

INDIAN CHRONICLE

21 August, 2024 | Wednesday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:164 | Pages: 8+8 | www.indianchronicle.com | Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) ₹ 3

RGIA Hyderabad wins best airport award for third consecutive year

Hyderabad: Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has once again clinched the prestigious title of Best Airport at the India Travel Awards, marking its third consecutive win. Celebrating the achievement on social media, airport authorities expressed their gratitude to industry partners, travelers, and supporters. "We're on a roll with a hat-trick of success! We're thrilled to announce that #HYDAirport has won the India Travel Awards for Best Airport—our third award in a row! This accolade is a testament to our excellence, recognising our dedication to creative social media engagement and exceptional airline support."

Social media abuzz as massive lightning strikes Hyderabad amid rains

Hyderabad: Amidst heavy rains during the early hours of Tuesday, Hyderabad was struck by a fierce lightning storm, startling residents. At around 5:44 am, a powerful lightning bolt with an intensity of 516 kA reportedly hit near the Miyapur Metro Depot, causing strong vibrations that reverberated across the area. Social media buzzed with reports of the intense storm, with users describing the loud noises and the shaking of buildings. One user on X mentioned, "One friend reported his bed shaking, and another said his house shook!" "There was a sudden bright flash followed by loud, prolonged thunder, which felt like experiencing vibrations and building seemed to have shook (sic)," another user said.

CM Revanth Reddy's unparliamentary language in front of school children shocks Telangana

GNS News Agency, August 20

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who has been facing fierce criticism for his language and failing to maintain the decorum of the Chief Minister of a State, lived up to his reputation once again. This time in front of school children. The use of unparliamentary language at a programme organised by the Congress party in connection with the 80th birth anniversary celebrations of former Prime Minister the late Rajiv Gandhi at Somajiguda here on Tuesday shocked netizens and the general public alike.



Many school children had turned up for the programme. They were made to stand wearing shirts with photos of the former Prime Minister. The Chief Minister, unmindful of the school children's presence in the audience, abused the BRS and its leaders. Defending the Congress party's decision to install Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of Secretariat, the Chief Minister said a few people were opposing the statue installation due to vested interests. In a veiled attack at BRS working president KT Rama Rao, the Chief Minister said he was planning to install the statue of his father and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao.

"When will his father pass away and when will the statue be installed there?" Revanth Reddy asked the audience, adding that installation of Rajiv Gandhi's statue next to Telangana Martyrs Memorial would be inspira-

tional to the next generation but not of those who allegedly looted Telangana. Continuing his abusive speech, the Chief Minister further dared the BRS to touch Rajiv Gandhi's statue. "They will be slapped with chappals and thrashed," Revanth Reddy said, repeatedly using unparliamentary words. The Chief Minister also threatened dire consequences if any one touched Rajiv Gandhi's statue. "After installation of Rajiv Gandhi statue, let them announce a date and our TPCC working president Jagga Reddy and others will also turn up. Even before anyone touches the statue, we will make them understand the consequences," Revanth Reddy threatened before the school children. The episode immediately triggered a fierce backlash on social media, with many asking how could a Chief Minister use such language in front of children.

Centres U-turn on lateral entry, asks UPSC to cancel ads

New Delhi, August 20

Under attack from the Congress-led Opposition and its own allies LJP and JD (U) for advertising 45 government posts without the benefit of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and OBC quotas, the Government on Tuesday rolled back the plan to induct private sector specialists to key central positions asking the UPSC to cancel the lateral entry advertisements issued on August 17. "It is important that the constitutional mandate towards social justice is upheld so that deserving candidates from marginal communities get their rightful representation in the government services. Since these positions (the ones advertised by the UPSC) have been treated as specialised and designated as single cadre posts, there has been no provision of reservation in these appointments. This aspect needs to be reviewed and reformed in context of PM Narendra Modi's focus on ensuring social justice. Hence I urge the UPSC to cancel the advertisement for lateral entry recruitment issued on August 17. This step would be a significant advance in the pursuit of social justice and empowerment," Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a letter to UPSC chairman Preeti Sudan on Tuesday.

The minister also recalled the history of the lateral entry plan saying it as a principle lateral entry was endorsed by the second Administrative Reforms Commission, which was constituted in 2005 and chaired by Congress veteran Veerappa Moily. "The recommendations of the sixth Pay Commission in 2013 (under Congress led UPA) were also in the same direction. However before and after that there have been many high profile cases of lateral entrants. Under earlier government posts as important as secretaries in various ministries, leadership of UIDAI, have been given to lateral entrants without following any process of reservations. Further it is well known



that the members of the infamous National Advisory Council used to run a super bureaucracy that controlled the PMO," Jitendra Singh said in his letter. The minister added that while most of the major lateral entries before 2014 (when Narendra Modi became PM) were made in an ad hoc manner, "including cases of alleged favouritism, efforts of our government have been to make the process institutionally driven, transparent and open." "Further the PM is of the first belief that the process of lateral entry must be aligned with the principles of equity and social justice enshrined in our Constitution, particularly concerning the provisions of reservations. For the PM reservation in public employment is a cornerstone of our social justice framework, aimed at addressing historical injustices and promoting inclusivity," Singh said. UPSC had issued ads to induct 45 private experts across joint secretary level (10 posts), director and deputy sector level posts in specialised segments across ministries of home, science and technology, electronics and information technology, new and renewable energy among others. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and BSP chief Mayawati have attacked the lateral entry scheme for absence of SC, ST, OBC quotas.

KTR criticises police harassment in Telangana

GNS News Agency, August 20

Hyderabad: Criticising the growing police apathy in Telangana, BRS working president KT Rama Rao raised concern over the prevailing conditions in the State. He cited different incidents indicating the lack of law enforcement, increasing harassment and also the political worship. Taking to X, Rama Rao shared photographs of a recent event in Nizamabad, where a sweet shop owner displayed a huge banner in front of it, stating that "shop is closed due to police harassment." In contrast, he shared another photograph from Warangal where an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) participated in a birthday celebration for Minister Konda Surekha organised by the Congress leaders. The celebration, which took place on a busy road, involved cake cutting and the bursting of firecrackers which reportedly injured four civilians, who were later taken to MGM Hospital for treatment. The Sirilla MLA questioned the apparent disparity in police actions, asking DGP Jithender whether the service rules had changed recently. "Please do let us know, as I am demanding answers as a legislator," he said.



Kolkata rape-murder case: 'Horrific', SC orders formation of national task force for safety of doctors

GNS News Agency, August 20

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the formation of a national task force to suggest measures for the security of medical professionals across the country, observing that the safety of doctors is the "highest national concern". A bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, which has taken suo moto cognisance of the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the state-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata earlier this month, termed the incident "horrific" which raises "systemic issue of safety of doctors across the country".



"We are deeply concerned with the fact that there is an absence of safe conditions of work for young doctors across the country, particularly, public hospitals," CJI Chandrachud-led Bench said. It added, "We earnestly appeal to all the doctors that we are here to ensure that their safety and protection is the matter of highest national concern. We feel this is not now a matter of a particular offence but something which affects the institution of healthcare pan India." The Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, asked the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) to file a status report detailing the status of the investigation within two days as well as the state government to file a status report in relation to the incident of vandalism inside the hospital premises.

It pulled up the West Bengal government over the publication of the name, photographs and video clips of the deceased victim. "It is extremely concerning. We are

first to recognize the right to free speech, but there are well-settled parameters," it said. In response, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, said, "We have filed 50 FIRs. Before the police arrived, photos were taken and circulated. We did not allow anything to happen." Questioning the role of then principal Dr Sandip Ghosh, who is now facing marathon questioning for 13 to 14 hours each day by CBI since last Friday, the top court asked, "What was the principal doing? Why an attempt to pass off the incident as a suicide? Not registering an FIR till late in the evening?" "On the next day, a mob assembles at the hospital and critical facilities are damaged, what are the police doing? What are they (the police) doing? Allowing vandals to enter the hospital?" the bench asked further.

India raising its heft on geopolitical stage



GNS News Agency, August 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitch for global peace and progress, with efforts for convergence of interests, collaboration and, not in the least, people-to-people ties, is adding further momentum to growing calls for India's role as a peacemaker. India hosted the Voice of Global South Summit 3.0 in a virtual format under the theme - 'Unity of voice, Unity of purpose' - from January 12 to 13. A galaxy of leaders from 123 nations, including Iraq, Cuba, Brunei, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Nauru, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Tuvalu, Laos, Cambodia, and Turkmenistan, took part in the summit underpinned by India's philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. Global South accounts for two-thirds of humanity and refers to the nations having a relatively low level of economic and industrial development, and are typically located to the south of more industrialised nations. However, its heft is growing, as seen in increase in its contribution to the world GDP from 20% in the seventies to 42 per cent by 2022. Addressing the summit, the PM gave a clarion call to reduce chasm between North-South and East-West, with the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas. No one country shall be left behind, he said, urging the nations to strengthen hands to root out poverty and at the same time protect the earth, for a sustainable future with peace and progress on all fronts. He stressed on development finance and aid, while avoiding the pitfalls of debt trap. He impressed upon the leaders to stay mutually invested in the convergence efforts.

Modi's call for collectively tackling the challenges created by the war situation and climate change for the development journey found resonance at the summit. However, India knows well that the Global South will want both Chinese and Indian support, unwilling to see either as their voice. Nevertheless, there is uneasiness about China's debt-trap and abuse of resources, and positivity about India's stance on many an issue for collective cause.

This is what India needs to build on as it seeks permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Spreading goodwill is thus imperative for India. In this regard, Narendra Modi's long standing on the global scene besides personal warmth with many leaders would stand India in good stead. He is already being urged to play an honest peace broker, be it in the Middle East, between Israel and Iran-backed Hamas or in Europe between Russia and Ukraine. What are India's credentials to be a global peacemaker and mediator? It is the fastest-growing economy in the world. India's economic juggernaut is unstoppable. It is the largest country in terms of population and democracy in the world. It is a nuclear weapon state. It never attacked any country. It is committed to global peace and is a huge contributor to UN Peacekeeping Missions.

Supreme Court posts final hearing on Kavitha's bail plea to August 27

GNS News Agency, August 20

Hyderabad: The Supreme Court on Tuesday posted the final hearing on the bail plea of BRS MLC K Kavitha in connection with the Delhi Excise policy case to August 27. During the hearing of bail petitions on Tuesday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) informed the Supreme Court that it would file its counter to the BRS MLC's bail plea in a money laundering case linked to the Delhi Excise Policy case by August 22. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing both the ED and the CBI, informed a Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan that the CBI's counter affidavit was already filed on Monday. He said the ED's counter affidavit was in the pipeline and would be submitted by the specified date. "We do not understand this tendency of (lengthy) counters in bail matters. In High Courts case diary is placed and then decided (finally)," the Bench observed, while adjourning the bail plea of Kavitha. Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi appeared for the BRS MLC. In a statement, Kavitha's advocate Mohit Rao said the Supreme Court was serious about the delaying tactics of the CBI and the ED. After making certain remarks, the court set the final hearing for next Tuesday. While the ED was asked to file its counter by Thursday, Kavitha was allowed to file a rejoinder by Friday.

BRS to organise State-wide protests on August 22



GNS News Agency, August 20

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) will hold a State-wide protest on August 22, demanding implementation of an unconditional crop loan waiver for all farmers. The protests will be held in mandal and constituency headquarters across Telangana to pressurise the State government into fulfilling its loan waiver promises. In a statement, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the Congress government imposed unnecessary conditions on the crop loan waiver process to reduce its expenditure and failed to deliver its promise for complete farm loan waiver upto Rs 2 lakh for all farmers. As the main opposition party, the BRS would continue to fight for the rights of farmers until the loan waiver was implemented without any conditions.

In a scathing attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Rama Rao pointed out that the Chief Minister initially promised to waive farmers' loans by December 9, only to later push the deadline to August 15. He pointed out the contradictory statements of the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues, coupled with the delay leading to widespread anxiety and distress among farmers across the State.

"While the Chief Minister claims that loans up to Rs 2 lakh have been waived for all farmers, Ministers say the loan waiver process is still going on. This contradictory statements have left farmers confused," he said. The BRS working president said before the elections, the Congress party had promised a loan waiver of up to Rs.2 lakh for every farmer. But after coming to power, the party failed to deliver its promise and kept misleading people. He said although the Chief Minister announced Rs.40,000 crore for the farm loan waiver initially, only Rs.31,000 crore were sanctioned by the State Cabinet, and a mere Rs.26,000 crore was allocated in the budget. Of this, less than Rs.18,000 crore have been spent, leaving many farmers without the relief they were promised. "Rather than allaying fears of farmers and standing by them, the Chief Minister and the Ministers are acting irresponsibly by making contradictory statements. They also released funds far lesser than promised, putting the fate of many farmers in jeopardy. Not even 40 per cent farmers have benefited from the loan waiver so far," he added. Rama Rao stated that lakhs of farmers were being forced to run from pillar to post in different government offices every day to find why they were being denied the loan waiver.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Call against drugs

PUNJAB's drug problem is so severe that every effort aimed at stemming the rot deserves praise. It is commendable that many Punjabi celebrities — from renowned actors and singers to outstanding sportspersons — have exhorted people of the state to shun drugs and restore the health of Punjabi youth. Amid the continuing police crackdown on drugs, the appeal by these popular figures is expected to bolster the fight against the menace, which has been eating into the state's vitals for the past two decades or so. The involvement of India's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and cricketers Harmanpreet Kaur and Arshdeep Singh in the 'nasha-mukt Punjab' movement is particularly significant. Fitness is a key prerequisite for sporting success, and champions belonging to the state can inspire youngsters to stay away from drugs and take up sports as a career or a hobby.

As far as Punjabi performers are concerned, they need to be more vocal in condemning singers, actors and filmmakers who glorify alcohol consumption and violence. Those who promote the lethal cocktail of drugs and guns should be called out unequivocally. The cleansing and course correction have to start within the Punjabi film and music industry.

Hindi movie Uda Punjab (2016) drew the nation's attention to the border state's drug crisis. The state government of the day contended that Punjab was wrongly portrayed as a drug haven, but there were many observers who saw in it a glimpse of the ground situation. Eight years later, the famed land of farmers and soldiers is still struggling to erase the drug taint and combat narco terror. Apart from the wholehearted support of stars, Punjab needs greater assistance from the Centre. Curbing cross-border smuggling of contraband holds the key to snapping the supply chain.

Ahead of formal launch, Supriya Sule dares Maharashtra govt to cancel forms of women beneficiaries of 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana'



Even as the Maharashtra government is set to officially inaugurate the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' in Pune on Saturday, Baramati MP Supriya Sule has challenged the government "to show courage and cancel the forms of those women who do not attend today's event".

GNS News Agency, August 20

Supriya Sule has been slamming the Mahayuti government ever since two of its MLAs, Ravi Rana and Mahesh Shinde, allegedly made comments that drew their sharp rebukes even from Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar. Even as the Maharashtra government is set to officially inaugurate the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' in Pune on Saturday, Baramati MP Supriya Sule has challenged the government "to show courage and cancel the forms of those women who do not attend today's event".

"These people (government) are threatening that they will cancel the forms of those who do not attend today's event organised by the government. They have invited sisters for the event and later, they will pat themselves by tom-tomming about the turnout. Those sitting in power are making the brother-sister relation look cheap," Sule said. She added, "They should remember they cannot frighten the sisters in this manner." Sule has been slamming the Mahayuti government ever since two of its MLAs, Ravi Rana and Mahesh Shinde, allegedly made comments that drew their sharp rebukes even from Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar. "Two MLAs make ridiculous comments. But other than speaking against them and that too without naming them, the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Ministers have taken no action against them. This is how they respect the women of Maharashtra," Sule said in her speeches. At an event in Daund taluka, she also played the recordings of the comments of one of the MLAs.

Sule added that in the name of 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana', the government has sought to lower the dignity of women in Maharashtra. "They are using all ugly tactics for the sake of the elections. They are threatening the women... They are talking of taking back the money (to be given under the scheme). They are talking of disqualifying women from getting the money. It is really shocking to know the depths to which this government has sunk," Sule said. The government has organised the formal launching of the scheme at the Balewadi stadium in Pune on Saturday. The CM and Deputy CMs are slated to attend the event. The government also claimed that it has already deposited Rs one crore in the accounts of the women beneficiaries. Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said, "Once the Maha Vikas Aghadi government comes to power, it will increase the amount of Rs 1,500 per month being given to the women beneficiaries to Rs 3,000 per month. Our scheme will be any day better than that of the Mahayuti." Meanwhile, the police are taking all measures to avoid traffic jams in and around Balewadi stadium and on the Mumbai-Bengaluru highway. The police have banned all heavy vehicles on the highway.

Delhi HC directs reconstitution of IOA ad-hoc panel for wrestling



GNS News Agency, August 20

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the reconstitution of the ad-hoc committee of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) that was tasked with overseeing and supervising the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI's) operations, including selections and trials, after the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) had suspended the wrestling body's newly elected executive committee last year. Hearing an application by wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, seeking suspension of the WFI, the court of Justice Sachin Datta held that the revocation of the ad-hoc committee appointed by the IOA was "incongruous" with the ministry's December 24, 2023 order suspending the body.

The court also did not mince its words to record that "the MYAS did not express any reservation or protest, when the ad-hoc committee was dissolved by the IOA" and that it appears that "dissolution of the ad-hoc committee enjoyed the tacit approval of MYAS". The WFI had elected a new executive committee after the ouster of former chief Brij Bhushan Singh following sexual harassment allegations by several women wrestlers, including Phogat, but the sports ministry in its December 24, 2023 order directed the newly elected body to abstain from administering and managing the day-to-day activities of WFI over serious concerns over the body's "governance and integrity".

Apart from the sports ministry, the United World Wrestling (UWW) too in August 2023 had suspended the WFI on account of not holding elections. But in February this year, the UWW lifted the suspension even as the ministry's suspension remained in operation. With UWW's revocation of the suspension, in effect, this meant that India's athletes were allowed to once again compete under the national flag internationally. At the same time, WFI proposed conducting parallel trials for international competitions along with the trials being conducted otherwise by the ad-hoc committee of IOA.

On March 18, the IOA issued an office order where the ad-hoc committee appointed to manage the affairs of WFI was dissolved with immediate effect. The IOA reasoned that the decision was in light of the lifting of the WFI ban by the UWW and the successful completion of selec-

tion trials by the ad-hoc committee, consequent to which "there is no further need for running the activities of the WFI through an ad-hoc committee". The office order had further instructed the WFI to appoint a safeguarding committee/officer to address the concerns of abuse and harassment and to ensure adherence to all rules, regulations and guidelines set forth by UWW. In its 30-page verdict, Justice Datta took note of the fact that the sports ministry has clarified that its suspension of WFI continues and that the ministry had not issued any communication to IOA withdrawing its request for the constitution of an ad-hoc committee, and the dissolution of the committee was without the ministry's approval. The court went on to observe that the reasons cited for the dissolution of the committee in IOA's office order "had no bearing or connection with the governance issues highlighted in the suspension order dated 24.12.2023, which impelled constitution of the ad-hoc committee in the first place" and held that UWW's revocation of suspension of WFI "was unconnected with the circumstances set out in the suspension order" by the ministry, and the consequent formation of the ad-hoc committee by the IOA.

The court held that the dissolution of the ad-hoc committee is "incongruous and incompatible" with the sports ministry's order "whereby the newly elected executive committee of the WFI has been instructed to abstain from administering and managing the day-to-day activities of the Federation with immediate effect... considering that there is nothing on the record of this court to conclude that the concerns which impelled the issuance of the said order in the first place, stands allayed or resolved, the dissolution of the ad-hoc committee is held to be unwarranted". The court ruled that till the December 24, 2023 suspension order was "revisited/ reviewed/recalled, it is necessary for an ad-hoc committee to manage the affairs of WFI". It further added that "the possibility of reprisal/disapproval" by UWW "cannot afford any valid justification" for not implementing the December 24, 2023 order.

"...there is no reason for the MYAS to adopt a passive approach which undermines its own orders/decisions. The remote possibility of the UWW taking umbrage ought never (to) prevent the MYAS from doing what it must to implement good governance practices consistent with the NSDCI (National Sports Development Code of India), 2011, and the law of the land..." the court said. "Also, in any event, since the Paris Olympic Games 2024 is already over, there is no reason why the respondent no.1 (MYAS) should feel constrained in taking/implementing requisite decision/s as to whether the suspension (of WFI) is required to continue or not and/or whether there needs to be an ad-hoc committee for managing the affairs of (WFI)," the court further said. The court also stressed that the insistence on "compliance with the law of the land" cannot be construed as "governmental interference" or "third party interference" so as to invite any adverse action from the international body".

Gujarat school student suffers 40% burn injuries after 'game' with sanitiser and matches, police start probe

GNS News Agency, August 20

Godhra school student suffers burn injuries Forensic teams on Saturday seized a can of blue sanitiser and a blanket that was used to rescue the student, among other pieces of evidence. A 13-year-old female student suffered 40% burn injuries due to an alleged accidental fire breaking out in the classroom of a government primary school in the Godhra town. The Godhra B Division police started a probe into the incident, wherein the Class 8 student, enrolled in Kajiwada Gujarati co-education school, recalled playing a game with her friends during the lunch break, using a liquid sanitiser and matches. According to the statement, a can of sanitiser spilled, and "someone lit a match stick". Police said the student was the only one who was injured as she was "caught in the flames". She sustained severe burn injuries on her lower limbs and waist before staff members of the school reportedly rushed to her aid and tried to douse the fire. The student's mother said that the family had received a message from the school at around 11.30 am on Friday that their daughter had "sustained some injury" in school. The mother said, "The school did not inform me about the burn injuries. They told me that my daughter had suffered some injury. When I reached the school, I saw that she had suffered severe burns."

Forensic teams on Saturday seized a can of blue sanitiser and a blanket that was used to rescue the student, among other pieces of evidence. Godhra B Division Police Inspector Ankur Chaudhary told The Indian Express that the police have made a "case diary entry" and begun a primary probe. Chaudhary said, "The victim has recorded her primary statement in which she has said that the students in the classroom were playing with liq-



uid sanitiser and matches... We are awaiting her full statement after her recovery. But forensic teams visited the school today and collected evidence from the scene... as the probe progresses, we will register a formal FIR against whoever is found to have been negligent." The District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Gayatri Patel rushed to the school late on Friday and supervised the medical treatment being given to the student at the Godhra civil hospital, while news of the incident spread sparking outrage among students' parents. "We have asked the school to submit its response to the incident as we have initiated a primary probe. The incident seems to have occurred when the students were left without supervision... We have been told that the student came to the teachers after the lunch break and said that she had suffered burn injuries. The students had just returned to the classroom from the terrace, where they were served the mid-day meal... Our focus is on ensuring that the student gets proper medical treatment," Patel said.

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda asks BBMP, BMRCL to fix bad road in Bengaluru, posts pic on X

GNS News Agency, August 20

Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda Saturday took to X to post a video of an unrepaid road in Bengaluru, requesting the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to fix it. However, the post drew public ire on social media with many expressing the sad state of road infrastructure in Bengaluru. Gowda in his post stated that, "The public has sent me a video of the service road on the Ring Road from Veerannapalya towards Hebbal. BBMP or BMRCL, whoever is responsible, please fix the potholes and repair the road to address the public's concerns." An X user stated it was "sad and funny at the same time" for that a minister in Karnataka "to request corrupt #Bengaluru #bbmp to fix the basic of basic infrastructure. We talk of smart and brand cities during elections."

K S Chandrashekar, another X user, said, "A minister's stand in the state of Karnataka.. Instead of taking action, he is pleading." Prathik Uthappa, slamming Gowda for bad roads in his own constituency said, "@krishnabgowda your entire constituency roads are not motorable currently... Even the white topped roads are cut to make things worse (thanisandra main road). Arterial roads are dug and are not hopeful of them ever being metalled considering the state of main roads."

Deepender Hooda receives Vinesh Phogat on her return to India, 'upsets' BJP's plans of grand welcome



GNS News Agency, August 20

Vinesh Phogat haryana deepender Hooda Vinesh Phogat's uncle Mahavir Phogat had termed Bhupinder Hooda's 'wish' to send Vinesh Phogat to Rajya Sabha as a "political stunt". Congress Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda and other party leaders received wrestler Vinesh Phogat at the IGI airport on Saturday upon her return from Paris.

While the BJP, too, had planned a grand welcome for Vinesh Phogat, Deepender Hooda and the Congress stole the show by holding a massive road show for the wrestler in the presence of Bajrang Punia, and several other wrestlers in the national capital. Haryana Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda had already made his plans clear when he announced that the Congress would nominate Vinesh Phogat to Rajya Sabha if it had adequate numbers. The polling for the Rajya Sabha seat from Haryana vacated by Deepender Hooda after his election to the Lok Sabha will be held on September 3.

Vinesh Phogat's uncle Mahavir Phogat had termed Bhupinder Hooda's 'wish' to send Vinesh Phogat to Rajya Sabha as a "political stunt". "Vinesh was, is, and shall always remain a champion... People have queued up to welcome our daughter Vinesh Phogat all the way from Delhi to Balali village (Vinesh Phogat's native place)," Deepender Hooda said.

Deepender Hooda was among the first few Congress leaders who had come out in support of Vinesh Phogat and other wrestlers from Haryana during their protest at Jantar Mantar against the then-BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Meanwhile, even as the Congress was holding a roadshow with Vinesh Phogat in New Delhi, Haryana BJP Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini briefed media persons in Chandigarh about the decisions taken by his government with regard to Vinesh Phogat.

Saini said, "Haryana's government and the BJP are standing with Vinesh Phogat. She is our daughter and we shall always stand with her." The Haryana Government has announced that Vinesh Phogat shall be treated like an Olympic silver medalist even though the Court of Arbitration for Sport dismissed her appeal for a joint-silver medal in the 50-kg freestyle wrestling category of the Paris Olympics. Notably, the poll fever in Haryana has started to rise with the Election Commission Friday announcing that the polling for the 90-member Assembly will be held on October 1, and the counting of votes will be conducted on October 4.

Maharashtra polls to be announced later; J&K security, weather, festivals cited as reasons



GNS News Agency, August 20

Citing the workload of a large number of security forces during Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said Friday that the Maharashtra Assembly elections will be held later. While the EC announced the J&K and Haryana elections on Friday, Maharashtra was left out of the schedule. In the past three cycles, the Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly elections have been held together. The Haryana Assembly's term is ending on November 3 and that of Maharashtra on November 26.

When asked why the Maharashtra elections had been decoupled from the Haryana polls, the CEC said holding J&K elections had not been a factor in the past election cycles. The J&K elections are being conducted after 10 years and as per a Supreme Court judgment have to be done by September 30. He said the requirement of forces in J&K was higher so the EC decided to hold only two polls at a time. He added that the work of updating the voters' list in Maharashtra had been affected by the rains. The publication of the electoral roll has been postponed in Maharashtra from August 20 to August 30. Depending on the requirement of forces, which is on a higher tone in J&K, we have decided to hold two elections together. We cannot announce another election while we have announced J&K and when it is ongoing. There are other factors too. There was rain in Maharashtra. The BLOs are yet to complete their work and there are many festivals which we have to consider when making the schedule, like Ganesh festival, Pitru Paksha, Navratri and Diwali," said the CEC. The CEC also said that all 47 by-elections, including for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, will be held together when the environment and weather conditions permit. When asked about it, the CEC said: In some states, the environment and weather conditions are such that by-elections cannot be held right now. There are 46 legislative and one Parliamentary constituency where by-elections are due. A disaster has just struck where the Parliamentary election is to be held [Wayanad]. Election cannot be held there at the moment. Some other states, like Assam and Bihar, have flood situations.

How a clue from a petrol pump helped cops solve Manipal medical student's gang rape case



GNS News Agency, August 20

For Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Sadananda Tippannavar, the rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata last week has served as a painful reminder of a similar case more than a decade ago. In June 2013, a medical student at Karnataka's prestigious Manipal University was walking back to her room from the library when she was dragged into an autorickshaw, taken to another location and gang-raped. The shocking incident took place months after the Delhi Nirbhaya gang rape and evoked outrage across the country. Under mounting pressure, the police launched a massive investigation that saw them question thousands of autorickshaw drivers before a crucial lead from a local petrol pump helped them crack the case. It was June 20, 2013. The fourth-year medical student had appeared for a few exams in the first half of June and was busy preparing for another exam. After studying at the university library, at around 11.15 pm, she decided to return to her room. As her room was inside the campus guarded by security, there was no reason for her to worry. But as she started walking on the road, an autorickshaw stopped behind her. Before she could react, two men dragged her inside the vehicle and tried to close her mouth. The student screamed. Security guard Manoj, who was nearby, heard her screams, spotted the autorickshaw, and gave chase but the auto sped away. The student's purse and umbrella fell on the road. Giving up the chase, Manoj informed the Manipal police.

Tippannavar, who was the police inspector at Manipal police station at the time, recalls that there was a gap of 20 minutes between the incident and the police being informed. "I rushed to Manipal University and went to the room where the young student stayed with her roommate. I gave my contact number to her and formed multiple teams to look for her. Every minute felt like an hour as we were unable to find her," he recalls. Around 2.55 am, Tippannavar got a call from the student's roommate saying she had returned but was in bad shape. Tippannavar, Jai Vittal, the estate officer of the university, and other police officials rushed to the room. The distraught student had shared her ordeal with her roommate and the police learnt that the three men had raped her in an isolated place. While two accused got down midway, one dropped her back to her room.

The next day, the incident sent shockwaves across the country, raising questions about the safety of women. "The Nirbhaya gang-rape case was still fresh in public memory. An incident like this within the campus premises raised a lot of questions. We were under severe pressure to nab the accused," says Tippannavar. With the police coming under the media glare, it was all hands on deck. Pratap Reddy, Inspector General of Police (West), and M B Boralingaiah, Superintendent of Police, were stationed at the Manipal police station. Tippannavar says he remembers not sleeping for the next four days.

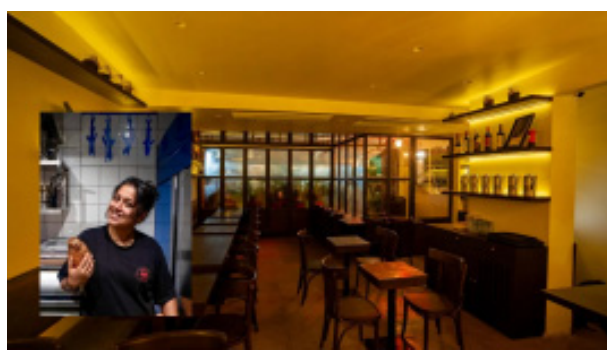
"We released sketches of the suspects from what-ever information we had. Every day, there was a media briefing at around 4 pm to prevent speculation and to share information, selectively," he says. The police realised that they were running out of time. "More than 150 police personnel from various police stations of the district were part of the team. If you remember, besides the Nirbhaya incident, the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government had not even finished a month when the

crime occurred. Then home minister K J George was also constantly in touch with investigating officials. There was a lot of pressure on the police," says a police officer. Tippannavar says the only evidence the police had was that the student had been abducted in an autorickshaw. "There were CCTV cameras but we could not see the registration number of vehicles. The security guard who had chased the autorickshaw had also not seen the registration number. Across the district, we called all autorickshaw drivers to appear before the investigating team and about 12,000 drivers were scanned," says Tippannavar. The police scanned the mobile phones that were active at the location but there were no results. "As we were investigating, we learned that an autorickshaw driver named Yogish had not appeared before the police," he adds.

When the police tried to get in touch with Yogish, they found that he was not in town. That is when the police learned that Yogish's vehicle had been plying on the road on the day of the incident. The investigation team had its first suspect. "The nearest petrol pump was Sri Krishna petrol pump. We checked their CCTV footage and found that Yogish, Hariprasad and Ananda had visited the petrol pump a few minutes before the crime. On June 20, 2013, around 11 pm, they had refilled fuel for Rs 100. We had our men..." says Tippannavar. A suicide drama the police thought they had their suspects but what they did not foresee was that they would have to 'save' them first. After the news of the rape became public, Yogish had taken a bus to Mysuru. "I went to Mysuru in search of Yogish after tracking his mobile phone. By then, it was June 26 and he had returned to Udipi. While I was in Mysuru, Yogish called me over the phone and said that the police would never be able to catch him as he was planning to die by suicide. I immediately alerted the local police who tracked him down," says Tippannavar. By the time the local police reached the spot, Yogish had tried to die by suicide. The police shifted him to Kasturba Medical College, Manipal. Another accused, Anand, also tried to die by suicide and was rescued by the police. Subsequently, Yogish, Ananda and Hariprasad were arrested. The police found out that Yogish's brother Balachandra and Hariprasad's brother Harindra Poojary had tried to destroy evidence. The conviction

On October 15, 2015, a principal sessions judge in Udipi district convicted all five accused in the case. Judge Shivashankar B Amarannavar sentenced Yogish, Hariprasad and Ananda to rigorous imprisonment for life and a fine of Rs 1 lakh. Balachandra and Poojary were sentenced to three years' imprisonment. A police officer who was part of the probe team remembers how they brought a 'fake victim' to court to let the medical student enter court without media attention. "While the media was waiting with the cameras, we brought another woman wearing a burkha. Unknown to them, we had brought the victim unnoticed from the back gate wearing a burkha. By then, the police actions had instilled confidence in the victim. She confidently gave her statement. That was a relief for us," he says. Reddy, who has retired now, says that as Manipal was a student hub, the police had initiated several measures, keeping the safety of women and students in mind. "Even before the Nirbhaya incident, we had held talks with the university about how the campus had to be lit and how CCTVs had to be installed at the right places. But even then this incident happened," he says. Tippannavar is now an ACP in Bengaluru's Peenya. "As a police officer, I am relieved that I got justice for the victim but as a father or a human being, I don't think I have given the girl justice," he says. "I am in touch with her and whenever she sees me on some news channel, she calls me to ask how I am doing. She has moved on and she is now a reputed doctor and I am very happy about it," he adds.

With her new bar Bombay Daak, chef Niyati Rao brings elevated 'daaru-chakna' experience to Bandra



GNS News Agency, August 20

Back in the day, when Chef Niyati Rao's father brought his friends home for impromptu drinks, her mother would whip up a 'chakna' that had everyone licking their fingers. "As a South Indian, she always had rasam on hand. She'd add chicken, let it thicken and then add ghee, spices, and curry leaves, and his friends couldn't get enough," recalled chef Rao. Her mother, Hetal R. Rao, has a unique distinction — her name is the first on the 'Donor's List' at Bombay Daak, a new 'daaru chakna' bar opened by Chef Niyati Rao and her husband and restaurateur Sagar Neve in Bandra. But this isn't a list of who signed the fattest check but who contributed the most in terms of recipes and stories. For instance, the recipe of rasam belongs to Bombay Daak's head chef Rashmi's grandmother.

A reminiscent of a pre-colonial Indian establishment, the space bathed in the warm glow of 110-year-old vintage lamps, sourced from Chor Bazar. Its walls are a treasure trove of eclectic artifacts: jars, bottles, sugarcane juice glasses, stainless steel water jugs, aluminium bill boxes, and vintage matchboxes collected from parents and grandparents. The kitchen's hand-painted tiles showcase local botanicals and ingredients, adding a vibrant touch to the space. The hand-painted logo featured on the curtain that separates the powder room and the seating area, we learnt from chef Rao, depicts an intoxicated tiger with a bombil in its mouth, symbolising indulgence and joy of experiencing food and drink without societal taboos.

Shortly after we settled in, we were treated to two complimentary starters — a potato papad topped with a spicy Gujarati Sambharia masala, served with thick hung curd raita and mango pickle, and a bowl of flavourful Schezwan namkeen served on a bed of garlic cream fresh. Both were delightful, setting the stage for the rest of the meal. "Schezwan chutney is a dive bar staple, and I wanted to showcase it my way," Chef Rao explained,

adding that the mango pickle is a homemade gem from her mother. Next came an array of small plates bursting with flavour. Wai Wai (Rs 380), a nod to a popular North East Indian snack, featured noodles made in Manipal's Singu-style salad with 15 ingredients. Zhanzanit Kakdi (Rs 350), a staple at Neve's home, lived up to its reputation. The dishes, served on steel or ceramic plates, evoke a bygone era. Each dish is fiery, which goes in tandem with cocktails but if you have a low spice tolerance, do mention it to the staff at the beginning.

We also enjoyed Eggplant Pickle (Rs 180), another recipe from Swati Neve — Sagar's mother — whose name is also on the donor's list. "Sagar and I married about a year ago, and I noticed that in Maharashtra, men and women drink together. His mother makes an eggplant pickle that's a go-to chakna when she and her husband drink together, and I wanted to bring it here," Rao said. This pickle was so good that we couldn't resist reaching out for a second and third help. Chivde Kapse (Rs 350), another dish that we sampled, was marred by a few overly hard corn kernels, a minor letdown given Rao's reputation as head chef and co-owner of the acclaimed Ekaa in Fort.

When it comes to the 'daaru', head mixologist Yatish Bangera was entrusted with the task to put together concoction using local spirit and drinking culture. "An important part of the brief was that the R&D cannot be done online but by talking to people from the local communities," said Bangera. His cocktail menu, including Noon (inspired by Kashmir's noon chai), Whistle Podu (a mix of clarified rasam and gin), and Barma Barma (evoking a 'manchurian soup' reaction), showcased creative takes on local flavours. The standout was Finding Feni (Rs 950). "We wanted to use Goa's popular Feni and add to it raw mango curry — a dish that's popular among the region's Gaud Saraswat Brahmin community," Bangera explained. The drink, garnished with raw mango slices infused in feni and kokum, struck a perfect balance, cutting Feni's strong, bitter edge. "The name Bombay Daak has historical resonance," noted Rao, adding that in pre-colonial times, the Britishers developed a fondness for Bombil, a local fish favoured by the Koli community as an accompaniment to alcohol. "It was shipped to Calcutta via a train called Bombay Daak — 'Daak' meaning 'mail' in Hindi. Since the British struggled with 'Bombil', they dubbed it Bombay Duck." Rao adds that naming their restaurant Bombay Daak is their way of celebrating how this beloved fish travelled from Bombay to Calcutta and back. Here, Bombil is served deep-fried and topped with masala, just as it's always been cherished by the Koli community.

Kolkata doctor rape-murder: NCW committee flags issues at R G Kar hospital, says 'no security at night, basic amenities lacking'



GNS News Agency, August 20

R G Kar medical college and hospital expressing deep concern for the safety of women medical professionals, the NCW called for immediate and stringent measures to protect on-call interns, nurses, and doctors. A two-member National Commission for Women (NCW) committee looking into the rape and murder of a woman doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata has flagged the inadequate security and poor facilities at the hospital and the lapses in the police investigation.

The committee comprising NCW member Delina Khongdup and advocate Soma Chaudhary submitted its preliminary findings on Friday. The report highlights a shocking lack of security at the hospital, particularly during night shifts. No security guards were present at the

time of the incident, the report says, adding that the overall security arrangements for on-call interns, doctors, and nurses on the night shift were found to be inadequate. The report also stated that the hospital lacked basic amenities for women doctors and nurses with the washrooms in a poor condition, no security measures in these areas and inadequate lighting. The committee also said that the questioning of Sandeep Ghosh, former principal of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital who resigned following the incident, is incomplete and urged authorities to expedite this process. Ghosh was questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday. Expressing deep concern for the safety of women medical professionals, the NCW called for immediate and stringent measures to protect on-call interns, nurses, and doctors. Meanwhile, the nationwide 24-hour doctors' strike called by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in protest against the rape and murder of a second-year trainee doctor at R G Kar Medical College, Kolkata disrupted outpatient department (OPD) services across the country. In Kolkata, the epicentre of the agitation, protests continued for the eighth day. The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front issued a statement on Saturday saying that OPD and emergency services were "operating efficiently" and there was no reason to believe that "access to medical care" had been compromised. The association also raised several demands, including the arrest of all culprits in the case, action against several hospital authorities, a CBI probe into the allegations of evidence tampering etc.

When Australian nurses at Pune's war hospital took care of British soldiers during World War I

GNS News Agency, August 20

Nurse Ivy Little wrote about her time in Pune as "cheerful life in the Land of Rajah". Another nurse, Veronica Norton, described Pune as a 'gay place' but wished that there were more Australian soldiers in the hospital "because we are always arguing (with the British)". Annie Low reported back to her family that at Pune hospital they were treating ailments that "we do not see very often in Australia such as Malaria, Plague, Cholera and Dysentery". A visitor to the hospital reported that the nurses stayed "like a happy family with sympathetic supervision". There is a marriage notice in the newspapers announcing nurse Ellen Murdoch's marriage to Clifford Grigg scheduled to take place in Agra. Although this episode when Pune served as an important venue to treat wounded and ill British soldiers who were fighting in the eastern front during World War I is largely forgotten, its glimpses are still visible in the archival Australian newspapers and family correspondence as a majority of nurses who worked in the Deccan British War Hospital, a temporary medical facility created in Pune between May 1916 and April 1919, hailed from Australia.

Among a number of temporary war hospitals that came up in India to meet the medical needs of the war, the Deccan British War Hospital that came up in Pune (then Poona) was housed in the sprawling campus of the College of Agriculture that was barely a decade old at that time. Pune war nurses A group of Australian nurses parts of Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) at College of Agriculture, Pune which housed the Deccan British War Hospital. (Courtsey : Australian War Memorial) "...It was located near a military camp and had been greatly expanded in 1917 to take 1000 beds. The matron and 50 or so nurses were Australian, the doctors and orderlies were English. The patients were casualties from the fighting between the British and Turks in Mesopotamia (Iraq) brought by hospital ship to India. They were suffering from battle wounds and a range of illnesses including malaria, dysentery, cholera and the effects of severe heat stroke," Marianne Barker writes in Nightingales in the Mud (published in 1919) that gives an account of Australian nurses' work in World War I.

Australian nurses in India 1914, when Great Britain declared war on Germany, Australia being a British dominion got involved. While men joined the war effort as volunteers for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), young women enrolled to serve overseas in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). As per records, over 2,000 Australian women served overseas during the World War I. In India alone, 560 nurses from Australia served. While India wasn't a primary theatre of war like the Western Front or the West Asia, it played a crucial role in supporting the British war effort. There were several war hospitals in India, some of which were temporary (established in Mumbai, Pune, and Deolali). As per records, approximately 520 trained nurses served in India during World War I consisting of over 560 members of the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). Group photo of Australian nurses in front of College of Agriculture main building Convalescent British soldiers at Deccan British War Hospital during a parade.

"Soldiers who were getting injured on the



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Mesopotamia front were brought to Mumbai in ships and then they were transported to Pune for treatment at the Deccan War Hospital, a temporary hospital created at the College of Agriculture campus. At the peak of the war, the hospital had a capacity of 1000 beds," historian Avinash Sovani said.

Many Challenges According to the nurses' accounts, while India wasn't a war zone, they faced numerous challenges during their work. They struggled with cultural differences between the local staff and the English Sisters, and had to deal with exotic diseases in underdeveloped medical settings. They were also adjusting to a drastically different climate — something that wasn't so stark in Pune. Sister Alma Bennett recorded one of her colleagues at Poona was bitten by a snake but fortunately recovered. At another hospital, when electricity was finally connected the nurses were "all delighted but each Sister still kept her hurricane lamp burning beside her bed at night, as snakes were very prevalent, many deadly ones such as Russell's Viper, Krait & Cobra having been killed, some in the Sisters' rooms". According to the nurses' accounts, while India wasn't a war zone, they faced numerous challenges during their work. Coverage of Australian newspaper of nurses serving in India. (Courtsey : Australian War Memorial)

'Agricultural students unhappy' As the main building of the college and several of the dormitories were occupied by the war hospital and its staff, the students of the College of Agriculture felt that the limitation put by this was adversely affecting the functioning of the college. "It almost appears as if the government by taking from us our main building to hospital the wounded, is sacrificing their own interests as well as those of India in this respect (by) losing many a may-be successful agriculturist — the savior of the country — among the number of those refused admission, is quite serious enough to challenge the food that's being done at the Deccan War Hospital for the matter of that could be equally done anywhere else," reads an article in July 1918 edition of the Poona Agricultural College Magazine. As the World War ended towards the end of 1918, the college campus was vacated as the war hospital was wound up in the next few months. As he handed back the occupied college buildings, Lieutenant Colonel H Winter of The Royal Army Medical Corps wrote to the principal of Agriculture College: "I am off course very sorry to part with the hospital but I am extremely glad that you have got back your old home again and I have always sympathized with you for our unavoidable occupation of your very fine college".

After marathon interrogation, CBI grills former R G Kar Medical College principal Dr Sandip Ghosh again

GNS News Agency, August 20

Dr Sandip Ghosh is pertinent to note that Dr Sandip Ghosh resigned from his post as principal on Monday following the incident but was promptly appointed to head Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital (CNMCH), triggering protests from students who did not allow him to enter the campus. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday continued its interrogation of the former Principal of Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital Dr Sandip Ghosh, in connection with the alleged rape and murder of a junior doctor at the government hospital. After questioning him for over 10 hours on Friday, the CBI summoned Ghosh again on Saturday morning. He entered the same location as Friday — the CBI office in Salt Lake — through the back gate. CBI sources indicate that the agency is "keen" to know why renovation work in the hospital began and "done in a hurry" while investigations were ongoing, looking into whether there were attempts to "tamper with evidence". They said the agency is "delving deep" into the sequence of events leading up to the tragic incident, the victim's duty schedule, and the circumstances under



which the family was informed. Additionally, Ghosh is likely to face questions about allegations levelled against him. It is pertinent to note that Dr Sandip Ghosh resigned from his post as principal on Monday following the incident but was promptly appointed to head Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital (CNMCH), triggering protests from students who did not allow him to enter the campus. The Calcutta High Court had subsequently ordered him to go on long leave, expressing shock at his continued role in the administration.

In dispute with investors over failed satellite deal, Antrix Corp tells US SC it should be treated like a foreign firm



GNS News Agency, August 20

The state-owned Antrix Corporation which markets the services of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is a company owned by the Government of India and is entitled to rights accorded to foreign corporations in the United States in legal disputes, the company has stated in a filing in the US Supreme Court. The filing on August 6 was in response to a plea by foreign investors in the Bengaluru satellite communication start-up Devas Multimedia for a 'Writ of Certiorari' or quashing of a US appeals court order disallowing the foreign investors from seeking a \$ 1.2 billion compensation from Antrix over a failed 2005 satellite deal with ISRO-Antrix.

The foreign investors in Devas had approached the US Supreme Court on May 6, 2024, against a refusal by the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to revisit its own August 1, 2023 order which said the investors cannot pursue the \$1.2 billion compensation in the US since Antrix has no presence in the US and it enjoys immunity accorded to India as a sovereign entity. On August 1, 2023, the US appeals court for the ninth circuit had ruled that a US district court "erred in exercising personal jurisdiction over Antrix Corp. Ltd., an Indian corporation, under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA), because plaintiff (Devas) failed to establish that Antrix had the requisite minimum contacts for personal jurisdiction". In the US Supreme Court, the foreign investors in Devas have challenged the US appeals court order on the grounds that "no minimum contacts analysis is required for foreign states sued under the FSIA" in the US. The foreign investors are CC/Devas (Mauritius) Limited; Devas Multimedia America Inc; Devas Employes Mauritius Private Limited; and Telcom Devas Mauritius Limited.

In their filing on August 6, Antrix argued that it is "a state-owned corporation, not a foreign government. There is no need to consider whether foreign states are entitled to due process protections, either as a matter of statutory text or constitutional right, if Antrix—as a foreign corporation—is entitled to such protections anyway". "Antrix is a private Indian company owned by the Government of India. Antrix has provided space-related services since its incorporation in 1992, but Antrix is not an agent of the Indian Department of Space or the Indian Space Research Organisation ("ISRO")," says the response. Antrix has stated that its identity as a foreign corporation and not a foreign sovereign entity was not addressed by the US appeals court as well and the company is "entitled to due process even when they are not entitled to sovereign immunity under the FSIA". The Indian space firm has argued that it has no business interests in the US and as a result, the US courts cannot review and overrule a final judgment of the Supreme Court of India which upheld the setting aside of the \$1.2 bn arbitration award.

Antrix has argued that "there is no longer an award to enforce because the Delhi High Court—the court of competent jurisdiction to determine the award's enforceability—set it aside, a decision affirmed by the Indian Supreme Court". "It is unlikely Congress would abandon ba-

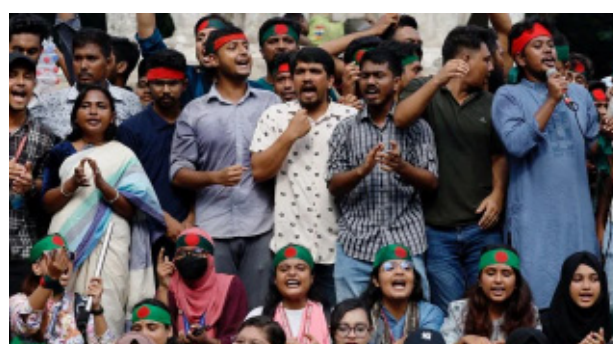
sic principles of comity and open U.S. courts to suits against foreign sovereigns in this way," Antrix Corporation has argued in its counter.

The August 1, 2023 order of the US appeals court was a major relief for Antrix Corp and the Indian government which is fighting legal battles all over the world in connection with a 2011 decision of the UPA government to annul a satellite deal inked in 2005 by Devas Multimedia and Antrix for the launch of satellite digital multimedia services – akin to satellite internet services currently on the anvil for multiple service providers in India. What foreign investors in Devas Multimedia have to say? The foreign investors have stated in their petition before the US Supreme Court that the court "should grant certiorari and confirm that no minimum contacts analysis is required for foreign states sued under the FSIA". The Ninth Circuit court's order that a foreign entity must have minimum contact or presence in the US to be liable to suits "undermines Congress's goal of creating a uniform body of law concerning the amenability of a foreign sovereign to suit in United States courts", the foreign investors in Devas Multimedia have argued. An International Chamber of Commerce arbitration tribunal awarded a \$1.2 billion compensation to the start-up Devas Multimedia and its investors on September 14, 2015, for the cancellation of the Devas-Antrix satellite deal. The US District Court for the Western District of Washington confirmed the award on October 27, 2020.

The US appeals court ruled on August 1, 2023, that Antrix Corp enjoyed immunity under the US Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and that the district court of Washington had erroneously overruled this fact while confirming the arbitration award and allowing Devas Multimedia to register the compensation order in parts of the US to seize assets linked to Antrix Corp. "It follows that if a foreign state is not a person and thus not entitled to a minimum contacts analysis through the Constitution, it is still entitled to a minimum contacts analysis through our reading of the FSIA. Thus, the district court erred in ignoring our precedents requiring it to conduct a minimum contacts analysis," the US appeals court ruled. The origin of the dispute

The UPA government annulled the 2005 Devas-Antrix satellite deal in February 2011 citing the requirement of space spectrum allocated for the satellite service for security needs. The deal was cancelled after it was cited as another instance of corruption under the UPA regime after the 2G telecom scam. Under the failed 2005 Antrix-Devas deal, ISRO was supposed to lease two communication satellites for 12 years for Rs 167 crore to Devas Multimedia. The start-up was to provide multimedia services to mobile platforms in India using the space band or S-band transponders on ISRO's GSAT 6 and 6A satellites built at a cost of Rs 766 crore by ISRO. After the NDA government came to power in 2014, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) began investigating the deal even as the foreign investors in Devas Multimedia approached various international tribunals seeking compensation for the failed deal. Devas Multimedia was awarded \$1.2 billion by an International Chamber of Commerce (on September 14, 2015); Deutsche Telekom was awarded a \$101 million compensation by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Geneva; and the Mauritius investors were awarded a \$111 million by UNCITRAL. The National Company Law Tribunal in India ordered the liquidation of Devas Multimedia on May 25, 2021, citing fraudulence in its creation, and this was upheld by the Supreme Court on January 17, 2022. The CBI and ED are currently pursuing cases of money laundering and corruption against Devas and its officials. Former ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair is among the accused in the CBI case.

Dhaka University students protest in solidarity with demonstrations over Kolkata rape incident



GNS News Agency, August 20

Students at the prestigious Dhaka University in Bangladesh held a protest in solidarity with ongoing demonstrations over the rape and murder of a woman trainee doctor at R G Kar Medical College in Kolkata city of India. The protest, organised under the banner "Awaz Tolo Nari" (Raise Your Voice, Women), on Friday, took place at the Raju Sculpture in Dhaka University where demonstrators held placards with messages such as "Hang the Rapists", "Am I Next?", "Stop Violence", and "Don't Be an Alpha Male, Question What It Represents", the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. "We are aware of the non-cooperative attitude of the medical college administration regarding the rape case in Upper Bengal. As women, we demand that the administration provide maximum legal assistance, strictly enforce the law, and announce the verdict promptly," Rahnuma Ahmed Niret, a student from the Department of Physics, said at the event.

Anya Fahmin, a student of the Department of Anthropology, added: "Women worldwide face rape, and we fully support the ongoing movement for fair accountability in the RG Kar Hospital case in Kolkata. Additionally, we call for a public trial of the rape and murder case in Bangladesh's Comilla. The general public has a right to know, especially when the army is involved. The government must ensure a safe country for women through the mass uprising of student communities." Lamisha Jahan, a student from Jahangirnagar University, said:

"Past rape incidents have seen the victims' names publicised while the names of the guilty perpetrators often remain hidden. Sometimes these cases are covered up by the government or the ruling party. The days of complacency are over. We must raise our voices against all forms of humiliation towards women." "We must build a safe country for women. The students played a crucial role in the mass uprising, and we must force our government to prosecute all rape cases and ensure women's safety," said Anika Arefin Anu, a student from the Department of Finance. On August 9, a 31-year-old woman trainee doctor was raped and murdered at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, leading to protests across India where demonstrators demanded justice for the victim.

A group of students also observed the "Occupy the Night" programme at Dhaka University in solidarity with the ongoing protests in India, demanding a fair investigation and justice for every rape case in Bangladesh following the mass uprising. On Friday, students gathered at the foot of the Anti-Terrorism Raju Memorial Sculpture at Dhaka University where teachers and distinguished individuals expressed their support for rape victims across the world. Earlier, the students marched across the campus with placards reading: "Poshaker Bahanay Par Pabena Kono Pisach" and "Proshno Jekhono Sadhinotar, Bangla Jure Oyaddedar", among others. Anika Arefin, a student of Dhaka University, said: "We have protested multiple times demanding safety for women, but freedom for women remains elusive due to cultural impunity." "We often face harassment on the streets, but there is little we can do due to a lack of proper evidence," another student said, adding that in many cases where "girls were harassed by influential figures, like teachers, did not receive justice". Ania Fahmin, a student from the anthropology department at Dhaka University, noted that most rape cases in Bangladesh are not filed, and even those that are filed rarely make it to trial. She pointed out that many incidents only come to light through social media, underscoring the lack of justice for victims. Fahmin emphasised the RG Kar incident has highlighted ongoing issues in the country and reiterated the need for exemplary punishment for perpetrators.

Justice Hema panel report on Malayalam movie industry misses deadline after actor moves Kerala High Court

GNS News Agency, August 20

On her decision to move the court, Ranjini told media on Saturday that an entertainment tribunal should look into the recommendations of the Hema committee report. On her decision to move the court, Ranjini told media on Saturday that an entertainment tribunal should look into the recommendations of the Hema committee report. The disclosure of the Justice Hema Committee report, which looked into the issues women professionals in the Malayalam film industry face, again missed its deadline Saturday after an actor moved a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court against its publication.

Early this week, a Single Bench of the High Court lifted the stay on the release of the committee report, which has been with the state government for the last four-and-a-half years. According to the court directive, the state cultural affairs department was on Saturday slated to hand over the copies of the report under the Right to Information Act. However, the government on Saturday decided to wait till the Division Bench takes a decision on the petition moved by actor Ranjini. In her petition filed on Friday, Ranjini said she had deposed before the Hema committee on the assurance that the statements would remain confidential. The court will consider her petition on Monday.

On her decision to move the court, Ranjini told media on Saturday that an entertainment tribunal should look into the recommendations of the Hema committee report. "I'm not against the release of the report, but as a person who had deposed before the committee, I have the right to know about its content. The report's copies should be given to all those who have deposed before the committee. I want the report to be out, but before that, I have every right to know what is going to be revealed. The report contains the lives of several persons and it is



sensitive in that respect." She further added: "The state women commission should have sought the report, before it is going to the public. Since the commission did not take that step, I have decided to approach the court."

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and state cultural affairs minister Saji Cherian said the government has no role in the release of the report. "The government was not opposed to the release of the report. When the state information commission directed to release the report, except those portions which will lead to disclosure of the identity of the individuals, the government has agreed to that directive. Our stand is that the report should come out," he said. The state information commission on July 6 had directed the public information officer of the cultural affairs department to release the copies of the report to the applicants, who had already appealed against the denial of the report. However, on July 24, a film producer, Saji Parayil, moved the high court challenging the directive of the information commission. The court granted an interim stay, but lifted it on August 13, directing the authorities to publish the report in a week.

'No mandir, we will make it a centre': Punjab to Modi govt

GNS News Agency, August 20

The cash-starved Punjab government has found a middle path to seek the held up grants under National Health Mission (NHM) by planning to propose to the Centre that it would re-name the Aam Aadmi Clinics as Ayushman Arogya Centres, instead of Ayushman Arogya Mandir. An amount of Rs 1,120.8 crore, pending with the Centre under NHM, has not been credited to Punjab's account on the plea that the Aam Aadmi Party-led government was not following the branding, required under the scheme of Centre. The Centre had earlier made it clear that Punjab has not adhered to the branding norms for Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) — now known as Ayushman Arogya Mandir — thereby violating the guidelines on the scheme for special assistance to the states



The government is forced to take this decision for want of funds. The Finance Department has already told CM Mann that they would not be able to pay salaries for the month of August, if there is no flow of funds. The government is not only working on getting money under NHM and special assistance, it is also working on finding out a way to get Rural Development Fund (RDF) and Mandi Development Fund (MDF) pending with the Centre to the tune of Rs 6767 crore. "We are working on finding a solution. The government may agree to charge only Rs 2 per cent of RDF and 2 per cent MDF.

The Centre is withholding Rs 10,000 crore, which is a lot of money for the state," said the functionary. The Centre has already told Punjab that it would pay only 2 per cent each of RDF and MDF on procurement of grains for the central pool. Punjab has been levying 3 per cent each. For want of funds from Centre under these two levies, Punjab's rural roads are awaiting repairs. The Punjab and central government had on January 16 last year signed an MoU for the implementation of NHM from April 1, 2021 to March 3, 2026. Patel had said the Punjab government failed to adhere to the clause 10.3 and clause 10.10 of the MoU.

The clauses seek to bind the state governments to the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as well as adhere to the "existing manuals, guidelines, instructions and circulars issued in connection with implementation of the NHM."

The minister said that for the branding of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), detailed guidelines were issued to all states and UTs on May 30, 2018, which the Punjab government failed to meet. Patel said that the Punjab government violated the provisions of Clause 10.3 and 10.10 of MoU signed between the Ministry of Health and the state, by not following the branding guidelines and branding "Primary Health Centres-HWCs as Aam Aadmi Clinic and not as Ayushman Arogya Mandir."

Indian doctors in UK pen open letter to demand justice in Kolkata rape case

GNS News Agency, August 20

The letter follows a peaceful protest staged outside India House in London and similar gatherings in UK cities such as Edinburgh and Leeds in solidarity with the doctors protesting in India. The letter follows a peaceful protest staged outside India House in London and similar gatherings in UK cities such as Edinburgh and Leeds in solidarity with the doctors protesting in India. A group of Indian doctors and medical students in the UK have issued an open letter this weekend demanding justice for the postgraduate trainee doctor who was brutally raped and murdered at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The letter condemns the "brutal rape and murder of an on-duty female doctor" at the hospital and the "inaction" of the West Bengal government in its response to the incident last week. The letter follows a peaceful protest staged outside India House in London and similar gatherings in UK cities such as Edinburgh and Leeds in solidarity with the doctors protesting in India. "This incident is a symptom of the rising violence against women and the negligence of the state towards its citizens," reads the open letter. "The absence of investment in public infrastructure and safety measures has a disproportionate impact on women, who are already marginalised by the patriarchal social conditions. Instead of supporting their empowerment by creating safe workplaces and efficient judicial mechanisms, government leaders, including Mamata Banerjee, have historically indulged in victim-blaming and misogynist responses," it notes. "The death of the female doctor at RG Kar Medical College is an indication of the urgent necessity to implement public safety measures and internal complaint mechanisms in all workplaces in the country," it adds. On August 9, a 31-year-old woman trainee doctor was raped and murdered at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, leading to protests across India where demonstrators demanded justice for the victim.

Further protests are planned in the UK, with a peace-



A group of Indian doctors and medical students in the UK have issued an open letter this weekend demanding justice for the postgraduate trainee doctor who was brutally raped and murdered at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

ful demonstration by British Indian women doctors at Parliament Square in London near the Mahatma Gandhi statue, scheduled for August 22. "We stand in solidarity with our fraternity. Justice delayed is justice denied is the collective refrain of the doctors who have reached out to me from across the UK, US, Canada and the UAE," said Dr Dipti Jain, a National Health Service (NHS) geriatrician based in Brighton. Jain is coordinating next week's protest as Lead for the Pan UK South Asian Doctors and chair of the Medicos Women Charity. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) appealed to all its members across India to participate in the strike until Sunday morning as part of ongoing protests in the country. Meanwhile, reports from Delhi reveal that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is questioning the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital for the second day concerning its probe into the attack. A civic volunteer was arrested in connection with the horrific incident a day after the doctor's body was discovered at the seminar hall in the hospital premises.

Indian-origin man, 36, shot and killed by teen during robbery bid in US



GNS News Agency, August 20

A 36-year-old Indian-origin man, Mainank Patel, was shot and killed during a robbery at his North Carolina convenience store. The community mourns his loss as a juvenile suspect is taken into custody. A 36-year-old Indian-origin man, Mainank Patel, was tragically shot and killed during a robbery at his convenience store in North Carolina, authorities reported. Patel, the owner of Tobacco House at 2580 Airport Road, was attacked on Tuesday morning, according to the Salisbury Post. The Rowan County Sheriff's Office has taken a juvenile male into custody for the crime, though his name has not been released due to his age. The suspect was arrested on

Tuesday evening, but further details have not been provided.

Captain Mark McDaniel, public information officer for the Rowan County Sheriff's Office, explained that deputies initially responded to a 911 hang-up call from the Tobacco House store. En route, they received information about a shooting. Upon arrival, deputies found Patel suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. He was taken to Novant Health Rowan Medical Center and later transferred to Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, where he succumbed to his injuries. Security footage revealed a tall, slender white male fleeing the scene, dressed in black shorts, a black hoodie, a black ski mask, and white Nike tennis shoes with burgundy logos. He appeared to be carrying a black handgun. While the exact motive remains unclear, the sheriff's office believes the incident was likely a robbery. No one else was injured in the attack.

Patel leaves behind a pregnant wife, Ami, and their 5-year-old daughter. The community, deeply affected by the loss, fondly remembers Patel, known as "Mike" to everyone, as a generous and kind man. Flowers and cards were placed outside his store on Wednesday as a tribute to his memory. Ann Ellis, a regular customer, said, "It hit everybody because this was a family, this was a community family store." Javier Lopez, who had been maintaining the store's lawn for years, recalled how the Patel family treated everyone like family. "There are just no words to describe how great a guy Mike was," Lopez added. Patricia Howard, another regular customer, described Patel as "a super good man, good to his customers, loved his family, and would have helped anyone." The community is in mourning, struggling to come to terms with the loss of a beloved member.

Glitzy life of 'Ketamine Queen' Jasveen Sangha charged in Matthew Perry's death

GNS News Agency, August 20

'Ketamine Queen' Jasveen Sangha, accused of providing the powerful sedative for actor Matthew Perry, who died in October last year, had an active social media life and maintained a lavish lifestyle as she frequently met high-end clients and celebrities. Jasveen Sangha, a 41-year-old resident of California, charged with supplying ketamine that led to the death of Friends star Matthew Perry last year, had maintained a lavish lifestyle and an active social life. Dubbed the "Ketamine Queen", she called herself a "celebrity drug dealer" with "high-quality goods".

Prosecutors allege that Sangha, who has dual British and American citizenship, was a key figure in a drug distribution network that supplied the powerful sedative to Perry and others. Sangha frequently went to various places, including Mexico, Spain, Italy, Greece, Japan, France, Dubai and Antigua, and was seen driving around with a BMW, all while being "blithely indifferent to the fact that her ketamine" claimed people's lives, The New York Post quoted prosecutors as saying.

Sangha maintained a huge number of followers on her Instagram and regularly posted pictures and videos of her exotic trips abroad. According to her friend Carter, Sangha was able to easily access celebrities and ultra-high-end clients and attended awards ceremonies due to her work in marketing and event planning, The Sun reported. She also owned several businesses, including a nail salon, which she opened in 2015, but was shut after two years. Two weeks after Perry's death, Sangha, in November 2023, captioned a post of herself sipping lychee martinis at Tokyo's Mandarin Oriental Hotel, where suites cost nearly £1,500 a night. In February this year, Sangha was seen enjoying herself by a swimming pool at a beachfront residence in Playa del Carmen, Mexico and posted selfies drinking cocktails, according to The Sun. According to prosecutors, Sangha is accused of funding her glitzy lifestyle through drug dealing, which also includes renting her home in North Hollywood for "thousands of dollars per month" and driving a rented Range Rover which she exchanged with her BMW. Sangha was believed to maintain a "carefree" attitude and enjoyed her social life before her arrest, according to her friends. She also claimed to have been self-employed as an "artist and singer" who did "art shows", according to court papers. "If anything, she became more social in the past few months," a long-time friend of Sangha told The New York Post.

Sangha's involvement in the drug trade dates back to at least 2019, when she allegedly sold ketamine to a man named Cody McLaury, who overdosed and died within hours of the transaction. After a family member of McLaury's informed Sangha of the death, she searched online for "can ketamine be listed as a cause of death?" The incident highlighted Sangha's awareness of the dangers of ketamine, which she continued to distribute despite the risks.

In the case of Perry, Sangha allegedly provided the ketamine that ultimately caused his death. On October 11 last year, Sangha messaged an acquaintance, Eric Fleming, about her ketamine supply and offered a sample for Perry. Fleming forwarded a screenshot of Sangha's message to Perry's live-in assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, stating that Sangha only dealt with high-end clients and celebrities. Iwamasa then purchased 25 vials of ketamine from Sangha on October 14 and another batch on October 23. Five days later, Perry was found dead in his bathtub at his home in Los Angeles and an initial probe suggested accidental drowning.

However, a December 2023 autopsy report revealed that Perry's death was caused by the "acute effects of ketamine," which, along with other factors, led him to lose consciousness and slip under the water in the hot tub. Additional factors in his death included drowning, coronary artery disease, and the impact of the opioid-addiction medication buprenorphine, which was also found in his system. Iwamasa is accused of giving 27 ketamine shots to Perry during the last five days of his life, including three shots that resulted in his subsequent death, according to prosecutors. Perry had publicly acknowledged decades of drug and alcohol abuse, including during the years he starred as Chandler Bing on the hit 1990s television sitcom "Friends." He had been sober for 19 months with no known relapses before his death, according to interviews cited in his autopsy. SANGHA, OTHERS CHARGED Sangha was arrested on August 15 this year in connection with Perry's accidental ketamine overdose. She was charged with nine counts, including conspiracy to distribute ketamine, maintaining drug-involved premises, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and ketamine, and five counts of distribution



of ketamine. If convicted, she could face life imprisonment.

During her court appearance on Friday, the 41-year-old pleaded not guilty to all charges. Despite this, the judge ordered her to be held without bail, considering her a flight risk. Her attorney criticised the "Ketamine Queen" moniker used by prosecutors, suggesting it was crafted to gain media attention. The investigation into Perry's death also led to the arrest of Dr Salvador Plasencia, a Santa Monica-based physician accused of being a key supplier of ketamine. Plasencia, known as "Dr P," allegedly used encrypted messaging apps and coded language to facilitate drug deals. He pleaded not guilty to all charges and was released on a \$100,000 bond, The New York Post reported. Apart from Sangha and Dr Plasencia, Dr Mark Chavez, Iwamasa, Perry's personal assistant and associate Erik Fleming have been charged in the actor's death. According to federal documents, Sangha was "obsessed" with her appearance, her friends said, and claimed she was getting regular Botox treatments and IV drips to promote her "natural wellness." Although she also sold methamphetamine and other drugs like magic mushrooms, defendant's specialty was ketamine, which she routinely sold, holding herself out as a celebrity drug dealer with high-quality goods," the documents said.

Gaza reports first polio case in 25 years amid collapsing healthcare system

GNS News Agency, August 20

Ramallah: The Gaza Strip recorded the first case of poliovirus infection in 25 years as the enclave continues to toil in the protracted conflict. The Ramallah-based Palestinian Health Ministry on Friday said a 10-month-old child in Deir al-Balah, Gaza, tested positive for a vaccine-derived poliovirus strain.

Before the ongoing conflict began in October 2023, the enclave had been polio-free for 25 years, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), Xinhua news agency reported. The child, who had not received any polio vaccinations, displayed symptoms doctors suspected matched polio disease. After conducting the necessary tests in Jordan, the Ministry confirmed the infection as a strain of vaccine-derived poliovirus.

The Ministry said its teams in Gaza and the West Bank, in collaboration with international organisations, have been working over the past weeks to develop a comprehensive plan for an expanded vaccination campaign against polio in the Gaza Strip. The ongoing Israeli "aggression" against Gaza has caused a health disaster in the enclave, it added.

Earlier on Friday, the United Nations said it is set to launch a two-phase campaign to vaccinate more than 640,000 children in Gaza under the age of 10 starting at the end of August. The WHO has already approved the release of 1.6 million doses of the polio vaccine and the UN Children's Fund is coordinating delivery efforts and the cold chain equipment needed for storage, the UN said. Meanwhile, Hamas said in a statement that it supports the UN's call for a seven-day truce to vaccinate thousands of children against polio, and demands the delivery of medicine and food to more than two million Palestinians trapped in the enclave. UN statistics showed that Gaza had 99 per cent vaccination coverage prior to the conflict that erupted in October 2023, a rate that has now dropped to 86 per cent due to the decimation of the health system, lack of security, destruction of infrastructure, mass displacement, and shortage of medical supplies.

Nearly 650 people killed in Bangladesh violence, finds UN report



GNS News Agency, August 20

Dhaka/Geneva: Nearly 650 people have been killed in the recent unrest in Bangladesh between July 16 and August 11, the UN Human Rights Office has said in a preliminary report, suggesting a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into reports of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions. According to the 10-page report titled 'Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protests and Unrest in Bangladesh', nearly 400 deaths were reported between July 16 and August 4 while around 250 people were reportedly killed following the new wave of protests between August 5 and 6, leading to the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The available public reports by media and the protest movement itself claimed that between July 16 and August 11, more than 600 people were killed due to the wave of violence following the Anti-Discriminatory Student demonstrations. The number of reported killings in revenge attacks since that time remains to be determined, the report, released on Friday in Geneva, said. Several deaths were reported between August 7 and 11, including those who died while undergoing medical treatment for injuries sustained in the violence, the UNHCR report suggested. Those killed include protesters, bystanders, journalists and several security forces personnel, it said, adding that thousands of protesters and bystanders were

injured, with hospitals overwhelmed by the influx of patients.

The report said the reported toll was likely an underestimate as information collection faced a hindrance by restrictions on movement due to the curfew and the internet shutdown. Furthermore, hospitals were reportedly prevented by State authorities from providing details of those killed and injured, the report suggested. Triggered by the reinstatement of a quota system for the allocation of jobs in civil services, the student protests in Bangladesh in mid-June turned violent, with reports of severe human rights violations by security forces. "There are strong indications, warranting further independent investigation, that the security forces used unnecessary and disproportionate force in their response to the situation," the report said. "Additional, alleged violations, that also warrant thorough, impartial and transparent investigations included extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, as well as severe restrictions on the exercise of freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly," the report said.

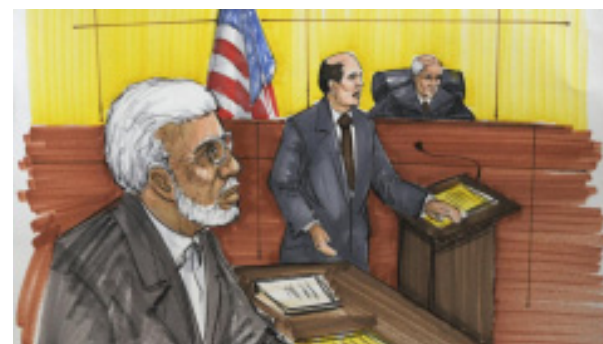
There were also reports of looting, arson and attacks on members of religious minorities, as well as reprisals against and revenge killings of members of the former ruling party and police following the resignation of Hasina on August 5, the report said. On August 15, mobs armed with bamboo sticks, iron rods and pipes reportedly assaulted the former Prime Minister's Awami League Party supporters who had gathered to pay their tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his death anniversary. The UN report emphasised the importance of rapidly restoring law and order, as well as the need for effective measures to prevent further loss of life, violence and acts of reprisals. "Law enforcement agencies need to receive clear instructions and training on the use of force, in line with international human rights standards. They must protect populations at risk against any retaliatory or revenge violence, including minority communities," the report said.

Pakistani-origin Tahawwur Rana, accused in 2008 Mumbai terror attack, can be extradited to India: U.S. court

GNS News Agency, August 20

In a major setback to Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who is sought by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, a U.S. court in California has ruled that he is extraditable to India under the extradition treaty between the two countries. "The (India US Extradition) Treaty permits Rana's extradition," the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said in its ruling. Ruling on an appeal filed by 63-year-old Rana, a panel of judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court in the Central District of California's denial of his habeas corpus petition challenging a magistrate judge's certification of his as extraditable to India for his alleged participation in terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Rana, currently lodged in a jail in Los Angeles, faces charges for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai attack and is known to be associated with Pakistani-American Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the terror incident. Under the limited scope of habeas review of an extradition order, the panel held that Rana's alleged offence fell within the terms of the extradition treaty between the United States and India, which included a Non Bis in Idem (double jeopardy) exception to extraditability "when the person sought has been convicted or acquitted in the Requested State for the offence for which extradition is requested". Relying on the plain text of the treaty, the U.S. State Department's technical analysis, and persuasive case law of other circuits, the panel held that the word "offence" refers to a charged crime, rather than underlying acts, and requires an analysis of the elements of each crime.

The panel of three judges concluded that a co-conspirator's plea agreement did not compel a different result. The panel held that the Non Bis in Idem exception did not apply because the Indian charges contained distinct elements from the crimes for which Rana was acquitted in the United States. In its ruling, the panel also held that India provided sufficient competent evidence to support the magistrate judge's finding of probable cause that Rana committed the charged crimes. The three panel of judges were Milan D Smith, Bridget S Bade, and Sidney A Fitzwater. Rana, a Pakistani national, was tried in a US district court on charges related to his support for a terrorist organisation that carried out large-scale terrorist attacks in Mumbai. A jury convicted Rana of providing material support to a foreign terrorist organisation and conspiring to provide material support to a foiled plot to carry out terrorist attacks in Denmark. However, the jury acquitted Rana of conspiring to provide material support to terrorism-related to the attacks in India. After Rana served seven years in prison for those convictions and upon his compassionate release, India issued a request for his extradition to try him for his alleged participation in the



Mumbai attacks.

Before the magistrate judge who initially decided Rana's extraditability (the extradition court), Rana argued that the US extradition treaty with India protected him from extradition because of its Non Bis in Idem (double jeopardy) provision. He also argued that India did not provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate probable cause that he committed the charged crimes. The extradition court rejected Rana's arguments and certified that he was extraditable. After Rana raised the same arguments in a habeas petition in district court (the habeas court), the habeas court affirmed the extradition court's findings of facts and conclusions of law. In his appeal, Rana argued that he cannot be extradited based on conduct for which he was acquitted in the United States because the word "offence" refers to underlying acts. The U.S. government argued that "offence" refers to a charged crime and requires an analysis of the elements of each charged crime.

Thus, according to the government, the Treaty permits Rana's extradition because the Indian charges contain distinct elements from the crimes for which he was acquitted in the United States. Judge Smith said that the Treaty's plain terms, the post-ratification understanding of the signatories, and persuasive precedent all support the government's interpretation. Rana argued, however, that, based on the government's interpretation of the Treaty in Headley's plea agreement, we should judicially estop the government from advocating for its current interpretation of the Treaty. "We decline to do so," Judge Smith said. "Because the parties do not dispute that the crimes charged in India have elements independent from those under which Rana was prosecuted in the United States, the Treaty permits Rana's extradition," Judge Smith said. Rana has the option of appealing against this ruling. He still has not run out of all the legal options to prevent his extradition to India. A total of 166 people, including six Americans, were killed in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks in which 10 Pakistani terrorists laid a more than 60-hour siege, attacking and killing people at iconic and vital locations in Mumbai.

Donald Trump ropes in Tulsi Gabbard to prepare for debate with Kamala Harris

"Donald Trump does not need traditional debate prep but will continue to meet with respected policy advisers and effective communicators like Tulsi Gabbard," a spokesperson said. FileGearing up for his debate with U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Donald Trump has brought in the former Democratic congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard to help sharpen his attacks, the New York Times reported citing two people aware with Trump's schedule. She joined the former president Trump's practice session at the latter's private club and home, Mar-a-Lago. Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are set to face off in the ABC News debate on September 10. Ms. Gabbard, who left the Democratic Party after her 2020 presidential run and has rebranded herself as a celebrity among Mr. Trump's base of support, has long been friendly with Mr. Trump and was also speculated to be his running mate for some time. Ms. Gabbard's involvement in Mr. Trump's debate preparation was partly because of her own performance in a 2019 Democratic presidential primary debate, when Ms. Gabbard eviscerated Ms. Harris in a memorable onstage encounter. Karoline Leavitt, a spokeswoman for Mr.

Trump, confirmed Ms. Gabbard's involvement in an email, NYT reported. Ms. Leavitt said the former President has "proven to be one of the best debaters in political history as evidenced by his knockout blow to Joe Biden. He does not need traditional debate prep but will continue to meet with respected policy advisers and effective communicators like Tulsi Gabbard, who successfully dominated Kamala Harris on the debate stage in 2020." Though Mr. Trump says he "doesn't need to" prepare for debates, the former President has spent more time this year practising for debates than he did in either 2016 or 2020, the New York Times reported citing advisers who have worked with him. He still doesn't do traditional debate prep. Nobody played Mr. Biden in his sessions ahead of their CNN debate on June 27. Ahead of his CNN debate with Mr. Biden in June, Mr. Trump sat with advisers for blocks of time or informally on plane trips and discussed potential topics and lines of questioning. In more formal sessions at Mar-a-Lago, aides have sat in chairs opposite him, playing the role of moderators. Representative Matt Gaetz of Florida asked especially combative questions, according to a person in the room.

ITR refund scam: Income Tax Department alerts taxpayers.



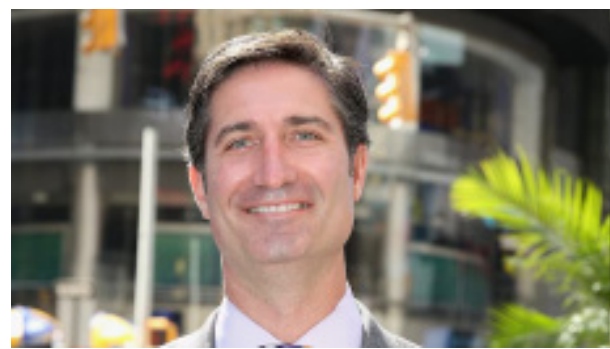
For example, one of the scam messages might say: "You have been approved an Income Tax Refund of Rs 15,000. The amount will be credited to your account shortly. Please verify your account number 5XXXXX6777. If this is not correct, please update your bank account information by visiting the link below." The link provided in such messages often leads to fake websites designed to steal your information. The Income Tax Department has made it clear that they never ask for personal information through email. They do not request PIN numbers, passwords, or any sensitive data related to credit cards, banks, or other financial accounts. If you receive such a request, it is almost certainly a scam.

How to report fraud and scams?

If you come across an email or website that you suspect is pretending to be from the Income Tax Department, you should forward the email or website URL to webmanager@incometax.gov.in. Additionally, you can send a copy to incident@cert-in.org.in for further investigation. The Income Tax Department has also advised that refund details are only communicated through official Income Tax Return (ITR) acknowledgment attachments. They do not send this information through individual messages or phone calls to protect your privacy and security. Here are some simple steps to avoid falling victim to these scams: Do not reply to any suspicious email. Avoid opening attachments from unknown sources, as they might contain harmful software. Do not click on links in emails that seem to be from the Income Tax Department. Scammers often use fake links that redirect to malicious websites. Keep your computer safe by using and regularly updating anti-virus software, anti-spyware tools, and a firewall. These precautions can help protect your device from harmful software in phishing emails. By following these guidelines and staying alert, taxpayers can protect themselves from falling victim to these scams.

Common tactic used by scammers is sending messages that claim, "Income Tax Refund is Due." The Income Tax Department has issued a clear warning to taxpayers about a growing number of tax refund scams. These scams involve fraudulent calls and pop-up notifications, especially on social media, falsely claiming eligibility for a tax refund. Taxpayers are being urged to be extra careful when dealing with any communication that seems to come from the Income Tax Department. It's crucial to double-check and verify any messages or emails before responding. Under no circumstances should individuals share sensitive information like credit card details or bank account numbers in response to such messages. A common tactic used by scammers is sending messages that claim, "Income Tax Refund is Due." These messages are often fake and designed to trick recipients into revealing personal details. Scammers may pose as officials from the Income Tax Department and use various methods such as phone calls, text messages, or phishing emails to convince people that they are owed a refund. These fraudulent schemes are intended to steal personal and financial information, putting individuals at risk.

Starbucks' new CEO lands big payday: Here's how much he will earn



plane to travel between his home, his remote office, and the headquarters. A spokesperson for Starbucks expressed confidence in Niccol's ability to lead the company. "Brian Niccol has proven himself to be one of the most effective leaders in our industry, generating significant financial returns over many years. His compensation at Starbucks is tied directly to the company's performance and the shared success of all our stakeholders. We're confident in his ability to deliver long-term, enduring value for our partners, customers, and shareholders," the spokesperson said.

The compensation package from Starbucks is not just about the new role but also about making up for the pay Niccol is leaving behind at Chipotle. During his tenure at Chipotle, Niccol was instrumental in driving an 800% increase in the stock price and a nearly sevenfold rise in profits. Starbucks' board is hopeful that he can bring similar growth to their company, which has faced challenges in recent times. Niccol steps into his new role at Starbucks following the departure of Laxman Narasimhan, whose 17-month tenure saw a huge decline in the company's fortunes. Under Narasimhan's leadership, Starbucks experienced a 23.9% drop in share price, leading to a Rs 32 billion decrease in market capitalisation.



The rise in shares occurred due to the company's entry into the two-wheeler market and after receiving its first 'Buy' rating following the release of its June quarter earnings earlier this week.

(ICE) scooters.

The brokerage expects Ola's battery venture to achieve competitive pricing, potentially lowering costs by \$15 - \$20 per KWH compared to imported batteries. This represents an upside risk to their estimates. (Disclaimer: The views, opinions, recommendations, and suggestions expressed by experts/brokers 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 actual investment or trading choices.)

Shares of the Bhavish Aggarwal-led company jumped 20% to reach Rs 133 during Friday's afternoon trading session. The company accounted for 49% of all electric two-wheeler sales in the June quarter. Ola Electric shares have been on a good run ever since its IPO got listed on the stock exchanges. Although the debut on Dalal Street was muted, the EV player's shares have hit a purple patch since then.

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The company accounted for 49% of all electric two-wheeler sales in the June quarter. Ola Electric Mobility posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 347 crore for the quarter ending June 30, 2024, marking a nearly 30% increase compared to the Rs 267 crore loss recorded in the same quarter last year. The company's revenue from operations for the quarter grew by 32.3% year-on-year to Rs 1,644 crore. Meanwhile, the Ebitda loss for the period was Rs 205 crore.

Should you bet on Ola Electric shares?

The company received its first "buy" recommendation from HSBC, which has set a target price of Rs 140 for the stock, indicating a potential upside of 26% from Wednesday's closing levels. This recommendation comes amid a strong start for Ola Electric's shares, which have risen 44% from their IPO price of Rs 76. Despite the optimistic outlook, HSBC has highlighted several risks. The brokerage is cautious about the slow growth of electric vehicle (EV) adoption in India, intense market competition, and uncertainties around regulatory support and battery manufacturing. However, HSBC believes Ola Electric is a worthwhile investment due to its ongoing regulatory support, cost reduction capabilities, and promising battery venture.

HSBC's note also mentions the potential for reduced EV manufacturing costs by financial year 2027-2028, compared to rising costs for Internal Combustion Engine

Alaya F tries a calisthenic workout; fitness expert shares how you can do it at home safely



Alaya F has been going viral for her dedication to fitness and unique tendency to experiment with various kinds of exercises at home. Recently, she caught the public's attention with Swiss ball step-ups and now she's back with another reel documenting herself trying out a calisthenic workout. Giving spiderwoman a run for her money, the Srikanth actress mentioned in her Instagram caption, "AF was trying new atrangi things, AF got stuck ??"

Indianexpress.com spoke to Arun Blm, cluster format head of strength and conditioning at Cult Fit, Mumbai and Pune to understand how to safely perform this exer-

cise and what key considerations to keep in mind.

In the video, Alaya can be seen performing a calisthenic workout, hanging from a pull-up bar attached to the wall. Arun explained that this type of exercise falls under strength training, helping to tone muscles, improve flexibility, boost heart health, and enhance balance and coordination. "You don't need any extra equipment besides the bar to hang from, so this exercise can be attempted by people at both beginner and advanced levels. However, it's crucial to have proper guidance from a trainer or expert," Arun said.

He also pointed out that men and women have differing levels of upper body strength, which should be considered if you want to try this exercise. Arun warned that this exercise can put you at risk of joint injuries, particularly to the elbows, shoulders, knees, and back. "Warm-ups are essential to prevent these injuries. Staying hydrated before starting calisthenics can also help," he said. "Always warm up from head to toe, and toe to head, and work your shoulders, arms, elbows and back to mitigate such risks." According to him, our body has its own way of signaling when we are in too much pain. According to Arun, if you feel like you're stretching yourself too much, or your heart rate has increased a lot, you should take it easy and put a pause.

Study links haem iron from red meat with 26 pc increased diabetes risk

Haem iron, found in red meat and other animal products, has been linked to a 26 per cent increased risk of type 2 diabetes compared to non-haem iron found in plant-based foods, a new study has found. While previous studies relied only on epidemiological data, in this study, researchers "integrated multiple layers of information, including conventional metabolic biomarkers, and cutting-edge metabolomics," said lead author Fenglei Wang, a research associate at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, US. Metabolomics is the study of small molecules within cells and tissues.

"This allowed us to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the association between iron intake and type 2 diabetes risk, as well as potential metabolic pathways underlying this association," Wang said. The study is published in the journal Nature Metabolism. The researchers suggested that cutting down on red meat and adopting a plant-rich diet can help lower diabetes risk. The findings also raised concerns about adding haem iron to increasingly popular plant-based meat alternatives to enhance their meaty flavour and appearance, they said.

For the study, the researchers used data from 36 years of dietary reports of over two lakh adults, close to 80 percent of whom were women. The participants were included from the Nurses' Health Studies I and II, and the Health Professionals Follow-up Study, which looked at risk factors for major chronic diseases. The researchers analysed the participants' various forms of iron intake, including haem, non-haem and through supplements, and their type 2 diabetes status. In a smaller group of over 37,000 participants, the team looked at the biologi-



cal processes behind the link between haem iron and type 2 diabetes. For this, data of the participants' plasma metabolic biomarkers, including those related to insulin levels, blood sugar, lipids and inflammation, were analysed.

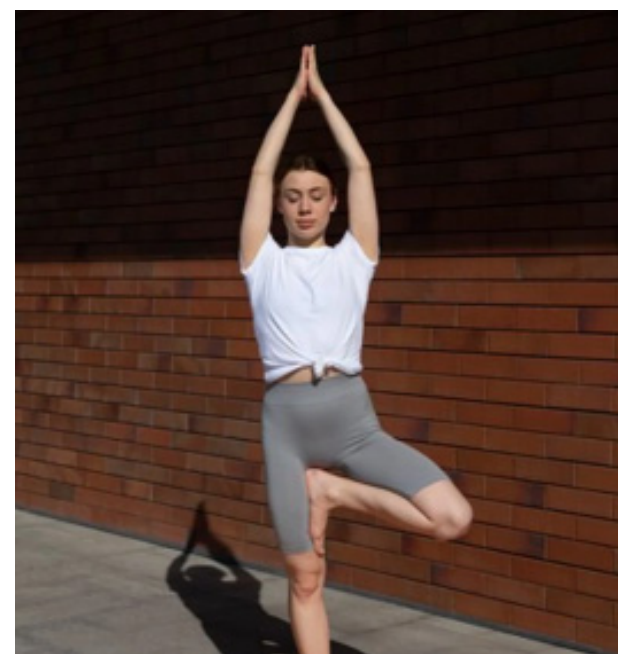
The researchers then looked at over 9,000 participants' metabolomic profiles — plasma levels of small-molecule metabolites, which are substances derived from bodily processes such as breaking down food or chemicals. "We found that among various types of iron intake, only a higher intake of haem iron was associated with a higher risk of type 2 diabetes," the authors wrote. They also found that haem iron accounted for more than half of the type 2 diabetes risk linked to unprocessed red meat and a moderate proportion of the risk for several T2D-related dietary patterns. Further, "we observed that higher haem iron intake was associated with unfavourable profiles of plasma biomarkers in the domains of insulinaemia, lipids, inflammation, iron stores and metabolites correlated with type 2 diabetes," they wrote.

Can balancing on one leg predict how long you will live?

Have you come across the 10-second balance test on the Internet? It's a trend raising awareness about the importance of mobility and coordination among aging adults. Failing to stand on one foot for at least ten seconds has been correlated with increased morbidity risks within the next decade.

According to a 2022 paper published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, "Within the limitations of uncontrolled variables such as recent history of falls and physical activity, the ability to successfully complete the 10-s one-legged stands (OLS) is independently associated with all-cause mortality and adds relevant prognostic information beyond age, sex and several other anthropometric and clinical variables." Indianexpress.com spoke to Dr Murali Krishna, consultant neurologist at CARE Hospitals, Malakpet, Hyderabad, to understand how these one-legged balances can help lower death risks and keep older adults healthy and safe.

"With a lack of physical activity in our daily lives, the balance of the body tends to get more disturbed. This factor can not only predict the longevity of your life but is also an indicator of the health of your body. People who could balance themselves on one leg for more than ten seconds lived a longer life," said Krishna. According to her, the brain has to perform a huge level of coordination for a person to balance on one leg. "The brain coordinates multiple organs together to function, such as understanding the feedback from your muscles, signals sent by inner ears through fluid, and your eye movement. Signals sent from the eye are crucial to help in maintaining your balance on one leg," she said. Therefore, this exercise gets particularly difficult when you close your eyes for the same reason, she added. Brain and body functions that are involved include — Cerebellum — responsible for motor control and processing sensory signals; Motor cortex — helps maintain the posture; Basal Ganglia — regulates the movement; Vestibular system — part of the inner ear helps the brain understand the motion; Proprioceptive system — present in muscles aids the brain with information about body movements; Muscle activation — abdominal, calf, quadriceps, etc are involved in this pose; Reflexes — stretching or maintaining the



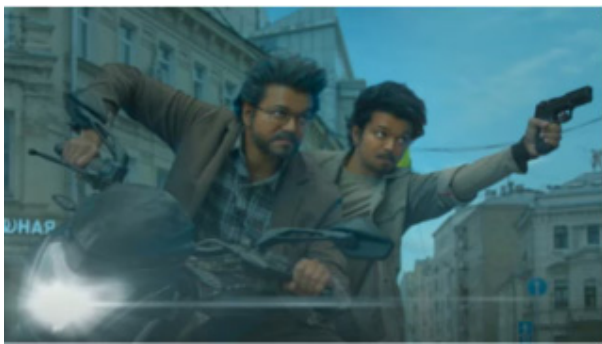
posture. How can body balance be maintained as you age? Krishna shared that the trick is to continue practising standing on one leg, even if you are wobbly. "With every practice, there is an opportunity to improve the brain capacity. The brain is capable of forming new nerve connections. It can learn to recalibrate coordination between different organs involved," said the neurologist. She also said that training your muscles to be more involved can improve balance and stability. Exercises to partake in on a regular basis Krishna suggested partaking in sports such as surfing and skateboarding that require balance, and recommended strength training exercises such as squats and leg presses or even exercising with stability balls. She said that yoga poses are excellent choices for improving leg stability and Pilates can help with more balance in the body. "Tai Chi or dancing can also be recommended forms of exercise for balance."

Zerodha turns 14: CEO Nithin Kamath says it's time to get back to playing

New Delhi: Brokerage firm Zerodha has completed 14 years, said Co-founder and CEO Nithin Kamath, while extending his greeting for Independence Day, on Thursday. He emphasised the need "to get back to playing", even as he suffered from "a mild stroke" earlier this year. "Happy Independence Day. @zerodhaonline also turns 14 today so thank you for all the love," Kamath said in a post on social media platform X.com. Kamath co-founded Zerodha along with his younger brother Nikhil

in 2010. Kamath also posted a video "from 2018", where his son is singing the Indian national anthem Jana Gana Mana, and he is playing a guitar. "2024 year has been a disaster in terms of health. I need to get back to playing for myself," Kamath said. In February, Kamath disclosed that he suffered "a mild stroke", which left him with a "big droop in the face and not being able to read or write, and absent-minded". He attributed his condition to anything from poor sleep exhaustion, dehydration,

The Greatest of All Time trailer: 'Thalapathy' Vijay proves why he's the GOAT with high-stakes action-thriller



Prashanth, alongside actors such as Mohan, Ajmal Ameer, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Sneha, Laila, Vaibhav, Yogi Babu, Premgi Amaren, Yugendran, VTV Ganesh, and Aravind Akash. The nearly three-minute-long trailer showcases high-stakes action, spread across the globe. Vijay's character is described as an elite agent, but when he is targeted by disgruntled former operatives, he springs into action. A portion of the movie appears to be set in Russia, while one subplot involves a bomb threat in Chennai. We see trains, cars, bikes, helicopters, and more vehicles.

In a recent interview, director Venkat Prabhu shed light on the film's plot. He said, "GOAT is a fictional story, but we have made it closer to reality. Vijay and his core team are a part of the Special Anti-Terrorist Squad, a wing of RAW. What they did in the past becomes a problem in the present. How Vijay and his team face these challenges forms the core of the story." The film's plot centres around four RAW agents whose past actions come back to haunt them, setting the stage for a high-stakes action drama. This narrative, combined with Vijay's powerful performance, promises to deliver a thrilling cinematic experience.

The long-awaited trailer for Vijay's penultimate movie, *The Greatest of All Time (GOAT)*, was unveiled on Saturday. Directed by Venkat Prabhu and produced by Kalpathi S Aghoram, Kalpathi S Ganesh and Kalpathi S Suresh of AGS Entertainment, the film is among the most anticipated releases of the year, and comes on the heels of Vijay's biggest-ever hit, *Leo*.

The action-thriller has been touted to be the most expensive Tamil film of the year, and features Vijay in a dual role. The film also features Prabhudheva and

'Abhay Deol had been out of work for two years...': Mudassar Aziz recalls Aanand L Rai taking a punt on him when he had just Rs 1,300 in his account

For a film titled *Happy Bhaag Jayegi*, it's ironic that director Mudassar Aziz found joy returning to his life after he came on board to direct his comeback feature. Produced by Aanand L Rai, the film marked Mudassar's return to direction after the 2010 disaster *Dulha Mil Gaya*. But the journey to the 2016 film, starring Diana Penty and Abhay Deol in the lead roles, wasn't easy. In an interview with Siddharth Kannan, the filmmaker opened up about his difficult phase and said he was "hanging by a thread" before *Happy Bhaag Jayegi*. "The day I had a meeting with Aanand L Rai, I received an electricity bill for Rs 2,400. My account had only Rs 1,300. My mother had no idea—she learnt about my state later—so I quickly put the bill in my laptop bag and left for the meeting. He hates me saying this because he wouldn't like this going public, but when I met him, I was praying the meeting works out because the bill had a due date."

Mudassar said Aanand heard the story in 20 minutes and decided to back the film. But Mudassar was cautious, because he'd heard the same assurances before. "I left the office elated, but thought, 'If God is kind today, let me not hesitate'. So, I went back in and knocked on his door, asking, 'Rai saab are you really making this film?' He said yes. I told that I have bills to pay, and that I cannot wait for the contracts to be made. That man saw something on my face and asked his CFO to give me a cheque of Rs 5 lakh, which was handed over to me immediately."

Mudassar Aziz said that he had a wishlist in mind for the cast, but when he took the list to Aanand L Rai, he was told that he should instead focus on his characters



and remember that "you are the star."

Even for the cast, Mudassar Aziz said the actors who came on board weren't market friendly. "Abhay had been out of work for two and a half years; Diana Penty, who didn't have a release for three years, and the director (me), who had a release five years ago! Isse bekaar proposal paper pe nahi ho sakta. Industry follows this norm, that a film will be made on x amount, sold at y and earn z. But *Happy Bhaag Jayegi* is an example of defeating every norm and become a hit. People had told Aanand L Rai, 'tum paagal ho gaye ho.' But the atmosphere was that we would give it overall. When you have nothing to lose, it is a great situation." Mudassar Aziz's latest film, *Khel Khel Mein*, is currently playing in cinemas. The film stars Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Fardeen Khan, and Vaani Kapoor, among others.

'Scared' Dimple Kapadia apologised with folded hands when Rajesh Khanna snapped at her: 'Ab tum mujhe sikhaogi?'

Dimple Kapadia gave up on her acting career when she married superstar Rajesh Khanna. She was just a teenager when she married him in the 1970s, and he was twice her age. Their relationship fell apart over the next decade, during which Khanna's career as a superstar spiralled into a decline. She left him in the 1980s and re-started her acting career. Despite the bad blood between them, Dimple supported Khanna as he embarked on a career in politics, and went on to star with him in the 1990 film *Jai Shiv Shankar*.

In an old interview with Rediff, she reflected on her decision to quit the movies after her blockbuster debut in *Bobby*, and recalled an anecdote about Khanna from when they reunited for the film *Jai Shiv Shankar*. "The film shaped up very well, but there were financial problems. One time he was not well while we were shooting and he was supposed to come out on the balcony and wave to the press. I handed him my shawl and sunglasses and told him nicely, 'Kakaji, when you go out, don't look straight, your side profile looks better.'" She continued, "He just looked up at me and said sternly, 'Ab tum mujhe sikhaogi (Now you will teach me?)'. I got so scared, folded my hands and apologised (enacts the whole thing)."

Dimple has spoken often about witnessing Khanna's decline first-hand, and how it affected him. "It was my first encounter in life with failure," Dimple told India Today



after her comeback. "When a successful man goes to pieces, his frustration engulfs the entire surroundings. It was a pathetic sight when Rajesh waited at the end of the week for collection figures but the people didn't have the guts to come and tell him." At a FICCI FLO event in Jaipur, conducted in 2019, Dimple was asked how she managed to raise her daughters Twinkle and Rinke to be decent people despite her personal troubles. She said, "She must have been all of seven or eight when I got separated. The kind of maturity... She was only wanting to take care of me, to see if I was okay, if everything was alright with me. There are lots of things I can't say because of you know what..."

Shah Rukh Khan says sleeps for 4-5 hours, eats one meal in a day: 'I go to sleep at five in the morning'

Shah Rukh Khan changed his image from a romantic hero to an action star when he took a sabbatical from the movies after 2018's *Zero*. When he made a comeback with *Pathaan* in 2023, SRK was a changed man. With his style and his looks, SRK had turned over a new leaf and in a new interview, he spoke about his workout regime and his diet. In a recent interview, the 58-year-old actor revealed he eats only one meal and works out for just half an hour. He clarified that it was his personal choice to cut down his meals and has nothing to do with intermittent fasting. "I go to sleep at five in the morning. When Mark Wahlberg gets up, I go off to sleep. And then I wake up about nine or 10 if I am shooting. But then I will come home at 2 am, take a bath and then work out before I go to sleep", Shah Rukh Khan told *The Guardian*. In his interview with Fardia Jalal back in the 1990s, Shah Rukh Khan had opened up about his Sunday routine. He said, "It's Sunday morning. I sleep very late at night to I get up late in the morning. First thing I hear as soon as I get up is scolding from my wife...how much I have worked the last six days, how little time I spent at home, I didn't give her

any attention, and when I tell her 'Look Gauri I am very tired', I get a 'Nothing! I don't want to hear anything!'" The actor, who made his comeback with action films, also revealed his future plans. When asked whether he plans to turn fully into action star after the success of *Pathaan* and *Jawan*, the actor spoke about his initial days in the movies. "When I came into the industry I was an athlete. My life's dream was to have a six-pack, wear a white vest, have a lady with my arm around her, blood on my face and a gun in my hand. My dream was to enter a room, someone says: 'Who are you?' and I shoot them." He further revealed, "At the age of 55, I took a kind of sabbatical. During the pandemic there was nothing else to do and I was telling everyone: learn Italian cooking and work out. I was working out. I built a body. After four years, people started missing me because before that I was too much in everybody's face. People said: 'Will you do a film?' I said: 'Only if it's an action film!'" Shah Rukh Khan made a successful comeback with three films in 2023—*Siddharth Anand's Pathaan* followed by *Atlee's Jawan* and *Rajkumar Hirani's comedy-drama*.

31 years on, Fazil's psychological thriller starring Mohanlal, Shobana remains a masterpiece in Malayalam cinema



Manichitrathazhu movie review: "Innaikku Durgashtami. Unnai naan konnu, un rathatha kudichu omkara nadanamiduvun," screams Nagavalli (Shobana), the alternate personality of Ganga, a woman with Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). The moment drew thunderous applause in the theatre where I was watching *Manichitrathazhu*. Remember, this wasn't a massy moment, nor was she delivering a punch dialogue. It's a scene where Ganga realises she's grappling with serious mental health issues, with her husband Nakulan (Suresh Gopi) making this clear to her as per the instructions of his psychiatrist friend Dr Sunny (Mohanlal). Yet, this dialogue and the scene from director Fazil's iconic psychological thriller *Manichitrathazhu* (1993) are ingrained in the minds of a vast majority of the Malayali population. The cheers and applause the said moment received during the film's re-release, in 4K display resolution, on August 17, underscore the impact Shobana's impeccable performance has had on the public psyche.

Since its release, *Manichitrathazhu* has been remade into multiple languages, with many of these remakes later receiving legacy sequels. Yet, Fazil's original remains the gold standard — not just because it's the OG version, but due to its various elements, including the writing, performances, technical craftsmanship, music and the sheer conviction with which each scene has been directed. Even when revisiting the film in 2024, despite certain problematic portrayals, *Manichitrathazhu* is one of those works that never feels outdated, thanks largely to writer Madhu Muttam. From the very beginning, the brilliance of the makers is evident. The movie opens with a jovial track "Akkuthikkuthanakkombil" which might make viewers think they're in for a fun family or romantic comedy. But the reality is quite the opposite. This deliberate misdirection is followed by humorous scenes featuring Unnithan (Innocent) and his wife Bhasura (KPAC Lalitha), Nakulan's relatives, the local temple priest Kattuparamban (Kuthiravattam Pappu) and Unnithan's helper Dasappan Kutty (Ganesh Kumar). In these scenes, the belief that the Madampalli mansion is haunted is subtly introduced without drawing too much attention. However, as the film progresses, Madhu and Fazil gradually reveal more about the legends surrounding Madampalli, allowing the tension to build at a measured pace without overwhelming the audience.

Johnson's background score plays a crucial role in making *Manichitrathazhu* an enduring classic. Whether the scene is comical, serious or horrifying, his musical expertise shines through. He skillfully used instruments like the keyboard, mridangam, violin, ilathalam, veena and others, elevating each moment to unsurpassable heights.

Watch *Manichitrathazhu* trailer here: Madhu's screenplay is an excellent example of how to keep viewers partially in the dark, providing just enough information to avoid confusion. Towards the end of the first act, the story behind the legends of Madampalli, involving Nagavalli, a classical dancer brought to the mansion by Shankaran Thampi, a powerful landlord who once ruled the area, is brilliantly narrated by Lalitha. This is where Fazil's filmmaking expertise comes into play. Although he could have included a flashback, Fazil wisely chose not to, using only Lalitha's narration and Shobana's expressions to convey everything, including the fact that Nagavalli was brutally murdered by the landlord for having a relationship with a dancer named Ramanathan.

With well-timed humorous and dramatic moments that never detract from the overall experience, *Manichitrathazhu* builds tension as the inhabitants of Madampalli begin to spot a mysterious female "ghostly" figure. "Convinced" that Sreedevi (Vinaya Prasad) is responsible and that she has mental health issues, Nakulan calls his friend Dr Sunny for help. *Manichitrathazhu*,

Manichitrathazhu review, *Manichitrathazhu* movie review, *Manichitrathazhu* re release, Mohanlal, shobana, suresh gopi, *Manichitrathazhu* movie, *Manichitrathazhu* re release date, *Manichitrathazhu* release date, *Manichitrathazhu* movies, *Manichitrathazhu* best movies, *Manichitrathazhu* shobana movies, *Manichitrathazhu* mohanalal shobana movies, *Manichitrathazhu* suresh gopi movies, *Manichitrathazhu* shobana best movies, *Manichitrathazhu* shobana national award, *Manichitrathazhu* best malayalam movies, *Manichitrathazhu* best shobana movies, *Manichitrathazhu* malayalam movies, *Manichitrathazhu* 1993 Suresh Gopi and Shobana as Nakulan and Ganga, respectively, in *Manichitrathazhu*. (Image: Matinee Now/YT)

Despite being a large-scale production, Fazil's decision to introduce Mohanlal, already a superstar at the time, only midway through the film, deserves special recognition and underscores his confidence in the project. The pre-interval sequence and interval block of *Manichitrathazhu* remains one of the finest in Indian cinema, perfectly balancing all the elements that make *Manichitrathazhu* so compelling. Once Sunny arrives, the tension in Madampalli intensifies and more frightening incidents occur, reinforcing the elders' belief that when Ganga opened Thekkini — the room where the spirits of Nagavalli and Shankaran Thampi are believed to be imprisoned — she unleashed Nagavalli's ghost. However, Sunny shares Nakulan's belief that Sridevi is responsible for these events — or at least he pretends to. *Manichitrathazhu* review, *Manichitrathazhu* movie review, *Manichitrathazhu* re release, Mohanlal, shobana, suresh gopi, *Manichitrathazhu* movie, *Manichitrathazhu* re release date, *Manichitrathazhu* release date, *Manichitrathazhu*, *Manichitrathazhu* movies, *Manichitrathazhu* best movies, *Manichitrathazhu* shobana movies, *Manichitrathazhu* shobana national award, *Manichitrathazhu* best malayalam movies, *Manichitrathazhu* best shobana movies, *Manichitrathazhu* malayalam movies 1993 Mohanlal with Shobana in *Manichitrathazhu*. (Image: Matinee Now/YT) (Spoilers ahead) In one of the most remarkable and unexpected twists in Malayalam cinema history, Sunny reveals towards the end to Nakulan that Ganga is actually responsible for all the mishaps so far and that she suffers from DID (formerly known as multiple personality disorder). This revelation not only amplifies *Manichitrathazhu*'s brilliance but also challenges the traditional horror narrative in Malayalam cinema, which typically involves a ghost and an exorcism by a priest, offering instead a scientific, psychological explanation for what were often misconstrued as cases of ghost possession.

As the film unravels how and when Ganga first experienced her psychological triggers and what factors may have contributed to them, it becomes evident why she empathised with Nagavalli and how this empathy developed into an alternate personality. Beautifully narrated by Madhu in the song "Varuvaanillaramunni," Ganga had a lonely childhood, living with her grandmother while her parents worked in Calcutta. Growing up surrounded by mythical stories and legends, Ganga's young mind absorbed many of these tales and the loneliness began to affect her. Years later, when she learns that her parents are taking her to Calcutta, Ganga experiences her first psychological trigger, as her departure from the ancestral home would uproot her from her comfort zone. In Madampalli, she finds herself in an environment similar to her grandmother's stories. Hearing about Nagavalli's tragic fate — murdered and denied the right to live on her own terms — Ganga begins to identify with her, seeing parallels between their experiences. As she gradually takes on Nagavalli's personality, she starts perceiving Mahadevan (Sridhar), a professor living next door to Madampalli, as Ramanathan and Nakulan as the ruthless landlord, standing in the way of her union with her lover.

Ranbir Kapoor is too 'inhibited' to make first move, Shah Rukh Khan has the 'confidence' to reach out and talk; Imtiaz Ali highlights differences between the two stars

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, who has worked some of the topmost stars of the Hindi film industry, spoke about the differences that he has noticed in Shah Rukh Khan and Ranbir Kapoor as people and as performers. In an interview, he described them as 'completely different' people, both in terms of how they interact with others, and how they approach scenes. Imtiaz worked with Ranbir in *Tamasha* and *Rockstar*, and with Shah Rukh in *Jab Harry Met Sejal*.

In an interview with mid-day, the filmmaker was asked if Shah Rukh and Ranbir are any different, and he said, "Completely different. Shah Rukh is a very charming, intelligent, kind person. The commonality is that both are very interested in people, and both are very good with people in different ways. Shah Rukh has the confidence to reach out and talk to people. Ranbir, I feel, is inhibited. So, he does not make the initial approach to start talking to somebody. He waits for them to start talking to him. But he's as interested (in people) as Shah

Rukh is." Asked how their personalities inform their acting, Imtiaz said, "As actors, they're chalk and cheese; completely different. Ranbir lets himself go. Often times, he's not aware of reality when he's in a shot. He's in the zone. He's lost to the world; he's lost to the process of filming. But Shah Rukh is not like that. Shah Rukh is also very aware. He's also from theatre. He's got much more knowledge about acting. Ranbir is very instinctive, but he's also extremely informed, extremely passionate. He's completely informed about the script. I would be surprised, every second or third day, he would read the whole script from beginning to end. In the little time he gets to sleep, he would also do this." Imtiaz said that Ranbir will often have questions about elements of a movie that go beyond his scenes. "With Shah Rukh, I can discuss a style of performance, and he goes and does it. With Ranbir, it's more instinctive," he said. In the same interview, Imtiaz said that he resented the popular opinion that he was a 'snooty' director,

Neeraj Chopra says he was once gifted desi ghee; says his mother asks him to train lightly



GNS News Agency, August 20

India's Neeraj Chopra reacts during the men's javelin throw athletics event at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris, France. India's Neeraj Chopra reacts during the men's javelin throw athletics event at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris, France.

After Arshad Nadeem became Pakistan's first individual Olympic gold medalist ever at Paris 2024, the country has rolled out the red carpet for the javelin thrower in scenes reminiscent of the welcome Neeraj Chopra received after winning gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics. Arshad Nadeem has already been accorded several high-level ceremonies in Pakistan, but what has caught the attention of fans has been how his father-in-law gifted him a buffalo for his Olympic record-breaking

feat at the Paris Olympics. Expectedly, Neeraj Chopra was asked about this unique gift when he held a briefing for Indian journalists after his silver medal at Paris 2024. "I was gifted desi ghee once. Back home in Haryana also we get things like these as gifts: 10 kilo desi ghee or 50 kilos of desi ghee. Or ladoos. There are promises made: 'If Neeraj wins this competition, I'll give him 50 kgs of ghee.' I would hear these things being said since I was kid, this was when circle kabaddi and wrestling were really popular. Ghee is gifted because we believe that it helps increase strength, which we need in our sport. Buffalos are also gifted in our region. Wrestlers and kabaddi players are also gifted things like Bullet motorbikes or tractors," Neeraj Chopra told journalists with a smile at a press briefing organised by JSW Sports. In the interaction, Neeraj Chopra revealed that he is not planning on returning back home to India at least for another month — opting to stay in Switzerland and compete in Diamond League meets. He also said he could undergo surgery for a niggle in his groin that has been bothering him for many months now. On Friday, he posted a video on social media of himself training in the Swiss town of Magglingen, where the Swiss Federal Institute of Sport is located, where he can be seen training with a medicine ball. "My mother sometimes sees these videos and tells me to train lightly. She can't see me put myself under so much pain. But I tell her, if I ease up on hard work, others will over take me in competition," he chuckled.



GNS News Agency, August 20

New Delhi: Paris Olympics silver medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra stated that he was fully positive competing against Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem and believed that he could have broken the gold medalist's Olympic record but somehow "his body didn't allow." Chopra, who came into the final as the favourite with a brilliant effort of 89.34m in the qualifying, threw the javelin to 89.45m, his second-best ever effort, a clear improvement on the 87.58m that bagged him the gold medal in Tokyo. But that did not prove enough for the reigning World Champion and Diamond League final winner as Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, his good friend in the sport, upstaged him by setting the Olympic record to win the gold medal with a monster heave of 92.97m.

"Nadeem is a very hardworking player and competed against him is always full of positivity and that day

too I was quite sure that we would have a good fight," said Chopra to IANS in a virtual interaction arranged by JSW. "After he made a Olympic record in his second attempt it created pressure on everyone, but since I had competed him previously I was quite sure that I will break his record after my second attempt which was close to 90, but somehow my body didn't allow." Chopra started the final with a foul on his first attempt, Nadeem too fouled his first throw while Trinidad's Keshorn Walcott took the lead with a throw of 86.16m while Anderson Peter was second at 84.70. The Indian star did not look convincing in any of his throws except on the second turn, which was his lone legal throw on the night of 89.45m.

Chopra still made history for India, becoming the second male and third overall to win back-to-back medals in the Olympics after wrestler Sushil Kumar who won a bronze and silver in the 2008 and 2012 Games. PV Sindhu is the other Indian to win medals in successive Olympics, silver in 2016 at Rio and bronze in Tokyo 2020. "It is never easy to perform in the Olympics and especially when you are defending your medal. The second throw and from there I knew that I can breach the Olympic record but somehow I was not able to do as my body didn't allow. I am happy that I won a silver medal for the country, not the gold but I will work on the things which are needed to recover well," added Chopra. Chopra who is training in Magglingen, Switzerland with his coach Klaus Bartonietz and physio Ishaan Marwaha when asked which event Chopra is targeting next, he said, "I have finally decided to participate in the Lausanne Diamond League, which begins August 22."

Ma Long, So long: How silly memes of a shooting dad and breakdancing novice, overshadowed TT legend's Olympics farewell

GNS News Agency, August 20

At Paris 2024, he played a bit part in China winning the table tennis team gold. For the uninitiated, following the Games on television, he was the unassuming silent one of the doubles pair. He mostly sat on the bench with a blank expression. When the coach spoke to the stars during break, he stood next to them looking clueless as if the Mandarin they spoke was Greek to him. But before and after the match, the aloof boy with dreamy eyes would get treated like a rock star. Girls would confess their love from stands, kids would cry for his T-shirt and would virtually faint when he obliged. Rivals, with unadulterated awe in their eyes, would line-up to get pictures with him. The connoisseurs would run for their lives to catch China's doubles games. They would be blind to the other three on the table, every eye at the stadium was fixed on only one man — Ma Long. This was to be the last Olympics for the 35-year-old, who the world agreed was the greatest TT player ever.

Like the contradiction in his name, that isn't really Long, his outward ordinariness hides the real identity of the man who mastered one of the world's most popular sport. Anyone who has watched him play — even those who play TT to kill time during hostel days or bunking work during office hours — would notice his majestic presence on the table. In case a TT table was used for a sit-in meal at a restaurant, the waiter would always walk to Ma Long with the bill. His seat is always at the head of the table. Regardless of whether he won or lost, the Chinese legend with neat strokes and Federer-like movements always 'looks' the better player. China's Ma Long, with his teammate Wang Chuqin, plays against Sweden's Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson during the men's gold medal team table tennis match at the 2024 Paris Olympics (AP) China's Ma Long, with his teammate Wang Chuqin, plays against Sweden's Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson during the men's gold medal team table tennis match at the 2024 Paris Olympics (AP)

If he was so good, why wasn't Ma Long trying for the singles Gold in his swansong Games? Who in their right mind would reduce a five-times Olympics gold medalist to a doubles player that too for the team event? The answer is simple: China, the country that is an assembly line of champions and follows a ruthless and unsentimental selection policy. Around there they don't go by reputation. It is always rankings and results. Ma Long's form had slightly faded and that was enough to downgrade him. It is their unending talent pool that gives China the conviction to be the ardent followers of TT meritocracy. Like champions before him, Ma Long would dutifully do what he was asked. His commitment to his team remained uncompromising, even when he was on the sidelines. In the singles event with China's Fan Zhendong trailing 0-2, the camera caught a teary Ma Long in the stands. He didn't want his country's golden streak to end — so what if he was there just for the doubles. He did his part with clinical efficiency, he would remain unbeaten and get his 6th Olympic gold. No Chinese in any sport can match this gold haul.

Ma Long epitomises the strong ethos of Chinese table tennis. He is a perfect product of a system that appreciates sincerity and values hard work. Ma Long didn't take any short cuts because there were none. A video series filmed by one-time British TT player Daniel Ives — The Journey Through Chinese Table Tennis — gives a brief sneak into the world's most productive table tennis factory of champions. The secret, he concludes, is no secret. Relentless training and passion for the sport is the reason the country keeps churning out Olympic gold medalists. China's Ma Long, with his teammate Wang Chuqin, plays against Sweden's Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson during the men's gold medal team table tennis match at the 2024 Paris Olympics. (AP) China's Ma Long, with his teammate Wang Chuqin, plays against Sweden's Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson during the men's gold medal team table tennis match at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

During his short trip, Ives visited Ma Long's club, some TT hubs and also China's training centre for its elite players. He draws vibrant pictures of the halls ping-pong with the endless tak-tak of plastic balls hitting the wooden tables. Most public TT clubs have over 15 tables and are open 24x7. Players in the 6 to 66 age range play against each other. They use different types of rubbers and lock horns in several games. It's an ultra-competitive atmosphere where coaches don't extend any special treatment for stars. Coaches bark instructions to world champions as they do to the beginners. Ma Long went through the same grind.



Fame and titles didn't change him much. Despite his record-breaking Olympics feat and the Beatles-like mass adulation, Ma Long in Paris behaved like his team's fourth-best player. The GOAT behaved like a calf. Once Ma Long was asked why Chinese TT stars lacked airs and attitude. He said it was impossible for the sense of superiority to sneak in them. "When you are training in China. The juniors around you are world champions, your training partner is a world champion and even your coach is a world champion ...," he said.

Though they do underplay their prowess, the Chinese paddlers are fiercely proud of their staggering superiority over the rest of the world. Contrary to the Western world's assumption, the Chinese have a great sense of humour. Maybe, they don't get it, since most of the time the joke is on them. China's Ma Long, with his teammate Wang Chuqin, plays against Sweden's Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson during the men's gold medal team table tennis match at the 2024 Paris Olympics (AP) China's Ma Long, with his teammate Wang Chuqin, plays against Sweden's Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson during the men's gold medal team table tennis match at the 2024 Paris Olympics (AP)

In a rare long monologue that Ma Long did for TV, even on stage he had a paddle in his hand, the down-to-earth star did take a dig at what he calls 'foreigners'. "Some creative foreign netizens have redefined table tennis's difficulty levels as simple, normal, difficult, harder and Chinese table tennis. I want to refute them but on second thoughts my strength doesn't allow me to refute them ... of course, this is a joke," he says with a naughty smile. No, it wasn't a joke. Ma Long and Chinese table tennis are the game's ultimate pinnacle. Go to youtube and check out some Ma Long videos. He is an old-school player who has a relatively passive backhand and banks on forehand to attack. His rasping top-spin drive where he goes low like very few and lets his hand go up in a frantic arc is a sight to behold. His sudden backhand "flipping flick" with a fake push action foxes opponents and makes the experts shake their head in disbelief. To be objective, the Olympics didn't give a fitting farewell to its greatest champion. At his last Games, the unpretentious great didn't become the story. It seems Paris was way too busy talking about a silver-haired pistol guy who shot with a hand in pocket, a break dancer who was so bad that she went viral and a gold medal winning boxer's gender. With sporting skills becoming increasingly unimportant for the audience, the Chinese champ was leaving the grand stage at the right time. So Long, Ma Long.

GNS News Agency, August 20

India's two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra has opted to leave the elusive 90-meter mark "to the gods." Neeraj narrowly missed the 90-meter mark at the Paris Olympics, earning a silver medal with a throw of 89.45 meters. Despite narrowly missing the elusive 90-meter mark at the Paris Games, two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra has decided to leave that much-discussed milestone "to the gods." Chopra has been chasing this significant distance for years, and the wait was prolonged when his only legal throw of 89.45 meters earned him a silver medal at the Paris Olympics earlier this month.

While securing a back-to-back medal at the Summer Games was a monumental achievement for the Indian athlete, it fell short of Arshad Nadeem's sensational 92.97 meters, which comfortably secured a historic gold for the Pakistani athlete. Despite nursing a long-standing

Real Madrid could give players holidays during season: Manager Carlo Ancelotti

GNS News Agency, August 20

Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti has claimed that the club is thinking about giving the players holidays during the season in a bid to keep them fresh during the long campaign. Los Blancos will be competing in 6 competitions this season. Real Madrid are considering granting players short breaks during the season due to concerns over an increasingly congested fixture schedule, manager Carlo Ancelotti revealed on Saturday. Speaking ahead of their LaLiga opener against Mallorca, Ancelotti highlighted the growing strain on players due to the ever-increasing number of domestic and international matches.

Having secured both the LaLiga and Champions League titles last season, Real Madrid are now competing for up to seven trophies in the 2024-25 campaign. Ancelotti emphasized that the club may need to make adjustments to safeguard the players' health and performance levels. His coaching staff is already planning for the 2025-26 season, with an eye on the added pressures of the 2026 World Cup, which will be held in June and July across Canada, Mexico, and the United States. "The players need rest, they need holidays and we are thinking about giving individual holidays to the players during the season," Ancelotti told a news conference on Saturday. "We are thinking about giving in-season breaks, give a week off for a player so he can go and stay with his family, especially international players, who have very little rest because they usually don't get even a day's holiday in international breaks. "We are assessing it with the medical staff and the physical preparation..." said Ancelotti as quoted. Following their UEFA Super Cup victory against Atalanta on Wednesday, Real Madrid will compete in LaLiga, the Champions League, Copa del Rey, the Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia, the FIFA



Intercontinental Cup, and the newly revamped FIFA Club World Cup in the United States. "At the moment we still don't even know the date (of the Club World Cup), same with the Intercontinental. We are bidding for seven titles but we still don't know when or how," Ancelotti said. "The 2025-26 season might start earlier because of the World Cup, so we have to plan accordingly starting this season." "For example, when Vinicius Jr comes back after playing with Brazil, instead of playing in LaLiga, he rests for three or four days, he goes on holiday and then he comes back." "That's the only way. Normally those players train, even if they don't play. But we're going to take that away, let them do what they want on those days. That's what we're going to do." The congested football calendar has sparked widespread concern and debate in recent years. In May, the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) warned FIFA that players were prepared to strike if the overload of fixtures continued. Global players' union FIFPRO, along with the PFA and the World Leagues Association (WLA), have also threatened legal action if FIFA persists in expanding tournaments and introducing new competitions.

Pakistan release Abrar Ahmed, Kamran Ghulam before 1st Test against Bangladesh

GNS News Agency, August 20

Pakistan cricket has decided to release spinner Abrar Ahmed and batter Kamran Ghulam ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh as they will now link up with the Pakistan Shaheens for the match against Bangladesh A. The Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh A will be playing their second four-day match after the first one ended in a draw. The PCB made the statement on Saturday, August 17 as the selectors had decided to go for a pace-heavy side for the first Test against Bangladesh at Rawalpindi. The decision on Abrar was made as they didn't want the spinner to be on the bench and rather gain some match practice. Both Abrar and Ghulam are expected to be back for the second Test match in Karachi, which will begin on August 30. "Wrist spinner Abrar Ahmed has been released from the Pakistan Test side and he will now represent Pakistan Shaheens in the second four-day match against Bangladesh 'A', which will start at the Islamabad Club on Tuesday, 20 August." "The decision



has been made after the selectors have opted to go with an all-pace attack in the first ICC World Test Championship match against Bangladesh at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, 21 August. Instead of benching him for the Test, the selectors named him in the Shaheens squad so that he can gain some match practice ahead of the second Test, which will start in Karachi on 30 August.

Let's just leave it to the gods: Neeraj Chopra on throwing 90m and beyond

GNS News Agency, August 20

India's two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra has opted to leave the elusive 90-meter mark "to the gods." Neeraj narrowly missed the 90-meter mark at the Paris Olympics, earning a silver medal with a throw of 89.45 meters. Despite narrowly missing the elusive 90-meter mark at the Paris Games, two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra has decided to leave that much-discussed milestone "to the gods." Chopra has been chasing this significant distance for years, and the wait was prolonged when his only legal throw of 89.45 meters earned him a silver medal at the Paris Olympics earlier this month.

While securing a back-to-back medal at the Summer Games was a monumental achievement for the Indian athlete, it fell short of Arshad Nadeem's sensational 92.97 meters, which comfortably secured a historic gold for the Pakistani athlete. Despite nursing a long-standing

groin injury, Chopra managed to make it to the podium. Now, his focus shifts to the Lausanne Diamond League, starting on August 22. After a few busy days following the Olympic final on August 8, Chopra resumed training in Switzerland, determined to finish the season on a high, despite the limitations imposed by his injury. "I need to leave it to the gods now," Chopra remarked when asked about his target throw in the near future. "I just want to prepare well and see where the javelin goes. There has already been so much talk about the 90-meter mark; now I feel like just letting it be. In Paris, I thought it would happen, and it could have happened. Now I will give my 100 percent in the next two or three events and see what happens," he said during a virtual interaction arranged by JSW. After the season-ending Diamond League in Brussels from September 13-14, Chopra plans to consult with doctors about his groin injury, with surgery being the most likely course of action. The 26-year-old has been

managing the injury since winning gold at the World Championships last year. With Arshad Nadeem producing an Olympic record throw in the final, Chopra felt the need to elevate his performance but acknowledged that his physical condition held him back. "I felt I could increase the distance. My two no-throws in qualification and the final were second and third best throws and my season best as well. To increase the distance, I need to be injury-free."

"In my mind, I know I need to give 100 percent, but because of the injury, I am not able to give 100 percent. My body and mind stop me from making that extra effort," Chopra admitted. "What's most important in training sessions are the throwing sessions, which I have not been able to do as much as I would like due to the injury. If you can't throw regularly, you are not able to work on your technique. I need to throw as much as I can. The rest is all fine."