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Lizard in breakfast 35 students take ill after food poisoning in Ramayampet hostel

Tuesday. As many as 35 students of TG Model School Ramayampet fell ill after having breakfast.

The students were suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea. The students alleged that they saw a house lizard in the breakfast, which resulted in the incident.

Since the students were holding no mobile phones, they could not take images or videos of the lizard at breakfast. The sick students were rushed to Area Hospital in Ramayampet where they were undergoing treatment.

Fake pension holders swindle Rs 90.6 lakh in Adilabad Adilabad: A misappropriation of Rs.90.6 lakh was unearthed during purification of data relating to pension

holders from several parts of the district on Monday.

Officials of the treasury department said 155 persons were found to be availing both family and Aasara pensions in Adilabad, Utnoor and Boath treasuries when data of beneficiaries of both family and Aasara pensions was linked using Aadhar cards. The misappropriation occurred from 2014 to 2024. A person with disability availed the highest

At Kremlin, PM Modi tells Putin that peace is necessary for future generations

Maha Oppn skips all party

meeting on reservation issue

GNS News Agency, July 9

Moscow: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that India, having always stood on the side of peace, is ready to assist Russia in any possible way to establish peace in the region."Yesterday, at your residence, we had a wonderful opportunity to spend four or five hours. We discussed all the issues in a homely atmosphere, and I am very glad that on the topic of Ukraine, we exchanged opinions in an open manner, respected each other's opinions, and talked calmly," said PM Modi while making his opening remarks during the bilateral with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Grand Kremlin Palace. While highlighting India-Russia friendship, his personal camaraderie with the Russian leader, his several visits to Russia and 22 summits between the two countries over the past 25 years, he said that the whole world is currently watching with great interest his ongoing visit to Moscow.

"As your friend, I always tell you that peace is necessary for the bright future of our future generations. That is why we believe that war is not a solution. There can be no solution through war. Bombs, missiles and rifles cannot ensure peace, that is why we emphasise dialogue, and dialogue is necessary," PM Modi remarked. He added that, during his informal talks with Putin at the latter's residence in Novo-Ogaryovo on Monday, some "very interesting ideas and completely new views" have emerged."I am very glad that yesterday we had such an informal conversation, and you expressed your opinion very



openly, without any colouring... Let's take war, any conflict or terrorist acts: any person who believes in humanity feels pain when people die, and especially when innocent children die. When we feel such pain, the heart simply explodes, and I had the opportunity to talk about these issues with you yesterday," Prime Minister Modi mentioned.PM Modi reiterated New Delhi's stance that no solution can ever be arrived at the cost of human lives and that escalation of hostilities and violence is in no one's interest."Yesterday we also agreed to establish peace as soon as possible and we are ready to assist in any way in this regard. I have heard your position, your positive views and thoughts. And I can assure you that India has always been on the side of peace. When I listened to you, I felt optimistic and hopes for the future arose. So I want to thank you for that," he said.

useful for the opposition to take part in today's meeting,"

he added. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar appealed to

the opposition to reconsider its decision and attend

today's meeting. "The opposition leaders can attend the

meeting and express their concerns. Today's meeting

aims to maintain social harmony, especially in the wake

of issues raised by Maratha, OBC and other communi-

ties. The opposition can make their suggestions at the

meeting. Therefore, I appeal to them to attend today's

meeting," the Deputy Chief Minister said.NCP legislator

Jayant Patil said that the opposition wants the issues

raised by the Maratha and OBC communities to be ami-

cably resolved and they are not opposed to those

issues. "Already an all party meeting was held. There is

no point to again attend today's meeting as the CM and

Deputy CM should have told what they discussed with

Maratha and OBC activists in the past. In any case, the

government is going to take a final decision," he

added.Congress legislator Nana Patole also said that

today's meeting should have taken place if the state gov-

ernment had briefed the opposition about the delibera-

tions that took place by the CM and Deputy CM with

Maratha and OBC activists.

Revanth Reddy Inspects Projects in Palamuru, Directs Officials to Complete KLIP by 2025

GNS News Agency, July 9

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently visited Palamuru district to review the progress of various development programs being implemented in the region. With an allocation of Rs.396 crores, projects such as the Palamuru Varsity STP, Academic Block, Gallery works, and Girls Hostel at MVS Government Degree College in Mahbubnagar Rural were inaugurated during the CM's

Following the inaugurations, a review meeting was held at Mahbubnagar Collectorate with officials and public representatives. CM Reddy directed the officials to complete the Kalvakurthi Lift Irrigation project by December 2025. He stressed the need for an action plan to be implemented on a war-like basis, with regular field-level examinations. The government has assured to release funds through a green channel to expedite the project.It was also decided during the meeting to conduct monthly



reviews to monitor the progress of the various project works in the district. CM Reddy emphasized the importance of timely completion of the irrigation projects to ensure the region's agricultural development.

BRS lost due to disconnect with people in Telangana, says KTR



GNS News Agency, July 9

Delhi: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday attributed the party's losses in the Assembly and the Lok Sabha elections to a 'disconnect' between party leaders and the people, calling for the need to introspect and a change in attitude among party members."There are many reasons for our defeat. One significant factor was that we did not engage enough with the people and publicise about the development takes will not help. There was a gap between us and the public, despite many schemes we introduced for their welfare," he said. In an informal interaction with the media in Delhi on Tuesday, Rama Rao said the attempts to erase the BRS's presence in Telangana would not succeed. The defection of some MLAs and MLCs from the party had no significant impact on the party. "We anticipated ups and downs. Our mission continues despite these challenges," he stated.

Rubbishing theories that the name change was a factor in the party's loss, he also denied allegations that arrogance led to the party's loss, pointing out that there

was a difference between confidence and arrogance. He said those who could not compete with BRS in development, created an artificial notion that the party leaders were arrogant. When asked about the political scenario in Andhra Pradesh, the BRS working president expressed his surprise over YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's defeat despite implementing numerous welfare schemes. Receiving 40 percent of the vote was still a notable achievement."An MLA like Kethireddy Venkarami Reddy from Dharmavaram who is always among the public losing his seat shocked me. At the same time, a person who got caught with currency became the Chief Minister here,"

He dismissed APCC president YS Sharmila's influence in AP politics, stating that she was used merely as a pawn to defeat Jagan. He also mentioned the impact of Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan's alliance with the NDA, attributing TDP's victory to this coalition. He felt that if Pawan Kalyan went alone, the results would have been completely different.Reacting to AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's recent remarks, Rama Rao said the TDP chief was enjoying a key position at the Centre and if he really wished to help Telangana, like he said in his recent Hyderabad visit, it would be a good thing.On the BBS inducting apposition MLAs when in power, former Minister T Harish Rao remarked that it had done no good for the party, pointing out that 10 such MLAs lost their

He observed that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had abandoned governance and was indulging in cheap politics even after coming to power. "Even after seven months in power, he is yet to get a hold on the State administration. His accusation that we were influencing the government using some officials only reflects his inefficiency. People are already noticing the difference between the Congress and the BRS, and want the latter at the helm of affairs at the earliest," he remarked.

BMW hit-and-run case: Mumbai bar where accused Mihir Shah consumed liquor sealed by excise department



Mumbai: Maharashtra opposition parties decided to

skip the meeting convened by Chief Minister Eknath

Shinde on Tuesday to discuss Maratha and OBC reser-

vation issues.Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Vijay

Wadettiwar said as the monsoon session was underway

it won't be possible to attend today's meeting. The meet-

ing was to take place on Monday but it did not happen

due to heavy rains. Wadettiwar said Chief Minister and

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had already

held talks with the pro-Maratha and pro-OBC quota activ-

GNS News Agency, July 9

New Delhi: The killing of five Army personnel in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district will not go unavenged and India will defeat the evil forces behind it, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane said on

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed deep anguish over the killing of the soldiers and asserted that the armed forces are determined to usher in peace in the region. Five Army personnel were killed and as many injured on Monday when a group of heavily-armed terrorists ambushed a patrolling party in Badnota area in Kathua. A massive search operation has already been launched to hunt down terrorists responsible for the attack."I am deeply anguished at the loss of five of our brave Indian Army Soldiers in a terrorist attack in Badnota, Kathua (J&K)," the Defence Minister said on X. I am deeply anguished at the loss of five of our brave Indian Army Soldiers in a terrorist attack in Badnota, Kathua (J&K). My deepest condolences to the bereaved families, the Nation stands firm with them in this difficult time. The Counter Terrorist operations are underway,...

"My deepest condolences to the bereaved families, the Nation stands firm with them in this difficult time. The Counter Terrorist operations are underway, and our soldiers are determined to usher in peace and order in the region," he said. "I pray for a speedy recovery to those who sustained injuries in this dastardly terror attack," Singh added.

Defence Secretary Aramane too expressed his "profound grief on the loss of five Bravehearts" in the attack and extended deepest condolences to the bereaved families."Their selfless service to the nation will always be remembered and their sacrifice will not go unavenged and India will defeat the evil forces behind the attack," he said. Aramane's remarks were shared on X by a spokesperson of the Defence Ministry.



GNS News Agency, July 9

A day after the Mumbai police said Mihir Shah, who allegedly mowed down a 45-year-old woman in Worli while driving a BMW car, visited a bar in Juhu with his friends hours before the accident, the Maharashtra excise department late on Monday sealed the establishment citing rules. The police said Mihir Shah, the son of Rajesh Shah, a senior leader of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, visited a bar in Juhu along with four of his friends and paid about Rs 18,730 at the establishment at around 1 am Sunday. A police officer probing the Mumbai BMW hit-and-run case said they recovered the bill and CCTV footage of the bar that will help them seek Mihir Shah's conviction in the case. While confirming that Global Tapas bar was sealed a senior excise department official said, "On the basis of our findings, we have served them a notice and sealed their establishment. We have also seized their license and a hearing shall be conducted in front of the collector after which an order shall be passed on it".

The excise department has ascertained that the establishment breached the license rules and also violated the Bombay Foreign Liquor Rules, 1953. "As per the norms set out in the state, an establishment cannot serve any hard liquor to their guests until they have turned 25,"

the excise officer added. The officer said after leaving the bar, Mihir Shah went to Borivali to drop off his friends and went to Marine Drive for a joy ride with his driver, Rajrishi Bidawat. While returning, he insisted on driving and subsequently rammed into the two-wheeler with Kaveri and Pradip Nakhwa on the Dr Annie Basant Road in Worli.Kaveri was killed in the accident after being dragged for over one and a half kilometres as she got stuck between the bumper and the tyre of the BMW car. The police alleged Mihir Shah changed his seat with Bidawat after the accident and later contacted his father, who asked him to flee and instructed the driver to take responsibility for the accident. Rajesh Shah and Bidawat were arrested in the case for helping Mihir escape. The Shinde Sena leader was released on bail on Monday.

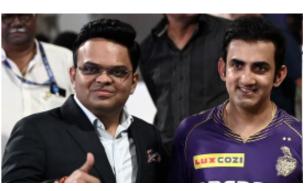
Court takes cognisance of EDs 7th supplementary chargesheet, summons Kejriwal

GNS News Agency, July 9

Arvind Kejriwal AAPThe anti-money laundering agency had arrested 55-year-old Kejriwal, also the national convenor of the Aam Aadmi Party, from his official residence here on March 21.

A court here on Tuesday took cognisance of the seventh supplementary chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy "scam". The federal probe agency has named Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party in the supplementary chargesheet.Special Judge Kaveri Baweja took cognisance of the chargesheet and issued summons to Kejriwal for July 12.

Gautam Gambhir replaces Rahul Dravid as Team India's new head coach



GNS News Agency, July 9

Gautam Gambhir has officially replaced Rahul Dravid as India's head coach on Tuesday. Dravid bid farewell to Rohit Sharma and Co. after winning the T20 World Cup 2024 in his final assignment as the Indian side's head coach. In the build-up to the T20 World Cup, the former Indian head coach had already clarified that he won't sign an extension after the recently concluded ICC event. Former India openers Gambhir and WV Raman were interviewed by BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) for the national team's head coach's position last month. Emerging as a frontrunner for the high-profile job, World Cup winner Gambhir recently completed his farewell video for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). The KKR mentor masterminded Kolkata's third title triumph in the 2024 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Confirming Gambhir's arrival at the Indian camp as head coach, BČCI secretary Jay Shah penned a special note for the two-time World Cup winner on X, formerly known as Twitter. The BCC secretary asserted that he is confident that Gambhir is the ideal person to steer Indian Cricket forward. "It is with immense pleasure that I welcome Mr GautamGambhir as the new Head Coach of the Indian Cricket Team.

Ranga Reddy | WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

MSP promise unmet

THE Punjab Government's failure to procure noong dal this year has left farmers in the lurch, compelling them to sell their produce to private players at ates below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 3,555 per quintal. This disheartening pattern has been generally evident since 2022, when CM Bhagwant Mann promised MSP-backed government procurement of the green pulse. His announcement had led to a ecord 77 per cent jump in sowing acreage that year. It was touted as a significant step in conserving ground-vater and improving soil health through crop diversification. The legume crop is also believed to benefit the soil by fixing its nitrogen level, which is conducive to petter paddy yield.

However, the scheme has not materialised, leavng private players to dominate the market and putting inancial strain on farmers. Moong is crucial for Punjab as the state produces only 15 per cent of the pulses it onsumes. Its promotion through procurement under MSP and Price Support Scheme would also help the Central Government meet its target of making the counry self-sufficient in pulses by 2027. But without governnent intervention, the cultivators are unlikely to overome the challenges. The situation calls for a more reable procurement scheme to protect farmers' intersts and ensure the success of crop diversification iniiatives in Punjab. Establishing more purchase centres and accredited warehouses could reduce distress sales by peasants. Introducing a deficiency price payment system could bridge the gap between the market price and MSP. Notably, in July 2022, Mann had announced hat the state would bear the gap of up to Rs 1,000 per uintal for the moong crop sold below MSP. Promoting FPOs (farmer producer organisations) could improve armers' bargaining power and market access.

Chanpreet Singh was cash handler for AAP in 2022 Goa polls: ED informs Delhi High Court in excise policy case

GNS News Agency, July 9

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday informed the Delhi High Court that Chanpreet Singh was a "cash handler" for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the 2022 Goa elections and is a "key person" involved in the transfer and use of proceeds of crime in the alleged excise policy scam. Singh, who was arrested by ED on April 12, moved the Delhi High Court after the trial court denied him bail on June 6. He is presently in judicial custody. On Wednesday, the HC listed the matter for hearing on July 9. The submission was made in ED's reply to Singh's regular bail plea moved before the HC. The central agency in its reply said Singh is "closely associated" with the accused co-persons and suspects such as Vijay Nair, Rajesh Joshi, and others. ED also said Singh was a "cash handler on behalf of the AAP in Goa Election who received Rs 45 Cr approx in cash through Hawala operators and then distributed to the vendors, survey workers, and volunteers etc who were working for the AAP

campaign in Goa". For this submission, the agency relied upon the data seized by the Income Tax Department on January 29, started) from an Angadiya or courier firm R Kantilal. The data was perused and then explained by Sagar Patel, an employee of the Goa-based firm. The agency referred to statements of various people and said, "Sagar Patel in his statement dated 14.08.2023 recorded u/s 50 of PMLA, revealed that he had delivered an amount of Rs. 17,38,14,500/- to Sh Chanpreet Singh, in Goa...Statement of Rajiv Ashok Mondkar, an associate of Sh Chanpreet Singh working on the AAP campaign in Goa dated 01. 09.2023 recorded u/s 50 of PMLA, wherein he revealed that on various occasions (about 10-12 times) in the months of Nov & Dec 2021, Sh Singh directed him to collect the box parcels containing cash money from Sagar Patel an Angadiya in Goa...". The agency said Singh was an employee of Chariot Productions Media Pvt Ltd since 2020 and later joined the AAP campaign "in his own capacity till March 2022 for the Goa election campaign". "Chanpreet Singh stated that he worked on the AAP campaign through M/s Chariot Productions Media Pvt Ltd on a freelance basis from May-June 2021 till March 2022. However Sh Rajesh Joshi in his statement has revealed that Sh Chanpreet Singh worked with M/s Chariot Productions only till January 2021 for which he was paid salary as well and that M/s Chariot Productions had no engagement with him after that," ED said in the reply. Singh, ED said, booked a stay for AAP leaders and an event of the party directly at Grand Hyatt Bambolim Goa in November 2021. "Chanpreet Singh directly made these bookings for AAP leaders in this hotel and made payments from his bank account. Sh Chanpreet Singh has not been able to give any explain the reason of this payment. He stated that he might have been asked by Sh Rajesh Joshi to make this booking. However, Sh Rajesh Joshi has revealed that he never asked Sh Chanpreet Singh to make this payment on behalf of M/s Chariot Productions Media Pvt Ltd," ED said.ED has also alleged Singh "has been giving false evidence" during the recording of statements under Section 50 of the PMLA. The agency has said Singh tried to conceal the information from it. Referring to an example of Singh's conduct, ED said that as per evidence, Singh deposited an amount of approximately Rs. 12 lakh in cash in his bank account from September 2020 to February 2023. But when he was asked to explain the source of such funds, ED said he gave "vague replies that he was working at shacks in Goa and doing other odd jobs".

However, ED alleged Singh "failed to give even a single name" of any employer/ shacks/ businesses that he claimed to have received such funds from.In his plea before the Delhi HC, Singh said that the special judge dismissed his bail plea "without considering" that the predicate offence is weak, that there are similarly placed co-accused who were never arrested during the investigation, no link has been established between him and the AAP among other grounds"The arrest of the Petitioner (Singh) is based on the statements recorded by the Investigation agency and there is no credible evidence or witness on whose instance even a prima facie guilt of the Petitioner/ accused can be established.

After NGT order, Pimpri-Chinchwad civic body to demolish 29 bungalows in Chikhli for violating green laws



GNS News Agency, July 9

The Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) has decided to demolish 29 "illegal" bungalows constructed in the Chikhli area for violating environmental laws, following a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order issued on Monday. The bungalows were allegedly built within the no-construction zone of the Indrayani River. "We have received the copy of the NGT order directing the PCMC to demolish the 29 illegal bungalows which have been constructed within the blue flood line area of Indrayani river," PCMC City Engineer Makrand Nikam confirmed to The Indian Express on Wednesday. The PCMC, he said, had not granted permission to construct the bungalows. Nikam said the PCMC will conduct a hearing of the residents who have constructed the bungalows and then initiate action. "We will give them an opportunity to represent their case before and then initiate action in the matter." Nikam said

Asked why the PCMC did not act when the bungalows were being constructed, Nikam said. "We had issued notices to them and had even demolished a few structures when we came across them. Yet the construction went on."Nikam said the blue flood line - an imaginary line that marks the possibility of floods in an average 25-year period - differs in every suburb of Pimpri-Chinchwad. "In this particular case, the blue line was up to 150 metres. These bungalows have come up within this no-construction zone," he said. Environmentalist Prashant Raul said he had brought the illegal constructions to the PCMC's notice. "The PCMC had then told me that the matter was already pending before the National Green Tribunal," he said. Raul further alleged that the builder managed to get a sewage treatment plant removed from the area, dumped debris in the Indrayani River and chopped down several trees. Sanjeev Sangale, chairman of Chikhli-Moshi Pimpri-Chinchwad Cooperative Housing Society Federation said, "When we had brought this activity to the notice of the PCMC two years ago, I was threatened. After that, I withdrew from the matter."

When asked as to why PCMC turned a blind eye to the construction activity at the spot, Municipal Commissioner Shekhar Singh said, "We had issued notices to the owners of the buildings when the fact was brought to our notice that they were violating bule line norm set by the irrigation department. Also, last month we demolished at least 13 buildings in the area. These buildings were not part of the 29 buildings. We did not touch the 29 buildings as the matter had been sub-judice, pending before the National Green Tribunal."The commissioner said the PCMC will hold a hearing of the residents as per the directives of the NGT. "The hearings will be held at the zonal office level, after which we plan to initiate the necessary action," Singh added. Tanaji Gambhire, a resident of Shukrawar Peth in Pune, is the petitioner in the case. Besides PCMC, the respondents in this case are the Maharashtra chief secretary, the principal secretary of the Maharashtra environment department, the Maharashtra State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) through member secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board; the secretary, urban development department; municipal commissioner; water resources department; and the district collectorate (irrigation department). In this order, the NGT said, "The respondents are directed to demolish the illegal structures constructed in the prohibited area of blue flood line of Indrayani River and to restore the area to its original position along with the consequential reliefs."The order further said that the builders were constructing in the prohibited area "without any permission from the concerned authorities" and that the project proponents gave rise to "substantial question relating to implementation of the environment protection and improvement enactments listed in Schedule-I of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010". Pointing out that the petitioner's application says that the Indrayani River passes through the town Alandi, which is a renowned pilgrimage place because of the town's association with Sant Dnyaneshwar, the NGT order said "huge pollution is happening in the water of that river". "The project in question is a part and parcel of the Indrayani River and are reserved as Green Zone where bungalow construction is prohibited under DC [Development Control] Rules of PCMC. The PCMC incorporated the marking of flood line on their Development Plan on 18.08.2009 vide EP-87 and that the project in question is shown as affected by prohibited blue flood line," the or-

Bengaluru's auto-rickshaw drivers-led Nagaraa app launches WhatsApp chatbot services



GNS News Agency, July 9

The platform also allows a driver to initiate a ride on their own for street hailing passengers through the unique driver QR code. The app provides every driver with their own unique webpage to share their professional credentials with the passengers. WhatsApp chatThe platform also allows a driver to initiate a ride on their own for street hailing passengers through the unique driver QR code. The app provides every driver with their own unique webpage to share their professional credentials with the passengers. The auto-rickshaw drivers-led Nagaraa app on Tuesday officially launched their WhatsApp chatbot and website services to allow passengers to seamlessly book metered auto rides.

Nagaraa, a SaaS-based application backed by Agnibu Technologies and Brand Pride Mobility Pvt Ltd in collaboration with 'professional autorickshaw drivers', was launched in June, allows drivers to discover customers both digitally and on-street at the approved fares. This is the second such community-led app launched after Namma Yatri.The WhatsApp chatbot initiative now

enables users to experience hassle-free booking, transparent fares among other options. A user can initiate the service by typing 'Hi' to the Whatsapp chatbot number '9620020042'. The user is given an OTP (one-time password) which is valid for eight minutes to start a street hailed ride. Else, the user can share the pickup location by clicking on the 'send location' button and get their rides assigned. The user will be given another OTP to initiate the ride. The platform also allows a driver to initiate a ride on their own for street hailing passengers through the unique driver QR code. The app provides every driver with their own unique webpage to share their professional credentials with the passengers.

The drivers further receive pick-up and destination locations through the easy to understand app interface for digitally hailed trips. The driver downs the fare meter only after punching in the passenger's OTP and directly collects the fare, calculated as per the distance travelled, displayed on the fare meter at the end of the trip.

According to Niranjanardhya N, CEO of Brand Pride Mobility Pvt Ltd, more than 1,500 drivers are onboard the platform and more than 500 rides have been completed. Meanwhile, the auto-rickshaw drivers have earned Rs 43,514 since the platform's launch in June earlier this vear. Niranian ardhva also stated that the platform will soon launch their dashboard on the lines of open mobility, sharing real time updates on the active auto rides. After onboarding sufficient auto-rickshaw drivers, the platform will take a call on imposing subscription fees after consulting with the auto-rickshaw drivers community. The objective of Nagaraa is to reintroduce the meter culture in autos by onboarding professional auto-rickshaw drivers in Bengaluru. The passengers will be charged as per the government fixed norms of Rs 30 for the first 2 km and Rs 15 for every subsequent kilometre.

Rahul Gandhi to participate in annual Pandharpur pilgrimage; BJP says MVA is doing it only for Assembly polls



"Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to join the pilgrimage on July 13 or 14 and take blessings of Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj and Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi while walking some distance with the pilgrims," said Congress legislator Sanjay Jagtap.

GNS News Agency, July 9

After the good performance of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the recently held Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will once again reach out to the public through the ongoing annual Wari pilgrimage from Pune to Pandharpur.On Tuesday, a delegation of newly elected MPs of the MVA along with

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar met Rahul Gandhi and invited him to participate in the annual pilgrimage. Congress MP Praniti Shinde and NCP (SP) MP Dhairyasheel Mohite-Patil were also a part of the delegation. "Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to join the pilgrimage on July 13 or 14 and take blessings of Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj and Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi while walking some distance with the pilgrims," said Congress legislator Sanjay Jagtan

The move to get Rahul Gandhi involved in the annual Pandharpur pilgrimage is being seen as an effort to further strengthen the MVA's reach among voters ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The MVA performed well during the Lok Sabha elections by winning 31 of the 48 seats in the state with Congress leading with 13 seats. During his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra that passed through Maharashtra twice, Rahul Gandhi received a good response from the people in the state. Maharashtra BJP Spiritual Cell leader Tushar Bhosale said NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar has no right to invite Rahul Gandhi for the annual pilgrimage. "How can a person who always hates Hindus be invited for the pilgrimage? The Wari has been passing through the hometown of Sharad Pawar for ages but the NCP (SP) leader has never followed it in his life, Bhosale said. Bhosale said Sharad Pawar and Rahul Gandhi are showing interest in the annual Pandharpur pilgrimage just with an eye on the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections.

Life term for hired killer who murdered 2 chief medical officers in Lucknow 6 months apart



GNS News Agency, July 9

A CBI court sentenced a 48-year-old private contractor to life imprisonment on Wednesday for the murders of two chief medical officers—Dr Brahm Prakash Singh and Dr Vinod Kumar Arya—in Lucknow within a span of six months in 2010-2011.The CBI investigated the cases on a direction issued by the Allahabad High Court in July 2011.

Last week the court held Anand Prakash Tiwari guilty under Indian Penal Code section 302 (murder) and the Arms Act but acquitted two others, Ram Krishna Verma and Vinod Sharma, on the benefit of doubt. "Besides sentencing Anand Prakash to life imprisonment in the two murder cases, the court also imposed a fine of total Rs 58,000 on him," said Deep Narain, Senior Public Prosecutor, CBI. In all, 47 prosecution and four defence witnesses were examined by the court. In the forensic examination of two weapons recovered based on information provided by Tiwari, it was found that they were used in the crime, said Deep Narain. The CBI is planning to approach high court against the acquittal of the two people in the case. Following their acquittals, Vinod Sharma was released from jail, while Ram Krishna Verma could not be released due to pending formalities.

A native of Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district, Tiwari left home and started living in Lucknow on rent in 2005. He worked as a supervisor in a construction firm owned by Verma. His lawyer B D Mishra said, "We will appeal against today's judgment in the high court." According to the prosecution, Dr B P Singh was shot dead by two motorcyclists while taking a morning walk near his home at Lucknow's Gomti Nagar area on April 2, 2011. His predecessor, Dr Vinod Kumar Arya, was killed in a similar manner near his home in the Vikas Nagar area on October 27, 2010.

During the investigation, the CBI found the involvement of deputy chief medical officer Dr Yogendra Singh Sachan, who was in jail for alleged financial irregularities in the implementation of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in Lucknow. These irregularities surfaced during the investigation of the murders. The CBI said the motive behind the murders was Dr Sachan's fear of being exposed over the misappropriation of NRHM funds. According to the CBI, Dr Sachan plotted the murders with Ram Krishna Verma and hired a shooter named Anand Prakash Tiwari as well as Vinod Sharma through Ram Krishna Verma. Tiwari then shot dead Dr Vinod Kumar Arya and Dr Brahm Prakash Singh, the agency said. While the investigation was underway, Dr Sachan's body was found under mysterious circumstances inside an unlit first-floor toilet of the jail on June 22, 2011. The investigators analysed call records of the three arrested accused. They claimed that phone conversations between Sharma and Verma, both of whom have been acquitted, helped the CBI solve the murders. The agency also recorded an extrajudicial confession of a person to whom Tiwari claimed to have confessed about killing the

Photos of baby dressed with Darshan Thoogudeepa's undertrial number goes viral; Karnataka child rights body registers case



GNS News Agency, July 9

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) on Wednesday took up a suo moto case after a baby was reportedly dressed in a jail inmate's uniform bearing the number '6106', the undertrial number for Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa accused of killing a 33-year-old man.KSCPCR took cognisance of the matter after the photo of the baby in a white dress with 6106 written on it, and the images of handcuffs and "Kaidi 6106" scribbled went viral on social media.While speaking to The Indian Express, Shashidhar Kosambe, Member, KSCPCR, said, "It is a violation of Section 74 (Prohibition on disclosure of identity of children) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. We have written a letter to cyber police to identify the origin of this photo".

After his fans got to know about the undertrial number given to Darshan Thoogudeepa, some of them have even approached the Regional Transport Office (RTO) to get their vehicle registered under the same number. In many cases, motorists have installed stickers on their vehicles and some of his fans also have tattoos of the number. Darshan Thoogudeepa, his friend Pavithra Gowda, and 11 others were arrested in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga, last month. According to the police, Renukaswamy was murdered as he had allegedly sent abusive messages and photos to Pavithra Gowda on Instagram. So far, the police have arrested 17 people in the Renukaswamy murder case, and all of them are presently in judicial custody.

Ranga Reddy INDIAN CHRONICLE WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024

Karnataka BJP leaders detained at protest seeking Siddaramaiah's resignation over scams



GNS News Agency, July 9

Karnataka BJP leaders including Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and state president B Y Vijayendra were detained by police on WednesdayKarnataka BJP leaders including Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and state president B Y Vijayendra were detained by police Karnataka BJP leaders including Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and state president B Y Vijayendra were detained by police on Wednesday as they attempted to besiege Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's home demanding his resignation and CBI inquiries into two recent scams

The Opposition party has demanded the CBI investigate the scams in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (KMVSTDC)

and the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). The first scam is related to the alleged misappropriation of funds, which led to the resignation of B Nagendra as scheduled tribes welfare minister.

The second scam took place in Siddaramaiah's native Mysuru district, when MUDA allotted sites to people who gave up land for the development of layouts by the authority. While bogus beneficiaries also got sites, a few who lost land were given alternative sites in prime areas of Mysuru. Siddaramaiah's wife Parvati is alleged to be one such beneficiary. Speaking after the protest, Ashoka demanded Siddaramaiah's resignation. "We will continue our demonstrations. In the next stage, we will protest inside the Houses of the state legislature until the cases are handed over to the CBI. The CM should resign," he said. More than 86,000 people have applied to MUDA for sites. "They did not get them. They are still waiting for sites. But the CM was allotted a site in a jiffy," Ashoka said. "The BJP's demand is to cancel the allocation of sites immediately."Vijayendra, also an MLA, said the Congress's promise of corruption-free governance had been laid bare. "In the KMVSTDC scam, hundreds of crores of rupees were sent to other states to fund elections," he alleged, adding that Nagendra was yet to be summoned for questioning even after resigning as a minister. Vijayendra alleged the government was protecting MUDA officials by just transferring, not suspending, them. "They are trying to cover up corruption. We will protest across the state," he added.

'I thought I shouldn't speak but...': Actor-politician Vijay wades into NEET debate, flags three issues with the test

GNS News Agency, July 9

Tamil superstar and leader of the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), Vijay, has voiced strong opposition to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). His speech, delivered during a meet-and-greet event honouring top-performing students of the recent 10th and 12th grade examinations on Wednesday, saw the actor advocate for the rights of students and the autonomy of state governments in educational matters.

At the event held at an auditorium in Chennai city, Vijay highlighted three major issues with NEET – its infringement on state rights, its detrimental impact on students from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds, and the loss of trust in the examination's credibility due to recent irregularities."I thought I shouldn't speak today about anything," Vijay began before a cheering crowd of school students, "but then I thought I shouldn't be shying away from a crucial issue." "NEET is a topic that needs immediate attention. Students from the poorest of the poor, backward, and most backward communities are affected due to NEET. This is a fact," Vijay said

Stating that the implementation of NEET is fundamentally against the rights of state autonomy, Vijay argued that the concept of 'one country, one curriculum, one selection' goes against the very core idea of education. "Education should be unique for each state. It should be diverse and have the capacity to look at different perspectives. Diversity is a strength, not a weakness, we should understand that," he said. "After you study the state syllabus, and if you are put through to an exam in the NCERT syllabus, it is detrimental to the scope of future education of poor students," he said. Citing reports of irregularities in the NEET examination, Vijay said that the



public has lost trust in its credibility. "From reports that have come out, we have already realised that NEET is something not required at all anymore," he said. He welcomed the recent state assembly's resolution seeking the national ban of NEET and proposed bringing education back from the concurrent list to the state list or, as an interim measure, creating a special concurrent list through a constitutional amendment. He argued that states should recapture absolute control over education, while the Union government could retain NEET for its own institutions like AIIMS.

He reminded students that "learning is fun, education is a celebration". "Study happily, do not take any stress. There are plenty of opportunities. Do not get upset even if you miss a few opportunities. There is a beautiful world promised by God. Victory is certain," he said. His advocacy for state autonomy in educational matters aligns with his party's broader agenda, as TVK prepares for the 2026 assembly elections. In the transition process from a celebrated actor to a political leader, Vijay's speech also comes on the same day the DMK students' wing organised statewide protests against NEET.

Officials visit Foxconn iPhone plant, question executives about hiring: Report

GNS News Agency, July 9

Foxconn hiring practices, Foxconn factory in India, Foxconn iPhone assembly jobs, Foxconn discrimination allegations. Foxconn recruitment policies. Foxconn factory in Chennai, Foxconn labour department inquiry, Foxconn employment statistics, Foxconn third-party hiring agents, Foxconn and married women, Foxconn compliance with labour laws, Foxconn family responsibilities and employment, Foxconn pregnancy and absenteeism, Foxconn high-production periods, Foxconn employment discrimination, Foxconn women's employment issues, Foxconn supply chain policies, Foxconn and Apple suppliers. Foxconn response to allegations, Foxconn and Indian labour officialsIndian law does not bar companies from discriminating in hiring based on marital status, though Apple's and Foxconn's policies prohibit such practices in their supply chains.

Labour officials visited a Foxconn factory in the country's south this week and questioned executives about the company's hiring practices, an official said, after Reuters reported that the major Apple supplier has been rejecting married women from iPhone assembly jobs. A five-member team of the federal government's regional labour department visited the Foxconn factory near Chennai, in Tamil Nadu state, on July 1 and spoke to company directors and human resources officials, A Narasaiah, the regional labour commissioner, told Reuters by telephone on Wednesday. Foxconn did not immediately respond to a request for comment, while Apple did not address questions from Reuters about the visit. The inquiries come after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government asked state officials and the office of the federal government's Regional Chief Labour Commissioner last week to provide detailed reports on the matter, following Reuters' investigation into hiring practices at the manufacturing facility. "We are collecting information, and have asked the company to submit documents like company policies, recruitment policies" as well as evidence of compliance with labour laws and information on maternity and retirement benefits, Narasaiah said. "They told us they are not discriminating." Narasaiah said Foxconn told the labour officials the factory employs 41,281 people, including 33,360 women. Of these women, some 2,750, or about 8%, were married, he said, citing Foxconn's submission. Foxconn did not break down the staffing figures into specific areas such as iPhone assembly, where Reuters reported the discrimination was taking place, Narasaiah said. He added that the labour inspectors interviewed 40 married women inside the plant,

Narasaiah said he currently has no plan to question Foxconn's third-party hiring agents, who scout for candi-

who raised no concerns about discrimination.



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dates and bring them to the plant for interviews. A Reuters investigation published last week found Foxconn systematically excluded married women from assembly jobs at its main Indian iPhone plant on the grounds they have more family responsibilities than their unmarried counterparts. Foxconn HR sources and third-party hiring agents cited family duties, pregnancy and higher absenteeism as reasons for not hiring married women. The reporting also found that Taiwan-based Foxconn relaxes the practice of not hiring married women during high-production periods. The story has sparked debates on TV channels, newspaper editorials, and calls from opposition figures and women's groups, including within Modi's party, to investigate the matter.

Responding to the Reuters investigation, Apple and Foxconn acknowledged lapses in hiring practices in 2022 and said they had worked to address the issues. All the discriminatory practices documented by Reuters at the Tamil Nadu plant, however, took place in 2023 and 2024. The companies did not address those instances. Foxconn, also known as Hon Hai Precision Industry, has previously said it "vigorously refutes allegations of employment discrimination based on marital status, gender, religion or any other form." Apple has said all its suppliers, including Foxconn, hire married women and all its suppliers, including Foxconn, hire married women and "when concerns about hiring practices were first raised in 2022 we immediately took action and worked with our supplier to conduct monthly audits to identify issues and ensure that our high standards are upheld."Indian law does not bar companies from discriminating in hiring based on marital status, though Apple's and Foxconn's policies prohibit such practices in their supply chains

What has climate change to do with tomato prices?



GNS News Agency, July 9

Ajit Gholap's cost of production for his summer tomato crop this year was more than usual. Gholap, who grows the crop over 15 acres of his holding in Rohakadi village in Junnar taluka of Pune, blames the extra cost on exceptionally high temperatures. "Summer tomato is my staple crop. But this year I had a tough time keeping the crop alive," he said. "Since the middle of March, the mercury was above 40 degrees Celsius and continued till May. The cost of drip on mulching and protective measures went out of hand," exclaimed Gholap.

While he managed to keep his crop alive, his yields took a hit—from 70 tonnes per acre, Gholap saw his yield fall to 40 tonnes. "My practices are some of the best in the region. Others reported yields as low as 20-30 tonnes/acre," he said. Thus, even if tomato retails at Rs 4,000-4,500/quintal at the local Narayangaon' wholesale market, farmers have little reason to rejoice. Low yield and increased cost of production wiped out most of the profits they were supposed to make. Along with other vegetables, the price of tomato in most retail markets of the country is above Rs 70/kg. This price escalation started in May and

if trade sources are to be believed, it is expected to stay till the next few weeks. Lower than expected arrivals at the markets, traders say, is the reason for this price rise. At Pune's wholesale market, tomato prices are between Rs 50-60/kg, a steep rise from Rs 30-40/kg a few months ago.

Farmers like Gholap blame this price rise on increased summer heat. Deepak Bhise, another farmer from Junnar who heads the Tomato Growers Association of the area, said between March to May this year, they witnessed unusually high temperatures. "For more than 45 days, temperatures crossed the 40 degrees Celsius mark. Tomato as a crop is unable to withstand such heat," he said. The heat brought with it side effects which farmers were ill prepared to deal with. "Tomato is grown over raised beds and in order to conserve moisture, we cover the beds with mulching paper and install drip irrigation. As temperatures soared, we increased the frequency of irrigation which led to moisture being trapped near the root zone. The hot and humid conditions made the plant susceptible to fungal attacks. Our expenditure on fungicides doubled this year," said Gholap.Lower than usual yields and higher cost of production saw most growers record losses. For tomato growers in Junnar, the crop is slowly becoming unsustainable from the economic point of view. "The effect of climate change is pronounced in our area...summer temperatures had never been this high," said Gholap. The summer of 2024, as per IMD, was one of the hottest in recorded history. Bhise said most farmers in their area are looking for alternatives. "Sugarcane seems like a good option for now with the area under the crop increasing rapidly," he said. Farmers say a heat tolerant variety of tomato would help them survive the effects of climate change but such a variety is not available

Meet the bar specialist

GNS News Agency, July 9

Eyeballs roll when you opt for his line of work. But a driven and determined Lakshey Bhatia chose to hush the naysayers and chase his dream of creating the ultimate bar experience for all occasions. With his roots in Karnal, this civil engineer shares his journey from a working middle class family to running a club, taking over house parties and how one spicy guava drink changed his life.I've been fascinated with pubs, clubs, the vibe and life around it. Trust me, it was not about partying - it was the experience, the detail in the design, eye-catching bar counters with handpicked spirits and mocktails, the clink of fine cut glasses, the mind-boggling variety of beverages, the magic of mixology. I would watch the bartender work wonders behind that counter, the lights and music bringing it all together. I knew I wanted to be part of this world. So, I took the risk of giving up a well paying banking job in 2018. My friends and I, the three of us, pooled in our resources and opened our first club, Grapho 07 in Chandigarh, in 2019. Unfortunately, Covid struck, and we suffered a setback during the lockdown. Now, the need to survive drives one to innovate. I parted ways with Grapho 07, and started setting up theme based bars in house parties. It was 2020. Being the first mover in this segment here, work started pouring in, and weddings were next. Today, Sassy Bar customises premium bar space for more than 130 weddings across India in one

How did you translate the idea into the brand that it is today?

For an idea to translate into a brand takes time, patience and consistency. One has to also have the clarity of what they are presenting, and who their target audience is. Now 'bars' carry a certain reputation of being only about spirits, hard drinks and masculine energy. They are caught in a cliche. I wanted to reinvent and reintroduce this space, raise the bar per se, turn them into conversation starters. This required intense research, travel across India to check out different set ups and the competition, hiring professional bartenders, training the staff, curating inventory, building a reliable vendor network, educating people on how a bar can be a thematic and personalised space by introducing an element of storytelling through our products. From weddings, birthdays, baby showers, house parties, receptions, anniversaries to corporate events, celebrations, even a chowki, Sassy Bars has conceptualised, customised and delivered experiential spaces by going beyond alcohol. It required thinking out of the box - for instance, we set up a beautiful bar counter with all traditional non alcoholic beverages for a vegetarian client. What sets us apart is the details too - handmade keepsakes, made to order cutlery and crockery, handwritten menus, art on coasters, customised candles, napkin...Sassy Bar today is known for its premium bar catering.

What were the challenges and milestones – how far have you built on this idea?

The first challenge was to leave the safety of a well paying government job. It took me more than a year to find my feet in this business, to convince people how different Sassy Bar was as a concept. Then there are the constant checks and balances one has to keep a hawk eye on - for instance taking stock of the inventory, cost and pilferage control, keeping up with the trends, licensing, insurance. During my struggling years, I've loaded bar inventory myself, ferried bartenders and servers and rushed from one venue to another all night. Hotels were a roadblock, so were banguet owners because they already had vendors in place. The black market was another beast to tackle. Being a standalone bar business it was tough getting a foot in the door. Last minute cancellations, non stop travel, delayed payments are all part of the business. But there are upsides, always. Like, when I pushed a local vendor to create life size acrylic graphic boards for the background. He was hesitant, but today has built a massive business around it. I shall never forget my first client, Saurabh Sachdeva in Karnal who gave me a break. I've never let go of repeat clients or referrals. My marriage in 2022 changed my perspective when my wife Kakshma brought in more optimism, structure and creativity to the business. Sassy Bar has been built as an artistically inclined, theme based premium bar services brand, one that is also breaking myths about bars.

Now that you're a successful entrepreneur, how much do you think your academic background helped?

General education helps better communication and fine liasoning. But specifically my degree in civil engineering has carved a new business opportunity for me. It has helped me understand structural design, which further helps me in constructing bars for events. In fact, it's even earned me several queries about designing bars for homes in recent times. Working in the banking sector



made me financially literate and I have been able to bootstrap and fund my venture.

What can Chandigarh do to retain its talent?

Chandigarh as a city has blossomed into a mini metropolis. It has grown phenomenally, and seen a boost in more events, clubs, house parties etc. This offers an opportunity for more employment in the hospitality sector and that's where we need to focus to retain the talent by offering them more schools of hospitality, training and internship at the five stars and clubs here, increasing their salary to match the cost of living in the city. Bartending is not a very high paying job. Girls as bartenders and servers often end up being harassed at events. There is a need to bring a cultural and attitudinal change, which is where we step in. Our endeavour has always been to ensure income stability, security, a healthy work environment and opportunities for growth. We ensure girl staff members are treated with dignity, and not subject to undue harassment, and reach home safely after work. Our vision is also to build a school of mixology with the aim to provide the budding talent with a platform to learn and

What's your advice to budding entrepreneurs?

Be patient, be persistent and have faith in yourself and your idea because if you believe in it, people will too. Do not short sell yourself for it compromises quality. Have a quiet confidence about your work. Learn to take the tough decisions, to be open to change and ideas, and a bit of Indian jugaad. Be prepared for crazy working hours, for rejections and disappointments. I still remember how we reached the venue during farmer's protest and blocked roads, and catering to events in Kasauli, Karnal and Mussoorie in one day! Research about your client and always meet in person for it helps to know who the decision maker amongst the client's family is. Always have a Plan B. For instance, in our line of work, bar props usually end up getting damaged. People, when they party, tend to forget the value of things around them. I learnt to insure my inventory, invest in godown space, factor in the weather conditions and always have an electrician on call. There are long gestational periods in this line, it's mostly seasonal work, so one has to constantly network in the right circles throughout the year. Being an entrepreneur means sleepless and stressful days and nights, but it's immensely rewarding.

One thing you like and dislike about Chandigarh?

Chandigarh is home for people from diverse backgrounds, traditions and cultures thus making it an ideal place for big fat weddings and grand celebrations. Also, its proximity to neighbouring states, especially the hills serves as a vantage point for destination weddings. But I feel the clientele is brand specific and stereotypical. It's a tough place to start a new business house or idea to bloom smoothly.

Zika cases rise to 8, Centre issues advisory of surveillance

New Delhi: Amid the rise in Zika virus cases in Pune, the Centre, on Wednesday, issued an advisory to all states asking them to step up vigil. Zika virus disease (ZVD) is a mosquito-borne disease transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. While it is usually mild to moderate disease in adults and requires no specific treatment, in pregnant women, it may cause microcephaly, a condition in which the head is significantly smaller due to abnormal brain development, in the foetus. Maharashtra has reported eight cases of Zika virus till July 2. Of these, six are from Pune, one each from Kolhapur and Sangamner, and 2 are pregnant women. "In view of some reported cases of Zika virus from Maharashtra, Dr Atul Goel, Director General of Health Services (DGHS), has issued an advisory to states highlighting the need for maintaining a state of constant vigil over the Zika virus situation in the country," the Health Ministry said

Ranga Reddy **INDIAN CHRONICLE WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024**

Unauthorised hawkers have taken over Mumbai's streets, pedestrians' tolerance doesn't reduce their sufferings: HC



GNS News Agency, July 9

mumbai hcThe court also sought affidavits from the BMC and police on steps taken in the last two years for removing illegal and unlicensed hawkers or street vendors and posted further hearing to July 22. The Bombay High Court has recently observed that unauthorised hawkers and street vendors have "virtually taken over street lanes and bylanes" in Mumbai with "no place for people to walk on footpaths". "There is the problem of haphazard parking. The pedestrians are thus forced to navigate between the unauthorised hawkers and the haphazardly parked vehicles to commute. The monsoons and the failing drainage or sewage infrastructure compound this problem even further," the court said in an order on June 24. "Merely because the members of the public are tolerant or possibly fed up with complaining anymore to the civic authorities does not reduce the magnitude of this problem or their immense sufferings."A division bench of Justices M S Sonak and Kamal R Khata passed the order on a suo motu plea initiated by the court in February last year after two shop owners from Borivali (East) complained that several unauthorised stalls had come up in front of their shop. The bench then said the detailed order would be passed separately. It was made available on Tues-

The bench came down heavily on the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the police for failing to act against illegal hawkers who encroach on footpaths, and said roads are cleared only during the visits of the prime minister and other VVIPs. "The hawkers on street vendors return within a few minutes of a clean-up drive. Civic-minded citizens are then frustrated. Such citizens would not be wrong to think, 'who has the time to follow up? Keep complaining daily? Why should we care? Let it be the way it is'. This is exactly the sentiment on which the lawbreakers thrive," the detailed order stated.

The bench also referred to assaults on people complaining against illegal hawkers. "Who is to protect a citizen complaining about the illegalities? The State, BMC, and the Police, by their inaction, at least indirectly encourage such lawlessness. This compromises the rights and liberties of the citizenry, who complain and eventually become victims of brutal force," the bench said. Responding to the submissions on how roads and footpaths are cleared of encroachments during VIP movements and potholes filled overnight, the bench remarked, "All this makes us wonder whether it is not the means but the will to enforce the law that is lacking. Do not the lawabiding citizens with whose money these VIPs function deserve the same treatment? Isn't it their right to insist that laws are obeyed and, if not voluntarily obeyed, enforced by the executive arm?"The court directed the BMC and police to earmark the "most congested areas or streets where complaints of illegal hawking or street vending emanate" and implement the Supreme Court's orders against illegal hawking "at least for a month" and inform the high court about the problems faced and the solutions to them. The court also sought affidavits from the BMC and police on steps taken in the last two years for removing illegal and unlicensed hawkers or street vendors and posted further hearing to July 22.

CISF constable Kulwinder Kaur who slapped Kangana Ranaut transferred to Bengaluru

GNS News Agency, July 9

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) constable Kulwinder Kaur, who was suspended after she allegedly slapped BJP MP Kangana Ranaut at the Chandigarh airport last month, has been transferred to Bengaluru. According to sources, Kulwinder Kaur remains under suspension and she has been transferred to a reserve battalion of CISF in Bengaluru.

CISF suspended Kulwinder Kaur after the incident on June 6 at the Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport and launched an internal inquiry against her. A case of assault was also registered against Kaur at the Airport Police Station after the incident.Kaur allegedly slapped Kangana Ranaut in the security hold area when the Kangra MP was going to board a flight to Delhi from the airport on June 6. After the incident, Kulwinder Kaur alleged she was angry at Kangana over her statements on farmers during the farmers' protest against the now-



scrapped farm laws. In a video message after the incident, Kangana Ranaut said she was hit by the constable. She also gave a controversial statement on Punjab's law and order which was condemned by the major political parties in the state.

Agra police deny permission for Bhole Baba's programme after Hathras stampede



GNS News Agency, July 9

A massive stampede took place during a 'satsang' (religious congregation), in Sikandara Rao area in Hathras district, Wednesday, July 3, 2024. (Express Photo)A massive stampede took place during a 'satsang' (religious congregation), in Sikandara Rao area in Hathras district, In the wake of the stampede that claimed 121 lives at a religious gathering in Hathras, the Agra police have denied permission to hold a seven-day programme of Narayan Sakar Vishwa Hari, a self-styled preacher also known as Bhole Baba, from Thursday. However, the police cited other reasons for the rejection of the application

filed a few days ago by a sewadar of Bhole Baba. The applicant proposed holding the programme for an estimated crowd of 10,000-12,000 people in an open field in Nagla Kesari village under the Saiya police station limits. The police then sought reports from various sections of the police and administrative officials. "Based on the opinions obtained from different sources, the application seeking permission to hold his seven-day programme was rejected," said Devesh Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Agra, adding that a detailed inquiry is conducted at several levels before granting permission for any new programme."One of the criteria for rejecting the application was that no previous programmes of his had been organised here," he added. The background of the person seeking permission or for whom the permission is sought is thoroughly reviewed during the inquiry, according to the police. However, sources said the permission was rejected on Tuesday, after the stampede in nearby Hathras. Upender Srivastava, SHO of the Saiya police station, said the permission to hold the Bhole Baba programme had been sought by a local resident. "After considering all factors, I gave my opinion on the application filed," he said, adding that the police could not find any record of the Bhole Baba programme having been

Sexual assault allegations: Suraj Revanna's judicial custody extended till July 18

GNS News Agency, July 9

A Bengaluru court has placed JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, who faces allegations of sexually assaulting two men, in judicial custody until July 18 following a hearing on Wednesday. (On June 26, a second case of sexual assault case was also registered against him based on a complaint by one of his close associates in Holenarasipura rural police station. A Bengaluru court has placed JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, who faces allegations of sexually assaulting two men, in judicial custody until July 18 following a hearing Suraj Revanna was arrested on June 23 for allegedly sexually assaulting a male party worker following a complaint. On June 26, a second case of sexual assault case was also registered against him based on a complaint by one of his close associates in Holenarasipura rural police station in Hassan district. Significantly, the complainant is also an accused in the first sexual assault case filed against Suraj Revanna by a 27-year-old worker of the party. the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court had extended the police custody of Suraj Revanna for two more days. Suraj is the the elder brother of former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna who is also facing sexual assault allegations and was arrested on May 31. The two



are sons of JD(S) MLA H D Revanna who is a Union Minister and former Karnataka CM H D Kumaraswamy's older brother. A doctor by trade, Suraj Revanna was the seventh member of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's family to be elected to office in Karnataka. He contested from the Hassan Local Authorities constituency for the Legislative Council and won the polls in January 2022. With Suraj's arrest, both of H D Revanna's sons are now behind bars while Revanna himself and his wife Bhavani Revanna are out on bail in a case of alleged

Election Commission sends notice to Engineer Rashid over poll expenditure discrepancy



GNS News Agency, July 9

The Election Commission has sent a notice to newly elected MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid who is in jail in a terror funding case, over a significant disparity in his election expenditure report for the Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir. The election authority has asked for a response within two days.

The notice was served by the deputy district election officer in Baramulla Tuesday, highlighting the expenditure register submitted by Rashid showed Rs 2.10 lakh, while the actual amount recorded in the shadow register maintained by observers amounted to Rs 13.78 lakh.Rashid, incarcerated in Delhi's Tihar Jail following his arrest by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2019 on terror funding charges, has been granted a twohour custody parole to take oath as a Lok Sabha member on July 5. He had sought interim bail or custody parole to fulfil his parliamentary duties. The notice requested Rashid or a representative of his to appear before the district expenditure monitoring committee within two days to address the discrepancy and ensure timely submission of the expenditure report to the Election Commission of India.A failure to comply with election expense reporting requirements could lead to disqualification by the Election Commission under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, for a period of three years, the notice said. Elected as an independent candidate, Rashid won the Baramulla seat by defeating National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in the recent Lok Sabha elections.

Questions were raised during the Lok Sabha elections as to how Rashid's liabilities reduced significantly and assets increased over the past five years despite him being in jail. According to the 2024 poll affidavit, the former MLA's assets were valued at Rs 1.55 crore compared to Rs 80 lakh in 2019. It includes a 41,072 sq ft non-agriculture land in his home town Langate and a house in Srinagar worth Rs 90 lakh. A science graduate with a diploma in civil engineering, Rashid has declared Rs 11.31 lakh home loan and Rs 3.11 lakh Kisan Credit Card loan as liabilities.

Five years earlier, he had declared a residential house in the posh Jawahar Nagar locality of Srinagar, purchased in 2017, as his only asset and also stated that he had a liability of Rs 60 lakh towards a home loan from a bank.Rashid won the Langate assembly segment in 2008 and 2014. He unsuccessfully contested the 2019 parliamentary elections. On October 7, 2017, he sparked a major controversy by hosting a beef party on the lawns of the MLA hostel in Srinagar and said, "No court or legislature can prevent the people from eating what they want." He was assaulted by BJP MLAs inside the assembly the next day. According to the FIR by the NIA, the case against Rashid was registered for raising, receiving and collecting funds through illegal means to fund separatist and militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir and for causing disruption in the Valley by way of pelting stones on the security forces, burning schools, damaging public property and waging war against India. His name cropped up during the interrogation of businessman and co-accused Zahoor Watali.Later, Rashid's bail application was rejected by a special court in Delhi, stating that the accused received unaccounted funds from Watali against whom there had already been reasonable grounds for a prima facie case under the Unlawful Activities (Preven-

India calls for caution on actions rooted in authorisation from a UNSC not representative of current realities

GNS News Agency, July 9

Underlining the need to strengthen the existing mechanisms in UN peacekeeping operations, India has urged caution against actions rooted in authorisation from a Security Council that does not represent current realities and underscored the need to reform the powerful UN body. Delivering India's position on UN Policing during the 4th UN Chief of Police Summit held here last month, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka said that while creating the right political conditions and supporting development is conducive to creating conditions where conflict doesn't take root, "we have to be wary of infringing upon the sovereignty of host nations and their various political stakeholders, especially given the current mistrust the world has in our multilateral systems".

"We have also been witnessing conversations on peace enforcement in the context of peace operations. While we need to strengthen existing mechanisms, we call for caution on any activity that is rooted in authorisation from a Security Council that is not representative of current realities," he said at the session titled 'Strengthening Peace Operations and Peace Enforcement'. Deka said as the Security Council is the institutional architecture primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, it is important that the 15-nation UN organ is a reformed body with the expansion of member ship in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. Given that more than half of the Security Council's work is focused on Africa, India has been consistently calling for greater representation of Africa in line with the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, he said. Deka said the changing nature of armed conflict, with a surge in intra-state conflicts involving non-state armed groups, has increasingly exposed peacekeeping operations to regional and global dynamics that undermine their efforts to implement their mandate. The maintenance of international peace and security has become more complex and calls for strengthening our peace operations in a manner that they are rooted in clear mandates, backed by adequate resources and incorporating clear exit strategies."Our recent experiences have been indicating the fallacy of solutions being imposed from outside. India has always stressed that there can be no substitute for national efforts in creating an environment where civilians are secure," he said, adding that it is important that conducive conditions are created for local political and social processes to take hold. "The eroding support of host nations to the presence of peacekeepers is a reflection of the failure to address the root causes of



Apart from being one of the largest troop-contributing countries, Indian police contribution to UN peacekeeping is also a priority area with the Formed Police Unit of 139 personnel deployed in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which included 11 women.India also has 11 individual police officers deployed in the UN mission in South Sudan and one deployed in the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Deka said India's experience has revealed recently further learnings that can be employed in its operations."We have experienced, in the context of our deployment in a conflict-ridden situation, that there are divergences in interpretation of mandates between various stakeholders, which results in inadequacy of mandate delivery as well as a threat to the safety of our peacekeepers."It is, thereby, extremely important that there is continuous and effective coordination between the UN leadership, host nation as well as Troop/Police Contributing countries. This is necessary right from conception when Mission mandates are drawn, to the execution process, till the time of exit of Missions. Strengthened peace operations call for strengthened coordination," he said. Further complicating the conflict scenarios is the misuse of the access to digital and social media which is used to spread misinformation and disinformation, Deka said, adding that this calls for strategic communication to be strengthened as also creating local awareness on the mandate of the peacekeeping missions so that there are no misplaced expectations on part of local government and society."At the same time, we must accept that host nations would need our support in their endeavour of finding lasting solutions, and towards this end, we must promote multilateral solutions, including regional partnerships, that can overcome the limitations of the Security Council's outdated member-

Youth Congress workers shave their heads; police book protestors under new criminal laws

GNS News Agency, July 9

Raising slogans against the BJP-led Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA), the student outfits of some INDIA bloc parties staged a protest at the Jantar Mantar here on Wednesday against alleged irregularities in several competitive exams.In a separate protest, the Congress' youth wing, Indian Youth Congress (IYC), staged a demonstration against the irregularities near the protest site. Several Youth Congress workers shaved their heads as a sign of protest while raising "anti-Modi" slogans. The members of the Left-backed All India Students Association (AISA), Student Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Federation (AISF), along with the Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha and the Congress' students wing NSUI gathered at the Jantar Mantar to take out a march. The student groups aimed to march to the Parliament to press for their demands of scrapping the National Testing Agency, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation and decentralisation of entrance tests. However, the students were not able to hold the march due to heavy police deployment and barricading at the siteThey also demanded re-examination of the medical entrance test NEET-UG for all candidates, who had appeared in the May 5 exam. Meanwhile, the police has registered an FIR under the new criminal laws against some students, who have been staging an indefinite sit-in at the Jantar Mantar against alleged rigging

in the NTA held examinations. Over a dozen of these students belonging to different outfits, including Left backed AISA and Delhi University's KYS under the banner "India against NTA", were detained on Tuesday while attempting to march to the Parliament to press their demands. The police has now registered a case against the students under the new criminal laws, they said. Their protest entered its eighth day on Wednesday as they joined the "Sansad Gherao" call by the student outfits of the INDIA bloc parties. An FIR was also registered against NSUI national president Varun Choudhary and some others for barging into the NTA office and putting an iron lock and chain at its entrance gate last week. On July 1, three new criminal laws — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) came into effect. The NTA on Monday released the results of the re-test held for 1,565 candidates, who were given the opportunity to compensate for the loss of time due to late staring of the exam at six centres. Various student outfits have been demanding re-examination of the NEET UG for all 24 lakh candidates, who had appeared in it. In the line of fire over the alleged irregularities in the NEET and the PhD entrance NET, the Centre removed National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General Subodh Singh last week and notified a high-level panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief R Radhakrishnan to ensure transparent,

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How an Indian origin man's plea against Meta's 'biased practices' can badly impact H-1B visas and hirings



GNS News Agency, July 9

A recent decision by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals could have significant ramifications for the future of H-1B visas in the United States and potentially lead to increased litigation against American companies employing foreign workers. The court reversed the dismissal of a proposed class action against Meta Platforms, Facebook's parent company, which was accused of discriminating against U.S. citizens in its hiring practices.

What is the case against Meta and what did the court y?

The class action was filed by Purushothaman Rajaram, an Indian origin U.S. citizen, who claimed that Meta refused to hire him in favour of "noncitizens holding H1B visas to whom it can pay lower wages." Initially, a California federal judge dismissed Rajaram's claim, holding that section 1981 "does not bar discrimination based on U.S. citizenship." However, the Ninth Circuit's recent ruling overturned this decision in a 2-1 vote, stating that 42 U.S.C. section 1981 prohibits employment discrimination against U.S. citizens based on their citizenship.Rajaram claimed, between 2020 and 2022, he unsuccessfully applied to work at Meta Platforms but was denied a job as, "Meta violated section 1981 by discriminating against United States citizens in hiring."The disputed question is whether section 1981 prohibits employers from discriminating against United States citizens. The statutory text answers that question in the affirmative. An employer that discriminates against United States citizens gives one class of people-noncitizens, or perhaps some subset of noncitizens—a greater right to make contracts than "white citizens." If some noncitizens have a greater right to make contracts than "white citizens," then it is not true that "[a]II persons" have the "same right" to make contracts as "white citizens." That is precisely what the literal text of the statute prohibits.

Debate over Section 1981: Does it bar hiring based on citizenship?

In this court observation, Judge Miller observed, that section 1981 guarantees equal rights in contracting for "all persons" within the U.S., extending protections to citizens and noncitizens alike. He went on to argue that if employers discriminate against citizens in favour of noncitizens, they violate the statute's mandate for equal contractual rights. The judge also dismissed Meta's reliance on other statutes and previous court decisions that interpreted section 1981 differently, asserting that such interpretations do not align with the statute's explicit language and intent. However, in his dissent against the ruling Judge Vandyke argued that Section 1981 is not as clearcut as the majority suggests. The phrase "same rights ... as enjoyed by white citizens" could imply a "leveling-up" requirement, where everyone gets rights equivalent to those of white citizens. Citizens, who inherently possess these rights, might not need protection under this statute if interpreted strictly. Alternatively, if the statute aims at strict equalization, mentioning "white citizens" seems redundant. Ultimately, the court ruled in favour of Rajaram, concluding that he has sufficiently alleged discrimination under section 1981 based on Meta's hiring practices. Potential Impact of Meta ruling on H-1B Visas and Employment LitigationExperts believe this ruling has the potential to create a circuit court split, as it directly contradicts a 1986 ruling by the Fifth Circuit, which held that the law does not prohibit bias against U.S. citizens. If Meta appeals, the case could escalate to the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve these conflicting interpretations. However, this decision is being seen as a seteback against H-1B and can lead to more lawsuits by U.S.-born workers against companies that hire temporary visa holders. Hence, potentially challenging the employment practices of many tech giants and other companies that rely heavily on H-1B visa holders.

NASA shares good news about Boeing Starliner as Sunita Williams still in space

GNS News Agency, July 9

Amid the growing concerns about the Boeing Starliner's return to Earth, NASA has shared some good news. The space agency revealed at a conference last week that the spacecraft is in fairly good shape and can stay in orbit beyond its 45-day limit. Launched on June 5, the spacecraft was initially due for a one-week mission. But, the Starliner experienced helium leaks from its service module, forcing it to remain docked at the International Space Station (ISS). Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams managed to dock at the ISS after the spacecraft launched from Cape Canaveral. However, in the lead-up to the docking, five of its 28 thrusters of the Reaction Control System (RCS) failed. This caused an indefinite extension of the mission. The consecutive delays in the spacecraft's return to Earth raised eyebrows over the safety of its crew. However, NASA provided some respite during the conference on Friday. Steve Stich, the manager of the space agency's Commercial Crew Program, told reporters, "We talked about a 45-day limit, limited by the crew module batteries on Starliner, and we're in the



process of updating that limit." "We've been looking at those batteries and their performance on orbit," he added. Stich continued, "They're getting recharged by station, and that risk hasn't really changed. So the risk for the next 45 days is essentially the same as the first 45 days," adding, "What we really are doing now is looking at the performance of the battery in flight. We don't see any degradation in any of the cells where the batteries are," according to Space.com

Woman eaten by 30-foot python, husband finds her legs sticking out of snake's mouth



GNS News Agency, July 9

A woman in Indonesia was killed and eaten by a 30-foot python in a horrific incident. The victim Siriati, 30, went missing from her house on the morning of July 2, The Strait Times reported. The mother of five stepped out of her house in Luwu Regency, South Sulawesi, to buy medicine for her sick child. When she failed to return, concerned relatives launched a search. The snake apparently attacked Siriati as she walked alone through the trees. It reportedly crushed her to death by constriction

before beginning to swallow her. When Adiansya found her, Siriati's legs were sticking out of the python's mouth. The Indonesian man killed the snake in an attempt to save his wife. However, by then it was too late as Siriati was already dead.

What happened on July 2?

"The victim wanted to go out to buy her child's medicine. Her youngest son is three years old. She was visiting her brother and had to go through the forest first," said Ivang, the Village Secretary of Siteba in Indonesia. "Her brother waited for a long time, but the victim didn't come. That's why her brother called the victim's husband. The husband said that Suriati had been gone since early morning. So the husband went looking for his wife," lyang explained. Walenrang Police Chief, Adjunct Police Commissioner Idul, said that the woman's body was found intact. "The condition of the body was intact but perhaps the bones had been crushed. The body is already at the funeral home for a religious ceremony," he said. This is the second such incident in South Sulawesi in less than a month. In early June, the body of a 45-year-old woman was discovered inside a python that had swallowed her whole. Indonesia is home to several species of pythons, including the Burmese python and the reticulated python.

Biden blames foreign travel for poor show at US Presidential Debate

GNS News Agency, July 9

Washington: US President Joe Biden on Tuesday blamed his recent foreign travels for his debate debacle."I wasn't very smart. I decided to travel around the world a couple of times ... shortly before the debate," Biden said while speaking to donors at a fundraiser in a Virginia suburb of Washington DC.In his remarks, Biden admitted that he did not have a good debate, and said he "wasn't very smart" for "travelling around the world a couple times" before the debate.Biden also apologised by saying he was sorry for the performance. "It's not an excuse but an explanation."The President's remarks at the fundraiser was just for six minutes, which is far shorter than what he speaks on such occasions.



Sunak's campaign in last stage, Labour's Starmer eyes victory



GNS News Agency, July 9

Rishi Sunak has covered thousands of miles in the past few weeks, but he hasn't outrun the expectation that his time as Britain's prime minister is in its final hours. United Kingdom voters will cast ballots in a national election Thursday, passing judgement on Sunak's 20 months in office, and on the four Conservative prime ministers before him. They are widely expected to do something they have not done since 2005: Elect a Labour Party government. During a hectic final two days of campaigning that saw him visit a food distribution warehouse, a supermarket, a farm and more, Sunak insisted "the outcome of this election is not a foregone conclusion."

"People can see that we have turned a corner," said the Conservative leader, who has been in office since October 2022, "It has been a difficult few years, but undeniably things are in a better place now than they were."But even a last-minute pep talk at a Conservative rally Tuesday night by former Prime Minister Boris Johnson — o led the party to a thumping election victory in 2019 — did little to lift the party's mood. Conservative Cabinet minister Mel Stride said Wednesday it looked like Labour was heading for an "extraordinary landslide." Labour warned against taking the election result for granted, imploring supporters not to grow complacent about polls that have given the party a solid double-digit lead since before the campaign began. Labour leader Keir Starmer has spent the six-week campaign urging voters to take a chance on his center-left party and vote for change. Most people, including analysts and politicians, expect they will.Labour has not set pulses racing with its pledges to get the sluggish economy growing, invest in infrastructure and make Britain a "clean energy superpower."

But nothing has really gone wrong, either. The party has won the support of large chunks of the business community and endorsements from traditionally conservative newspapers including the Rupert Murdoch-owned Sunday Times. Former Labour candidate Douglas Beattie, author of the book "How Labour Wins (and Why it Loses)," said Starmer's "quiet stability probably chimes with the mood of the country right now.""The country is looking for fresh ideas, moving away from a government that's exhausted and divided," Beattie said. "So Labour are pushing at an open door."The Conservatives, meanwhile, have been plagued by gaffes. The campaign got off to an inauspicious start when rain drenched Sunak as he made the announcement outside 10 Downing St. on May 22. Then on June 6, Sunak went home early from commemo-

rations in France marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, missing a ceremony alongside United States President Joe Biden and France's Emmanuel Macron. Several Conservatives close to Sunak are being investigated by the gambling regulator over suspicions they used inside information to place bets on the date of the election before it was announced.

It has all made it harder for Sunak to shake off the taint of political chaos and mismanagement that's gathered around the Conservatives since Johnson and his staff held lockdown-breaching partie s during the COVID-19 pandemic. Johnson's successor, Liz Truss, rocked the COVID-weakened economy with a package of drastic tax cuts, making a cost-of-living crisis worse, and lasted just 49 days in office. There is widespread dissatisfaction over a host of issues, from a dysfunctional public health care system to crumbling infrastructure. But for many voters, the lack of trust applies not just to Conservatives, but to politicians in general. Veteran rouser of the right, Nigel Farage, has leaped into that breach with his Reform U.K. party and grabbed headlines, and voters' attention, with his anti-immigration rhetoric. The centrist Liberal Democrats and environmentalist Green Party also want to sweep up disaffected voters from the bigger parties. Across the country, voters say they want change but aren't optimistic it will come.

'I don't know who's for me as a working person," said Michelle Bird, a port worker in Southampton on England's south coast who was undecided about whether to vote Labour or Conservative. "I don't know whether it's the devil you know or the devil you don't." Conner Filsell, a young office worker in the London suburbs, would like a roof of his own." I still live at home. I would love to be able to have my own place, but the way things are going it's just not on the cards," he said. Lise Butler, senior lecturer in modern history at City University of London, said that signs point to this being "a change election in which the Conservatives are punished." But she said that if Starmer wins, "the years to come ... may be challenging." "He'll probably be facing constant attacks on various grounds from left and right," she said. "So I think that while the outcome of this election is pretty clear, I think all bets are off in terms of what, what Labour's support is going to look like over the next few years."Starmer has agreed that his biggest challenge is "the mindset in some voters that everything's broken, nothing can be fixed." And secondly, a sense of mistrust in politics because of so many promises having been made over the last 14 years which weren't carried through," he told broadcaster ITV on Tuesday. "We have to reach in and turn that around." Many election experts expect a low turnout, below the 67% recorded in 2019. Yet this election may bring a scale of change Britain has not seen for decades if it delivers a big Labour majority and a diminished Conservative Party.In Moreton-in-Marsh, a pretty town of honey-coloured stone buildings in western England's Cotswold hills, 25-year-old Evie Smith-Lomas relished the chance to eject the area's longstanding Conservative lawmaker. "This has been a Tory seat forever, for 32 years, longer than I've been alive," she said. "I'm excited at the prospect of someone new. I mean I think 32 years in any job is too long. You surely have run out of

Prince Harry to come face-to-face with Travis Kelce at this event days after NFL star gushed about meeting William



GNS News Agency, July 9

Prince Harry is set to face Taylor Swift's boyfriend, Travis Kelce, days after the player gushed about his meeting with Prince William. Harry is set to be handed the Pat Tillman Award for Service at the ESPY Awards on July 11, "in honour of his tireless work in making a positive impact for the veteran community through the power of sport."Kelce, too, has been invited to the event, as Kansas City Chiefs are nominated for best team of the year. Patrick Mahomes is even up for best male athlete.

Kelce previously opened up about meeting William

and his children at Swift's London Eras Tour. He talked about the moment on his and Jason Kelce's New Heights podcast, saying, "They were absolutely a delight to meet. I wasn't sure if I was supposed to bow to them, curtsy, just be an American idiot and shake their hands, like, 'Sup, dude.' We wanted to be polite." He also said that "no other prince" is doing it like William, which some believe may have been a dig at the Duke of Sussex.'It could be interesting given how much Travis hit it off with William'Meghan Markle will possibly also join Harry at the Los Angeles event, which is set to be hosted by the couple's friend Serena Williams. Harry will likely be "just feet away" from Kelce, an insider told The Sun. "It could be interesting given how much Travis hit it off with William," the source said.

"Travis is like the most sociable, happy-go-lucky, kind person in any room and is sure to want to say hello to the prince and interact with the Sussexes," the source continued. "That is his style, and honestly he is one of the biggest names in US sport."The insider added, "For Harry, it could be a potentially awkward encounter given that Travis spoke so warmly about and praised William. This will make headlines no matter what happens. "If Harry ducks Travis that would look weird and if they chat the question will be whether they discussed William."

Employer arrested in Italy after Indian worker dies in farm accident

GNS News Agency, July 9

Rome: Italian police have arrested the owner of the agriculture company who dumped a 31-year-old Indian worker on the road without medical assistance after his arm was severed by heavy farm machinery, causing his death, a tragic incident that shocked the country and its leadership.Satnam Singh was abandoned by his employer after a strawberry wrapping machine severed his arm in Lazio, near Rome, last month and died due to "copious bleeding", the ANSA news agency reported.The Sikh casual farm labourer died in a hospital in Rome two days later after being airlifted there when he was eventually found.

Police on Tuesday arrested the alleged gangmaster, Antonello Lovato, on suspicion of causing Singh's manslaughter death, the report said. Prosecutors said in a statement that the Sikh farmer, who died of a massive haemorrhage in a Rome hospital, "would in all likelihood have been saved if he had been promptly assisted". "We were waiting for this news, we were angry," the president of the Lazio Indian community, Gurmukh Singh, said. "The worst thing (Lovato) did was to leave him outside his home instead of taking him to hospital," he was quoted as saying. "An accident can happen, but not calling for medical assistance is unacceptable," he said. Singh's death has spurred outrage at gangmastering, which is widespread in Italy, especially in the south of the country, and modern forms of slavery. According to an earlier re-

port, Lovato loaded Singh and his wife into a van and left them by the side of the road near their home. Singh's severed arm was placed in a fruit crate. Meanwhile, Singh's widow Soni, who was treated for shock after the incident, received a special 'justice' stay permit to end her illegal status in Italy, it said. On June 26, India asked Italy to take prompt action against those responsible for Singh's death. Muktesh Pardeshi, Secretary [CPV & OIA], conveyed to Luigi Maria Vignali, the Director General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies, India's "deep concern" about the death of Singh, the Indian Embassy in Italy said in a post on X. He "called for prompt action against those responsible. Embassy is in contact with the family of Satnam Singh for consular help & transportation of mortal remains," the mission added.Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said last month that Singh, one of thousands of Indian immigrants who work the fields in the country, was the victim of "inhuman acts". "These are inhumane acts that do not belong to the Italian people. I hope that this barbarity will be punished harshly," she said following a Cabinet meeting.

Italy's Minister of Labour, Marina Calderone, said the death of Singh had been an "act of barbarity". Opposition 5-Star Movement (M5S) leader Giuseppe Conte had urged Meloni to act to stamp out brutal gangmastering. "You lose your arm while you're working in the fields for four euros an hour. You're not immediately treated.

Ranga Reddy **WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024 INDIAN CHRONICLE**

ITR 2024-25: Step-by-step guide to register and file on e-portal



The last date to file an income tax return (ITR) for the assessment year 2024-25 (FY24) is July 31, 2024. Income Tax Department has launched an online portal for individuals to submit their forms. Filing the Income Tax Return (ITR) is an important yearly responsibility for taxpayers in India. Beyond legal requirements, fulfilling your tax obligations can provide several benefits.

These include offering proof of income for securing loans, applying for visas, or participating in government tenders. Additionally, filing your ITR allows you to claim tax refunds if you have paid more taxes than necessary. The filing of an ITR for the fiscal year 2023-24 and assessment year 2024-25 has begun, with July 31, 2024 (Wednesday) as the deadline. With the filing process becoming more streamlined and digitised, it is important to know how to register yourself online on the efiling portal. The procedure for filing an ITR has been modernised and simplified, as the Income Tax Department has launched an online portal for individuals to submit their forms. Taxpayers in India can submit their income tax returns either online or offline. However, understanding and choosing between these options can be confusing, as each method offers unique benefits and considerations. To file your income tax return online, first-

time taxpayers must complete the online registration process. Registering on the e-Filing site is necessary for using the full range of services available on the portal. This initial step enables individuals to access various tax-related services efficiently. Visit the e-filing portal: Go to the Income Tax Department's e-filing portal homepage.

Enter basic details: Enter all the mandatory details like PAN, name, date of birth (DOB), membership number, and enrollment date on the Basic Details page. Click Continue.PAN authentication: If your PAN is not registered on the e-Filing Portal, an error message will be displayed. Enter personal information: Enter all required information, including your name, DOB, gender (if applicable), and residential status as indicated by your PAN. Click Continue.Contact details: Individual taxpayers will see the Contact Details page once their PAN has been authenticated. Enter your primary mobile number, email ID, and address. Click Continue.OTP verification: Two separate 6-digit OTPs will be sent to the primary mobile number and email ID mentioned. Enter the OTPs and

OTP validity: Note that the OTPs are valid for 15 minutes only. You have three attempts to enter the correct OTP.Set password: On the Set Password page, enter your chosen password in both the Set Password and Confirm Password text boxes. Set a personalised message for the password and then click Register. Registration completion: Once successfully registered, click Proceed to Login to begin the login process. Once you log in to the e-Filing portal, update your profile information to unlock access to all the available services. After updating your profile, you can file your tax returns and use other taxrelated services provided on the platform. Filing your ITR on time and accurately is essential. Not only does it comply with legal requirements, but it also ensures you can claim refunds and maintain a clear financial record. Following these steps will help you navigate the e-filing pro-

Budget 2024: Will taxpayers get relief amid rise in cost of living?

The Budget for 2024-25 is expected to be presented during the third week of July, coinciding with the monsoon session of Parliament.Budget 2024 will be Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's seventh consecutive bud-

The upcoming budget for 2024 is just weeks away and people expect 'Modi 3.0' to address the rising cost of living, providing taxpayers with some relief. Wholesale prices in India rose by 2.61% in May, up from 1.26% in April, marking a notable increase driven by higher costs in the food and fuel sectors, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. "The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is 2.61% (Provisional) for the month of May, 2024 (over May, 2023). Positive rate of inflation in May, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing tec," said the press release. There have been several media reports of the government mulling introducing measures to help increase consumption in the middle class

Taxpayers might receive good news in the upcoming Budget 2024-25, as the central government is contemplating tax relief measures for individuals, sources told Business Today TV.One proposal under review is raising the exemption limit under the new tax regime from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per year. Another option being



8 lakh annually, which would align the tax structure with the criteria for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS). "This budget will not offer any change or relief for taxpayers, as the government has already published the budget details. This recent development is simply a cabinet approval and does not introduce any new provisions or adjustments. Taxpayers should not expect any modifications or additional benefits from this approval, as it serves to confirm the previously outlined fiscal plans, said Amit Bansal, Partner - Direct Tax, Singhania & Co.The Budget for 2024-25 is expected to be presented during the third week of July, coinciding with the monsoon session of Parliament. This will mark Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's seventh consecutive budget considered is eliminating tax liability on income up to Rs and the first budget under Modi's third term in office.

Emcure Pharma IPO opens for bidding: Should you subscribe?

The initial public offering (IPO) of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Limited, which is backed by Namita Thapar, opened for subscription on Wednesday looking to raise Rs 1,952.03 crore. The IPO includes a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 800 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 1.14 crore equity shares amounting to Rs 1,152 crore at the upper end of the price band, offered by promoters and ext i n q shareholders.Emcure Pharmaceuticals nounced on Tuesday that it has raised Rs 583 crore from anchor investors. According to a circular on the BSE website, Emcure has allotted 57.8 lakh equity shares to 48 funds at Rs 1,008 each, making the total transaction size Rs 582.6 crore. The price band for the IPO is set at Rs 960 to Rs 1,008 per share, and will be open for public subscription from July 3 to July 5. Investors can bid for a minimum of 14 shares and in multiples of 14 shares thereafter.

Should you subscribe?

The brokerage reports for Emcure Pharmaceuticals' IPO reveal a strong consensus among various firms, with most recommending subscription. Anand Rathi, Canara Bank Securities, Hensex Securities, SBI Securities, Marwadi Financial, Mastertrust, and Swastika dential Life Insurance Investmart advise subscrib-Company, and SBI Life Ining for the long term. BP surance Wealth, Deven Choksey, Geojit, Nirmal Bang, Reliance Securities, Ventura

Securities, and Stoxbox

suggest subscribing with-

term.Sushil Finance rec-

ommends subscribing for

the medium to long term,

while Mehta Equities also

supports a long-term sub-

scription. The consistent

recommendation across

the board reflects a posi-

tive outlook for the IPO.IPO

detailsThe anchor book for

Emcure Pharma IPO in-

cludes prominent investors

such as HDFC Mutual

Fund, ICICI Prudential MF,

SBI MF, Nippon India MF,

Abu Dhabi Investment Au-

thority, Goldman Sachs

Nomura, HDFC Life Insur-

ance Company, ICICI Pru-

Management,

specifying

Company.Promoter Satish Mehta and investor BC Investments IV Ltd, an affiliate of US-based private equity firm Bain Capital, are among those selling Satish Mehta currently

Emcure

EMCURE PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED

shares in the OFS. holds a 41.85% stake in the company, while BC Investments owns a 13.07% stake. The funds from the fresh issue will be used to pay off debt and for general corporate purposes.Brokerage firms estimate the company's market capitalisation to exceed Rs 19,000 crore postissue.Pune-based Emcure Pharmaceuticals develops, manufactures, and markets a wide range of pharmaceutical products globally across various

major therapeutic areas.In the IPO, up to 108,900 eqactual investment or trading choices.)

uity shares are reserved for employees.Additionally, half of the issue size is reserved for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), 35% for retail investors, and the remaining 15% for non-institutional investors.Kotak Mahindra Capital Company, Jefferies India, Axis Capital, and JP Morgan India are the lead managers for the IPO. The company's equity shares are expected to list on the BSE and NSE on July 10.(Disclaimer: The views, opinions, recommendations, and suggestions expressed by experts/ brokerages in this article are their own and do not reflect the views of the India Today Group. It is advisable to consult a qualified broker or financial advisor before making any

Can this leafy drink really help you catch up on sleep?



In the never-ending quest for natural remedies to combat the rising cases of insomnia today, a content creator has a rather unique way of doing things. In an experiment for her followers, she drinks lettuce water to see if it helps her sleep. This unconventional aid, made by steeping lettuce leaves in hot water, has been touted by some as a gentle, plant-based solution for those struggling with insomnia or restless nights. But does it actually

H P Bharathi, Dy. CMO, Jindal Naturecure Institute, says, "Lettuce, particularly romaine, contains a milky fluid called lactucarium, which has sedative properties similar to opium but much milder. This compound is thought to contribute to lettuce's potential sleep-inducing effects. Also, lettuce is rich in certain nutrients like lactucin and lactucopicrin, which may have calming effects. Additionally, lettuce contains magnesium, a mineral known to promote relaxation and improve sleep quality."Tanya Mehra, child nutritionist, adds that these compounds are thought to interact with the central nervous system, "potentially acting on receptors involved in pain and sleep regulation, such as the GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid) receptors." This interaction may produce a calming effect, she says, helping to induce sleep and reduce anxiety. However, Bharathi reveals that there is limited scientific evidence supporting the claim that lettuce water can induce sleep in those suffering from sleep prob-

Scientific evidence supporting the claim that drinking lettuce water can improve sleep qualityMehra agrees

with Bharathi. She notes that most of the available evidence is "anecdotal or based on traditional use". "Some studies have looked at the sedative effects of compounds found in lettuce, such as lactucarium, in animal models," she adds. For individuals seeking to improve sleep, Bharathi states, lettuce water may be worth trying as a safe and natural remedy, but it should not replace proven sleep hygiene practices or treatments recommended by healthcare professionals. Potential risks or side effects associated with consuming lettuce water for sleep"Drinking lettuce water is generally considered safe for most people, but there are some potential risks and side effects, particularly for individuals with certain health conditions or those taking specific medications," Bharathi asserts. Here are some considerations:

Allergic reactions: Allergic reactions to lettuce or related plants can cause itching, swelling, difficulty breathing, and gastrointestinal issues. Avoid consuming lettuce water if known to have an allergy. Digestive Issues: Large amounts of lettuce water may cause digestive issues like bloating, gas, or diarrhea, especially for those with sensitive digestive systems. Interaction with Medications: Lettuce water contains vitamin K, which can interfere with blood-thinning medications like warfarin. It's important for individuals on blood thinners to monitor their intake and consult their healthcare provider. Its mild sedative effects may enhance the effects of prescription medications. Effectiveness of lettuce water as a sleep aid compared to other natural remedies or conventional treatmentsAccording to Mehra, "The effectiveness of lettuce water as a sleep aid is not well-established compared to other natural remedies or conventional treatments for insomnia." Natural remedies like valerian root, chamomile tea, and melatonin supplements have been more extensively studied and have shown some efficacy in improving sleep quality, she says. "Conventional treatments for insomnia, such as cognitive-behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) and prescription medications like benzodiazepines or non-benzodiazepine sleep aids (e.g., zolpidem), are supported by a substantial body of clinical evidence and are often recommended based on individual patient needs and conditions," she con-

Can high intensity exercise lead to weight gain?



Conventional wisdom has long touted high intensity exercise as an effective way to burn calories and facilitate weight loss. However, a new study is challenging this widely-held belief, suggesting that pushing yourself too hard may actually have the opposite effect. Lead researcher Takashi Matsui, PhD, from the Institute of Health and Sport Sciences at the University of Tsukuba in Japan, explained the key findings of the study published in Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise, to Medical News Today. He said, "Our study found that while exercise is a powerful strategy for weight loss, a single session of high-intensity exercise that induces heavy sweating can significantly reduce subsequent physical activity and core body temperature, leading to weight gain. Interestingly, this weight gain occurs despite no changes in food intake."

This counterintuitive conclusion runs contrary to mainstream fitness advice. Dr Jagadish J Hiremath, medical director at AASRA Hospitals, says, "Contrary to popular belief, high-intensity exercise (HIE) can, under certain circumstances, contribute to an increase in body weight. This unexpected outcome is attributed to the complex interplay of hormones within the body, particularly cortisol, the stress hormone."HIE can disrupt the body's natural sleep-wake cycle, he adds, known as the circadian rhythm, and trigger a surge in cortisol levels. Elevated cortisol not only amplifies appetite but also saps motivation for further physical activity. This vicious cycle leads to increased calorie consumption, often exceeding the calories burned during exercise, ultimately tipping the scales towards weight gain. Effects of high-intensity exercise on metabolism

According to Dr Hiremath, "High-intensity exercise puts the body's metabolism through a series of peaks and valleys. Initially, it ignites a metabolic fire, accelerating calorie expenditure. However, the surge in cortisol that accompanies HIE acts as a double-edged sword."While it initially fuels the metabolic furnace, it also triggers intense cravings, particularly for high-calorie, unhealthy foods. Succumbing to these cravings can negate the calorie deficit achieved through exercise, potentially leading to weight gain. When it becomes counterproduc-

Dr Hiremath stresses, "Not all high-intensity workouts are created equal. Those that are excessively long, frequent, or intense can be detrimental to weight management goals." For instance, engaging in daily highintensity interval training (HIIT) sessions without adequate rest or pushing the body beyond its limits can disrupt hormonal balance, he says. "This disruption leads to a cascade of negative effects, including elevated stress levels, increased appetite, and a heightened risk of weight

Mastering high-intensity exercise for optimal resultsThe potential link between HIE and weight gain "doesn't mean this form of exercise should be avoided altogether," says Dr Hiremath. Rather, it stresses the importance of a balanced and strategic approach. Here's how to optimise your high-intensity workouts for sustainable weight management:Incorporate Variety: Intersperse high-intensity workouts with lower-intensity activities like yoga or brisk walking. This allows your body to recover and prevents overtraining. Prioritise Nutrition: Be mindful of post-workout hunger and resist the urge to overindulge. Focus on consuming nutrient-dense foods that nourish and replenish your body. Diversify Your Routine: Avoid monotony by incorporating a variety of exercises into your routine. This not only prevents boredom but also challenges different muscle groups and prevents plateaus.Listen to Your Body: Pay close attention to your body's signals. If you're feeling excessively fatigued, experiencing persistent soreness, or struggling with constant hunger, it's a sign to dial back the intensity or frequency of your workouts.

Telangana government gears up to present annual budget

Hyderabad: Preparations are in full swing for presenting the first full-fledged budget of the Congress government in Telangana amid high expectations. The focus is said to be on delivering the promises made by the Congress party during the Assembly elections, which is causing considerable pressure on the State treasury.

The interim budget, or "Vote on Account," presented by the State government in February this year, was only for four months and is set to expire on July 31. The budget session of the State Assembly is expected to commence in fourth week of July. While the Union Budget is scheduled to be presented on July 22, sources said Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka is likely to present his first full-fledged State budget within a week thereafter. He is holding review meetings with the officials of each department. Historically, budget allocations are increase by 8-15 per cent annually. Yet, the Congress party's extensive promises across various sectors imply an average increase of 40-50 per cent, raising concerns about budgetary control.

Mom-to-be Deepika Padukone says she works out to 'feel fit' and not to 'look good', Ranveer Singh cheers for her self-care routine



Mom-to-be Deepika Padukone took to her social media on Wednesday and shared a photo of her performing yoga. Deepika, who is expecting her first baby with husband Ranveer Singh in September, shared this for self-care month and said that she doesn't work out to look good, but she does it to feel fit. Ranveer took to the comments section and cheered Deepika as he wrote, "Works like magic!"

Deepika shared a photo of herself performing viparita which translates to restful inversion. In the picture, Deepika, who is dressed in a black athleisure, can be seen lying with her legs up against the wall. In the caption she wrote, "It's Self-Care Month. But why celebrate 'Self-Care Month' when you can practice simple acts of self-care every day? I love a good workout. I don't work

out to 'look good' but to 'feel fit'. Exercise has been part of my lifestyle for as long as I can remember." She added, "However, when I can't fit in a workout, I practice this simple 5-minute routine. I do this every day, whether I work out or not. It's especially useful after a long flight or just to decompress. Viparita Karani (Legs-Up-The-Wall Pose)."Deepika mentioned a special note for pregnant women and wrote, "When Pregnant (use a bolster or cushion for support)."Deepika Padukone shared the news of her pregnancy with her fans in March just before she and husband Raveer attended the Ambani pre-wedding celebrations in Jamnagar.Deepika and Ranveer tied the knot in November 2018 after dating for a few years. The couple fell in love while shooting for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela.

Bobby Deol recalls flying to Italy to shoot a fight scene with a tiger for his debut film: 'If a tiger bites you...'





Bobby Deol entered the Hindi film industry in 1995 amid a lot of hype with his debut film Barsaat. While the film is remembered by many of his fans, he suffered a few injuries during the shoot. In a recent interaction, Bobby recalled flying to Italy to shoot a fight sequence with a tiger and the painful memory of breaking his leg while horse riding in London for the film.Bobby also shared how his brother, Sunny Deol, wasn't convinced with his entry shot in the film and wanted to take it to another level. Explaining this to Curly Tales, he said, "My brother saw Barsaat and he told me that he would like to enhance my introduction. So, we flew to Italy to shoot the

fight sequence with the Tiger.'

Although the Deol brothers initially wanted to shoot the sequence in India, concerns about animal cruelty forced them to go overseas. He said, "In India at that time, nobody used to think much about animal cruelty. So, when he had called a tiger on the set, they had sewn shut his mouth and we were like what is this? We told them they are torturing an animal and that we can't do this. We asked them to take those things off. It was so cruel. Bhaiya then told me about a guy in Italy who has his own zoo and trained animals. So, I shot the scene with a tiger there. I would stop thinking during the filming of that scene because if a dog bites you get in such a bad condition, so imagine if a tiger bites you. It was fun though."Talking about the time he broke his leg while shooting for Barsaat, Bobby said, "I then did a horse riding sequence that we shot in London and that's when I had the accident and I still have a rod in my leg." Bobby shared that it was soon after that he had to start shooting for his next film Gupt and he shot for a few songs of Gupt with a broken leg.Barsaat was initially going to be directed by Shekhar Kapur. After shooting for 27 days, Shekhar left the film. The film was then directed by Rajkumar Santoshi. Barsaat was also the debut film of Twinkle Khanna.

Palash Sen reacts to trolls who hurled abuses at him for 'having a political bias': 'Country above all'

Days after veteran singer Palash Sen was trolled for congratulating PM Narendra Modi for becoming the country's Prime Minster for the third time, he took to his Instagram handle and justified his statement. He claimed that he was not politically biased and explained what being a Hindu means to him. Sharing a note, the singer captioned his post, "Some days back I heard a lot of curses and abuses hurled at me. People in fact threatened to leave this page because apparently I had political bias.. I didn't choose to hurl back any abuse etc because the bias is in them and my faith teaches me Tolerance. Na main daayein ka.. Na baaayein ka.. walking in the middle is a problem??"Palash then wrote about being a Hindu and shared, "I am a Hindu. I was born in the greatest land in the world. I didn't choose to be a Hindu and I know being a Hindu means I have no organised religion. It is my faith, it is my way of live, passed down through generations by my elders. I was told that the Hindus practiced Sanatan Dharma which means eternal faith. I was taught to never discriminate against anyone on the basis of religion, caste or even political allegiance for that matter.. To each his/ her own. Tolerance & love is what I know."He added, "I am not perfect but I was never taught to be biased on the basis of religion. I just try to do my bit and be a good responsible citizen of the society. Country above all. More than anything, that's what being a Hindu is all about. My elders taught me the true value of gratitude. And I am grateful, for this life and the gifts that my country has bestowed on me. Mostly, the love everyone has given me without asking me my caste or my religion. So let me tell you the Hindu I am... A Hindu is a person living in the land of the river 'Sindhu'. Named a Hindu by the foreigners at that time. You know what that means by default?"Replying to his trolls, the veteran singer wrote, "Here's a message for everyone who fails to see who & what I am and tries to slander me and my country, to suit their exhausted narrative. Ask any community and they will say they don't need it anymore. Don't! Aap se naa ho

paayega. I don't need to visit a temple, a church, a masjid,

a gurudwara to prove my faith or my path... To be a good



conscientious Bharatiya is my path. That is what makes me a Hindu! To put my country above all .. To put my countrymen and women above all.. To not give shit or take shit from anyone... To care, to love, to respect without bias.. Is my faith.. The word, the faith, the way of life of being a Hindu is all about my country and the word is too great for anyone to insult or cuss or degrade. Hindu hoon... Sehna, samajhna aur maaf karna aata hai."Previously, while congratulating PM Modi, Palash had written, "Modiji .. the Oz PM called you as popular as The Boss (Bruce Springsteen) but I say - You are The Man!! Bohot Bohot Shubhkamanaayein aapko, Sir.. Agle 5 Saal hum sabka aur Bharat ka aur vikas ho, yehi ishwar se prarthna hai.. And here are my personal requests for you to look into...""1. Firstly,the music industry of India. The independent musician surely needs your attention & support ", he added. His second request was: "please do look into the NEET results. The cream of the country is facing grave injustice." While third being, "you have won hearts always ..now to win the detractor 's trust , faith & support .. Upwards and onwards Modi ji ... wish you great health and even greater strength .. Best wishes."A user wrote, "There was a time when Bands like Rage Against The Machine used to raise their voices against the Nation's authority, and now they are left with no choice but to forcefully bow down to the Authorities." Another comment read,

'Shah Rukh Khan, Salman, Aamir do profit sharing, are mindful of recoveries': Ramesh Taurani on how Bollywood can solve star fee problem

the film business thrive? By being mindful of the fees they charge. Veteran producer Ramesh Taurani of Tips Industries says a better business model for the Hindi film industry should be that all stars must get into an understanding of working in movies on profit sharing basis, which will not load a project with their fees.Ramesh Taurani says most stars today have started to follow the trend, and lauded the three Khans, Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir, for agreeing to come on board on profit sharing basis for their films.In an interview with Indianexpress.com, Ramesh Taurani spoke about the trends of the industry, why star fee is a bigger problem than entourage cost-which many including Karan Johar, Shabana Azmi and Anurag Kashyap have spoken against- why romantic films have faded from the big screen and the lineup of his production house with Race 4 and Varun Dhawan fronted comedy with filmmaker father David

How can stars help

You started the year with Merry Christmas and now there is Ishq Vishq Rebound. How do you look at it?

It was a nice start. Sure, what we had expected Merry Christmas to do at the box office may not have happened, but it got immense critical acclaim and was loved a lot. Be-

cause it was made under a upto the negotiation and if I certain budget, we didn't feel the amount agreed is face any financial problem feasible, that the project is in that. It gave us a lot of viable, only then will I make creative satisfaction that it otherwise I won't. No one those who saw the film makes a film not thinking loved it. As the saying in our about this.So, entourage industry goes, films don't cost is there, but a bigger fail, budgets do. So if you problem is the star fee. It's make a film with a certain true that they ask for a high cast, the budget has to be fee but a lot of stars today drawn accordingly. At the are mindful of the recoversame time, you have to ies and the business, and make your film look good. they come in backend, and If you watch Ishq Vishq they agree for profit shar-Rebound, it looks fresh and ing. Salman Khan, Shah colourful, and a big screen Rukh Khan and Aamir experience. It will not look Khan do that. We made like a film just assembled Race 3 with Salman, and on a set here.A lot of makeverything was on a parters today are voicing their nership basis. All big stars concern regarding entoudo this today. So, if the enrage cost, rousing stars tourage cost increases, it fees. How do you look at will also be deducted from it?See filmmaking is a busitheir share. It is a better ness, ultimately. When I am business model. When Ishq mounting a film and sign-Vishq had released, it was ing a star, I have to look at the era of romances, which his fee, his entourage cost. doesn't seem to be the proceed by factoring evcase anymore. Today, we erything, and if I feel it is too

ervone is making action biopics, issues-based films and movies on the army, but romances have reduced. Something like that was missing and hence we were on the lookout for a subject, which is when we got the idea of Ishq Vishq Rebound.Big stars don't do romantic films anymore, they all want action. After Pathaan, Jawan, Tiger 3. Fighter, there is that trend. Which is why romantic films have suffered a setback. Romantic films need to have a new conflict, which is not always easy to crack. So, to get the right script is a huge task, which could also be one of the reasons. Yes, we are. It will begin early next year. The script is in the works, so we are yet to lock any cast as of yet. There is also a film with Varun Dhawan and David Dhawan. It should begin in July, will be a super entertaining film.



Inside Varalaxmi Sarathkumar's sangeet: Radikaa-Sarathkumar's performance on Rowdy Baby steal the show

don't see young films. Ev-



The sangeet ceremony of Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Nicholai Sachdev turned out to be an evening of dance and fun. Held on July 1 at a luxury hotel in Chennai, the event was attended by close friends and family, making it an unforgettable pre-wedding festivity. The bride-tobe, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, along with her friends, set the stage on fire by dancing to Priyanka Chopra's hit song "Desi Girl". The night didn't stop there, as Varalaxmi's sisters and brother also took to the stage, delivering memorable performances that captivated the audience.

However, the highlight of the evening turned out to be Varalaxmi's parents, Sarathkumar and Radikaa, showcased their dancing skills by grooving to the popular song "Rowdy Baby". Their synchronised dance movies and chemistry set couple girls everyone at the event. The couple's pre-wedding festivities began on June 30 with a traditional mehndi ceremony, leading up to the sangeet. Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Nicholai Sachdev are set to tie the knot on the evening of July 3, which will be a private affair with only close friends and family members in attendance. However, it is expected that a grand reception will be held post the wedding ceremony. Varalaxmi and Nicholai got engaged on March 1 in an intimate ceremony. The couple has known each other for 14 years, but recently realized their deep love for each other. Varalaxmi, a well-known actress, is known for her roles in films like Virkam Vedha, Poda Podi, Hanu-Man, and Sarkar. On the other hand, Nicholai is a Mumbai-based art gallerist.

Prabhas to commence shooting for Salaar 2 from August 10

Hyderabad: Action packed shooting of the highlyanticipated movie 'Salaar Part 2: Shouraynga Parvam' starring Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran, is all set to begin on August 10.

If rumors are to be believed, the second installment of Prashanth Neel 's superhit 'Salaar' franchisee, will be out around Christmas time of 2025, aiming to create a pattern as part one was released in December 2023 and was well received at the box-office. Makers of the film are planning to start off the shooting with 15 days of intense action scenes between Prabhas and Prithviraj, here in Hyderabad and Chennai.

After Kalki's success, all eyes are on Prabhas' Salaar Part 2. Outbreak of an update of this sort brings great joy to the numerous fans of both Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran, who are extremely popular, not only in Telugu



and Malayalam industries respectively, but also have massive global following.

Ranga Reddy **INDIAN CHRONICLE WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024**

Just like Kapil Dev and MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma is a people's captain: Sunil Gavaskar



GNS News Agency, July 9

Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar lauded Rohit Sharma for leading the side to winning 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, saying that the opener is a people's captain, just like how MS Dhoni and Kapil Dev were. Rohit had been a member of India winning 2007 T20 World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy. As a captain, he finished as runners-up in 2023 ODI World Cup and World Test Championship. But Rohit finally got his date with the destiny when India beat South Africa by seven runs to win the T20 World Cup at Kensington Oval last month.

Shortly after announcing his T20I retirement, Rohit called the 2024 T20 World Cup win, which India won as

an unbeaten team in the competition, as the greatest achievement of his playing career. "Rohit Sharma joins those other two cricketing giants, Kapil Dev and Dhoni in captaining India to a World Cup trophy. Like the duo were, Rohit is also a people's captain.

"Well liked, not only by his team members, but by the entire Indian cricketing community. The cricket fans also love his laconic style of leadership and tactically, he is as good as the sharpest in the game. Some of his moves can surprise you and make you scratch your head as to the reason, but the end result is more often than not exactly what the team needed at that moment," wrote Gavaskar in his column for mid-day on Sunday. In the tournament, Rohit amassed 257 runs at a strike rate of 156.70, and took on the responsibility of giving India fast starts with the bat - with his fifties against Australia and England being crucial. "He led from the front, showing a complete disregard for personal milestones and instead looked to get the team off to a flying start every time. India are blessed to have him as their captain," added Gavaskar. He also lauded the captain-coach combination of Rohit and Rahul Dravid leading India to elusive trophy glory. "While the players naturally took all the limelight as they should, there was the support staff led by the one and only Rahul Dravid who also had a massive role to play in the victory. What a terrific combo the two Rs made. Totally team-oriented, completely selfless, and prepared to do anything and everything for Team India."

Indian Badminton's Secret Seven: Freeze-frame moments and mannerisms of India's Olympic bound shuttlers

GNS News Agency, July 9

There will be lots of mayhem and hopefully some medals too as Indian badminton launches one of its most intriguing challenges at the Paris Olympics in the coming month. In an unpredictable scenario, the medal count could be three or none. An earnest, sincere sport that chips in with regular medals to prop up India's tally at the Games, badminton is also a rare discipline that keeps buzzing with year-round activity on the Tour. Aside of hockey, shuttle might have the highest visibility and recall-value of Indian athletes and their opponents amongst Olympic disciplines and makes for great streaming sagas and television. Rivalries, court antics, typical mannerisms, celebratory jigs and shenanigans of India's shuttlers can make for great reels and video edits, for any shuttle enthusiast on the lines of court bloopers intercut into their triumphs, like the pros made the iconic Dire Straits' Walk of Life.Paris might also well be the last time we see the likes of PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy and Ashwini Ponnappa in Olympic action. So, medal or not, here's a not-so-secret list of typical tropes and signature sightings of India's shuttle society of Secret Seven headed to Paris:

PV Sindhu of India celebrates a point at the women's single semi final match against Sayaka Takahashi of Japan during the Thomas and Uber cup final 2014, at Siri fort sports complex, in New Delhi on 23rd 2014. Express photo by Ravi Kanojia. Indian shuttler PV Sindhu in action. (Express photo by Ravi Kanojia)From Rio to Paris and with Glasgow, Basel and Carolina's Spain thrown into the mix, there's one camera-freeze that's a constant whenever Sindhu is on the court: how when she takes a breather and walks off for a towel-down, she can double down flexibly to reach her toes without the knees bending. Two Olympics and 5 Worlds medals later, Sindhu has remained a superior athletic specimen and her ramrod straight silhouette and grand wingspan reach remains incomparable. There are a bunch of tear-your-hair-out occurrences – ner line judgments can trustrate, though the last two months have shown extraordinary improvement in her review choices. Then there's her proclivity to get provoked by tiny triggers when she loses a lead. And the heart-in-the-mouth shot-selection at 18-18. But there isn't a more fierce fighter than her on a badminton court, in a long rally, especially if she reaches the medal round.Do's: Take the fight to the likes of Marin and Chen Yufei, just like the aggressive ol' times.Don'ts: Do not forget to apologize for a net chord point won, and to keep a calm head against the unflappable ones like Tai Tzu Ying and Akane Yamaguchi, who just cannot be rattled

2. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy

Chirag India's Satwiksairai Rankireddy, right, and Chirag Shetty play against Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto during their men's doubles quarterfinal match at Indonesia Open badminton tournament at Istora Senayan Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP)His monster smashes are breathtaking, but watch out for when he slows down his breathing, chuckles and gets into positional play from the front court. You can literally watch him absorb pressure - nuance his power and slow down pace - while Chirag settles down his nerves. Watch him draw opponents to the net and casually float the shuttle to the backline. He carries that Indonesian vibe of loving every moment of the contest to bits, and through his whimsy serving and awkward body defending to majestic backtracking and smash leaps, Satwik remains the Cool Cat, never fazed on court. He will be forgiven if he forgets dance moves, if the gold is on the horizon. He will also never be forgotten as one half of India's finest doubles pairing who make badminton immensely entertaining and partisan. His attitude on court especially when taking on nemesis from China or Denmark, is of a rivalry ablaze through ice cold veins. Do's: Share net-duties with Chirag. Match Korea's intricate patterns with patience. Don'ts: Do not hold back on allout attack, against Malaysians and Indonesians.

3. Chirag Shetty

His swivel serves and blank face are iconic as is the diagonal sideways charge to the net in a blink. But watch for his perfect 1-2s with Satwik, when Chirag's echosmashes match the other one's in sheer savagery as he leaps from right behind Satwik for a kill smash. There will be nervous blips from him, but he makes up for them unfailingly and in quick time too. His racquet changes mid-rally are dramatic, but nothing signals a fluent Chirag on a roll than his backhand scythes at the net while on the move. The headbands are well known and so is the 'huuuudd' cue for when he's revving up for a rally. Both shuttlers tend to be reverential before entering the court and kiss the racquet head. Chirag's chemistry with a furious Mathias Boe is what they call pure cinema – there's a black book full of scribbles, a vein threatening to pop on the forehead and a real threat that Boe will shove them



aside and start playing himself, if they don't buck up and show some energy soon enough.Do's: Back yourself, because you have worked harder than most.Don'ts: Do not panic. You will win, either right this moment, or 20 minutes later in the decider.

4. HS Prannoy

Prannoy Badminton World Championships HS Prannoy of India in action. (AP)If HS Prannoy was a movie, everyone can saunter in 20 minutes late, for the first set in invariably a trailer or ads for what is to follow. You can actually see his brain processing the conditions, the drift, the lengths, the opponent's mistakes and discomforts, like he's Iron Man's 3D printed model for time travel. Wild one-sided scorelines making a mockery of momentum in first two sets, Prannoy can switch on his ace game as the finishing nears. His shots to behold - the surprise backhand down the line and increasingly the expansive cross smash. But the most mesmerising - and an indicator of a good day - is his unbelievable net control, inches over the tape and how he's fearless against the biggest reputations. His stamina was suspect throughout 2024, but he's a major YOOO believer - you only Olympic once, and will give it his all.Do's: Try to finish in 2, but not stress if it goes to 3.Don'ts: Do not gift easy lifts, especially with flanks unquarded.

5. Lakshya Sen

India's Lakshya Sen returns a shot during the men's singles semi final match against Indonesia's Jonatan Christie at the All England Open Badminton Championships at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham on Saturday. (AP Photo) India's Lakshya Sen returns a shot during the men's singles semi final match against Indonesia's Jonatan Christie at the All England Open Badminton Championships at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham on Saturday. (AP Photo) His compulsive, hypnotic reflex defense is the stuff of highlight packages. Sen's dives and immersive rallies add to the lore. These are jaw dropping. His utter refusal to be bullied by a big name, and that poker mug that gives away nothing is a constant. For some strange reason, the round-the-head smashes have gone missing since coach Anup Sridhar left. But in the absence of a proper kill smash, Sen is compensating with parallel exchanges and length variations, mixing his tosses and drops and half smashes. Sen loves the big occasion - an All England semifinal, an Asiad team final, CWG title match. So, he was born to shine at the Olympics.Do's: Keep the intensity high between points 11 and 19. And then finish it off, anyway.Don'ts: Do not for once believe that just the defense - which is spectacular and all other superlatives - will suffice. Points will need to be pointedly won.

6. Ashwini Ponnappa

Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto Super 500 Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto reached their first Super 500 semifinal. (BAI)India's quietest storm in badminton. She has evolved from being a bubbly junior to Jwala Gutta to a wise senior, who never transfers blame onto her hyper younger partner, and soaks the pressure staving kind and calm. One of the hardest smash hitters once, Ashwini has bought into the reality that women's doubles will be attritional and lengthy and patience sapping retrieving. She still marshals the back court expertly but has grown into a clutch mentality. It's difficult to maintain fitness standards at 34, but Ashwini has seldom taken to the court and not given her all. The clenched fist, the pursed lips all signal intense focus, though Ashwini sticking out her tongue and smiling a wry smile after a silly error will be missed. It's just a game, she ought to remember, and she's been a delightful champion. Do's: Vary the serves, Jwala believed them to be her underrated strength.Don'ts: Do not underestimate your pairing. The experience you bring to the combination is priceless.

7. Tanisha Crasto

Badminton India's Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto during the women's doubles final badminton event against Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui at the Guwahati Masters 2023, in Guwahati, Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023

Maharashtra govt needs to treat Chirag **Shetty and Rohit Sharma equally**



GNS News Agency, July 9

When Chirag Shetty returned home to Malad-Goregaon after winning badminton's team World title, the Thomas Cup in 2022, there was no ticker-tape parade, no felicitation, no acknowledgement, no cash prizes. Not even a hurray tweet, when he and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, beat back the mighty Indonesians. It's been two years and his feat is yet to register with the Maharashtra state government. This was in total contrast to the alacrity they showed in honouring Rohit Sharma and three other Maharashtra players who were part of the T20 World Cup triumph. The cricketers deserve to be felicitated and even lavished with 11 crores, because no one can deny their sweat and tears, hard-work and resilience that makes them proud Made in Mumbai products. Also because the Indian cricket team has hardly been winning big titles. This was a good break from years of under-performance. But to stay completely blind to Chirag, who actually wins very often on the Tour and brought home the world team title, is uncaring. Not knowing that the Thomas Cup is a big deal in sport, is ignorance.

Tax-payers are fully entitled to question this showering of huge money on T20 champs, when the state has more pressing requirements of spending on health, education and real grassroots development in sports which can finally bring Olympic medals. And just as well that the photo-ops with cricketers have left Chirag hurt at being unacknowledged. For, he will work towards a gold medal at Paris, which might be slightly tougher to ignore. Chirag's father Chandrashekhar Shetty, a restaurant businessman, was specifically told by his friends when his boy had only just started playing badminton, that no one cared for any sport in Mumbai besides cricket. But the lad insisted he would try reaching unconquered heights in doubles badminton, the toughest to make a mark in. He helped India win the Thomas Cup, wheeled in his strolley quietly out of the airport and watched clips of dhols and dancing welcomes for the Telangana shuttlers, including his doubles partner. It took two years for him to say it aloud, but it must've hurt.

Ravichandran Ashwin to be co-owner of a Global Chess League franchise

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Ashwin Global Chess League team ownerThe three owners of the new Global Chess League, American Gambits: Prachura PP (left), Ravichandran Ashwin and Venkat K Narayana (right).Indian cricket team star Ravichandran Ashwin has been revealed to be a co-owner of a franchise in the Global Chess League ahead of its second season, which will be held at London Friends House from

The spinner has joined hands with Prachura PP and Venkat K Narayana to own a team that has been named as American Gambits. The American Gambits will replace the Chingari Gulf Titans, which was owned by Chingari app owner Tech4Billion Group. The American Gambits will thus compete for the title against five other teams who were around in the first season of the Global Chess League: Alpine SG Pipers owned by APL Apollo-led SG Sports, Ganges Grandmasters owned by Insurekot Sports, Mumba Masters owned by Ronnie Screwvala led Unilazer Ventures, PBG Alaskan Knights owned by Punit Balan Group, and the inaugural season champions Triveni Continental Kings owned by Triveni Engineering & Industries Limited.

"We're thrilled to introduce the American Gambits to the chess world. With a blend of strategic brilliance and unwavering determination, our team aims to redefine the game. As the co-owner, I'm excited to witness their journey and contribute to their success," R Ashwin said in a release by Global Chess League. "Prachura's deep affection for chess and business acumen, Ashwin's credentials both as an ace sportsman and chess lover, and Venkat K Narayana's leadership in business and the film







industry are well known. The trio's franchise ownership is expected to bring fresh perspectives and dynamic growth to the league. We are delighted to have them on board for our fast growing and innovative Global Chess League," Sameer Pathak, CEO, Global Chess League, said. In the second edition of Global Chess League, each team will play a total of 10 matches in a double roundrobin format, with the winner of each match being decided in a best-of-six board scoring system. Each team will play ten matches across black and white pieces. The teams will play five matches, with all six players in each team initially playing with the white or black pieces against their opponents, followed by a reverse round in which the entire team will play five matches with the reversed colour pieces against the same opponent. The winning team for every match will be determined by the points aggregated from wins and draws across all six games played in the match. The top two teams will advance to the final round.

Sri Lanka appoint Sanath Jayasuriya as interim head coach ahead of India series



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Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Monday appointed former skipper Sanath Jayasuriya as the interim head coach of the senior men's team. Jayasuriya steps into the role following the exit of Chris Silverwood after the T20 World Cup in the Americas. According to the statement released by SLC, Jayasuriya will be the interim head coach until September 2024. Jayasuriya will take charge after the ongoing T20 Lanka Premier League on July 21. Sri Lanka are then slated to play a limited-overs series at home against India and a tour to England in August.

Jayasuriya featured in 110 Tests between 1991 and 2007, scoring 6973 runs at an average of 40.07, with the help of 14 centuries and 31 fifties. In the 445 ODIs he played, the left-hander struck 13,430 runs at an average of 32.36, with 28 hundreds and 68 half centuriesHe was a key member of the Sri Lankan team that won 1996 ODI World Cup. He also served as Member of Parliament from 2010-15. Former England coach Silverwood had stepped down from the role after Sri Lanka's poor finish in the T20 World Cup. According to Sri Lanka Cricket, Silverwood had cited "personal reasons" for vacating the position. Sri Lanka won only one game at the T20 World Cup and finished third in their group behind South Africa in Bangladesh. Silverwood took over the reins in April 2022 and had propelled the side to the Asia Cup title that year. The Lankans also reached the 50-over Asia Cup final in 2023 under Silverwood. However, they failed to make the knockouts of both the T20 World Cup in 2022 and the 2023 ODI World Cup in India.

'Below-average England won't be remembered by everyone': Tim Paine responds to Ben Stokes' dressing room comments

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Tim Paine has slammed Ben Stokes' Ashes 2023 remarks citing that his England side will be remembered for their style of play. (AP)Tim Paine has slammed Ben Stokes' Ashes 2023 remarks citing that his England side will be remembered for their style of play. Former Australia Test captain Tim Paine has come down hard on Ben Stokes' remarks during Ashes 2023 that his Test side will 'forever in the memory of people who were lucky enough to witness us play'. The England Test captain's statement was shown in an ECB documentary on the Ashes 2023 series, where England lost the chance to square the fivematch series before the final Test at the Oval. A heavy downpour in Old Trafford hampered England's chance of levelling Australia at 2-2 after losing the first two Tests. "Everything we've done up until now isn't going to stop because we haven't managed to win the urn back," Stokes told his teammates in the dressing room after the disappointment of not finding an outright result in Manchester. "The reward for our work isn't what we get, but what we become. "And what we have managed to do is, we've managed to become a sports team that will live forever in the memory of people who were lucky enough

to witness us play cricket.' The series eventually ended 2-2 at the Oval as Aus-

tralia retained the urn. Paine found Stokes' comments to be out of place after England failed to win at home but related the positive message to the 'Bazball' philosophy under head coach Brendon McCullum. England failed to make the World Test Championship final in the previous cycle and are currently at the bottom of the nine-team

championship in the third edition.

"I think it was taken slightly out of context because he was talking in a changing room and it was a bigger speech, so I will say that," Paine told on SEN Tassie Breakfast. "However, it's just this continued belief that they're completely changing the game and they're doing this amazing stuff and everyone's going to remember it .. they're not."You're coming dead last in the World Test Championship. You're not going to be a team that everyone remembers watching and you're not doing anything outrageously good that we haven't seen before. "You're an average cricket team. (Actually) you're at the moment, a below-average cricket team and I think they need to get their head around that a little bit," Paine remarked. While Australian media outlet Fox Sports took a jibe at Stokes' remarks on social media, the Englishman responded: "Said this to the team who had watched it rain for 2 days when we had our foot on your throats, just tried to cheer up the disappointment, but anyways rent free and all that."

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