provisions regarding bail are also outlined. Due to the UP assembly not being in session, the government has opted for the ordinance route to address these is-



sues promptly, it said in the statement. This comes at a time when several national-level competitive exams across India have come under scrutiny, casting uncertainty over the futures of lakhs of students. In less than a month into the Narendra Modi-led NDA 3.0 government, opposition parties have launched unified criticism. Here are the exams facing controversy:

1. NEET-UG 2024: The NTA has faced scrutiny for lapses in the NEET-UG 2024 medical entrance exam, including alleged paper leaks and irregularities.
2. UGC-NET: The June 18 UGC-NET exam was cancelled and handed over to the CBI, which is now investigating a darknet leak of the exam paper.
3. CSIR-UGC NET: The June edition of the Joint CSIR-UGC NET was postponed due to logistical issues, the education ministry said.
4. NEET-PG: Scheduled for June 23, the NEET-PG entrance exam was postponed by the Union health ministry amid concerns over exam integrity.

To navigate through 'turbulent times', India must invest in modernisation of armed forces: IAF chief



GNS News Agency, July 1

New Delhi, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari said on Tuesday the contemporary security landscape presents "multi-faceted challenges" from border disputes and terrorism to cyber threats and regional volatility, and India must invest in modernisation of its armed forces to navigate through these "turbulent times".

Delivering a keynote address at a seminar here, the IAF chief also said modern warfare is characterised by rapid technological advancements, asymmetric threats and the need for a comprehensive understanding of geopolitical, social and cultural contexts. His remarks come amid the backdrop of evolving geopolitics with conflicts being seen in some of the regions of the world. The seminar was hosted by the Indian Air Force, College of Air Warfare and Centre for Air Power Studies at the Air Force Auditorium at Subroto Park to mark the culmination of the third Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Programme. "This programme has enabled us to refine the definition of scholar warriors," the IAF chief said.

This "multi-faceted landscape" requires such military personnel who are not only adept at combat but also possess a deep understanding of the broader implications of their actions, the air chief marshal said.

Therefore, in my opinion, a scholar warrior is a military professional who combines intellectual acumen with combat prowess in today's "increasingly complex and dynamic security environment". Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari asserted. To emphasise the point, the IAF chief also invoked the words of ancient Greek historian Thucydides, who said "The society that separates its scholars from its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting by fools". He said India's strategic culture is shaped by historical experiences and the "ever-evolving geopolitical environment". It emphasises on strategic autonomy, caution and a "strong focus on territorial integrity", he added. "The contemporary security landscape presents multi-faceted challenges from

border disputes and terrorism to cyber threats and regional volatility. To navigate through these turbulent times and secure our national interests, India must invest in modernisation of its armed forces, strengthen strategic partnerships, promote indigenous defence production and adopt an integrated approach to both internal and external security," Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said.

The event was also attended by various air warriors, retired senior officers of the IAF and scholars, among others. The IAF chief underlined that India's strategic thinking can be traced back to the ancient texts like the Arthashastra written around the 4th century BC. It emphasised realpolitik and strategic pragmatism, "shades of which are visible today in every way we are dealing with contemporary issues". In his address, he said the colonial experience taught India to remain "ever cautious and adopt a sovereign entity-centric approach" towards foreign policy and defence. Atmanirbharta and Make in India are, therefore, an "offshoot of our strategic culture and a key towards preserving national security", he said.

"Whether India has a strategic culture or not is a matter of opinion, however, realpolitik, statecraft and diplomacy have always been a part of our historical tapestry and have shaped contemporary geopolitics," the IAG chief added. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in his recent book, "Why Bharat Matters", offers a novel approach to contemporary complex international situations by presenting this perspective through the lens of the epic Ramayana, he said.

TGSRTC extends bus pass time limit for accredited journalists

GNS News Agency, July 1

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has extended the validity, which expires on June 30, by three months on concessional bus passes for accredited journalists in the State.

The move comes after the Information and Public Relations Department of Telangana has recently issued an order extending the deadline for accreditation cards of journalists for three months till September 30. The process of accepting applications for concessional bus passes for accredited journalists has started from June 25. Along with entering personal details, photo and accreditation cards of the journalists must be uploaded and bus pass collection centre should also be selected.

Owaisi defends 'Jai Palestine' slogan in Parliament

as BJP objects: 'Read what Mahatma Gandhi...'



GNS News Agency, July 1

All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi stirred controversy on Tuesday by concluding his oath-taking in the 18th Lok Sabha with the slogan "Jai Palestine." Owaisi, who was re-elected as MP from Hyderabad parliamentary constituency, took the oath in Urdu and ended it with slogans - 'Jai Bheem, Jai Telangana, Jai Palestine'. Follow LIVE updates on Lok Sabha session. The unexpected inclusion of "Jai Palestine" immediately drew objections from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs, including Shobha Karandlaje. Radha

Mohan Singh, who was presiding over the swearing-in ceremony, announced that the controversial slogan would be expunged from the official records.

"This is against the rules of the House. He does not say 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' while living in India... People should understand that he does unconstitutional work while living in the country," Reddy told ANI. In response to the uproar, Owaisi defended his choice of words, questioning the basis of the objections raised by BJP members. "Other members are also saying different things... I said 'Jai Bheem, Jai Telangana, Jai Palestine'. How is it wrong? Tell me the provision of the Constitution [that I violated]. You should also listen to what others said. I said what I had to. Read what Mahatma Gandhi had said about Palestine," Owaisi said. Owaisi, who has emerged as a powerful voice of Muslims in the country in recent years, defeated his BJP rival Madhavi Latha by a big margin of over 3.38 lakh votes in the Lok Sabha elections, in what is seen as a testament to the iron grip of the Owaisi family over the old city. Unfazed by criticism that he is "B team of BJP", Owaisi has been making efforts to expand the party's footprint across the country albeit with limited success.

Brick kiln owner killed in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh; protestors block highway, set shops ablaze

GNS News Agency, July 1

Jaipur, A brick kiln owner was allegedly stabbed to death in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district after an altercation after which a dhaba and liquor shop were set ablaze by his kin, police said

The 38-year-old kiln owner's family and angry locals also blocked a highway and pelted stones at the police personnel after he was allegedly murdered by a group of people, which included the dhaba owner, after an argument over dust from his kiln, they added. The incident took place late Monday evening in Kherot village under the Kotwali police station limits of Pratapgarh, the police said. DSP Herambh Joshi said the dhaba owner Jaisingh Lalana, the main accused, has been detained and is being interrogated. Joshi said Ghanshyam Prajapat's brick kin and Lalana's dhaba are located nearby. The two allegedly had an argument a few days ago over the issue of dust flying from the kiln. On Monday

evening, they had another altercation on the same issue during which Prajapat allegedly slapped an employee of the dhaba and went home after the incident, the DSP said. At night, six people, including Lalana, allegedly arrived at Prajapat's house on two motorbikes and took him outside. After the group allegedly thrashed Prajapat, Lalana attacked him with a knife, killing him on the spot. The accused fled the spot after the murder, he added. Agitated over Prajapat's murder, his family members set the dhaba and liquor shop on fire at night, pelted stones at police vehicles and blocked the Pratapgarh-Ratlam highway, they said. The blockade was cleared after pacifying the protestors, however, additional police force has been deployed on the spot, they added. The DSP said teams have been formed to nab the remaining accused. The body is kept in the mortuary of the district hospital and is yet to be sent for postmortem, the police said. This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

Bail matters shouldn't be adjourned unnecessarily, says SC

GNS News Agency, July 1

New Delhi, Observing that bail matters should not be adjourned unnecessarily, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said it hoped the Delhi High Court will decide the bail plea of jailed former minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case at the next hearing. A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and SVN Bhatti made the observation while disposing of Jain's plea against the high court's decision of adjourning the hearing of his bail application for six weeks. "It goes without saying that bail matters are not to be unnecessarily adjourned. Therefore, we hope and trust that the high court shall take its call on the next date of hearing," it said. The high court has listed Jain's bail plea for hearing on July 9. During the hearing, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Jain, said he has challenged the long adjournment order. Singhvi said a substantial question of law has arisen from the case as to whether an incomplete charge sheet can be filed by the investigating agency to defeat an accused's right of default bail. He said a similar matter was under consideration of a three-judge bench of the apex court and urged the vacation bench that Jain's bail plea be tagged with it. Justice Misra told Singhvi that the bench is sitting in combination of two judges and therefore cannot decide the issue which is pending consideration of the three-judge bench. "Let the issue be decided by the high court and then we will take it up. The high court will deal with the merits of the case taking into account the factual aspect," the bench said, adding that the impugned order before the court is just a one line adjournment order.

It said that the three-judge bench of the top court is considering a point of law and it may not be appropriate for a two-judge bench to deal with it.

The bench ordered, "This petition is against an order of the Delhi High Court adjourning the hearing of the bail application to July 9. Mr. Singhvi submits that the question of law which would govern the decision of the High Court is engaging the attention of a 3-judge bench of this



Court and therefore it is appropriate that this matter is tagged with that matter. "We do not find any merit in the submission because the high court will decide the matter on its own merits and if the petitioner is aggrieved with the high court's order, he can challenge it." On May 28, the high court had sought the response of the Enforcement Directorate on Jain petition and asked it to file a status report on the investigation. The court had also called for the nominal roll of Jain from prison and listed the matter for further hearing on July 9. Nominal rolls maintained in jails contain among other things the conduct of a prisoner. Jain is accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him.

He has challenged a trial court's May 15 order by which he was denied default bail in the case. Jain has contended that the ED failed to conclude the investigation in all respects within the statutory period and the prosecution complaint, which was incomplete, was filed in an attempt to deprive him of his right to default bail under the provisions of Section 167 of the CrPC. The ED arrested Jain on May 30, 2022 in the money laundering case based on a CBI FIR lodged against him in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. He was granted regular bail by a trial court on September 6, 2019, in the case lodged by the CBI.

Why do Kerala politicians want to change the state's name?

GNS News Agency, July 1

The Kerala assembly on Monday passed a resolution for the second time to change the name of the state to 'Keralam'. The Kerala assembly had passed a resolution about the change of name in 2023 as well, but did not get the Centre's approval. The Aikya Kerala movement in the 1920s called for a separate state based on linguistic grounds for those who speak Malayalam. In 1956, a state for Malayalam speakers was eventually formed. The original name of the state in its language was Keralam. It was changed to Kerala in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. The history of the word 'Keralam' is linked to many theories. Some people consider it to be linked to the 'Chera' dynasty, saying that the word changed from 'Chera-alam' - land of the Cheras - to Kera-alam, according to the book Culture and Media: Ecocritical Explorations by P.S Sachindev. The book also speculates that the meaning of the word could be the land of coconuts - 'kera-alam' - where kera is a local term for coconuts.

During the period in which the Chera dynasty ruled what is now Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Malayalam as a language developed after branching off from Tamil and combining with several regional languages. The Malayalam speaking communities thus formed their own cultural and linguistic bonds that eventually led to the state of Kerala.



The current resolution now awaits the Centre's approval once again. Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan has asked that the name of the state must be changed in all languages in the eighth schedule of the Constitution and in all official records. The demand for the name change has existed for a long time. In 2010, the then chief minister, VS Achuthandan, had raised the issue along with several other legislators, but a resolution couldn't be passed. A change in the name requires the Parliament's approval and is a difficult process. In 2011, Orissa changed into Odisha under the Orissa (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2010.

Biden's Green Card, H-1B visa inaction disappointing: Indian-American lawmaker



Ro Khanna, an Indian-American Congressman, has voiced disappointment over the Biden administration's inaction on the EAGLE Act, which aims to address the backlog affecting Indian professionals seeking Green Cards and resolving H-1B visa issues. Ro Khanna, an Indian-American Congressman, has expressed disappointment with the Biden administration's lack of action on the EAGLE Act, a bill aimed at addressing the severe backlog affecting Indian professionals waiting for Green Cards and dealing with H-1B visa issues. Ro Khanna, a Democrat, has slammed the administration run by a Democratic Party President. "The EAGLE Act will benefit our economy by lifting the arbitrary per-country green card caps to bring down our decades-long backlog for immigrants. I am deeply disappointed that my amendment to include it in this year's National Defense Authorization Act was not given a vote," Khanna stated in a post on X.

Khanna is working to eliminate country caps to prevent workers from being stuck in status, which harms both American workers and H-1B visa holders. Without this

change, the waiting period for Indian immigrants could extend beyond 20 years, potentially exceeding 70 years in some cases. "The EAGLE Act is a bipartisan and common sense bill. 350 amendments were made in order by the Rules Committee but my amendment to add it to the NDAA was blocked by the Republican supermajority on the committee," he added.

The EAGLE Act, or the Equal Access to Green Cards for Legal Employment Act, seeks to overhaul the current immigration system by removing the per-country limit on employment-based Green Cards and increasing the cap on family-sponsored Green Cards from 7% to 15%. The White House has endorsed the legislation, recognising its potential to alleviate the long-standing backlog affecting hundreds of thousands of immigrants, particularly from India and China. Khanna stressed the economic benefits of the EAGLE Act, stating, "Our industrial base needs more workers to maintain a strong military and outpace our adversaries. Immigrants help fill a critical shortage and bring vital skills to our economy, supporting all Americans." He also called for an end to the abuse of H-1B visas by foreign outsourcing companies.

"Per-country green card caps cause unproductive backlogs and ignore the realities of our workforce. We must end H1B abuse by foreign outsourcing companies. This abuse decreases wages and harms workers," Khanna wrote on X. Currently, many prospective employment-based immigrants live and work in the US on temporary visas while waiting for a long-term visa. Due to the per-country caps, individuals can remain in temporary status for years, sometimes even over 100 years. "I'm moved by the stories I've heard from my constituents about how this bill would help. I will continue to champion this critical legislation and explore ways for it to be signed into law," wrote Khanna on X.

Elon Musk welcomes 12th child, says 'our friends and family knew' about birth



GNS News Agency, July 1

Tech magnate Elon Musk welcomed his 12th child, his third with Neuralink Director Shvonne Zilis, and said the baby's birth was not a secret, as all his friends and family were aware of it. He also denied reports that he "secretly fathered" the baby. Musk stated that not issuing a press release about his 12th child would have been "bizarre". The name and gender of the baby was not revealed. "As for 'secretly fathered', that is also false. All our friends and family know. Failure to issue a press release, which would be bizarre, does not mean 'secret,'" he was quoted as saying by Page Six. This is Musk's third child with Zilis,

who is working for his brain implant firm. Musk's twins, Strider and Azure, were born in 2021. Musk first married Justine Wilson in 2000 and the couple has five children. The couple divorced in 2008. He then married actor Talulah Riley in 2010 and they divorced in 2016. In 2018, Musk dated Canadian musician Grimes and the couple has three children before they separated in 2021. The 52-year-old billionaire has voiced his concerns about declining birth rates, highlighting that many countries were below the replacement rate and that the global trend suggested a further decline. "Many countries are already well below replacement rate, and the trend is that almost all will be. This is simply a fact, not a 'debunked theory,'" he told Page Six.

He said that "2.1 kids is the replacement rate, and obviously the world as a whole will soon drop below that point". In an interview with Page Six in July 2022, Musk backed having "big families" and said he wanted many children so that he could spend time with them and be a good father. Even at that time, Musk had tweeted that a "collapsing birth rate was the biggest danger civilisation faced". Apart from Musk's three children with Zilis, the tech magnate shares twins Griffin and Vivian and triplets Kai, Saxon and Damian with his Justine Wilson. Their eldest child, Nevada, died of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) at 10 weeks.

Julian Assange's wife Stella 'elated' by husband's release from UK jail: Report

GNS News Agency, July 1

Stella Assange, wife of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, told BBC that she is "elated" by her husband's release from a UK prison in a years-long espionage case. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's wife, Stella Assange, said she is "elated" by the release of her husband from a UK prison after five years in an espionage case. In an interview with the BBC, Stella Assange said, "It's just incredible, it feels like it's not real." She also spoke about the whirlwind of emotions, saying the past few days have been "touch and go", with the past 72 hours being "non-stop".

Julian Assange on Monday (local time) walked out of the Belmarsh prison in London after pleading guilty this week to violating US espionage law, in a deal that ended his imprisonment in the UK and allowed him to return home to Australia. The 52-year-old, who earlier denied the charges as an act of journalism, pleaded guilty to a single criminal court of conspiring to disclose classified US national defence documents. Stella Assange told BBC that she hasn't yet had time to discuss what she and her husband will do once he is freed, pointing out that the priority is for him to "get healthy again" as he has been in a "terrible state for five years". However, the couple did speak via video call as shared by both Stella Assange and the official WikiLeaks X account. "Julian calling into Sydney from Stansted airport last night (his day time)," her post read.

She also told BBC that the couple's children, aged five and seven, are yet to know about their father's release and that they are being informed "gradually, incrementally". Soon after the news of Julian Assange's release came, Stella took to X to thank his supporters and express her gratitude. "Julian is free!!!! Words cannot express our immense gratitude to YOU - yes YOU, who have all mobilised for years and years to make this come true. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU," her post on the microblogging site read. Furthermore, in a video



on the official WikiLeaks account, recorded by Stella Assange on June 19 but released on June 25 after the news of Julian Assange's release from the UK prison came, she thanked people from "all walks of life" for their support and an "incredible movement". Julian Assange's parents were relieved about their son's lengthy battle coming to an end. His father, John Shipton, thanked Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for his intervention in the case. Stella Assange had joined the WikiLeaks legal team since the start of Julian Assange's captivity. Their professional connection transformed into a personal one and by 2015 they were in a romantic relationship. The couple married within the high-security Belmarsh jail in 2022 after obtaining permission from the British prison service under the 1983 Marriage Act. According to The Associated Press, a plane believed to be carrying Julian Assange has landed in Bangkok. Chartered flight VJT199 landed after noon at Don Mueang International Airport for refuelling and was scheduled to depart in the evening for Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the Western Pacific - where the WikiLeaks founder will appear in court on Wednesday morning (local time), and head home thereafter.

Trudeau's party MP slams decision to honour Nijjar in Canada Parliament



GNS News Agency, July 1

An MP from Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party has slammed the decision to observe a moment's silence to mark the first anniversary of death of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Canada's Parliament held a minute of silence to honour Nijjar, who was killed last year on June 18. A Canadian Member of Parliament (MP) from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's party has condemned the government's move to mark a year of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's death by holding a moment of silence in the House of Commons. Chandra Arya, a Liberal Party MP member of Parliament from Napean, Canada, condemned the tribute, saying it was inappropriate to honour Nijjar. Chandra Arya said that the Parliament observes a minute of silence exclusively for great Canadians, who have served Canadians immensely for most of their lives, and Nijjar didn't at all fit into it, reports The Globe and Mail. MPs from all parties took a moment to honour Nijjar, who was murdered outside the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18, 2023. Justin Trudeau claimed there were "credible allegations" linking the murder to the Indian government, which has since strained diplomatic relations between Canada and India. India vehemently denied any such involvement, and termed the allegations "absurd and motivated".

Member of Parliament Chandra Arya condemned the tribute, saying it was inappropriate to honour Nijjar. "When Parliament decides to observe a minute of silence, it is very exclusive and limited to a few great Canadians who have served Canadians immensely for most of their lives," said Arya reported The Globe and Mail. "Nijjar is not one of those people. That the 'credible allegations' that he was killed by a foreign government were considered good enough to elevate him to the ranks of the most respected Canadians is false," Arya added. Arya pointed to a Globe and Mail investigation that highlighted concerns over Nijjar's links to extremism, his entry into Canada on a false passport, and his involvement in the Khalistan separatist movement. Arya

emphasised that Parliament's observance of a minute of silence should be reserved for Canadians who have significantly served the country. The controversy has been further fuelled by ongoing tensions surrounding the Air India bombing in 1985, which killed 329 people. Two Canadian investigations attributed the attack to Sikh extremists in Canada. Arya expressed concern over conspiracy theories promoted by some Khalistan supporters, who claim the Indian government was involved in the bombing. These theories have upset families of the victims. Deepak Khandelwal, who lost two sisters in the bombing, criticised the Trudeau government's handling of the situation, saying it "emboldens" such behaviour.

"As painful as this is, I'm speaking out because I don't want any other family to have to go through this. We cannot allow these elements to become stronger," Khandelwal said, reported The Globe and Mail. The Air India bombing remains a sensitive issue, with renewed attention due to recent actions by Khalistan supporters. Some disrupted memorials for Air India victims, promoting conspiracy theories. "The idea that the Indian government was somehow behind the bombing is totally, totally absurd," said Mahesh Sharma, a professor at Concordia's business school, who lost his wife and daughters in the attack.

The federal New Democratic Party (NDP) defended the minute of silence for Nijjar. "A Canadian was killed on Canadian soil, allegedly by a foreign government. It's terrifying, and many Canadians are feeling worried and unsafe as a result," said NDP House Leader Peter Julian. Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland responded to questions about the protests at Air India memorials by reiterating the government's stance on protecting Canadians' rights. "You do not have the right, in Canada, to kill Canadians," she said.

Electric AC buses between Koti and Madhapur for IT crowd

Hyderabad: For the convenience of the software employees and others working in the offices at Madhapur, Hitec City and vicinities located on the IT Corridor, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has introduced Electric Air-Conditioned Metro Luxury buses on Route No.127K from Koti to Kondapur. Starting from June 24, the bus services will cover Kothaguda 'x' road, Hitec City, Madhapur, Peddamma Temple, Masab Tank and Lakdi-ka-pul.

Julian Assange stops in Bangkok on way to US court, later freedom

GNS News Agency, July 1

A plane believed to be carrying WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange landed in Bangkok on Tuesday on its way to enter a plea deal with the US government that will free him and resolve the years-long espionage case.

A plane believed to be carrying Julian Assange landed Tuesday in Bangkok, as the WikiLeaks founder was on his way to enter a plea deal with the US government that will free him and resolve the legal case that spanned years and continents over the publication of a trove of classified documents. Chartered flight VJT199 landed after noon at Don Mueang International Airport, north of the Thai capital. Airport officials told The Associated Press the plane was only in Bangkok for refuelling and was scheduled to depart Tuesday evening for Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the western Pacific, where he will appear in court Wednesday morning local time. He's expected to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defence information, according to the US Justice Department in a letter filed in court. Assange is expected to return to his home country of Australia after his plea and sentencing. The hearing is taking place in Saipan because of Assange's opposition to travelling to the continental US and the court's proximity to Australia, prosecutors said. The guilty plea, which must be approved by a judge, brings an abrupt conclusion to a criminal case of international intrigue and to the US government's years-long pursuit of a publisher whose hugely popular secret-sharing website made him a cause célèbre among many press freedom advocates who said he acted as a journalist to expose US military wrongdoing. Investigators, by contrast, have repeatedly asserted that his actions broke laws meant to protect sensitive information and put the country's national security at risk.

In a statement posted on X, WikiLeaks said Assange boarded a plane and departed Monday after leaving the British prison where he has spent the last five years. WikiLeaks applauded the announcement of the deal, saying it was grateful for "all who stood by us, fought for us, and remained utterly committed in the fight for his freedom". "WikiLeaks published groundbreaking stories of government corruption and human rights abuses, holding the powerful accountable for their actions. As editor-in-chief, Julian paid severely for these principles, and for the people's right to know," WikiLeaks said.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who has been lobbying for the United States to end its prosecution of Assange, told Parliament that an Australian envoy had flown with Assange from London. "Regardless of the views that people have about Mr Assange's activities, the case has dragged on for too long. There's nothing to be gained by his continued incarceration and we want him brought home to Australia," Albanese added. The deal ensures Assange will admit guilt while also sparing him from additional prison time. He had spent years hiding in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London after Swedish authorities sought his arrest on rape allegations before being locked up in the United Kingdom.

Assange is expected to be sentenced to the five years he has already spent in the British prison while fighting extradition to the US to face charges, a process that has played out in a series of hearings in London. Last month, he won the right to appeal an extradition order after his lawyers argued that the U.S. government provided "blatantly inadequate" assurances that he would have the same free speech protections as an American citizen if extradited from Britain. Assange has been heralded by many around the world as a hero who brought to light military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. Among the files published by WikiLeaks was a video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists. But his reputation was also tarnished by rape allegations, which he has denied.

The Justice Department's indictment unsealed in 2019 accused Assange of encouraging and helping US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks published in 2010. Prosecutors had accused Assange of damaging national security by publishing documents that harmed the US and its allies and aided its adversaries. Prosecutors said in a charging document filed in connection with the plea agreement that Assange conspired with Manning to receive and obtain documents, notes and other writings related to the national defence and to "willfully communicate" those records. The document takes care to note that Assange was "not a United States citizen, did not possess a US security clearance, and did not have authorisation to possess, access, or control documents,



writings, or notes relating to the national defence of the United States, including classified information". The case was lambasted by press advocates and Assange supporters. Federal prosecutors defended it as targeting conduct that went way beyond that of a journalist gathering information, amounting to an attempt to solicit, steal and indiscriminately publish classified government documents. The plea agreement comes months after President Joe Biden said he was considering a request from Australia to drop the US push to prosecute Assange. The White House was not involved in the decision to resolve Assange's case, according to a White House official who was not authorised to speak publicly about the case and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Assange made headlines in 2016 after his website published Democratic emails that prosecutors say were stolen by Russian intelligence operatives. He was never charged in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, but the inquiry laid bare in stark detail the role that the hacking operation played in interfering in that year's election on behalf of then-Republican candidate Donald Trump. During the Obama administration, Justice Department officials mulled charges against Assange, but were unsure a case would hold up in court and were concerned it could be hard to justify prosecuting him for acts similar to those of a conventional journalist. The posture changed in the Trump administration, however, with former Attorney General Jeff Sessions in 2017 calling Assange's arrest a priority. Assange's family and supporters have said his physical and mental health have suffered during more than a decade of legal battles. Assange took refuge in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London in 2012 and was granted political asylum after courts in England ruled he should be extradited to Sweden as part of a rape investigation in the Scandinavian country. He was arrested by British police after Ecuador's government withdrew his asylum status in 2019 and then jailed for skipping bail when he first took shelter inside the embassy. Although Sweden eventually dropped its sex crimes investigation because so much time had elapsed, Assange had remained in London's high-security Belmarsh Prison during the extradition battle with the US.

Award for KL University Hyderabad campus

GNS News Agency, July 1

Hyderabad: KLH Hyderabad campus has announced that it has received the Outstanding Performance Award at the PALS Hub events organized by IIT Hyderabad. The award ceremony honoured the exceptional efforts of students and faculty in various events and activities under the PALS initiative.

On behalf of KLH Hyderabad of KL Deemed to be University, Dr. Ramakrishna Akella, Principal of KLH Aziz Nagar Campus gracefully accepted the award presented by Dr. B.S. Murthy, Director of IIT Hyderabad, a press release said.

Hyderabad secured this recognition by actively participating in around 28 events, including hosting a Workshop on Electrical Vehicle Industry Insights, which gathered appreciation among Partner Institutes. The campus's involvement in Technical Seminars, Industrial Visits, Coding Hackathons, Idea Pitching, and Residential Workshops was highly praised. Notably, student participation in the Idea Prototype competition reached the pre-final stage.

Dr. G. Pardha Saradhi Varma, Vice Chancellor of KL University, remarked, "Active engagement with initiatives like these ensures that students are well-equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of the modern world."

Will the government increase Section 80C limit



Section 80C remains a popular tax-saving avenue among taxpayers in the old tax regime, having been introduced in 2014 by then finance minister Arun Jaitley. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to present the Budget for 2024 on July 23 or 24, with experts suggesting that the government may look to provide tax relief in a bid to boost consumption. The government is likely to increase the tax exemption threshold under the new tax regime from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh in the upcoming budget, according to media reports. There are also chances that tax slabs under the old income tax regime may also be rationalised. These measures may be implemented aimed at offering tax relief to certain taxpayers and boosting middle-class consumption to further support GDP growth. However, since the government is also looking to consolidate the fiscal deficit, major tax relief measures could be kept at bay. The government aims to maintain its fiscal deficit target of 5.1% of gross domestic product for the current financial year.

Taxpayers are hoping for an increase in the limit of

Section 80C under the Income Tax Act, 1961, especially after this year marks a decade since it was last increased. Individuals can claim a deduction of up to Rs 1.5 lakh for the fiscal year 2024-25 if they choose the old tax regime. This benefit, introduced by then finance minister Arun Jaitley in 2014, has not been adjusted since.

"The maximum deduction under Section 80C has been capped at Rs 1.5 lakhs since first budget of BJP government post-election in 2014," said Mitesh Jain, Partner, Economic Laws Practice. Section 80C remains a popular tax-saving avenue among taxpayers in the old tax regime, with growing awareness leading to substantial investments in eligible instruments. Expenditure on instruments like life insurance premiums, tuition fees, and home loan principal repayments has also risen significantly, often causing individuals to reach the 1.5 lakh limit.

Taxpayers have long anticipated an increase in this limit across several budgets, especially with rising living costs and inflation outpacing the incremental changes in Section 80C. "Enhancing the 80C limit would encourage greater savings and investments, provide additional tax relief, and better align with inflationary trends over the past decade. Due to rising inflation and the growing cost of living, there's a growing public demand for this limit to be increased to at least Rs 2 - 2.5 lakhs," he added. There is a possibility of increasing the 80C deduction limit from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh under the old tax regime in the upcoming budget. The Finance Minister initiated pre-budget talks with industry bodies starting June 20, and experts anticipate the government will strike a balance between boosting growth, managing inflation, and fulfilling coalition promises.

Zomato growing faster than Swiggy, brokerages bullish. Check target price

Zomato shares gained in early trade as multiple brokerages reiterated their bullish outlook following Prosus' FY24 annual report, which highlighted that the company is growing faster than Swiggy. Shares of food delivery company Zomato have surged over 61% this year, driven by strong performance and positive sentiment from brokerages.

Zomato shares gained over 2% in early trade as multiple brokerages reiterated their bullish outlook following Prosus' FY24 annual report, which highlighted that Zomato is growing faster than Swiggy. The stock has garnered attention since global brokerages became optimistic after Zomato confirmed initial discussions to acquire Paytm's ticketing business. According to Prosus' FY24 report, Zomato's gross order value (GOV) grew by 26% year-on-year, while Zomato's GOV increased by 36% during the same period. Swiggy's revenue growth of 24% YoY also lagged behind Zomato's adjusted revenue growth of 55.9% YoY. Additionally, Swiggy reported trading losses of \$158 million for FY24, whereas Zomato achieved a positive EBITDA of \$5 million. Analysts at Emkay Global attributed Zomato's higher growth to the superior performance of its Quick Commerce segment. They noted that Swiggy's revenue increased by 24% YoY, while Zomato's adjusted revenue grew by nearly 56%

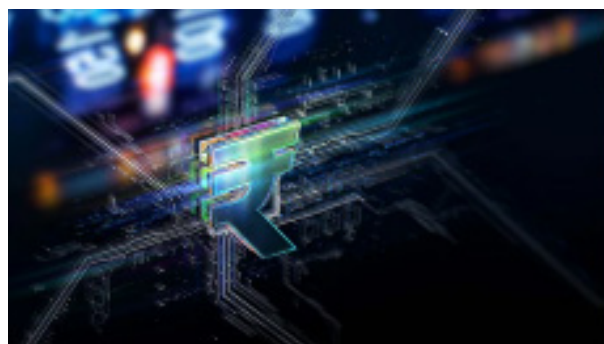


YoY. Several brokerages have issued buy calls on Zomato. CLSA set a target price of Rs 248 per share, while UBS recommended a target price of Rs 250. Emkay Global maintained its buy rating with a target price of Rs 230, highlighting Zomato's operational improvements and Swiggy's planned IPO as factors that will sustain investor interest. Morgan Stanley also retained its 'overweight' rating on Zomato with a target price of Rs 235. Bernstein also has a 'Buy' rating on Zomato, with a target price of Rs 230 per share. The brokerage cited Zomato's market leadership, pricing power, and reduced delivery costs as key factors for expanding margins and improved returns.

E-rupee transactions drop to a tenth of peak usage

Introduced by RBI in December 2022 as a digital alternative to physical cash, the e-rupee reached 1 million daily retail transactions by December 2023. The digital currency introduced by the RBI, known as the e-rupee, has seen a decline in daily transactions, plummeting to just a tenth of its peak reached in December, reported news agency Reuters. The fall in the transactions of the e-rupee mirrors the challenges faced by several countries in gaining public acceptance of digital currencies. Launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 2022 as a digital substitute for physical cash, the e-rupee successfully achieved a milestone of 1 million retail transactions per day by December 2023.

This milestone was reached following efforts by banks to encourage transactions through incentives for retail users and by using the e-rupee to disburse a portion of employees' salaries. However, sources cited in the report that are directly involved in the pilot revealed that daily transaction volumes have now come down to approximately 100,000 transactions. A banker involved in the project highlighted that this sharp decline indicates there is limited natural demand for the e-rupee among the public. The sources mentioned in the report said that ongoing transactions are primarily driven by banks using the e-rupee to distribute benefits to their employees. Towards the end of each month, transactions increase to around 250,000 to 300,000 per day due to these disbursements. The RBI had set a target for banks to increase daily transactions to at least 1 million by late 2023



to test the scalability of the system. However, the efforts to boost transaction volumes have now ceased, according to one of the sources. Currently, the RBI does not have immediate plans to expand the pilot extensively. The focus remains on refining the technology and exploring potential use cases for the digital currency, according to the source. "We expect adoption to grow as more use cases are developed," said the source, the report quoted as saying. Globally, a survey by the Bank of International Settlements found that a third of central banks are conducting pilots for central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). Despite some launches, such as in the Caribbean nations of the Bahamas and Jamaica, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City noted limited success, highlighting that CBDCs need to offer advantages over cash to drive public adoption.

Sebi may tighten rules for derivatives trade, financial influencers: Report

To prevent these influencers from misleading investors, Sebi has proposed that brokers and mutual funds cease collaborating with unregistered influencers. Earlier this month, Sebi released a discussion paper suggesting that stock derivatives should only be linked to stocks with sufficient liquidity and trading interest. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is expected to introduce stricter rules for derivatives trading and clamp down on the use of unregistered financial influencers in marketing campaigns by brokers and mutual funds, Reuters report, quoting sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

These measures, aimed at curbing market manipulation in the wake of a significant rise in the trading of complex financial instruments, are likely to be discussed at Sebi board meeting on Thursday. Earlier this month, Sebi released a discussion paper suggesting that stock derivatives should only be linked to stocks with sufficient liquidity and trading interest. The move is intended to eliminate derivatives associated with illiquid stocks.

According to the Reuters report, the notional value of options—derivative contracts that allow investors to

buy or sell a security at a predetermined price in the future—traded in India more than doubled to \$907.09 trillion in the 2023-24 period compared to the previous year. Most options trading in India involves index option contracts. Although Sebi has not yet regulated index options, it is considering several technical adjustments, as reported by Reuters earlier this month. The Covid-19 pandemic saw a surge in retail investor participation in equity markets, leading to an increase in financial advice from influencers on social media platforms. To prevent these influencers from misleading investors, Sebi has proposed that brokers and mutual funds cease collaborating with unregistered influencers. Furthermore, the markets regulator has established a group comprising exchanges, brokers, and mutual funds to recommend additional measures to mitigate the risk of manipulation and protect retail investors involved in options contracts, according to one source. On Thursday, Sebi's board will also consider revising delisting rules to facilitate easier exits for companies from stock exchanges.

So, your partner stinks. Now what?



Dealing with your partner's unpleasant odour can be tough and requires tact and empathy. Use subtle hints and gentle conversations to address the issue without hurting their feelings. Imagine this: you're in a romantic setting, eager to share a cosy moment with your partner. Just as you lean in close, you're met with the unpleasant surprise of bad breath. It's quite the turn-off, isn't it? The way someone smells can significantly impact our interactions and experiences. However, most of the time, the person in front of us isn't even aware that they have bad breath or body odour. Addressing this issue insensitively could hurt their feelings, but enduring the smell isn't a pleasant option either. So, how can you tactfully handle a situation where your partner has an unpleasant odour?

Always believe in open communication. "Dealing with a partner who has hygiene issues can be sensitive and challenging," Dr Neerja Aggarwal, PhD psychologist and co-founder of mental health start-up Emoneeds, tells India Today. The doctor says that it's generally advisable to believe in open communication rather than letting things be. "Hygiene is a fundamental aspect of personal care and can impact both partners' well-being and the relationship's mics. Ignoring the issue may lead to resentment or discomfort, whereas open communication allows for understanding and finding a solution together," she adds. Further, she states that addressing the matter directly can prevent discomfort and resentment from building up. By discussing the issue openly, both partners can work together to find a solution, fostering a healthier and more understanding relationship.

How to communicate without hurting their feelings?

Dr Roshan Mansukhani, a Mumbai-based therapist and counsellor, shares a few tips: Select an appropriate time: Make sure your partner is not agitated or distracted, by choosing a quiet, comfortable time to discuss the matter. Be tactful: Express your emotions without blaming others by using "I" phrases. For instance, "I've noticed that sometimes there's an odour, and I'm worried it might be uncomfortable for you and others." Be kind and supportive: Stress that your goal is to assist and encourage, not to condemn or humiliate. Provide solutions: Make sensible recommendations, such as experimenting with different deodorants, improving personal cleanliness, or even visiting a physician to rule out any underlying medical conditions. Remember that it is important to always approach the topic with empathy and sensitivity.

Every relationship requires adjustment and compromise. The experts believe that every relationship thrives on a foundation of adjustment and compromise. These elements are essential for fostering understanding and harmony between partners. "In the context of hygiene, it might involve discussing routines, offering assistance or reminders if forgetfulness is an issue, and understanding each other's comfort levels," says Dr Aggarwal. Adding to this, Dr Mansukhani states that it is also vital to consider your partner's viewpoint and emotions by placing yourself in their position. "Allow your partner some time to correct and deal with the situation. A change takes time to manifest. Additionally, celebrate little accomplishments along the road and offer your partner support and encouragement while they work on the problem," he adds. Here are some tips from experts: Regular communication: To resolve problems quickly and successfully, develop the habit of communicating honestly and openly. Compromise: Recognise that both parties will need to make modifications and compromises, and be prepared to do so. Offer solutions, not just criticism: Suggest ways to improve hygiene rather than just pointing out the problem. Listen actively: Understand any underlying reasons for changes in hygiene habits and offer assistance if needed. Seek professional help: You might want to think about getting in touch with a relationship counsellor if the problem is ongoing and hard to talk about. Maintain respect: To prevent hurting one another's feelings, always discuss delicate subjects with consideration and understanding.

Positive perspective: To preserve a solid, wholesome connection, highlight the positive aspects of your

partnership and your partner's attributes.

What's behind body odour?

"Body odour is a common issue that can affect self-esteem and social interactions. It's often the result of the natural processes of the body, but several factors can contribute to its severity," shares Dr Seema Oberoi Lall, consultant, dermatology, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram. Eccrine glands are distributed all over the body and produce a watery sweat for cooling. This type of sweat is generally odourless. On the other hand, apocrine glands are found in areas like the armpits, groin, and around the nipples. These glands produce a thicker sweat that contains proteins and fatty acids. When this sweat is broken down by skin bacteria, it produces a body odour. Sweat itself is not odorous. The smell arises when bacteria on the skin break down the sweat from the apocrine glands into acids. The primary bacteria involved are *Corynebacterium*, *Staphylococcus*, and *Micrococcus*. Certain foods and drinks can influence body odour. Spices like garlic, cumin, and curry, as well as foods like onions, red meat, and alcohol, can lead to more potent sweat. The sulphur compounds in these foods can be excreted through sweat, contributing to body odour. Poor hygiene practices, such as infrequent bathing or wearing dirty clothes, allow sweat and bacteria to accumulate, leading to stronger body odour. Some health conditions can lead to body odour. Diabetes can cause a sweet or fruity smell due to high blood sugar levels. Kidney or liver disease can result in a fishy or ammonia-like odour due to the build-up of toxins in the body. Hyperhidrosis, or excessive sweating, can also exacerbate body odour. Hormonal fluctuations during puberty, menstruation, pregnancy, or menopause can increase sweating and alter body odour. Emotional stress activates the apocrine glands, leading to increased production of sweat that can mix with bacteria to produce odour. How to treat it? Antiperspirants: These products contain aluminium-based compounds that temporarily block sweat glands, reducing the amount of sweat produced. Deodorants: These products contain antimicrobial agents to reduce bacteria on the skin and fragrances to mask odour. They do not reduce sweat but help control odour.

Regular bathing: Showering daily can help remove sweat and bacteria. You should focus on areas prone to sweating, such as the armpits, groin, and feet. Clean clothing: You should wear fresh clothes daily, especially after exercise or heavy sweating. Choose breathable fabrics like cotton to allow sweat to evaporate more easily. Dietary adjustments: Reducing or avoiding foods that contribute to body odour, such as spicy foods, garlic, onions, and alcohol, can help manage odour. You can also depend on home remedies to combat bad body odour, such as applying apple cider vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice, tea tree oil, coconut oil, or witch hazel on the skin.

What about bad breath?

"Bad breath, or halitosis, can result from various factors that affect oral hygiene and overall health," says Dr Raghavendra B R, dentist, Gleneagles BGS Hospital, Bengaluru. Inadequate oral hygiene practices can lead to the build-up of food particles and plaque on teeth, gums, and the tongue. This can cause bacterial growth, which emits odorous compounds contributing to bad breath. Regular consumption of carbonated beverages can contribute to bad breath. Food particles that get stuck between teeth can decay over time, leading to unpleasant odours. When plaque hardens into tartar (calculus) due to insufficient dental hygiene or irregular dental check-ups, it provides a breeding ground for bacteria. Tartar deposits can emit a persistent odour that regular brushing alone cannot remove. Certain gastrointestinal conditions like acid reflux (GERD), gastritis, or other digestive disorders can cause bad breath. The doctor explains that treating bad breath typically involves a multifaceted approach, focusing on improving oral hygiene, addressing underlying dental issues, and managing any related health conditions. Professional dental cleanings: Regular visits to the dentist, ideally every six months, are essential. It is also important to brush and floss the teeth properly.

Identification of dental issues: It is important to identify and address underlying dental problems that contribute to bad breath, such as cavities, gum disease (gingivitis or periodontitis), or poorly fitting dental appliances. Education on diet and lifestyle: Don't shy away from seeking guidance on dietary choices that may affect oral health and contribute to bad breath. Monitoring and prevention: Regular dental check-ups allow dentists to monitor your oral health over time and catch any emerging issues early. Preventive measures, such as fluoride treatments or dental sealants, may be recommended to maintain optimal oral hygiene and prevent future problems that could contribute to bad breath.

Avocado toast for Rs 200 is a hit in Surat, but can it take over Indian street food?

Avocado is not just taking over most kitchens in Tier 1 cities, but is slowly making its presence felt in the Indian street food scene as well. But can it replace or co-exist with OG papri chaat and panipuri? A few months back, a video of a street vendor selling avocado toast in his makeshift stall in Surat, Gujarat went viral on social media. The toast slathered with a generous amount of avocado mush was being sold for Rs 200 (priced much higher than your usual street food).

An unlikely addition to India's street food edition, but given the hype around the fruit, can it become a big hit with street food enthusiasts and compete with OG panipuri and papri chaat? Avocado's transition from a rich man's food to finding a place in most kitchens in Tier 1 cities has a story of its own and one that needs telling. So, is there a chance it could compete with golgappa and panipuri in the coming days? Well, that's a matter of some intense discussion. India Today spoke to experts, chefs, and restaurateurs to find out more about this expected trend, and here's what we found: The health aspect. There's no denying that we are more conscious of what we put inside our bodies now than ever. Avocado has a list of health benefits, making it a more lucrative option for people to include it in their daily diet. It is full of nutrients and is rich in fiber, B6, Vitamin C, potassium, Vitamin E, folate, and copper. Michelin star chef Rohit Ghai says, "The changing demand is because people are more health conscious and choosing to eat healthily."

He notes that while avocado doesn't have its own flavour and kind of tastes bland on its own, it makes for a safe ground for any experiment. "And the fact that it is full of antioxidants, it is preferred by most health-conscious people trying to stay on a diet and at the same time eat something that tantalises their taste buds," he adds. Avocado seems like a wise addition to your diet because it is full of antioxidants.



He also adds that post Covid-19, people have started taking a special interest in their health and hence prefer healthier eating options, fuelling the hype around this fruit. Shantanu Gupte, restaurateur and food consultant, adds, "Avocado is getting popular by the day because of marketing. And, of course, it has got many health benefits. It's rich in vitamins. It's rich in antioxidants. It has good cholesterol and lowers the LDL. It's good for blood pressure regulation and is diuretic. So, there are many benefits of consuming avocado, which is the reason why avocado has become popular."

What the numbers tell us. Sarthak Ahuja, chartered accountant, business consultant, and author, says that within the last three years, the import of avocado has increased manifold, and the demand is so high that farmers have started growing the fruit in India itself, reaping immense profit.

"Just over the past three years, the avocado imports in the country have grown by over 450 percent, where India imported over 2210 metric tons of avocado in FY23 - mostly from Kenya, South Africa, Netherlands, Peru, and Chile,"

Karisma Kapoor: Dismissed for her blue eyes and 'firang' looks, actor struggled for years despite coming from Bollywood's first family



Karisma had to pay a price for her famous surname and genetics. "A lot of people initially never really supported her because a lot of people said light-eyed actresses can never become big stars, so 'don't' cast her." Also she had the taboo of the Kapoor family," Kareena said while speaking at Express Adda. Karisma also said in an interview, "With grey, black and brown eyes you can use any colour liner, not with blue eyes. Also, clothes are a problem. I can't wear greens and reds because they make my eyes look greenish." It was because of her eyes that directors labelled as too 'westernised'," she had to overcome these preconceptions in the coming years.

Her initial roles did not come easy. Karisma mostly found herself in the kind of projects that many of today's stars would turn down without a second thought. The early 90s were rife with masala films, where the quality of scripts was questionable, and female roles were often ornamental. Karisma had to navigate this landscape, proving her mettle in an industry that was not yet ready to embrace her fully. Even after doing dozen films, which were mostly duds, the industry refused to recognise her or offer her parts that would allow her to experiment. Prem Qaidi achieved moderate box office success but garnered mixed reviews. Critics found her performance average, with Taran Adarsh calling her acting "mechanical." The following year proved challenging, with her first five films — Police Officer, Jaagruhi, Nishchaiy, Sapne Sajan Ke, and Deedar — all failing to find traction at the box office. However, Jigar opposite Ajay Devgn and the romantic drama Anari, both became box office hits and ranked among the year's highest grossers.

Karisma's filmography in 1993 saw four drama releases: Muqabla, Sangraam, Shaktiman, and Dhanwaan. While Muqabla marked her successful pairing with Govinda, the remaining films failed to impress critics or audiences at the box office. The following year was busy for Kapoor with nine film releases. Unfortunately, four of these ventures neither received critical acclaim nor commercial success. In the coming years she acting in several films including Andaz Apna Apna, Khuddar, Dulara, Aatish, Papi Gudia, Megha, Bal Bramhachari, Sapoot, Rakshak, Jawab and Maidan-E-Jung, among a slurry of flop films. Sure, she featured in hits like Raja Babu, Gopi Kishan and Coolie No. 1, but for Karisma, good roles and successful films were far and few. She was stuck in comedy and similar roles. Karisma battled the industry's typecasting and was in desperate of a role that would be both clutter-breaking and memorable. "When I first entered the industry, things were tough for me. I am not saying

that I was singled out. I think every star kid has to go through this. Everyone was so unfair to me. Other newcomers were praised for every little achievement, but I was not given an iota of acknowledgement. When it came to me, it was always, 'Okay, she has done well, but what's the big deal about her?'. Nobody gave a 17-year-old credit for doing my job reasonably well," she was quoted saying in an archive by Box Office India. Kareena, during her appearance on Simi Garewal's show, shared that she would watch her elder sister cry for nights on end to their mother, actor Babita Kapoor. "I have seen my sister sit up for nights together with my mother and cry, saying that people are putting her down and that she would never make it. I would hide behind and watch because they would never want me to see the pain they were going through. I've seen too much," shared the Crew actor. She opened up about being a witness to their "traumas." "I think I have seen my sister cry for nights together to go to sleep when she was struggling. And that hurts me. Anything that hurts my loved ones hurts me," she shared. Her hard work paid off in 1996, when Karisma rocketed to superstardom with her role in Raja Hindustani opposite Aamir Khan. The film shattered box office records, becoming the year's highest grosser and propelling her to win her first Filmfare Best Actress award. Critics called her a "revelation," breathing life into what could have been a forgettable movie. Raja Hindustani wasn't just a megahit; it was a turning point in her career, cementing her place as a top Bollywood actress. What Raja Hindustani also did to Karisma's career is that it gave her a makeover of sorts. She metamorphosed from being the 'ugly duckling' to glamorous diva who was not looked up to as a fashion icon. "My hard work paid off with Raja Hindustani. I wanted to win an award and I got one," Karisma told Rediff.com in an old interview.

When David Dhawan's Hero No 1 hit theatres in 1997, it was more than just another comedy in the crowded Bollywood landscape. For Karisma, it marked a significant turning point in her career. Her impeccable comic timing, dancing skills and undeniable chemistry with Govinda endeared her to audiences. The film also cemented her pairing with Govinda as one of the most beloved and successful duos of the 90s. "Hero No 1 was a game-changer. So honestly, when Hero No. 1 happened, I think from that movie in that commercial space, things kind of changed," she told India Forums. Karisma's career reached new heights with the release of Dil To Pagal Hai, a choice she called a 'risk.' Starring Shah Rukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit, the film saw her play a supporting role. Playing the character of Nisha, a vivacious dancer hopelessly in love with her best friend Rahul (played by Shah Rukh Khan), Karisma brought depth and vulnerability to her performance that resonated deeply with audiences and critics alike. She proved that could hold her own alongside top-tier actors like Shah Rukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit. She not only floored the audience with her dance moves in "Le Gayi" but also overshadowed Madhuri in their dance battle 'The Dance of Envy' choreographed by Shiamak Davar.

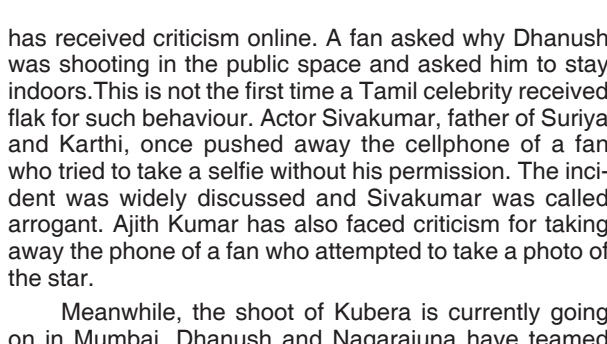
"Every actor had refused to do this movie, including me. Because nobody wanted to dance with Madhuri Dixit," Karisma told The Telegraph, adding, "But the role was so unusual. It was ahead of its time. Normally, in those days



you had to be the heroine and win the hero. You had to get the guy. And here there's an actress who was at the top of her game but not getting the guy." Karisma not only won Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actress, the film's success opened new doors for her and she began to receive offers for more substantial and varied roles, allowing her to break free from the typecasting that often plagued actresses of her era. Following the success of Dil To Pagal Hai and Biwi No. 1 (1999) — a refreshing change from male-centric titles — Karisma acted in Fiza (2000) and Zubeidaa (2001), which highlighted her ability to tackle diverse and demanding roles. Before Khalid Mohamed's Fiza, Karisma was often associated with commercial masala films and light-hearted roles; the film showcased her ability to handle weighty, dramatic subjects and multi-dimensional characters. She won a Filmfare Award for Best Actress (Critics).

Shyam Benegal's Zubeidaa told the tragic story of Zubeidaa Begum, an actress and the second wife of Maharaja Hanwant Singh of Jodhpur. Karisma, in her role, brought to life the complexities of a woman torn between her passion for acting and the constraints of royal life, winning a Filmfare Critics Award. Talking about these female-centric roles, Karisma, told Asian Age, "In that way, I was trying to change things and break the barriers. Even doing films like Fiza and Zubeidaa were one of them. Today the 'biopic' thing is really in and I did that 19 years ago. I never tried to play by the rule book. Even though I was a 'commercial actress' and successful, I was trying to break barriers at that time." When the audiences were expecting Karisma to feature in more meaty roles like those in Fida and Zubeidaa, but she went on to do masala entertainers and rom-coms. While some were hits, there were misses, too! Karisma's personal life is marked by high-profile relationships, a publicised engagement, marriage, and eventual divorce. Her journey has been a blend of personal highs and lows, which she navigated with grace and resilience. In 2002, Karisma Kapoor's engagement to Abhishek Bachchan, son of Bollywood icons Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan, made headlines.

After Nagarjuna, Dhanush faces backlash as his bodyguards push away fans.



has received criticism online. A fan asked why Dhanush was shooting in the public space and asked him to stay indoors. This is not the first time a Tamil celebrity received flak for such behaviour. Actor Sivakumar, father of Suriya and Karthi, once pushed away the cellphone of a fan who tried to take a selfie without his permission. The incident was widely discussed and Sivakumar was called arrogant. Ajith Kumar has also faced criticism for taking away the phone of a fan who attempted to take a photo of the star.

Meanwhile, the shoot of Kubera is currently going on in Mumbai. Dhanush and Nagarajuna have teamed up for the film for the first time, which is directed by acclaimed Telugu director Shekhar Kammula. The film has been shot at various places across the country. The film earlier ran into trouble when the crew was banned from shooting in Tirupati. Now, the two incidents with fans have put the film in the limelight again. Other than Dhanush and Nagarajuna, the film also has Rashmika Mandanna and Jim Sarbh in important roles. Devi Sri Prasad will compose the music for the film, which is expected to be released in 2025. Meanwhile, Dhanush's directorial venture Raayan, a gangster drama, set in North Chennai will be released on July 26. The film stars SJ Suryah, Sandeep Kishan, Kalidas Jayaram, and Dushara Vijayan in pivotal roles.

'Manoj Bajpayee's fee for 1971 was Rs 40 lakh out of a Rs 1.85 cr budget': director Amrit Sagar recalls making of the viral war film

When Manoj Bajpayee starrer 1971 released in theatres back in 2007, not many people watched it. In fact, not many even got to know about the release of the film based on the life of 54 prisoners of war (POWs) but years later, in 2020, when the lockdown had just begun, 1971 became a viral hit on social media. This was one of those films that started gaining views on YouTube just by word of mouth as there wasn't any OTT platform backing it or any PR machinery promoting it. Yet, 13 years later, the film found its audience, and continues to do so even now. Director Amrit Sagar, who had confidence in his film even when it released, recalled in a chat with indianexpress.com, "We all worked really hard on that film. We gave our life to that film and it was really disappointing and heartbreaking when it didn't do well."

Amrit said that even back in the day, he knew that this was a good film but felt it was unfortunate that it did not get the kind of release it deserved. He even recalled that some theatres did not have the film's hoarding outside on the day of the release and when he actually stepped into a theatre to watch the film with the audience, he found that there was only one person in attendance. Speaking about how he put the film together, Amrit shared that he had initially offered another film to Manoj but when the two started talking, Amrit shared the idea of 1971. "Manoj said one thing at that time, 'picture choti ya badi nahi hoti. achi ya buri hoti hai (a film isn't big or small, it's good or bad),' he recalled. As Amrit, along with writer Piyush Mishra, started talking to the families of 54 POWs, they knew what the film was supposed to look like. But getting the finances together was another struggle. Amrit shared that when Sagar Arts, his family's film studio, heard the narration of the film, they didn't have much confidence in it but his grandfather Ramanand Sagar backed him up. "One person in the studio was 100 per cent confident after hearing it and that person was Ramanand Sagar," he recalled and shared that when they ran out of funds, it was actually the veteran filmmaker who "stepped in and gave his personal funds to us to complete this film." Amrit spoke about the budget of the film and said, "Our budget to make the film was Rs 1.85 crore, out of that Rs 40 lakh was Manoj Bajpayee's fee." But despite the film's fate at the box office, it did manage to win a National Film Award at the 55th National Film Awards for Best Feature Film in Hindi. "When the National Award happened, it was a boost. I wasn't extremely ecstatic or anything," said Sagar as he shared that the theatrical success would have surely meant much more. 1971 is shared on many YouTube channels and across all of them, the film has over 8 million views. There are many scene compilation videos too, which are also seen by many fans but Amrit shared that he is yet to meet a fan of the film in person. "For some reason, I have never met people who have seen my film,

Sonakshi Sinha kisses husband Zaheer Iqbal in wedding reception photos, thanks family: 'If this is not divine intervention...'



After her intimate wedding with longtime boyfriend Zaheer Iqbal, Sonakshi Sinha took to Instagram to thank her well-wishers for all the love they received. The Dabangg actor also shared some photos from her wedding reception photoshoot. In the photos, Sonakshi is seen planting a kiss on Zaheer's forehead. She captioned the post, "Whattttt a day!!!! The love, the laughter, the togetherness, the excitement, the warmth, the support from every one of our friends, families and teams... it was like the universe came together for two people in love to give them exactly what they've always hoped, wished and prayed for ?? If this is not divine intervention... we dont know what is ? We are both truly blessed to have each other and so much love protecting us ??"

Sonakshi and Zaheer opted for a civil marriage, which was organised on June 23 at her Bandra home.

The couple shared the first pictures from their special day on Instagram. They hosted a party at the celeb-favorite restaurant Bastian in Mumbai later in the evening, with Bollywood's who's who in attendance, including Salman Khan, Vidya Balan with Siddharth Roy Kapur, Saira Banu, Tabu, Anil Kapoor, Kajol, Huma Qureshi, and others. Sonakshi was dressed in a red saree and sported sindoor, while Zaheer Iqbal wore a white kurta and pyjama for the event. Earlier, rumors were rife about Sonakshi's parents, Shatrughan Sinha and Poonam Sinha, not supporting her interfaith marriage. However, their presence at the wedding squashed all such rumors. When Sonakshi's brother, Luv, was asked about his absence from the wedding, he refused to directly address the question, telling Hindustan Times, "Please give it a day or two. I'll respond to your question then if I feel I can. Thank you for asking."

Vikrant Massey's '12th Fail' screened at Shanghai International Film Festival

Mumbai: Filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra's '12th Fail' has been receiving much appreciation from the audience and the critics. Since its release, the movie has garnered attention not only in the country but also on an international platform. Recently, the film was screened at the Shanghai International Film Festival. Expressing his excitement about the screening of the movie at the presti-

gious Shanghai International Film Festival, he shared, "My experience at the Shanghai International Film Festival was truly exceptional. I am grateful to the organisers for their warm hospitality. The energy inside the cinema hall, with a packed audience reacting to the film, was unforgettable." "Meeting Chinese fans who spoke Hindi was a delightful surprise.

'My heart rate was up': Dramatic T20 World Cup final tested even Captain Cool MS Dhoni



GNS News Agency, July 1

India's captain Rohit Sharma gestures playfully as he walks to collect the winners' trophy after India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final cricket match against South Africa at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. India's captain Rohit Sharma gestures playfully as he walks to collect the winners' trophy after India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final cricket match against South Africa at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados.

The Indian cricket team won its second T20 World Cup title after snatching victory from certain defeat against South Africa at the Kensington Oval on Saturday. Team India's victory in the T20 World Cup final — by a slender margin of seven runs — seemed improbable at one stage with South Africa needing just 30 runs off 30 balls to win

their first ever major trophy, thanks to Heinrich Klaasen's belligerent 52 off 27 balls.

However, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya, who shared seven wickets between them, bowled the overs of their lives to cut down South Africa at 169-8 as they chased a target of 177 runs in the T20 World Cup final. The edge-of-the-seat thriller tested the nerves of even Captain Cool MS Dhoni, who was at the helm of the Indian team when the won the T20 World Cup in 2007 and the 2011 ODI World Cup in Mumbai.

"WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS 2024. My heart rate was up, well done on being calm, having the self belief and doing what you guys did. From all the Indians back home and everywhere in the world a big thank you for bringing the World Cup Home. CONGRATULATIONS," Dhoni posted on his Instagram handle before adding: "Arreeee thanks for the priceless birthday gift." India won its second T20 World Cup. They had won the inaugural event in 2007. This is the Men in Blue's first world title in 13 years. Over the last 12 months, India lost the World Test Championship final twice and, the 50-over World Cup final at home to the Australians. Beside their bowlers, India will also be thankful to Virat Kohli — who had scored only 75 runs in seven games before the T20 World Cup final — but scored 76 runs off 59 balls on Saturday to rescue the Men in Blue from 34-3 inside the first five overs. Both Kohli and India captain Rohit Sharma announced their retirements from the shortest format of the game.



GNS News Agency, July 1

India Wins T20 World Cup Final Live: Reactions are pouring in after India pulled off a sensational victory over South Africa in the final of the T20 World Cup on Saturday. Everyone from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to legends of the game like Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni have reacted to India winning their first world title in 13 years. The match was almost slipping out the hands of the Indian cricket team at one point with South Africa needing just 30 runs from 30 balls in their chase, thanks to Heinrich Klaasen's belligerent 52 off 27 balls. However, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya, who shared seven wickets between them, roared back in the death overs to cut down South Africa at 169-8.

There were emotional scenes after India won the title, with captain Rohit Sharma and talisman Virat Kohli announcing their retirement from T20s. The match also marked the final time coach Rahul Dravid was at the helm of the Indian cricket team. India won its second T20 World Cup to cap off a sequence of last few years where India lost the World Test Championship final twice and the 50-

Life comes full circle for Indian cricket, says Sachin Tendulkar

over World Cup final at home to Australia. "Guys understand when the pressure is on what needs to be done," India captain Rohit Sharma said after India's win. "Today was a perfect example, (we) stuck together with backs to the wall. We wanted this really bad... very proud of the bunch of boys and the management." Scroll down to read all the reactions to India winning the T20 World Cup 2024 by beating South Africa and the tributes pouring in for Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma (both of whom have called time on their T20I career) and Rahul Dravid, who has walked away from his role as Team India coach. India Wins T20 World Cup 2024 Live Updates: Catch all the reactions to India winning their first world title in 13 years after defeating South Africa at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados.

South Africa's Kagiso Rabada, right, is congratulated by teammates after dismissing Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran during the men's T20 World Cup semifinal cricket match between Afghanistan and South Africa at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tabago. South Africa's Kagiso Rabada, right, is congratulated by teammates after dismissing Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran during the men's T20 World Cup semifinal cricket match between Afghanistan and South Africa at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tabago. This T20 World Cup, under Markram, a new South Africa has emerged. They talk and also know how to walk the tight-rope. Three of their games in this tournament have gone to last overs — Bangladesh, Nepal, the Netherlands — but they are alive and kicking in Barbados to tell their survival story. They have taken their time, come together to ponder on possibilities in a huddle and have emerged from the field sporting smiles. South Africa have been quick to adapt to every innovation the game has seen, started well at the World Cup, and are now ready to walk the last mile too.

PV Sindhu has been grinding it out leading to the Olympics, but is it a good thing?

GNS News Agency, July 1

Maybe none of the past matters, because it is the Olympics and because it is PV Sindhu at the Games. Perhaps, the injuries-healing status of each player in these last 27 days will ultimately decide if she can sneak in a very difficult third Olympic medal in women's singles. But one of Sindhu's most frustrating statistics of 2024 also reveals that she has literally poured in effort in terms of the highest court duration amongst all players, throwing in everything in lead-up competitions in order to sort out her slowly fading elite game. The meticulous data site Statminton recently released figures of average court-times spent by the world's top players. And unsurprisingly, albeit a tad sighingly, Sindhu found herself on the top having averaged 56.7 minutes over 9 tournaments.

An Se-young, who goes in as title favourite, but worryingly hasn't been stomping about playing cautiously managing her injuries, is second-highest averaging 50.8 minutes. Chinese He Bingjiao averages 49.8, and has spent a minimum of 30 minutes to finish a match as per Statminton in 2024. Chen Yufei is fifth with 47.9 and Carolina Marin seventh on the list with 45.5.

Akane Yamaguchi (44.9) and Tai Tzu Ying (42.7) have been sparsely seen exerting to the fullest this year. And Michelle Li (40.9) and Beiwen Zhang (39.4) who made Top-10 with their punishing rally games, have fallen back on court times, not making the 10 top plodders, and subsequently also reflected in their struggling results. Gregoria Tunjung averages 42.9, and is placed at 11th on the Statminton numbers. Interestingly, 23 women's singles players average more court time per match than the Tokyo Olympics average of 38.1. Could that significant increase in court duration (Sindhu regularly logs 18.6 minutes more than Tokyo average in 2024), mean she's laboring away searching for wins? Or as happens with stats, when viewed from a different lens, does it point to Sindhu actually being prepared for the inevitable long drag, given all top players are struggling to wrap up matches in two sets?

A bunch of matches including the 92 minutes one she dragged Chen Yufei into at French Open, have seen Sindhu show far more proactive point constructions than in past few years, with varied strokeplay. But 56 minutes on an average, simultaneously, points to her attacking game lacking the sting to pierce rival defenses. A glass-half-full argument suggests she might be one of the better-prepared ones at Paris to last long matches with better stamina. At the French Open, Sindhu tallied an average of 75 minutes over 3 matches, and at Malaysia Masters where she made finals, she averaged 65 long minutes reaching Sunday stage. The loss from a leading position though was a familiar topple. And the power to finish a rally sooner and wrap up in straight two sets, summoning the attacking kills at will, just doesn't seem to be in her trend in 2024. Her admirable stamina levels ought not to lull her into thinking that she can pull matches at the crunch in deciders. The Olympic Knockouts afford no regrets, and coaches Agus and Padukone will need to instill a plan to up the gears when she hits the 14-point mark, or the opponent does. On the whole, though, Sindhu has kept in shape to be prepared for the long back-and-forths, even as Yufei, An Se Young and Yamaguchi too have struggled to nip rallies early. Even the perennially in a hurry Marin has seen her considerably altered game needing those 2-3 extra shots before she can charge for the kill. The purely attacking style has turned rare in women's singles as top players collectively aged by 3 years, though the golden generation has done well to let experience and nous flood the gaps left by slowing reflexes. Tai Tzu Ying's mellowed brilliance can still kill. And An Se-young, the youngest of the lot, might not find the path to gold as much of a romp as she wants. In Yufei, TTY, Yamaguchi and Marin, the resistance breathes immensely. Sindhu has bettered them in court time.

Sindhu badminton Coach Vimal Kumar, who sat for Sindhu's last two matches at the Badminton Asia Championships, concedes he doesn't take the din and fuss of social media where she's casually scribbled off daily, seriously. The trend of ever-lengthening matches is even more pronounced in men's singles. Kodai Naraoka can pick the blame tab, regularly playing 63.7 minutes on average. Death by a dozen tosses is his preferred technique, and somewhere you have to admire his tenacity in logging tennis-length Futures matches playing badminton, without sitting in the breaks.

The Batch of the 2018 Junior World Championships is much-celebrated. But the quartet of Kodai, Kunlavut, Sen and Shifeng have ushered in the era of endless matches. Kenta Nishimoto occupies the second spot in the regulation Japanese for all such notorious things as returning shuttles ceaselessly (averaging 60.4 mins in



2024). But it's that 2018 bunch 4/5ths of the list. Sen is third (59.8 mins), Li Shifeng (58.9) is fourth and Kunlavut fifth with 58.5 minutes. Nishimoto and Kunlavut went on for 102 minutes at one point, terrifying each other with their relentlessness. It's a wonder then that sixth on the list is the wily old fox, HS Prannoy, averaging 57.1 minutes. He hasn't won much, troubled by his niggles, but the man can put in a slugfest shift, and is undeterred by dropping the first set. So a decider is never daunting for he has the finishing hacks against top names, but will need his best stamina reserves if push comes to shove for a Paris medal. Anders Antonsen, Anthony Ginting and Jonatan Christie, all medal hopes, have averaged above 54 minutes in 2024. Though in what is an interesting Statminton finding, three of the finest attacking players, also strong contenders, don't make the top 10 court duration players cutoff mark of 53.9. Viktor Axelsen, Shi Yuqi and Lee Zii Jia with their whipping attacks, have logged 49.6, 53.3 and 49.5 minutes respectively. It is still higher than the Tokyo mark of 44.4 by 5 minutes. But Kodai Naraoka has drifted the game away from Tokyo averages by almost 20 minutes more, signalling a general slow buffering of proceedings. If exceptionally fast shuttles and courts are not conjured, expect badminton at Paris to stretch every sinew in long, dragging battles. Sindhu looks prepared for these, given her recent matches. But tough to say if that's a good thing or bad.

Suryakumar's catch 'game-changing moment', says India fielding coach

GNS News Agency, July 1

Bridgetown: India fielding coach T Dilip showered praise on Suryakumar Yadav for taking South Africa batter David Miller's catch and said that it was the 'game-changing' moment in the final match of the T20 World Cup 2024. India defeated South Africa by seven runs in the final match of the T20 World Cup 2024 in Barbados. Speaking to the reporters after the match, Dilip said that Kuldeep Yadav took an important catch as well in the 13th over while dismissing Quinton De Kock. "Kuldeep Yadav took an important catch of Quinton De Kock, but Suryakumar Yadav's catch was outstanding, it was a game-changing moment," T Dilip said. He hailed Team India and said that they adapted well to different surfaces and didn't let that intensity go.

"Irrespective of the condition... one great part about this team is that they adapted really well. For the different surfaces and there's a wind always coming in West Indies so they adapted really well and never let our intensity go...." he added. Talking about Suryakumar Yadav's catch, the Indian fielding coach said that he would have taken fifty such catches in the practice sessions. He also praised Suryakumar for his awareness while taking the catch. "If you ask about Surya's catch, he would have taken fifty such catches in the practice sessions. But in a match when that moment comes, it's his decision and the awareness of rope that's very important and knowing and the confidence that he throws it up and come inside, it's a decision making at the point of time," he added.

Summarising the final match of the tournament, India won the toss and opted to bat first. After being reduced to 34/3, a counter-attacking partnership between Virat (76) and Axar Patel (47 in 31 balls, with one four and four sixes) of 72 runs restored India's position in the game. A 57-run stand between Virat and Shivam Dube (27 in 16 balls, with three fours and a six) took India to 176/7 in their 20 overs.

Virat secured the 'Player of the Match' for his performance. Now, by securing their first ICC title since the Champions Trophy in 2013, India has ended their ICC trophy drought.

Axar Patel, the Jayasuriya of Nadiad, makes years of perfecting his cricket count in World Cup final

GNS News Agency, July 1

Occasionally, Rishabh Pant can be heard chirping from behind the stumps, "Jayasuriya, left me ja," referring to Axar Patel. That's his childhood nickname, earned from his bludgeoning efforts on the flood-lit tennis-ball circuit in Nadiad, 60 kms away from Ahmedabad. The man who never wanted to bowl in his growing up years, but would play for India for his left-arm spin, found the biggest stage to relive his childhood highs. Incidentally, Axar was the last person to be inked in the 15-member squad as the selectors tussled between him and Washington Sundar but in the end they made the right call to trust Axar to come good.

But it's an entirely different matter to do it in a World Cup final under pressure, with the big guns Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav back in the hut. To arch back to one of the world's premier fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and crunch a length ball behind the sight screen as he did in the 14th over is the stuff of dreams — and Axar Patel would hold his pose and soak up the moment. India have borne the brunt of counter-attacking World Cup knocks under immense pressure against them in the past — Aravinda de Silva's absolute gem in the 1996 semis springs to mind, and it would have given the fans great joy that someone landed a blow for them, this time around. The game had dramatically swung towards South Africa when he walked in, well ahead of his usual position, promoted ahead of Shivam Dube. In the middle was Virat Kohli who had started off like a runaway express but now had to drop anchor in the absence of Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant, and Suryakumar Yadav.

India's Axar Patel bowls a delivery during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup second semifinal cricket match between England and India at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana. India's Axar Patel bowls a delivery during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup second semifinal cricket match between England and India at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana. Not everyone would have been surprised at what followed. Mohammad Kaif, the assistant coach at Delhi Capitals in 2021 and who saw Ricky Ponting help Axar correct his only flaw that existed then — his leg-side strokeplay, has always been a backer.

"He is so sorted, chilled out. He doesn't get tense whether he is batting or bowling. In a crisis situation, those who play as if there is no crisis, do well. It allows the confidence in the skill set to flow through," Kaif had told this newspaper. Axar calmly ushered the first delivery he faced, a gentle one on the pads from Rabada, to the square-leg boundary with a neat clip. He then faced three deliveries off the last ball of the Powerplay that Aiden Markram slipped in quietly and effectively for just six runs. But Axar wouldn't let him get away again when Markram bowled the 8th over. Axar slammed a slog-swept six — and that was probably the shot that announced his and India's intent: Kohli to continue with the anchor and Axar to do the damage.

In the next over against South Africa's World-Cup star Keshav Maharaj, he crash-landed another slog sweep into the stands at cow corner. Markram scrambled



and threw his next spinner, the chinaman Shamsi into the mix. No luck, as Axar went downtown, pumping him for another six. Soon, he was in that freeze-frame moment against Rabada with that stunning six of the World Cup final. "He used to hit the ball very hard. Pura Jayasuriya ke tarah (Just like Jayasuriya). Everyone wanted him to play for their team but as he got selected for the district and later for Gujarat age-group teams, he realised that he would have to give up tennis-ball cricket," Axar's cousin had told this newspaper. Axar is a very self-aware individual, be it his batting or bowling. His batting kept improving as his Test average shows. He also continues to work on his batting. In the 2021 IPL in Dubai, he worked very hard with the coach Ricky Ponting to correct one area of his game that has worked wonders: his leg-side play. "I remember telling him that Jadeja had shown the path. How Jadeja went to the next level after the 2018 tour of England. Axar wanted to take his batting up to the next level."

Led by Virat Kohli and Axar Patel, India recorded the highest score in a T20 World Cup final. (PTI) Led by Virat Kohli and Axar Patel, India recorded the highest score in a T20 World Cup final. (PTI) However, he had a weakness — his leg-side game which was targeted by the IPL bowlers. "They would bowl at his body, and get him caught down the leg side. At best, he was looking to tap those balls away for a single to the leg side. That full range wasn't there," Kaif said. "The front shoulder was a touch closed," Kaif said. "Ponting felt that to open up his leg-side game, make it more fluent, the front shoulder needs to be opened up a touch. Face more of mid-on rather than be cut off completely by being too side-on. Hours of practice ensued and it became a natural part of him that he even hit Bumrah in that IPL over on the on side for sixes. It wasn't a perfect day, though, as Heinrich Klassen bashed him for 24 runs in an over to tilt the momentum South Africa's way, but his team-mates did the job to ensure his batting effort wouldn't go to waste. When he was young, his mother and grandmother had objected to him playing cricket as they felt he was too small. But Axar was stubborn and moved up in the ranks rather quickly. Now, with this cameo in a World Cup final that would rank with the best, Axar Patel, the self-made cricketer who has squeezed out every inch of his talent, has lived up to that childhood moniker: "Nadiad ka Jayasuriya."

Anushka Sharma shares love note for Virat Kohli after T20 World Cup win

There is a celebration mood all around. Fans and celebs took to social media and congratulated the Men in Blue for this victory. Actor Anushka Sharma wrote a heart-warming note for her husband and star batter Virat Kohli. Calling him her "home", she wrote a sweet note for Virat on her Instagram handle along with his picture holding the trophy. "AND I love this. So grateful to call you my home... now go have a glass of sparkling water for me to celebrate this!" Anushka expressed her excitement and celebrated the victory by sharing several pictures of Team India lifting the trophy and the emotional moments of the players. She congratulated Team India and also shared that their daughter Vamika was concerned about the players when she watched them crying on TV. Talking about

the match, India won the toss and opted to bat first. After being reduced to 34/3, a counter-attacking partnership between Virat (76) and Axar Patel (47 in 31 balls, with one four and four sixes) of 72 runs restored India's position in the game. A 57-run stand between Virat and Shivam Dube (27 in 16 balls, with three fours and a six) took India to 176/7 in their 20 overs. Keshav Maharaj (2/23) and Anrich Nortje (2/26) were the top bowlers for SA. Marco Jansen and Aiden Markram took a wicket each in the run chase of 177 runs, Proteas was reduced to 12/2 and then a 58-run partnership between Quinton de Kock (39 in 31 balls, with four boundaries and a six) and Tristan Stubbs (31 in 21 balls, with three fours and a six) brought back SA into the game.