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

Medak: Yet another incident of negligence came to the fore in government hostel kitchens in Medak district on 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.

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

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.

Maha Oppn skips all party meeting on reservation issue



GNS News Agency, July 9

Mumbai: Maharashtra opposition parties decided to skip the meeting convened by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday to discuss Maratha and OBC reservation 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 meeting 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 activists but what transpired in those meetings was not conveyed to the opposition parties. "Had CM and Deputy CM informed the outcome of the meetings it would have been 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 communities. 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 amicably 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 government had briefed the opposition about the deliberations that took place by the CM and Deputy CM with Maratha and OBC activists.

Rajnath says death of five soldiers in J&K will not go unavenged

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 Tuesday.

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 Badnora 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 Badnora, 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 Badnora, 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.

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 amount of Rs.2.68 lakh.

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 visit.

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 that we made possible. Blaming the people for our mistakes 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 Venkarama 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 said.

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 BRS inducting opposition 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 seats.

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.

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, BCCI 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 Gautam Gambhir as the new Head Coach of the Indian Cricket Team."

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



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 APTThe anti-money laundering agency had arrested 55-year-old Kejrjwal, also the national convener 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 Kejrjwal for July 12.

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



GNS News Agency, July 9

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. 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”.

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 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.

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 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.

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.

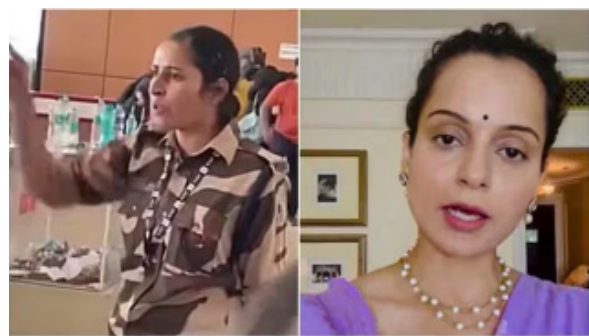
Five years earlier, he had declared a residential house in the posh Jawahar Nagar locality of Srinagar, purchased in 2017, as his only asset and also stated that he had a liability of Rs 60 lakh towards a home loan from a bank.

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.

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.



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.

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.

“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’.



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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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 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.

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 Ranveer 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...'



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 Minister 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 world 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

How can stars help 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 heavy 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 Dhawan.

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 certain budget, we didn't face any financial problem in that. It gave us a lot of creative satisfaction that those who saw the film loved it. As the saying in our industry goes, films don't fail, budgets do. So if you make a film with a certain cast, the budget has to be drawn accordingly. At the same time, you have to make your film look good. If you watch Ishq Vishq Rebound, it looks fresh and colourful, and a big screen experience. It will not look like a film just assembled on a set here. A lot of makers today are voicing their concern regarding entourage cost, rousing stars fees. How do you look at it? See filmmaking is a business, ultimately. When I am mounting a film and signing a star, I have to look at his fee, his entourage cost. I proceed by factoring everything, and if I feel it is too high, I talk to them and ne-

gotiate with them. It is then upto the negotiation and if I feel the amount agreed is feasible, that the project is viable, only then will I make it otherwise I won't. No one makes a film not thinking about this. So, entourage cost is there, but a bigger problem is the star fee. It's true that they ask for a high fee but a lot of stars today are mindful of the recoveries and the business, and they come in backend, and they agree for profit sharing. Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan do that. We made Race 3 with Salman, and everything was on a partnership basis. All big stars do this today. So, if the entourage cost increases, it will also be deducted from their share. It is a better business model. When Ishq Vishq had released, it was the era of romances, which doesn't seem to be the case anymore. Today, we don't see young films. Ev-

everyone 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



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-to-be, 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 moves 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 highly-anticipated 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' franchise, 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.

