

Electricity department carried out mega drive campaign in Vindhyachal, Chanbe and Municipal Area

Recovery of 08.20 lakh, 155 defaulters face action

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, On the instructions of Managing Director Purvanchal Nigam, Vindhyachal, Hargarh, Old on Saturday by identifying more power theft areas Today in Dashami Mirzapur area, the electricity department carried out a large mega drive campaign. Under the leadership of Electricity Department Executive Engineer Er. Manish Kumar Srivastava, the old Dashami, Vindhyachal, Kalikoh, Hargarh Feeder's Shivpur, Katwarupura, Avantika Chauraha, Angarh, Hargarh Bazaar Samat did dozens of neighborhoods, 16 teams of electricity department started checking since morning, causing a stir in electricity thieves. 825 houses of electricity checkingIn 17 consumers were caught stealing electricity, on which FIR is being registered. Apart from this, the electricity bill of about 155 houses was deducted due to outstanding electricity bill of about 32.00



Electrical engineers checking electricity in the mega drive campaign run by the Electricity Department

officers and employees of the entire block were deployed in checking. Was. In the checking, the management director also inspected the red campaign by the officers named DISCOM and directed to take strict action against the defaulters. He appealed to the consumers not to deposit their outstanding electricity bills within the dissection date and do not steal electricity. At 05:30 in the evening, all the meter readers of the section were called and a parade was

conducted in the section, reviewing the works of meter readers Was done. Now meter readers will not be able to make any wrong bill. Because by taking photographs of 100 percent

meter, bills are to be made through auto OCR and Probe. Due to which the chances of forming wrong bills will be eliminated and a warning has been issued to the meter readers who are relaxed in the work of reding. If there is no improvement in their works till the end of the month, then such meter readers will be dismissed. They told That the campaign will continue continuously and strict action will be taken against electricity theft and defaulters by completing the

checking on 01 feeders selected in 01 weeks in the section. He further stated that more than Rs 10,000 defaulters will be tightened by dissecting electricity and a case of power theft will be filed by cutting the connection of consumers who are stealing electricity. Fuse sets and tails to protect the transformer from burningUnits are being installed, which has reduced the rate of transformer malfunction by up to 50% from last year and has improved the power supply. In the scorching heat, the electricity department is engaged in maintaining continuous power supply. In the campaign, Chief Engineer Er. Manoj Sonkar, Superintending Engineer Er. Ramdas, Executive Engineer Er. Manish Shrivastava including SDO Er. Deepak Patel, Er. Ramesh Vaishya, Er. Vineet Mishra, JE Amit Singh, JE Vinay Gupta, Mo. Afser, Er. Vinay Vaishya, Er. Vijay Kesari, Er. Shambhunath, Rajesh Singh, Rakesh Savita and team and other employees were present.

Krishnanand Haihayavanshi, Abhishek Sahu and Shubham Gupta to get blood donation pride honour 2025



Krishnanand Haihayavanshi, president of Vindhya Foundation Trust, donating blood

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, MJJ-Ek Appeal Activated in the field of blood donation during the blood donation seminar and voluntary blood donation camp program to be held in the virtuous memory of late Jaihind Shukla ji on July six. Volunteers who play the role will be given blood donation pride. MJJ-Ek Appeal Convenor Shiv Kumar Shukla, while announcing this honor on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, said that it is a very difficult task to donate blood, but it is even more difficult to donate blood to people for blood donation. Many such institutions and people associated with Mirzapur are active, which is the most difficult for blood donation Are working in It has been decided to give this

blood donation pride honor to such people, who have been contributing important in the nation and human service. This will be given every year in the blood donation camp to be held in the virtuous memory of late Jaihind Shukla ji. He informed that this year this honor Krishnanand Haihayavanshi, President of Vindhya Foundation Trust, Abhishek Sahu of Rabin Hood Army and Shri Sai family Shubham Gupta of Seva Samiti will be given in view of his contribution. He also informed that for the years a panel will be made under the leadership of these three blood donation warriors and the same panel will decide the most suitable person who will be entitled to this honor.

Worker is backbone of organization: Ashfaq



Staff Reporter
Prayagraj: In Raia Holagarh a meeting was concluded for the creation of the organization under the chairmanship of Congress Party's Gangapur District President Ashfaq Ahmed. Addressing the program, Ahmed said that the need for clean and honest hard workers in the party is very important. If honest workers are found, it does not take time for any party to reach the summit. The workers are the backbone of the organization. Therefore hardworking and honest workers need to enter the organization. He said that there is a huge difference in BJP's destiny and policy. It

says something and some do it is necessary to remove them from governance. They are shown the way out of power. The workers will have to go to the village to village to strengthen the Congress and the policy and principle of the Congress will have to understand the people only then the Congress party will be able to move forward. The program was chaired by Panchu Lal Pasi, Mohammed Shamim, Ram Dular, Rahul Kumar, Naveen Kumar, Navneet Kumar, Akash Ranjan, Vikas Kumar, Avnish Chandra, Shyam Kumar, Brijesh Kumar, Nanhu Lal, Mohammad Rizwan, etc. were present on the occasion.

Cong holds Org Creation and Constitution Bachao Sammelan

Goal of all of us should be to strengthen Cong at booth level : Bhagwati Prasad Chaudhary

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, Organization creation and Constitution Bachao Conference was organized in Madihan Assembly Patehra Kala. Addressing the chief guest at this program, former MLA Bhagwati Prasad Chaudhary said that all of us goals at the booth levelThe Congress party has to be strengthened. Mr. Chaudhary said that the policies and programs of the Congress Party will go to the public and publicity by going to the block and Nyaya Panchayat area. Addressing

the Constitution Bachao Conference presiding over the program, Dr. Shiv kumar Patel said that the Indian



Organization Creation and Save Constitution Conference, senior Congress leaders and workers

public under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi to save the organization and save the Constitution and Bachao Conference Fighting the party government. The inclination of the people of the country is moving towards the Congress party

with a fierceness, due to which the ruling has increased. Mr. Patel said that all of us together will go

among the public and tell the policies of the Congress party. While directing the program, Minhaj Ahmed alias Chhote Khan while addressing the Constitution Bachao Conference said that all of us unitedly strengthened the Congress partyDo the work of

providing with it. Mr. Khan said that the BJP government is working to change the constitution, inflation does not talk about unemployment. But is working to mislead the people of the country and the state in various ways. State Vice President of Seva Dal Gulabchand Pandey, Ishtiaq Ansari, Rajendra Vishwakarma, Dr. Dinesh Chaudhary, Ram Govind, Lalmani, Kanhaiya Lal Pathak, DK Mishra, Ravi Shankar Maurya, Murarilal Cole, Horilal, Chhotalal, Vijay Shankar, Jawaharlal Maurya, Ramdhani, Harishchandra and other Congressmen were present. The organizer of the program was conducted by Satya narayana Maurya and the skilled conducted by Minhaj Ahmed Chhote Khan.

Sangharsh Samiti asked Energy Minister and management five new questions

Families of electricity workers to attend mahapanchayat of 22 June
The round of meetings will run in residential colonies on holiday : Sangharsh Samiti

Chandralok today in the capital Lucknow. In this general meetingThe power engineer and their families attended a large number of. A general meeting has been organized in Indra Lok Hydil Colony on Sunday. On other districts and projects of the state, the general meeting in residential colonies was also made aware of the damage caused by privatization along with electricity workers. Sangharsh Samiti has given Energy Minister and Power Corporation regarding privatization on Saturday and Sunday last week Five questions were asked to the management. The Sangharsh Samiti asked the Energy Minister and Power Corporation management today in the same order to ask questions in the weekend. Purvanchal Electricity Distribution Corporation and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam are being privatized in the name of deficit. The first question is-is it true that in the year 2024-25, the Power Corporation management did not have a single unit of electricity from the production houses of many private houses Purchasedand paid 6761

crores to these private houses in lieu of fix cost? If this is true, then why is the responsibility of such a big deficit being imposed on the employees and



privatization? Electricity generation corporation in the government sector provides electricity at the rate of 04 rupees 26 paise per unit and hydropower electricity is available at the rate of only 01 rupees per unit. Government has produced production corporation and water for electricity generation The Electricity Corporation did not establish new power houses. Due to this, very large -scale private houses have to buy very expensive electricity to meet the demand for electricity. The second question is- is it true that electricity is being purchased at the rate of Rs 11 rupees 58 paise per unit from KS Mahani, Rs 10 per unit from Bajaj's small power

houses, Rs 06.50 per unit from Lalitpur, Rosa to Rs 06.05 per unit? If this is true, why is privatization being imposed on the employees by imposing the

responsibility of the losses of thousands of crores of rupees? The Energy Minister is saying that the government has found that private companies have better technology and management skills to solve problems. Two companies of Reliance BSES in Delhi have been working for the last 23 years, BSES Yamuna Power and BSES Rajdhani Power. Reliance after working 23 years The better management skills of these two companies are that these companies have been owed to Delhi's power utilities worth more than Rs 25000 crore in small state like Delhi. Delhi Transco owes Rs 10,000 crore, Pragati Power Generation Limited

owes Rs 5600 crore and Indraprastha Power Generation Company owes Rs 5000 crore.

The third question is- is it true that the BJP government of Delhi is privateIn view of the failure of the region, BSES is going to take action to revoke the license of Yamuna Power and BSES Rajdhani Power? If this is true, then why is privatization being imposed on the very poor 42 districts of Uttar Pradesh in view of such a big failure of the private sector in the capital of India? Greater Noida was privatized in 1993. Greater Noida is an industrial and commerce sector. Electricity in Greater Noida About 84% of the weight is of industrial and commercial consumers who get profits. Noida Power Company Limited, working in Greater Noida, is not a good behavior of power supply towards farmers and domestic consumers. The fourth question is-is it true that the Uttar Pradesh government is fighting a case of cancellation of license of Noida Power Company Limited in Greater Noida in the Hon'ble Supreme Court., If this is true, then why is privatization that has failed

in industrial and commerce sector is being imposed on the very poor people of Purvanchal and Bundelkhand? Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited is buying power from many private houses at very expensive rates. After deciding the privatization of Purvanchal Electricity Distribution Corporation and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam, it has been found that Purvanchal Electricity for the next financial year Distribution Corporation and Dakshinchal Electricity Distribution Corporation have been allocated the cheapest power purchase agreement. The fifth question is-if this is true, then allocating the cheapest power purchase agreement of Purvanchal Electricity Distribution Corporation and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam just before privatization, is it not indirectly helping private houses after proposed privatization? The Sangharsh Samiti said that on Sunday, energy regarding privatization Minister and Power Corporation management will be asked five more new questions.

BRIEFS

PW holds roadshow for meritorious students



Staff Reporter
Varanasi: PW organised a roadshow in Varanasi .This roadshow celebrates the performance of the top-performing NEET 2025 students who studied through PW's tech-enabled Offline Vidyaapeeth centres in the city. Satyam Singh was one of the top-performing PW students in the city.

Smart Water ATM Inauguration – Empowering Communities



Staff Reporter
Varanasi: Utkarsh Welfare Foundation, in collaboration with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited, immediately following the boat ceremony, inaugurated two Smart Water ATMsat AssiGhat and Ravidas Gate, Varanasi. This facility will ensure consistent access to safe drinking water for both residents and visitors. This initiative between Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited and Utkarsh Welfare Foundation, aims to combat waterborne diseases and promote sustainable urban infrastructure. Shri Govind Singh, Managing Director & CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited, emphasised the initiative's transformative potential: "Access to clean water is a fundamental right, yet millions struggle daily. Through this initiative, we reaffirm our pledge to drive social change and enhance community well-being. The Water ATM is not just a facility—it's a lifeline that embodies our vision of inclusive growth." "The installation of Smart Water ATMs at key locations in Varanasi is a commendable step by Utkarsh Welfare Foundation and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank. These facilities will not only serve residents and pilgrims but also reinforce our collective vision of a healthier, more sustainable Varanasi under the Clean Kashi, Green Kashi initiative," stated Shri Ashok Kumar Tiwari, Mayor, Varanasi Each ATM was inaugurated with traditional ceremonies, ribbon-cutting, and dignity participation, underscoring the collective commitment toward public health and sustainable development.

Utkarsh Welfare Foundation Drive Sustainable Change



Staff Reporter
Varanasi: Utkarsh Welfare Foundation in association with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited, handed over two purpose-built boats to the Nagar Nigam, Varanasi under the "Clean Kashi, Green Kashi" initiative. These boats will aid in river cleaning operations, a crucial part of preserving the ecological integrity of the Ganga. The initiative reinforces city's commitment to restoring and maintaining the ecological sanctity of the Ganga. The handover ceremony was graced by Shri Ashok Kumar Tiwari, Hon'ble Mayor of Varanasi, and the leadership team of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank. Speaking on the initiative, Shri Ashok Kumar Tiwari, Mayor, Varanasi said, "These boats will play a vital role in our ongoing mission to rejuvenate the Ganga. We are grateful to Utkarsh Small Finance Bank and UWF for their continued support in making Varanasi cleaner and greener." Shri Govind Singh, Managing Director & CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited, added, "This initiative reflects our deep-rooted commitment to environmental stewardship. We believe that sustainable development begins with clean ecosystems, and we are proud to contribute to this noble cause." The event commenced with traditional rituals and culminated in a symbolic boat flag-off, celebrating the collective commitment to environmental sustainability.

In first time in 6 years, CPI inflation may have fallen below 3% in May



New Delhi (Agency): India's headline retail inflation rate may have fallen below 3 per cent for the first time in just over six years in May 2025, with food prices again expected to drive down the overall trajectory even though vegetables became somewhat more expensive last month compared to April 2025. Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), data for which will be released by the statistics ministry at 1600 IST on Thursday, was already at a multi-year low of 3.16 per cent in April 2025. In May 2025, while some vegetables became dearer – potato and tomato prices rose 3 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, from the previous month according to data from the Department of Consumer Affairs – prices of cereals and pulses cooled. The net effect, according to economists, was a decline in prices of essentials. Bank of Baroda's Essential Commodities Index, for instance, declined 0.6 per cent year-on-year last month – the first time the index has fallen since January 2019. “We expect CPI in May 2025 to come in at 2.7 per cent,” Dipanwita Mazumdar, an economist at Bank of Baroda, said. The last time CPI inflation came in below 3 per cent was way back in April 2019, when it stood at 2.99 per cent. Other economists see CPI inflation broadly around 3 per cent. While the headline inflation rate is seen falling for the seventh month in a row in May 2025, core inflation – which measures the year-on-year price change for non-food-non-fuel items in the CPI basket – is seen edging up to around 4.2 per cent. Core inflation, seen as an indicator of underlying demand pressures, has gradually risen since the middle of 2024, when it stood at 3.1 per cent. According to Nomura economists Aurodeep Nandi and Sonal Varma, the recent uptick in core CPI inflation should be looked through.

Fall in food prices pulls down May CPI inflation to 2.82%, lowest since Feb 2019

New Delhi (Agency): A fall in prices of fruits, pulses, and cereals helped lower India's headline retail inflation rate to a 75-month low of 2.82 per cent in May 2025, according to data released on Thursday by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), possibly providing some more easing room to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). At 2.82 per cent, the latest inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was somewhat lower than economists' expectations of around 3 per cent. CPI inflation stood at 3.16 per cent in April 2025 and 4.80 per cent in May 2024. The last time retail inflation was lower was in February 2019, when it stood at 2.57 per cent. Per MoSPI data, food inflation as measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) almost halved to a 43-month low of 0.99 per cent last month from 1.78 per cent in April 2025 as fruit prices declined by 2 per cent month-on-month (m-o-m) while those of pulses were down 1.7 per cent. Cereals also helped to bring down the overall food inflation in May 2025, with prices down 0.6 per cent compared to the

previous month. Prices of vegetables, the sharpest pace of decline since December 2022,



meanwhile, inched up slightly last month from April 2025. However, in year-on-year (y-o-y) terms, retail prices of vegetables were down 13.7 per cent —

basis in May 2025. While the price of meat and fish was up 1.5 per cent m-o-m, egg prices rose 2.5 per cent and milk turned 0.7 per cent more expensive in May. Core inflation — which excludes items whose prices are volatile such as food and fuel and is seen as an indicator of underlying demand conditions — inched up to around 4.2 per cent. The steady rise in core inflation over the last year-and-a-half or so is suggestive of “steady demand conditions” in the economy, said Jasrai of India Ratings. In terms of the regional break-up, urban inflation eased to 3.07 per cent in May 2025 from 3.36 per cent the previous month, while rural CPI inflation declined to 2.59 per cent from 2.92 per cent. Inflation in May 2025 was highest in Kerala at 6.46 per cent, while it was lowest in Telangana, at 0.55 per cent. According to Sujan Hajra, chief economist at Anand Rath Group, the downward trend in CPI inflation is expected to continue through October 2025, with averaging for FY26 likely to undershoot the RBI's latest forecast of 3.7 per cent.

Govt forms task force amid focus on textiles in FTAs

New Delhi (Agency): As access for Indian textile exports remains a key demand from Indian negotiators in free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, a new task force comprising officials from most departments has been formed to address issues across the value chain — from skilling and labour to logistics and sustainability. The first meeting of the task force was held on June 10 under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal to discuss issues and strategies for enhancing textile exports from India, as well as increasing its share in global markets, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

said. Barthwal stated that the primary objective of the task force is to create a unified platform for addressing



critical issues concerning the textile sector by involving all relevant stakeholders. Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Rajesh Agrawal, said there is a need to focus on

innovation in line with the latest trends in order to secure a higher share of the export market.

ministries have a role to play, and often, it's these inter-ministerial issues that cause procedural delays. So in terms of identifying problems, it's a welcome move,” said Chandrima Chatterjee, Secretary General, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI). The discussions during the meeting covered matters related to the entire textile value chain, the ministry said. These included skilling, labour, cost competitiveness, use of renewable energy, existing schemes supporting the textile sector, Quality Control Orders, logistics, and productivity enhancement of natural fibres such as jute.

Peter Thiel-backed crypto company Bullish confidentially files for IPO amid surge in crypto IPOs under Trump

New Delhi (Agency): Cryptocurrency exchange operator Bullish confidentially filed for an IPO in recent weeks, the Financial Times reported, citing people familiar with the matter. This report comes a week after rival Gemini shared a similar announcement. Bullish, backed by PayPal co-founder and venture capitalist Peter Thiel, aims to tap into rising investor interest in cryptocurrencies under the Trump administration, according to the report. A confidential IPO filing with the US markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), enables a company to take their listing plans forward before revealing their financials closer to the actual fundraising period. To be sure, Bullish attempted to go

public in 2021 through a special purpose acquisition vehicle deal, which was shelved in 2022 since markets dived owing to a rise in interest rates in the US. Reports of Bullish's IPO filing follow a pattern of similar filings by crypto exchanges seeking a public listing under US President Donald Trump, whose administration has nixed some regulations of his predecessor to promote a more open stance towards cryptocurrencies. Digital coins have also gained public acceptance with Trump issuing an executive order to create a strategic bitcoin reserve and a stockpile of digital assets. The Trump administration has also floated the GENIUS Act Bill which is focused on the regulation of stablecoins — cryptocurrency backed by a

fixed asset or currency. Another important connection shared by these IPO-bound crypto exchanges is their ownership, which



comprises individuals who contributed to Trump's presidential campaign. The Trump family's business interests in the crypto field, including memecoins of Trump and his wife Melania have also inspired confidence among the larger crypto

community. Gemini Space Station Inc, the crypto exchange owned by the Winklevoss twins — known for suing Mark Zuckerberg

size, it said the SEC was reviewing the application. Founded by twins Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss in 2014, the company reached a \$5 billion settlement in January with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. In February, the SEC closed a probe into Gemini without recommending any further action, CNBC reported. The Winklevoss twins contributed \$2 million to Trump's election campaign citing what they called previous President Joe Biden administration's “war on crypto”. However, they were refunded a portion of their contribution for exceeding the cap on crypto-based donations, Bloomberg reported. Stablecoin issuer Circle's successful listing last week generated significant interest in cryptocurrencies.

The company's stock listed at a premium over the \$31 apiece IPO price on the New York Stock Exchange. Circle Internet Group's stock price surged to \$88 apiece, a 180 per cent premium over what institutional investors paid for the stock. After listing on the NYSE at \$69 apiece, Circle Group's stock closed at \$83.23 apiece on June 5, before surging higher to \$107.70 apiece the next day and \$115.25 per share on June 9. The company's share price eased over 8 per cent to \$105.91 apiece on Tuesday. Circle Group is the issuer of the USDC, the second largest stablecoin available to investors after Tether's USDT. Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies that are indexed to an asset — mostly the US dollar in case of cryptocurrencies.

Trump says China trade deal ‘done’: 55% tariff, supply of rare earth minerals

New Delhi (Agency): President Donald Trump said Wednesday that the United States has reached a trade agreement with China, including an easing of curbs imposed by Beijing on export of rare earth minerals and magnets that are key inputs for industries ranging from automobiles to electronics. “Our deal with China is done, subject to final approval with President Xi and me,” Trump said in a post on Truth Social. He said China would supply “any necessary rare earths” and magnets, while the US would make concessions on allowing Chinese students to attend American universities. The Trump administration had recently begun to clamp down on the presence of Chinese nationals on US college campuses. “We are getting a total of 55% tariffs, China is getting 10%. Relationship is excellent!” Trump wrote,

without elaborating. Bloomberg quoted a White House official as saying that the agreement allows the US to charge a 55 per cent tariff on imported Chinese goods, which, crucially, includes a 10 per cent baseline “reciprocal” tariff, a 20 per cent tariff for fentanyl trafficking, and a 25 per cent tariff reflecting pre-existing tariffs (imposed by Trump in his first term, that the Biden administration persisted with). China would charge a 10 per cent tariff on American imports, the official said. Though the details of the deal were still unclear, analysts predicted that China seems to have gained the upper-hand after its rare earth restrictions prompted US carmakers, including Ford Motor and Chrysler, to cut production. Significantly, Trump said a final deal is subject to approval from him and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Chinese state media

said earlier Wednesday that Beijing had reached a “framework” for an agreement with the US during talks in London, but there was no official response from China on Trump's subsequent claims on Truth Social. Earlier, both the negotiating sides said they had agreed in principle to a framework for dialling down trade tensions between the world's two biggest economies. After the meeting in London — the second time the two sides have met in the last couple of months, since Trump's sweeping tariff onslaught — there were indications of a reconciliation. What is beginning to get clearer after the second meeting is that this is perhaps not how the US imagined the trade war to unfold. China is beginning to dictate the direction of the bilateral talks, with the US almost seen as requesting for much-needed concessions on the

resumption of supplies of critical inputs. In the first round of talks in Geneva, the US delegation led by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had asked the



Chinese to cut its tariffs in tandem with theirs, primarily because the Americans were facing the heat back home from the early fallout of the high tariffs, including empty shelves at grocery stores and surging prices of daily use commodities. In London, the US side is learnt to have specifically asked the Chinese to “suspend or remove” restrictions on rare earths

magnets, which had forced a supply-chain crunch. The London meeting follows a call between Trump and Xi on June 5, which was initiated by the White House

—the first call since Trump's reciprocal tariff announcement. After the London talks, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the deal should result in restrictions on rare earth minerals and magnets “being resolved”. “We have reached a framework to implement the Geneva consensus... Once the Presidents approve it, we will then seek to implement

Though the details of the deal were still unclear, analysts predicted that China seems to have gained the upper-hand after its rare earth restrictions prompted US carmakers, including Ford Motor and Chrysler, to cut production.

it,” he said. “The two sides have, in principle, reached a framework for implementing the consensus reached by the two heads of state during the phone call on June 5 and the consensus reached at the Geneva meeting,” the BBC quoted China's Vice Commerce Minister Li Chenggang as saying. Chinese export controls over rare earth minerals were high on the agenda of the meetings. While Beijing has not imposed an outright ban on the export of rare earth magnets, the process has been made very difficult; it could take a long time to source, posing shortage risks. Rare earth magnets, especially neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets, are crucial for EV manufacturing. They provide the strong magnetic fields needed for efficient and powerful electric motors, including traction motors that drive EVs. These magnets also play a major

role in other EV components like power steering systems, wiper motors and braking systems. China has a virtual stranglehold over these rare earth magnets. In May, talks held in Geneva led to a temporary truce after the tit-for-tat tariff increases by both sides, which led to duties that peaked at 145 per cent. Trump called the outcome of the talks in Switzerland a “total reset”, which brought US tariffs on Chinese products down to 30 per cent, while Beijing cut duties on US imports to 10 per cent. Both sides also agreed to a 90-day deadline to try to reach a trade deal. However, the US and China have since accused each other of breaching the deal. The US has said that Beijing has been dragging its feet on opening up exports of rare earth metals and magnets while the Chinese claim that Washington has restricted its access to American goods such as semiconductors and

other related technologies linked to artificial intelligence. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer had said China had failed to roll back restrictions on exports of rare earth magnets. In the run-up to this week's talks, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said on Saturday that it had approved some applications for rare earth export licences. The problem for the US is that the Chinese side has wrested some advantage, especially by leveraging its strategy of weaponising its dominance in key sectors. Rare earth minerals and magnets is one such area, where the US is now desperate for concessions. Both sides have since claimed breaches on non-tariff pledges, but the Americans clearly seem more eager for a reconciliation, given the impact of the Chinese blockade on its key manufacturing sectors.



EDITORIAL

Mandate and Mayhem

The recent events unfolding in Los Angeles reflect a deeper fracture in America's national psyche ~ a divide between a democratically endorsed mandate for strict illegal immigration control and the lived realities of immigrant-heavy cities. The violent protests that erupted in response to mass immigration raids underscore the complexity of balancing electoral promises with humane governance. It cannot be ignored that the American electorate, in giving President Donald Trump a second term, did so on a platform that placed sealing the southern border and deporting undocumented immigrants at its core. These issues resonated strongly in states far from the immigrant enclaves of California or New York. Many voters, concerned about security, jobs, and social order, chose the course with clear intent. To that extent, the administration is fulfilling its mandate by scaling up Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations to record levels, aiming for an ambitious 3,000 daily arrests. On the other hand, the chaotic scenes in Los Angeles reveal the human cost and social volatility that such a strategy produces when applied bluntly in cities whose very identity is shaped by waves of immigration, including the undocumented. Los Angeles, a sanctuary city by policy and sentiment, was always going to resist these federal incursions.

The decision to deploy 4,700 troops ~ including Marines and National Guard ~ has only deepened the sense of siege felt by immigrant communities, legal and undocumented alike. ICE agents, many of whom were reportedly attacked during operations, are performing their lawful duty. Their task is to enforce immigration laws that were reaffirmed by the electoral process. They face not only physical risk but also the vilification that comes with being the face of an unpopular policy in certain regions. It is equally true, however, that among those targeted are individuals with no violent criminal background ~ workers, families, asylum seekers ~ people who have woven themselves into the social and economic fabric of the city. This clash was inevitable. A government determined to deliver on its promises confronts local governance determined to shield its vulnerable residents. Neither side can yield without betraying its principles or constituents. At its heart, the crisis is not merely about deportation numbers but about the unresolved debate over what America wants to be ~ a fortress against unregulated entry or a haven of opportunity with manageable borders. Without this national conversation, raids and protests will remain ritual responses to deeper uncertainties. For now, the federal government's firmness may reassure its political base, but the images from Los Angeles ~ of burning cars, angry crowds, and fearful families ~ risk alienating moderates and intensifying cultural divides. Both the law and compassion have their place. Only when they are reconciled can this cycle of action and reaction end. The coming weeks will test whether America can enforce its laws without breaking its soul.

Fertility Crisis

Quiet demographic shift is reshaping societies across the globe ~ a decline in fertility rates so deep and widespread that it can no longer be dismissed as a statistical anomaly or a passing trend. For decades, the world's policymakers, scholars, and economists fretted over population explosions, resource strain, and overburdened cities. Today, the anxiety has reversed direction: nations are struggling with populations that are no longer replacing themselves, and the consequences may be far more serious than anticipated. At the heart of this unfolding crisis is not some broad cultural shift against parenthood or the rise of radical personal freedoms. Instead, what is driving the decline is far more mundane ~ and far more worrisome. Young people around the world, whether in Mumbai or Milan, Seoul or Stockholm, are finding themselves unable to afford the families they want. For them, the ideal of two or more children remains intact, but the reality of housing costs, education expenses, healthcare burdens, and punishing work schedules has made such dreams unattainable. This tension between personal desire and economic feasibility is quietly eroding what many societies once took for granted: that every generation would at least be as large as the one before. But now, with almost 40 per cent of people across diverse nations citing financial hardship as the main barrier to having children, the future looks alarmingly uncertain. Even in countries where governments provide generous parental support ~ such as Sweden ~ the pressures of modern life deter family expansion.

What makes this trend more insidious is that it is not limited to the young. Significant numbers of older adults, beyond reproductive age, are expressing regret that they had fewer children than they desired ~ a poignant reminder that these decisions leave lasting emotional marks. For these individuals, their past fertility choices were shaped not by a lack of will but by the very same barriers confronting today's youth: time scarcity, financial insecurity, and insufficient social support. Some policymakers and commentators have started framing this as a looming demographic disaster ~ a threat to economic growth, innovation, and national vitality. Yet there is a danger in panicked overreaction. Short-sighted, coercive, or nationalistic policies aimed at 'forcing' fertility up could backfire, breeding resentment and social instability. What is needed instead is a patient, thoughtful reimagining of how societies support families. Affordable childcare, flexible working arrangements, generous parental leave, and reduced education costs are no longer luxuries ~ they are survival strategies. Only by making family life compatible with modern economic realities can nations hope to reverse this slide. The fertility decline is not simply a problem of birth rates ~ it is a reflection of an unresolved social and economic contradictions. If these are not addressed with courage and creativity, the true crisis will not be in falling numbers, but in the erosion of human hopes and aspirations for family itself.

India's wind sector must innovate and secure, not just scale

Ramvilas Sharma



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India, after all, aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil-based electric installed capacity by 2030, including an ambitious target of over 100 GW from wind

Amid heightened Indo-Pak tensions, a Pakistani outlet claimed cyberattacks had knocked out 70 per cent of India's electricity. The false report exposed a very real anxiety: What happens when energy infrastructure becomes a frontline in cyber warfare? For years, the renewable energy sector has diligently optimised turbine efficiency, improved grid integration and focused on speedy deployment. These remain essential. However, an equally pressing threat looms quietly in the background: Cybersecurity and the pace of maximum value addition and localisation in manufacturing. Unlike finance or defence sectors, where digital safeguards have long been entrenched, robust cybersecurity measures are only now being introduced into India's renewable energy framework. And it's about time. A compromised SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system or remote-access breach could disable a wind farm ~ or multiple sites ~ in mere seconds. As India pushes towards achieving 500 GW of non-fossil-based electric installed capacity by 2030, including an ambitious target of over 100 GW from wind, the true challenge goes beyond just scaling up. It lies in securing what we install and how it is manufactured. The proposed amendment requires all operational wind turbine data to be stored within Indian territory. Foreign entities will no longer be allowed to remotely access or control Indian wind farms, a clear attempt to eliminate vulnerabilities to external cyber threats. More importantly, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) will be required to establish R&D facilities in India, signalling a decisive shift from passive assembly to active domestic innovation. This aligns with NITI Aayog's 2024 roadmap, emphasising localisation of both hardware and control systems. Given the various global incidents where cyberattacks have crippled energy grids, India's push for digital self-reliance isn't just necessary ~ it's urgent. Mandating local R&D isn't just about job creation or investment; it's about creating wind turbine technology designed for India's grid, climate, and challenges. India ~ not China or Europe ~ must become the epicentre for wind turbine innovation and manufacturing. However, strong policy intent must translate into effective execution, and here the amendment stumbles. Firstly, there is a greater need to build capacity for enforcement. Without a

concrete monitoring mechanism, these rules risk becoming paper mandates. Secondly, the amendment needs to articulate India-specific design adaptation clearly. Renewable energy projects here face extreme operating conditions ~ temperatures exceeding 45°C, saline coastal air, monsoon deluges, and erratic grid voltages. Yet, there is no mandate for in-country prototype testing or climate-resilience validation before inclusion in the RLMMs (Revised List of Models & Manufacturers). This oversight risks importing turbines built for European conditions that buckle under India's punishing climate. Third, the policy skirts the need for embedded systems security. Today, power converters used in wind turbines and solar inverters in solar projects are effectively software-defined assets. They depend on SCADA systems, PLCs, and firmware that may be compromised ~ often subtly and invisibly. Without mandatory audits of software stacks and hardware backdoors, especially from OEMs in adversarial jurisdictions, India's wind and solar assets remain vulnerable. To operate in India, vendors/OEMs must obtain certification and clearance from Indian authorities and adhere to Government of India (GOI) regulations. These regulations should include provisions for force majeure situations, where vendor/OEM-supplied equipment may fail to receive support and patches, potentially leading to significant security breaches and national security risks.

Israel's attack on Iran: Beginning of the Third World War?

Global tensions have reached their peak. Israel has launched a massive attack on Iran's nuclear bases. This has filled Iran's skies with white, black, orange and red smoke. More than 300 missiles were fired in this attack. Many nuclear sites, including Natanz, have been targeted in this attack. Israel has claimed that many nuclear scientists died in the attack and Iran has suffered heavy losses. This attack has been described as a part of Operation Rising Lion by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This attack has been carried out to destroy Iran's nuclear program. America also has tacit consent in this attack. America is not openly taking responsibility for this attack. After the attack, Iran has started attacking Israel with drones, warning of a strong response. Considering it a declaration of war, Tehran said that Iran will give such a response that Israel will tremble. Foreign affairs experts and defence experts believe that this attack can prove to be dangerous for regional and global peace. The supply of oil and gas is in danger due to the rising tensions in the Persian Gulf. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, from where more than 40 percent of the world's oil is transported to many countries, has posed a major threat to the lives and trade of the people of the whole world. India has recalled all flights passing through the Persian Gulf. Global stock markets are falling drastically. Nifty and Sensex have fallen by 1000 points in the Indian stock market. Crude oil prices have started skyrocketing. America has washed its hands off this attack. Sources claim that Netanyahu has the support of US President Donald Trump. India has a very old friendship with Iran. Analysts have termed this action of Israel as a nuclear crime. Israel has just attacked Iraq. This attack increases the danger of a world war. For the first time after 75 years of the Second World War, nuclear sites have been attacked. The situation is bound to become explosive due to the reaction of the neighboring countries to Iran's counter attack. The world community is appealing for restraint and diplomacy after the attack on Iran. Will this avert this crisis? Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has targeted Iran and Gaza to save his power. Donald Trump is facing heavy opposition in America, in such a situation, he is also engaged in terrorizing the whole world by riding on the shoulders of Israel. The whole world is upset with the way US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu are spreading terror. Netanyahu has not listened to international organizations, he is continuously violating human rights. He is also not following the rules made by the United Nations for war. After the kind of arbitrariness America and Israel are doing together, it is now clearly visible that it is not possible to stop the world war after the attack on Iran by Israel. The threat that has been created for the global population by attacking nuclear bases is not going to be tackled so easily. After this attack, the kind of environment that has been created due to the fear of nuclear attack and the economy of the countries of the world, is sure to cause a huge devastation. In the current situation, there is no global leader who can stop the fear of this war. All the big superpowers are working to incite war by adding fuel to the fire of this destructive war. The United Nations Security Council and other international institutions have lost their existence. In such a situation, what had not happened in 75 years is going to happen now. Once again the whole world is moving towards destruction.

Failed institution

Formed in 1945 by the victors of World War II, the main aim of the United Nations was to preserve international peace and security.

Ramvilas Sharma

Formed in 1945 by the victors of World War II, the main aim of the United Nations was to preserve international peace and security. The UN Charter provides for pacific settlement of disputes between members, and, if the parties fail to settle the dispute by peaceful means, the Security Council may step in, and adopt coercive measures ~ ranging from diplomatic and economic, to the use of armed force. Coercive measures were seldom applied during the Cold War period, because of liberal use of veto by the United States or the Soviet Union. Post-Cold War, till recently, USA was the only superpower left, so it rampaged unhindered through Iraq, erstwhile Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Libya, Syria ~ to mention only some of its misadventures. Former US President Barack Obama succinctly observed: "In the middle of the Cold War, the chances of reaching any consensus had been slim, which is why the UN had stood idle as Soviet tanks rolled into Hungary or US planes dropped napalm on the Vietnamese countryside. Even after the Cold War, divisions within the Security Council continued to hamstring the UN's ability to tackle problems. Its member states lacked either the means or the collective will to reconstruct failing states like Somalia, or prevent an ethnic slaughter in places like Sri Lanka" (A Promised Land, 2020). In its early days the UN actively promoted decolonisation, hand holding the eighty colonies that gained independence in the aftermath of WWII. The UN, through its agencies like the

FAO, IMF, World Bank and programmes and funds like ILO, ICAO, UNESCO, WHO, UPU, IMF, World Bank etc. as also UN sponsorship of nuclear arms control treaties and environmental initiatives. However, now with the Russian invasion of Ukraine in its fortieth month and the Israeli invasion of Gaza in its twentieth, the failure of the UN to stop hostilities in either case highlights its increasing irrelevance. The ongoing war in Ukraine began in February 2014 when Russia occupied and annexed Crimea from Ukraine and then occupied eastern Donbas region in 2018, followed by a full-blown invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The Ukraine war has resulted in a refugee crisis for both Russia and Ukraine, as also a million dead and injured on the Russian side and 700,000 dead and injured on the Ukraine side ~ all for a gain of around 113,000 sq.km. of Ukrainian territory by Russia. The Security Council has been unable to act ~ deadlocked by the veto power of Russia. True, the UN General Assembly has debated and condemned the Russian role in the war, but unlike the Security Council, its resolutions are not binding on member states. In the UN session called to mark the third anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the US twice sided with Russia. Firstly, the US opposed a European-drafted resolution in

the General Assembly that condemned Moscow's actions and supported Ukraine's territorial integrity. Then, the US sponsored a resolution in the Security Council, which called for an end to the war but contained no criticism of Russia. The ongoing invasion of Gaza strip by Israel since October 2023, has resulted in an unprecedented tragedy; according to official figures of the Gaza Health Ministry, as of 4 June 2025, almost 57,000 people (55,223 Palestinians and 1,706 Israelis) have been killed. The dead include 180 journalists and media workers, 120 academics, and over 224 humanitarian aid workers, which include 179 employees of UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Scholars have estimated that 80 percent of Palestinians killed were civilians. A study by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOCHR), which verified fatalities from three independent sources, found that seventy per cent of the Palestinians killed in residential buildings were women and children. The Gaza war has led to extreme famine conditions in Gaza Strip, resulting from Israeli airstrikes and the

ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip, which includes restrictions on humanitarian aid. More than two million Gazans ~ about 95 per cent of Gaza's population ~ have been displaced, and are categorized as facing acute or catastrophic food insecurity. There are currently no functioning hospitals in Gaza. After the end of the two month ceasefire with Hamas on 18 March, Israel resumed attacks on Gaza. According to a U.N. assessment, since then, the Israeli military has dramatically altered the map of the enclave, declaring about 70 per cent of it either a military "red zone" or under evacuation orders, and pushing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into ever-shrinking pockets. A fortnight ago, the Israeli government approved a plan to expand military operations in the Gaza Strip, which would, eventually, include occupation of the entire Gaza Strip. Israel intends to move Gaza's civilian population southward "for its own defence," though forced displacement is a crime under international law. Eyal Zamir, the IDF chief, said: "We will operate in additional areas and destroy all infrastructure ~ above and below ground." The Israeli cabinet also rati-

fied a plan to take control of and sharply reduce the distribution of food and lifesaving aid. As of now, Israeli soldiers sometimes fire on crowds assembled to seek food. Images of starving Palestinians scrambling for paltry aid packages, herded in cagelike lines and then coming under fire have caused global outrage. Israel's actions have the complete backing of the US, which is bankrolling its invasion and providing weapons and intelligence for the genocide of Palestinians. US President Trump seems to have provided the roadmap for the future of the Gaza strip; in a video posted in late-February, President Trump outlined the concept of a plan for the U.S. taking ownership of the Gaza Strip and turning it into the "Riviera of the Middle East." The question naturally arises as to what the UN is doing when such egregious violations of its underlying principles are taking place? As early as December 2023, to draw attention to the Gaza crisis, in the first such move in decades, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter; the UNSC failed to act because a US veto blocked a ceasefire resolution, supported by more than 150 countries. Every time the issue came up in the Security Council, similar US vetoes stalled action against Israel. As late as 4 June 2025, the United States has vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution that called for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Notably, the US was the only country to vote against the measure, while the 14 other members of the Security Council voted in

favour. The dangerous impasse in the UN, is part of a larger problem of incompatibility of 20th century multilateralism and 21st century geopolitics, and quest of a global balance of power, between a West on the defensive, rampant authoritarian powers, and an emerging South, demanding its place at the high table. The world over the UN is perceived to have failed in its objectives ~ even in the US ~ which has strengthened its hegemony through the UN; a Disengaging Entirely from the United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act was introduced, in the US Congress in 2023. However, the failure is mostly of the Security Council, which is extrapolated to the entire UN. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres noted that "the U.N. is not the Security Council," but all U.N. bodies "suffer from the fact that the people look at them and think, 'Well, but the Security Council has failed us.'" A more correct assessment is that members of the United Nations have failed it ~ while big powers pursue their rivalries through the UN, poorer countries are only interested in the money they can get from the UN and its agencies ~ which is mostly eaten away or spent on unconnected purposes. A quick fix solution could be to abolish the veto in UNSC, or to empower the General Assembly to override a veto in specified circumstances. The second secretary general of the UN, Dag Hammarskjöld, observed that the UN wasn't designed to take humanity to heaven, but prevent it sliding into hell. Let's hope it can do that at least, before the flames engulf us.



Four detainees have escaped from an immigration detention center in Newark, New Jersey, DHS says

NEW DELHI: Four detainees broke through a wall and escaped from a federal immigration detention center in Newark, New Jersey, amid reports of disorder breaking out there, according to a US senator and the Department of Homeland Security. Sen. Andy Kim, a Democrat from New Jersey, spoke Friday outside the Delaney Hall detention center. He said he was told detainees managed to break through an interior wall that led to an exterior one and from there were able to escape to a parking lot. More “law enforcement partners” have been brought in to find the missing detainees, according to an emailed statement attributed to a senior DHS official whom the department did not identify. The statement also didn’t specify which law enforcement agencies

are involved. The development comes amid President Donald Trump’s crackdown on illegal immigration and a day ahead of major protests against his policies planned across the country. DHS identified the escapees as two Colombian men who were arrested on burglary and other charges, and two Hondurans, Franklin Norberto Bautista-Reyes and Joel Enrique Sandoval-Lopez, who were arrested on aggravated assault and other charges. A court records search did not turn up attorney information for them. Newark’s mayor cited reports of a possible uprising and escape after disorder broke out at the facility Thursday night and protesters outside the center locked arms and pushed against barricades as vehicles passed

through gates. Much is still unclear about what unfolded there. GEO Group, the company that owns and operates the detention facility for the federal government, said in a statement that there’s “no widespread unrest” at the facility. Immigration and Customs Enforcement opened a 1,000-bed facility there this year under a 15-year, \$1 billion contract as part of Trump’s immigration crackdown. Photos and video from outside the facility Thursday showed protesters pushing against the gates as word spread that detainees inside were upset about delayed meals. Amy Torres, executive director of New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, said some officers pepper sprayed, tackled and dragged protesters away from the facility. She said some

protesters had minor injuries. Mustafa Cetin, an attorney for a client who’s been detained in

control of them,” Cetin said. “And they started to, you know, create a disturbance. They came



Delaney Hall for about two weeks, told The Associated Press that things turned violent late Thursday afternoon after detainees’ meals arrived hours late. “Apparently the guards lost

back up to the third floor, where my client is. Basically, they blocked off cameras, security cameras, and some of them made their way into a housing unit with a very thin, shallow wall, and

they knocked it out.” A 32-year-old American nurse from New Jersey named Kimberly said her husband, who is being held at the facility, told her the unrest began around 7 p.m. Thursday on the detention center’s upper floor as inmates were upset about waiting hours to be fed. Kimberly declined to be identified by her surname out of concern for her husband’s safety. “Nobody was talking to them or answering their questions, so they got upset and started rioting or fighting with each other,” Kimberly said her husband recounted. The Brazilian man had been detained in front of their New Jersey home in late May. He had crossed the U.S.-Mexico border and requested asylum in the early 2000s and was issued a deportation order in 2005.

Kimberly, a U.S. citizen, said they have been seeking a legal way for him to remain in the country since they married three years ago. They have a 1-year-old child. She said she feels powerless. “There’s nothing really I can do. Government doesn’t seem to be on our side. Police enforcement isn’t on our side,” she said. “They’re not giving us answers. They’re not even letting us know that something happened inside that facility.” Kim, the senator, said he heard about problems related to food and an odor in the water. Kim added that it seems as if there will be “major movements” of detainees out of the facility soon. He said he was seeking “full confirmation” about that. DHS, which oversees ICE, didn’t immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Activists marching to Gaza say were stopped in Libya, Egypt

CAIRO (Agency): Pro-Palestinian activists seeking to march to Gaza with the stated aim of breaking Israel's blockade on the territory were stopped Friday in both Libya and Egypt, organisers said. "Forty participants of the Global March to Gaza have had their passports taken at a checkpoint on the way out of Cairo," organisers said in a statement. "They are being held in the heat and not allowed to move," the statement said, adding that another "15 are being held at hotels". The activists are from France, Spain, Canada, Turkey and the United Kingdom, it said. "We are a peaceful movement and we are

complying with Egyptian law." The group urged embassies to help secure their release so they could complete their voyage. It later sent video footage to AFP showing Egyptian security forces intervening to break up impromptu sit-ins. Women were "molested and carried like cattle onto the bus", according to a message from Florence Heskia, one of the protesters stuck on the road. Nadia, another activist, told AFP "they confiscated our passports and are pressuring us to board a bus to take us to the airport where we will be deported". The Global March to Gaza had earlier said around 4,000 participants from more than 40 countries would gather in

Cairo on Friday to head to the war-devastated Palestinian territory. According to the plan, participants were set to travel



by bus to the city of El-Arish in the heavily securitised Sinai Peninsula before walking 50 kilometres (30 miles) towards the border with Gaza. They would then camp there before returning to Cairo on June 19.

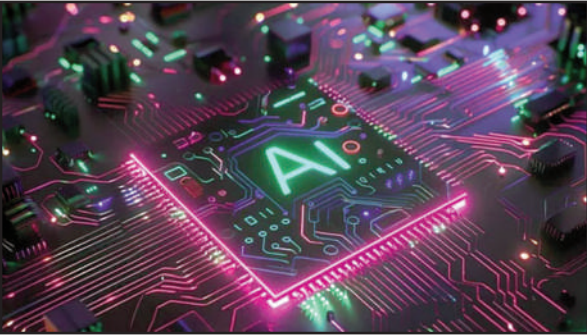
Separately, the "Soumoud" convoy, meaning "steadfastness" in Arabic, which took off from Tunisia, was also stopped Friday

morning at the entrance to the Libyan city of Sirte, controlled by the forces of military strongman Khalifa Haftar. "The caravan was barred from passing through at the entrance to the city of Sirte,"

Tunisian organiser Wael Naouar said in a video posted to Facebook on Friday. The convoy, which is carrying about a thousand Tunisian, Algerian, Moroccan and Mauritanian activists, requires authorisation from Egyptian authorities to reach Gaza. "So far, we don't know whether we will be able to pass through or not," Naouar said. Some security officials told him they would be able to cross "in a few hours", while others insisted that "Egypt has denied (passage) and therefore you will not pass," he said. "We will not turn back," Naouar said. One person was arrested in central Cairo on Friday after activists attempted to gather there amid heavy security

presence, according to an AFP journalist at the scene. On Thursday, the organisers of the Global March to Gaza said Egyptian authorities had detained more than 200 activists in Cairo. Some were deported from Egypt while others were released. "We did not expect the violence with which many people were arrested, deported and threatened," Hichem Al Ghaoui, a coordinator of the Global March, said Thursday on TikTok. On Wednesday, Egypt's foreign ministry said that while it backs efforts to put "pressure on Israel", any delegations visiting the border area must receive approval through official channels.

AI literacy: What it is, what it isn't, who needs it, why it's hard to define



MUNICH/ WEST LAFAYETTE (Agency): It is the policy of the United States to promote AI literacy and proficiency among Americans, reads an executive order President Donald Trump issued on April 23, 2025. The executive order, titled Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth, signals that advancing AI literacy is now an official national priority. This raises a series of important questions: What exactly is AI literacy, who needs it, and how do you go about building it thoughtfully and responsibly? The implications of AI literacy, or lack thereof, are far-reaching. They extend beyond national ambitions to remain a global leader in this technological revolution -- or even prepare an -- AI-skilled workforce, as the executive order states. Without basic literacy, citizens and consumers are not well equipped to understand the algorithmic platforms and decisions that affect so many domains of their lives: government services, privacy, lending, health care, news recommendations and more. And the lack of AI literacy risks ceding important aspects of society's future to a handful of multinational companies. How, then, can institutions help people understand and use or resist AI as individuals, workers, parents, innovators, job seekers, students, employers and citizens? We are a policy scientist and two educational researchers who study AI literacy, and we explore these issues in our research. What AI literacy is and isn't At its foundation, AI literacy includes a mix of knowledge, skills and attitudes that are technical, social and ethical in nature. According to one prominent definition, AI literacy refers to a set of competencies that enables individuals to critically evaluate AI technologies; communicate and

collaborate effectively with AI; and use AI as a tool online, at home, and in the workplace. AI literacy is not simply programming or the mechanics of neural networks, and it is certainly not just prompt engineering that is, the act of carefully writing prompts for chatbots. Vibe coding, or using AI to write software code, might be fun and important, but restricting the definition of literacy to the newest trend or the latest need of employers won't cover the bases in the long term. And while a single master definition may not be needed, or even desirable, too much variation makes it tricky to decide on organizational, educational or policy strategies. Who needs AI literacy? Everyone, including the employees and students using it, and the citizens grappling with its growing impacts. Every sector and sphere of society is now involved with AI, even if this isn't always easy for people to see. Exactly how much literacy everyone needs and how to get there is a much tougher question. Are a few quick HR training sessions enough, or do we need to embed AI across K-12 curricula and deliver university micro-credentials and hands-on workshops? There is much that researchers don't know, which leads to the need to measure AI literacy and the effectiveness of different training approaches. Measuring AI literacy While there is a growing and bipartisan consensus that AI literacy matters, there's much less consensus on how to actually understand people's AI literacy levels. Researchers have focused on different aspects, such as technical or ethical skills, or on different populations for example, business managers and students or even on subdomains like generative AI. A recent review study identified more than a dozen questionnaires designed to measure AI literacy, the vast majority of which rely on self-reported responses to questions and statements such as -- I feel confident about using AI. There's also a lack of testing to see whether these questionnaires work well for people from different cultural backgrounds.

Two Chinese scientists will stay in jail while accused of bringing biological material to US

DETROIT (Agency): Two Chinese scientists accused of smuggling or shipping biological material into the United States for use at the University of Michigan will remain in custody after waiving their right to a hearing Friday in federal court. Yunqing Jian and Chengxuan Han said in separate court appearances in Detroit that they would not challenge the government’s request to keep them locked up while their cases move forward. “This is a constantly evolving situation involving a large number of factors,” Han’s attorney, Sara Garber, told a judge. She didn’t elaborate and later declined to comment. Han was arrested Sunday at Detroit Metropolitan Airport after arriving on a flight from China, where she is pursuing an advanced degree at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan. She planned to spend a year completing a project at the University of Michigan lab, and is accused of shipping biological material months ago to laboratory staff.



It was intercepted by authorities. The FBI, in a court filing, said the material is related to worms and lacked a government permit. Experts told The Associated Press it didn’t appear to be dangerous. Jian’s case is different. She is charged with conspiring with her boyfriend, another scientist from China, to bring a toxic fungus into the US. Fusarium graminearum can attack wheat, barley, maize and rice. The boyfriend, Zunyong Liu, was turned away at the Detroit airport last July and sent back to China after authorities found red plant material in his backpack. Jian, who worked at the university lab, was arrested June 2. Messages between

Jian and Liu in 2024 suggest that Jian was already tending to Fusarium graminearum at the lab before Liu was caught at the airport, the FBI said. Jian’s attorneys declined to comment Friday. Federal authorities so far have not alleged that the scientists had a plan to unleash the fungus somewhere. Fusarium graminearum is already prevalent in the US — particularly in the east and Upper Midwest — and scientists have been studying it for decades. Nicknamed “vomitoxin” because it’s most known for causing livestock to throw up, it can also cause diarrhea, abdominal pain, headache and fever in animals and people.

Trump says Iran has 'second chance' to come to nuclear deal as Israel and Iran exchange blows

WASHINGTON (Agency): President Donald Trump on Friday urged Iran to quickly reach an agreement on curbing its nuclear program as Israel vowed to continue its bombardment of the country.



Trump framed the volatile moment in the Middle East as a possible "second chance" for Iran's leadership to avoid further destruction "before there is nothing left and save what was once known as the Iranian Empire." The Republican president pressed on Iran as he met his national security team in the Situation Room to discuss the tricky path forward following Israel's devastating strikes, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to keep up for "as many days as it takes" to decapitate Iran's nuclear program. The White House said it had no involvement in the strikes, but Trump highlighted that Israel used its deep arsenal of weaponry provided by the U.S. to target Iran’s main enrichment facility in Natanz and the country’s ballistic missile program, as well as top nuclear scientists and officials. Trump said on his Truth Social platform that he had warned Iran's leaders that “it would be much worse than anything they know, anticipated, or were told, that the United States makes the best and most lethal military equipment anywhere in the World, BY FAR, and that Israel has a lot of it, with much more to come - And they know how to use it." Just hours before Israel launched its strikes on Iran early Friday, Trump was still holding onto tattered

threads of hope that the long-simmering dispute could be resolved without military action. Now, he'll be tested anew on his ability to make good on a campaign promise to disentangle the U.S. from foreign conflicts. In the aftermath of the Israeli strikes, the U.S. is shifting its military resources, including ships, in the Middle East as it looks to guard against possible retaliatory attacks by Tehran, according to two U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters. The Navy has directed the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner to begin sailing toward the Eastern Mediterranean and has directed a second destroyer to begin moving forward, so it can be available if requested by the White House. As Israel stepped up planning for strikes in recent weeks, Iran had signaled the United States would be held responsible in the event of an Israeli attack. The warning was issued by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi even as he engaged in talks with Trump special envoy Steve Witkoff over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program. Friday's strikes came as Trump planned to dispatch Witkoff to Oman on Sunday for the next round of talks with the Iranian foreign minister.

Minerals and a strategic location: Why Greenland is coveted

COPENHAGEN (Agency): Greenland, which has a population of about 57,000 people, is an autonomous territory but Copenhagen controls its law enforcement, monetary policy, foreign



affairs, defence and security policy. However, with its capital closer to New York

than Copenhagen, Greenland is in the United States' "zone of interest",

historian Astrid Andersen, of the Danish Institute of International Studies, told AFP. During World War II, when Denmark was occupied by Germany "the US took over Greenland. In a sense they have never left," she explained. The United States has one active military base there. The Pituffik space base was used during the Cold War as a warning post for possible Soviet attacks and is still an essential part of the US missile defence infrastructure.

Greenland's location puts it on the shortest route for missiles between Russia and the United States. Washington has "legitimate complaints about the lack of surveillance of the airspace and submarine areas east of Greenland," said Ulrik Pram Gad, also of the Danish Institute of International Studies. Also its strategic position for when new shipping lanes are freed up due to melting ice adds importance, but Pram Gad believes Trump is using "exaggerated terms".

Archana Puran Singh avoids releasing her new vlog in light of Air India Flight 171 tragedy: ‘A small gesture of respect’



Archana Puran Singh, known for vlogging her daily life on YouTube, has decided to not release her latest vlog in light of the Ahmedabad plane crash. Taking to her YouTube channel, the actress shared a long note on not “releasing our usual vlog today”. She wrote, “In light of the recent Air India Flight 171 tragedy, we will not be releasing our usual vlog today. Our hearts go out to all the families and individuals affected by this devastating incident. As a small gesture of respect, we are taking a pause today. We will be back soon. Until then, please keep the victims and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.”

Several other television and film stars took to their respective social media handles to express grief over the Air India plane crash. Sunny Deol was among the first actors to react. Television stars Arijit Aneja, Rupali Ganguly, Aly Goni, Parth Samthaan, and Shoaib Ibrahim too shared their shock over the incident.

Shoaib took to his Instagram Stories and wrote, “Deeply Heartbroken”. Parth wrote on Instagram, “The Air India crash in Ahmedabad... gut-wrenching. Thinking of every single person affected. Life is so fragile. Prayers with all of them.”

Just like Archana Puran Singh, previously, the makers of Kanappa also cancelled their trailer launch event. On Thursday, actor Vishnu Manchu took to his official X handle to share the news.

He wrote, “My heart breaks for the lives lost in today’s Ahmedabad Air India crash. In deep mourning, we are deferring the Kanappa trailer release by one day and canceling tomorrow’s Indore pre-release event. My prayers are with the families during this unimaginably difficult time.”

Raj Kundra becomes the first contestant to exit from The Traitors: ‘It’s not who I am, my wife was right’

The Indian adaptation of the internationally acclaimed reality series The Traitors, hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar, premiered last night on Prime Video with first three episodes. The reality show, built on the pillars of strategy, deception, and trust, wasted no time in delivering shocks. In the second episode itself,

businessman and public figure Raj Kundra was unmasked as one of the “traitors” and consequently became the first contestant to exit the show. Speaking with grace and clarity, Raj Kundra admitted that the game’s premise, requiring deceit to succeed, conflicted with his personal ethos. “I came to The Traitors to win hearts &



friends,” he claimed during his departure. “As I take an exit, I feel that my wife is right. She says that I cannot lie to save my life, and it’s not who I am. I am glad that I stayed true to myself. I extend my best wishes to all the participants of The Traitors.” The format of The Traitors pits contestants, some designated as traitors, others as faithful, against

each other in a game of deduction and strategy. The objective? To identify the deceivers hidden among them while avoiding elimination. Prime Video will continue to release new episodes every Thursday at 8 p.m., keeping viewers hooked as alliances shift and suspicions grow. Joining Kundra in the show’s eclectic and star-studded

Jonita Gandhi was sure she’d ‘never have sex’ in her life; singer opens up about childhood insecurities and body image issues

Singer Jonita Gandhi has made a name for herself in the industry, elegantly balancing her independent career with big-time collaborations. The opened for megastar Ed Sheeran and was featured on the soundtrack of the Netflix show The Royals. As the ‘Sitara’ singer continues to release new music and perform at live shows in front of thousands of people, she revealed in a recent interview that she wasn’t always this confident about putting herself out there. Jonita opened up about her childhood and shared how she faced a lot of racism while growing up. “I used to get a lot of racist comments about my facial hair while growing up. They used to call me Godzilla, and even the Punjabi boys in my class would make fun of me.” She added that she couldn’t understand why people from the same background were also treating her like an outsider.

The singer admitted that

the insecurities that she developed as a child spilt over into many different aspects of her life as well. She said, “Growing up I was convinced that I was never going to have sex because of the same issues. I couldn’t accept my own body; how can someone else accept it? I still have some of those issues; I still avoid swimming sometimes, but music made it better. I feel like I am the ugly duckling who became the swan.”

After



Singer Jonita Gandhi talks about the several insecurities she had a kid and how they affected her childhood and upbringing.

making a name for herself in Canada, Jonita moved to India to start a new chapter of her life, which, according to the singer, had its own unique challenges.

“By the time I came to India, I had the glow-up and I had the transformation, and suddenly I was the ‘cute’ girl. People used to think initially that just because I am a ‘firang’ or foreigner, I am somehow easy.” Jonita added that after encountering situations like that, she ended up meeting a lot of people who made her feel credible and gave her the feeling that “no one could mess” with her. Jonita’s discography is growing with each passing year, and her latest single, ‘Beparwahi’, became available for streaming on June 13.

How to Train Your Dragon movie review: A trip down a familiar memory lane



How to Train Your Dragon movie review: With few differences but several technological updates, DeBlois has brought to the screen a live-action remake of his 2010 animation success by the same name. You may not have needed this update, particularly as the animation’s trilogy was quite fulfilling on its own. However, DeBlois doesn’t hold back, going about his story (based on a book by Cressida Cowell) about the generations-old battle between Vikings and dragons with all the seriousness and big set pieces of the subject. Thomas is befitting (if a bit oldish) as Hiccup, the son of the Viking chief (Butler) who has been written off for not having the courage to fight dragons. The relationship between the father and son is touching in its awkwardness, with the macho masculinity of Stoick the father having little in common with the calming gentleness of Hiccup. This is even true when Stoick thinks that Hiccup may finally have earned his stripes as a Viking by learning to fight dragons.

Squid Game 3 Final Trailer: Finally, a show that knows when to quit; fans all in for Lee Byung Hun and Lee Jung Jae’s showdown

Lee Jung Jae’s Gi Hun readies for a final showdown against Lee Byung Hun’s Front Man as Netflix drops Squid Game Season 3 trailer

Netflix dropped the final trailer for Squid Game Season 3, with Lee Jung Jae’s Gi Hun gearing up for an epic showdown against Lee Byung Hun’s Front Man to end the deadly games once and for all. The new trailer, out two weeks ahead of the June 27 premiere, sets a grim but satisfying tone, hinting that the story is moving in the right direction, regardless of its ending. Jun Ho (Wi Ha Joon) is still looking for the escape, unaware that the traitor is hiding in plain sight. Season 3 follows Gi Hun’s last shot to save the contestants, with revenge driving the game and jaw-dropping twists waiting at every turn.

The trailer takes audiences on a stroll down memory lane. With sombre music, the footage opens with a voiceover from Player 149 (played by Kang Ae Shim), who says to Player 456: “Are you blaming yourself for everything that happened? No matter how you look at it, life is just unfair.” She continues, “Bad people do bad things, but they blame

others and go on to live in peace. Good people, on the other hand, beat themselves up about the smallest things. I still believe that you came here to save us all.” Fighting the violent flashbacks and the arrival of the VIPs, Gi Hun, with a determined look, says, “I’m trying to put an end to it.”

The final season of the South Korean series, inspired by a real-life game (minus the deadly twist), follows Gi Hun as he makes one last attempt to save the players, after failing the first time. This season, Im Si Wan’s unborn child is likely going to be a game changer, as maker Hwang Dong Hyuk teased earlier. The trailer ends with Gi Hun being summoned by the Front Man, and for the day, he dresses up in a tuxedo, ready to battle it out. The trailer also teases the return of Red Light, Green Light robot, only this time, in its creepiest avatar yet.

Fans are fully sold on the upcoming season, and it’s not just because of the nerve-wracking trailer. Many viewers are praising the creators for choosing to end the story on a high note, rather than stretching it endlessly. One fan wrote, “Honestly, I’m super glad they try not to extend the series as long as they can, but they actually want it to end.”



When Paresh Rawal refused to star in Akshay Kumar’s production venture Oh My God 2: ‘I didn’t like the story’

Paresh Rawal and Akshay Kumar made headlines after the former walked out of their film Hera Pheri 3, stating creative difference. The sudden decision of Paresh forced Akshay to file a law suit against the actor and demand Rs 25 crore in damages. But, this is not the first time the veteran actor has walked out of a project backed by Akshay. Previously, Paresh refused to be part of the sequel to their blockbuster hit Oh My God!



In an old interview with Bollywood Bubble, the actor shared his reason for not taking up the role in the sequel. He said, “I didn’t like the story so I didn’t want to be a part of it.” The actor further explained, “I didn’t like the character of the sequel so I refused to take it up. If you are making a sequel, keep it like Munna Bhai MBBS.”

Actress Ratna Pathak Shah, who accompanied Paresh Rawal in the interview, agreed with him and said, “Sequels are tricky things.” Oh My God 2, released in 2023, starred Pankaj Tripathi and Akshay Kumar in pivotal roles. The film explored taboo topics like masturbation and consent.

OMG 2 faced several setbacks before its release with regards to its certificate from the censor board. Yet, it became one of the highest-earning Hindi films of the year.

Paresh Rawal, who had happily joined Hera Pheri 3 along with his co-stars Suniel Shetty and Akshay Kumar, decided to quit the film. His decision created a lot of curiosity and disappointment in fans. It was speculated that the actor had issues with its director Priyadarshan. However, in an X post later, the actor cleared the air and said, “I wish to put it on record that my decision to step away from Hera Pheri 3 was not due to creative differences. I REITERATE THAT THERE ARE NO CREATIVE DISAGREEMENT WITH THE FILM MAKER . I hold immense love, respect, and faith in Mr. Priyadarshan the film director.”

Paresh Rawal recently made headlines for walking out of Hera Pheri 3, a film produced by his co-star Akshay Kumar.

Rana Daggubati opens up about struggling with action scenes after eye surgery: ‘I even joke with people that I’m almost like the Terminator’

Actor Rana Daggubati, whose series Rana Naidu Season 2 premiered today, recently spoke about undergoing a corneal transplant and the difficulties he has faced during action scenes since the procedure. Addressing the challenges of filming with a transplanted cornea, Rana told Bollywood Bubble, “I mean, my eye over the years has kind of

become a joke, because I can’t see from one side. And during action scenes, it gets really funny if I don’t have my lenses on, there’s too much dust, and it gets pretty messy. But yeah, I’ve lived through all of that now. I even joke with people that I’m almost like the Terminator, I’ve got an eye, a kidney, and a bunch of other things that are transplants. So, if you’ve seen the Terminator, yes, I’m



almost there, guys!” Rana Daggubati has partial

blindness in his right eye and underwent a corneal

transplant. The actor has previously discussed the physical and psychological toll of the condition, including emotional challenges that persisted after the surgery. He also revealed that his left eye is a transplant received from a donor. It was in 2016 when Rana first revealed his blindness in the right eye. On the Telugu chat show Memu Saitham, after hearing a

young boy share his emotional story, Rana told him: “Should I tell you one thing? I am blind in my right eye. I see only from my left eye. The one you see is someone else’s eye, which was donated to me after his death. If I close my left eye, I can see no one. LV Prasad operated on me when I was young. Study well, we will support you. Be courageous, as you have to look after your





It's important to know when to switch on: Prasidh Krishna

BECKENHAM (Agency): India pacer Prasidh Krishna says he has learned to “switch on” according to the team’s requirements and is eager to carry his impressive IPL form into the upcoming tour of England. Having returned from a long injury layoff, Prasidh showcased excellent form in IPL 2025, emerging as the league’s highest wicket-taker and earning the Purple Cap. He expressed enthusiasm about the five-match Test series against England, starting at Leeds on 20 June, as the Indian squad

participates in an intra-squad match here. “(You have to) make sure you are focused when your chance is coming. But you can’t really be focused for a long time, especially when you are sitting outside, so you make sure you have a bit of fun,” Prasidh told BCCI TV. “When you know, you can sense the situation; you make sure you support your team at particular moments, making sure you are switched on because anything can happen in the game that’s the beauty of cricket itself. “I think all of us are experienced enough to know when to switch on and switch off.” Returning reinvigorated after a

frustrating period on the sidelines due to recurrent injuries that required surgery, Prasidh said the match practice in the UK ahead of the Test series will greatly benefit the team. “It’s really important for all of us to get this game time... because some of them are coming from the ‘A’ game. Getting time on the field is really important. That’s what happened today as well. “Looks like a good, nice, hard pitch. Bowlers have been in the game throughout, bowling some really good spells. Batsmen also showed character. It’s always good when you are competing against each other.

MCC outlaws 'bunny hop' boundary catches, new rule to come into effect this month

LONDON (Agency): Boundary catches involving 'bunny hops', or multiple airborne touches outside the rope, have been deemed illegal by the Marylebone Cricket Club, with the new ruling set to be integrated into ICC's playing conditions this month and the MCC's laws from October next year. Spectacular catches like the ones pulled off by Michael Neser during BBL 2023 and Tom Banton, with Matt Renshaw's help in 2020, will not be considered legal once the updated rule comes into force. According to an MCC note circulated to member boards by the ICC, while the existing law "led to some spectacular" fielding efforts, it also allowed "some unusual-looking catches that, to the majority of the cricketing public, feel unfair". Describing Neser's catch for Brisbane Heat to dismiss Jordan Silk, the MCC said the fielder "bunny hopped" before completing the catch inside the boundary. While the act complied with the law at the time, the note added it "felt like the fielder had - quite literally - gone too far". Both instances

triggered widespread debate, prompting the ICC and MCC to review Law 19.5.2, which was last updated in 2010. As part of its revision, the MCC clarified that any fielder making a second contact with the ball after



grounded within the boundary for the rest of the duration of that delivery." The rule will also apply to relay catches. If a fielder carries the ball while airborne outside the boundary and fails to return inside the field before the catch is completed even by a teammate it will be ruled a boundary. "Even if the ball is parried - to another fielder or inside the field of play - if the fielder lands outside the boundary, or subsequently steps outside, then a boundary will be scored."

For clarity, that means the fielder gets one chance, and one chance only, to touch the ball having jumped from outside the boundary. After that point, the boundary becomes a hard line - and any time they touch the ground in that delivery, whatever else happens, they must be inside. The revised rule will be enforced starting June 17, when the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle begins with Sri Lanka taking on Bangladesh in Galle. The change in the laws will officially take effect from October 2026.

India coach Gambhir rushes back home from England after mother suffers heart attack



BECKENHAM (Agency): India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Friday returned to the country after mother Seema Gambhir had to be hospitalized due to health emergency, a BCCI source said. The source said Gambhir had to fly back to attend to his mother who suffered a heart attack and is currently in the ICU in a New Delhi hospital. The Shubman Gill-led Indian Test squad is in the UK to play a five-match series against England starting June 20 in Leeds. "Gautam's mother had a heart attack on Wednesday. He and his family left for India on Thursday and they have reached Delhi," the BCCI source informed. In Gambhir's absence, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate will assume charge of the team during the four-day intra-squad match between India and India A, beginning here from Friday. He will have assistance from other coaching staff such as bowling coach Morne Morkel and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak.

From Kalakudi to TNPL's bright lights via rejections and heartbreaks — the Esakkimuthu story

CHENNAI (Agency): “If there was one bounce that changed my life, that was it,” recalls iDreams Tiruppur pacer A Esakkimuthu of a contest that would end up becoming the turning point of his cricketing journey. A Bachelor of Social Work student with Urumu Dhanalakshmi Arts College, Esakkimuthu was going up against a senior batter from Bishop Heber College, Yuvaraj in a Tiruchy district league game. “He was batting well, taking on other bowlers, but I troubled him. After the match, he called me and spoke with me. ‘Come with me, I will take care of your career,’ he promised,” he remembers. For Esakkimuthu, it was a huge leap of faith. Hailing from Kalakudi, a small village in Tirunelveli district, all Esakkimuthu had dreamt of

was playing cricket. Right from the time he, a class nine student, sat in front of a television and watched franchises fight over T Natarajan in an IPL auction. He wondered if he would ever be able to replicate it. At the time, all he knew was rubber ball cricket. When he went to an U-16 selection trial in Tirunelveli and got selected, Esakkimuthu could not continue because of his family's situation. Two years later, he was not picked in the U19 trials. Cricket became a 'veri' (a burning fire within) for him. That is how he used to play no matter what the match was or where he was playing. Off the field, he is this quiet, soft-spoken shy youngster from a small village. On the cricket field

and give him a ball in hand, Esakkimuthu will run in with all the fury he could ignite. He had watched a young R Sai Kishore go up against R Ashwin during the 2019 Tamil Nadu Premier League. He felt that is the passion you need to succeed on the field; that is the “pasi (hunger) you need to get to the highest level. When he got a chance to play for or



his college in Tiruchy, he grabbed it with both hands. He joined Bishop Heber for post graduation in Library Science and started playing under Yuvaraj. That is when he got to know about another Tiruchy pacer Senthil Nathan, of Alchemy Academy 's Veeraraghavan Ramachandran and trainer Michael Anton. “I wanted to play at any cost. I didn't have money or whites or anything. They used to give me whites, gloves and the boys from Bishop and Alchemy, they still take care of me,” he says. In return, Esakkimuthu gave his everything and got selected for the SS R a j a n Trophy. “I wanted to play at any cost. I bowled fast and stood out in selection and Tiruchy selected me.

TNPL 2025 A Essakimuthu, iDreamer and cricketer



all this, I could not even think of cricket. You need money to play and train. So I understood the situation and didn't go,” he recalls. It lit up a fury of fire within. “Veri (fire of passion)” is the word he keeps repeating. So much so that when he got a chance to play for Urumu Dhanalakshmi Arts College, Tiruchy, the Bachelor of Social Work student gave his everything. Esakkimuthu impressed an opposition batter, Yuvaraj from Bishop Heber College, who would take him under his wings. Esakkimuthu shifted colleges for his PG (Library Science) and continued to train with Yuvaraj. He was introduced to a senior pacer Senthil Nathan, Ve e r a g h a v a n Ramachandran of Alchemy Academy and trainer Michael Anton. Every cricketing expense of his was taken care of, and Esakkimuthu did what he was meant to do. Run in fast and beat the batters, running through batting line-ups. That “veri” became “pasi (hunger)”, and cricket was his only food. “There have been nights when I did not sleep, when I cried.

CHENNAI (Agency): iDream Tiruppur Tamizhans pacer A Esakkimuthu remembers the first time he held a cricket ball in his hand. It was the U16 selection trials in Tirunelveli and Esakkimuthu, a class tenth student from Kalakudi, a small village tucked away from the hassles of Tirunelveli city, who had watched T Natarajan get picked in the IPL auction the year before, wondering if he could dream of something similar. “Will it happen to me one day?” he dreamt. He had asked his father, who runs a school van service from the neighbourhood villages to

Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai, for a white t-shirt and pants. He borrowed “bata shoes” from a school-going kid in Kalakudi before going to the trials. He had only played with a “stumper” ball and had never touched a cricket ball before. In the trials, he somehow hit a few big shots before beating the bat with his pace and got selected. However, considering the financial situation at home and the fact that Esakki was studying well, he could not continue. “My dad had met with an accident. The situation was not good. Dad and two brothers were all working. In

UTT 6 Promising Yashaswini making notable strides

AHMEDABAD (Agency): Yashaswini Ghorpade's career has been on an upwards trajectory. After conquering the junior level of table tennis, she has transitioned to the senior level. The 20-year-old won the senior nationals in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh last September before shining again in her hometown Bengaluru in December. A noteworthy moment of her nascent career, however, came when she defeated the Chinese paddler, World No 35, Fan Siqu last week in the season six of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) at EKA Arena in Ahmedabad. Donning the orange and black jersey of U Mumba TT, Yashaswini displayed mental fortitude, edging past Siqu, who represented the Chennai Lions. That she won from a 2-7 deficit in the deciding tie, against an unbeaten opponent then, made it extra special. "It was a very important match for me as well as for my team (against Chennai). I did believe in myself for that match and I kept going, despite going 2-7 down. I kept winning the points as well. The celebration was amazing. I didn't believe it," she recalled. Yashaswini's victory was a significant one



as U Mumba TT went on to qualify for the playoffs after beating Dabang Delhi on Thursday. "It's been great playing with the team. We have bonded really well for almost three weeks already," she said. Working under the guidance of a familiar face in John Murphy, the head coach of U Mumba TT, has helped. The Irishman is renowned for bringing Australia to the top-100 rankings during his tenure there. "I have known John since my youth. He used to travel with the Australian team. He has been quite helpful in the camps there as well. Knowing him quite well from before has also helped us in bonding very well this year. He is a great coach," she added. Prior to the UTT 6, which started on May 31, Yashaswini made her debut in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Championships mid-May.

When Temba Bavuma’s understated players ‘rubbished’ the perceptions about them and stitched a dream

New Delhi (Agency): Fourth ball of the 84th over, under sparking blue skies at Lord's, Kyle Verreynne drove Mitchell Starc between point and covers and ran the run that crowned South Africa as world Test champions, hauling the target of 282 to upend defending champions Australia by five wickets. Emotions outpoured. On the balcony, Temba Bavuma sunk his face on his palms, hiding the tears. His teammates roared and high-fived. Keshav Maharaj's words quivered during the pitchside interview. “It’s what the country’s about, the unity among everyone in the last five days,” he somehow managed some words. “Stuff of dreams,” Marco Jansen gathered his emotions and said. Kagiso Rabada rubbished aspersions that they haven’t faced strong oppositions to the final. Aiden Markram, whose splendid 136 orchestrated the chase, stated the obvious: I haven’t scored more important runs.” Former captain Graeme Smith, among the commentary crew, roared in delight beside the boundary ropes. AB de Villiers, with his son, swiped the air in

euphoria. It’s the most famous and symbolic run in the history of South African cricket. South Africa have claimed the Champions Trophy once, in 1998 when it was known as KnockOut Trophy, and were



twice crowned the number one ranked team in Tests. But none matched the magnitude of this feat. It ends years of hurt and heartbreaks, brain-fades and miscalculations, fallibility and freeze, tears in the rain and aches under sun, that had the cricketing public both empathise and ridicule them. In this match-winning run, the nation found catharsis. A historic stroke that wipes their painful shivers of history. A shot of liberation. A moment as momentous as Francois Pienaar raising the rugby World Cup in 1995, watched on by Nelson Mandela, both wearing a No 6 jersey.

It is a triumph of inclusivity. Holding the mace aloft was South Africa's first black captain, Bavuma, a figure that had polarised opinions. He was a metaphor of change in the country that once reeled in the most inhuman practice that was the apartheid. He was also projected as an epiphany of everything negative about the quota system, a reason several talented cricketers seek refuge in county cricket and Tasman shores. The moment of glory would potentially shake perceptions. The colour lines are fading. Two other black cricketers, Rabada and Lungi Ngidi, produced star acts in the final as well as the journey to the final. Rabada, a generational fast bowler, a fusion of grace and athleticism, grabbed 56 scalps at 18.53. Ngidi's evening burst on day two

triggered the collapse that forced South Africa back into the game. Left-arm spinner Maharaj, of Indian descent, with roots in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur, nabbed 41 wickets at 20.95. The white cricketers too put in stellar shifts, like Markram in the final, seam-bowling all-rounder Jansen, David Bedingham and Verreynne. The Rainbow was complete. It was an antithesis to their squad for the World T20 Cup last year, which featured only one black cricketer and was promptly blasted as a backward step. Former CSA and ICC president Ray Mali termed it a betrayal. “We have betrayed the people who asked us to negotiate unity for this country. Players are mentored or monitored right from their early days up to the top, so you know which players will represent South Africa,” he told SABC Sport. It’s a song of personal redemption for a bunch of cricketers considered as emblems of talent-dearth and drain. Bavuma was perpetually criticised for his inconsistency and “passive captaincy”, one who captains the side because of the colour of skin. Rabada was returning from a three-month

ban for alleged cocaine use. The shadow of underperformance had tailed Markram, preordained to scale batting peaks, throughout his career. All of them wore match-defining roles. It's a victory of understated cricketers, an ensemble cast of domestic workhorses and fledgling talents. Rabada is the lone superstar in the group. Bedingham made his Test debut after a decade in domestic and county cricket, after featuring in more than 100 first-class games. Bowlers will not lose sleep over Verreynne, Wiaan Mulder or Ryan Rickleton. The batting line-up was supposedly the weakest they had fielded in recent history. The difference was stark when compared to Australia's. Before the game, Steve Smith had 116 Tests on his ledger. South Africa's top seven combined, excluding Bavuma, has collected only two more Tests. Smith has cracked 36 hundreds; the top seven of South Africa combined 21. There is a delicious paradox here, a quirk of destiny, that the undecorated bunch mustered what more gilded batting firms and dynastic teams could not.

Sensational Suruchi Singh nails third successive ISSF World Cup gold



MUNICH (Agency): The sensational Suruchi Singh dominated a quality field to win her third straight individual ISSF World Cup gold medal in a thrilling women's 10m air pistol final here on Friday, reaffirming her position as Indian shooting's latest golden girl. The 19-year-old shot 241.9 in the eight-woman final to leave France's Paris Olympic silver medallist Camille Jedrzejewski (241.7) 0.2 behind in second place. China's Yao Qianxuan (221.7) bagged the bronze medal. National champion Suruchi had earlier won the event in the year's first two World Cup stages in Buenos Aires and Lima as well. Buenos Aires was in fact her tournament debut and she has now won gold in all three of her first ISSF World Cup stages. Continuing a run of form that stretches back to the Nationals in December, the Haryana girl shot 588 in qualification to equal the national record held by double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker. Yao topped the 110-field with a junior world record score of 589. Bhaker ended 21st with a total of 574, while Palak was 30th with 570. In the final, a 52.1 in the first series set her on course but by the end of the second five-shot series she was down to second. A 9.7 for her 11th brought her down to fourth and that seemed to have spurred her. A cracking 10.8 gave her the lead back after the 12th and thereafter it was a battle of attrition. Camille and Yao were the prime chasers and the Frenchwoman took advantage of a few 9s by the Indian to go into the lead after the 18th shot. Then Yao fired a 9.4 in her 22nd shot and the Indian took the second spot behind Camille going into the final two shots. She was 0.5 behind at that stage of the final. That became 0.5 ahead after the 23rd shot when she fired a 10.5 to Camille's 9.5, and despite both shooters finishing with 9s, Suruchi held on to win. Bhaker, who was doing commentary in the final, expressed her delight after her younger compatriot's gold medal and believed Suruchi looked a bit nervous in the final.

'Pathshala' of MPs and MLAs in Pachmarhi: Focus will be on routine, communication skills and ideology, Shah reached Bhopal

Bhopal (Agency): The Bharatiya Janata Party is organizing a special training session for its MPs and MLAs in Pachmarhi, the only hill station of Madhya Pradesh. In this camp running from 14 to 16 June, MPs and MLAs will not only be made aware of the party's policies, but they will also be trained on practical topics like disciplined routine, communication skills and organizational coordination. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend the inaugural session. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah was warmly welcomed by Chief

Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav by presenting a bouquet at the Old Terminal of the airport. Along with Home Minister Shah, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also left for Pachmarhi by helicopter. Union Minister Amit Shah will be present on the stage along with Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and BJP State President VD Sharma in the program. Shah will address on the development journey of BJP from Jan Sangh and the ideology of the party. CM will give a speech on Developed Madhya Pradesh

2047 Opportunities and Challenges. The training camp will start with waking up at 6 am every day. After that, sessions of yoga, pranayama and prayer will be held from 7 am. Through various sessions throughout the day, the participants will get guidance on topics related to communication, coordination, ideology and behavior. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will take a special session on communication skills in the camp. He will guide MPs and MLAs on public relations, role of public representative and



communication strategies. In the closing session, National Organization General

Secretary BL Santosh will address the queries of the public representatives

present. There will be questions and answers in this session. Swapnil Kulkarni will talk on RSS ideology, Panch Parivartan and centenary year plans. Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Singh will take a session on time management and public behavior. Madhya Pradesh in-charge Dr. Mahendra Singh will talk on the concept of Hamara Vichar and Panch Pran. State BJP President VD Sharma will explain the party's working methodology. Former Maharashtra State President Vinod Tawde will give training on the methods of media communication,

topic selection and nuances of internet media. Union Minister CR Patil will talk on speech skills and mobile etiquette. At the same time, National Co-Organization General Secretary Shiv Prakash will suggest ways to establish coordination between the organization, family and administration. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan will present 'Developed India' and the transformative policies of the Modi government in front of the public representatives in the context of Madhya Pradesh. In the training camp, MPs and MLAs will be divided

into three groups. Different officials will provide guidance to these groups. In this, the first group will be of first and second time MLAs and the second group will be of senior MLAs. MP Sudhir Gupta and former Speaker of the Assembly Sitasharan Sharma will give tips to the first time MLAs. At the same time, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla and MLAs Pradeep Laria and Harishankar Khatik will discuss with the second group. Apart from this, the third group will be of MPs. Union Ministers Virendra Khatik and Durgadas Uikey will communicate with them.

BRIEF NEWS

CBI registers FIR against Supertech

Delhi (Agency): Special Correspondent. The CBI has registered an FIR against Noida-based construction company Supertech Limited and its promoter RK Arora and others for fraud of Rs 126.07 crore. This information was given by the officials on Saturday. The CBI FIR also includes the names of RK Arora as well as the company's full-time directors Sangeeta Arora, Mohit Arora, Parul Arora, Vikas Kansal, Pradeep Kumar, Anil Kumar Sharma and Anil Kumar Jain. On Saturday, the CBI conducted simultaneous searches at five places including the official and residential premises of the accused located in Noida and Ghaziabad. According to the CBI spokesperson, during the raid, the agency has recovered cash worth Rs 28.50 lakh.

NIA takes over investigation of Hindu activist Shetty murder case

Mangaluru (Agency): NIA has formally taken over the investigation of the murder of Hindu activist Suhas Shetty on Saturday. Mangaluru Police Commissioner Sudhir Kumar Reddy said that the investigating officer of the case handed over all the documents related to the investigation of this murder and the evidence collected so far to the NIA team. The NIA team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Pawan Kumar arrived here today to investigate the case and received all the information and documents related to it from the officers of the Crime Branch CCB (City Crime Branch) of the police. The Union Home Ministry had handed over the investigation of the murder of VHP worker Suhas Shetty in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka to the NIA on June 7.

Two arrested for providing bank accounts to Nigerian fraudsters

Delhi (Agency): North District Cyber Police has arrested two people for providing bank accounts to Nigerian fraudsters. Two mobiles and two SIM cards have been recovered from their possession. DCP Raja Banthia said that the fraudster befriended a 48-year-old woman from Burari on Facebook by posing as a London resident and on the pretext of sending gifts, he duped her of Rs 1.10 lakh in the name of custom duty. Police have arrested Aslam and Nepali citizen Santosh.

4 Naxalites including 3 women killed in Balaghat, MP; CM Mohan Yadav's big announcement

Bhopal (Agency): In Balaghat district of MP, security forces have killed 4 Naxalites, achieving a major success under the anti-Naxal operation. Director General of Police Kailash Makwana said that an encounter was going on between security forces and Naxalites in the interior areas of Balaghat district since last night. In this, the security forces killed 4 Naxalites. The killed Naxalites include one man and three women. Weapons have also been recovered from the encounter site.

The police headquarters says that the anti-Naxal operation is continuing even amid continuous rain at the site of the incident. Giving his reaction on the Balaghat Naxal encounter, Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav

said that under the guidance of PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Madhya



Pradesh is continuously working towards the resolution to end Naxalism by March 2026. 4 Naxalites have been killed in the encounter in Balaghat. CM Mohan Yadav further

said that the Madhya Pradesh Police Headquarters says that many weapons and



ammunition including rocket launchers have been recovered from these Naxalites. Along with this, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav made a big announcement and said that the Madhya

Pradesh government will definitely reward the 8 policemen who performed well in this operation.

At the same time, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said on Saturday that a large-scale operation is also being conducted against Naxalites in his state. He said that large-scale operations are being conducted against Naxalites in the state and its border areas. Significant successes are being achieved in these.

Hemant Soren and Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar paid tribute to ASI Satyabhan Kumar Singh of the 134th Battalion of CRPF, who was martyred in an IED blast during an anti-Naxal operation on the Odisha-Jharkhand border on Saturday morning.

Preparations for change in circle rate in Delhi, CM Gupta formed a committee under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner

Bhopal (Agency): To reduce the difference between the current circle rates and the current market rates in the national capital Delhi, the Delhi government has decided to amend it, and for this the CM has also formed a committee. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta took this decision in a high-level meeting held on Saturday. During the meeting, she gave instructions to revise the circle rates and announced the formation of a committee under the chairmanship of the Divisional

Commissioner to complete this task. This committee will submit a report based on the current market conditions and property values, which will then be used as the basis for revision of circle rates. According to the information received, the Delhi government last revised the agricultural land circle rate to Rs 53 lakh per acre in the year 2008. In this regard, an official statement issued by the government said that this decision was taken in a high-level meeting with the task

force to discuss issues related to better infrastructure in the capital, ease of doing business, redevelopment of unauthorized colonies, housing societies, colonies and modernization of infrastructure in industrial areas. Along with this, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to make construction related processes simple, transparent and accountable to avoid unnecessary delays in development works.

In the meeting, CM Gupta directed all civic agencies to



take proactive steps to improve unauthorized colonies. He also directed the DDA and Urban

Development Department to prepare a report on issues related to ownership and property registration in these colonies.

A report was also presented by the task force in the meeting, which included several major recommendations for the development of the city. The ten-point report also recommended reduction in amalgamation charges (cost associated with merging two or multiple commercial plots into one) and no requirement for revised layout plans in

MCD areas, having a green building policy to encourage development of sustainable infrastructure. He also suggested rationalising property tax, maximising the use of land allotted to DMRC and reducing floor area ratio (FAR) for hotels and other commercial plots.

In the meeting, Gupta emphasised the need to effectively implement a single-window approval system to make doing business in Delhi more seamless, efficient and investment-friendly.

Order to provide security to woman who adopted Sanatan before marriage, what did Delhi High Court say?

Delhi (Agency): The Delhi High Court has ordered the police to provide full security to a young man and his wife who recently got married. It is said that the girl has married the young man by adopting Hinduism. Both had filed a petition demanding security from the court. On this petition, the court issued instructions to the police of the area where the couple lives. However, neither of them appeared in the court.

The court of Justice Girish Kathpalia considered the petition on Friday. He said that no one appeared on behalf of the petitioners. Additional Standing

Advocate (ASC) told the court that the advocate of the petitioners informed the investigating officer of

conferencing on the next date. Also, the Delhi court summoned a status report



Jaitpur police station that they would withdraw the petition today. However, the court directed the petitioners to appear through video

from the administration within four weeks. The petitioners had filed a petition demanding protection of their lives. Both

of them had married inter-religiously. According to the petitioners, the woman had converted to Hinduism and married. The High Court accepted the petition in view of the threat to the lives of the petitioners. Justice Girish Kathpalia said in his order that even though no one has appeared on behalf of the petitioners, I am not in favor of dismissing this petition even in their absence in view of the threat to their lives. Along with this, the court gave the date of July 7 for further hearing. Now the petitioners will also have to appear in the court through video conferencing on the next hearing.