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## 24 students fall ill after consuming mid-day meal

Sangareddy: As many as 24 students of the Zilla Parishad High School in Bibipet in Kalher mandal fell ill after the mid-day meal on Monday. When they started vomiting, teachers and parents shifted them to the area hospital in Narayankhed for treatment. Their condition was said to be stable. While a few of them were discharged from the hospital, the remaining were undergoing treatment. The students complained that they developed stomach pain immediately after having lunch in the school. They said they were served boiled egg and lady's finger curry in lunch, which had tasted stale. The teacher said only 24 out of 94 students had lunch in the school and had fallen ill.

## Special camp to help Wayanad survivors retrieve official documents



GNS News Agency, August 12

Wayanad: A special camp to retrieve official documents of the landslide survivors who lost everything, was launched on Monday in the disaster-hit regions of Wayanad, where a search mission to locate missing people continued. The camps are being held in select schools in Meppadi here as part of the certificate/document retrieval campaign jointly carried out by the Local Self Government Department, district administration and the State IT Mission. Arrangements are being made at the camps for the landslide survivors, who are either staying in camps or other places, to come and retrieve their lost documents or certificate, District Collector said in a Facebook post on Monday.

Meanwhile, a 190-member team comprising NDRF, police, fire force, Civil Defence Force, Forest Department and rescue volunteers resumed the search operation at five zones of the disaster-struck area this morning. The search to find out the missing persons was stopped on Sunday after heavy rains in the Mundakkai and Chooralmala regions. According to the state government, the landslides killed 229 people, while over 130 are still missing. Of the total bodies recovered, 51 are yet to be identified, they added.

## KTR slams Congress government for agricultural crisis in Telangana

GNS News Agency, August 12

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao expressed grave concern over the sharp decline in crop cultivation in Telangana since the Congress government took over. He pointed out severe challenges faced by farmers under the current regime, contrasting it with the progress made under the leadership of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao.

In a series of posts on X on Monday, Rama Rao cited news reports, stating that sowing operations in Telangana had only been completed in 84.6 lakh acres, which was just 65.4 per cent of the normal cultivation area of 1.29 crore acres for the ongoing Vanakalam.

He pointed out that the cultivated area had reduced by 15.3 lakh acres compared to last year, which could lead to a significant reduction in the overall crop production. "This clearly proves that the inept Congress leadership is unable to even maintain the steady growth Telangana had achieved under the BRS Government," he said.

He lamented the downturn in the farming sector, stating that agriculture witnessed a golden era under the K Chandrashekhara Rao regime, but was now facing a crisis under the Congress. After the record-breaking performance under KCR Garu, it is concerning to note that the farming sector has taken a severe hit after the Congress government took over. The BRS working president slammed the Congress government for its failure to provide essential inputs such as irrigation water, seed and fertilizer to farmers. He also condemned the lack of Rythu Bharosa investment support, which had been crucial in sustaining farmers under the previous administration.

He pointed out that the government was not even ensuring timely crop loans from banks to farmers, leading to increased debt and eventually to suicides. "The current government is not only cutting electricity for agriculture but also slashing the number of farmers eligible for loan waivers," Rama Rao said, adding that the Congress failed to deliver on its promises, including a Rs 500 bonus for paddy farmers.

He warned that the decrease in cultivated area was a dangerous sign for the survival of farmers in Telangana and urged immediate action to address the crisis. The former Minister also said the Congress lacked the vision in utilising the Kaleshwaram project and failing to implement plans to fill reservoirs and divert water to irrigation tanks. "To sum up, there is no assurance of farmers' livelihoods under the Congress rule. Except for indulging in political mudslinging, the Congress has no sense of supporting farmers and ensuring timely supply of irrigation water," he added. Meanwhile, Rama Rao asked Congress Lok Sabha leader Rahul Gandhi as to why the Congress government in Telangana was hushing up the Sunkishala mishap and going soft on the contract agency, Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL). He said though more than 10 days had passed, there was no action taken against the agency. More than 10 days since #Sunkishala mishap. Why is there no action initiated on the agency Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Limited !?

## Korean Companies Show Interest in KMTF Following CM Revanth Reddy's Visit

GNS News Agency, August 12

During his visit to South Korea, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy successfully garnered interest from Korean companies for investment in the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park in Warangal. The Korea Textile Federation responded favourably to the Chief Minister's pitch during a recent business roundtable organised by the Korea Federation of Textile



Industry. At the roundtable, Chief Minister Reddy outlined the investment opportunities available in Warangal's textile sector

and emphasized the benefits for both local and international companies. His presentation highlighted the

government's commitment to expanding the textile industry and creating a favorable environment for global investors. The meeting was attended by 25 leading textile companies, including Kihak Sung, Chairman of Youngone Corporation, and Soyoung Joo, Executive Vice Chairman of KOFOTI. Industry IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and other senior officials from the Telangana government were also present, supporting the Chief Minister's efforts.

## HM Shah said no one from Bangladesh will be allowed to enter NE: Meghalaya CM

GNS News Agency, August 12

New Delhi/Shillong: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Monday said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured him that no individual from trouble-torn Bangladesh would be allowed to enter northeastern states, which share a 1,880-km-long border with the neighbouring country. Sangma along with Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong met HM Shah in New Delhi and they discussed India-Bangladesh border affairs along Meghalaya.

"The Home Minister assured that no individual from Bangladesh would be allowed to enter northeastern states and all necessary measures were being taken along the borders. Following my request, he also said that he would consider further tightening the security along the India-Bangladesh International Borders by deploying additional security forces," Sangma said in a video message. The Indian government is committed to keep the country's borders safe and secure and appealed to all to maintain peace and harmony, he said quoting HM Shah. Sangma said that he briefed the HM about the prevailing situation along the border and adjoining villages.

"I have told him that the Army and BSF were doing good work in maintaining security along the India-Bangladesh border. Strict vigils along the border are being maintained. The Meghalaya government on August 5 imposed night curfew all along the 443 km India-Bangladesh border," Sangma said, adding that the



Meghalaya police was also on high alert. He said on X, "HM Amit Shah today reviewed the ongoing situation in Bangladesh and its implications for the North East. The concerns and apprehensions of our people were raised during the meeting. GoI is committed to keeping our borders safe and appeals to all to maintain peace & harmony." Besides Meghalaya, all other six northeastern states have taken a series of measures including night curfew, deployment of additional forces, to prevent infiltration and any kind of untoward incident along the borders. Four of the eight northeastern states of Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Mizoram (318 km) and Assam (263 km) share a 1,880-km-long border with Bangladesh.

## BRS leader Kavitha's bail plea in Delhi excise policy case to be heard by Supreme Court on August 20; bench seeks responses from CBI, ED



GNS News Agency, August 12

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the responses of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in a plea for bail filed by Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader K. Kavitha in two cases of corruption and money laundering linked to the Delhi excise policy scam. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan issued notice to both Central agencies on the bail pleas of Ms. Kavitha, who is the daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao. The case is posted for hearing on August 20.

The hearing of the petitions follows a Supreme Court order granting bail to Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the same case last week. On July 12, the apex court had granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on ED's money laundering charges against him in the excise policy case. On Monday, the hearing in Ms. Kavitha's bail plea followed a separate petition filed by Mr. Kejriwal seeking bail in the CBI's corruption case against him. The Chief Minister has sought an urgent hearing. Appearing for Ms. Kavitha, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said his client has been behind bars for five months now. Her case for bail was squarely covered by the apex court's judgment granting bail to Mr. Sisodia and Mr. Kejriwal — the latter in the ED case. The Delhi High Court had denied Ms. Kavitha bail on July 1. The trial court had in May dismissed her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case as well as the money-laundering case registered by the ED.

The "scam" pertains to alleged corruption and money-laundering in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22.

The policy was later scrapped. The ED had arrested 46-year-old Kavitha from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15. The CBI subsequently arrested her from Tihar jail. The ED has alleged that Kavitha was a part of liquor cartel 'South Group' which paid kickbacks of Rs 100 crore to Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in return for favours under the now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22. Ms. Kavitha's arguments had highlighted the restriction placed on police officers under Section 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against summoning women or questioning them at any place other than their own homes. She had argued that the ED was using the power to summon persons as an intimidation tactic. Ms. Kavitha had maintained that there was no case against her and she was implicated in the case on the basis of statements extracted out of certain persons using coercion.

## Canadian MP calls on EAM Jaishankar, says relationship with India remains 'very important'

GNS News Agency, August 12

New Delhi: Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya, a vocal critic of the Justin Trudeau government, met External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar in New Delhi on Monday. "Delighted to meet Canadian MP Chandrakanth Arya. As a genuine advocate of India - Canada friendship, appreciate his views and value his insights," the EAM posted on X after meeting the visiting MP. Arya, who has led the fight against the Canadian government for giving refuge to pro-Khalistani elements in the country, stated that the Canada-India relationship remains "very important" for both countries and highlighted the comment made by the outgoing Canadian High Commissioner in India a few months back where he had said that "in the long-term, Canada's strategic interest and India's strategic interest are absolutely aligned".

## Cosmic butterfly emerges from star's death

Hyderabad: When a star with a mass between one and eight times that of the Sun exhausts its nuclear fuel, it expands into a red giant. Over time, the outer layers of the star's atmosphere are shed, forming a glowing shell of gas and dust that can remain illuminated for thousands of years by the light of the remaining core, known as a white dwarf. One striking example of this phenomenon is Kohoutek 3-46, which resembles a butterfly in shape. Estimated to be around 20,000 light-years old, this celestial object is classified as a planetary nebula—a term that, despite its name, has no relation to planets. The name was coined by astronomer William Herschel in the 18th century, based on the nebula's appearance through early telescopes.

## BRS committee to study problems in Gurukuls, says KTR



GNS News Agency, August 12

The committee would be headed by BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar, who had played a crucial role in the development of Gurukuls in the State. KT Rama Rao was speaking after consoling family members of Class VI student Anirudh, who recently died at the Peddapur Gurukul in Metpalli mandal of Jagtial district. Rajanna-Sircilla: BRS working president KT Rama Rao said on Monday that the party would constitute a committee to study problems in the State's Gurukuls. The committee would be headed by BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar, who had played a crucial role in the development of Gurukuls in the State.

Praveen Kumar would visit about 20 schools across the State and submit a report within five days by examining the facilities, suggesting measures to be taken for the betterment of the facilities for the students. The move was to help the students, Rama Rao said, advising the State government not to see it from a political angle. Rama Rao was speaking after consoling family members of Class VI student Anirudh, who recently died at the Peddapur Gurukul in Metpalli mandal of Jagtial district. He, along with a BRS delegation, called upon the family at their home in Racharlaboppapur of Yellareddypet mandal on Monday.

Pointing out that 36 students had died during the last eight months, he said while some of the students had died of food poisoning, a few others had died of snake-bites. The deaths of some students were under suspicious circumstance, he said, adding that during this period, about 500 students were admitted to hospitals after consuming toxic or stale food. Stating that this was not a subject to be politicised, Rama Rao asked the State government to extend support to the families of the 36 students and to take steps to prevent such incidents in future. Stating that the previous BRS government had taken steps to serve quality food to students at the IIT Basara, he emphasized the need for Collectors and other officials to make surprise visits to social welfare hostels and to examine the quality of food. The premises of schools should be cleaned on a regular basis. To provide quality education to poor students and make them competent at the international level, the previous BRS government had established more than 1000 Gurukuls, which were later upgraded as intermediate and degree colleges. The State government should consider itself as the parent of the six and a half lakh students staying in government hostels and take steps for their safety, he added.

## Congress's demand for JPC probe a sham, aim is to weaken economy: BJP on Hindenburg allegations

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, August 12

The ruling BJP on Monday flagged the Goerge Soros connection with the latest Hindenburg allegations against industrialist Gautam Adani and the SEBI chairperson and accused the Congress of spreading economic anarchy in India based on "fictitious reports". Addressing a press conference here, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said Goerge Soros, the US billionaire, who openly called for a regime change in India on the Lok Sabha election eve, was the biggest investor in the American short selling firm Hindenburg, which has accused the SEBI chairperson of going soft on Gautam Adani's alleged market manipulation because she had shares in one of his offshore firms.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, ABUD BIN AHMED DARABI S/O AHMED BIN ABDULLA (old name) born on 18-07-1977 at Adilabad earlier was Holding Passport No. A3008005 Dt: 09-07-1997 hereby Changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as ABOOD BIN AHMED DARABI S/O AHMED BIN ABDULLA (new name) H.No. 1-4-320/1, Masoodnagar, Adilabad-504001, Telangana State.

DECLARANT.

ABOOD BIN AHMED DARABI S/O AHMED BIN ABDULLA

Place: Adilabad

Date: 13-08-2024

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Hindenburg at it again

OVER a year and a half after it stirred up a hornet's nest by accusing the Adani Group of pulling off 'the largest con in corporate history', US short-seller Hindenburg Research has trained its guns on the chairperson of SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India), Madhabi Buch and her husband. Flagging conflict of interest, Hindenburg has alleged that the couple had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the financial scandal. The insinuation is that the country's market regulator, tasked with protecting the interests of investors in securities, took its foot off the probe pedal in view of a presumably commercial relationship between the Buchs and the Adanis.

The accusation — trashed by the couple as well as the conglomerate — is provocative as the Supreme Court had in January backed SEBI to the hilt, stating that the latter was conducting a 'comprehensive investigation' into alleged manipulation of stock prices and there was no need to transfer the case to a special investigation team. The faith reposed in SEBI by the apex court had raised eyebrows; after all, had the court trusted the board unquestioningly all along, why would it have set up a separate expert panel to look into regulatory lapses in the wake of Hindenburg's January 2023 report? At stake here is SEBI's credibility, even as knives are again out in the political arena. The Congress has reiterated its demand for a joint parliamentary committee to investigate the scam in its entirety. Repeatedly accused of going the extra mile for leading corporates, the government needs to do much better than to just allege that the main Opposition party and Hindenburg are in cahoots. Transparency is a must to clear the air; the impression that SEBI is reluctant to complete its probe in all respects ought to be dispelled. Hindenburg might not be completely above board itself but its claims cannot be conveniently brushed aside; they need to be countered with indisputable facts.

## Adivasis demand legal recognition of villages, reinstatement of Forest Rights Act

GNS News Agency, August 12

On Friday morning, around 1,200 to 1,500 tribals congregated at Aarey Colony in Mumbai to celebrate World Tribals Day. This event, however, served as both a celebration and a silent protest. The Adivasis, claiming to be the original inhabitants of the forests around Mumbai, have lived in harmony with nature for generations, cultivating their lands and preserving the environment. Despite their deep-rooted connection to these lands, they have been systematically denied their rights and marginalized. The protest march, known as "Adivasi Bachao Yatra" (Save Adivasis March), was a plea for justice, equality, and recognition, led by Vitthal Lad of the Kashtakari Shetkari Sanghatna.

Mumbai is home to approximately 222 Adivasi villages with around 10,000 residents who are the original custodians of the city's forests. Vitthal Lad, convener of the protest, explained, "Their villages, where they have lived for hundreds of years, are not recognized as revenue villages, leaving them in legal limbo. This lack of recognition has severe consequences, preventing them from accessing basic amenities, government benefits, and legal protection." The march saw participation from people of all ages, including many youths concerned about their future. Ramesh Gatal, a young Adivasi leader, stated, "We are the rightful owners of these lands, yet we are treated like encroachers. Our ancestors lived here long before the city existed. We demand that our villages be declared revenue villages to secure our legal recognition and rights." The Adivasis also called for the reinstatement of the Forest Rights Act of 2006, which granted them rights over the forests they have safeguarded for generations. The act has been undermined by subsequent policies and projects, threatening their existence. The tribals fear that proposed SRA (Slum Rehabilitation Authority) projects and other developments aim to displace them under the guise of progress.

"Our lands are being fenced off, and our farmlands are being seized as government lands. We are denied the right to farm, destroying our livelihood. This is about more than land; it's about our identity and survival," said Vanita Thakare, an elderly woman from Aarey Colony. Denial of basic rights and activists argue that many tribal settlements lack access to essential services available to other city residents. "Among the most pressing issues are the lack of healthcare, education, and clean water," said Sanjiv Vansal, an activist for tribal rights. In many villages, children face inadequate educational facilities. Laxmibai, an Adivasi mother of three, remarked, "Our children attend school daily, but the facilities are questionable." Healthcare is another major concern. Villages are often remote, far from hospitals. Vansal noted, "Incidents of snake bites are common, but there are no primary health facilities to treat them. In emergencies, villagers must travel to Cooper Hospital in Juhu, often resulting in loss of life due to delays." Water access is another issue. In Khambacha Pada, a village with about 45-50 houses, a single tap provides water for just 15 minutes a day, while a nearby cowshed receives ample water.

The concept of "urban colonization" is a significant threat. As Mumbai expands, Adivasis find themselves increasingly displaced by powerful interests. The government often sides with developers and corporations targeting forest lands, labeling the Adivasis as encroachers on their ancestral lands. "The city people are the real encroachers, not the Adivasis. They come here, seize our lands, and then call us illegal occupants. This is urban colonization, where the powerful exploit the powerless. The government and politicians see us merely as land parcels, not as human beings," said Vansal.

A young girl with the constitution A young girl with the constitution. Adivasis also face discrimination and harassment from government bodies. Their protest march was denied permission by the local police despite advance application, highlighting systemic bias. "We were denied our right to protest and voice our concerns. The authorities see us as a nuisance rather than citizens with rights. We face secondary treatment just because we are Adivasis," said Thakare. The demand for recognizing their villages as revenue villages is not merely a legal issue but a matter of survival. Without this recognition, the Adivasis lack the legal standing to protect their lands from encroachment and exploitation.

## Arrested ED officer personally received Rs 20 lakh bribe, money exchanged in his car: CBI



GNS News Agency, August 12

The CBI has claimed that the assistant director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), arrested for allegedly seeking Rs 20 lakh as bribe by threatening to arrest a person, came to receive the amount himself, with the money exchanged in his car in Delhi. The accused, Sandeep Singh Yadav, however, told the court through his lawyer that he had only given a person a lift in his car and was falsely arrested. On Friday, the CBI produced Yadav before the special CBI court in Mumbai. The agency sought Yadav's custody for seven days to interrogate him on grounds, including that it wants to probe whether there is involvement of any other ED officials and if it is part of a larger conspiracy. Special Judge S P Naik-Nimbalkar granted the CBI his custody till August 14. The CBI's Mumbai team had arrested Yadav after it received a complaint from the owner of company V S Gold. The entity had purchased gold from another company under probe.

Special public prosecutor Sandeep Singh, appearing for the CBI, submitted that Yadav was part of searches conducted in the house of the complainant in Mumbai on August 2-3. Yadav was not the investigation officer in the case and was accompanied by one enforcement officer, named Alok. The CBI claimed that Yadav and the enforcement officer told the complainant that as his son was not at home, they suspect he was destroying evidence, even though the evidence was documentary. Further, the enforcement officer asked the complainant to speak to Yadav. The accused allegedly demanded Rs 25 lakh to

not arrest the complainant's son. When the complainant said that he did not have so much money, the accused allegedly settled for Rs 20 lakh. Yadav allegedly took the phone numbers of the complainant's son and daughter and contacted the latter about the location and time of delivery of the bribe amount. He also allegedly suggested to her that they should contact each other on WhatsApp and dictated the address at which to deliver the amount. The CBI claimed that Yadav had suggested that the money can be delivered either in Mumbai or Delhi, and said that it could be done through an angadiya. SPP Singh said that the CBI was alerted about it, which verified that such a demand was made and laid a trap. Yadav had allegedly given a serial number to the complainant's daughter, which was to be written on a ₹20 note to verify the identity of the person who would deliver the money.

The complainant's driver posed as an angadiya. The CBI claimed Yadav verified it through the code on the ₹20 note and asked the driver to sit in the car, where the money was allegedly exchanged. The CBI arrested Yadav and also conducted searches at his home. The CBI told the court that no cash was found but it claimed to have recovered documents and electronic devices, which are under analysis. It also sought his custody to probe whether he had been involved in similar offences earlier, claiming that he could possibly have a nexus in Mumbai and Delhi. The CBI also said that it wants to trace Yadav's links with a contact in Mumbai. Yadav's lawyer, Abhinav Yadav, told the court that he was falsely implicated after a man sent as a decoy took a lift in his car. He also claimed that he was an officer since 2010 and had a clean record. He said that Yadav was ready to co-operate with the police by giving voice samples. He also claimed that there were discrepancies in the timings of the search and arrest by the CBI. The court said these aspects are premature. "On the basis of the case records, it may be safely inferred that currency notes were recovered during the trap. The amount involved is huge. The CBI has also submitted that it wants to probe if a larger conspiracy is involved in the case... Investigation is at a nascent stage," the court said, granting CBI Yadav's custody.

## Defamation case against other accused cannot be set aside if complainant, main accused reach compromise: Karnataka HC

GNS News Agency, August 12

Karnataka High Court ruling, defamation case Karnataka, compromise with primary accused. The allegations against the other accused were that they had conspired with the main accused to publicise the matter in the media and had given "false statements" to investigating officers. The Karnataka High Court has ruled that any compromise with the primary accused by a complainant in a defamation case will have no bearing on the other accused. The order was passed by a bench consisting of Justice H P Sandesh on July 26. Two of the co-accused in such a case had approached the high court to quash the proceedings against them. The complainant had filed the defamation complaint after the main accused had written a complaint alleging sexual harassment while working at a government broadcasting organisation and forwarded the same to the prime minister of India, the information and broadcasting minister, and the chairperson of the National Commission for Women, among others.

The allegations against the other accused were that they had conspired with the main accused to publicise the matter in the media and had given "false statements" to investigating officers. Later, the main accused withdrew the sexual harassment complaint and reached a compromise with the defamation complainant. The counsel for the petitioners argued that once the main accused had 'compromised', there was no question of continuing



the defamation case and that there was also no material against them. Thereafter, the bench stated, "Having taken note of the material considered by the Trial Court against the petitioners, the Trial Court has issued summons. When such materials are placed on record, it is not a fit case to exercise the inherent power under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. and this Court does not find any abuse of process as contended by the learned counsel for the petitioners and the contention that there is no material against the petitioners cannot be accepted... the Court has to take note of the allegation made against each of the accused and when prima facie materials are found against the petitioners to take cognizance and issued the process, the question of interference by exercising the power under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. does not arise."

## Body of a female junior doctor found in state-run Kolkata hospital kicks up political storm

GNS News Agency, August 12

According to hospital sources, the doctor was on duty until 2 am on Friday. According to hospital sources, the doctor was on duty until 2 am on Friday. The body of a young female doctor found at Kolkata's state-run R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital on Friday morning has kicked up a major storm in the state, with the Opposition alleging she was raped and murdered.

The doctor, a second-year postgraduate student in chest medicine, was found in the building's seminar hall. Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and Additional CP Murlidhar Sharma are inspecting the spot. A forensic team has also been sent for initial examination of the body at the spot, police sources said. "I spoke to my daughter yesterday at 11 pm. She sounded very normal. I am shocked," the doctor's father told the media. "She was lying half-naked. We suspect she has been murdered and raped, but let police find out," he added. Manas Gumta, the secretary of the Association of Health Service Doc-



tors, called it "unprecedented". My blood boils. I don't think such an incident has ever taken place in the history of West Bengal. If our demands are not taken seriously, the all-doctors association will assemble in the hospital in the evening. Police must ensure CCTV footage is not deleted. With the same principal and official on duty one cannot assure a fair probe," Gumta said.

According to hospital sources, the doctor was on duty until 2 am on Friday. The cause of death is yet to be determined but the hospital has set up two panels — one for internal enquiry and one for postmortem —

amid mounting pressure from the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and various student unions. But resident doctors have been insisting on an external inquiry panel headed by a judicial magistrate to look into the student's death. "It is shocking that an on-call duty doctor is murdered and found naked. The nature of the case demands a judicial inquiry. Post-mortem should be done by forensic experts of an external hospital and be videographed," Shams Musafir of All India Democratic Students Organisation said. In his post on X, Amit Malviya, BJP

Information and Technology department-in-charge, claimed that woman was "raped and murdered". "Her naked body (was) found in the duty room. Mamata Banerjee Govt is trying to hide the crime. Kolkata Police has been asked to cover up, and show it as suicide. Media is not being allowed in. Repeat: no woman, from #Sandeshkhali to Chopra, is safe in West Bengal," he wrote. Meanwhile, TMC Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen promised a "thorough and fair investigation. "We will ensure that the truth will prevail. If anyone is found involved, strict action will be taken," he said.

## Cong misused Waqf land to promote own institutions: Fadnavis



GNS News Agency, August 12

Devendra Fadnavis Waqf land misuse, Congress Waqf land scandal, Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, Maharashtra Waqf land controversy, Congress Waqf land misuse allegations, Devendra Fadnavis Congress criticism, Waqf land misuse Maharashtra, Kiren Rijiju Waqf Bill, Opposition Waqf Bill protest, Waqf act amendment controversy, Congress opposition to Waqf Bill, Waqf land misuse reports, Joint Committee Waqf Bill, Devendra Fadnavis media interaction, Religious freedom Waqf Bill. With the Opposition opposing the Bill and its own allies wary about the widespread changes proposed by it, the Centre on Thursday sent the legislation to a Joint Committee of Parliament.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said there was rampant misuse of Waqf land when the Congress was in power. The Congress frequently misused Waqf land for its vested interests, he added. "We have seen in the past how Congress leaders misused Waqf land to promote their own institutions. There are records and reports on misuse of Waqf land by the Congress when it was in power in Maharashtra and elsewhere in country," Fadnavis said, during a brief media interaction here. "The Congress' opposition to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is understandable. They will try to thwart the Bill as it will not only expose their misdeeds but also put a brake on it," he added. Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's introduction of the Bill, which seeks to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, in Parliament was met with noisy protests, with Opposition MPs calling it "an attack on the Indian Constitution, the religious freedom it guarantees and a violation of the federal structure". With the Opposition opposing the Bill and its own allies wary about the widespread changes proposed by it, the Centre on Thursday sent the legislation to a Joint Committee of Parliament.

## Congress opposes hand-over of prime south Mumbai plot to non-profit organisation



GNS News Agency, August 12

A day after reported on Maharashtra government's approval to lease a prime plot in south Mumbai measuring 2995.75 square metres to a non-profit organisation, the main opposition, Congress, on Friday questioned whether the government was under pressure to part with its lands. "The Mahayuti government is giving away prime plots in the state at throwaway prices. On one hand it is giving Mumbai's lands to Adani group. Now, it will be giving away a prime plot in south Mumbai to a non-profit organisation for educational purposes at throwaway price. This was opposed by the finance department and despite that the decision has been cleared," said Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole. Patole asked whether the state government is under pressure from anyone to gift Mumbai's lands to anybody. "The government must come out and give explanation as to who pressurised the government to give this land and who is being benefited out of this," said Patole. The state cabinet had on Wednesday approved a proposal to lease a prime land near Mantralaya in South Mumbai to a non-profit organisation for a period of 30 years to build a primary and secondary school. The approval was given despite the strong objection of the finance department, which had recommended using it to construct government offices instead. "It will not be appropriate to give the land to a private organisation at a time when the government itself needs land to build its offices. Hence, the proposal should not be given nod. A number of important government offices from Mantralaya have been transferred to nearby places due to lack of space and the government is spending crores of rupees on rent. In such a scenario, the prime plot cannot be given for any reason," the finance department had said. "The land should be acquired for government offices at the earliest," it added.

## '2.5 crore homes to hoist flags': CM Eknath Shinde launches Har Ghar Tiranga

GNS News Agency, August 12

Speaking during the campaign launch, Shinde said, "It was from the August Kranti Maidan that the call of 'Chale Jaao' had been given in 1942 during the freedom struggle movement. Speaking during the campaign launch, Shinde said, "It was from the August Kranti Maidan that the call of 'Chale Jaao' had been given in 1942 during the freedom struggle movement. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde launched the Gharo ghar tiranga (Har ghar tiranga) campaign from Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan during an event organised by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the state government on Friday. The campaign, which is celebrated across the nation between August 9 and 15, is slated to see the participation of nearly 2.5 crore homes across Maharashtra, said the Chief Minister.

# BARTI student attempts self-immolation over scholarship payment



confirmed the incident. "Policemen present at the protest site promptly intervened and prevented the incident. The boy was counselled."

The protesters, spearheaded by the BARTI researcher student struggle action committee, are demanding an urgent meeting with the chief secretary of the department of social justice, and have warned of more students attempting similar acts if no resolution is reached by tomorrow afternoon. Students have also boycotted the verification of scholarship documents and have blocked the institute's main entrance. Explaining the issue, Dugane said, "We Scheduled Caste students studying under BARTI have been promised a fellowship for research projects, but we haven't received it for the last two and a half years. We are also demanding 100 per cent fellowship, similar to what Maratha and OBC students have been receiving since 2022. However, on July 25, the government issued an order to release 50 per cent of the pending fees which we feel is a grave injustice," said Dugane. Dugane said that due to the pendency of the stipend, students are facing financial struggles. "I had to borrow money from friends and family and even pawn my mother's jewellery to cover my expenses. In desperation, I even attempted self-immolation. The government assured to arrange a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, but instead, a meeting was arranged with his PA, claiming the Dy CM was unavailable. We demand justice," he said.

GNS News Agency, August 12

A PhD student enrolled with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI) tried to self-immolate in front of the institute gate on Thursday afternoon as part of the ongoing protest over scholarship funds. Students of BARTI, an institute for welfare of Scheduled Caste, are protesting against the state government's decision to grant only 50 per cent of the pending scholarship fund from the date of the scholarship award. The students, citing financial hardship, launched a hunger strike on August 5. On Friday, a student Sanvidhan Dugane, attempted self-immolation but was prevented from carrying it out by policemen present there. A video of the incident has been widely shared on social media. Smartana Patil, deputy commissioner of police

# Food walk that tells stories behind Pune's food



GNS News Agency, August 12

Pune food walks As the walk meanders along the narrow lanes and bylanes of the old city, Paranjape enthral his listeners with the tales behind the delicacies associated with them. Many in Pune have been to the iconic Poona Guest House. However, many be not be aware about the fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had visited it. Or the fact that in the 19th century, Dorabjee's in Camp was one of the few restaurants which allowed Indians to enter. When Jayesh Paranjape conducts his food walks, it's these tales that keep participants engrossed, as they taste the various delicacies of Pune from places that have more than food to offer.

The idea of conducting a food walk came to Paranjape in 2013 after he got exposure to similar tours in the United Kingdom where he studied. "Back there we had these tours which introduced tourists to tales behind specialities of the place. Western Routes- the company which I run has always been into heritage and responsible tourism. For me the idea of the walk was to introduce people to the stories behind the places - each of these places have stories to be told," he said. The first walk was held in November 2013 and centred around the old city area of Pune in the Peths. After the success of the walks in the old cities, Paranjape started a similar one in Camp towards the end 2014. Pune food walk The idea of conducting a food walk came to Paranjape in 2013 after he got exposure to similar tours in the United Kingdom where he studied.

As the walk meanders along the narrow lanes and bylanes of the old city, Paranjape enthral his listeners with the tales behind the delicacies associated with them. At the Cold Drinks House, he points to an old board where the name of the now famous drink called Mastani was advertised as Ice Cream Cold Drink. "Of course there are many claimant to this, Cold Drinks House had first experimented with this drink and called it Ice Cream Cold

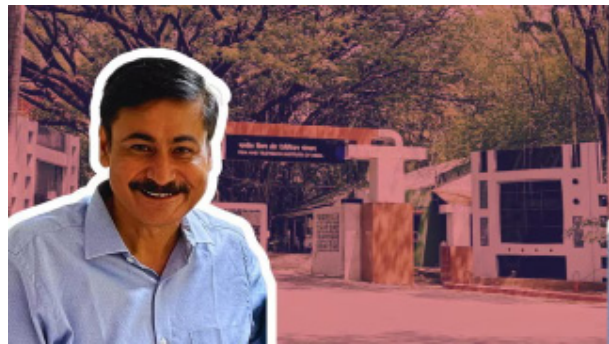
Drink," he said. Another prominent stop is the Poona Guest House, where guests are told how the Sarpotdar family, who run this establishment, had once run a canteen in the Parliament. "We try to get the owners to be around when the group goes and they tell them stories about the place. When Sharmila Sarpotdar, who looks after this place, is around, she shares anecdotes and pictures with the guests," he said. No walk around the Peths is complete without a visit to the New Sweet Home which sells laddoos made from dink (edible resin) and an Amrutulya.

Pune food walk After a stop at Yazden Café - a typical Irani café, the group makes its way to Tabot Street to visit the Husseny Bakery in Camp. When the food trails had started, Instagram or social media had not been the leviathans that they are now. Thus, the concept of Hidden Gems of Pune was not even a hashtag for every one to discover. "My aim was to introduce people to places which that a story of their own," he said. If the walk in the Peths is about introduction to vegetarian Puneri food, the walk in Camp is more about cosmopolitan fares like Parsi and Irani cuisine. The walk starts at the Garden Vada Pav and then makes its way to Dorabjee's the oldest restaurant in Pune. "Over a plate of mutton outlet or bheja fry, we talk about how this was the first restaurant that allowed Indians to enter," he said. After a stop at Yazden Café - a typical Irani café, the group makes its way to Tabot Street to visit the Husseny Bakery in Camp. "My association with Dr Irani goes back to my days of research. He was gracious enough to allow me inside the bakery to see how wood fired ovens run and how the bakery works. Most of the bakeries in Camp do not allow that. So it was natural for me to ask him if I can bring my walk participants to see how the bakery operates, to which he agreed," he said. To this day, the staff has standing instructions to allow members of the walk to go inside the bakery and see how it operates first hand. The walk then reaches Mahalaxmi Khaman, which is in a small bylane, and ends up at Marzarin, which Paranjape admits is his favourite place. "Every place has a story and we try to tell the participants the story associated with it," he said. From day one, both the walks, he said have been well received. "Pune is not a tourist city so mostly the people who come for the walks are people who have moved in or want to see the unexplored places of Pune. Often we have chefs who want to taste the real food of Pune," he said. At present the walks are conducted once a month with him planning to increase the frequency. "Food is not just about taste- you need to know the story behind this to have the full experience. My walk tries to introduce people to this aspect of Puneri food," he signs off.

# FTII gets a full-time director after a gap of two-and-a-half years

GNS News Agency, August 12

FTII Pune director Dhiraj Singh, an alumnus of Allahabad University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and UC Berkeley, holds an MPhil degree in international relations.



Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) is set to get a full-time director after a gap of more than two and a half years with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) appointing Dhiraj Singh, an officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS), to the post. Interestingly, taking a break from the tradition, Singh has been appointed for five years instead of the usual 3-year tenure. Singh, an IIS officer of 1995 batch, has been serving as an additional director general with the Press Information Bureau. He has been attached with the Prime Minister's Office, President's Secretariat, Cabinet Secretariat among others. "He is likely to take charge on Monday," said Prateek Jain, registrar at FTII. Dhiraj Singh, an alumnus of Allahabad University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and UC Berkeley, holds an MPhil degree in international relations. His book, published earlier this year, 'Modern Masters of Cinema- an anthology on cinema masters', explores the unique appeal of cinema's top actors and directors, in an attempt to understand what makes figures like Al Pacino, Amitabh Bachchan, and Quentin Tarantino enduringly compelling. His predecessor, Bhupendra Kainthola, served a long six-year tenure that

saw many changes in the functioning of the institute. Kainthola was transferred in December 2021 after which the post of the director of FTII had been lying vacant. Sandeep Shahare, dean (TV wing) had been serving as in-charge director for the last two years and eight months. The vacancy was advertised several times during and after Kainthola's tenure, but the post was not filled and he was given several extensions to his 3-year term. Kainthola's term was controversial as he is said to have governed the institute, known as a liberal space, with an iron fist. He took stringent punitive actions against students involved in activism including against Payal Kapadia who went on to achieve great acclaim for her work, including the recent Grand Prix at Cannes Film Festival for 'All We Imagine As Light'.

# Former CJ-led Commission conducts public hearing on whether to grant SC status to non-Sikh, non Buddhist converts

GNS News Agency, August 12

A three-member Commission constituted by the Union government to examine whether to grant Scheduled Caste (SC) status to persons who have converted to religions other than Sikhism and Buddhism, conducted a public hearing on the issue at the Annexe in Ahmedabad's Shahibaug area on Friday. The Commission had invited people to give evidence/suggestions on the matter from 11 am onwards. The proceedings were not open to the media.



The Commission, headed by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) K G Balakrishnan, includes retired IAS officer Ravinder Kumar Jain and former University Grants Commission (UGC) member Sushma Yadav. National general secretary of the National Council of Dalit Christians (NCDC) Michael Martin said, "We have made a presentation that Dalits who have converted to Christianity should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes. Conversion to Christianity has improved the level of education, but social discrimination is definitely there. We face the same discrimination." A prominent voice among the Scheduled Castes in Gujarat, Rajesh alias Raju Solanki made submissions before the Commission. Solanki said, "The so-called conversion of the Scheduled Castes into Islam, or Sikhism or Christianity, may have given them spiritual solace, but their economic and social conditions have not changed. This is why Majhabi Sikhs have been given reservation in Punjab and Haryana states." "I firmly believe that any Scheduled Caste person who converts to any religion must not be deprived benefits of reservation in education and government services," he said. There were voices opposing the idea as well, one among them being Vikram Chauhan, who is the President of Gujarat Rohit Samaj and General Secretary of SC Cell of BJP's

state unit. Chauhan said, "We have opposed according SC status to those converting to other religions. After conversion, they do not face any touchability or social discrimination." Fuldas Sadhu, who is general secretary of Gujarat Sadhu Samaj Seva Samiti from Dholka said, "If the government wants to grant them the status, they should be granted separate reservations and not from the seven percent that the Scheduled Castes get (in Gujarat)." The Commission was constituted under the provisions of the Commission of Inquiry Act. According to its ToR, its role is to "examine the matter of according Scheduled Caste status to persons, who claim to historically have belonged to Scheduled Castes, but have converted to religions other than those mentioned in the Presidential Orders issued from time to time under Article 341 of the Constitution." The ToR also says the Commission's role is "to examine the changes Scheduled Caste persons go through on converting to other religions in terms of their customs, traditions, social and other status discrimination and deprivation," and its implication on the "question" of granting SC status.

# Designated terrorist Landa's brother extradited from UAE, arrested

GNS News Agency, August 12

Tarsem is a key member of the BKI and an important terror node of designated terrorists Landa and Harwinder Singh. Tarsem is a key member of the BKI and an important terror node of designated terrorists Landa and Harwinder Singh. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Friday arrested Babbar Khalistan International terrorist Tarsem Singh, who was wanted in connection with an RPG attack on the Intelligence Headquarters of the Punjab Police in Mohali and other terror cases, officials said.



Tarsem, facing an Interpol Red Corner Notice, was arrested from IGI airport in Delhi after he extradited from Abu Dhabi. He is the younger brother of Canada-based designated Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu, alias Landa. A native of Punjab's Tarn Taran district, Tarsem is a key member of the BKI and an important terror node of designated terrorists Landa and Harwinder Singh, alias Rinda in the UAE, an NIA spokesperson said. "He was initially picked up in Abu Dhabi in November 2023 following the issuance of a non-bailable warrant by an NIA special court and the subsequent Red Corner Notice by the Interpol. Eventually, he was extradited from the UAE to India in adherence to Interpol's due processes," the spokesperson said. "Probe has revealed that Tarsem was actively involved in arranging and providing terror funds to India-based associates of Rinda and Landa. He was also involved in the channelisation of terror funds through multiple routes," the spokesperson added.

The case relates to terror activities of chiefs/ members of proscribed terrorist organisations, such as Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), BKI, International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) etc, who have established a massive network of terror operators across India. "These outfits are working through operatives/ members of terror outfits and organised criminal gangs to smuggle arms, ammunition, explosives, IEDs from across the border. They have been using, narcotics trafficking, extortions, hawala trading to generate funds for carrying out terrorist activities on Indian soil, NIA investigations so far have revealed," the spokesperson added.

The NIA had suo motu registered the case on August 20, 2022.

# Sanjay Tandon files petition challenging Manish Tewari's win from Chandigarh

GNS News Agency, August 12

In his petition, Tandon alleges that Tewari, along with the Indian National Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, and their supporters, engaged in corrupt practices to secure the election. In his petition, Tandon alleges that Tewari, along with the Indian National Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, and their supporters, engaged in corrupt practices to secure the election.

BJP leader Sanjay Tandon has filed a petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking to annul the election of Manish Tewari as the Member of Parliament for the Chandigarh Parliamentary Constituency and to have himself declared the rightful winner. The petition, which has not yet been scheduled for a hearing, was submitted through Tandon's counsels, Satyam Tandon, Mahima Dogra, and Nisha Kanojia. In his petition, Tandon alleges that Tewari, along with the Indian National Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, and their supporters, engaged in corrupt practices to secure the election. Accord-

ing to Tandon, these practices included distributing guarantee cards and posting videos that promised voters various financial incentives, such as Rs 8,500 per month, Rs 1 lakh salaries for the first job of every educated youth, loan waivers, and a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) based on the Swaminathan Formula. Tandon's plea argues that these actions violate sections 100, 101, and 123 of the Representation of People Act (RP Act). He contends that the promise of Rs 1 lakh to every woman in a poor household constitutes a "gift" under Section 123(1)(B)(b) of the RP Act, 1951, and is therefore a ground for declaring the election void. The petition further asserts that Tewari's false promises of monetary gain swayed a significant number of voters, who believed they would be rewarded year after year. Tandon claims that had these false promises not been made, a substantial number of voters would have supported him, potentially altering the election result in his favour.

# NCP (SP) blames Mahayuti for delaying launch of Pune's Sinhagad flyover, BJP terms it 'false narrative'

GNS News Agency, August 12

The NCP (SP) led by city unit chief Prashant Jagtap on Thursday staged agitation at the site of flyover demanding immediate opening of the bridge, failing which the party members would forcefully open it on August 13. The NCP (SP) led by city unit chief Prashant Jagtap on Thursday staged agitation at the site of flyover demanding immediate opening of the bridge, failing which the party members would forcefully open it on August 13.



With the Assembly elections in Maharashtra scheduled this year, the NCP (SP) and the BJP are locking horns over the inauguration of flyover on the busy Sinhagad Road, near Rajaram Bridge, that was built to ease Pune's traffic congestion. As the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) under Sharad Pawar alleged the flyover was not been opened to the public due to the unavailability of ministers of ruling alliance parties in Mahayuti for the inauguration, the BJP dismissed the allegation as a false narrative being created against the ruling party.

Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar who is also the Guardian Minister of Pune were reached out to do the inauguration, but their lack of availability of dates has resulted in the delay.

The NCP (SP) led by city unit chief Prashant Jagtap on Thursday staged agitation at the site of flyover demanding immediate opening of the bridge, failing which the party members would forcefully open it on August 13. "Residents of Sinhagad road are suffering due to traffic jams every day. A flyover using public money has been constructed to resolve the issue but it is not being opened for public only due to unavailability of a specific BJP leader to inaugurate it," said Jagtap, referring to BJP's Fadnavis.



## Former San Francisco mayor Willie Brown calls out Donald Trump's 'lies' about helicopter 'emergency landing' incident



concerned. So I know him, I know him pretty well. I mean, I haven't seen him in years." "He is trying his best to get some way to degrade Kamala," Brown said. "There is no reason why her name ought to be mentioned anywhere near his lies, period." Brown further emphasized his position on Friday, telling CNN's John Berman that he had "no idea" what Trump was talking about. "Never happened, period," Brown stated. "And I think my memory is probably better than his." Amid the confusion, a Trump campaign senior adviser pointed to a story from The New York Times, which reported that Trump had previously told a similar story in his 2023 book, Letters to Trump, featuring correspondence between himself and Brown. However, the Times suggested that Trump might have confused Willie Brown with former California Governor Jerry Brown, with whom Trump toured wildfire damage by helicopter in November 2018. Despite this, Trump doubled down on his story on Friday, claiming he had not confused the two men. Posting on his Truth Social platform, Trump insisted, "First of all, it was in New Jersey, not California, and it was Willie Brown, not former Governor Jerry Brown." The Times also reported that California Governor Gavin Newsom, who was part of the 2018 wildfire tour, debunked Trump's story. "I call complete B.S.," Newsom told the Times, adding that "I was on a helicopter with Jerry Brown and Trump, and it didn't go down." Newsom also mentioned that Trump.

Former President Donald Trump recounted an unusual story to reporters on Thursday, claiming that he was once involved in an emergency helicopter landing with former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown during a press conference at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, his first since the Democratic ticket was announced.

When asked by a reporter about Vice President Kamala Harris' past relationship with Brown, Trump responded, "I know Willie Brown very well. In fact, I went down in a helicopter with him. We thought maybe this is the end. We were in a helicopter going to a certain location together, and there was an emergency landing." "This was not a pleasant landing, and Willie was, he was a little

## JD Vance's dramatic weight loss raises eyebrows online: 'Sponsored by Ozempic,' say netizens



changes in his diet plan. Nonetheless, the Republican candidate for vice president also expressed concerns regarding the potential impact of the arduous 2024 campaign trail on his well-being. "Time will tell man," he told the Mail. "In three months, maybe I'll be a lot fatter." However, shortly after the story surfaced, Vance, now a frequent target of internet criticism especially following his infamous "cat ladies" remark—became surrounded by claims regarding Ozempic. JD Vance refutes Ozempic allegations

However, it appears that Trump's vice-presidential pick is well aware of how closely his every word is scrutinized. To preempt speculation, he emphasized that his weight loss was not due to any medication or drugs. He attributed his transformation to a traditional regimen of diet and exercise, clearly stating that he has not used any pharmaceutical aids. "I haven't taken any drugs," he asserted. "Obviously, you eat a little bit less, but it's also just eating better." But, seems like the critics were not happy with the explanation and continued with their theories. "Chubby Fat Faced JD Vance before his obvious Ozempic/Wegovy whatever Treatments, These GOP Trump MAGA Jerks are all Fake Phonies like his Fictional Hillbilly Book," a social media user wrote. "sponsored by Ozempic," wrote another. "Just a few months until you are washed up and appearing in Ozempic ads at four in the morning," one more chimed in backed by several others. It appears that Tim Walz, Harris' running mate, experienced a similar transformation prior to his entry into the political arena. In the year 2012, Walz set a New Year's resolution for the following year and achieved a remarkable weight loss of 85 pounds through a dedicated focus on physical exercise, as detailed by the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. He adopted cycling and running as his primary forms of exercise, culminating in the completion of his first marathon in 2014.

GNS News Agency, August 12

JD Vance's notable weight loss has sparked online speculation, with many attributing his transformation to the weight loss drug Ozempic. As images of the Ohio Senator's slimmer frame circulate, the internet is abuzz about his 30-pound drop since his 2022 Senate campaign. Interestingly, a similar pattern is seen with Democratic nominee Tim Walz, who also underwent a dramatic weight loss after his respective election and appointment to office.

After multiple Hollywood A-listers and celebrities were scrutinized for using the so-called miracle weight-loss drug, Donald Trump's vice-presidential pick, JD Vance, has also come under the spotlight following his latest revelation. In a recent interview with a Daily Mail reporter on the private jet dubbed "Trump Force 2," the Ohio Senator disclosed that his decision to pursue weight loss was driven by his difficulty catching his breath while engaging in playful activities with his children. "I tend to skip breakfast, whereas before I would have, like, you know, three waffles and scrambled eggs and bacon," Vance went on to discuss how he made compulsory

## Kate Middleton's secret 'life rules' for balancing royal duties

GNS News Agency, August 12

While expanding her family with Prince William, Kate Middleton established a set of "life rules", ensuring that her duties as a royal would not overshadow her responsibilities at home. According to royal author and journalist Robert Jobson, these guidelines were carefully communicated to Queen Elizabeth II and then-Prince Charles III in 2015 while Kate was pregnant with her second child, Princess Charlotte.

Jobson explains in his book 'Catherine, the Princess of Wales' how Kate laid out her "terms" for balancing her royal duties with her family life. Although these "life rules" weren't documented formally, Prince William conveyed Kate's wishes "to grow into her role and said she needed more time to adapt to the peculiarities of royal life." "She was clear from the outset that she would not be pigeonholed into carrying out particular duties and insisted on having her full quota of maternity leave, away from the glare of the media and public. Her priority, she emphasized, would always be her family," Jobson writes.

This was evident throughout Kate's time in the royal spotlight, as she consistently showed her commitment to her royal duties and her children—Prince George, Princess Charlotte, and Prince Louis. Kate Middleton balances cancer treatment with family time. Kate's dedication to her family has been particularly poignant this summer, as she battles cancer while continuing to prioritize her children. After publicly announcing her diagnosis in March, following planned abdominal surgery in January, Kate has taken a step back from her royal duties to focus on her health and her family. However, Kate attended the



Trooping the Colour in June and made an appearance at Wimbledon in July.

Christopher Andersen, author of The King, explained to Fox News Digital that the couple has always valued the summer months as a time to provide their children with as much normalcy as possible, away from the constant scrutiny of the press. "Kate and William have always made the most of their summers with the children," Andersen said. "The side effects of chemo are bound to make that level of participation more daunting for Kate, but she's not about to let that spoil the children's summer." He also added, "Kate doesn't want them to worry about her—she's always believed it's her job to worry about them—and that means keeping George, Charlotte, and Louis busy with the sort of things—horseback riding, swimming, having sleepovers with cousins and schoolmates—that they always do during their vacation break."

## Bangladesh Bank governor Talukder resigns as top officials face fury of protest

Bangladesh Bank governor Abdur Rouf Talukder has resigned amid mounting pressure on top officials following the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Abdur Rouf Talukder's resignation comes amid fresh spells of recent protests, including a storming of the central bank's headquarters. Abdur Rouf Talukder submitted his resignation to Bangladesh's finance ministry on Friday, The Dhaka Tribune reported. His departure is part of a wave of resignations from government and semi-autonomous institutions after the fall of the Awami League-led government. Abdur Rouf Talukder has not been seen at the office since Monday, after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina

due to a mass uprising, the report said. On August 7, four deputy governors also agreed to resign amid growing criticism of enabling financial mismanagement, leading to calls for their resignations. Sheikh Hasina fled to India by helicopter on Monday as protesters flooded the streets of Dhaka, marking a dramatic end to her 15-year rule. The unrest leading up to Hasina's departure claimed over 450 lives, including dozens of police officers killed during clashes with demonstrators. In the immediate aftermath of Hasina's fall, businesses and homes owned by Hindus, a minority group making up about eight percent of Bangladesh's population, were attacked,

## Sheikh Hasina's son dismisses media reports of her visa revocation, says "eternally grateful" to PM Modi



Son of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his government's quick action following the developments in the neighbouring country which led to her departure. Sheikh Hasina's son also dismissed media reports of a revocation of her visa stating that no one has revoked the visa of the Awami League leader and neither has she applied for political asylum anywhere. In an exclusive interview with ANI, Mr. Wazed said "No one has revoked her visa. She has not applied for political asylum anywhere. Those are all rumors."

He also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for saving Sheikh Hasina's life. "My message to the government of India, is my personal gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for his government's quick action in saving my mother's life. I am eternally grateful," he said. "India needs to take a leadership role in the world, and not let other foreign powers dictate the situation. Because this is India's neighbourhood. This is India's eastern side," he said. Mr. Wazed pointed out that during Ms. Hasina's regime, the Bangladesh grew economically

and was at peace. "No one can deny that Sheikh Hasina's government kept peace in Bangladesh, kept economic growth, stopped insurgency and kept the eastern side of our subcontinent stable. We are the only government that has proven we can do it. Other governments have tried. They have failed," he said. Mr. Wazed termed the new government was unconstitutional because the Bangladeshi constitution states that a non-elected government cannot remain in power.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took oath as the head of Bangladesh's interim government on August 8 and was administered the oath of office by President Mohammed Shahabuddin at a ceremony in Dhaka. "In a way, I welcome it because these people have been championed by the minority, by the elite, and by the West. I personally believe, having seen the functioning of government and having served as a government, as an honorary advisor to the government, that it is one thing to be handpicked and appointed to a position. It's a whole other thing to govern and without political experience, without governance experience, it is very, very difficult to run a country." "I'm actually curious to see how they will perform, and whether they are even capable of running the country. However, the point is that our Supreme Court has ruled and our Constitution says that a non-elected government cannot run a country even for one minute. Right now, this is an unconstitutional government. They are not elected. So there is no democracy in Bangladesh. They are talking about democracy, but there is no democracy... If they want to have democracy, they have to have elections," he said. "And our Constitution is very clear on this provision that from the day parliament is dissolved, new elections have to be held within 90 days. There is no way around it. There is no such thing as an interim government in the Constitution which can stay in power beyond 90 days. That does not exist. So I believe that this government's priority should be to hold elections as soon as possible," he said.

## No survivors in Brazil plane that crashed in Sao Paulo with 61 aboard

GNS News Agency, August 12

A passenger plane crashed into a gated residential community in Brazil's Sao Paulo state on Friday (August 9, 2024), killing all 61 people aboard and leaving a smoldering wreck, officials and the airline said. Officials gave no immediate word of any casualties at the site of the crash in the city of Vinhedo, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Sao Paulo, but witnesses at the scene said there were no victims among residents of the neighborhood.

The airline VOEPASS said that its plane, an ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop, was headed for Sao Paulo's international airport Guarulhos with 57 passengers and 4 crew members aboard when it crashed in Vinhedo. It provided a flight manifest with passenger names, but not their nationalities. A prior statement had said there were 58 passengers. "The company regrets to inform that all 61 people on board flight 2283 died at the site," VOEPASS said in a statement. "At this time, VOEPASS is prioritizing provision of unrestricted assistance to the victims' families and effectively collaborating with authorities to determine the causes of the accident." It was the deadliest airline crash since January 2023, when 72 people died on board a Yeti Airlines plane in Nepal that stalled and crashed while making its landing approach. That plane also was an ATR 72, and the final report blamed pilot error. This frame grab from video shows wreckage from a plane that crashed by a home in Vinhedo, Sao Paulo State, Brazil on August 9, 2024. At an event in southern Brazil, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva asked the crowd to stand and observe a minute of silence as he shared the news.

The state's firefighters, military police and civil defense authority dispatched teams to the location. Sao Paulo's public security secretary Guilherme Derrite spoke to reporters and confirmed that no survivors were found. He also said the plane's black box was found, apparently intact. "I thought it was going to fall in our yard," a resident and witness who gave her name only as Ana Lucia told reporters near the crash site. "It was scary, but thank God there were no victims among the locals."

Video obtained from a witness by The Associated Press and verified shows at least two bodies strewn about flaming pieces of wreckage. Brazilian television network GloboNews showed aerial footage of an area with smoke coming out of an obliterated plane fuselage. Additional footage on GloboNews earlier showed the plane drifting downward in a flat spin. Flight tracking website



FlightRadar24 said data sent from the plane indicated it was diving at 8,000 to 24,000 feet per minute in the last 60 seconds of the flight. The Brazilian air force's center for the investigation and prevention of air accidents said in a statement that pilots didn't respond to calls from air traffic control in Sao Paulo, nor did they call for help or say they were operating under adverse weather conditions. In a separate statement, Brazil's Federal Police said it already had begun its investigation, and had dispatched specialists in plane crashes and the identification of disaster victims to help. VOEPASS staff at the Guarulhos airport told the AP that the company is notifying victims' family members and supporting them at a private room in the airport. French-Italian plane manufacturer ATR said in a statement that it had been informed that the accident involved its ATR 72-500 model, and said company specialists are "fully engaged to support both the investigation and the customer." The ATR 72 generally is used on shorter flights. The planes are built by a joint venture of Airbus in France and Italy's Leonardo S.p.A. Crashes involving various models of the ATR 72 have resulted in 470 deaths going back to the 1990s, according to a database of the Aviation Safety Network. The Capela neighborhood where the plane crashed Friday sits in a district far from the center of the prosperous city that's home to 77,000 residents. It had departed from Cascavel, in the state of Parana.

## Minorities faced 205 attacks after fall of Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh: Hindu groups

GNS News Agency, August 12 Members of minority communities in Bangladesh faced at least 205 incidents of attacks in 52 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5, according to two Hindu organisations in the violence-hit nation. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council and the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad on Friday (August 9, 2024) presented the data in an open letter to 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who was sworn in as the head of an interim government. The Daily Star newspaper reported. According to the data, at least 205 attacks on members of minority communities in 52 districts have been recorded since Monday, when Sheikh Hasina (76) resigned and fled to India following widespread protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs. "We seek protection because our lives are in a disastrous state. We are staying up at night, guarding our homes and temples. I have never seen anything like this in my life. We demand that the government restore communal harmony in the country," Nirmal Rosario, one of the three presidents of the unity council, said. Asserting that the situation was deteriorating, Mr. Rosario urged Mr. Yunus to resolve the crisis by giving it top priority and putting an end to the violence. The letter, signed by Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council General Secretary Rana Dasgupta and Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad President Basudev Dhar, welcomed Mr. Yunus as the leader of a new era born from the unprecedented student-and public-led mass

uprising aimed at establishing an equitable society and reform. "When people's victory is advancing towards its destination, we, with sorrow and heavy hearts, observe that a vested quarter is hatching a conspiracy to tarnish this achievement by carrying out unprecedented violence against minority communities," the letter said. It said that the ongoing communal violence has caused widespread fear, anxiety, and uncertainty among minorities in Bangladesh and has also resulted in international condemnation. "We demand an immediate end to this situation," the report said, citing the letter. Kajal Devnath, a praesidium member of the unity council, said, "Those involved in attacking minorities must be brought to justice. If a minority individual is attacked for political reasons, it is still unacceptable. Anyone who commits a crime should be judged, but burning homes and looting will not lead to justice." Asserting that many Hindu community members are now taking refuge in others' homes, he said, "I, too, am forced to stay at a friend's house." On Friday, Mr. Yunus announced the portfolios of his 16-member council of advisors after he was sworn in a day earlier as the chief advisor - a position equivalent to the Prime Minister. Mr. Yunus' first task was to bring stability in Bangladesh after he responded to a call by student protesters for him to temporarily lead the country following weeks of deadly anti-government demonstrations against the government led by Ms. Hasina. Foreign Affairs advisor Hossain said that restoring law and order is the key priority of the interim government at the moment, and others will be back on track once the first goal is achieved. On Thursday,

## Inflows into equity mutual funds decline 9% to Rs 37,113 crore in July: AMFI



Small cap funds received inflows of Rs 2,109.2 crore compared to Rs 2,263.47 crore in June. Net inflows in the mid cap funds stood at Rs 1,644.22 crore, as against Rs 2,527.84 crore in the previous month. MUTUAL FUNDSSmall cap funds received inflows of Rs 2,109.2 crore compared to Rs 2,263.47 crore in June. Net inflows in the mid cap funds stood at Rs 1,644.22 crore, as against Rs 2,527.84 crore in the previous month.

Mumbai, August 9 Net inflows into equity mutual fund schemes declined 8.6 per cent on a month-on-month basis to Rs 37,113.39 crore in July, from Rs 40,608.19 crore in June, the latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed. The contribution of systematic investment plans (SIP) touched an all-time high of Rs 23,332 crore in the reporting month, compared to Rs 21,262 crore in June.

The net assets under management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry grew by 6.23 per cent to touch a record high of Rs 64.97 lakh crore as on July 31, 2024. This rise was largely driven by an increase in net inflows

into debt-oriented mutual fund schemes. In July, net assets under management of equity mutual funds stood at an all-time high of Rs 29.33 lakh crore, which is nearly 45 per cent of the industry's AUM. Among equity mutual fund schemes, sectoral/thematic funds garnered the highest net inflows of Rs 18,386.35 crore. However, flows in the segment were lesser compared to net flows of Rs 22,351.69 crore in June, the data showed. Small cap funds received inflows of Rs 2,109.2 crore compared to Rs 2,263.47 crore in June. Net inflows in the mid cap funds stood at Rs 1,644.22 crore, as against Rs 2,527.84 crore in the previous month. Inflows in multi cap funds rose by 50 per cent to Rs 7,084.61 crore in July, as against Rs 4,708.57 crore in June. Flexi cap fund witnessed Rs 3,052.92 crore worth of inflows compared to Rs 3,058.81 crore last month. In the first quarter of FY25, net inflows into equity oriented mutual fund schemes stood at Rs 94,222.27 crore.

The debt oriented mutual fund schemes saw net inflows of Rs 1,19,587.6 crore in July, as against outflows of Rs 1,07,357.62 crore in the previous month. Inflows into liquid funds was Rs 70,060.88 crore in the reporting month, compared to outflows of Rs 80,354.03 in June. Flows into money market funds stood at Rs 28,738.03 crore, compared to inflows of Rs 9,590.28 crore last month. Net inflows into ultra short duration funds and overnight funds stood at Rs 8,206.86 crore and Rs 4,451.62 crore respectively. Index funds saw inflows of Rs 8,019.7 crore as compared to Rs 5,071.82 crore. Flows into gold exchange-traded funds (ETF) touched a record high of Rs 1,337.35 crore in July. Higher inflows into gold ETF can be attributed to the drop in gold prices after the government, in the Budget 2024-25, announced to reduce customs duty on the yellow metal to 6 per cent from 15 per cent earlier, said Venkat Chalasani,

## Check out this step-by-step guide to 'reverse' lactose intolerance



Lactose intolerance is a common condition plaguing people old and young. If you find yourself staring longingly at ice cream shops, or refusing the utterly delectable spoon of kheer for fear of being rushed to the toilet, we understand your plight. "In humans, lactase enzymes help us break lactose and digest milk. But, in most human populations, lactase enzymes decrease with age. And with insufficient lactase, lactose stays in the gut undigested, leading to symptoms such as bloating, diarrhoea, and gas," explained Isha Lall, holistic nutrition and wellness coach.

But what if we were to tell you there is a solution to your woes?

Isha said that it is possible to train yourself to tolerate dairy, with a simple yet effective process referred to as lactose adaptation or lactose desensitization. She recommended gradually introducing dairy into the diet in

very small amounts and observing how the gut is adapting to it, hopefully enhancing lactase production over time. Begin with a small amount of dairy, such as a few tablespoons of milk, and observe how your body reacts. Slowly increase the amount of dairy over several weeks. For example, move from a few tablespoons to half a cup of milk. Make sure you aren't rushing the process. Opt for dairy products that are easier to digest, such as yogurt or dahi and chaas, which contain lower levels of lactose and are rich in probiotics. Keep monitoring your dose and symptoms. If symptoms become severe, reduce the amount of dairy or pause the process. According to Isha, being consistent is very important as regular, small amounts of dairy can help maintain lactase production and improve tolerance over time. Lactose. Slowly increase the amount of dairy over several weeks. But, is it safe for everyone?

Unfortunately, lactose adaptation or desensitization isn't safe for those with severe lactose intolerance or people who have been facing GERD (Gastroesophageal reflux disease), gut inflammation or any gastrointestinal conditions. She recommended consulting a healthcare professional before starting this process to ensure it is safe for your specific condition. In case the process doesn't sit well with you, Isha suggested alternatives that are rich in calcium such as leafy greens (like kale and broccoli), tofu, almonds, millets, quinoa, and fortified plant-based beverages. "Finger millet (ragi) and pearl millet have calcium as a major component and contribute to bone strength and density. Almond milk, soy milk, oat milk, and coconut milk are also popular alternatives that can be included in one's regular diet," she said.

## Here's how to eat like an Olympian and achieve the fitness level of some top athletes

As the saying goes, you are what you eat, and for Olympians, their diet plays a crucial role in fueling their bodies for peak performance. While there's no one-size-fits-all approach to eating like an Olympian, understanding the nutritional strategies of top athletes can provide valuable insights for anyone looking to optimise their diet for physical excellence.

From Michael Phelps' legendary 10,000-calorie diet during his training for the Beijing Olympics to the more moderate approaches of other athletes, the world of Olympic nutrition is diverse and fascinating. For instance, according to olympics.com, fencer Lee Kiefer emphasises balance and moderation in her diet, while swimmer Maggie Mac Neil indulges in ice cream alongside her nutritious meals. Boxer Tammara Thibault maintains a vegetarian diet, adapting it to meet her protein needs during international competitions. Sadhna Singh, senior nutritionist at Herenow Official, explains, "Olympic athletes don't rely on a one-size-fits-all diet plan. Instead, they work closely with registered dietitians and nutritionists to develop a personalised strategy that meets their unique needs." These plans consider factors like Sport and Training Intensity: A marathon runner needs different fuel than a weightlifter. Body Composition and Metabolism: An athlete's body type and how they process food play a role. Dietary Preferences and Restrictions: Allergies, intolerances, and cultural considerations are factored in. Competition Schedule: Nutritional needs can shift leading up to, during, and after competitions. "These plans are regularly reassessed, often every few months or after major competitions, to ensure they're still meeting the athlete's changing demands. It's about staying adaptable and fine-tuning as you go," says Singh. Role of macronutrients (proteins, carbohydrates, and fats) and micronutrients in an Olympian's diet Singh mentions, "Olympic athletes meticulously balance their macronutrients — proteins, carbohydrates, and fats — to support their training and recovery."

Carbohydrates are the body's primary fuel source, she says, and provide the energy needed for intense workouts and competitions. Athletes focus on complex carbs like whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, which offer sustained energy release. Crucial for muscle repair and growth, protein is a cornerstone of an athlete's diet.

## Aman Sehrawat sheds 4.6 kg in 10 hours before Olympic bronze win: An expert decodes the measures

Bronze medalist

India's Aman Sehrawat poses for photos during the victory ceremony for the men's 57kg free-style wrestling event at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris, France. Bronze medalist India's Aman Sehrawat poses for photos during the victory ceremony for the men's 57kg free-style wrestling event at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris, France. After Vinesh Phogat failed to meet her weigh-in requirement at the Paris Olympics 2024 by a mere 100 grams, India's wrestling coaching team took no chances with Aman Sehrawat, who needed to shed 4.5 kg of body weight in 10 hours to qualify for his 57 kg bronze bout against Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz. Sehrawat dropped 4.6 kg following an intense regimen, according to a PTI report.

How did he do it?

He began the intense training with a one-and-a-half-hour mat session of "standing wrestling," followed by a one-hour hot bath, treadmill running, and a 30-minute break. After five five-minute sauna sessions, he was still 900 g



over. The coaches then had him do light jogging and five 15-minute running sessions, finally weighing in at 56.9 kg by 4:30 am, the report said. To rehydrate, Sehrawat was given lukewarm water with lemon, honey, and a bit of coffee. What are the effects of such measures? Dr Bhavana P, chief dietitian, Gleneagles Hospital, Lakdi Ka Pul, Hyderabad decoded the effects of such measures on health. Dr Bhavana said efforts like drinking lemon water with honey, sipping coffee, jogging, running, or weight lifting may offer some short-

term effects, but they are not effective for significant overnight weight loss. "Lemon water with honey is often praised for its detoxifying effects, but its primary benefit is hydration, which can help slightly reduce water retention. Coffee, as a diuretic, can temporarily decrease water weight and mildly boost metabolism, though any weight loss is minimal and mainly due to water loss. However, individuals with gastrointestinal issues should be cautious with excessive caffeine or lemon juice, as these may exacerbate their symp-

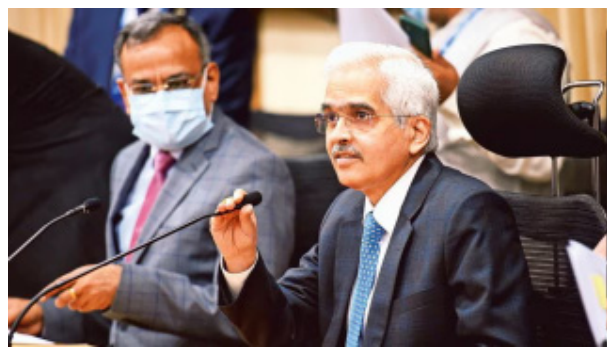
toms," said Dr Bhavana. Jogging, running, and weight lifting can help burn calories and contribute to fat loss over time. "However, the weight lost from a single session is mostly from water through sweat, not fat. Additionally, exercise boosts metabolism, but meaningful fat loss requires consistent effort over weeks or months, not just a single night," said Dr Bhavana. No single food can cause weight loss on its own. "Achieving weight loss requires a combination of a healthy diet, regular exercise, and a balanced lifestyle, but it cannot happen overnight."

## Managing Inflation: RBI, relevant ministries in constant engagement on supply-side measures, says Das

There is constant engagement between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and relevant ministries on supply-side measures for inflation management, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

"The government has been taking a number of measures. Several ministries are attending to the situation as it is emerging. Surprises are there such as sudden rainfall and floods, and even those are being discussed between the RBI and the government," he said. We are monitoring the situation. It (flood) was confined to very few places...one district of Kerala and in certain regions of Himachal. We are monitoring the impact it will have on prices of vegetables and supply disruptions. Some of the impact would be temporary. There was an unprecedented IT outage globally, which affected businesses in many countries. The outage demonstrated how a minor technical change, if it goes haywire, can wreak havoc on a global scale. It also showed the fast-growing dependence on big-techs and third-party technology solution providers. In this background, it is necessary that banks and financial institutions build appropriate risk management frameworks in their IT, cyber security and third-party outsourcing arrangements to maintain operational resilience. The Reserve Bank has time and again emphasised the importance of robust business continuity plans (BCP) to deal with such incidents.

Deputy Governor on exclusion of securities from FARRBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said that it has



been observed that the major part of the interest of FAR investors is in the 5 to 10 years, which accounts for 90 per cent of the total investment. The interest in the 30 year is just 2 per cent of the total stock of the 30-year that has been issued. It's like giving time to people to adjust their portfolios because we know that the weight of India in the bond index will slowly rise over a 10 month period. So they have time to adjust their portfolios. Now all the existing securities issued are available for FAR investment so that makes Rs 41 lakh crore of available investment of which investment today is only Rs 2 lakh crore. So there is an ample amount of space to go. Our assessment is that in the categories that are now allowed, there is going to be Rs 4 lakh crore of new issuances which are open to FAR.

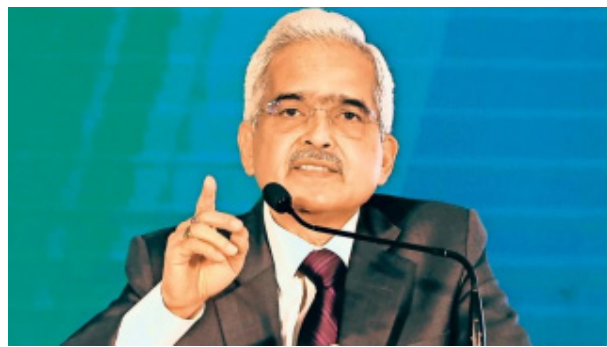
## Focus more on deposit mobilisation via innovative products: Shaktikanta Das to banks

Amid concerns over the shift of household savings from banks to alternative investment avenues, resulting in slower deposit growth compared to credit, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday asked lenders to garner deposits through innovative product offerings and use their wide branch network. Das also expressed worries over banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) not following regulatory norms while offering top-up loans on other collateralised loans such as home and gold loans. While announcing the monetary policy, the Governor said that it is observed that alternative investment avenues are becoming more attractive to retail customers and banks are facing challenges on the funding front with bank deposits trailing loan growth. As of July 12, while deposits grew by 11.7 per cent, loan growth increased by 15.5 per cent.

"Banks are taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental credit demand. This may potentially expose the banking system to structural liquidity issues," Das said. "Banks may, therefore, focus more on mobilisation of household financial savings through innovative products and service offerings and by leveraging fully on their vast branch network," he said. Das clarified that he was not suggesting that people should put more deposits in banks and not invest in the equity market.

"It is left for the people to decide. It is left for the investors and savers to where they want to put the money. All that I am saying is that banks need to be mindful of this (mismatch between deposit and credit growth) because it can potentially create some structural challenges with regard to liquidity management," he said.

On the issue of investors using their savings to invest in futures and options (F&O), where a majority of the investors have made losses, Das said that not all savings are being channelised to the derivative market. He also said that RBI has conveyed its viewpoint to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on F&O. "The early warnings group has discussed about F&O. We have put forth our viewpoint there. Sebi has taken note of it and has made its analysis. Sebi will take appropriate action based on the inputs," Das said. RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra also said the flow of household savings into equities is very minuscule. "There is a churn going on of the precautionary savings that were made in the Covid, when there were no avenues to spend. It (precautionary savings) is being drawn down to more normal levels. There is also a shift going on from financial savings to physical savings...people are buying more houses. If you take both of them together then total household savings have stabilised at 20 per cent," Patra



Das also expressed worries over banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) not following regulatory norms while offering top-up loans on other collateralised loans such as home and gold loans.

said. Das also raised concerns over top-up housing loans, which have been growing at a brisk pace. Banks and NBFCs have also been offering top-up loans on other collateralised loans like gold loans.

"It is noticed that the regulatory prescriptions relating to the loan to value (LTV) ratio, risk weights and monitoring of end use of funds are not being strictly adhered to by certain entities. I repeat certain entities. Such practices may lead to loaned funds being deployed in unproductive segments or for speculative purposes," he said. As per the latest RBI data, credit growth to housing, which is the largest constituent of the personal loan segment, accelerated by 18.2 per cent at Rs 24.27 lakh crore in June 2024 from 14.8 per cent (Rs 20.52 lakh crore) a year ago. Gold loan outstanding jumped by 30.5 per cent to Rs 123,776 crore as of June 2024 from Rs 94,872 crore (19.3 per cent growth) in June 2023. Das said the sectors in which pre-emptive regulatory measures were announced in November last year have shown moderation in credit growth. In November last year, the RBI increased risk weight on the exposure of banks towards consumer credit, credit card receivables and NBFCs by 25 per cent up to 150 per cent. Das, however, said certain segments of personal loans continue to witness high growth. "Excess leverage through retail loans, mostly for consumption purposes, needs careful monitoring from a macro-prudential point of view," he said. This calls for careful assessment and calibration of underwriting standards, as may be required, as well as post-sanction monitoring of such loans.

## Imran Khan says he could 'possibly be driven to commit murder' if a teacher raises their hand on his daughter, recalls being caned in school



Imran Khan, the actor who gave it all up to focus on his mental health, has been quite active on social media for the last couple of years. He has been sharing stories of his life outside the media glare, which revolves around parenting his daughter, Imara. In an appearance on the We Are Yuvaa YouTube channel, Imran spoke about the many facets of parenting, and how aghast he is at the idea of teachers using corporal punishment on children. He also said that today, if he had to engage in a violent scene in a film, he would "think twice" about it.

Asked if films can do away with scenes of sexual violence altogether, Imran responded, "I would certainly think twice about engaging in a scene like that today." When asked if becoming a parent has influenced his outlook, Imran added, "As you become a parent, you start certainly to consider these things. You start to consider the way that a communication or a message might land with a child. Today, I think, 'What if my daughter were to watch this scene, how would I feel about it?' If I am playing a scene with someone, two guys having a 'boy talk' or I am playing a scene with a female co-star... what is the feeling my daughter would get from watching this interaction? And, I would hope and I would want for that to be something that I will not be ashamed of."

Imran separated from his wife Avantika Malik in 2019, after eight years of marriage. The couple have a daughter named Imara. Imran recalled the difficulties he had in fitting into the Indian education system, and how things have changed for his daughter's generation. He said, "I have been to a number of schools. I started off in Bombay Scottish in Bombay. At that point, they believed that all behaviour could be corrected with caning. So, you wear the wrong colour socks to school? Caning! You forgot to bring a book to school? Caning! You haven't done your

homework? Guess what? Still more caning! The regularity with which the teachers used to beat us had really started to get to me." The former actor then opened up about how he'd not be able to bear it if a teacher physically assaulted his daughter. He said, "As I think about it today, I was an eight-year-old, nine-year-old kid. Younger than my own daughter. And, if I imagined a teacher today to raise their hand and hit my child, I would see red. I would be driven possibly to commit murder, to witness someone assaulting my child like that. So, yeah, I was not able to manage the school system." Imran has been advocating about mental health on social media, and said in the interview that becoming a parent pushed him to take care of himself. "For me, it was driven tremendously from the desire to be the best possible parent that I could. I had the sense that I want to be the best father that I can be. I want to... and in order to do that I have to be strong and capable within myself. If I am not strong and I am not healthy, I cannot be there in all the ways that I want to for my child. I have been an actor for these many years, I am privileged and blessed that I am today financially secure and I don't have to worry about paying rent. Now my primary role is to be the best father that I can be. That's what I have been doing these past few years," he said. When asked to share the best parenting advice he's ever received, he said, "The best parenting advice I got, which I try to inculcate in myself, is that we tend to look at children as somehow less than human. We think that because they are small, they don't understand anything. You ever walk up to a child and go, 'Oh, you so sweet, cuddly kid'. (They'll say) 'I don't want you pinching my cheeks man, who are you?' You know, people don't respect children's autonomy. You don't know this uncle, 'Go hug them, why you not hugging them?' So yeah, treat a child as you would treat another human being."

## Mufasa The Lion King trailer: Visually stunning prequel unravels how Mufasa and Scar went from brothers to foes

"Long before they became legends, Mufasa and the prince, who would come to be known as Scar, became brothers." This is their story. Disney on Saturday dropped the much-awaited first trailer of one of the most anticipated movies of the year—Mufasa: The Lion King. A teaser was released previously. Directed by the Oscar-winner Barry Jenkins and written by Jeff Nathanson, the film is a prequel to Jon Favreau's blockbuster remake of the original animated film. The over two-minute long, visually stunning trailer of the sequel traces the origin story of Mufasa, an orphan who becomes the beloved King of the Pride Lands.

Mufasa: The Lion King traces the unlikely rise of the orphaned cub, as the trailer opens with Rafiki—the wise mandrill, who serves as the shaman of the Pride Lands—narrating the legend of Mufasa and Scar to Kiara, daughter of Simba and Nala. "It's time I tell you a story, a story of a cub not much bigger than you," Rafiki says, as Timon adds, "So just to be clear, we are not in this story?" To which Pumbaa adds, "There's a slot of stories with all of us! Tell one of those!" teasing their trademark banter.

The story then dives into a flashback, chronicling the tale of how the orphaned cub Mufasa meets the sym-



pathetic lion named Taka—the heir to a royal bloodline, who accepts Mufasa into his family as a brother. Together, the brothers go on an adventure of a lifetime as they band together to fight against Kiros, a deadly foe. Taka eventually becomes Scar, the villainous lion who will one day go on to kill Mufasa. Mufasa is voiced by actor Aaron Pierre, while Kelvin Harrison Jr is the voice of Taka. Billy Eichner and Seth Rogen are back as Timon and Pumbaa. Mufasa: The Lion King is scheduled to be released in theaters on December 20,

## Mukesh Rishi didn't realise Gunda had become a cult hit until Saif Ali Khan told him, says he regretted signing the film

Gunda, gunda 1998, gunda bulla, bulla mukesh rishi, naam hai bulla, mukesh rishi, mukesh rishi movies, mukesh rishi gunda, mukesh rishi bulla, Bollywood, Bollywood movies, Bollywood news. Among the many bizarre aspects of Gunda, actor Mukesh Rishi's antagonist character, Bulla, remains a fan favourite.

Once dismissed as a B-grade film unworthy of its talented cast, Kanti Shah's Gunda (1998) has achieved cult status over the years. Among the many facets of the Mithun Chakraborty-starrer, Mukesh Rishi's antagonist, Bulla, has become a fan-favourite. "Mera naam hai Bulla, rakhta hoon kulla," is a line that has become very popular in meme culture online. In a recent interview, Mukesh Rishi opened up about Gunda, and revealed that it was none other than Saif Ali Khan who told him that it had taken on a new life.

In an interview with Hindi Rush, Mukesh Rishi said, "When I received an offer to play the villain in Gunda, I didn't think about it too much. I was the new villain in town. They paid me well. But, when the shooting commenced, I regretted my decision. I was regretting it because the film's language. Everybody in the film, be it Shakti Kapoor, or Mohan Joshi, they were all talking in a similar tone and language, so I had to do it as well."

He added, "Kanti Shah was known for making such films and it was also well-received by the audience. It wasn't like these films were flops. But, these films were not considered as mainstream cinema. Even Shakti Kapoor questioned my decision of making this film." Mukesh Rishi revealed when he realised that the movie had taken on an ironic quality in the internet age. He said, "It fascinates me that this character is still going strong even in this digital era. It was Saif Ali Khan who told me about the new-found popularity of the film. He said, 'Your film is going viral on social media'. I was like, 'Which one?', and he said, 'Gunda'."

Expressing his happiness about the film's sustained popularity, he said, "What worried back then was how will people see me after having done such roles, but today's generation has found humour in it. I hesitated to repeat the dialogues from this film. However, today's generation has changed the way people look at the film. They have found a positive element in it. My own daughter says, 'Bulla, Bulla kya kar raha hai?'"

Upon its release in 1998, Gunda was withdrawn from theatres after the CBFC received complaints from college girls who felt offended by the violence and vulgarity in the film. Despite all the controversy, Gunda was reportedly the 46th-highest-grossing film of 1998.

## Taapsee Pannu's friends were concerned that she was walking into a human trafficking situation on first date with Mathias Boe

In response to many people on social media saying they didn't know who Mathias Boe was, Taapsee Pannu expressed surprise that many were unaware of his significant accomplishments in badminton. Taapsee Pannu and Mathias Boe tied the knot in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on March 23, 2024. (Image: Mathias/Instagram) Actor Taapsee Pannu, who tied the knot with her longtime boyfriend Mathias Boe in March, recently revealed how she met the former badminton player. During the promotions of her new film, Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba, she looked back on their short courtship and nearly decade-long engagement. Taapsee revealed that Mathias proposed to her within a year after their first meeting. She was engaged to him for over nine years.

Recalling their first date, Taapsee said in a conversation with comedian Raunaq Rajani, "He proposed to me, saying, 'I would like to take you on a date either in Denmark or Dubai because these are the two places I know very well to plan things'. I was like, 'Who will go all the way to Denmark? Who will go through the trouble of getting a Schengen visa.' It is so difficult. So we decided Dubai." As it was going to be her first meeting with Mathias, Taapsee recalled feeling nervous. "I was like, 'Why is this guy interested in me. Being from this part of the world, we have this notion about white people. We all have an inferiority complex. So, I was like, 'Why me?' Yet, I was prepared to meet him." Taapsee said that her friends were very concerned about her safety as she jetted off for Dubai to meet Mathias, because they didn't know much about him. She said, "My friends were like, 'Please be careful, what if he sells you off?' I am not kidding. A friend of mine sent me with the contact number of her sister, who lived in Dubai. But, luckily, he turned out to be a nice man and it's already been 11 years." In the same conversation, Taapsee Pannu revealed that they now have a house in Dubai.



Recently, Taapsee was at the Paris Olympics to support and cheer for team India. She accompanied Mathias, who coached the Indian men's double duo, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. Mathias recently announced his retirement from coaching. "I have spent too much time in a badminton hall and it's also pretty stressful to be a coach, I'm a tired old man," he said. Taapsee Pannu and Mathias Boe tied the knot in March this year. The couple had a destination wedding in Udaipur, which was attended by their close family members. Several videos from their intimate ceremony leaked online. The actor, however, is yet to share her official wedding photos. Talking about her relationship with Mathias in an earlier interview with Cosmopolitan India, she had said, "I had dated so many boys before him, and suddenly, I met a guy who didn't feel like anyone I'd been with before. So there's this sudden sense of security and maturity, which was so evident that I felt like 'okay, you've finally found the man.'" On the work front, Taapsee Pannu will soon be seen in the Akshay Kumar-starrer film Khel Khel Mein. The film, scheduled for an Independence Day release, also stars Fardeen Khan, Vaani Kapoor, Aditya Seal and Ammy Virk in the lead roles.

## Aanand L Rai denies trivialising mental health in Sara Ali Khan's Atrangi Re, Dhanush's stalking in Ranjhanaa: 'You have to understand...'



Filmmaker Aanand L Rai, who is promoting his latest production, the Taapsee Pannu-starrer Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba, recently opened up about the controversies surrounding his films Atrangi Re and Ranjhanaa. Audiences and critics have accused the filmmaker of trivialising grave issues like mental health and stalking.

On this, the Aanand L Rai said that his "intention" was never to make fun of a mental illness, or to glorify stalking. In an interview with Showsha, when he was asked about his take on a director's moral responsibilities, he said, "I feel every director, every filmmaker, has to abide by this. But when I say this, please understand that when you pick a story, for example, Atrangi Re, you have to trust the maker's intention. When he is talking about mental illness in a film like Atrangi Re. It can't be a film on mental illness because it is not that. But, as a maker, you have to understand..."

"When I am getting on the floor, I go with those positive intentions of capturing something for the story and to entertain my audience without making fun of a mental

illness. It is not that. You have to believe the intention of the maker. That is required," he said. He then spoke about his 2013 romantic drama Ranjhanaa, starring Sonam Kapoor and Dhanush. The film was a hit, but a certain section felt that it glorifies stalking. On this, the filmmaker said, "So, yes, we have to be very careful and feel responsible for whatever we are doing, but that should be proportionate to the intention of the maker rather than picking up a subject and say, 'Oh, Ranjhanaa was all about stalking'. It was not. It was not about stalking for me at all, otherwise I would have treated it in a very different way. The best way to measure this is the audience reaction. They would have said it, that it is about stalking. They said it is about love because, I think, people closest to the maker is the audience. If they didn't like Zero, they didn't like Zero and I accept it, and I learn from it." The filmmaker is now putting together a new movie with Dhanush, which is rumoured to be a sequel to Ranjhanaa. He said in an interview with Bollywood Hungama that this is not true.

## Naga Chaitanya's mother Lakshmi, brother Akhil are all smiles as they pose with Sobhita Dhulipala and her parents.

New inside pictures from Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala's Nischitartham (engagement ceremony) have appeared online. In the pictures, the newly engaged couple is seen sharing happy moments with their family. Chaitanya's mother, Lakshmi Daggubati, made a rare appearance in these pictures. Sobhita's parents also posed with the Akkineni family. Also seen were Amala Akkineni and Akhil Akkineni. See here:

Last evening, Sobhita took to her social media account to share some new pictures from her engagement with Naga Chaitanya. The couple was all smiles as they made their relationship official.



## Apparel exporters see global orders partly shifting to India amid crisis in Bangladesh



Bangladesh crisis, Bangladesh protest, Bangladesh youth deaths, Global textile orders, Bangladesh political turmoil, Bangladesh youth protest, Bangladesh Garment, Manufacturers, BGMEA, garment industry, Indian express news. Violence in Bangladesh has reportedly left at least 300 dead amid nationwide curfews and curbs on mobile internet. Global textile orders could partly shift to India as the political turmoil in Bangladesh has brought economic activity in that country's key sectors such as the garment industry to a standstill, Indian garment and apparel exporters said Tuesday. Given Bangladesh's prominent position in the global clothing industry, the Indian apparel industry might have to step in, at least temporarily, to fill the gap for global buyers. This comes after the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), fearing vandalism, reportedly asked all factory owners to keep their units shut until further notice. Violence in Bangladesh has reportedly left at least 300 dead amid nationwide curfews and curbs on mobile internet.

"India has no intention or inclination to exploit this unfortunate situation in our friendly neighbouring country. The Indian garment industry is making serious efforts to grow RMG (ready-made garment) exports on its own, based on its merit. However, it is quite likely that in the short-term garment orders may shift to India and the Indian apparel industry may be asked to fill the gap caused by this severe disruption," said Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEP). Ready-made garments represent more than 85 per cent of Bangladesh's merchandise exports and over 70 per cent of its total exports. The expectations of a shift in orders to India comes as Dhaka has a bigger share in global trade of clothing at 7.9 per cent compared to New Delhi's 3.2 per cent, according to the World Trade Statistical Review 2023. Bangladesh's \$45-billion clothing in-

dustry that employs over four million workers was already affected due to the weakening electricity generation infrastructure that was hit by higher input costs following the start of the Russia-Ukraine war and adverse weather events, as per S&P Global. A senior executive with a listed textile company said that Indian industry might not be able to fulfil orders that might shift from Bangladesh as the supply chain is already stressed to fulfil domestic orders. "If this situation keeps Bangladesh occupied for more than 6 months then there could be a lot of shifts to India. But Vietnam may benefit from this more than Indian garment manufacturers since the supply chain is already stressed to fulfil domestic orders. Workforce and production capacity isn't elastic that can be increased overnight. Moreover, Ahmedabad textile processing industry which manufactures huge fabric quantities is already shut due to pollution checks," said the executive, who did not wish to be identified. The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) said that several major global brands that rely on Bangladesh for their sourcing needs will also be affected by these disruptions and that brands with significant portions of their supply chain rooted in Bangladesh may experience delays and a decrease in the availability of their products. "This, in turn, could lead to a ripple effect across the global retail market, affecting inventory levels and sales," CITI said. "The ongoing scenario in Bangladesh poses significant concerns for the Indian textile and apparel sector, particularly for companies operating factories in Bangladesh and exporting products from those units. Any supply disruption in Bangladesh will have immediate impacts on the supply chain, potentially affecting production schedules and delivery timelines," CITI said. S&P Global Ratings in its ratings report on July 30 had said that Bangladesh's economic growth continues to moderate following two years of fast expansion in 2021 and 2022. As high inflation, rising domestic interest rates, limited access to foreign exchange, and policies aimed at compressing imports continue to bite, domestic demand will likely remain modest in comparison to the long-term trend, the report said. "Modest per capita income, which we estimate at about US\$2,600 in the fiscal year ended June 2024, remains one of Bangladesh's main rating constraints. But the country's strong underlying growth helps to mitigate this weakness. We calculate its 10-year weighted-average real per capita GDP growth rate at about 5.4 per cent. This is much stronger than the average for sovereigns at a similar level of income. We expect this long-term performance to remain largely intact, despite current policy headwinds," the report said.

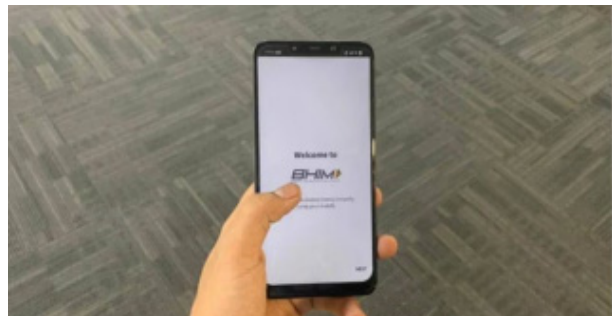
## RBI, relevant ministries in constant engagement on supply-side measures, says Das

There is constant engagement between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and relevant ministries on supply-side measures for inflation management, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday. "The government has been taking a number of measures. Several ministries are attending to the situation as it is emerging. Surprises are there such as sudden rainfall and floods, and even those are being discussed between the RBI and the government," he said. RBI Governor on impact of floods on inflation

We are monitoring the situation. It (flood) was confined to very few places...one district of Kerala and in certain regions of Himachal. We are monitoring the impact it will have on prices of vegetables and supply disruptions. Some of the impact would be temporary. There was an unprecedented IT outage globally, which affected businesses in many countries. The outage demonstrated how a minor technical change, if it goes haywire, can wreak havoc on a global scale. It also showed the fast-growing dependence on big-techs and third-party technology solution providers. In this background, it is necessary that banks and financial institutions build appropriate risk management frameworks in their IT, cyber security and third-party outsourcing arrangements to maintain operational resilience. The Reserve Bank has time and again emphasised the importance of robust business continuity plans (BCP) to deal with such incidents. Deputy Governor on exclusion of securities from FAR

RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said that it has

## Transaction limit for tax payments via UPI hiked from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh



UPI hike, Reserve Bank of India, Unified Payments Interface, Transaction limit, tax payments, Indian express news, current affairs. The latest data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) showed that the number of UPI transactions rose 45 per cent year-on-year to exceed 14 billion, reaching 14.43 billion in July. Total number of UPI transactions stood at 13.88 billion in June this year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday announced to increase the transaction limit for tax payment through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction. The move will further ease tax payments by consumers through UPI, which has become the most preferred mode of digital payments.

"As direct and indirect tax payments are common, regular and high value, it has been decided to enhance the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said after announcing the monetary policy. According to Rahul Jain, Chief Financial Officer, NTT DATA Payment Services India, the enhancement of the UPI limit for tax payments will strengthen the tax-collection system, re-

duce the cost of tax collection, and make tax payments more convenient for taxpayers.

"This also means more benefits to taxpayers in terms of seamless, transparent, secured, and ease of making high-value transactions," he said. UPI, which enables fast interbank transactions, has seen a surge in momentum in the last few years. The latest data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) showed that the number of UPI transactions rose 45 per cent



been observed that the major part of the interest of FAR investors is in the 5 to 10 years, which accounts for 90 per cent of the total investment. The interest in the 30 year is just 2 per cent of the total stock of the 30-year that has been issued.

It's like giving time to people to adjust their portfolios because we know that the weight of India in the bond index will slowly rise over a 10 month period. So they have time to adjust their portfolios. Now all the existing securities issued are available for FAR investment so that makes Rs 41 lakh crore of available investment of which investment today is only Rs 2 lakh crore. So there is an ample amount of space to go. Our assessment is that in the categories that are now allowed, there is going to be Rs 4 lakh crore of new issuances which are open to FAR.

## Focus more on deposit mobilisation via innovative products: Shaktikanta Das to banks



Amid concerns over the shift of household savings from banks to alternative investment avenues, resulting in slower deposit growth compared to credit, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday asked lenders to garner deposits through innovative product offerings and use their wide branch network. Das also expressed worries over banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) not following regulatory norms while offering top-up loans on other collateralised loans such as home and gold loans. While announcing the monetary policy, the Governor said that it is observed that alternative investment avenues are becoming more attractive to retail customers and banks are facing challenges on the funding front with bank deposits trailing loan growth. As of July 12, while deposits grew by 11.7 per cent, loan growth increased by 15.5 per cent.

"Banks are taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental credit demand. This may potentially expose the banking system to structural liquidity issues," Das said. "Banks may, therefore, focus more on mobilisation of household financial savings through innovative products and service offerings and by leveraging fully on their vast branch network," he said. Das clarified that he was not suggesting that people should put more deposits in banks and not invest in the equity market. "It is left for the people to decide. It is left for the investors and savers to where they want to put the money. All that I am saying is that banks need to be mindful of this (mismatch between deposit and credit growth) because it can potentially create some structural challenges with regard to liquidity management," he said.

On the issue of investors using their savings to in-

## 'Can't ignore food inflation pressures': RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das differs from Survey idea

IN THE Economic Survey for 2023-24, its author Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran made a case for excluding food prices from headline inflation, since food prices were keeping the CPI-based (Consumer Price Index) inflation high and delaying a cut in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India. But RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das differed Thursday and said food inflation pressures cannot be ignored given the high share of food in the consumption basket. Without mentioning the Survey proposal — or the CEA's remark that monetary policy cannot manage supply-side food shocks — Das said, "First and foremost is the fact that our target is the headline inflation wherein food inflation has a weight of about 46 per cent. The public at large understands inflation more in terms of food inflation than the other components of headline inflation."

"With the high share of food in the consumption basket, food inflation pressures cannot be ignored," Governor Das said after the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) left the main policy instrument, the Repo rate, unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the ninth consecutive time as "persisting high food inflation" continued to remain a risk. The central bank retained the 2024-25 retail inflation projection at 4.5 per cent and the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 7.2 per cent. Food inflation, with a weight of around 46 per cent in the consumer price index (CPI) basket, contributed to more than 75 per cent of headline inflation in May and June. "Therefore, we cannot and should not become complacent merely because core inflation has fallen considerably," he said.

"The MPC judged that it is important for monetary policy to stay the course while maintaining a close vigil on the inflation trajectory and the risks thereof. Resilient and steady growth in GDP enables monetary policy to focus unambiguously on inflation. It must continue to be disinflationary and resolute in its commitment to aligning inflation to the target of 4 per cent on a durable basis," Das said while announcing the monetary policy. Under the flexible inflation-targeting regime, the RBI has to maintain CPI in the 2-6 per cent range. It has set a target to bring down inflation to 4 per cent on a durable basis. Headline CPI inflation edged up to 5.1 per cent in June 2024 from 4.8 per cent in May, due to higher-than-expected food inflation. Core inflation (CPI excluding food and fuel), on the other hand, moderated to a historic low in May and June. Asked about his views on excluding food from retail inflation, Das said, "I don't have any personal view. These are institutional views. The NSO (National Statistical Office) survey is on and depending on the data,

vest in futures and options (F&O), where a majority of the investors have made losses, Das said that not all savings are being channelised to the derivative market. He also said that RBI has conveyed its viewpoint to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on F&O. "The early warnings group has discussed about F&O. We have put forth our viewpoint there. Sebi has taken note of it and has made its analysis. Sebi will take appropriate action based on the inputs," Das said. RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra also said the flow of household savings into equities is very minuscule. "There is a churn going on of the precautionary savings that were made in the Covid, when there were no avenues to spend. It (precautionary savings) is being drawn down to more normal levels. There is also a shift going on from financial savings to physical savings...people are buying more houses. If you take both of them together then total household savings have stabilised at 20 per cent," Patra said. Das also raised concerns over top-up housing loans, which have been growing at a brisk pace. Banks and NBFCs have also been offering top-up loans on other collateralised loans like gold loans. "It is noticed that the regulatory prescriptions relating to the loan to value (LTV) ratio, risk weights and monitoring of end use of funds are not being strictly adhered to by certain entities. I repeat certain entities. Such practices may lead to loaned funds being deployed in unproductive segments or for speculative purposes," he said. As per the latest RBI data, credit growth to housing, which is the largest constituent of the personal loan segment, accelerated by 18.2 per cent at Rs 24.27 lakh crore in June 2024 from 14.8 per cent (Rs 20.52 lakh crore) a year ago. Gold loan outstanding jumped by 30.5 per cent to Rs 123,776 crore as of June 2024 from Rs 94,872 crore (19.3 per cent growth) in June 2023. Das said the sectors in which pre-emptive regulatory measures were announced in November last year have shown moderation in credit growth. In November last year, the RBI increased risk weight on the exposure of banks towards consumer credit, credit card receivables and NBFCs by 25 per cent up to 150 per cent. Das, however, said certain segments of personal loans continue to witness high growth. "Excess leverage through retail loans, mostly for consumption purposes, needs careful monitoring from a macro-prudential point of view," he said. This calls for careful assessment and calibration of underwriting standards, as may be required, as well as post-sanction monitoring of such loans.



a decision will be taken at the appropriate time between the government and the Reserve Bank."

He said the NSO is conducting a consumption expenditure survey on the CPI basket and based on the findings, the weight of core, fuel and food will be decided. The NSO is yet to come out with a definitive conclusion in terms of weights of all the components of CPI headline inflation, he said. While the RBI retained the FY25 CPI inflation projection at 4.5 per cent, it revised upwards the retail inflation forecasts for Q2 and Q3 FY25 to 4.4 per cent and 4.7 per cent, compared to 3.8 per cent and 4.6 per cent, respectively.

"The MPC may look through high food inflation if it is transitory; but in an environment of persisting high food inflation, as we are experiencing now, the MPC cannot afford to do so. It has to remain vigilant to prevent spillovers or second round effects from persistent food inflation and preserve the gains made so far in monetary policy credibility," the Governor said. While the RBI maintained FY25 real GDP projection at 7.2 per cent, the forecast for Q1 FY25 (April-June quarter) was revised downward to 7.1 per cent from 7.3 per cent earlier. Das said the domestic economic activity continues to be resilient. Domestic growth is holding up well on the back of steady urban consumption and improving rural consumption, coupled with strong investment demand. On the demand side, household consumption is supported by a turnaround in rural demand and steady discretionary spending in urban areas, he said. "Looking ahead, improved agricultural activity brightens the prospects of rural consumption, while sustained buoyancy in services activity would support urban consumption. The healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates; thrust on capex by the government; and visible signs of pick up in private investment would drive fixed investment activity. Improving prospects of global trade are expected to aid external demand," he said.

## Portal to ease entry of Chinese technicians into India has begun functioning: Official

India approved only a quarter of the total 435 foreign direct investment applications from China up to June last year since the modification in Press Note 3 was introduced in April 2020. India approved only a quarter of the total 435 foreign direct investment applications from China up to June last year since the modification in Press Note 3 was introduced in April 2020.

A portal to facilitate the approval of short-term business visas for Chinese technicians, essential for operationalising production units and boosting output in sectors under the government's flagship Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, has begun functioning, a senior government official said on Wednesday. The Indian Express in June has reported that the domestic industry flagged concerns over delays in fulfilling export orders due to the hold-up in granting visas to Chinese technicians. Several companies had been importing machinery from China but faced production delays due to visa de-

lays that primarily began after the Galwan clash in 2020.

"The portal started only last week. It is intended to streamline the process by which business visas will be granted to Chinese technicians in the PLI sector. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has held interactions with different departments to sensitise and train them on how the portal will be used," the official said. The industry relies on Chinese professionals due to its heavy dependence on China for crucial parts in most electrical and electronic segments. Official data shows that out of nearly \$100 billion worth of imports from China, nearly 60 per cent comprised engineering and electronic items, which are also key to fulfilling India's export orders. Industry sources said that several manufacturers are often forced to move manufacturing to alternative locations where there are no such restrictions. They added that Chinese technicians are sought after by Indian manufacturers as they are more

affordable than technicians from other Western or even Southeast Asian countries. The border standoff after the Galwan clash in 2020 led to several government measures aimed at limiting Chinese influence on the Indian economy. The government also amended the FDI policy under Press Note 3 (PN3), bringing investments from land-bordering countries under the government route. According to official figures, India approved only a quarter of the total 435 foreign direct investment applications from China up to June last year since the modification in Press Note 3 was introduced in April 2020. However, China contributes only a fraction of the total FDI equity inflows into the country. China stands at the 20th position with only a 0.43 per cent share or \$2.45 billion in total FDI equity inflow reported in India from April 2000 to December 2021, as per the Commerce and Industry Ministry.