

‘Sweeping generalisation’: BJP counters Elon Musk over EVM remark

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16 /--/ The BJP on Sunday accused billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk of making a "huge sweeping generalisation" by calling for eliminating EVMs, saying his views may apply to the US but not to India.

In a recent post on X, Musk had said, "We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high." Countering the Tesla CEO's criticism of EVMs, BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "This is a huge sweeping generalization statement that implies no one can build secure digital hardware. Wrong. Elon Musk's view may apply to the US and other places - where they use regular compute platforms to build Internet connected Voting machines."

"But Indian EVMs are custom designed, secure and isolated from any network or media - No connectivity, no bluetooth, wifi, Internet. ie there is no



Entrepreneur Elon Musk and BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar

way in. Factory programmed controllers that cannot be reprogrammed," the former minister of state for information technology said on X. Chandrasekhar also said EVMs can be architected and built right as India has done. "We would be happy to run a tutorial Elon," he added. BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said Musk or whoever else thinks they can hack the EVM should approach the Election Commission of India and

take a shot at it.

He also took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi after the Congress leader raised Musk's comments to flag "concerns" about electoral process. Malviya said, "But why is Rahul Gandhi complaining about Indian democracy to Musk? What can Musk do? Or is crying before the world and demeaning India part of Congress's DNA? We just had an election and people of India rejected this dynasty for a third time in row. But he still does not get it." (PTI)

UP: 3 sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping, raping girl

GONDA, JUNE 16 /--/ A special court here on Saturday sentenced three persons to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping and raping a 13-year-old girl around six years ago.

The court of Special Judge (POCSO Act) Rajesh Narayan Mani Tripathi also imposed a fine of Rs 30,000 on each of the three convicts and directed that half of the total amount be given to the victim. Special Public Prosecutor Ashok Singh said. Singh said one of the convicts was 17 years old at the time of the incident, but taking into account the heinousness of the crime, the court considered him an adult as per provisions of law and sentenced him.

The special public prosecutor said a woman had filed a complaint at the Kaudiya police station stating that her teenage daughter had gone to a sugarcane field on March 24, 2018, when Sandeep Pal and Sanchit Pal, residents of the same village, and a 17-year-old boy took her away and raped her. When the girl returned home, she informed her mother about the incident and the complaint was filed, Singh said, adding that after investigation, a charge sheet was filed against the three accused under the IPC sections for rape and kidnapping. (PTI)

Punjab: Farmers hold protest at Ladhawal toll plaza against fee hike

LUDHIANA, JUNE 16 /--/ A group of farmers on Sunday held a protest at the Ladhawal toll plaza in Punjab's Ludhiana against a recent hike in toll fee and forced the authorities not to charge commuters.

The protest was led by the Bharatiya Kissan Mazdoor Union and the Bharatiya Kisan Union. Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Jagdish Singh said the charges at the Ladhawal toll plaza are the highest in the state. The toll authorities raised the charges thrice in a year, he claimed and added that the increase put an additional financial burden on people. Bharatiya Kissan Mazdoor Union leader Dilbagh Singh said this is the only toll plaza in the state where the charges increased thrice in one year. "When one buys a new vehicle, he pays several types of taxes along with road tax. Then why should people pay toll tax?" he asked. (PTI)

Man held with Rs 17.2 L charas in Thane

THANE, JUNE 16 /--/ A 42-year-old motor mechanic has been arrested after the seizure of charas valued at Rs 17.2 lakh from his residence in Thane district of Maharashtra, police said on Sunday. Acting on a tip, a team of the police's anti-extortion cell conducted a raid on the residential premises of the accused in Bhiwandi area on Friday and seized 1.72 kg of the contraband, a police release said. The accused was arrested on Saturday and booked under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, it said. Search was on for another person involved in the crime, the release said. (PTI)

Centipede in ice-cream tub ordered online, claims Noida woman; authorities launch probe

NOIDA, JUNE 16 /--/ A woman here has claimed she has found a centipede inside an ice-cream tub she ordered through an instant delivery app, said food safety officials, who have launched a probe into the matter. In a post on X on June 15, the woman, who identified herself as Deepa Devi, shared a picture showing the insect inside the ice-cream tub of a popular brand and appealed to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to take action. The Noida food safety department has collected samples of the brand's ice-cream from the store of the instant delivery company for testing, the officials said. "Sample has been taken and sent to the laboratory for testing. We are under process of registering the matter with regard violation of provisions of the Food Safety Act, 2006," Chief Food Safety Officer Akshay Goyal told PTI. He said the food safety department took suo motu cognisance of the woman's social media post and reached out to her.

The packaging date printed on the ice-cream tub was April 15, 2024, and the expiry date April 15, 2025, according to the official. "The matter is under investigation now. All facts would be confirmed only once the lab reports are received by us," Goyal said. He also added that people can approach the food safety department's office in Surajpur if they have any concern about food items in Noida and Greater Noida. (PTI)

5 killed, 8 injured in separate road accidents in Uttarakhand

DEHRADUN, JUNE 16 /--/ Two cars fell in gorges in different areas of Uttarakhand's Pauri district, killing five people and injuring eight on Sunday, officials said. While one accident was reported from the Khirsu Chaubatta, the other occurred near Dudhrakhal in the Satpuli area, a day after 14 tourists were killed and 12 other injured after a tempo-traveller fell into a gorge in Rudraprayag district. Citing information received from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the officials said, in Khirsu Chaubatta, four people were killed after their car veered off the road and fell into a 200-metre-deep gorge. It is suspected that the driver lost control of the vehicle, the officials said, citing information received from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Personnel of the SDRF and police were sent to the site of the accident to rescue the victims. Three people were hurt in the accident and they have been hospitalised, the officials said. In another incident, a car fell into a 150-metre-deep gorge near Dudhrakhal in the Satpuli area, killing one person and injuring five others, they said. The victims were on their way to Satpuli to attend a marriage ceremony. The injured were sent to hospital and a body was recovered from the gorge, officials said. (PTI)

Hashim Baba gang member held in Delhi

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16 /--/ A member of the Hashim Baba gang, who was allegedly conducting reconnaissance on two businessmen in east Delhi's Shahdara area, was arrested, police said on Sunday.

A pistol with four live cartridges were also recovered from the possession of the accused, they said. According to the police, Salim (30) was conducting this reconnaissance on the Trans Yamuna Area-based businessmen on the direction of Rashid Cablewala, a fugitive member of the gang currently based in Thailand.

Salim was in regular contact with Hashim Baba and Rashid through messaging applications and travelled to Thailand in February to meet the latter, they said. "Information was received Salim, a resident of Welcome area, would be at Babarpur bus terminal to meet someone and will be carrying a weapon," Deputy Commissioner of Police (special cell) Amit Kaushik said. Acting on the information, a police team laid a trap and apprehended Salim, DCP Kaushik said.

During a search, details including the location, address and photo of the two businessmen were recovered from Salim's possession, the police said. "On interrogation, he disclosed that he was conducting the reconnaissance on these businessmen on the directions of Rashid Cablewala," the DCP said. (PTI)

Uttarakhand accident: Victim at AIIMS succumbs to injuries, toll rises to 15

DEHRADUN, JUNE 16 /--/ A person injured in the tempo traveller accident in Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag succumbed to his injuries, taking the toll to 15, while the condition of four of the 11 injured is still critical, officials said on Sunday.

A person who was brought to AIIMS, Rishikesh by air ambulance after the accident on Saturday died late at night, trauma surgeon Ruby Kataria said. A tempo traveller carrying tourists skidded off the Badrinath national highway, rolled 200 metres down a gorge and fell into Alaknanda river, killing or injuring all 26 people present in it. Ten people died on the spot near Raitoli village, about four kilometres from Rudraprayag district headquarters. Kataria said the patient was brought to the hospital in a "brain dead" condition after which he was put on life support but he could not be saved. The doctor said that the remaining four injured at the hospital are also in critical condition and it will take a lot of time to shift them to the ward. Seven persons seriously injured in the accident were taken to AIIMS, Rishikesh through a heli-ambulance. Two of them died before reaching the hospital. At Rudraprayag district hospital, five accident victims admitted to Rudraprayag District Hospital were discharged on Sunday. The other two victims will be discharged on Monday, officials said. A team led by Pauri's divisional transport officer probing the accident went to the



Police and SDRF personnel at the spot where A tempo traveller slipped into a gorge at Rishikesh-Badrinath highway in Rudraprayag, claiming several lives

accident site and will submit its detailed investigation report by Monday. Uttarakhand Joint Transport Commissioner Sanat Singh said that prima facie the accident is believed to have happened because the driver was tired or drowsy due to overnight travel but the investigation team that has technical experts will determine the real reason.

Accidents in such mountainous parts happen due to narrow and bad roads but the road at the Rudraprayag accident site was in good condition and around six metres wide, he said. Jagmohan

Rawat, president of Gopinath Taxi-Sumo Vehicle Association in Rudraprayag, said that accidents happen in these parts as drivers from other states do not have the experience of driving in the mountains. He said that the tempo traveller in this case was booked from Delhi-NCR and the tourists were visiting Chopta. Rawat also questioned why there were 26 people in the vehicle, more than the prescribed capacity of 20, and said the accident happened after passing through half a dozen check posts within the state's border. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh

Dhami thanked villagers who reached the accident site and helped out with the relief and rescue operations. In a post on X, the Dhami said, "It has been a tradition of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand to serve tourists coming from all over the country with the spirit of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'."

According to Uttarakhand government data, 1,674 accidents were reported in the state in 2022, in which 1,042 people died and 1,613 were injured. The country reported 4,61,312 road accidents with 1,68,491 deaths and 4,43,366 injuries the same year. (PTI)

NRI assault in Himachal: Punjab Police will file Zero FIR: Minister Dhaliwal

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 16 /--/ Punjab Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal on Sunday said the Punjab Police will register a 'Zero FIR' in connection with assault on a Punjab-origin Non-Resident Indian (NRI), who alleged that he was beaten by a group of men over parking in Himachal Pradesh's Dalhousie.

A 'Zero FIR' can be filed at any police station, irrespective of the place of incident or jurisdiction, and can later be transferred to the appropriate police station. Dhaliwal's statement came in the wake of NRI Kawaljit Singh, who is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Amritsar, claiming that he was targeted as he was a Punjabi. The Himachal Pradesh Police, however, has maintained the incident

is not linked with any "inter-state or inter-community dispute." Dhaliwal, who on Sunday visited the hospital where Singh is under treatment, said, "I have asked the victim's family to give its statement to the police."

He said he also tried to talk to the Director General of Police of Himachal Pradesh, who said he was out of the state. Dhaliwal said that in a day or two, he would meet the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and the DGP and would hand over a copy of the FIR to them. NRI Affairs Minister Dhaliwal said that every day, thousands of people from Punjab visit tourist places like Shimla, Manali, Kasauli, and Dalhousie, and such incidents were not good from the tourism perspective. "The economy

of Himachal Pradesh is also heavily dependent on tourism. Such incidents will create fear and doubt in the minds of tourists. Therefore, the Himachal government should seriously consider this incident and take strict action against the culprits," he said. Singh and his Spanish wife, who had been living in Spain for 25 years, returned to Punjab recently. Singh said he had gone to Dalhousie with his wife and a relative a few days ago. According to his allegations, he was attacked by a group of around 100 people following an argument over some parking issue. He also accused the HP Police of showing apathy in the matter. However, an IPS officer from the state claimed such was not the

case. "Singh had come to Khajjiar in Chamba district and was doing palm reading for some women. Someone felt offended by this act and there was a scuffle. Later, both parties reached a compromise in front of the police," IG (Northern Range) Santosh Patial had said on Saturday. "He had given in writing that he wanted no legal action and left," the officer said. "There is nothing like an inter-state or inter-community dispute and tourists are welcome in Himachal," Patial said, dismissing the row as a stray incident. On Saturday, Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla and Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia also demanded the Himachal Pradesh government take action on the matter. (PTI)

Charas worth Rs 62 cr wash ashore in Gujarat in 10 days

DEVBHUMI DWARKA, JUNE 16 /--/ As many as 115 packets of charas worth Rs 62 crore have washed up on the shores of Devbhumi Dwarka district in Gujarat in the last 10 days, police said on Sunday.

Taking cognisance of abandoned drugs found in the coastal areas in the past, the district police had launched an operation to look for packets that were dumped by smugglers mid-sea and got washed ashore, an official said. In a search involving drone surveillance, a police team recovered 30 packets of charas, worth Rs 16 crore, near Javagnar on June 7, the police said in a release. A packet was found near Mojar on June 10, while 10 more were recovered between Mojar and Shivrampur villages the next day, it stated. As many as 64 drug packets were found in different places near Chandrahaga, Vachchhu and Gorij villages on June 15, the release said. With this, the total number of packets found in the last 10 days reached 115, it stated.

A forensic examination ascertained that the contraband was charas, weighing 123.72 kg, and the total value of the substance was Rs 61.68 crore, the release said. A special operations group (SOG) of Dwarka district and local police patrolled coastal villages and conducted awareness programmes for residents and fishermen, it stated. (PTI)

Punjab: 4 injured after tractor rams into bystanders during illegal tractor race in Phagwara

PHAGWARA, JUNE 16 /--/ Four persons were injured after a tractor ramed into bystanders during an illegal tractor race at a village here, police said on Sunday. Eleven men were booked, three of whom were arrested, for their involvement in holding the illegal tractor race in Domeli village, said Jalandhar Range Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Harmanbir Singh Gill. The injured were sent to a hospital for treatment. Gill said they were charged under relevant sections of IPC, including 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 279 (rash driving). Three tractors have also been impounded, he said. Police said the injured bystanders were identified as Gaganjit Singh from Babeli village, Amit from Rehana Jattan village and Gurpreet Singh from Munna village. The driver of the tractor Jaspal Singh was also injured in the accident, they said. All such races, including tractors or dogs, and cockfights have been banned by the Punjab government, the DIG said. (PTI)

Devotee drowns while taking bath in Gomti River in UP's Sultanpur

SULTANPUR, JUNE 16 /--/ On the occasion of Ganga Dussehra, a 30-year-old devotee drowned while taking a bath in Gomti river here, police said on Sunday. According to the police, Vinod Soni, a resident of Vivekanagar, had gone to

take a bath in the river at Dhopaap Ghat on Diyara Road under the Lambhua police station area. While bathing, Vinod's foot slipped suddenly and he drowned in the fast-flowing river, they said. Local divers immediately jumped into

the river to rescue Vinod but due to the swift currents, by the time they reached Vinod, he was already dead, the police said. After a considerable struggle, the divers managed to bring Vikram's body out of the river, they added. (PTI)



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav saints at Neel Ganga Sarovar on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra festival, in Ujjain on Sunday

Plastic skulls found in bag, 1 person detained; Nashik cops suspect black magic link

NASHIK, JUNE 16 /--/ Eight skulls reportedly made of plastic and suspected to be used in some black magic ritual were found in a gunny bag in Panchvati in Maharashtra's Nashik city, a police official said on Sunday. The bag was lying near a temple in Erandwadi area in Peth Phata here on Saturday and one person has been detained in this connection, the official said. "It may have been used for black magic. A preliminary probe revealed these human-like skulls are made of plastic. We registered a case under Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice, Other Inhuman and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act," the Panchvati police station official said. (PTI)

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Branch	Account No.	Actt Holder name	Father's/ Spouse Name	Address	Ac opening Date	Payoff
GHAZIABAD	101542513647	SALIM S KHAN	S/O MD. MAQSUD ALAM	NIVEDITA ROAD, NIVEDITA ROAD GLOBAL GYM SILIGURI (M. CORP) WARD NO-3 DARJEELING WEST BENGAL 734003	07/02/2024	51,552.79
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