

INDIAN CHRONICLE

Nagarjuna Sagar Dam gates closed as inflows recede

Hyderabad: With floods in the Krishna river receding, the Irrigation Department officials on Monday closed all the crest gates of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project.

According to officials, the gates were partially lowered on Sunday and then closed on Monday, as the dam filled up. Earlier, the project was receiving an inflow of 49,345 cusecs and the outflow was 52,803 cusecs. The project is releasing water into the left and right canals, and the hydel station is also generating power. Current water level in the project is 589.90 feet against the Full Reservoir Level of 590 feet.

Telangana NRI from Suryapet drowns in swimming pool in USA's Atlanta

Hyderabad: A 41-year-old native of Patharlaphad village in Atmakur(S) mandal of Suryapet district, died after accidentally falling into a community swimming pool in Atlanta, United States. According to reports, Thapsi Praveen Kumar, who had been residing in the US along with his wife Shanthi for the last six years, was employed as a teacher at an educational institution. The incident occurred over the weekend, and Praveen's family were informed about the tragic accident on Sunday evening by his wife. The family members informed that Praveen went to the swimming pool around 8 pm for swimming. However, he was not aware that the pool was deep and jumped into it and soon started drowning.

President Murmu, PM Modi extend greetings on Janmashtami



GNS News Agency, August 26

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday (August 26) extended greetings on the occasion of Janmashtami and said that we must imbibe the teachings of Lord Krishna and work for the nation's progress. In a post on X, President Murmu wrote, "I greet all my countrymen on the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami. This festival inspires us to be dedicated to the divine ideals of Lord Shri Krishna. On this occasion, let us imbibe the teachings of Lord Shri Krishna and pledge to work for the progress and prosperity of the country."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended his wishes to the people on Janmashtami. On X, PM Modi wrote, "Wishing you all a very Happy Janmashtami. Jai Shri Krishna! Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi also extended wishes and posted on X, "Hearty wishes and congratulations to everyone on Shri Krishna Janmashtami. I hope that this festival of joy and happiness fills the life of all of you with new enthusiasm and excitement." Celebrations in Uttar Pradesh Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also extended Janmashtami greetings to all devotees of Lord Krishna and residents of the state. "Hail Kanhaiya Lal! Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all the devotees and residents of the state on the auspicious birth anniversary of Kripasindhu, Shri Banke Bihari ji, 'Shri Krishna Janmashtami'!" Mr. Adityanath said in a post on X. Mr. Adityanath had on Sunday directed the authorities to ensure that the holy festival was celebrated grandly across the state, including all reserve police lines, police stations and prisons.

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Miyapur Temple is organised Sri Krishna Janmastami Mahotsav

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Miyapur Temple is organised Sri Krishna



Janmastami Mahotsav today i.e on Monday at HMT Swarnapuri Colony Community Hall, Ameenpur, Miyapur with great enthusiasm and devotional fervor. Programmes started with Mangal Harathi, Group Chanting of Hare Krishana, Preaches of Bhagavatham. On this occasion conducted Shri Krishna Nama Sahastra Vali Yagya and Kalasa Abhishekam. Also distributed joyful prizes to children who are winners in different competitions. RERA chairman Satyanarayana participated as guest and distributed prizes. Miyapur ISKCON temple President Sriram Dasa, Endowment Officer Somaraju, Local Representatives Ravi Yadav, Devender Rao, Ramulu, ISKCON members Goparaju Srinivas, Devishetty Srinivas, devotees in large number have attended

CM Revanth Reddy Took Part in Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhaya Hastham Program

GNS News Agency, August 26

Hyderabad: Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy took part in the Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhaya Hastham program, which was held to support aspiring civil servants. The event was organised to provide guidance and encouragement to students who are preparing for competitive exams like the civil services.

During the event, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy spoke about the importance of education and the need for more young people to join public services to bring positive changes in society. He explained the government's commitment to providing



resources and opportunities for students to achieve their goals. The Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhaya Hastham program aims to offer coaching and mentoring to students from various backgrounds, especially those from underprivileged communities, to help them prepare for civil service exams. The initiative seeks to create a level

playing field by giving these students access to quality education and resources.

Chief Minister Reddy also interacted with the students and encouraged them to work hard and stay focused on their dreams. He assured them that the government would continue to support initiatives

that empower the youth and create opportunities for their growth and success. The event was attended by several government officials, educators, and students, all of whom appreciated the Chief Minister's efforts to promote education and equal opportunities for all. The program reflects the government's dedication to fostering a new generation of leaders who are committed to public service and social development. The Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhaya Hastham program is expected to have a significant impact on the lives of many young aspirants, helping them realise their potential and contribute to the progress of the state and the country.

CM Revanth Reddy Wishes State a Joyful Krishna Janmashtami



GNS News Agency, August 26

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has extended his warm wishes to everyone in the state for Krishna Janmashtami. This festival celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna, a revered figure in Hinduism known for his teachings and divine actions. In his message, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy spoke about the importance of the 'Gita,' a sacred book written by Lord Krishna. He pointed out how the lessons from the 'Gita' are important for guiding people through all stages of life. According to him, the wisdom of Lord Krishna helps people live better and more meaningful lives.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that Lord Krishna's presence is felt throughout every part of life. He believes that the blessings of Lord Krishna can bring happiness and prosperity to everyone. By celebrating Krishna Janmashtami, people are reminded of these divine teachings and the positive impact they can have. Revanth Reddy's message is a reminder of the festival's significance and his hope that Lord Krishna's blessings will reach everyone. He wishes that this special occasion brings peace and joy to all. The Chief Minister's greetings highlight the festival's importance and his desire for the well-being of the people, reflecting the values and teachings of Lord Krishna.

KTR raises concern over dengue deaths, demands health emergency in Telangana



GNS News Agency, August 26

Hyderabad: Expressing concern over the rising dengue deaths, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday suggested that the State government acknowledge the serious problem and declare a health emergency in Telangana. Rama Rao took to X and pointed out that while the State government has been claiming that there are no dengue deaths in the State, at least five deaths were reported on Saturday and three on Monday.

He stated that government hospitals were facing a shortage of medicines and three-four patients are being forced to share a single bed in most hospitals, due to increasing cases. "Who is hiding the data and why? Time to admit there is a serious problem and declare a health emergency," he said. In another post, the BRS working president slammed the State government for not implementing the Rythu Bharosa investment support for the last two seasons. He said the Congress government failed to fulfil its electoral promise and deprived Rs 15,000 per annum to farmers and tenant farmers as well as Rs 12,000 to farm labourers. "The number of beneficiaries of crop loan waiver is far less than those who were denied. There is none to explain to them why they were deprived of the benefit, despite having all eligibility. The Congress has once again shown an empty hand to farmers to deceive them," he said. Meanwhile, Rama Rao also shared a video of a child holding a rotten boiled egg distributed at an Anganwadi centre in Peddawada Sammad junction in Bhongir and questioned the State government. Calling it atrocious, he urged the District Collector to take immediate action in this regard.

Hema Committee report should be probed, strong action should be taken, says Prithviraj



GNS News Agency, August 26

Kochi: Three-time Kerala State Film Best Actor award winner Prithviraj minced no words on Monday as he categorically sought a probe into the findings of the Hema Committee report on the conditions and sexual exploitation of women in the Malayalam film industry and "strong" action against the wrongdoers while observing that there have been lapses by the Association of Malayalam Movies Artistes (AMMA). "How it will affect, I do not know and if it has to affect, it should. There should be a proper probe into the report and if the allegations against someone are proven right, very strong action should be there and at the same time, if proven wrong, the same strong action should be made against those who raised it," he said. Hema Committee report: Vijayan govt left reeling as actor-turned-CPI-M MLA faces allegations, opposition steps up attack

To a question on if the contents of the report surprised him, Prithviraj shot back: "Why should I be surprised as I was one of the first persons to have deposed before the Committee? Like you (media), I am also waiting to know what's going to happen." He candidly said that there have been lapses on the part of AMMA and that strong action should have been taken in the past.

In reply to another question about the presence of a 'power group' in the Malayalam film industry, as claimed in the report, he said: "Just because I say that I have not been affected by the power group, that doesn't mean it's not there and if such a group exists, I will say that such a thing should not happen." "My take is in all organisations there should be a female representative in the top post," Prithviraj said to a poser if things would have been better

had a woman occupied the top post of President or General Secretary in AMMA. He made it clear that in the best interest of everything, if an allegation surfaces against anyone, it is better that such people step down from posts that they occupy. When it was pointed out how a talented actress like Parvathy was kept out, he shot back: "Before that happened, it was me who had to suffer it." Since last Monday, ever since the explosive Hema Committee report finally came out, two film personalities have quit the posts that they held while many more powerful AMMA members also have been named by their alleged victims.

Harish Rao asks CM to honour free LRS promise

GNS News Agency, August 26

Hyderabad: Former Minister and Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao asked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to honour his election promise of implementing the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) free of cost. He criticised the State government for its failure to address critical issues like delayed crop loan waiver and Rythu Bharosa support to farmers, and rising healthcare costs due to widespread fevers, and other challenges. "Instead, the Congress government is busy fixing targets to the officials and collecting huge LRS fee, adding to the financial strain on citizens. The field staff including village secretaries and bill collectors are being harassed to aggressively collect LRS fee," he said, adding that officials were threatening citizens to cancel property layouts if payments were not made immediately. In an open letter to the Chief Minister on Monday, Harish Rao said the State government was trying to collect Rs.15,000 crore through the LRS fee, which was an unjust burden on the people. "This is nothing short of sucking the flesh and blood of the people," he said. He reminded the Chief Minister of electoral promises made by him and other Congress leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy and D Anasuya alias Seethakka to implement the LRS without any charges. He questioned the government's change in stance, accusing it of exploiting the very people it had vowed to support.

PM Modi, HM Shah again assure CM of all help to flood-ravaged Tripura

GNS News Agency, August 26

Agartala: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday once again assured Tripura Chief Minister of all support in dealing with the devastating floods, rains and landslides. Chief Minister Manik Saha on Monday apprised the Prime Minister and Home Minister over the phone about the flood situation in Tripura. The state has been devastated by catastrophic floods for the first time in over three decades. The Home Minister informed the Chief Minister that a central team would soon visit the state to assess the damage and losses due to the floods and landslides.

CM Saha during an all-party meeting here on Saturday had informed that as per preliminary assessment, the damage to the properties, crops and infrastructure amounted to around Rs 15,000 crore, which could rise further after field assessment. In a post on X, CM Saha said, "Spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, spelling out all the details of the flood situation in the state. He assured full support to the people of Tripura in this hour of crisis. We are extremely grateful to the Prime Minister for his kind gesture to the people of Tripura." The CM, in another post on X said, "Spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and apprised him of the latest situation arising out of the unprecedented natural calamity of floods in the state. He assured of continued all out support to the state government. He also informed that the Union government would be sending a team to Tripura immediately to take stock of the situation. Grateful to the Home Minister for instantly coming to the aid of the people of Tripura in this hour of crisis."

CM Revanth Reddy Vows to Crack Down on Illegal Constructions

GNS News Agency, August 26

Chief Minister K. Revanth Reddy has declared a firm stance against illegal constructions and encroachments on public lands in Andhra Pradesh. Drawing a comparison to the epic Kurukshetra battle, he emphasized that his government will not tolerate any violations, regardless of who is responsible.

Speaking recently, CM Revanth Reddy stated, "Just like the Kurukshetra war, we will not spare anyone involved in illegal constructions or those who occupy lakes and public lands unlawfully." His comments underscore a strong commitment to enforcing regulations and protecting public property from encroachment and misuse.

The Chief Minister's remarks reflect the government's ongoing efforts to address issues related to illegal constructions and land encroachments. By setting a clear example of zero tolerance, the administration aims to ensure that public resources are preserved and managed properly.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Can't stop those who have made up mind to leave BJP: Chandrashekhar Bawankule



GNS News Agency, August 26

State BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule Friday said that the party cannot stop anyone who has decided to leave BJP and explore alternative options to fulfill their own political aspirations. Bawankule's response came amid developments indicating that at least two BJP leaders — Samarjeet Ghatge and Harshvardhan Patil — have decided to look for other options. Both the leaders are unlikely to get Assembly election tickets as the seats they want to contest from may go to BJP's Mahayuti ally NCP. Samarjeet Ghatge is keen to contest from Kagal constituency in Kolhapur district in Western Maharashtra. Whereas, Harshvardhan Patil has decided to contest from Indapur constituency in Pune in Western Maharashtra. According to sources, both Patil and Ghatge are in touch with NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar. Responding to the political developments, Bawankule told mediapersons in Nagpur, "Ideally, we would urge them not to leave BJP. They should show patience and remain in BJP... If someone has made up the mind to quit BJP we cannot stop them." Bawankule further said, "Kagal seat is likely to go to NCP. Similarly, Indapur seat has sitting NCP MLA. So, it is natural for NCP to stake claim on these seats."

The process of candidates switching parties is not a new phenomenon in elections. But it certainly has set the ruling BJP worried. Unlike in the past when where it was

a two party coalition, for the 2024 Assembly elections, the BJP is part of the three party Mahayuti coalition — which also comprises Shiv Sena, and NCP. In July 2023, when Ajit Pawar led NCP joined BJP there was jubilation. What appeared reassuring to keep government intact is now proving a tightrope walk when it came to seat sharing within Mahayuti. According to BJP's political strategists, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, the incharge for Maharashtra, is likely to resolve the tussle over seat negotiations after adequate consultation with top state leaders. A senior BJP functionary said, "Every party asserts its rights on sitting seat. In exceptional cases they give up the claim. So, it would be unfair to unsettle NCPs sitting MLAs in Kagal and Indapur." BJP insiders admit the friction over seat sharing will multiply when seat-wise negotiations progress. In the 2019 Assembly polls, the BJP and then undivided NCP contested against each other in 54 seats. The BJP won 30 seats and undivided NCP won 24. Out of these 24 seats, 20 are now with the Ajit Pawar-led NCP and four with NCP (SP).

Now, these 20 seats where NCP has sitting MLAs will be a test for BJP. Almost all the 20 BJP leaders who fought and lost these seats in the last elections were eagerly awaiting to contest again. In 2019, Ghatge, who is a close confidante of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, contested as Independent and lost to then (undivided) NCP's Hassan Mushrif from Kagal. Mushrif who is a five-term MLA is Cabinet minister in Shinde government. Earlier, Ghatge had strongly opposed BJP's alliance with the Ajit Pawar-led NCP. Addressing his supporters, Ghatge said, "My decision to change is for larger welfare of Kagal constituency and its people. And I have already informed my stand to Fadnavis." Ahead of 2019 Assembly polls, Harshvardhan Patil had quit Congress to join BJP. He was told that undivided NCP would leave the Indapur seat to him for contest but Ajit Pawar insisted on fielding Datray Bhaney. Patil is still non-committal on his joining another party and is considering contesting as Independent. Patil said, "My supporters want me to contest in Indapur in Assembly. We have started preparations."

Karnataka to frame safety guidelines for women doctors, following nationwide protests



GNS News Agency, August 26

The meeting was also attended by directors of government medical colleges, super-specialty hospitals, and representatives from doctor associations. The meeting was also attended by directors of government medical colleges, super-specialty hospitals, and representatives from doctor associations. In the wake of nationwide protests sparked by the brutal rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata, the Karnataka Government on Friday announced plans to introduce comprehensive guidelines to enhance the safety and security of medical professionals, particularly women doctors.

During a meeting held at Vikasa Soudha in Bengaluru, Karnataka Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil directed Dr Sujatha Rathod, Director of Medical Education (DME), to engage with various stakeholders in the medical community to develop these guidelines. The meeting was also attended by directors of government medical colleges, super-specialty hospitals, and representatives from doctor associations. Minister Patil emphasized the importance of gathering input from private medical colleges, women doctors, and other key stakeholders to ensure that the safety measures are robust and all-encompassing. The state government is expected to release these guidelines soon, which will apply to both government and private medical institutions across Karnataka. "The government will not tolerate any form of violence against medical professionals, especially women, and is committed to implementing all necessary measures to protect them," Patil stated, condemning the rape-murder of the woman doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. He added that the guidelines would be shaped by the feedback and suggestions provided by the medical community.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Medical Education Department has also approved a 25 per cent hike in the stipend for senior resident doctors and postgraduate (PG) medical students across the state. This decision came after resident doctors threatened to go on strike, demanding better pay. Dr Patil held discussions with department officials and subsequently instructed them to implement the stipend hike. The revised monthly stipend structure, which is effective from August 1, 2024, is expected to provide substantial financial relief to medical students and residents. The revised stipends for PG resident doctors are as follows: Rs 45,000 to Rs 56,250 for the first year; Rs 50,000 to Rs 62,500 for the second year; and Rs 55,000 to Rs 68,750 for the third year. For super-specialty resident doctors, the stipends have been revised from Rs 55,000 to Rs 68,750 for the first year; Rs 60,000 to Rs 75,000 for the second year; and Rs 65,000 to Rs 81,250 for the third year. Senior residents will now receive a stipend ranging from Rs 60,000 to Rs 75,000. Resident doctors had staged a 16-day protest from August 5 demanding a hike in their stipends and suspended non-emergency services from August 12. A delegation from the Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) had also met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday. He had assured them a 25 per cent increase in their stipends, following which, the association unofficially called off the protest. Karnataka currently has 3,540 sanctioned seats for PG residents, 445 for super-specialty residents, and 527 for senior residents.

After 10-yr-old loses vision in eye, doctors reattach patient's retina, improve his vision

GNS News Agency, August 26

NIO Pune retina tear Attempting this surgery on the child was even more challenging as children are more prone to develop PVR (proliferative vitreoretinopathy). The NIO team's efforts paid off as the retina was successfully attached after patient underwent Vitrectomy with improvement in vision to 6/36 within a month.

Imagine a damaged wallpaper that has been ripped so badly that it can be easily peeled off. That's what Dr Aditya Kelkar, director at Pune's National Institute of Ophthalmology, felt when he examined a ten-year-old boy who had a giant retinal tear with a lot of scarring. "The boy had a nearly 270-300 degree giant retinal tear and had lost vision in that eye," Dr Kelkar said, adding that he needed surgery. The extremely challenging case was recently performed at NIO by Dr Akshay Kothari, retina surgeon.

The boy had high myopia (nearsightedness) and was brought to the OPD by his father who is a construction site worker at Ahmednagar. The boy did not have pain but a thorough retinal examination showed a retinal detachment with a giant tear. According to Dr Kelkar, giant retinal tears have an incidence of 0.4 per cent and are characterised by their large size and poor visual prognosis. "Treating these retinal tears is challenging as they are often associated with intraoperative complications such as hypotony, choroidal detachment, and failure of re-retinal detachment," Dr Kelkar said. Attempting this surgery on the child was even more challenging as children are more prone to develop PVR (proliferative vitreoretinopathy). The NIO team's efforts paid off as the retina was successfully attached after patient underwent Vitrectomy with improvement in vision to 6/36 within a month. Explaining high myopia and its risks, Dr Kelkar said that it is a common refractive error in children associated with elongation of the eyeball, predisposing patients to retinal detachment. However the incidence is 2-5 percent. According to a report in the Community Eye Health Journal, the prevalence of myopia is increasing globally. "It has been predicted that, by the year 2050, high myopia will affect 9.8% of the global population; a total of 938 million people," the report states. The highest prevalence of myopia is seen in younger adults, particularly in urbanised East and Southeast Asian countries.

'How is govt using genetic data for protection of captive elephants,' Jairam Ramesh seeks clarity from environment minister



GNS News Agency, August 26

Captive elephants The ministry's memorandum stated that the ministry has on various occasions received representations and complaints regarding illegal transfer and transport of elephants, sale and procurement of elephants. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, in a letter to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Friday, questioned the functioning of genetic profiling of elephants and how the government was using the genetic data for protection of captive and wild elephants. Ramesh sought clarity in the public domain on these issues from the union minister. The former Union environment minister wrote to Yadav against the backdrop of an Environment Ministry office memorandum (OM), dated August 20, that was sent to all states reminding them to adhere to the Captive Elephant (Transfer and Transport) Rules, 2024.

The ministry's memorandum stated that the ministry has on various occasions received representations and complaints regarding illegal transfer and transport of elephants, sale and procurement of elephants. The Centre drew the attention of states to a provision in the 2024 Rules which mandates that "no transfer of an elephant shall be permissible unless the genetic profile of the elephant has been entered in the electronic monitoring application of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change." "Hence, it is requested to take all necessary action to ensure the compliance of these rules while transfer of transport of elephant from one place to another (sic)," the ministry's letter to states added.

Ramesh said that the provision prohibiting elephant transfers without genetic profiling raises issues which need clarity. "How exactly is the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change establishing the genetic profile of each elephant? Who is generating this data and maintaining this database? How exactly does the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change intend to use this genetic data for the protection of captive and wild elephants?" Ramesh asked. "I presume that we have the laboratory infrastructure with the necessary sequencing facilities," he mentioned in the letter.

The Environment Ministry began the DNA profiling of captive elephants in 2022-23. It had developed 'Gajah Suchana', an application for collection of biological samples from captive elephants across India for DNA profiling. As per a reply in the Lok Sabha last year, biological sample collection of captive elephants from Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttarakhand has been completed. The Indian Express had reported last year that the DNA profiling of 270 of the 2,675 captive elephants was completed.

In June as well, Ramesh had written to Yadav on the captive elephant trade and flagged gaps in the Captive Elephant (Transfer and Transport) Rules, 2024. He had pointed out that the present transfer rules "do not close the route for both wild capture and commercial trade of captive elephants especially from the Northeast to the rest of the country." Before that in April, the wildlife protection groups and elephant conservation groups based in the North East and other parts of the country had urged the Environment Ministry for a moratorium on elephant transfers, especially from north-eastern states to other parts of the country, on grounds that using the provisions of non-commercial transfer of captive elephants, wild elephants were being caught from the forests of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024, were notified on March 14 after Parliament amended the Wildlife Protection Act,

Central govt employees to meet PM Modi seeking implementation of Old Pension Scheme, state govt employees in Punjab see glimmer of home

GNS News Agency, August 26

Old Pension Scheme The Punjab Government formed a committee in January 2023 to study the OPS implementation process in states like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. In a first, a delegation of the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) for Central Government employees — a body fighting for the implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) — has been invited to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The news was confirmed by Shiv Gopal Mishra, Secretary, National Council (staff side), JCM. Mishra is also the national convener of the Joint Forum for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (JFROPS), which has around 39 lakh members.

He said, "We had several meetings with various officials in the past over the issue of implementation of the OPS, now finally PM Narendra Modi will be meeting us on Saturday. We are thankful to him for giving us time... Around 12 of us will be going to meet the PM. We are hopeful of a positive outcome." Jasveer Talwara, Punjab Convener, JFROPS, said, "Saturday's meeting is with Central Government employees only... However, we are hopeful that it would have a positive impact in states where the implementation of the OPS was promised in poll manifestos. Punjab is one such state. So, all eyes are on tomorrow's meeting with the PM." He added that the "Punjab Government had announced the implementation of the OPS on October 22, 2022... and notified it on



November 18, 2022, but it has not implemented it till date and is following dilly delaying tactics. On July 1, we had a meeting with the CM in Phagwara over the issue of the OPS ahead of the Jalandhar West bypoll. The CM gave us time again on July 25, but it was first postponed to August 2, then to August 22, and now to September 12... He kept on postponing the meetings. In Punjab, over 2 lakh employees working in nearly 50 government departments want to get the OPS implemented..." The Punjab Government formed a committee in January 2023 to study the OPS implementation process in states like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Rajasthan, however, reverted to the New Pension Scheme (NPS) last year after a change of government.

Property gifted to son who refuses to look after aged parents can be taken back: Karnataka High Court



GNS News Agency, August 26

The bench subsequently declared the gift deed void and ordered the property to be handed over to the woman within sixty days. The bench subsequently declared the gift deed void and ordered the property to be handed over to the woman within sixty days. The Karnataka High Court has observed that a gift deed can be voided in a case where a son allegedly did not see to the needs of his elderly parents. The order was issued on July 29 by a bench consisting of Justice Suraj Govindaraj.

In this case, a senior citizen woman had approached the High Court asserting that she had gifted her property located in Raichur to her son believing that he would take care of his parents' requirements in their old age, but he had later shown disinterest in their welfare. The Assistant Commissioner of the Senior Citizen Welfare Committee in Raichur had also dismissed an application by her against the original gift. The Assistant Commissioner had stated that the gift deed had no clause stating that the son would take care of the parents, and at the time of execution, the mother was only aged 53 years. The mother's counsel argued before the High Court that the gift was to enable the son (a doctor) to build a nursing home in furtherance of the education they had paid for, bearing a large expense. The earnings could then support them in old age. The son's counsel reiterated the fact that there was no such clause in the gift deed, and as the deed was executed when the mother was not a senior citizen, provisions of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act could not be applicable. It was also stated that the late husband of the petitioner was a retired Range Forest Officer with enough properties, pension etc to maintain her, but her son would un-

dertake to manage medical treatment. The High Court bench observed, "I am unable to countenance the stand of the son that there is no obligation on the part of the son to take care of his mother during her old age, merely because, there is no such obligation imposed in the Gift Deed... (she) has categorically averred in the petition that there was fond hope that her son will take care of her during her old age after building a Nursing Home in the property which belonged to the mother. This statement made in the pleading would suffice the requirement of the decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court in Sudesh Chhikara's case." The court also did not accept the argument that the father's income would support the mother, as a large amount of the money had been expended for purposes of education. The bench subsequently declared the gift deed void and ordered the property to be handed over to the woman within sixty days.

After Hyderabad, 'dating scam' resurfaces in Mumbai

GNS News Agency, August 26

Hyderabad: A dating scam has resurfaced in Mumbai, targeting men through popular dating apps like Tinder and Bumble. The scam, which previously made headlines in Hyderabad, involves women luring men to upscale pubs and bars, where they run up exorbitant bills before disappearing, leaving their dates to foot the charges. Recently, three Mumbai-based men fell victim to this scam after befriending women online. The women took them to The God Father Club, a pub in Andheri, where they ordered costly food and drinks. When it was time to pay, the women made excuses and left, leaving the men to face the pub staff, who allegedly demanded payment and resorted to physical violence if the victims refused to pay. The scam came to light when the victims approached Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj, a men's rights activist, who brought the issue to the attention of the Mumbai Police. Bhardwaj revealed that at least 12 victims have come forward, with bills ranging from ₹23,000 to ₹61,000. This scam is reminiscent of a similar operation in Telangana and Delhi,

Protests over Badlapur school sexual abuse: Bombay HC restrains political parties, individuals from going ahead with bandh



GNS News Agency, August 26

The Bombay High Court on Friday restrained any political party or individuals from going ahead with the Maharashtra bandh on August 24 or any other subsequent date until further orders to protest against the alleged sexual assault on two schoolgirls in Thane district's Badlapur. The HC issued notices returnable on October 9 to respondents, including the state government, state Home department and political parties belonging to the MVA, including the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress, in the pleas challenging the bandh. "Until further orders all concerned are restrained from proceeding on call for bandh in the state of Maharashtra on August 24 or any other subsequent date. At this juncture, we may also notice that the division bench of this court in the case of B G Deshmukh decided in July 2004, has issued various directions in view of challenges caused by calls given for bandh. The bench had declared that enforcement of bandh would amount to an unconstitutional act," the bench noted.

The HC directed the Maharashtra government to take steps as per past judgment of the HC delivered in 2004 in the B G Deshmukh case. "We thus direct that the state government and all its authorities, including the chief secretary, additional CS of Home department, Director General of Police (DGP), District Collectors and heads of police administration in all districts shall strictly enforce all directions given in July 2004 in the B G Deshmukh case," the bench noted. A division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar was hearing pleas challenging the Maharashtra bandh

call by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and opposition parties.

CJ Upadhyaya also requested the parties in the matter not to indulge in any kind of press statement. "My primary concern is that the court should not be dragged into it (political allegations)," CJ Upadhyaya observed. The HC passed an order citing past Supreme Court verdict in AIADMK v Lalit Tripathi and Kerala High Court judgment in Bharat Kumar case. The bench was hearing two pleas, including one by lawyers Jaishri Patil and Gunratn Sadavarte against the call for state-wide bandh and another by one Nandabai Sarjerao Misal argued through advocate Subhash Jha and Hare Krishna Mishra.

The petitions sought declaration from the court that the bandh was illegal and directions to the state government to ensure law and order and action against the violators. The petitioners claimed common citizens suffer due to such "unconstitutional" bandh as it cripples the state machinery and cause destruction of public and private properties. The petitioners added that the Supreme Court in its 2020 Shaheen Bagh case judgment had observed that such kind of occupation of public ways, whether at the site in question or anywhere else for protests, is not acceptable and the administration ought to take action to keep the areas clear of encroachments or obstructions. Advocate General Birendra Saraf for state government submitted that the government has been taking all steps as per guidelines issued in past HC and apex court judgments, which also held that calling of such bandh itself is illegal. He added that law and order is being maintained by the authorities and every action is being taken to ensure no disruption in life on Saturday and all guidelines will be followed. AG Saraf submitted that to an extent of declaring the bandh to be illegal, the state was in agreement with the petitioner as the same is violative of repeated observations and directives by SC in past judgments. After the court queried if the preventive steps were taken by the authorities, AG Saraf submitted that notices had been issued to different persons and processes under the new criminal procedure laws have been initiated. "Due to illegal call of bandh, entire state machinery is occupied with these measures," he said.

Feel hopeless about doctors' security, say descendants of RG Kar on his 172nd birth anniversary

GNS News Agency, August 26

Kolkata: On the 172nd birth anniversary of Dr Radha Gobinda Kar who founded the Calcutta School of Medicine in 1886, an institution later rechristened as RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in memory of the physician-philanthropist, his descendants felt "hopeless" at the "minimal progress achieved in state-run healthcare facilities" cradling young doctors.

Speaking to PTI, the fourth generation of RG Kar's descendants, who live in the same house in the Ramrajatala area of Howrah where he was born on August 23, 1852, said they felt heartbroken to know little has improved in terms of providing security and facilities to budding doctors, a goal with which Kar had set up the facility amid major adversities 138 years ago. The family felt it would be prudent to "leave it to the conscience" of the agitating junior doctors who have struck work, albeit on "valid grounds", and crippled public healthcare in West Bengal for two weeks now to decide whether or not it is time for them to return to work.

Members of the family also said that the state government is likely to have failed to instill confidence among the agitating doctors and pursue them to resume work despite the Supreme Court's appeal and repeated requests from the state health department to that effect. "I feel quite hopeless at the dearth of facilities our doctors continue to have at the government hospitals even after nearly eight decades of our Independence. We have been hearing of such atrocities in the past and I am confident we will hear more such abominable crimes inside hospital premises in future as well. RG Kar wanted to produce quality doctors to take on the widespread diseases of his time. We have failed to honour his memory," said Partha Kar, a photographer-teacher.

"I shudder to think what happened to the victim could also have happened to my daughter. Her eyes were oozing blood, not tears," an exasperated Gargi, Partha's wife added. Expressing shock and anguish after the horrific crime at the hospital premises came to light, the 30-odd members of the Kar household who live in a joint-family set-up, had participated in the 'Reclaim the Night' protests on the Independence Day eve. Stating that at least three members of the family are alumni of the RG Kar Medical College, Partha said he never heard students and interns complaining of such glaring lapses in their security. "I find nothing wrong in the protests held by the junior doctors. The only facility they are demanding is their personal security. The hospital is their second home. They spend long durations in those premises for work. I leave it to their good conscience to decide what they



should do next," Partha said. Radha Gobinda received his degree in medicine from Edinburgh in 1883 after pursuing studies at Calcutta Medical College. He returned to Calcutta three years later and immersed himself in treating poor patients of the country for free and, subsequently, committed to building a medical school to address the lack of native doctors at the time. Kar pursued his dream to build a medical school with modern scientific knowledge with determination and doggedness which soon became his life goal. He would even stand outside weddings of the rich in Calcutta to pitch his vision to the guests and request them to donate money for seed fund for a land parcel and construction of a hospital building.

That vision of building a healthcare facility without taking any support from the British Raj was achieved on October 18, 1886, when Kar, with assistance from leading Indian doctors of the time like Dr Mahendranath Banerjee, Dr Akshoy Kumar Dutta, Dr Bipin Behari Moitra, Dr ML De, Dr B G Banerjee, Dr Kunda Bhattacharya and numerous others, founded the Calcutta School of Medicine. It was the first private medical college in Asia, established to ensure self-sufficiency in medical education and services. The institution changed its name several times till on May 12, 1918, after the demise of Radha Gobinda Kar, it was finally renamed as RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. "Justice for the victim can come only when not only the perpetrators but also those responsible for altering evidence are appropriately punished," Gargi said. The Kar family member said her wish on RG Kar's birth anniversary was better sense prevailed on the state government running hospital management. "I believe the government has failed to instil confidence in the agitating doctors because it has not really tried to slip into their shoes and has instead relied on passing orders from the top. That attitude should change first," she said.

3 former Himachal legislators who cross-voted in Rajya Sabha elections appear before probe team

GNS News Agency, August 26

crossvoted Himachal Pradesh, former legislators, Devinder Bhutto, Rajinder Rana, K L Thakur, Former legislators Devinder Bhutto from Kullehar, Rajinder Rana from Sujampur, and K L Thakur from Nalagarh. Three former legislators of Himachal Pradesh – Devinder Bhutto from Kullehar, Rajinder Rana from Sujampur, and K L Thakur from Nalagarh – on Friday appeared before the Special Investigation Team, probing the bribery charges related to cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha elections held in February. The former MLAs who have been accused of attempting to destabilise the Congress-led state government under Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu appeared at the Boileauganj police station where the interrogation is under way at the time of filing of this report. An officer said they appeared before the SIT after securing an interim bail from the Himachal Pradesh High Court. All the three former MLAs who later joined the BJP, however, faced defeat in the Assembly bypolls held in June. Bhutto and Rana were among six former Congress

legislators who cross-voted in the Rajya Sabha election, leading to the defeat of Congress' Abhishek Manu Singhvi on February 27. Thakur along with two other Independent MLAs also voted in favour of BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan. Subsequently, all nine legislators shifted themselves out of Himachal Pradesh and stayed in Panchkula, Chandigarh, and Uttarakhand under the protection of paramilitary forces. They used a private chopper to travel between states. Later, all nine joined BJP. "The three former legislators were summoned to join the ongoing police investigation. Earlier, many others had also joined the police probe. The FIR was registered against former Independent and current BJP MLA Ashish Sharma and Rakesh Sharma, father of former Congress MLA Chaitanya Sharma, on March 10. Ashish Sharma and Rakesh Sharma have already joined the police investigation. The investigation is ongoing," a police officer told. The nine former MLAs who cross-voted in the Rajya Sabha elections later joined the BJP but only three won the by-elections – Sudhir Sharma from Dharamshala,

Delhi HC orders Khao Gali Restaurants to pay over Rs 35 crore to Pernod Ricard India



GNS News Agency, August 26

In a matter involving two companies named as accused in the Delhi excise policy scam case, the Delhi High Court on Friday ordered Khao Gali Restaurants Pvt Ltd to pay over Rs 35.88 crore to Pernod Ricard India along with an interest of nine per cent per year from the date of the payment made by the alcohol beverage company till the date of the institution of the suit. As per the suit, to increase its market share, Pernod Ricard India had extended financial assistance to Khao Gali Restaurants Pvt Ltd to bid in the Delhi excise policy 2021-22. The assistance was in the form of a corporate guarantee in favour of an HSBC Bank branch from where Khao Gali Restaurants availed a loan to the tune of around Rs 50 crore in April 2022.

Khao Gali Restaurants, however, defaulted on the repayment of the loan availed and the bank branch had then auto-debited the outstanding amount from Pernod Ricard India by invoking the corporate guarantee that the latter had issued. In January 2023, Pernod Ricard India had then demanded the amount from Khao Gali Restaurants Pvt Ltd, which the latter did not pay, leading to the recovery suit. Notably, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), in its complaint pertaining to money laundering in the alleged excise scam, has claimed that the loan amounts and the costs incurred by Pernod Ricard India in facilitat-

ing the issuance of the corporate guarantee are "proceeds of crime" under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Pernod Ricard India has made a claim of Rs 35,88,59,676 along with applicable interest, a cumulative sum of Rs 37,52,62,266 as of March 29, 2023.

The court of Justice Jasmeet Singh held that upon default by Khao Gali Restaurants, Pernod Ricard India is "entitled to recover the debited amount" from Khao Gali Restaurants, and also recorded that Khao Gali Restaurants did not challenge or file a suit seeking declaration of the corporate guarantee invoked by the bank for repayment of dues as void. Reasoning on Khao Gali Restaurants' argument before the Delhi High Court that criminal proceedings against both companies are pending before the special court and the corporate guarantee has been alleged to be 'proceeds of crime' by the ED, Justice Singh held, "Both the proceedings i.e. civil and criminal proceedings, are to be decided on the basis of evidence produced therein. In civil proceedings, the suits are decided on the basis of balance of convenience and in criminal proceedings, the burden of proof lies on the prosecution."

"In the present case, I am of the view that there is only a prima facie initiation of a criminal prosecution by the prosecuting agencies. As of today, there is no finding of fact by a judicial authority regarding the fact that the sums involved in the present case are proceeds of crime. The mere fact that ECIR has been registered, complaint has been filed, cognizance has been taken do not make the transaction illegal and void. The criminal proceedings are of a much wider amplitude and concerns the violations of the New Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22," Justice Singh said. "The present suit for recovery before this court is only limited to contractual obligations between the parties herein regarding invocation of corporate guarantee of the plaintiff (Pernod Ricard)...for defaults committed by defendant No. 1 (Khao Gali Restaurants Pvt Ltd)," Justice Singh added.

Calcutta HC transfers state SIT probe into financial irregularities at R G Kar hospital to CBI

GNS News Agency, August 26

The Calcutta High Court on Friday transferred the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged financial irregularities at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The SIT was set up by the West Bengal government to probe the alleged corruption at the hospital since January 2021, a period that corresponds with the tenure of Dr Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the hospital. Hearing a petition filed by Akhtar Ali, former deputy superintendent of R G Kar hospital, the high court directed the CBI to take over the investigation by 10 am Saturday.

After the rape and murder of a trainee woman doctor at the hospital, Ali had moved the Calcutta High Court seeking an investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the corruption charges raised against Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the hospital who was twice transferred out over allegations of corruption but was reinstated both times. A single-judge bench of Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj on Friday ordered the state administration to hand over all documents of the case to the CBI by Saturday. The CBI has been directed to submit a report about the investigation after three weeks and the high court will hear the case again on September 17. Ghosh, an orthopaedics professor, took charge as the principal of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in mid-2021, after being promoted from his previous position at Calcutta National Medical College (CNMC).

On July 14 last year, Ali wrote a complaint letter to the state vigilance commission against Ghosh and two others. The letter highlighted multiple issues and alleged squandering of government money, illegal giving out of



assets of the government without prior approval, quotation amounts of crores of rupees being given out to a few ineligible bidders, evasion of financial rules etc. It also accused Ghosh of serious irregularities, including "illegal selling of used hazardous biomedical wastes through his additional security personnel" and "misuse of Covid funds for creation of a gym and furnishing of office chambers". Opposition parties in West Bengal have alleged a strong nexus between Ghosh, Trinamool Congress leaders and government officials. TMC leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen had also sought that the CBI should investigate Ghosh. Ghosh's conduct came under the scanner again after the rape and murder of the doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. After junior doctors demanded that he should be removed from his post, he was transferred to CNMC. After he faced student protests there too, the high court ordered him to go on leave. He was later transferred to the health department as officer on special duty. After taking over the investigation into the doctor's rape-murder case, the CBI has already grilled Ghosh for six days.

Pension released for 1 lakh senior citizens due to Delhi CM Kejriwal, says Atishi; claims Centre withheld contribution

GNS News Agency, August 26

Delhi Finance Minister Atishi announced on Friday that the pensions of one lakh elderly people, which had been withheld for the past five months, have now been resumed. Delhi has a total of four lakh pensioners, with a portion of their pensions funded by the Central government. "Despite being behind bars, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal secured the release of pensions for one lakh elderly Delhi residents, which had been withheld by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government for five months," the finance minister stated. Atishi claimed that these one lakh elderly people were not receiving their pensions because the Central government, under the BJP rule, had stopped its contribution. Many affected pensioners who come from poor families who have no other financial means, said Atishi, were severely distressed. "These elderly people used to come to me often. They used to go to our different MLAs," she said, adding that these people were very upset for the last five months.

The pensions, which had been halted in April, have now been reinstated and are being credited to the recipients' accounts by Delhi's Social Welfare Department as of Friday. "As of yesterday, about 90,000 pensions have been transferred, and the remaining 10,000 pensions will be credited today," Atishi said. She credited CM Kejriwal for the resumption of these pensions, emphasizing his commitment to fighting for the rights of Delhi's



residents. "I want to promise the elderly people of Delhi that even if their son Arvind Kejriwal is in jail, he will not stop fighting for their rights," Atishi said. Atishi also accused the BJP of deliberately causing hardship for Delhi's citizens and said, "The BJP has only one work — to harass the people of Delhi, to stop their work, and in this series, the pension of the elderly was stopped. But I promise the people of Delhi on behalf of the Arvind Kejriwal government that no matter how much we have to fight, we will keep getting the work of the people of Delhi done." The Delhi government provides Rs 2,200 per month per pensioner, with the Central government contributing an additional Rs 300, with total pension adding up to Rs 2,500.

DGCA fines Air India Rs 90 lakh for using non-qualified pilots

New Delhi: The national civil aviation regulator DGCA has imposed a financial penalty of Rs 90 lakh on Tata Group-owned Air India Limited for operating a flight with non-qualified crew members, according to an official statement issued on Friday. In addition, a penalty of Rs 6 lakh and Rs 3 lakh respectively has been imposed on the Director, Operations and Director, Training of Air India. The concerned pilot has also been warned to exercise caution to prevent such occurrences in future. Air In-

dia operated a flight commanded by a non-trainer line captain paired with a non-line-released first officer, which has been viewed by the civil aviation regulator as a serious scheduling incident having significant safety ramifications. The incident came to the notice of DGCA through a voluntary report submitted by Air India on July 10. Taking cognizance of this incident, the regulator undertook comprehensive investigations into Air India's operations, including examination of documents and carrying out a spot check of the airline's scheduling facility.

Mamata Banerjee's old birthday letter to RG Kar Hospital's ex-principal emerges



GNS News Agency, August 26

The BJP said it indicated Dr Sandip Ghosh, under scrutiny over the RG Kar Hospital rape-murder case, had a close rapport with the Chief Minister. An old personalised letter written by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in 2022 to former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital principal Dr Sandip Ghosh on his birthday has been exclusively accessed by India Today. The BJP said it indicated Dr Ghosh, under scrutiny over the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital, had a close rapport with the Chief Minister. Sources said Dr Ghosh was part of a small group of personalities to whom the Chief Minister used to send personalised letters on their birthdays as a goodwill gesture. The fact that Dr Ghosh's name was part of the list shows that he is well-connected to the administration and the ruling Trinamool Congress.

BJP leader and spokesperson Priyanka Tibrewal

said it was not a secret that Dr Sandip Ghosh, who has faced marathon questioning by the CBI in the case, enjoyed the privilege of being in the good books of Mamata Banerjee. "This is the reason that when a special committee was formed to find out irregularities at RG Kar Hospital after a vigilance report, Dr Sandip Ghosh was not removed. He was still intact in the college," Tibrewal said.

Earlier this month, Sandip Ghosh resigned as principal of RG Kar Hospital amid nationwide outrage over the brutal rape and murder of the 31-year-old trainee doctor. However, he was swiftly given a plum posting as the head of the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital, much to the chagrin of the protesters. The Calcutta High Court took a stern view of the transfer and sent Dr Ghosh on indefinite leave. The Bengal government subsequently revoked the transfer order of Dr Sandip Ghosh. In what may spell further trouble for Dr Ghosh, the High Court on Friday ordered the transfer of the investigation into alleged financial irregularities at RG Kar Hospital from a state-constituted SIT to the CBI. The decision followed a petition by former deputy superintendent of RG Kar, Akhtar Ali. Earlier this week, Ali, in an exclusive interview with India Today, claimed Dr Ghosh was involved in several illegal activities, including the selling of unclaimed bodies. The Supreme Court, which took suo moto cognisance of the case, also pulled up the former principal for the delay in filing an FIR over the incident. Who was in touch with the principal of RG Kar Medical College? Why did he delay the FIR? What was the purpose? The court asked while pulling up the Bengal government.

Kolkata doctor rape-murder case: After Supreme Court's appeal, where have doctors' strikes been called off?



GNS News Agency, August 26

Eleven days after doctors at several state-run hospitals across the country went on strike to protest the brutal rape and murder of a junior doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, doctors in Delhi, Jharkhand, and Chandigarh, among others, called off their strike. This came on the heels of the Supreme Court's appeal to protesting doctors to resume duties; while underlining that no coercive action should be taken against them. The Court said that judges and doctors cannot go on strike since they deal with matters involving life and liberty. In a major relief to patients, healthcare services tredded to normal capacity in several states and Union Territories on Thursday and Friday. Here's a list:

The resident doctors' associations (RDAs) of all major Delhi hospitals ended their strike on Thursday. Stating that they appreciate the Supreme Court's intervention in the incident, they also welcomed the Court's directive that no action will be taken against protesting doctors. While AIIMS resident doctors resumed services on Thursday, those at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital did so on Friday. At the Central Government-run Safdarjung Hospital, resident doctors were requested to resume their duties with effect from Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital and Maulana Azad Medical College also ended their strike. The Federation of Resident Doctors Association, an umbrella body of RDAs across the country, also

announced its decision to call off the strike. "We are thankful to all RDAs, media personnel, various medical and non-medical associations and above all, our patients, for their support and understanding," it said in a post on X Press release regarding the suspension of ongoing nationwide agitation and resumption of duties. The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), an umbrella body of doctors, also called off its protest. FAIMA has decided to call off the strike following positive directions from the Chief Justice of India. We welcome the acceptance of our prayers for interim protections and the necessary steps to enhance security in hospitals. United, we will continue to fight legally," FAIMA said in a post on X. "Resident doctors of Uttar Pradesh are resuming work due to assurances given by Honorable Supreme Court of India," the UP RDA said in a post on X. However, the state doctors' body said it remains steadfast in its commitment to advocate for justice for the victim and the safety of healthcare workers through symbolic protests.

In Chandigarh, doctors at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) ended their protest over the Kolkata incident. Following the ending of the strike by the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD) on Thursday, PGIMER authorities said they will resume all elective services with immediate effect. Dr Manohar Siyol, President, Jaipur Association of Resident Doctors (JARD), said they decided to call off the strike after holding a meeting on Thursday evening following the Supreme Court's appeal. Jharkhand Junior doctors at the state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Jharkhand's Ranchi resumed work on Friday as they withdrew their 'pen down' agitation over the alleged rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata. The decision came after the Supreme Court on Thursday appealed to the agitating doctors across the country to get back to work, saying that "justice and medicine" cannot be stopped. "The doctors have resumed duties from today (Friday) as they called off their 'pen down' agitation following an appeal by the Supreme Court and a meeting with the state health minister," a RIMS official told PTI.

NHRC orders probe into pharma factory fire in Andhra that killed 17

GNS News Agency, August 26

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in a statement on Friday expressed deep concern over the apparent violation of safety norms that led to the incident. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in a statement on Friday expressed deep concern over the apparent violation of safety norms that led to the incident. (File photo) The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of an explosion that killed at least 17 workers and injured several others at a private industrial unit in Andhra Pradesh's Anaparthi district and directed the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation. A major fire and explosion ripped through a pharma unit on Wednesday. The damage could have been worse but fewer workers were in the plant when the accident occurred due to it being lunchtime. The death toll is expected to rise as search operations continue.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in a statement on Friday expressed deep concern over the apparent violation of safety norms that led to the incident. The commission has issued notices to the Andhra Pradesh chief secretary and the director general of police, directing them to conduct a thorough investigation in the matter.

The probe is expected to examine if the industrial unit adhered to all safety regulations and legal require-



ments and whether there was any negligence on the part of the authorities responsible for supervising the facility. The NHRC has mandated that a detailed report be submitted within two weeks. The report should include the status of the FIR filed in connection with the incident, the treatment being provided to the injured and the disbursement of compensation to the kin of those killed or injured. The commission has also sought information on any relief and rehabilitation efforts undertaken for the victims and the action taken against officials found responsible. The explosion sparked widespread concern, with State Disaster Response Force teams continuing its search for survivors. The cause of the explosion remains unclear and the authorities fear that more bodies may be trapped under the rubble.

NC-Congress seat-sharing final for majority of constituencies, some remain to be worked out: Omar Abdullah

GNS News Agency, August 26

The NC and Congress on Thursday announced a pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in J&K. The NC and Congress on Thursday announced a pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Indian National Congress vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said seat-sharing arrangement with the Congress has been finalised for a majority of assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir, and that parleys were underway to reach consensus over the remaining constituencies. The NC and Congress on Thursday announced a pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which is going to polls for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"Consensus has been reached to a large extent. I can tell you that we have reached a consensus on the maximum seats out of the 90," Abdullah told reporters in Kulgam district of south Kashmir. Abdullah, who is accompanying party's candidate from D H Pora constituency Sakina Itoo for filing of nomination, said discussions over the rest of the seats were going on and the alliance partners will soon finalise the seat-sharing arrangement. "On few seats, we are adamant and on some others, the local leaders of the Congress are adamant. There will be meetings today as well and we will try to sort out the rest of the seats so as to announce our candidates," he added.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-



K, however, refused to share further details. Asked when the party would announce its candidates for the rest of the seats going to polls in the first phase, Omar said there is no hurry. "Which party has announced its candidates so far? A party has cleverly named people as constituency in-charges, our constituency in-charges have been working for the last ten years. So, why are you after our lists, ask them. Our list will have to be out in any case by August 27," he said, apparently referring to the PDP. The Congress-NC alliance was announced by NC president Farooq Abdullah after Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge held discussions with the NC leadership here on Thursday. Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in three phases — September 18, September 25 and October 1.

Welcome the Hema Committee report, want implementation of recommendations: AMMA

Kochi: Breaking its silence on the sensational Justice Hema Committee report on the condition and sexual exploitation of women in the Malayalam film industry, the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) on Friday welcomed the findings and sought implementation of its recommendations. Addressing the media at the AMMA office here, General Secretary and popular actor Siddique noted that they have been accused of staying silent and that there has been no response from the AMMA on the report. "What happened was that we were all busy with a charity show and it got over early on Thursday morning. Then, we had a meeting of our office bearers who were all in different locations. We never ran away," he said. "This report is not against AMMA. We wholeheartedly welcome the report and its findings. We want the recommendations to be implemented. Two years back, state Minister of Films Saji Cheriyan called us for a meeting based on the report and we gave our suggestions," said Siddique. "We have never opposed the release as it is the state government's brief. All should understand a

majority of the women actors are our members and as and when the recommendations are implemented, our own members will be the beneficiaries. The problem is that the media is putting AMMA in the dock for no reason and that hurt us," he added. "I have been in the industry for the past four decades and I can say with absolute conviction no power group, as mentioned in the report, exists because this is a film industry and no such groups can exist, neither there is a casting couch... We have no qualms that if there is any crime anywhere, it has to be probed and we want to book the wrongdoers if there are any," Siddique said. "Our topmost actors Mammooty and Mohanlal met the committee and mostly faced questions about the professional fees and such issues. Many of our women members were not asked to appear before the Hema Committee," he maintained. Senior actress Joemol, who is also an office bearer of the AMMA, said she has had no bad experiences in the industry at all. AMMA Vice President and popular comedy artiste Jagdeesh, another veteran in the industry for the past four decades,

4 Nepalese workers killed in landslide in Uttarakhand's Rudrapur

GNS News Agency, August 26

Four Nepalese workers were killed as they were buried under debris after a landslide amid heavy rain near Fata in Uttarakhand's Rudrapur district early on Friday, prompting the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to start a rescue operation. According to information provided by SDRF, it received information about the landslide from the District Control Room, Rudrapur, at 1.37 am, and an SDRF team immediately left for the spot under Inspector Karn Singh. Due to the blockage of the Doliya Devi road, the SDRF team reached the spot after a trek of over 2 kilometres. Uttarakhand Rescuers carry a body after 4 Nepali labourers who were trapped in the debris following landslides due to rains near Khat Gadera in Rudrapur district.

"On reaching the spot, the team found that it was impossible for the JCB machine to reach there due to heavy rains. The SDRF jawans then started manually digging and removing debris to reach those trapped. The SDRF Uttarakhand Police team has recovered four bodies from the debris and handed them over to the district police," said the SDRF. The deceased have been identified as Tul Bahadur, Purna Nepali, Kishna Parihar, and



Chiku Bura, all residents of Nepal working in Rudrapur. The district administration said the four people were living in a camp near the Pawan Hans helipad in Fata and were buried under the debris. As per the Uttarakhand State Emergency Operations Centre data, so far 61 people have lost their lives, 35 were injured, and two are missing due to disasters caused by excessive rain since June 15 this year. In Uttarakhand, most of the districts are witnessing incessant rainfall while the Meteorology Department has predicted further heavy downpours during the next 7 days.

Goa police set off to probe 'conspiracy to defame state govt', return empty-handed

GNS News Agency, August 26

Panaji, Goa police, Goa government, BJP government, conspiracy to defame state govt, Indian express news, current affairs No "social media influencer" is under investigation, and police are only enquiring about the phone numbers that allegedly circulated the videos as part of a "conspiracy", officers said. Days after the Goa Police initiated an investigation into a "targeted campaign" on social media, allegedly intended to malign the image of the state government and its policies, the effort to find those behind the "conspiracy" has hit a dead end despite some of their phones being traced to locations in Delhi and Haryana, officers said.

On August 7, the Crime Branch of the Goa Police received a complaint from an "individual" — police have withheld the complainant's identity — who alleged that some videos were circulated on WhatsApp as part of a larger "conspiracy to defame the BJP government" and "incite anger against the state". The videos purportedly contained clips of YouTubers and an independent journalist, among others, alleging corruption in the sale of industrial land to real estate companies, and regarding a Bill that the government sought to introduce during the state Assembly and its ecological repercussions. Police said the complainant initially mentioned four unknown mobile numbers from where the videos had been circulated. While no FIR has been registered, the Crime Branch initiated a probe considering "the sensitive nature of allegations in videos" and "possibility of a law and order issue", police sources said. A team of Crime Branch officials conducted enquiries after tracing the mobile phone numbers to Haryana's Fatehabad district and West Delhi last week.

"During the probe, we found that videos had been shared from many more numbers. But when the location was traced to Fatehabad and Delhi, it was found that phones linked to those SIM cards were not compatible with WhatsApp and were basic handsets. The culprits could not be traced. It appears the modus operandi here is similar to the ones used by cyber fraudsters. The police team has now returned," an officer said. No "social media influencer" is under investigation, and police are only enquiring about the phone numbers that allegedly circulated the videos as part of a "conspiracy", officers said. However, an Opposition legislator alleged that the BJP government was "rounding up influencers" who were critical of its policies. Vijai Sardesai, president of Goa Forward Party, said in a post on X last week, "Goa is going bankrupt. Fix this, instead of sending police to shoot the messengers... Rounding up a few influencers will not change the reality, and the reality is Goa is being ravaged." Among the clips included in the videos circulated as per the complaint was one that featured independent journalist Rohit Upadhyay. He had said in an



August 15 video on Instagram that he learnt that police had been sent to arrest him because he published reports on scams, corruption, environmental destruction, and deteriorating law and order under the BJP government. He later clarified to The Indian Express that he had "incorrectly assumed that Goa Police was looking to arrest me based on a screenshot of a video reported in local media". "However, it has come to my notice that this is not the case. Police have not summoned me or contacted me on this issue. I have since posted a clarification on my Instagram video regarding the same," Upadhyay said. In August last year, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had announced that the government was considering taking action against social media influencers who "defame" the state on social media. The issue was raised by BJP MLA Krishna Salkar during Zero Hour in the Goa Assembly last year. In response, Sawant had said that the police's cyber cell would conduct an inquiry to look into such incidents.

Man booked for torturing, killing stray dog

Hyderabad: A man has been booked for allegedly torturing and thrashing a stray dog to death at Aziz Nagar village in Moinabad on Tuesday. On Tuesday, one Raju, a resident of Hanuman Nagar Colony in Moinabad tied the stray animal to a BSNL pole and mercilessly thrashed it with metal wires. After confirming its death, he tied the lifeless body to his bike, dragged it for a few metres, before discarding it in an agricultural field near his house. The heinous act was recorded by a local resident, which reached the volunteers of Stray Animal Foundation of India, an NGO working for stray animals. Following their complaint, the Moinabad police booked a case under section 325 of the BNS and relevant Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, and took up investigation.

Iceland volcano erupts again but spares the nearby town of Grindavik for now



main localized with road closures but do not threaten the population. Halldór Björnsson, head of weather and climate at the Norwegian Meteorological Agency, told the Icelandic news portal Vísir, that unlike previous eruptions, the lava flow is not heading for the town of Grindavik that was largely evacuated in December when the volcano came to life after being dormant for 800 years.

Magnús Tuma Guðmundsson, a geophysicist, who flew over the eruption centers this evening told the website that "if this continues like this, Grindavik is not in danger because of this. Of course, we don't know what will happen in the near future, but it is likely that this has reached its peak and then it will start to subside like the other eruptions." As news of the eruption spread, hundreds of curious onlookers drove to nearby vantage points for a view of the stunning natural phenomenon that has become a key tourism attraction. "We just thought that it was the northern lights," said Mahnoor Ali visiting from Maryland in the US. "It's like the coolest thing I've seen in my whole life, honestly." Friends Ameerul Awalludin from Malaysia and Shohei Miyamoto from Japan were with an Icelandic friend when they heard the news and quickly rushed to near the eruption.

War-battered Gaza faces uphill battle against polio

GNS News Agency, August 26

A Palestinian girl is examined by a doctor amid fears over the spread of polio after the first case was reported by the Ministry of Health, as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. The Gaza Strip's first recorded polio case in 25 years has health workers and aid agencies grappling with the steep obstacles to conducting mass vaccination in the war-torn Palestinian territory.

Unrelenting airstrikes by Israel more than 10 months into its war against Gaza rulers Hamas, restrictions of aid entering the besieged territory and hot summer temperatures all threaten the viability of a life-saving inoculation drive. Still, equipment to support the extensive campaign — which UN agencies say could start on August 31 — has already arrived in the region.

The Palestinian Health Ministry in the occupied West Bank said last week that tests in Jordan had confirmed polio in an unvaccinated 10-month-old baby from central Gaza. According to the United Nations, Gaza had not registered a case for 25 years, although type 2 poliovirus was detected in samples collected from the territory's wastewater in June. Poliovirus is highly infectious, and most often spread through sewage and contaminated water — an increasingly common problem in Gaza as the Israel-Hamas war drags on. The disease mainly affects children under the age of five. It can cause deformities and paralysis, and is potentially fatal. UN bodies the



World Health Organization (WHO) and children's agency UNICEF say they have detailed plans to vaccinate 6,40,000 children across Gaza. But a major challenge remains Israel's devastating military campaign, triggered by Hamas's October 7 attack on the country's south. "It's extremely difficult to undertake a vaccination campaign of this scale and volume under a sky full of air strikes," said Juliette Touma, director of communications for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA. Under the UN plan, 2,700 health workers in 708 teams would take part, with the WHO overseeing the effort, said Richard Peeperkorn, the agency's representative in the Palestinian territories. UNICEF would ensure the cold supply chain as vaccines are brought into and distributed across Gaza, spokesman Jonathan Crickx said. Cold chain components including refrigerators arrived Wednesday at Israel's main international airport.

Donald Trump anxiety spurs investment in European defence start-up firms

GNS News Agency, August 26

Donald Trump's potential White House return has helped spur a flurry of investment in defence-technology start-ups across Europe, according to eight prominent industry executives and investors. The Republican presidential candidate has threatened U.S. withdrawal from NATO and said he would not defend allies that did not increase their defence budgets. He's locked in a tight race with Vice President Kamala Harris in the Nov. 5 election. Mr. Trump's unpredictability, combined with the war in Ukraine and tensions in the Middle East, has contributed to global military spending reaching a record high of \$2.4 trillion in 2023, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. In June, the \$1.1 billion NATO Innovation Fund (NIF) announced partnerships with venture capital firms and defence start-ups across Europe, aiming to bolster security on the continent. Meanwhile, the European Union earlier this year unveiled its first ever defence industrial strategy, committing more than \$1 billion towards military innovation. While the prospect of a Trump presidency was not the only factor behind those initiatives, it has been a significant driver of subsequent investments made by governments and venture capitalists alike in manufacturers of drones, robotics and quantum computing, the eight executives said. Operating out of Munich, Vsquared Ventures is one of Europe's leading deep-tech investors, having recently raised a 214 million euro (\$237.99 million) fund to invest in space, robotics, and other

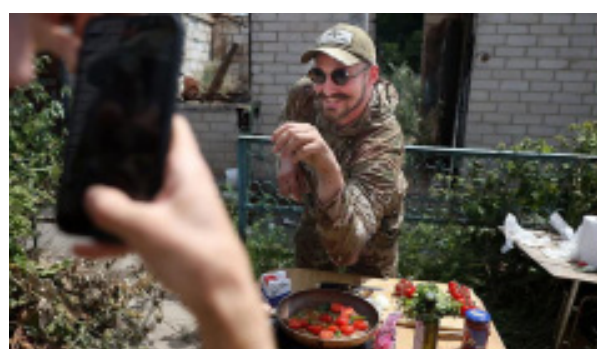


technologies. "Mr. Trump's threats have made European states think very differently about investing in their own capabilities and giving contracts out, often to start-ups," said Herbert Mangesius, founding partner at Vsquared, which has partnered with the NATO fund. "We want to see faster cycles, broader experimentation, and better capabilities. The planning in a ministry is so slow, and the VC world is one potential answer to this problem," he added. While Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been the primary reason for higher spending, some defence industry investors say Mr. Trump's approach towards U.S. allies has shaken leaders in NATO and across Europe. That has resulted in governments increasing their defence spending, investing in, and partnering with new technology companies. Ricardo Mendes, CEO of Lisbon-based drone manufacturer Tekever, which has contracts with Britain, Ukraine, the EU and others, said: "The potential of a second term for President Trump brings various implications for both American and European defence enterprises." "Discussions are ongoing regarding the overhaul of procurement

procedures, with a focus on more flexibility and introducing agility, which would favour smaller and mid-size tech companies," he added. As of 2023, defence and security spending across Europe had risen 16% to 552 billion euros since 2022, according to data collated by SIPRI. ARX Robotics, a German start-up which recently raised a 9 million euro funding round backed by the NIF, builds autonomous robots that can be deployed on the battlefield. Asked if the potential for a Trump victory in November was influencing defence investment, CEO Stefan Roebel said: "Absolutely. That's something everybody has in the back of their heads. Europe needs to up its investment in defence, and you're seeing a shift in momentum." "U.S. Presidential Election 2024 | Meta lifts 'suspension penalties' from Donald Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts Around the world, VC funding faced a major downturn in 2023 as investors waited to see how their pandemic-era ventures would play out against a backdrop of rising interest rates and public market volatility. In Europe, overall start-up investment fell 44%, from \$103 billion to just \$57 bil-

lion, according to Pitchbook data. By comparison, investment in local defence technology start-ups remained relatively resilient, falling 21% in the same period, from \$2.6 billion to around \$2 billion. Germany is easing red tape for investments into defence companies, Finance Minister Christian Lindner told Reuters in February, as Berlin ramps up its military spending. Mangesius cited Quantum Systems, a German drone manufacturer which has recently signed deals with its home government, as a company that has directly benefited from Germany planning for a Trump return. "It was a direct consequence of what Trump said. That made the German state react and put money into this because European countries need to be self-sufficient," he said. "You can't outsource your own security to another country." Bulent Altan, founding partner at Alpine Space Ventures, also based in Munich, told Reuters that Europe had been investing in defence-tech in order to be a better partner to the U.S. He said: "And if that partnership should have hiccups along the way, you're not standing there with nothing in your hand."

Ukrainian soldier-influencer with fans on both sides



GNS News Agency, August 26

Standing amid ruins in east Ukraine, Ruslan Mokrytskyi held a combat knife and concentrated on cutting onions without crying. As trivial as it seems on the front line, it is still not easy. The moustachioed 32-year-old in military fatigues instructed his comrade to get the right shot of him with his phone. The angle matters. Mr. Mokrytskyi is one of Ukraine's soldier-influencers keeping up spirits in times of war and has 1,31,600 followers on TikTok. "Take a close-up of my fingers," he told his friend, a cameraman for the day. "Lower the frame." Mr. Mokrytskyi's social media profile describes his life as a part-time celebrity chef and soldier in a nutshell: "A cook from the hell of war." Just 24 hours earlier, he was a drone pilot in what he called the "hell of Toretsk" — defending the eastern city that Russia has been trying to capture for months. "Rebuilding myself at the front since the start of the war in 2022, Mr. Mokrytskyi needed a form of escape while being under constant fire." After missions, there were,

let's say... many horrible and stressful images," he said. "I needed to recuperate mentally." He tried to forget the horrors by plunging into films, music, reading and going on walks despite the bombs. But nothing worked.

"I got to the point where I told myself that it would be cool to film myself making fries," the soldier said. The success of that idea exceeded his expectations: his fries video got three million views. Encouraged, Mr. Mokrytskyi involved friends from his battalion, who would call their wives to get ideas for recipes. He then realised he was not only helping his own mental health but that of his comrades too. "Everyone was joking around," he said. "It's not just me rebuilding myself mentally, but also everyone around me." His video sessions offer "an hour or two" of light-heartedness — an unusual feeling on the front in Donbas, where fighting has been incessant for two and half years since Moscow invaded. "You can go mad." His fellow battalion member Ivan played with the camera and looked delighted with the uplifting break from war. Normally, Mr. Ivan's nights are restless. "When I film Ruslan, I don't think about the war," the 25-year-old said. On his TikTok page, Mr. Mokrytskyi's content alternates between cooking recipes and raw images showing the realities of war. On top of having "vital" psychological benefits, running the social media page means the soldier retains a link with civilian life. It also allows civilians — as well as his family — to keep informed on what a soldier's life is like in the east. Mr. Mokrytskyi said that "if you do not have contact with your family, you can go mad." He strives to make the content entertaining but war-related, like converting a rifle cartridge into a pepper shaker and using products found in destroyed cities he travels through. "The Russians also watch my videos," he said with a smile.

India was never neutral in this war, on side of peace: PM to Ukraine's Zelenskyy

GNS News Agency, August 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Friday. During a conversation with Zelenskyy, PM Modi clarified that India has never taken a neutral stance in the war, but rather, has always been on the side of peace. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Friday. During a conversation with Zelenskyy, PM Modi clarified that India has never taken a neutral stance in the war, but rather, has always been on the side of peace.

"India was never neutral in this war, we are on the side of peace," PM Modi stated, highlighting India's consistent efforts to advocate for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the conflict. He reiterated India's position that war and violence are not the solutions and underscored the importance of engaging in constructive discussions to ensure stability in the region. A sombre PM Modi had met President Zelenskyy in Kyiv earlier today, with the two leaders shaking hands before PM Modi engulfed the Ukrainian President in a hug. As the duo toured the war-torn country's Martyrologist Exposition, PM Modi's hand remained firmly on Zelenskyy's shoulder — a gesture of India's solidarity with Ukraine. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended an invitation to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to visit India. The announcement was made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a press briefing in Kyiv.

"Prime Minister Modi has invited President Zelenskyy to visit India. We expect that as per his convenience, President Zelenskyy will visit," said Jaishankar. The External Affairs Minister described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ukraine as a "landmark" event, marking the first time an Indian Prime Minister has visited the country since its independence in 1991. During his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, significant discussions took place focusing on defense, trade, and agriculture. The two countries are expected to release a joint statement soon following the talks. Jaishankar highlighted that much of the conversation between PM Modi and President Zelenskyy centered on the ongoing conflict in



Ukraine. "Most of the time the PM and Zelenskyy spent on talks was on the conflict," he noted, adding that PM Modi sought President Zelenskyy's assessment of the ground situation in Ukraine. The discussions revolved around the current military situation, potential pathways to peace, and possible resolutions to the conflict. "It was a very detailed, open, and constructive discussion," Jaishankar stated, emphasising the comprehensive nature of the talks. He also mentioned that Ukraine expressed a desire for continued Indian involvement in any future peace summits. In a gesture of solidarity, India handed over medical support equipment to Ukraine, amounting to a total weight of 22 tonnes. "Today, we handed over cubes containing medical support equipment to Ukraine," Jaishankar said, highlighting India's ongoing humanitarian support to the war-torn country. The discussions also touched upon India's energy trade with Russia, a topic of significant geopolitical interest. The Indian delegation took the opportunity to explain its position on the matter, which has been a point of international focus given the ongoing conflict and India's balancing act in maintaining relations with both Ukraine and Russia. Furthermore, Jaishankar described the talks as "very detailed, open, and constructive," indicating a positive engagement between the two leaders.

UK visas for Indian students drop by 23% amid stricter immigration rules

GNS News Agency, August 26

Indian students are showing hesitation in applying to UK universities due to stricter immigration rules, resulting in a 23% drop in sponsored study visas. In the year ending June 2024, 110,006 visas were granted to Indian students, down from 142,693 the previous year.

Indians might still be the biggest cohort when it comes to the number of student visas granted by the UK, but they are starting to show hesitation in applying to British universities due to stricter immigration rules, according to the latest UK Home Office data. There has been a 23% drop in sponsored study visas to the UK to Indian students, with 110,006 visas granted in the year ending June 2024, a decrease of 32,687 from 142,693 in the previous year. This comes after a steady increase in Indian students opting for the UK for higher education between 2019 and 2023. Indian students have traditionally favoured the UK for higher education, especially at the master's level, with 81% of those granted visas in the latest year pur-



suage postgraduate studies. This trend is not limited to Indian students alone. The UK Home Office data also shows a significant decrease in visas granted to Nigerian students, with a 46% drop. In contrast, Pakistani nationals have now overtaken Nigerians as the third-largest group of foreign students in the UK. Chinese nationals are the second most common nationality granted sponsored study visas (107,236), accounting for 25% of the total, with a smaller proportion studying at masters level (59%) compared to Indian nationals. "Most of the increase in foreign students between 2019 and 2023

were from Indian and Nigerian nationals, but numbers for these nationalities have fallen in the latest year (by 23% and 46% respectively) with Pakistani nationals overtaking Nigerians as the third largest nationality in the latest year," said UK Home Office. However, this sudden drop in numbers could present significant challenges for UK universities, which rely heavily on international students for both enrolment and financial stability. One of the main reasons for the decline in student visas is the UK government's recent tightening of visa policies for dependants. Starting January 2024, only research-based postgraduate students can bring their partners and children to the UK. This policy change has led to an 81% drop in the number of dependent visas issued in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, with only 11,675 visas granted, according to UK Home Office data. In the year ending June 2024, there were 94,253 visas issued to student dependants, 39% fewer than the previous year, but still almost six times higher than in 2019. Previously, the Tory government had announced an increase in the annual salary required to bring a dependant to the UK,

Airtel's High-Speed Wi-Fi Initiative Reaches 1,200 Cities, Driving Digital Inclusion



and fast Internet. In a recent statement, CEO Gopal Vittal highlighted the company's commitment to enhancing the Internet experience for millions of users. "While Airtel Wi-Fi has historically had limited availability, Airtel has worked towards solving this problem and now we have high-speed Wi-Fi available at present in 1200+ cities. This means that those of you who were unable to access high-speed Internet will now be able to do so. As a mark of this capability, we have now chosen to offer you even more value here," said Vittal. Airtel has introduced several plans and packages designed to cater to various user requirements, from basic browsing to heavy streaming and gaming. This flexibility allows users to choose plans that best suit their usage patterns, ensuring they get the most value for their money. "This content delivered through Airtel Wi-Fi will give you access to 22+ OTTs and 350+ TV channels. In addition, to signal our gratitude to you, every time you choose to add a new Airtel service - Mobile, Content or Wi-Fi - we will offer extra value over and above your basic plan," said Vittal. In conclusion, Airtel's expansion of its high-speed Wi-Fi services to over 1,200 cities is a major achievement in its ongoing efforts to connect India. The company is set to continue making strides in improving Internet access and ensuring that more people can benefit from the digital revolution. For more details, visit Airtel. This content is sponsored and does not reflect the views or opinions of IE Online Media Services Pvt Ltd. No journalist is involved in creating sponsored material and it does not imply any endorsement whatsoever by the editorial team. IE Online Media Services takes no responsibility for the content that appears in sponsored articles and consequences thereof, directly, indirectly or in any manner. Viewer discretion is advised.

Airtel's High-Speed Wi-Fi Initiative Reaches 1,200 Cities, Driving Digital Inclusion. Airtel's High-Speed Wi-Fi Initiative Reaches 1,200 Cities, Driving Digital Inclusion. As our dependence on the Internet increases, so do the challenges associated with accessing high-speed connectivity. One of the most significant issues netizens face today is the lack of reliable high-speed Internet. Slow or unstable connections can disrupt work, hinder education, and hamper our ability to stay connected with friends and family. In many regions, even urban areas, accessing consistent and fast Internet remains a persistent problem. This digital divide creates a disparity in opportunities, affecting productivity and quality of life.

Recognising this critical issue, Airtel has stepped up to address the problem head-on. As one of India's leading telecommunications companies, Airtel has made significant strides in improving Internet connectivity across the country. Their efforts have been particularly focused on expanding their high-speed Internet services to more areas, ensuring that more people have access to reliable

Anil Ambani-led group stocks plummet after Sebi bans him, others from securities market

anil ambani, sebi, business news, indian express. On Thursday, Sebi barred industrialist Anil Ambani, 24 other entities, including former key officials of RHFL from the securities market for five years for diversion of funds from the company. Shares of companies led by Anil Ambani on Friday fell sharply after Sebi barred him and 24 other entities, including former key officials of RHFL, from the securities market for five years for diversion of funds from the company.

The stock of Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) fell 5.12 per cent to Rs 4.45 on the NSE, and 4.90 per cent to Rs 4.46 on the BSE. Reliance Infrastructure shares tumbled 10.83 per cent to trade at Rs 209.90 apiece on the BSE. On the NSE, it plunged 8.89 per cent to Rs 214.76. Further, Reliance Power stock declined 5 per cent each to Rs 34.45 and Rs 34.48 on BSE and NSE, also its lower price band.

In the mid-session trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 57.32 points or 0.07 per cent to trade at 81,110.51, while NSE Nifty climbed 29.35 points or 0.12 per cent to 24,840.85. On Thursday, Sebi barred industrialist Anil Ambani, 24 other entities, including former key officials of RHFL from the securities market for five years for diversion of funds from the company. Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from being associated with the securities market, including as a director or key managerial personnel in any listed com-



pany, or any intermediary registered with the market regulator, for a period of 5 years. Also, the regulator barred RHFL from the securities market for six months and slapped a fine of Rs 6 lakh on it.

Passing the final order in the RHFL matter, Sebi found that Ambani, with the help of RHFL's key managerial personnel, had orchestrated a fraudulent scheme to siphon off funds from RHFL by disguising them as loans to entities linked to him. In February 2022, markets watchdog Sebi had passed an interim order and restrained RHFL, Ambani and three other individuals (Amit Bapna, Ravindra Sudhakar and Pinkesh R Shah) from the securities market till further orders, for allegedly siphoning off funds from the company.



YoY contraction of 35 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, in Q1 FY2025, it said. ICRA said the performance of half of the 14 indicators tracked by ICRA saw a deterioration in Q1 FY2025 relative to Q4 FY2024, which can partly be attributed to the heatwave conditions that dampened mobility/travel. These include air cargo traffic, rail freight, consumption of petrol and diesel, GST e-way bills, domestic airlines' passenger traffic and CP volumes, it said.

Not against e-commerce, but seeking fair play, says Piyush Goyal

A day after expressing concern over the use of predatory pricing strategies by e-commerce players in the country, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday stated that the government has no intention of halting online commerce but desires fair play so that small retailers can survive and coexist. "We want to encourage online growth. There is no intention to stop online commerce. Online has tremendous benefits, and we recognise that. However, if there is a law of the land that foreign direct investment (FDI) is allowed in online services only when you do business-to-business (B2B), it is a well-thought-out strategy. The idea is that our small retailers can survive and coexist with online services. Unfair competition should not eliminate them," Goyal said at an event in Mumbai. The minister reiterated the example of the impact of the e-commerce industry in the US, saying that the rise of e-commerce led to the disappearance of "mom and pop" stores in the country, and that India's efforts should focus on providing equal opportunities to an estimated 10 crore small retailers as India's per capita income is not at par with Western countries. "We are very clear that we want to invite FDI, we want to invite technology, and we want to have the best of the world. We are not against online commerce at all. Online e-commerce offers tremendous benefits, such as convenience and speed. What the government and the country desire is fair play, honesty for the customer, and honesty to the supplier.

Why smallpox vaccine is being prescribed for those with monkeypox



A week ago, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared monkeypox, or mpox, a global health emergency. The move comes over 4 years after COVID-19 wreaked havoc on public health systems, and continues to do so.

Monkeypox doesn't yet have a cure but generally, patients are prescribed the vaccine used for smallpox. Does that mean the diseases are similar? Dr Manisha Arora, Director - Internal Medicine at the CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, explained that monkeypox and smallpox, though related, are caused by different viruses and present distinct clinical features. Monkeypox is caused by the monkeypox virus, while smallpox was caused by the variola virus. Although both belong to the Orthopoxvirus genus, monkeypox is generally milder than smallpox.

One of the key differences between the two diseases is the presence of lymphadenopathy, or swollen lymph nodes, in monkeypox, which does not occur in smallpox. Monkeypox also has a lower mortality rate compared to smallpox, which was highly lethal before its global eradi-

cation in 1980. Smallpox causes high fever, and severe rash, and often leads to death, while monkeypox, although serious, typically has a more favourable outcome.

Why the smallpox vaccine is used for monkeypox. There is no specific vaccine developed for monkeypox. However, due to the close relationship between the monkeypox virus and the variola virus (which causes smallpox), Dr Arora explained the smallpox vaccine has been found to offer some protection against monkeypox. This cross-protection occurs because both viruses are from the same virus family. The smallpox vaccine, made from the cowpox virus, is especially useful in high-risk populations for preventing monkeypox, though it is not routinely recommended for the general public. Protection measures against monkeypox

Protection against both monkeypox and smallpox involves standard viral infection prevention measures, said Dr Arora. Good Hygiene: Frequent hand washing and maintaining personal hygiene can prevent the spread of these viruses. Avoid Close Contact: Staying away from infected individuals and avoiding contact with animals that might carry the virus (such as rodents or primates) can reduce the risk of transmission. Vaccination: While smallpox has been eradicated, and routine vaccination is no longer practiced, the smallpox vaccine can be used in specific cases to prevent monkeypox, especially in high-risk areas or populations. These preventive strategies are crucial, especially in areas where monkeypox is prevalent or during outbreaks. Although smallpox is no longer a threat, understanding how to prevent monkeypox is vital for controlling its spread.

Rediscovering Haveli Sangeet: A journey through India's ancient temple music

I was a child when I first heard Haveli Sangeet at the Dwarkadhish Temple in Mathura, but it wasn't until adulthood that I truly began to appreciate this divine form of classical music, brought to life by the legendary Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj. Haveli Sangeet is a unique musical tradition rooted in the ancient temple music of India. While it saw a decline during the mediaeval period, it experienced a revival with the rise of the Bhakti movement, particularly through the Pushtimargiya Sangeet Parampara of the Vaishnav Sampradaya, which is considered the precursor to much of today's Indian classical music in northern India.

Though Haveli Sangeet is only about five centuries old, it preserves the traditions of Bhakti music that have existed in India's temples for over 5,000 years. Its survival is credited to dedicated practitioners who defended its purity against external influences, ensuring the continuity of this spiritual art form. Bhakti, an intense emotional devotion to the divine, is described in ancient Indian texts as a path to achieving everlasting bliss and unity with God. During the mediaeval period, when many Vaishnava temples were desecrated, Bhakti offered solace to the distressed, leading to the emergence of various forms of Bhakti Marg, both in Sagun (worship of the manifest) and Nirgun (worship of the formless), with Vaishnavism at its core.

Haveli Sangeet at Nathdwara

In 1556, Vallabhacharya found a divine Bhagwat Swaroopa in a cave in Giriraj mountain, which he named Lord Shrinathji, or the 'Consort of the Goddess of Wealth'. Vallabhacharya sought to build a grand temple but feared its destruction under the reign of Aurangzeb. Consequently, the deity was moved repeatedly before finding a permanent home in Nathdwara, Rajasthan. Vallabhacharya selected four disciples - Kumbhandas, Surdas, Parmanandas, and Krishnadas - for devotional services, with Kumbhandas appointed as the first kirtankar (singer) of Shrinathji. Kumbhandas composed the famous pada, 'We dekho parat jarokan deepak hari bole.' Under Vallabhacharya's son, Shri Vitthalnathji (also known as Shri Gusaiji), the tradition flourished. Gusaiji systematised the sewa (service) and added four more disciples to the original group, forming the Astachaps or Ashta Sakhas (eight companions) of the Lord. These Astachaps were master composers, blending text and music with exceptional skill. Gusaiji introduced the concept of raga (melody), bhog (offering), and shringar (adornment) as integral parts of the sewa. The raag sewa involves singing padas (devotional hymns) in different ragas and taals (rhythmic cycles) according to the eight prahars (time periods) as part of the Ashtayam sewa, including Mangala, Shringar, Gwaal, Rajbhoga, Uthapan, Bhoga, Sandhya, Aarati, and Shayan.

The original music of the Pushtimargiya Sampradaya included Prabandh, Dhruwad, and Dhamar styles, with compositions featuring Chatuspadi (four stanzas), Tripadi kirtans (three stanzas), and Dwipadi (two stanzas), similar to Khyal or Sadharani Geetika. While these forms were traditionally sung in Brij Bhasha and Sanskrit, some padas by Govindaswami and Nanddasji are performed in Dhruwad style. For example, Baitha hari radha sang kunj apne is sung in Chataal. There is a wrong impression that Haveli Sangeet is only sung in Dhruwad style, as Khyal, Kirtana and Bhajan styles are also prevalent. Today, the temple of Shrinathji in Nathdwara, known as the Haveli of Shrinathji, serves as the seat of the Pushtimarg. Since the Pushtimarg temples were referred to as Havelis, the music associated with these temples became known as Haveli Sangeet.

A blend of tradition and devotion. Shyam Manohar Goswami, who belongs to the 16th generation of Vallabhacharya, explains the key aspects of Khyal and Dhruwad Gayaki in Haveli Sangeet. Khyal Gayaki emphasises melody (Bhav and Raga Pradhan), where the focus is on the raga rather than the lyrics, while Dhruwad is rhythm and word-centric (Taal and Shabd pradhan), with the lyrics given prominence. In Dhruwad singing within the Haveli Sangeet, a performer cannot break a phrase or word during layakari (rhythmic improvisation). In Bhagwat Purana, there are nine forms of devotional services: hearing (sraavanam), chanting (kirtanam), remembering (smaranam), serving (pada-sevanam), worship of the deity (arcanam), praying (vandanam), carrying out orders (dasyam), serving Him as a friend (sakhya) and sacrificing everything for the Lord (atma-nivedanam). Among these, kirtanam holds a significant place. The Pushti Margiya temples of the Vallabha sect became major centres of Kirtan Bhakti, where this ancient musical form thrived.

The legacy of Haveli Sangeet. Acharya Gokulotsav Maharaj, the Pradhanacharya of Pushti Margiya Haveli Sangeet, throws light on the origin of the term Haveli



Sangeet. "Thakur Jaidev Singh and Balkrishna Keskar were two eminent scholars, who travelled across the temples of the Valabh Sampradaya across Mathura, Vrindavan and Nathdwara, which were called Havelis, and named this ancient form of music as Haveli sangeet. They found that most of the bandishes in Indian classical music, which were prevalent across various gharanas, were taken from this ancient music form but were all distorted and incomplete. In fact, the gharana parampara is only 150 years old, whereas Pushtimargiya Sangeet is Sanatan, since eternity," he says. Acharya Gokulotsav Maharaj, elaborating on the ragas of Haveli Sangeet, says, "Singing ragas according to time and seasons is the biggest contribution of Pushtimargiya sangeet to Indian classical music." (Express) Acharya Gokulotsav Maharaj, elaborating on the ragas of Haveli Sangeet, says, "Singing ragas according to time and seasons is the biggest contribution of Pushtimargiya sangeet to Indian classical music." Some of the famous Haveli sangeet compositions from different Khyal gharanas include Vande Nandkumara in Raga Kafi sung by Ustad Faiyaz Khan of Agra Gharana, Sab din hotna ek saman in Raga Multani by Ustad Bade Gulam Ali Khan of Patiala Gharana, Chal sakhi sautan ke ghar jaiye by Ustad Amir Khan of Indore Gharana, Ae pyari pag howle in Raga Bihagda by Ustad Alladiya Khan saheb, founder of Jaipur Atrauli Gharana, Mero piya rasiya in Raga Nayaki Kanhara and Sughar chatur balama in Raga Kedari by Vidushi Kishori Amonkar, Tum ghan se ho ghanshyam in Raga Meera Malhar by Roshnara Begum, Laal gopal gular hamari ankhin main jin daro ju pada of Krishnadasji in Raga Haveli Basant by Pandit Jasraj from Mewati Gharana. On how these bandishes reached present gharanas of Hindustani classical music, Gokulotsav Maharaj says, "The kings from across the states of India, namely Rajasthan, Gwalior, Agra, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were all followers and disciples of the Vallabh Sampradaya, and thus our traditional music eventually reached their court musicians. Pandit Vishnu Digambar Pulaskarji from Gwalior Gharana and many of his disciples, including Pandit Omkarnath Thakur, belonged to the family of Sewaks 'Mukhiyaji' at the temples, who were influenced by this tradition. Pandit Vinayak Rao Patwardhanji incorporated many bandishes of this tradition in the six parts of the book Raga Vigyan." He adds, "Pandit Bhatkhandeji was the disciple of my great grandfather, Goswami Shri Govindlalji Maharaj and Goswami Shri Jeevanlalji Maharaj, who was a great sitarist. Bhatkhandeji collected many bandishes while he interviewed many Khyal performers from various gharanas, which were not directly sourced from Pushti Margiya Acharyas, and that's the reason many bandishes found in Kramik Pustak Malika are distorted and incomplete." Pandit Jasraj was one of the very few Indian classical musicians who was blessed to have performed Haveli Sangeet in most of the temples in India. In 1976, Panditji was approached by Shri Vijay Burman and his wife Ravi Prabha Burman from the Vaishnav Sampradaya to sing the 'Sur Padavali' in Haveli sangeet repertoire on the occasion of the 500th birth anniversary of Surdas. It was under the guidance of Shri Shyam Manohar Goswami and Prathameshji that Panditji explored the various aspects of Kirtan singing along with the Pakhawaj and other instruments, which requires the performer's complete devotion towards Krishna. This performance, later released as an LP by HMV, played a crucial role in popularising Haveli Sangeet beyond the temples. Talking about his interaction with Pandit Jasraj about the form of ragas in Haveli Sangeet, Shyam Bavaji says, "Pandit Jasraj sang the bandishes Lal gopal gular in Hori Sarang. When he first listened to the Raga Hori Sarang bandish he said it is not Sarang, but I told him it is sung like this in our gharanas. But, when he learned it, he had tears in his eyes as he found it extremely melodious, and said he will perform it often. I also told him that there are certain ragas in Haveli Sangeet like Malav and Sameri, which no one sings in any gharana."

Vishnu Manchu writes a letter to CINETAA against Arshad Warsi's remark on Prabhas: 'His comment has created unnecessary negativity among cinema lovers'



Days after Arshad Warsi stated that Prabhas looked like a "joker" in the Nag Ashwin directorial Kalki 2898 AD, Movie Artistes Association president and actor Vishnu Manchu has written a letter to Cine & TV Artists Association (CINETAA), Mumbai. In the letter addressed to Poonam Dhillon, the president of CINETAA, the actor raised concern about Warsi's controversial comment against Prabhas.

In his letter, he wrote, "I am writing to bring to your attention a matter that has caused significant concern within the Telugu film fraternity." Talking about Warsi's comment on Prabhas, the actor wrote, "It is with regret that I must address a very belittling comment he made about actor Mr Prabhas. Mr Warsi's remark has hurt the sentiments of many in the Telugu film community and among fans." He added, "Mr Warsi's remark, unfortunately,

has created unnecessary negativity among cinema lovers and within our fraternity. We request that Mr Arshad Warsi be advised to refrain from making such remarks about fellow actors in the future. It is essential that we maintain the dignity and respect that each of our colleagues deserves, regardless of their regional affiliation." This letter came after Arshad Warsi in a podcast with Samdish stated that Prabhas' character Bhairava was like a joker in Kalki 2898 AD. He said, "I am really sad. Prabhas was like a joker. I want to see a Mad Max. I want to see Mel Gibson over there. Tumne usko kya bana dia yaar. Kyu karte ho aisa? Mujhe nahin samajh mein aata (What have you made of it? Why do they do such things? I never understand)."

This comment attracted massive backlash. Recently, during a press conference of his latest film Saripodha Sanivaaram, Nani reacted to Arshad's comments against Prabhas and claimed Arshad was getting the "most publicity" that he has ever received in his life because of them. However, in an interview with Mid Day, Nani regretted his comment and said, "Definitely, my choice of words was also poor. The biggest thing that you can do is accept your regret." He stated that the meaning of his statement sounded bad when it was translated. The actor claimed, "The journalist was constantly trying to bring that question everywhere and I was trying to say that they are giving it too much importance." Nag Ashwin's sci-fi drama, inspired by Indian mythology, also starred Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, and Kamal Haasan in important roles.

Ahead of Emergency, Kangana Ranaut says Indira Gandhi's decisions didn't come from a 'mature space': 'A place of ego'

Kangana Ranaut, who will soon be seen playing the role of former PM Indira Gandhi in Emergency, recently said that Gandhi came from a "privileged, nepotistic" background but was determined to prove herself. The film, which mainly focuses on the Emergency years, has been directed by Ranaut. When asked about the qualities that Kangana liked about Indira, and the one she did not appreciate, Kangana said that Indira Gandhi's struggles were "manufactured."

She shared with Bollywood Hungama, "One thing that I really liked about her was that, yes she was privileged, she was coming from a nepotism background, after all she was the PM's daughter, she held official positions during her father's term, I mean, what more privilege can one get in politics? She was coming from a privileged space but she had the determination that I have to prove myself. That determination was worth applauding. She might have gotten a lot of privileges but whenever she was criticised, she proved herself and she came out a complete winner."

Kangana then opened up about the things about Gandhi that she did not like and implied that the former PM did not have the maturity to handle her position. "The negative thing... someone's manufactured struggle can't



be real. The fact that she didn't face any natural struggle in her life and her dealing with it was not coming from a mature space, it still came from a space where she was thinking like the PM's daughter. That was not a good thing. Because when you are in that chair, you need to be selfless. You can't operate from a place of ego," she said.

The trailer of Emergency hinted that the film will show Indira's journey in politics – from her early years in her father's cabinet to the Emergency years to her assassination. The film also stars Anupam Kher, Satish Shah, Shreyas Talpade, Mahima Choudhary, among others.

'It's not just about Malayalam film industry, but every industry': TM Krishna on Justice Hema Committee report, stresses truth needs to come out



Back in 2018, Krishna had told Scroll that harassment in Indian classical art circles is an open secret. "Whispers and accounts [of such incidents] have been doing the rounds for a very long time," Krishna told Scroll.in.

The release of the Justice Hema Committee report has created ripples in the Malayalam film industry and Kerala politics. The committee's report has revealed pervasive sexual harassment and gender bias in the Malayalam film industry and it has drawn ire from multiple sections as the release of the report was delayed by over four years. It was in 2017 after an incident of sexual assault of a prominent actress that the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) demanded dignity and safety at the workplace for women in the industry. Afterwards, the Kerala government constituted the three-member committee and the 233-page document gives a damning indictment of the discrimination and exploitation faced by women in the Malayalam film industry.

Carnatic music vocalist TM Krishna was one among those who vocally raised the issue of sexual harassment in the classical art industry. In an exclusive interaction with The Indian Express, Krishna expressed delight in the release of the report and added that it's not just in the Malayalam film industry the issue of harassment persists, but also in every industry. Krishna said, "Congratulations to the women who brought it out. It's a very important movement. I think we all know it's not just about the Malayalam industry; it's about every film industry. I don't think any industry can escape the truths revealed in the Hema Committee report. I am hoping that similar reports are made in all other film industries. Sometimes we need things to come out blatantly. Until then, we keep on saying, 'Who knows?', 'How do we know?', 'We have not seen'—these are the usual WhatsApp chats we all participated in at some point in life."

"I am so glad this report came out, even if late. I hope similar confidential reports are made, confidential in terms

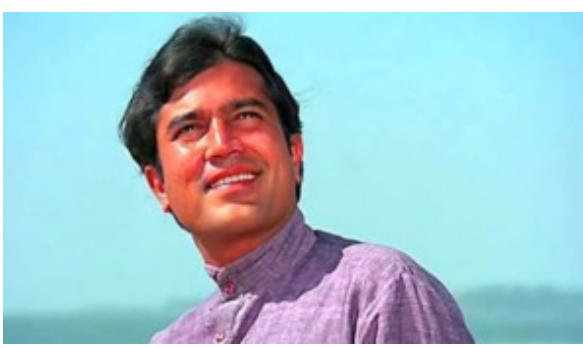
of protecting the identities of those who share their stories. We men fundamentally need to change. There is a lack of humanity, self-reflection, and arrogance of gender and sexuality that we need to shed. We are the perpetrators of this violence, the caretakers, excuse-givers, and the fountainhead of the violence, and that has to change. It will only change when we change the way we run our schools, when teachers change, and when discourses in classes change. Only then may a cultural shift happen. No set of rules or reports will change anything. It is solved on the ground when we change. Efforts have to be made for sensitization, understanding, breaking, and removing all old notions of purity. Women and people of multiple sexual preferences and genders are the ones affected by the dangerous notion of purity," he added.

Back in 2018, Krishna had told Scroll that harassment in Indian classical art circles is an open secret. "Whispers and accounts [of such incidents] have been doing the rounds for a very long time," Krishna told Scroll.in. "The truth is that all of us, including myself, have kept quiet and allowed for the 'normalisation' of such behaviour. We even went a step further and blamed the women for whatever may have happened. I am ashamed that I did not stand up for the women who I knew were abused. We have to stop elevating musicians and gurus to the status of demi-gods."

A culture of sexual harassment pervades the Malayalam film industry. The Committee reported the existence of casting couch (wherein powerful men demand sexual favours from women in return for opportunities in films), frequent suggestive and vulgar comments made by men at the workplace, and drunk male co-actors forcing themselves into rooms of women, among other things.

A fear of retribution prevents sexual harassment from being reported. Justice Hema writes in the report: "Many who were examined before the committee were afraid to reveal things which they experienced... we realised that their fear is well-founded." Beyond direct retribution, the report also mentions the fear of cyber harassment, especially from toxic fan clubs, as a means by which women are forced into silence. An all-male "mafia" of influential actors and producers calls the shots across the industry, and wields their power with impunity. "No man nor woman dare to utter any word which may offend anyone belonging to the power group, because such a person will be wiped off the industry by the powerful lobby," the report says. A male-dominated industry has failed to offer even basic facilities to women, including the lack of toilets and changing rooms on sets. The report says that women staff on film sets continue to remain at the mercy of open spaces or shared bathrooms to relieve themselves, often risking UTIs and hospital admission.

Rajesh Khanna had the 'arrogance of Napoleon', his house was furnished as 'a temple to himself': When BBC journalist witnessed Kaka's fall



While many have told stories of Rajesh Khanna habitual tardiness, a BBC journalist named Jack Pizzezy managed to document his first-hand experience of being made to run around in circles trying to get an audience with the late star. Shot in 1973, the documentary Bombay Superstar provided rare insight into Khanna's ways, his sudden marriage to Dimple Kapadia, and the earliest phase of his eventual downfall. In the documentary, Pizzezy described Khanna as having 'the arrogance of Napoleon', as he reflected on his 'humbling experience' of waiting five days just to interview him. "The biggest star of the biggest film industry in the world is probably someone you've never heard of. Film stars are adored in India in a way that they haven't been in the West, since the great days of Hollywood. People in India are film crazy. At least one new film is released here every day, and stars are so well-known, they don't need their names on the posters," Pizzezy said in his opening narration.

Over shots of a film crew preparing for a day's work, he said, "It's 10 on a sticky summer morning, and the biggest star should be arriving at this studio. The superstar is Rajesh Khanna. He has the charisma of Rudolph Valentino, the arrogance of Napoleon, and he's late. There's nothing the director can do about it. He rewrites, yet again, the lines that his star should be speaking by now. He sweats and waits. Everyone is sweating and

getting ready, and waiting."

The director, Hrishikesh Mukherjee, was shown passing time by fine-tuning dialogue, while others on set played games and napped. The filmmaker said, "We are waiting for our hero. One very big problem is that our main stars work in many films simultaneously. They do about 10-12 films together."

Two hours later, Khanna still hadn't shown up. "What will you say to him when he arrives?" Pizzezy asked the director, who replied, "He will come himself and explain to me why he's late." Pizzezy asked, "And you will accept what he says?" Mukherjee responded, "That depends on what explanation he gives me." Pizzezy asked the director if all this waiting is increasing costs for the production, and the filmmaker said, "Fortunately, the labour is very cheap here."

Pizzezy also documented his many attempts to interview Khanna, which saw being turned away at the gate of his house on the first try. "On the Bombay coast, where the palms are stirred by the breeze of the Arabian Sea, the star lives in an impregnable dreamhouse. Getting in to interview Rajesh is like trying to get an audience with royalty. Only if a king says, 'Come to my palace at 3', he probably means it," Pizzezy narrated. The crew eventually gained access to Khanna's outhouse, and Pizzezy reported, "Inside, the star has furnished it as a temple to himself. We read magazines about him, wait for another appointment that he doesn't keep, and study his film awards. We arrange for another time to see him; sunset the next day. But it's the same story; sunset arrives, but Rajesh doesn't. For five days, this humbling experience of waiting for Rajesh goes on." The latter half of the documentary follows Khanna to a set in Kashmir, where he keeps the crew waiting even longer. Meanwhile, he is shown to be getting agitated over the failure of his five most recent films, and retaliating after being snubbed at the Filmfare awards. Khanna's career spiralled shortly afterwards.

Dua Lipa to perform in India for the second time as part of Zomato Feeding India Concert

In statement, the singer expressed her excitement about the concert and said, "My recent trip to India was a beautiful reminder of how much I love this place. The warmth and energy I felt were amazing, and I can't wait to return in November 2024 to perform for an incredible audience at the Zomato Feeding India Concert."

According to Zomato's founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal, the company's motive behind this drive is to strengthen India's resolve to eradicate malnutrition and hunger. Taking to his official X handle, Goyal wrote, "Zomato Feeding India Concert (ZFIC) is back! Headlining this year's event is my favourite global pop icon, @DUALIPA, an inspiration to millions worldwide!" He added, "ZFIC is our endeavour to strengthen India's resolve to eradicate malnutrition and hunger in the country through community mobilisation. This is just the beginning of the movement and I couldn't be more excited!" The event will be held at MMRDA, BKC in Mumbai and will also see performances from leading Indian artistes. The event will mark Dua Lipa's second tour to India.

Previously, the singer performed in India in 2019 at OnePlus Music Festival in Mumbai. Her current commitment to India will add to her previously announced Asia leg of Radical Optimism Tour, which will kickstart in



Singapore on November 5. After performances in Jakarta, Manila, Tokyo, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok, the tour will conclude in Seoul on December 5. The first edition of Zomato's drive was held in December 2022, which was headlined by Post Malone. According to Business Today, the tickets for the India tour will go on pre-sale for HSBC cardholders from August 27 at 12 pm, general sales will start on August 29. Tickets can be purchased through the Zomato app. Ticket resale is permitted only through the official Zomato Live reselling platform.

John Abraham reacts to Kolkata doctor case, shares message for boys: 'Behave, otherwise I'll tear you apart'



Actor John Abraham shared his reaction to the recent Kolkata doctor case, and said that he wouldn't want to offer any words of advice to women, because they aren't the ones at fault. On the other hand, he had a stern message for boys, as he encouraged parents to do a better job raising their male children. In an interview, John also spoke about his latest film Vedaa, which deals with themes of violence against women.

Appearing on Radio City, John was asked if he had any words for the country's youth, following the alleged rape and murder of a Kolkata doctor earlier in August. The incident occurred before the festival of Raksha Bandhan, meant to honour sibling love. John said, "I'll tell the boys to behave, otherwise I'll tear them apart." John laughed, but then became grave. He continued, "Honestly, I just expect better upbringing, on a serious note. And I wouldn't tell girls anything, because unki kya galti hai (what fault is it of theirs)? I think parents have to tell boys to behave. More power to the girls."

In a recent podcast appearance, John said that as a patriot, he feels it's necessary to point out the flaws with India. "Women, children and animals are not safe in India. It is sad. Indian men need to understand how to treat their women. Yeh bohot important hai. Har aurat ke liye, ek aadmi ko ek rakshak hona chahiye (It's important for Indian men to learn how to treat women. They need to be protectors)," he said. The incident occurred at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9. After initial irregularities in how it was handled, the case has been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. The CBI told the Supreme Court on Thursday that "our investigation itself is a challenge... because the scene of offence" has been "altered." John's latest film, Vedaa, is based on similar cases that have happened

across the country. The film under-performed at the box office, making less than Rs 20 crore in one week of release.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer 'Adbhut' to premiere on September 15

Mumbai: The upcoming Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer movie 'Adbhut' is set to premiere on television. On Friday, the 'Gangs of Wasseypur' actor took to his Instagram, and shared a still from the movie as he announced the release date of the film.

The actor seems to be playing an investigating officer in the film as the poster showcases him holding a magnifying glass while the gun is tucked in his pants. In the picture, he could be seen wearing a coat. He wrote in the caption, "Watch the mystery unravel in the most shocking film of the year! Trailer drops tomorrow 12 PM! Adbhut. A Sony Max Original Release. 15th September, Sunday 8 pm#SonyMaxOriginalRelease". The film is directed by Sabbir Khan with whom Nawaz earlier collaborated earlier on 'Munna Michael'. The film is a mystery thriller. 'Adbhut' is set to release on Sony Max on September 15.

Prior to this, the actor was seen in the streaming movie 'Rautu Ka Raaz' in which he essayed the role of a cop who suffers from Post-traumatic stress disorder. The film was released on ZEE5 on June 28, 2024 to positive reviews. He was also seen sharing the screen with his frequent collaborator Anurag Kashyap in the crime-drama film 'Haddi'. He essayed dual roles in film, one of which was that of a transgender. Meanwhile, the actor has a slew of projects in his pipeline including a film based on 'Oil Kumar' helmed by Anand Surapur. 'Oil Kumar', whose real name was Benakanahalli Alappa Shivakumar was a ganglord, who headed the Bangalore underworld in the 1980s. His activities included racketeering, substantial control of city's oil supply, labour unions, film distribution through his company SK Pictures in Gandhinagar, money laundering, monopolistic contract bidding and large-scale manipulation of state bureaucracy and politics.

Murder case filed against Shakib-Al-Hasan during Bangladesh unrest



GNS News Agency, August 26

Shakib-Al-Hasan Murder Case Bangladesh unrest The 37-year-old ex Bangladesh captain, a former lawmaker in the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime, was among 147 people against whom charges have been filed for an alleged murder during the protests in early August. Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been named as one of the accused in connection with an alleged murder that took place during the recent protests and violence in Bangladesh which left hundreds dead.

The 37-year-old ex Bangladesh captain, a former lawmaker in the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime, was among 147 people against whom charges

have been filed for an alleged murder during the protests in early August, according to ESPNcricinfo. Sheikh Hasina was forced to resign and flee the country with Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus taking over as chief adviser of Bangladesh's interim government.

The murder case was filed by Rafiqul Islam at Dhaka's Adabor police station and apart from Shakib, PM Sheikh Hasina, and many former ministers and lawmakers from the party are among the accused. Islam's son Rubel was killed on August 7 during the protest which plunged the country in political turmoil. Shakib, who is either the 27th or 28th accused in the first information report (FIR), was not in Bangladesh on August 5, or at any time during the protests. The former skipper was playing for Bangla Tigers Mississauga at the Global T20 Canada league in Brampton from July 26 to August 9 and before that he was in the USA to take part in Major League Cricket until mid-July. According to the 'Daily Star', the case statement mentions that "the complainant alleged that some of the accused as per instruction directly or indirectly from some others opened fire while hundreds of students including Rubel were protesting at Ring Road in Adabor area on August 5". Following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government, there have been significant changes at the Bangladesh Cricket Board too with former national captain Faruque Ahmed becoming the new president, following the resignation of incumbent Nazmul Hasan Papon on Wednesday.

Cameron Green hopes to make an impact with the ball in Border-Gavaskar Trophy

GNS News Agency, August 26

Australian all-rounder Cameron Green who bats in the middle-order and can bowl at a brisk pace hitting hard lengths consistently said that he wants to contribute as much as he can for the upcoming five-match Test series between Australia and India later this year. "I'm very happy to contribute as much as I can. Physically I'm in a really good place to be able to do that," the 25-year-old told cricket.com.au.

Five Tests would be played in the space of six weeks. Hence the skipper Pat Cummins earlier in the month said he would like to see all-rounders Green and Mitchell Marsh play bigger roles for the series. "We'll be drawing on Cam Green and Mitch Marsh a bit more. Cummins would say speaking to reporters in Sydney. "Even someone like Cam Green started in (Sheffield) Shield cricket as a bowler, but hasn't had to bowl heaps in test matches," he added. Green would jokingly call the overs between 70-80 as graveyard overs where the ball does not either seam or swing. After the 80th over teams have the option of picking up the brand new ball hence traditionally it is a tactic by the captains to rest the main seamers and use other options in the period. "We always laugh and joke between me and Mitch (Marsh) about who bowls those



graveyard overs between the 70th and the 80th overs when the ball is not doing anything. We'll wait and see how we do it this summer," Green said. "But now my body's in a really good place where I feel like I can contribute with bowling. Down the track, it's an option but at the moment I'm very happy to be a genuine all-rounder," added Green who had made his Test debut against India in the 2020-21 home series. "Having an extended break (from white-ball cricket) before a Test tour, it's going to help for sure. I really enjoyed doing it last year and there's potentially a chance to do it again this year," he further said.

Dinesh Karthik apologises for not picking MS Dhoni in his all-time XI, says it was a 'blunder'



GNS News Agency, August 26

Former Indian cricketer Dinesh Karthik admits that not having MS Dhoni in his India's all-time playing XI was a "blunder". On 78th Independence Day Karthik would reveal his Indian team by picking players over the generations who can represent The Men in Blue in all formats. However, in the side, Karthik has not only omitted Dhoni's name but also did not pick a wicketkeeper in his side. There were speculations that Rahul Dravid would take the gloves for the team in Karthik's XI. "I realized only when the episode came out. There were so many things

happening that when I put this 11, I forgot the wicketkeeper. Luckily Rahul Dravid was there and everybody thought I was going with a part-time wicketkeeper. But genuinely I didn't think Rahul Dravid was a wicketkeeper. Can you believe being a wicketkeeper, I forgot to have a wicketkeeper? It is a blunder," Karthik clarified.

"And for me, let's be clear. Thala Dhoni is a lock in any format, not only in India. I feel he is one of the greatest cricketers to have ever played the game. If I had to redo that team, one change I would make is Thala Dhoni in at 7. And he will be the captain of any Indian team that is there," said Karthik further. Karthik picked dashing opener Virender Sehwag to partner up Rohit Sharma and former Indian coach Rahul Dravid at three. Run machines Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli would slot in at four and five. He has also picked up Yuvraj Singh in his team who was the Man Of the Tournament in the 2007 and 2011 World Cups and Ravindra Jadeja as all-rounders. The bowling comprises off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and leg-spinner Anil Kumble. Current Indian ace-pacer Jasprit Bumrah and 2011 leading wicket-taker Zaheer Khan were picked as the pacers in the side.

Neeraj Chopra, Lausanne Diamond League Highlights: Neeraj comes up with stunning last throw to finish second

GNS News Agency, August 26

Neeraj Chopra, Diamond League Highlights: Shortly after his Paris Olympics silver medal, Indian superstar Neeraj Chopra returned to action at the Lausanne Diamond League 2024 in Switzerland on Thursday with another season best throw in a thrilling finish. Having struggled for most of the night with throws in the early 80s, Neeraj needed to come up with a) a big 5th throw to make the top three and have a 6th attempt and b) a huge last throw to go up from third to second. He achieved both those feats to finish with a new career 2nd best throw of 89.49m, behind only Anderson Peters' monster 90.61 just a few minutes earlier.

Facing an injury concern and a stacked field, sans Paris gold medalist Arshad Nadeem, Neeraj faced a stern test to retain the title he bagged last year at the Athletissima meet. Neeraj, who had only participated in one Diamond League meet before this one this season, has postponed his treatment for a groin niggle after the Paris Games since it didn't feel exacerbated after the Olympics. The top six will proceed to the Diamond League 2024 final, slated to be held in Brussels next month. Neeraj moved into third position with Scroll down for to get the highlights from Neeraj Chopra's Lausanne Diamond League 2024



action Neeraj Chopra, Lausanne Diamond League Highlights: Catch the live updates from the javelin throw event at the Stade olympique de la Pontaise No Arshad Nadeem, but Neeraj Chopra faces high-quality field and injury concern

Pakistan's Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem won't be in action but javelin enthusiasts can expect a riveting contest between six of the 12 finalists of the Paris Olympics during the Lausanne Diamond League on Thursday night. All of them have something to prove after missing out on the top step of the podium at Stade de France a fortnight ago.

From Vinesh Phogat's village emerges Neha Sangwan, India's newly-crowned Under-17 World Champion



Last week wrestler Vinesh Phogat received a grand welcome in Balali village on her return from Paris. Neha Sangwan, 16, stayed awake well past midnight to drape her with a garland made of currency notes. A few moments later, Vinesh, who missed out on an Olympic medal because she failed the weigh in on the morning of the final in Paris, spoke about her wish to see women wrestlers from the village follow in her footsteps and make a name for themselves. On Thursday evening, Neha won the Under-17 World title in the 57 kg category with a 10-0 win over Japan's So Tsutsui in Amman, Jordan. "It's a huge thing for me and this title is for Vinesh didi and all the women wrestlers. Vinesh didi remains an inspiration for us all and this world title will inspire the women wrestlers back in Balali village as well India too," Neha told The Indian Express from Jordan after the final bout. Her father Amit Kumar Sangwan could hardly believe that his daughter had made the village proud just days after Vinesh's stirring speech. Neha had spent the whole afternoon getting the garland made for Vinesh's welcome last week. When she had gone on stage, Vinesh would tell her that girls like her should complete her dream. To see Neha win her first world title would have made Vinesh happy too today. It's a special feeling for the whole of Balali village too," Sangwan, a former sarpanch of the village, said.

In 2016, Sangwan enrolled his daughter at the academy run by coach Mahavir Phogat in the adjoining village of Jhohju Kalan. After winning junior national medals and becoming a Haryana state champion, Neha would change coaches. It was at the Krishan akhada under coach Sajjan Singh Mandola that Neha would continue to train with an eye on a big international medal. Her father would drop her at the akhada twice a day on a scooter. Coach Mandola focussed on improving her defense which was an Achilles' heel.

"She had the instinct to attack but then the opponents would take advantage of her weak defence. So I had to make her quicker on the mat. She would run in the fields to build stamina and also cut down on weight. I would also make her wrestler against lower-weight category wrestlers in order to help her gain some speed on the mat. Slowly, she learnt to take advantage of her movement and speed and to make the counters," Mandola says. Last week, at the felicitation ceremony, Neha had said that Vinesh was an inspiration. "Vinesh didi has gone where no other wrestler from the village has achieved.

For us, the Olympic gold was hers and that's what we want to tell her. If we can emulate her even in a small way, we would be glad. Didi met us before the Olympics and told us that every single one of us should dream about the Olympics. That's what will keep us going and she remains synonymous with the Olympics for us," she had told this paper.

Neha's career graph has been on the rise. Two years ago she won the Asian Under-15 title in the 54 kg category. She also won the bronze medal in the 57 kg category in the World Cadet Wrestling Championships in Turkey. This year, the Haryana youngster claimed the title in the Asian U-17 Wrestling Championship in Jordan in June before winning the world's title on Thursday. Neha had scored a 10-6 win over Kazakhstan's Anna Stratan in the semifinals on Wednesday. Coach Mandola remembers the moves, which Neha has mastered all these years. "She likes to practice the Lohkan move, where she shifts the hands of the opponent behind the ears to shift the body backwards and to complete the takedown. Apart from that, she also likes to make the Dhobi move, where she utilizes the waist movements to make the arm throw and also relies on the Delni move, in which when the opponent puts their hand on the side of her waist, she turns and makes the opponent fall. She is also a master in Bharandaj, the gut wrench move which helps in leg throws and she displayed that against the Kazakh in the semis to score points. She is a quick learner and this world title will help her mentally too," the coach said. Neha's father Amit and mother Mujni Devi are not the only proud ones in her household. "Her grandfather is a former national level wrestler and has always supported Neha's dream of becoming a wrestler. It's a joyous day for him too," Devi said. Three other Indian wrestlers Aditi Kumari (43 kg), Pulkrit (65 kg) and Mansi Lather (73 Kg) too won the titles in their respective categories on Thursday. Indian team coach Shilpi Sheoran was impressed with the U-17 wrestlers scoring wins over wrestlers from powerhouse Japan, Kazakhstan, USA as well China. "Scoring wins over Japanese as well Kazakhstan and American wrestlers early in her career at the worlds will help Neha mentally as well technically too. All the U-17 World champions do understand that these are early days at the world level for them and things will change at the U-20 or senior level. But such wins are important and they would look to improve further," said Sheoran while speaking with The Indian Express.

How keeping a diary, breathing techniques and a conversation with father helped Sarabjot Singh fuelled him to Olympics medal

GNS News Agency, August 26

The sunset in Dhin, a village near Ambala, reminded Sarabjot Singh of a Parisian evening a fortnight ago. The 22-year-old was walking from the team bus to the hotel in Chateauroux hours after winning the bronze medal with Manu Bhaker in 10m air pistol mixed team event. His mind was floating, as though in a trance. "It took me 2-3 hours to return to where I was prior to the Olympics," he tells

Later, he scribbled his thoughts in a diary. "I wrote nothing about the medal, but my technique, the planning, the execution and things that happened at the range. When I won the World Cup in Bhopal and Munich too, I only wrote about my technique and how I felt rather than my scores or gold medal," he says. Memories of another night rolled in. Two days before the medal, he had failed to qualify for the 10m individual final. He sought refuge in the pages of his diary. "It was just a bad day. I never write about missed shots but I felt if I had made it to the final, it would have been a new game. I was not less than anybody. One thing that I have learnt is that if I think about the bad shots, they will affect my next shots. So I only think about that particular shot," he says.

It took Sarabjot a few more hours to recover for the next day's mixed team qualification. He returned to the diary to read the entries on the days he won World Cup titles in Bhopal and Munich. He also practised belly breathing to get the optimal amount of air in his lungs. "It helps me put my mind focused on breathing in between shots and not to think about the previous shot whether it's a good shot or a bad shot. That day, when I spoke to my father, he told me about one of his friends who became the village sarpanch after trying for close to 15 years. Here I was getting my chance for a medal again in the next two days," he says.

He picked himself up the next day, though the pair missed the gold medal match by one point. He was slightly disappointed, but the words of coach and two-time Olympic medalist Munkhbayar Dorjsuren rang in his head. "One bad shot can't change your destiny. That should be the approach in qualifying to recover and it will help you guys in medal matches," he recovers.

On the morning of the final, Gagan Narang, who had won the men's 10m air rifle bronze 12 years ago in London on this exact date, told him: "Give your best, it's a lucky date for us." He felt a sense of destiny. The final was a nervy affair. But Sarabjot kept his cool in critical mo-

ments. "It has always been about each one shooting to their best," he says. All that he then recollects is standing on the podium, the cheering crowd, and the calm face of Turkish shooter Yusuf Dikec, with whom he took a selfie. "I was watching a video of him where he was shooting without the fenders, cap or sight. Everybody has their own style and for somebody like him, shooting that way is fun. That's what should matter. Not to miss the fun of shooting," he says. His memories rolled back and forth. Nostalgia seized him. Hours ago, he was driving his SUV from his village to Ambala to show his grandfather his medal. It's the same road that he had taken numerous times, in crowded buses, to train under coach Abhishek Rana for years. At the village turn, a bunch of schoolkids waved at him from a school bus. He waved back and says: "Nothing gives me more joy than those bus journeys to Ambala. If I had not enjoyed those times, I would not have arrived here."

He wants every shooter to hear his story. When he held a single shot air pistol for the first time in his life, he thought it was just a matter of pulling the trigger. Except it was not. "I thought there is the target, there is the pistol and that is shooting. But I ended up hitting the wall more often," he says, chuckling. He remembers his scorecard in the first district-level competitions. "73 out of 100", he says proudly. The scores would improve once he began training under Rana from 2016. A score of 325 out of 400 fetched him his first big medal, a bronze. He self-deprecatingly says: "At that time, not many competitors were there in junior shooting. A below average score too fetched me a bronze." He vividly remembers his first gun-a Morini CM 162EI that cost his father, a farmer, Rs 1.7 lakh. "While I got my own pistol, spending on the ammunition was something that was not on my mind. One box would come for Rs 800-900 and I tried to shoot targets for a couple of days in a week for a full session. Rest of the days, I concentrated on dry practice, holding the pistol. There was a time when my scores went below 560 and people would say I could not achieve anything. But then I would think that whatever number of pellets I hit, I have to aim for perfection in that," he narrates. Then arrived the turning point, when he won the junior World Cup in 2019, before he was inducted into the Khelo India fold. He no longer needed to worry about pellets. Then his career blossomed, and in the last two years, he made it to finals in four World Cups, winning two.